

Catalina-Rincon FireScape Meeting Notes
Monday April 4, 2011
The Nature Conservancy (1510 E. Ft. Lowell Rd)

In attendance: Cori Dolan, Angie Elam, Brooke Gebow, Perry Grissom, Devin Quintana, Stephanie Rayburn, Chris Stetson, Josh Taiz (notes by Cori Dolan and Brooke Gebow)

Treatment Blocks Discussion

Based on a discussion among rangers and SO staff on March 31, we will be mapping the boundaries of areas proposed for treatment and analyzing the potential effects of specific activities within those areas. The 72 “treatment blocks” already developed for the analysis area will serve that purpose—we have them mapped over the ecological units. Josh explained that the treatment blocks were drawn with logical control features as boundaries. Brooke reminded the group that we have commitments from State Land, State Parks and Pima County to be included in the analysis area; the blocks extend beyond the forest boundary.

Angie reminded the group that a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) relative to any proposed Wilderness treatments also needs to be completed before or in concert with the Environmental Assessment. Jennifer Morrissey from TEAMS has been assigned to our project as a wilderness and roadless area specialist. We are now proposing to write the MRDG in-house and have Jennifer review it based on Stephanie’s availability to draft it. **Brooke will contact Janel and Jennifer Morrissey to propose this arrangement.** Josh reported that meeting with the public on Wilderness issues is not required for the MRDG process, however Brooke would like to get the word out to interested and affected parties as we are developing our ideas.

Scoping Notice Revisions and Schedule

To update the scoping notice we need to get our Wilderness boundaries and treatments lined out. **Stephanie and Devin will work on a new table with acres for treatments in each block/LTA.** Brooke suggested that we describe the rules we will be using to determine treatment priorities in the scoping notice. Science and funding considerations will dictate some of the priority areas: WUI/developments and values-at-risk (wilderness, healthy watersheds, T & E habitat, sensitive heritage resources) are at the top of the list. Josh is interested in using Steve Yool’s moisture stress technique that can identify driest areas back through time via remotely sensed data. **Brooke will edit the scoping notice and send her comments to Cori. Cori will contact Andrea** to let her know the Draft Scoping Notice should be on her desk the week of April 18th.

Departure Analysis Workshop

Cori reported that the Departure Analysis workshop has been tentatively scheduled for May 4-6th. Details (e.g. location, format, and schedule) have not been confirmed. One question is the status of Don H.’s ability to travel. **Cori will contact Don H.** about the reality of travel restrictions and the schedule. **Brooke will follow up with Janel as well.**

Schedule Changes

Adding treatment blocks and other changes has changed the schedule from that listed on the last PIL. The group discussed getting the scoping notice out to the public by mid-May, for which the comment period would end mid-June. If Craig can get the vegetation/fuels report done by June, the following *tentative schedule* may be possible:

- Vegetation/Fuels report due June 1, 2011

- Specialist reports due December 2011
- EA compiled from specialist reports February 2012
- EA sent to public April 2012
- EA comment period ends May 2012
- Draft DN/FONSI sent early June 2012
- DN/FONSI signed late June 2012

Stephanie will call Craig to check on a delivery date for the vegetation/fuels report (is June 1 realistic?). Brooke will double check with Janel on the amount of time TEAMS needs to complete their specialist reports. **Cori will double check the validity of this new schedule** with Janel after Craig has been contacted.

TEAMS visits

Brooke talked to TEAMS members assigned to both FireScape projects regarding schedule and trips to work with local counterparts. It was decided that each TEAMS specialist would coordinate with their counterpart on the Forest independently instead of traveling to the area as one large group.

SIA Climate Workshop

Brooke will be giving a 15 minute presentation on FireScape as part of a panel for the Sky Island Alliance Climate Change Workshop at the Hotel Arizona on April 13th from 9:30-11am. Brooke plans to present information on the fuels map to talk about climate scenarios and what you can and cannot do with fire models.

Next steps

The group decided to forgo a May meeting because of the Departure Analysis Workshop. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 2nd at the District Office (Sabino Canyon). **Angie will reserve the conference room.** This meeting will be an Interdisciplinary Team meeting, attended by people listed on the PIL. **Cori will send this information to the larger group.**