

18 June 2012  
Serene Lakes Property Owners Association  
Firewise Communities Plan  
2012-13

The Serene Lakes Property Owners Association (SLPOA) has created a Firewise Committee to educate community members about fire prevention, forest health, and defensible space.

As part of this plan, SLPOA is **coordinating** with other organizations as follows:

1. **Fire experts:** Working with local (Truckee Fire Protection District), county (Nevada and Placer-Sierra Fire Safe Councils), state (Cal Fire), and federal (U.S. Forest Service) experts for advice and support on a regular and ongoing basis.
2. **Local water district:** Conducting highly visible demonstration projects that inform community members about defensible space and forest health around homes and on vacant lots.
3. **Truckee Fire Protection District:** Notifying owners whose homes or vacant lots need better defensible space.
4. **Firewise Communities/USA program:** Submitting an annual report.
5. **Placer and Nevada counties:** Urging counties to improve roadside vegetation management, particularly on Soda Springs Road.
6. **Neighboring Landowners:** Encouraging adjacent owners (including Royal Gorge, Sugar Bowl, and Soda Springs Ski Areas) to manage adjacent lands to reduce fuel loads, ladder fuels, and forest overcrowding.

SLPOA is **taking action** in the following areas:

7. **Funding:** Playing a key role to secure funding (under Title II of PL 110-343) and implement the U.S. Forest Service's "Donner Summit Fuel Reduction and Demonstration Project" on 18 acres of USFS land adjacent to the Serene Lakes development. Work is scheduled for summer of 2012.
8. **Public activities:** Holding an Annual Firewise Community/USA Education event each year. In 2012, it will feature a site visit to an 18-acre treatment site on U.S. Forest Service land on the eastern edge of the development.
9. **Chipping/vegetation drop off:** Encouraging responsible thinning and limbing of dense forest growth by supporting chipping programs and a vegetation drop-off site when feasible.
10. **Propane:** Note that SLPOA has a separate committee specifically addressing safety measures for propane tanks.

SLPOA is **providing information** through its newsletter, website, Facebook, board meetings, the association annual meeting, and fire-safe education events to our property owners as follows:

11. We support: a) thinning of thickets and other visual screens to promote health of the most dominant trees, b) encouraging growth of willows and other low-flammability native shrubs, and c) thinning the lodgepole pine stands to prevent crowns from touching.
12. We encourage owners to place a high priority on managing the vegetation on vacant lots and around homes, including thinning thickets of lodgepole pines to promote healthier forests, safer structures, better views, biodiversity, and habitat.
13. We advise homeowners to remove flammable materials within 10 feet of structures. Targeted fuels may include items such as furniture, cushions, door mats, brooms, baskets, pine needles, and vegetation. We also encourage homeowners to store firewood at least 30 feet from structures during fire season or to use a fire-rated tarp to securely cover wood and wood pellets.