

Catalina-Rincon FireScape
Working Group Meeting
10/23/2008 at Sabino Canyon Warehouse Conference Room
Meeting Notes

The subject of the meeting was the Engagement component of the Catalina-Rincon FireScape effort. The following pages are copies of the handouts and images of the flip charts with underlined annotations. Some notes were added, typed and underlined, for clarification. Much of the flip chart information was prepared prior to the meeting by Steve Plevel. The sign-in sheets are on file – 8 people attended the meeting.

Summary of decisions:

-Thursday afternoon between 1 and 3 pm seem to be the best time for Working Group meetings. One Thursday a month starting in January 2009 will be identified for Working Group meetings by the Steering Group.

-The next Working Group meeting will be the week of November 10 (exact date, time and place will be determined at the 10-30 Steering Group meeting) and focus on the Science component.

The December 12 Working Group meeting will be 10 to 12 am (place to be determined). The focus will be the Compliance component.

-Steve Plevel will work on compiling the Contact list over the next few weeks. A “list manager” is needed. Additions should be sent to Steve Plevel and include at least the name and email address; note why the person is being added, this will help to identify how to best to involve and inform them. It would be desirable to also have their organization, phone number and mailing address.

-A preliminary timeline/event sequence will be developed ASAP. Work on this will start at the 10-30-08 Steering Group meeting. Information to include should be sent to Don Falk and Sherry Tune. The timeline will become more detailed as work progresses.

-Gary Christopherson will produce map(s) to use at meetings which illustrate “here’s where we are” and “here’s where we want to be.”

-We need a single “road show” poster which includes the Goals, map, triangle, and timeline.

Contact regarding Engagement:	Steve Plevel splevel@mindspring.com
Contact regarding GIS:	Gary Christopherson garych@casa.arizona.edu
Contacts regarding Timeline:	Sherry Tune stune@fs.fed.us
	Don Falk dafalk@email.arizona.edu

The *Catalina-Rincon FireScape* is a framework for (fire) management across the Santa Catalina and Rincon Mountains in Pima and Pinal counties, Arizona. It is a collaboration of the Coronado National Forest, Saguaro National Park, the University of Arizona, The Nature Conservancy and other partners to provide an umbrella for safe, ecologically sound, large-scale, multi-party fire management.

Management opportunities and urgency. Although the recent large fires in the Catalinas were tragedies for some residents on the mountain, and huge expenses for public agencies and taxpayers, they also represent an extraordinary opportunity to redirect ecosystem management in the Santa Catalina Mountains. The tens of thousands of hectares that burned in these two fire years alone dwarf the current rate of hundreds of ha per year of mechanical thinning treatments. Tens of thousands of ha of dense forested land remain in the Santa Catalinas, and these areas remain as fire-prone as the areas that burned. Consequently, there is still the potential – even the likelihood – for more fires on the scale and severity of Aspen and Bullock in the Santa Catalinas.

The prevailing strategy for preventing catastrophic fires at present is the combination of mechanical thinning and prescribed fires. While these can be effective tools for modifying fire behavior and effects, recent studies indicate that burning and thinning treatments have an effective “shelf life” of about 10-15 years in terms of reducing subsequent fire severity. As time progresses, the regrowth of vegetation recreates the fuel conditions that can carry a crown fire once again. Thus, at the same time that we are promoting a new approach for the Catalinas, we need to continue to support prescribed burning and use of wildfires in both mountain ranges and continue research to document fire behavior patterns and effects. The post-fire mosaic that exists now is a “window of opportunity” to chart a new direction, especially for the Santa Catalinas.

FireScape approach. FireScape takes fire management best practices and applies them across a large landscape. The FireScape approach embraces “adaptive management,” which means that management is constantly improved based on feedback from earlier experience and scientific data. It is the intent of FireScape to restore fire-adapted ecosystems by:

- # Working at a landscape scale
- # Applying science to establish management goals, measure progress, and make adjustments
- # Engaging partners
- # Sharing resources and increasing funding
- # Streamlining compliance and other paperwork to focus more on implementation

Each FireScape project is driven by local interest and need.

This project is structured around:

- # a three-year action plan for front-end fund-raising, planning, research, and outreach
- # a 20-year schedule of implementation, monitoring, feedback, and improvement (adaptive management)

These phases must be part of a still longer-term vision that repeats and adjusts the process to truly accomplish the goal of restoring fire-adapted landscapes.

AGENDA

10-23-2008

Options for meeting day & time

- Administrative Details

- Introductions

- Overview

Goals

Background

- Who to engage ?

Why ?

- What info to gather & how ?

- What info to share & how ?

- Summary & Wrap-up

Future meetings scheduled

When is "best" day/time for meetings/workshops?

After Jan
WG. mtgs
M
Tu PM
Wed is bad
Th 1-2 PM

12 @ 10-12

Nov - Don - Science
Dec - Brooke - Compliance

Steve Plevel

Gary Christopherson

splevel@mindspring.com - engage

garych@casa.arizona.edu - map

CATALINA-RINCON FIRESCAPE ENGAGEMENT

GOAL: Develop social consensus, shared vision, community support and the support of big funders.

