



# CARSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



**WILDLAND FUELS DIVISION  
INITIAL ANNUAL REPORT  
2025**



# LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



The Carson City Fire Department (CCFD) Wildland Fuels Division (WFD) proudly presents its Annual Report for calendar year 2025, highlighting a year of significant progress in wildfire risk reduction, thanks to strong interagency partnerships and community collaboration.

We extend deep gratitude to Carson City residents for their active participation in our educational events, defensible space inspections, and fuel collection programs, demonstrating a powerful commitment to protecting homes and our shared environment. This report details our division's key accomplishments, collaborative successes with partners, funding insights, and future plans for 2026.

The achievements of 2025 are a direct result of the dedication and professionalism of the entire CCFD team and the invaluable support from this Board and our partners. We remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting the communities and landscapes we serve. We are honored to serve you and look forward to continued partnership in 2026.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Nyberg*

Fire Chief

# OVERVIEW

Carson City is responsible for managing fuels (flammable vegetation and organic matter) over 125 square miles. Since early 2000, the Carson City Fire Department (CCFD) has implemented fuels reduction projects and educated the community on defensible space in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The Wildland Fuels Division (WFD) collaborates with various federal, state, and local partners to install and maintain fuel reduction treatments and fuel breaks around Carson City. Primary treatments include hand thinning, pile burning and mastication along county boundaries on city, state, private, and federal lands.

## **Mission**

The mission is to serve the citizens of Carson City every day with pride, commitment and compassion. Specifically, the WFD takes the responsibility of preparing and defending Carson City from the threat of wildland fires. This is accomplished by being prepared to respond to wildland fires and performing fuels reduction projects throughout the community. The division will plan, train and work to ensure we are continually reducing the threat of major wildland fire to the citizens of Carson City.

## **Staffing**

The WFD includes the following positions: One officer, one coordinator, two engine bosses, two engine operators, and four crew members. Additionally the WFD partially funds two part-time fire service technicians and one part-time office assistant. This staffing structure supports fuels reduction, fuels collection, prescribed fire operations, wildland fire preparedness outreach and education, and wildland fire response activities.



## Equipment

The following lists the division's available resources: Type 3 Engine, Type 5 Engine, Water Tender, CAT 209 Skid Steer with Mulcher and Utility Task Vehicles. In January, the division was approved to replace the mulcher that was previously purchased in 2021. All equipment maintenance during this period consisted of routine, scheduled service associated with normal wear and tear (e.g., oil changes and tire replacement per maintenance schedules). It is important to note that when equipment resources are dispatched to a wildfire, any replacement or maintenance costs are covered by the fire assignment. Additionally, 15% of the billings for the use of the equipment on a fire assignment are transferred from the division to the Fleet Services Department to cover any additional maintenance or replacement needs.

# PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Wildland Hazardous Fuels Reduction

The majority of funding for the division (85%) comes from federal sources to treat hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) surrounding Carson City to protect communities vulnerable to catastrophic loss in a wildfire.

- In 2025, the division treated 385 acres.



## Defensible Space Inspections

Since 2006, the Wildland Fuels Division (WFD) staff have been providing defensible space inspections at no cost to residents. Through grants funded by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), staff conduct hazardous fuels assessments of properties and educate residents on the importance of fuel reduction within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). This one-on-one educational opportunity is one of the most effective wildfire-mitigation strategies to build fire adapted communities.

- In 2025, the division provided 154 defensible space inspections.

## Wildland Fuels Collection (Trailer/Dumpster Program)

The Wildland Fuels Collection Program was established in the summer of 2006 to assist homeowners within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities of Carson City to provide defensible space on their property. Creating defensible space is a key element critical to reducing the threat and effects of a wildland fire. The division administers the program and staffs the delivery, pick-up and disposal of the trailers used by homeowners to create defensible space. The Public Works Department works collaboratively with the division to staff the delivery, pick-up and disposal of the dumpsters. By reducing the amount of fuel within the communities, ignition sources are reduced, lowering fire intensities and flame lengths while fostering a healthy and resilient ecosystem.

