

Nakoma Community Forest Management Program

DRAFT: May 13, 2020

The purpose of this document is to capture the goals, objectives and the high-level roadmap for review by the Program stakeholders; Nakoma Community Association (NCA) Board of Directors, the Gold Mountain CSD Board of Directors and Nakoma Resort principles in support of the proposed Nakoma Community Forest Management Program.

Goals: Create the final phase of the community wide Hazardous Fuel Treatment Program with an on-going and development wide annual process that prioritizes, funds, plans and executes projects to manage all forested areas within the Nakoma development. These forestry projects will maintain overall forest health and lessen hazardous wildfire fuel loads where they exist. This will be accomplished through an actionable Forest Management Program centered on sustaining optimal resiliency to wildfire through a partnership between the Nakoma Community Association, Gold Mountain CSD and Nakoma Resort. These stakeholders would form a three entity Forest Management Committee, meeting seasonally and as necessary, with the Program Manager.

Objectives in the sustained management of fire fuels on **ALL** properties within the development are as follows in priority sequence:

1. **Protect human life:** This includes the life and well-being of residents, visitors, guests, resort and utility staff, and fire and medical service responders.
2. **Reduce damage and destruction of structures and infrastructure:** This includes all buildings, residential, resort, and utility structures, as well as water, wastewater, and roadway infrastructure.
3. **Sustainable forests and watershed:** Include the survival of mature stands of trees, wildlife habitats, and effective streambeds and meadows to allow for watershed to the Feather River.

Purpose: Establish the components necessary to implement and manage the Nakoma Community Forest Management Program -

Program Roadmap – this document

1. Overall Project area - defined
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Estimated Program funding
4. Potential Program Risks and Mitigation
5. Program Roadmap / Timeline

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1. Overall Project Area:

The Hazardous Fuels Treatment Program (HFT) only addressed Nakoma Community Association controlled homeowner parcels which comprise two-thirds of our community acreage. The proposed Nakoma Community Forest Management Program would seek to cover all forested lands within the development boundaries. This chart delineates the development's 1281 acres by use and ownership and estimates that approximately 965 acres would be targeted by this program on a priority basis.

Gold Mountain Parcels by Ownership and Use	# Parcels	Total Acres	Estimated Net Maintenance Acres
Association Lots	400	815	680
Association Common Areas	27	125	125
Community Utility - CSD & Association Maintenance	9	34	22
Other Open & Recreational	4	93	93
Resort & Commercial	5	18	5
Golf Course	2	170	25
Villa / Ascend	23	26	15
	470	1281	965

The 965-acre estimate was arrived at by reducing forest acreage due to:

- Removing 100 feet surrounding all structures (defensible space) as required by CalFire
- Recognizing that acreage for a parcel goes to midline of adjacent roadways
- Golf course fairways, greens and tee boxes are not forested areas

2. Roles and Responsibilities:

Program Manager:

The program would need effective direction and management by a capable part time staff member or contractor. This position would not require a registered professional forester however, successful experience in forestry or fuels control would be critical to success.

Duties would include:

- Develop a multi-year operational strategy
- Recommend annual priorities
- Submitting an annual work plan with budget
- Obtain approvals
- Contract with forestry / fuel operators
- Stay within budget, inspect, and approve all work
- Create and maintain reports, lists and other documents required to manage the Program
- Status reporting to the Forest Management Committee



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At roughly \$200 per acre, this would need budgeted support between \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year. Each stakeholder's contributions would be determined by their boards and principles and negotiated through the Forest Management Committee. Through several cycles of maintenance, the annual cost would be expected to decrease.

	FY/2021	FY/2022	FY/2023	FY/2024	FY/2025
Treatment Costs \$200 acre (est.)*	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Program Manager contract	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Office, copy, mapping, postage expense	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$500

*Based on \$200 per acre

Other potential costs that cannot be quantified:

- Internal soft dollar staff expense for bulk mailing and associated projects
- Legal consultation fees

4. Potential Program Risks and Mitigation:

For a 7-year cycle, much of the program risk is front loaded in the 2021 – 2023 period. The risk of program failure due to unforeseen circumstances begins to reduce exponentially beginning 2024.

- Ramp up to a new program that may be controversial
- Failure to effectively communicate the Program and its benefits
- Lack of funding
- Legal challenges

Risk Mitigation Options:

- Program Roadshow to communicate benefits of the Program. Extensive interface with NCA community
- Commitment from Stakeholder entities to participate and fund the Program
- Thorough legal review prior to Program implementation
- Proper vetting and selection of Program Manager

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5. Program High Level Roadmap/Timeline

Item	Task	Owner(s)	Timing	Status/Comments
#1	Approval of Forest Management Committee CSD, NCA boards Commitment from Nakoma Resort principle	FMP Committee/ Stakeholders	August 1, 2020	
#2	Legal reviews completed	Stakeholders	August 25, 2020	
#3	Program Requirements Determined	FMP Committee	Sept. 1, 2020	Treatment Standards Non-compliant HFT parcels Funding
#4	Program Implementation Plan Established	FMP Committee	Sept. 1, 2020	Program Mgr. process roadmap Communication Plan & Timeline
#5	Program Rules- Policy- Resolutions Developed	FMP Committee	Sept. 1, 2020	
#6	Program Manager Identified	FMP Committee	Sept. 15, 2020	
#7	Stakeholder Adoption/Approval- Program Requirements Policy/Resolutions Program Mgr. Hire / Contract	FMP Committee/ Stakeholders	October 1, 2020	
#8	Develop 2021 Strategy	FMP Committee Program Manager	Nov 1, 2020	
#9	Official Launch of Program	FMP Committee Stakeholders Program Manager	Nov. 15, 2020	
#10	Communications Plan Launch	FMP Committee	Nov. 15, 2020	What's Happening - Newsletters, Individual mailings, email, Community forum
#12	Finalize 2021 Strategy & Plan	FMP Committee/ Program Manager	Dec. 15, 2020	

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Item	Task	Owner(s)	Timing	Status/Comments
#13	Approval of 2021 Strategy & Plan	Stakeholders	Feb. 15, 2021	
#14	Align & Hire Contractor	Program Manager	March 15, 2021	
#15	Launch 2021 Program	Program Manager	April 1, 2021	Owner communications FMP Committee Updates
#16	Stakeholder Updates	FMP Committee	May 1 – Nov. 1, 2021	
#17	Develop 2022 Strategy	Program Manager	Nov. 1, 2021	

Program Components – High Level

a. Approach Strategy

- Establish program scope
- Obtain legal opinion of authority to create Program
- Establish timeline of leading activities to establish a program
- Build an implementation plan
- Establish a standard for Program Manager and pursue hire
- Create a communication plan – internal and external
 - Internal/focus via newsletter, direct mail, etc.
 - Establish internal communication tolerance level – i.e. 100% of owners; 100% of the time
 - Establish a process for communicating externally
- Communicate Nakoma Community Association Forest Management Program

b. Define Roles and Responsibilities

- Stakeholders
- Forest Management Committee
- Program Manager

c. Establish Forest Management Program Rules/Policies/Resolutions

- DRC Guideline Impacts

d. Identify Resources and Contingencies