

Catalina-Rincon FireScape Meeting Notes
Thursday, December 02, 2010
The Nature Conservancy 1510 E. Ft. Lowell

In attendance: Pam Bostwick, Cori Dolan, Angie Elam, Don Falk, Stan Helin, Emily Irwin, Kristy Lund, Janel McCurdy, Jennifer Ruyle, Randall Smith (Notes by Cori Dolan)

Introductions

Emily and Pamela joined us from the Regional Office (Fire and Aviation).

Review/discuss draft scoping notice

Brooke took the Chiricahua scoping notice as a template and made it Catalina-Rincon specific. The group went through the draft scoping notice and discussed needs and changes to be made. Jennifer reported that, as in the Huachuca example, our analysis (fuels mapping) can include state and private lands but the treatments don't include them. Therefore our decision document (Proposed Action) does not cover them. The county will rely on our NEPA document. Angie pointed out that Catalina State Park is federal land but Oracle State Park is not. **Cori will contact Steve Plevel to see if/when representatives from Oracle SP were contacted.** Kristy reported that Saguaro National Park (SNP) already has a range of alternatives and asked if the forest can be in line with what the park is doing. The SNP Fire Management Plan (2007) is an EIS so it may be more detailed than what the USFS needs. **Kristy will send Cori the updated briefing statement** to help fill in parts of the scoping document. Specific changes to scoping document suggested:

- Angie recommended totaling the acres from the project area as a GIS exercise to get total acres. Kristy reported that our treatments may not cover all those acres, but that is how the Huachuca scoping document handled the acres too.
- Example of treatment – Kristy recommended using the treatments done in Willow Canyon, Rose Canyon, and Organization Ridge as an example. This was a timber-type treatment with thinning but no broadcast burn yet.
- **Kristy and Cori will work on gathering photos for treatment options.**
- Angie and Kristy recommended having two categories under Fire Treatments, Prescribed fire and Wildland fire (unplanned ignition). They suggested looking at the national fire policy (NIFC.gov) for guidance on this section.
- Add federal fire policy 1995 to the list of management documents.
- Angie suggested keeping Salvage as a separate treatment from fuelwood harvesting. **Angie will work on the language for this section.** She suggested the following as the per project acres: Salvage acres per project will be determined on a case by case basis.
- Emily suggested we add Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) issues to the justification lists under all treatments and add WUI component to design criteria summary.
- **Angie will find out what contact information should be included and send to Janel.**
- **Angie will send her written comments to Janel and Cori.**
- **Don will help rewrite the fire behavior model run section.** Don reminded the group that the model runs tell us what the predicted fire behavior would be under

certain realistic conditions and we can use other model runs (other than flame length). Jennifer suggested we use the conditions from 2003 because those were the conditions present during an actual fire that people lived through. Don suggested calling this section Preliminary Modeling and moving it to the Why Is This Project Needed section. Emily reminded the group that the No Action Alternative is where the models will really add to a robust discussion about what current management dictates. **Don will get with Chris and Josh to do the new model run.** Don reported that he is going to map post-Bullock/Aspen as if it did not happen (i.e. take the footprint of those fires off the landscape and run the model and see what happens).

- **Don suggesting putting modeling needs on the IDT meeting agenda.**

Discuss IDT meeting date (Jan 7th) and the future/role of the “Executive” monthly meeting
Janel reported that the IDT meeting for Catalina-Rincon FireScape will be Friday, Jan 7, 2011. Chris will not be able to attend, but everybody else named on the PIL is available. **Janel will find out who will be the recreational resources and visuals people.** Angie suggested we could have the meeting at the Catalina Visitor Center. **Angie will help Janel and Brooke formulate an agenda.** Janel reported that Jen Morrissey requested a meeting with counterparts in USFS while she is here for the IDT meeting. **Stan offered to meet with her if USFS counterparts are not available.** The group discussed the role of future “Executive meetings” and decided it would be beneficial to continue meeting outside of the IDT meetings to work on tech transfer issues, coordination, etc . **Cori will send a Doodle poll to Catalina-Rincon FireScape participants to find a date for the January meeting.**

Update on MSO design criteria

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. Randall is retiring at the end of the year. Stan addressed Randall for the group regarding is invaluable service to the project.