FireScape Steering Group Meeting Notes
August 5, 2009
1 p.m. at The Nature Conservancy (1510 E. Fort Lowell)

In attendance: Don Falk, Brooke Gebow, Perry Grissom, Stan Helin, Steve Plevel, Randall Smith (Brooke's notes in absence of Lori)

Next Steering Group Meeting: Wednesday September 2 at The Nature Conservancy, 1 pm (standing meeting first Wed of the month until decided otherwise). **We are asking Lori to poll about a new meeting time,** if needed. Brooke suggested we allocate more than two hours for these monthly meetings.

Latest financial plan for expanded FireScape Program (including UA agreement status)—(Randall + Don)
At meeting time, the new $270K agreement (to cover science and other support tasks) was being routed around UA. Given where we are in the current federal FY, having this agreement in place by Aug 30 is highly desirable. A modification to add $290K to this agreement for the Chiricahuas, Dragoons, and Galiuros will follow the $270K through the university. **Brooke needs to get with Cecily at SNR to confirm the agreement form** for the $50K/year that will go to TNC for 3 years ($50K from the $270K and $100K from the $290K). $50K/year covers half of Brooke's time for acting as FireScape Program Manager plus fringe, overhead, travel, and other project expenses. An IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) agreement is proposed between TNC and the Coronado to allow Brooke to participate in internal Forest Service business; Randall is looking for a sample agreement involving TNC.

More on Randall's evolving role (Randall)
Though he is instrumental in securing funding, Randall's role is hands off as he helps districts take the lead on their projects. Together with Chris Stetson, he acts as a "technical backstop" – helping articulate science needed to support each landscape's project.

Stan's report (Stan)
Stan is currently acting as an advocate for all the FireScape projects while participating fully in Catalina-Rincon business. He is the chief contact with Jeanine and will help her understand what FireScape is (and isn't). Stan will help point out how FireScape meets goals of various agency initiatives and make us visible. We agree that waiting for the Huachuca outcome is wise before we present on FireScape at an FLT meeting. November is a goal.

NAU JFSP proposal—FireScape connection (Don)
Don explained that the NAU Joint Fire Sciences Program that helps disseminate regional fire information is compatible and desirable (and not viewed as competition).

The rest of Don's report (Don)
Steve Yool and Don have identified a MS student who can probably start a ¼-time GRA this fall. He would be a modeling contact for TEAMS. Science participants want to hold a show and tell at UA to bring agency managers (rangers and others) up to speed on the proposed science activities and tools. There is also need to talk with Chris French more specifically about the

TEAMS expertise available. (**Brooke will schedule**, and meeting is now proposed for October 21-22—see final item below.)

FireScape in general vs FireScape: C-R / how to organize (Brooke)
We discussed how we communicate about FireScape broadly (as the sum of projects) and individual projects. We talked about an open definition of a FireScape project versus a stricter mapping-modeling-analysis recipe. Randall's previous quote was reiterated: FireScape could be a way of thinking instead of a process. Brooke and Randall suggested that projects meeting several criteria could qualify:

- Landscape scale (and cross-jurisdictional-boundary), which around the Coronado NF means using mountain ranges as basic units
- Use of science to improve fire management (and not just the landtype association mapping)
- Breaking down barriers to the kind of fire management needed by our landscapes
- Taking advantages of opportunities in time and space

Using these criteria, B and R suggest the Peloncillo Programmatic Fire Plan can be a FireScape project—works at big scale, solves a problem with the listed New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake. PERP qualifies based on its collaborative, detailed approach to treating a small area to ease management of the whole mountain. Huachuca FireScape is a multi-party effort that addresses compliance and concern about lack of fire project shelf stock. Catalina-Rincon wants to capitalize on mosaics (fading as we speak) left by wildfires. Galiuro needs to tackle prescribed fire in wilderness (and Brooke wants to bring BLM neighbors in that are facing the same issue). And so on. Brooke suggested that when we're ready to make this program more visible, we can highlight the products coming out of these projects (maps, programmatic BO's, and so on).

We agreed that as we meet for these efforts, we need to try to stick to business for individual projects and not pull everyone into discussions about all the mountain ranges. Certainly it makes sense for core people involved in everything to piggyback general meetings onto specific ones.

NEPA process discussion for Catalina-Rincon (Stan/Brooke)
We agreed that another topic for a face-to-face session with Chris French is sorting through the NEPA options. The late October suggestion should allow us to know where we stand with the Huachuca decision. We talked about how HFRA provides for simpler administrative process, mirrors the DOI (lack of administrative appeal) process, relies on collaboration and CWPPs, but carries some political baggage.

TEAMS engagement schedule (Randall/Brooke/Don)
Until we have a proposed action, engaging TEAMS for compliance help makes little sense. However, the time may be right for engaging TEAMS for science help (again, October meeting with Chris French will provide opportunity for discussion).

Jim Malusa's LTA writeups for Catalina-Rincon (Brooke + Don)
Brooke added desired conditions from forest planning effort plus the brainstormed list of treatment tools to Jim's existing conditions writeups for six ecological types. This articulation of direction (and why) is a proposed action building block. Or it could be part of another planning document that could be referenced in a CE (again, October meeting with Chris French will

provide opportunity for discussion). We also talked about using direction from Saguaro NP's FMP extending it to the CNF. **Brooke will stay on top of this topic**, but setting direction is a big deal that involves everyone and the public.

Outreach status (Steve)
Steve will be scheduling sessions with stakeholders—get days you can't do things to Steve if you weren't at the meeting. Website will be in good hands at the UA SNR under direction of Mickey Reed, Martin Munro, and Andy Honaman. **Steve asks that you send examples of favorite websites to him.** He will be scheduling (with Lori's help) sessions to work on content. For now web efforts are confined to the Catalina-Rincon project, but having an umbrella FireScape site with project headings is desirable down the road. Don did put web services in the budget for the upcoming Chiricahua project. Steve is working on simplifying outreach materials and making sure pieces reflect latest project details.

Tentative Meetings With Chris French
Wednesday October 21 and Thursday October 22

Propose roughly a half day each for:

--participate in a general science show and tell for Catalina-Rincon FireScape

--talk to our science team about specific tasks they're interested in having TEAMS help with

--help us sort out NEPA options for C-R.