

May 21, 2009 / Sabino Canyon

**Catalina-Rincon FireScape Steering Group
Discussion on Organization/Leadership**

Present: Don Falk, Brooke Gebow, Bill Hart, Stan Helin, Steve Plevel, Sherry Tune
Notes by Brooke

At the May 7 Steering Group meeting we decided it would be healthy to regroup given shifting assignments, turnover, schedule slipping, and pending need for serious supervision of the TEAMS efforts. Steve and Brooke wrote up the topics below to start with as an agenda.

Leadership: Rotating chair, Sherry's role, manager/coordinator role

Roles: everyone renew vows, succession/continuity, Saguaro NP SG member, TEAMS

Process: Where are we? How do parts feed into whole, especially implementation?

Budget

Feedback results to Stan and Jeanine (Sherry)

Leadership Discussion

Brooke—NFF proposal defined four positions for FireScape, but didn't get funded. Positions were "Quarterback," Program Coordinator, Monitoring Lead, Carbon/Climate Lead.

Don—There are really 2 questions: How do we operate as FireScape grows? How do we maintain reasonable progress on this C-R project? Lori's role is to support, remind, but not lead. We need to figure out how to provide leadership from within the steering group.

Steve—Engagement function is plenty for him. Organizing meetings is OK; managing project is not OK.

Bill—Anyone taking on a new big project needs some backfilling needed for other existing responsibilities. IDT approach with explicit FTE commitment is a way to do big projects.

Don—Brooke seems good fit with TEAMS supervision; Sherry seems a good fit with expansion/ambassador role on the FS side.

Brooke—To take on bigger program manager role would require help with SE AZ Preserves job —would have to look very closely at responsibilities and have a lot of discussions within TNC to contemplate playing a larger (half-time?) role.

Don—Park involvement key.

Bill—Kristy is ready to step up to the plate, but we need better communication with her; maybe Perry could come in to fill in for Bill when he departs.

Don—Need our go-to (program manager) person to be able to engage park (Steve, too, can help with that role).

Steve—Stan ought to go to the new Supt. Get everyone together (new supt, Kristy, Perry)

Sherry—Kristy wants to use ecological units across whole landscape.

Stan—Planning to call on new supt right away; with Sherry's evolving role and losing Bill, Stan is willing to step in to help with TEAMS

Stan—if Sherry lands back at the district, wouldn't Go-To person/leader be a role for her?

Sherry—Her role is evolving. Charter now exists for FS region-wide ecosystem restoration steering committee. Needs a fire/fuels person and Sherry is interested. Wants to bring bigger region-wide firescape presence.

Don—That means we still have the need for our own program manager

Stan—Has bought into the project and is willing to take the risks on this mid-scale analysis and get a lot more treatment done

Steve—TEAMS works for us. Working group meetings can be vehicle for all the pieces reporting to each other.

Don—Reality is that the steering group is having those conversations.

Steve—Still need all the people to come together and make sure voices are heard and needs are responded to.

Roles

Sherry—big picture support on FS side

Tom—big picture support from politicians

Don—science grunt

Brooke—compliance grunt

Bill—implementation grunt

Steve—engagement grunt

Stan—district mgmt

Need SNP Supt, FMO, Fire Ecol

Role for Bill's replacement and other fire staff—interacting with Don (mapping, IDing steps re fuel models etc), Brooke (proposed action development), Steve (engagement with people who regularly interact with Bill); understanding carbon consequences

Proposed responsibilities for administrative support vs. program manager jobs

Lori

- Maintain contact list

- Maintain action list

- Maintain outreach calendar

Take/disperse meeting notes
Keep project record

Program manager

- Nag players to keep project moving
- Develop timelines/manage schedule
- Provide for oversight/tracking/follow-through
- Serve as project's default ambassador (internal/external)
- Dispatch resources (send in big guns when needed)
- Support fledgling landscapes
- Serve as primary contact with TEAMS
- Coordinate constant internal communication

UA agreement as a vehicle for supporting program manager role—Noreen is close—can proceed with UA-TNC agreement soon (possibly add to expanded scope?). Sherry—can fund right away with existing \$\$ (would last for a shorter time). Still need to acquire more \$\$.

Process—Science

Helpful science steps as envisioned by Bill (with help from Steve, Brooke before Don arrived)

- Match fuel models to ecological types
- Run fire behavior models through units under different treatments (starting with wildfire) and under mild-mod-extreme cases
- Figure out who is doing this work (UA or TEAMS)
- Figure out what does the mountain look like?
- What should it look like?
- What will it look like in the future?
- Map and track openings
- ID priority treatment areas
- Weave in climate considerations

Don reviewed new science plan and expertise needed from TEAMS.

Steering group can reorder science priorities.

Findings need to be published to record and share scientific process.

Slightly different step to transfer technology and information from project.

Other little things:

- Steve and Bill (+ Stan?) are doing May 23 event (Mt Lemmon)
- Bill, Sherry, Stan, Brooke doing May 30 event (Willow Canyon)
- Brooke will add NPS, UA, TNC logos to brochure (and is willing to rework content whenever needed)
- Steve will capture flip chart archive