

GAP FIRE, TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST: LACK OF EXPEDITED PROCESS LEADS TO MORE DAMAGE

Because of lengthy process requirements of NEPA and one administrative appeal, the recovery efforts following the Gap Fire in California took over 3 years to complete. Trees to be removed during the recovery efforts lost over \$1.3 million in value due to delay. As a result, less funds were generated to pay for watershed restoration, reforestation, and fuels reduction. Today the remaining fuels create extremely hazardous fire conditions (see photo below).

In contrast, most of the private lands affected by the fire were treated within 3 months.



Notice high fuel loads in stand above, where standing and downed dead trees are prime fuel for wildfires and tremendous safety hazards for forest workers and recreationists.

Volume and Value Estimates At Key Post-Fire Times; Indicating Losses Due to Delay

