



**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Alex Keeble-Toll – Director of Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the Good Neighbor Agreement (FS Agreement No. 26-GN-11051700-XXX) between the USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Evacuation Safety Corridor and Protection Enhancements (ESCAPE) Collaboration in the amount of \$158,261 for the period May 30, 2026 to December 30, 2035, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the agreement and all documents required for the agreement and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the fiscal year 2026/27 Emergency Services budget (4/5 Affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: USDA Forest Service funds in the amount of \$158,261 will be provided for maintenance treatments on the Tahoe National Forest. Additional funding for authorized activities identified within the ESCAPE GNA is through awarded grant funds from the National Forest Foundation (Res. 26-130, SR 26-0584) and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Res. 25-386, SR 26-0585) which include correlating budget amendments. This resolution requests approval to amend the fiscal year 2026/27 Office of Emergency Services budget in the amount of \$158,261 and has been included for approval recognizing the USDA Forest Service revenue and expenditures.

BACKGROUND: The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) both have a vested interest in supporting wildfire resilient communities and landscapes in Nevada County.

By previous action of the Board, Resolution 24-411 and Resolution 25-031 authorized the Director of Emergency Services to execute successful GNAs between the USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest (TNF) and Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

(OES), under which nearly 500 acres of roadside fuel mitigation work was completed in fiscal year 2025/26.

The ESCAPE GNA provides an opportunity for the parties to leverage and extend landscape-scale wildfire mitigation work in Nevada County by carrying out authorized forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration activities on and off National Forest System (NFS) lands.

The agreement recognizes funding and includes the authority for work on the TNF as part of specific grant-funded projects and provides an opportunity for the collaborative identification of additional projects with a nexus to Nevada County's 2025 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Res. 25-064) and the 2024 Evacuation Study (File No. 24-0695).

Project activities may include the removal of surface and ladder fuels, mastication, chipping, biomass removal, timber removal, hazardous tree removal, use of an air curtain incinerator, and targeted herbicide application.

Furthermore, the ESCAPE agreement provides the County of Nevada with the opportunity to administer roadside timber sales on behalf of the Tahoe National Forest and to invest any revenue gained from these sales into additional mutually agreed-upon wildfire hazard mitigation projects and projects with benefit to NFS watershed(s).

All activities contained within the ESCAPE GNA shall adhere to applicable environmental compliance, including the National Environmental Policy Act on federal land for which USDA is responsible and all projects proposed for completion under this Agreement will undergo a collaborative process to ensure that both parties understand the goals and objectives of the agreed upon restoration services and all necessary rules, regulations, and policies as outlined in this agreement.

The ESCAPE GNA includes the authority to work across 3,000 acres of shovel ready TNF land (South Yuba Roadside CE) of which 1,528 acres of fuel mitigation work would be funded by the grant award from the National Forest Foundation (\$7,000,000), 172 acres of fuel mitigation work would be funded by the grant award from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (\$1,027,721), and 364 acres of maintenance work would be funded by USDA (\$158,261).

The ESCAPE GNA additionally includes the authority to work on priority lands in the Truckee Ranger District. All additional projects for which funding has not yet been identified would be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval and fund acceptance.

Item Initiated by: Corinne Benson, Administrative Analyst II

Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services