

Catalina-Rincon FireScape Meeting Notes

February 3, 2011

9:30 am to noon at The Nature Conservancy, 1510 E Fort Lowell, Tucson

In attendance: Tim Connor, Cori Dolan, Angie Elam, Don Falk, Brooke Gebow, Kristy Lund, Kathy Makansi, Steve Plevel, Stephanie Rayburn, Jennifer Ruyle (Notes by Cori Dolan and Brooke Gebow)

Review revised PIL and assignments

Janel has updated the PIL with new assignments and schedule and sent it to Angie for approval. The budget has also been updated with new TEAMS hours for the specialist reports. We will be using a TEAMS member to write the socioeconomic report. Cori will act as a clearinghouse and dispatcher for any information that TEAMS or their counterparts need to keep the process moving along. The group also discussed using TEAMS to do the soils, air and water reports. Bob is named as writing these but with his new schedule he would not be able to make them a priority. Jennifer mentioned that a Watershed Assessment is due March 31st from the Forest and could be helpful for the soils report. We can also use some of Jim Malusa's information. The group also discussed how the public comments would be handled. Stephanie may be able to take this on. **Brooke will talk to Janel about getting a TEAMS representative for soils, air, and water, economics and social, and comment database. Cori will get with Janel on updated PIL and scoping notice new schedule.**

Review/discuss draft scoping notice

Brooke reported that we are still trying to nail down official involvement from Pima County, State Trust lands, and State Parks. **Brooke and Steve will meet with representatives from these agencies to find out if they want to be included in analysis area. Angie and Tim will talk to ranchers about being included the analysis area.** The group decided to push back the Scoping Notice launch date to February 28th to allow time for contact with other landowners. The group then discussed public scoping meetings. Steve suggested we go through SABCC to initiate contact with homeowners in the Catalina foothills and Firewise to do the same for other communities. Everyone agreed we would like to stay informal. Jennifer suggested contacting Tom Beal to do more articles in the paper. **Kristy has a list of smoke sensitive homeowners and will contact them. Steve will contact Lindy at SABCC about communicating with the homeowners on the front range foothills.** Jennifer suggested that we go through CWPPs to make sure what we're doing is in line with what they have. **Stephanie and Cori will peruse the CWPPs. Cori will also call Larry Southard with Oracle Fire Department to see if Oracle has a CWPP separate from the Pinal County one.**

Refine proposed action

Stephanie reported that she and Chris spoke about rules for narrowing treatment acres in the EUs: taking out acres for mastication with over 40% slope and acres for thinning with over 45% slope. **These are approximate numbers that Stephanie will coordinate with Kristy and Chris to nail down (also wilderness and WUI acres).** They also will be making a map to illustrate the exclusions. Cori and Brooke would like to gather folks from both FireScape projects to explore consistent guidelines treatments that affect MSO habitat across the two FireScape projects that will be the basis for design criteria. Natasha Kline is the T&E coordinator

with Saguaro National Park, and we'll invite her to this meeting. **Brooke will coordinate with Natasha and Cori will coordinate the meeting.** Don asked the group if it would be possible to survey for owls. It has been done over the years but details, such as funding source and years, were unknown. **Brooke will contact Josh about details of past inventories/surveys.**

GIS coordination

We will be using Vicki Eubanks from TEAMS to help with GIS coordination, information storage, and map making. Our GIS needs are few at this point, so most requests can go to Chris. Devin may be more available March/April. **Steve will contact Melanie Meyers for her Mt. Lemmon data layers and send to Chris.**

Update on Integrated Landscape Assessment Project

Jennifer has assigned a liaison function with the Integrated Landscape Assessment Project to help that group use the Sky Islands as a test region. Miles Hemstrom (FS ILAP lead) and Jimmy Kagan (ILAP science delivery module lead) presented this project to the group in October of 2010. ILAP is providing new (14-25 box) vegetation state-and-transition models for all of FS Region 3 as part of a land management decision-support modeling effort. Jennifer will be sending them information for our area. The goal is to provide information on treatments, climate impacts, and other areas for all lands in between sky islands across all ownerships. Jennifer reported that time frame for delivered products is a year and a half. Don suggested that participating in this project put FireScape on the map on a national level. **Don and Jennifer will talk to Miles and Jimmy and relay what we are about to do with Don H. (departure analysis) and see if they can piggyback with that exercise.**

Fuels analysis outreach

The group discussed scheduling a multi-jurisdictional area session with biology/environmental groups and interested folks. We now have the fuel model map to illustrate the outcomes of no treatment and purpose of this project. Jennifer suggested we present at the Sky Island Alliance Climate Change Conference on April 13-14th. **Brooke will contact SIA to discuss opportunities to present.** If we are able to present there, Brooke, Josh Conner (Don F. Grad student), and Don F. will meet to plan the presentation. If Don F. is not available to present, Chris is a possible presenter with help from Josh Conner.

Next meeting

NOTE: The next meeting will be FRIDAY, March 4th, 9:30am-12pm at TNC (1510 E. Ft. Lowell) for this month only. We will return to our regularly scheduled day in April.