

## **Chiricahua FireScape Meeting Notes**

**December 1, 2010**

**9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Benson Center, Cochise College (1025 S Highway 90, Benson)**

**In attendance:** Cori Dolan, Bill Edwards, Matt Littrell, Janel McCurdy, Brian McKeon, Mark Pater (notes by Cori Dolan)

### **Review/work session to finalize scoping notice**

The group discussed changes to the scoping notice. Cori will incorporate the changes to the document and post it back on the FireScape website. As of this date, we are still waiting for Bill Radke to review the scoping notice. Janel will send the updated version to the ID Team on Friday and Bill Radke can make his comments then. The drop dead date for internal review will be December 8<sup>th</sup> and for the public on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Comments will be requested from the public by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. **Cori will request mailing lists from the AZ Game and Fish Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service.** Janel and Bill agreed that the Forest Service will be responsible for the mailing. Janel requested that comments from the ID Team be sent directly to her. Janel will also be keeping the public record. **Janel will email Andrea to get instructions on how to maintain the record.** Brian reported that since he will only be at Chiricahua NM for a few more weeks, the scoping notice should be sent to Brad Traver for NPS review (Brad will only be at the Monument through January and then Kim will return). **Cori will put the final version of the scoping notice on the FireScape website on December 13<sup>th</sup> and will talk to Averill about making sure it works** (including a message that people will need to download Adobe Reader in order to view). **Mark and Brian will see if their agencies want to put a link to the scoping notice on their websites. Cori will send all mailing lists to Bill.**

### **Progress on desired conditions**

The desired conditions chart is completed for all agencies. Cori is still waiting to hear back from Bill Radke in order to finalize the Leslie Canyon statements. Once those are reviewed, **Cori will add the statements to the Ecological Systems descriptions and upload them to the FireScape website.**

### **Discuss IDT meeting date (Jan 6<sup>th</sup>) and the future/role of monthly meeting**

Janel reported that the Fuels Specialist for the ID Team has been identified and added to the PIL: Don Helmbrecht will be taking on that role. Janet Moser will be the Wildlife Biologist for the ID Team. Janel conducted a Doodle poll to find a common time to hold the ID Team meeting. January 6, 2011 was chosen, place to be determined. Janel also handed out a budget sheet and discussed the money that has been added and what it can be used for. Bill reported that Glenn wrote a Scope of Work for the MSO surveys which are slated to begin March/April 2011. The group then discussed the future of our monthly meetings. Janel asked if we wanted to keep our meetings in light of the ID Team meetings that will begin in January. Bill suggested that we cancel the January meeting since the ID Team will be meeting then and schedule a February

meeting. If we do not feel we need the February meeting, we can cancel it. The comments received from the public will really drive what we do next (e.g. if we need to add a new alternative) so we need to keep another monthly meeting as an option. **The next monthly meeting was tentatively set for February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Benson.**

### **MSO design criteria update**

Randall (through email) reported that the direction on MSO design criteria is not solidified at this point. The question arose because the Huachuca FireScape project used the 1996 plan amendment direction for MSO, but there is a plan revision currently underway, so there is a question about what guidance should we be using particularly as it relates to design criteria. Randall suggested that we develop proposed actions that best address the fuels and forest restoration needs for the various portions of the landscape based on needs and current conditions. Then we can layer in the MSO Protected Activity Centers and Core Areas and determine to what degree there might be conflicts based on juxtaposition and the type of MSO restrictions (breeding season, diameter limits, core areas). Until the MSO survey work is complete, we can focus on the detailed proposed action now and revisit MSO details as the NEPA (alternatives) are constructed.

Mark pointed out that the BLM is bound by the criteria issued in 2004 rather than the Recovery Plan.

### **Marrying ecological maps with fuels maps**

Cori reported that Chris was able to make a table showing the fuels models (by percentages) in one of the Ecological Systems in our project area. The group went over the table and agreed that this was a valuable endeavor to add to the Ecological Descriptions. **Cori will ask Chris to make a similar table for each of the remaining Ecological Systems.**