- In 2025, the division collected 205 tons of biomass from and adjacent to the WUI in Carson City.



## Public Education and Community Engagement

Public education and community engagement are crucial for wildfire prevention, transforming residents from passive observers into active partners by teaching them to create defensible spaces, manage fuels, understand risks, and participate in local planning. The Wildland Fuels Division (WFD) works to tailor approaches based on the community and help build trust and grow practical preparedness. The division routinely collaborates with various partners to maximize and enhance public education and community engagement events, including the Nevada Division of Forestry, Fire Adapted Nevada (FAN); the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Extension, Living with Fire Program; and the Division of Emergency Management among others.

- In 2025, the division continued to invest in community-driven education and engagement programs and hosted and participated in several community education events including: Wildfire Preparedness Workshop, Lakeview full scale evacuation exercise, and Sheriff's Night Out, among others. The division also issued several press releases and posted weekly "Wildland Wednesday" social media posts to inform and educate the community on various wildfire prevention efforts. This December, the WFD took center stage in the Ready, Set Go! [RSG! Program Member Spotlight](#), celebrating the incredible work the team has done to help communities become wildfire-ready.



## Firewise USA® Program

The Wildland Fuels Division (WFD) in partnership with the Nevada Division of Forestry work with communities to become a Firewise USA® Recognition Site. Once a community attains recognition the division supports efforts to secure funding for fuel mitigation projects and expands the Wildland Fuels Collection Program, typically for areas in or adjacent the WUI, to include all residents within the Firewise community. The following are Firewise communities in Carson City: Kings Canyon Meadows Homeowners Association, Lakeview Property Owners Association and Wellington Crest.

- In December, the Old Clear Creek Community started the engagement process to obtain the national Firewise USA® Program recognition for their community.



## Wildfire Assignments

The division staff's diverse wildfire assignments from direct suppression (e.g., hand crews, engine crews) to specialized support roles (e.g., logistics, planning) and proactive fuel reduction, using an interagency Incident Command System (ICS) to coordinate federal, state, tribal and local resources for large incidents, protecting lives, property and resources. All wildfire assignment requests are processed through resource orders using an interagency system called the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). The process is standardized across federal, state and local agencies to ensure efficient mobilization and ensures that resources are deployed safely and effectively across jurisdictional boundaries, following established national guidelines. In 2025, division staff mobilized and helped staff several wildfires, including the Palisades and Eaton fires in January 2025. Staff deploying their diverse skills to work across the country is crucial not only in contributing to the larger wildfire mission but the skills the WFD staff gain from wildfire assignments are highly valuable locally, as this experience continually improves their response capabilities for local emergencies like wildfires and rescues.

- On average staff responded to three national wildfire assignments in 2025.

# INTERAGENCY PROJECTS

Strong interagency partnerships are critical to reducing wildfire risk, improving landscape resilience and promoting fire-adapted communities. The division's success this year underscores the value of our interagency approach. By combining our resources, expertise, and shared commitment, we have significantly enhanced our collective capacity to mitigate wildfire risks and build a safer, more resilient community. Sustained and predictable investment in these collaborative programs will be crucial to meeting future challenges.

## **Department of Parks, Recreation, & Open Space**

Riverview Park is a 109-acre natural scenic park, with wetlands and a network of trails which extend to the banks of the Carson River and connect the Mexican Ditch and Empire Ranch Trails. In 2025, in collaboration with Parks, Recreation & Open Space the division completed the first of three phases (17 acres) of fuel reduction at Riverview Park.



In collaboration with Parks, Recreation & Open Space, the division worked on fuel reduction along the Kings Canyon Walking Trails adjacent to Long Ranch Park.

The Carson City Sheep Program, coordinated by Parks, Recreation & Open Space, is a multiagency collaborative fuel reduction project that spans approximately 2,000 acres, covering the west side of Carson City. Each year, approximately 1,500 sheep graze on cheatgrass, invasive annuals, and nuisance weeds as well as perennial grasses. Since early 2000, CCFD has been providing water services in support of the program to ensure adequate water access throughout its annual operations. In 2025, the sheep reduced approximately 150 tons of fuel from the landscape.



