

Dear Ranger Lozano,

5/23/06

Wildfire is a frightening and real danger in the Tahoe Basin. But there are things we can do to reduce the danger and help protect our forests. I think we should do a prescribed burn in Burton Creek in order to remove dead and dying trees and reduce the amount of underbrush and duff that fuels and accelerates forest fires. This is important because if a wildfire were to hit this area it would travel very quickly because of all the ladder fuels, trees without defensible space and weak or dead trees in Burton Creek.

First we need to mark the dead or dying trees and cut the majority of them down. Some should be left standing as they are all habitats for wildlife in our area and we don't want to wipe out the wildlife. If we have the resources, we could even trim back the healthy trees that remain. Next we should make a series of controlled burns in the area to eliminate ground fuels, like the extremely flammable Manzanita bushes, that help fires spread. Finally, prescribed burns would help to create necessary defensible space for the healthy trees which remain.

I love living in Tahoe because of the mountains, the lake and the trees. But our area is in great danger of having a super wildfire that would destroy everything in its path – for generations to come. We have many dead and dying trees and lots of overgrown bushes, making the spread of fire easier and the fighting of it much more difficult. This is why I think we should have a prescribed burn in Burton Creek.

Sincerely,

6th grade
Ms. Eckert – Science
NTMS