

## Catalina-Rincon FireScape

**December 2, 2009, 1:30pm at The Nature Conservancy (1510 E. Ft. Lowell)**

In attendance: Cori Dolan, Don Falk, Brooke Gebow, Kristy Lund, Steve Plevel, Jennifer Ruyle, Josh Taiz (meeting chaired by Brooke Gebow, notes by Cori + Brooke)

**Introduction:** The group was introduced to Cori Dolan, a program coordinator at the U of A. Cori will be helping with various tasks, including communication, outreach, and back-up for Brooke. Her role will evolve as needs arise.

**Meeting time:** We agreed to keep the meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month and move the time to 12:30 pm beginning Jan. 6th.

**Path forward:** Don and Brooke recapped the fuel model session from Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Although Landfire has had a reputation as inaccurate, changes over the last 3-4 years have improved the product, making it a more useful tool for our purposes (and its scale is appropriate for model runs). Even though Landfire data are assigned at a different scale than our EUs, we are trying to crosswalk the two (at the ELT scale). There will be another fuel model meeting in mid-January to share methods, make sure all the polygons are adopted, and reassess needs. Don predicted that a usable fuel layer would be ready by spring. We can get help from TEAMS on refining the fuels layer for the planning/assessment area.

Very roughly, it looks like the analytical path forward is (1) assign/refine fuel models; (2) run models that predict fire behavior and effects; (3) identify areas with extreme results; (4) use results to focus on treatment areas; (5) determine appropriate NEPA vehicle(s).

We decided that “analysis” or “assessment” area instead of “planning” area better captures the nature of our map boundaries.

Jennifer explained that the Assessment region on the concept diagram is dynamic and will be added to over time. She also mentioned Facebook (through U of A) as a possible addition to our presence on the web. She is going to apply for a Technology and Development grant that would support a web-based collaboration to improve communication among all the pieces shown on the concept diagram. The product would need a content manager, which is another possible role for Cori.

**TEAMS sessions:** Don, Jim, and Tyson will be presenting the science overview to fire and fuels staff at the annual TEAMS meeting in Tempe on Dec. 3. Brooke and Stan will be meeting with Chris and Janel to describe a likely path forward, refine roles for TEAMS at this juncture, and discuss starting a BA.

ESA compliance: **Brooke and Josh will meet separately to talk about ESA compliance.** Josh explained the need to continue a MSO monitoring program. To that end, we may be able to gather fire-related data at the same time. Because the concept of “take” will apply to any fire projects done in MSO country, we can use this as an opportunity to get quantification on how MSOs are impacted by fire. Jennifer asked if we could use TEAMS to start MSO monitoring. She also mentioned that it would be beneficial to get Josh’s MSO data published. Don and Josh will meet to look at the data and discuss publishing options. Kristy pointed out the beauty of joint CNF/SNP monitoring.

**Forest Landscape Restoration Act:** FireScape projects fit into the spirit of FLRA based on their large scale and collaborative nature. Jennifer explained that we lack the commercial-use component—no products, income, or jobs.

She reviewed some discussion of FACA that took place in a recent meeting of regional planning staff. She reminded us that the group is not making decisions for the forest, and should keep making it clear that

anyone is welcome at meetings. She also suggested calling the steering group “collaborators.” Brooke will be covered by an agreement between the CNF and TNC. Jennifer also reported that 4-FRI forest staff are thinking about FACA.

Jennifer also made headway on desired conditions. She is continuing the marrying of desired conditions from the current forest planning effort to Jim’s LTA descriptions. For types not covered by the planning effort, she is pulling the NRCS ecological site guides that fit LTA descriptions. The advantage to this method is that the site guides were updated in the last 10 years. Dan Robinett will review the desired condition write-ups in January.

**Governor’s Forest Health Council Presentation:** The presentation will be Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at Sabino Canyon from 9 am to noon. Brooke will nail down the final details for the presentation at the next Steering Group meeting. Brooke, Steve, and Josh will be able to attend.

**Web Update:** Based on feedback, Steve suggested we change the term “engagement” to “participation.” **He will try to replace all the terms on the web, but asked that we let him know places he missed.** Because the intended audience for the website is the general public, scientific community, and managers, he will keep the main text simple with meatier layers underneath. His goal is to make the brochures and posters reflect the changes in terminology. **He asked that we get any changes to him ASAP. He also asked that we read About Us and make sure the language is correct.** Don would like to see the language more general. Cori will rewrite the About Us section.

Under the Working Groups section, we will change “Compliance” to the broader “Management.” **In this section, Steve needs a one page write-up for Engagement/Participation (Steve), Management (Josh, Kristy, and Jennifer), Science (Don), and Sequence of Events/Calendar (Brooke). Cori will write up the meeting notes and get them on the website as well. Jennifer will think about where the NEPA description should go and get back to Steve.** We would also like to simplify the concept diagram and add it to the website, placement to be determined at a later time.

We may need two maps—one for land management uses and another for ecological types. Jennifer suggested using a 3D landscape drape.

About Us: It was suggested that we change the title to “Collaboration Contacts” and add others who are not already on the list. **These names will link to bios, so Steve needs a 200 word or less bio from everyone and a photo.**

Science: Don suggested that this section include a brief description of what the project is and put the outcome/product in the Ecological Assessment section.

Related Activities: Steve needs a brief overview of how FireScape relates to other projects. It was suggested that Lindy and Julio could help with a buffelgrass discussion. Josh suggested that we add the *Arundo* project to this section.

**Steve gave Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> as the deadline to get all materials to him.**