### **CCFD, Operations Division & Emergency Medical Services Division**

The division's integration with Operations and Emergency Medical Services continues to provide significant operational and workforce development benefits. Through participation in programs such as Basic Life Support (BLS), wildland personnel help fill critical staffing gaps, supporting service continuity while gaining essential all-risk experience necessary for career progression. Wildland staff also assist with incidents such as:

- local wildfire suppression, remote rescues, smoke inspections
- staff red/purple flag days
- response to all phases of emergency management and disasters; and
- respond to other qualified incidents, helping alleviate demands on all-risk resources and allowing those personnel to focus on higher priority duties.

This organizational structure promotes retention and provides wildland staff with an opportunity for career advancement to become an all-risk firefighter. Wildland crew members have demonstrated increasing interest in this career path; the division expects more will be ready for consideration as other opportunities arise.

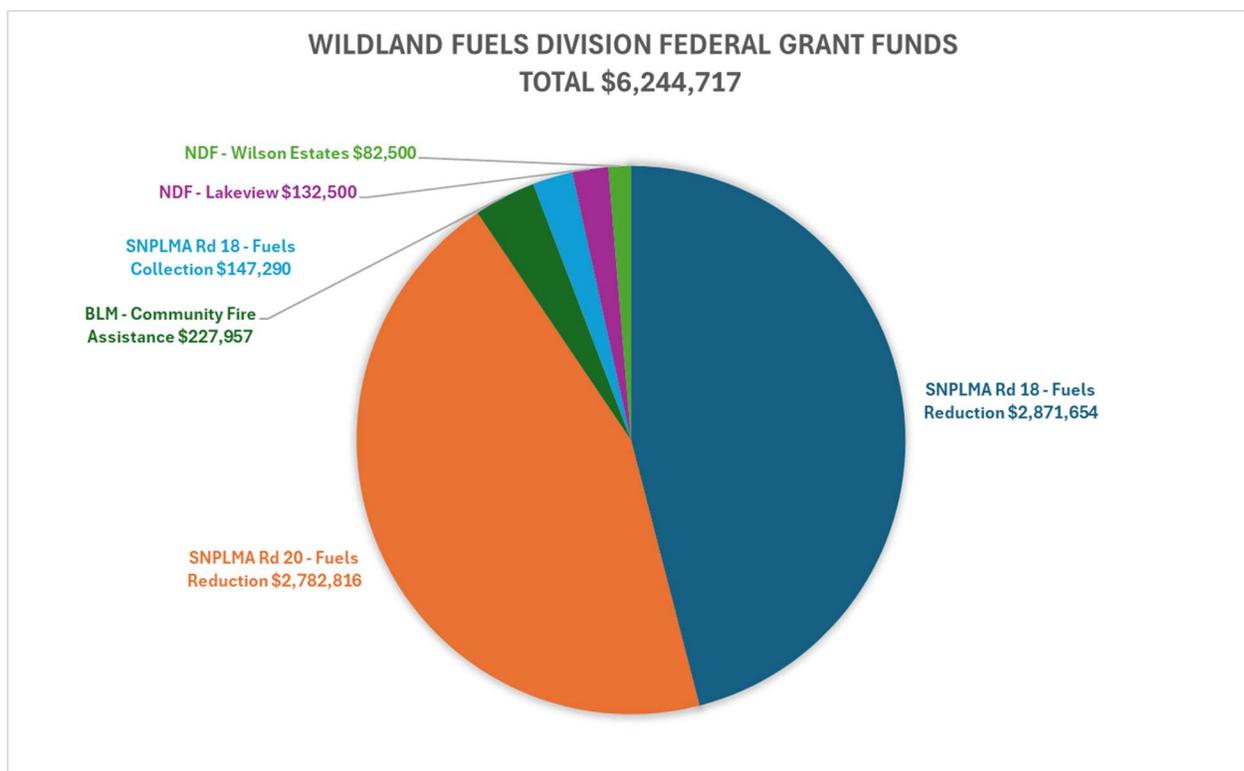
### **Division of Emergency Management (DEM)**

The division continued to strengthen its relationship with local Emergency Management, providing operational support during Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations (e.g., Nevada Day Parade), Full Scale Evacuation Exercises (Lakeview), and participation in the DEM workgroup to update the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This sustained collaboration reinforces the city's capacity to manage its primary threat: wildland fire.

# FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

The majority of funding for the Wildland Fuels Division (WFD) comes from federal grants (85%). The division is currently cross funded with federal grants, wildfire cost recovery funds, wildland general funds, interagency city projects and private dollars.

All positions and work assignments are subject to the availability of sufficient funding from external sources. If funding for a position is reduced, eliminated, or altered by a funding agency, the division will adjust, reduce, or terminate the affected position(s) and/or modify the employee's work schedule or duties to align with the available funding and compliance requirements. The division seeks and accepts external funding from various sources to support positions and projects that align with the division's mission. The division routinely explores opportunities to blend funding from different sources to maintain employment stability where feasible and allowable by the funding agency guidelines.



Federal Grant	Project Period	Project Area	Total Award
SNPLMA Rd 18 - Fuels Reduction	11/2022 - 11/2028	West-Side	\$ 2,871,654
SNPLMA Rd 18 - Fuels Collection	12/2022 - 12/2028	West-Side	\$ 147,290
*BLM Fuels Management and CFAP	09/2024 - 09/2026	Goni Area	\$ 227,957
SNPLMA Rd 20 - Fuels Reduction	12/2025 - 12/2031	Clear Creek & Kings Canyon	\$ 2,782,816
**NDF - Lakeview	10/2025 - 06/2026	Lakeview	\$ 132,500
***NDF - Wilson Estate	12/2025 - 06/2026	Wilson Properties	\$ 82,500
* Award reflects 2 of 5 years of funding			<b>\$ 6,244,717</b>
** Award reflects 1 of 2 years of funding			
*** Award reflects 1 of 4 years of funding			

# UPCOMING IN 2026

## DIVISION PROJECTS

In 2026, the Wildland Fuels Division (WFD) will continue to focus on strengthening long-term wildfire mitigation and community risk reduction efforts. A key priority will be the development of a comprehensive five-year strategic plan to guide program growth, resource allocation, and operational effectiveness. To expand treatment capabilities in challenging terrain, the division plans to purchase a CAT 309 excavator with a mulcher head attachment, enabling mechanical fuel reduction in steeper and previously inaccessible project areas.

## FEDERAL GRANTS

The WFD has applied for funding from the Nevada Department of Forestry (NDF) to update the city's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). If funded, the division will help NDF pilot the new Living CWPP platform and anticipate hosting the initial core team partner kickoff meeting in January 2026, with a target completion date of Summer 2026. The CWPP will allow Carson City to identify and prioritize hazardous fuels mitigation projects and other wildfire preparedness activities that can protect communities from wildfires. Subject matter experts will provide expertise about the technical and community aspects of the plan; help set boundaries, goals and objectives; provide feedback on wildfire risk assessments and mitigation actions; and ensure the plan meets Healthy Forest Restoration Act requirements.

## INTERAGENCY & OTHER PROJECTS

### Department of Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

The division plans to begin work on the Wilson Estates properties, resume work for phase two at Riverview Park and will continue to provide water resources for the Sheep Program.

### Public Works Department, Water Division

The WFD was engaged by the Public Works Department for fuel reduction work to create defensible space around the city's water tanks and to assist in clearing access roads to Public Works infrastructure. This collaboration will present opportunities for wildland staff to augment Public Work's staffing capacity and help cross-train staff in fuel reduction techniques.

### Department of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space & C-Hill Foundation

The division in collaboration Open Space and the C-Hill Foundation will begin work this Winter to treat the land surrounding the iconic Americal flag on the face of C-Hill.