Catalina-Rincon FireScape / 4-25-08 notes by Brooke Gebow
NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY JUNE 4, 9 a.m., Sabino

At the April 23 meeting, we discussed how we are trying to work. Because few people have been party to all discussions, there is plenty of room for different interpretations of what we're trying to accomplish and how. We acknowledged the lack of dedicated (funded) leadership and but felt we were moving in the right direction. The task list from the overview document (attached) is still a helpful guide.

Some of us prefer alternating "core group" (more or less people currently working on specific tasks) work sessions with "whole group" (worker bees + stakeholders + potential future worker bees) information sessions. Others see no problem with always including everyone. We all need to be defining our terms frequently (and consistently!).

Where do we stand?

- Ecological units will be the basis of analysis of effects of treatments (for compliance). These units are delineated on the basis of geology, soils, vegetation, and other traits. Finer "landtype association" (LTA) mapping underlies the ecological units, then we lump the LTAs into logical units for working with fire.
- Fire regimes, existing conditions, and desired conditions are defined at the ecological unit level. The effects analyses look at typical projects within ecological units (not entire units as projects). Specific project boundaries get set opportunistically down the road.
- Theresa, Larry, and Jim Malusa are putting these ecological unit maps together. We agreed to use the Coronado's draft mid-scale vegetation map. We have not yet addressed superimposing the fire ecology onto units. Brooke will contact Randy Hall (TEAMS) about data needed to run fire behavior/spread models for the effects analysis. We can see what data our group can provide, and what data would still need to be collected. We haven't clarified the contribution of the research side of the project—help with effects analysis? experiments? monitoring and adaptive management?
- We need to develop a pretty solid proposed action (suite of treatments by ecological unit) before handing off the compliance work to TEAMS or it will really cost us ($$).
- Right now we can define which treatment types seem feasible and reasonable for ecological types based on past experience.
- We have not figured out how we will develop the desired conditions of the future (that consider climate change) that will drive final selection of treatments.
- The $350K allocated for TEAMS has shrunk to $290K due to PERP/ Huachuca overruns.
- One of the drawbacks of lack of dedicated leadership is the difficulty overseeing the TEAMS work (and keeping costs in line).
- No new regional Forest Service $$ have been allocated for Catalina-Rincon FireScape (despite requests).
- UA is asking for $500K through Grijalva, but no one at the meeting knew the breakdown.
- Brooke is still refining the general information PPT. Alix will send cheatgrass and buffelgrass photos. Send Brooke a photo of yourself in action for the "who are we?" section, if you haven't already.

Barbara suggested we create a flow-chart-type schematic as a snapshot of the project.

Table 1. Catalina-Rincon FireScape: Goals, objectives and priority actions

Goal	Primary objective	Priority actions	Leads
Apply science to ecosystem management	Bring quantitative, contemporary science to support analysis, decisions, monitoring	• Gather spatial data; map out most important biophysical and political layers; assemble experience from elsewhere • Fill gaps in critical map coverage • Develop predictions of (short-term/long-term) Catalina ecosystem responses to climate variability and trend, invasive species • Model fire behavior, spread, and effects in existing landscape mosaic • Monitor and evaluate results of treatments on the ground and through continued modeling (both short- and long-term)	Lead: Tom Swetnam Research: Don Falk and Dan Neary GIS: Teresa Crimmins LTA: Larry Laing Modeling: Randy Hall Monitoring: Bill Hart
Develop social consensus/shared vision/community support/support of big funders	Foster partnerships among land managers and key stakeholders; educate and reach out to the public to grow acceptance of fire on the Catalina landscape and this big-scale approach; cultivate financial support needed to accomplish big vision	• Contact key players (including other county, state, Federal, and private land managing agencies) on "buy-in list" and begin active dialogue • Develop consensus about desired conditions/management targets in the face of climate variability and trend, non-native plant invasions, and the new forest plan • Identify different sectors of public; tailor outreach needs accordingly (e.g. WUI homeowners cf. general metro rec users) • Gain acceptance and cooperation of public, acceptance of potential risks • At appropriate stage, involve Congressional delegations and other influential parties	Lead: John Able Funding: Tom Swetnam (Non-Forest Service) and Sherry Tune Public Liaison/Education: CATT Social Science: Barbara Morehouse (UA)
Plan and work at a true landscape/ mountain range scale	Lay out and begin implementing a large-scale treatment plan; adapt management based on project and scientific study results	• Map out treatments currently on the books, revisit targets and scale, carry out as other work progresses • Using new biophysical base maps (landtype associations or a similar system combined with past fire mosaics), develop array of new treatment options for units • Develop prioritization system for treatment areas	Lead: Bill Hart GIS: Teresa Crimmins and Devin Quintana (FS) Treatment Planning: Bill Hart and Kristy

		• Develop a way of making the EM regime dynamic (adapt plans based on observed effects, new wildfires, weather, new management targets)	Lund Adaptive Management: Randall Smith
Restore ecosystem processes in fire-adapted (and not) ecosystems; meet other management targets	Conduct non-fire treatments and prescribed burns; increase WFU and AMR that accomplishes management objectives	• Complete pre-treatments that provide for safe WFU, bigger-footprint AMR, large-scale prescribed fire • Utilize opportunity presented by post-fire mosaic to increase WFU, bigger-footprint AMR, large-scale prescribed fire • Return fire to significant areas of the Catalina-Rincon landscape across multiple ecosystem types during project period (WFU/AMR, Rxfire) • Test of effects of potential treatments re non-native species on fire regimes	Lead: Kristy Lund Implementation: Kristy Lund GIS: Chris Stetson Research: Don Falk Non-Native: Kent Ellett
Reduce/manage fire hazards to human communities and ecosystems	Use landscape-scale ecosystem management to reduce risk of catastrophic fire to ecosystems and human infrastructure	• Refine compilation of target sensitive areas (natural and cultural resources, built environment) • Demonstrate mosaic and treatment effects on fire hazard and potential effects	Lead: Kristy Lund Sensitive Resources: Josh Taiz Adaptive Mgmt: Randall Smith
Improve management efficiency	Optimize staffing, reduce paperwork, attract big-scale funding, smoothly mesh activities with other (inter/intra) agency functions	• Develop realistic, clear task descriptions, resource need statements, schedules • Think creatively about staffing, sharing resources across partners • Develop landscape-scale compliance processes (NEPA, ESA, NHPA, NFMA) • Maintain communication and coordination with forest planning and other functions • Develop estimates of cost-avoidance of this approach (i.e. compared to current suppression approach) • Build solid case for continued funding • Honestly track progress and keep improving process	Lead: Sherry Tune Compliance: TEAMS Communications: CATT Support/Funding: Jeanine Derby and Tom Swetnam
Make our efforts have broader	Demonstrate to others the potential for large-scale,	• Develop combined “lessons learned” from Catalina and FIRESCAPE experiences	Lead: Brooke Gebow and Sherry Tune

effect beyond just this one case	integrated approach to ecosystem management	• Present these to management and policy makers regionally and nationally • Develop our own adaptive learning from similar efforts elsewhere	Communications: CATT