Help people understand the big scale approach being advocated. We should engage people in an on-going dialogue (conversation, discussion, ... the term dialogue is used in a very broad sense.) The purposes of this dialogue are to inform and educate; to solicit information, opinions and values; to gather support.

People have different levels of interest at different times.

ACTION: Provide a variety of on-going opportunities for involvement. Keep activities as informal as possible. Ask people to identify ways to gather ideas.

People want to know “What’s happening?” even when they don’t want to be/can’t be actively involved.

ACTION: Use a variety of methods to provide on-going information and status. Ask people to identify ways to share information and gather data.

People want to feel that they are spend their time wisely, that their time is not being wasted.

ACTION: Conduct meetings, workshops, presentations, etc. efficiently; maximize people’s productivity; keep tasks of a manageable size. Be specific about who is doing what, when, where and how.

It needs to be clear how this effort fits with current on-going management and other planning efforts.

ACTION: Compile a list of activities and primary contact people. Invite them to participate. Make sure that they are kept up-to-date.

WHO:

- Tier 1: steering group, working team, those most directly affected.
- Tier 2: those directly affected, decision makers, have money.
- Tier 3: have information, have an interest, are more indirectly affected.

Have a single consolidated contact list for steering group and core working team to use.

9/29/08-S. Tune

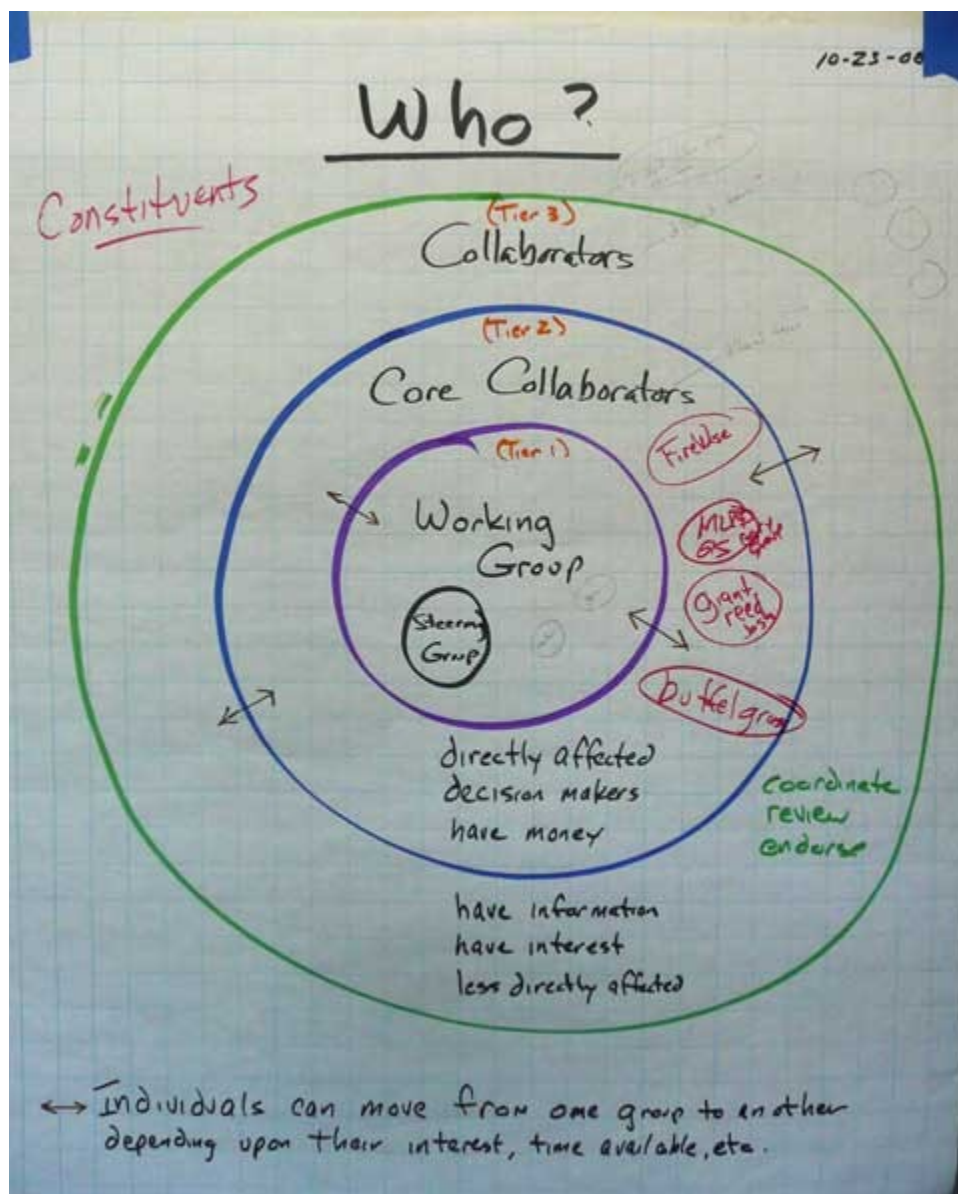
Catalina-Rincon FireScape

Need to rearrange & revise.

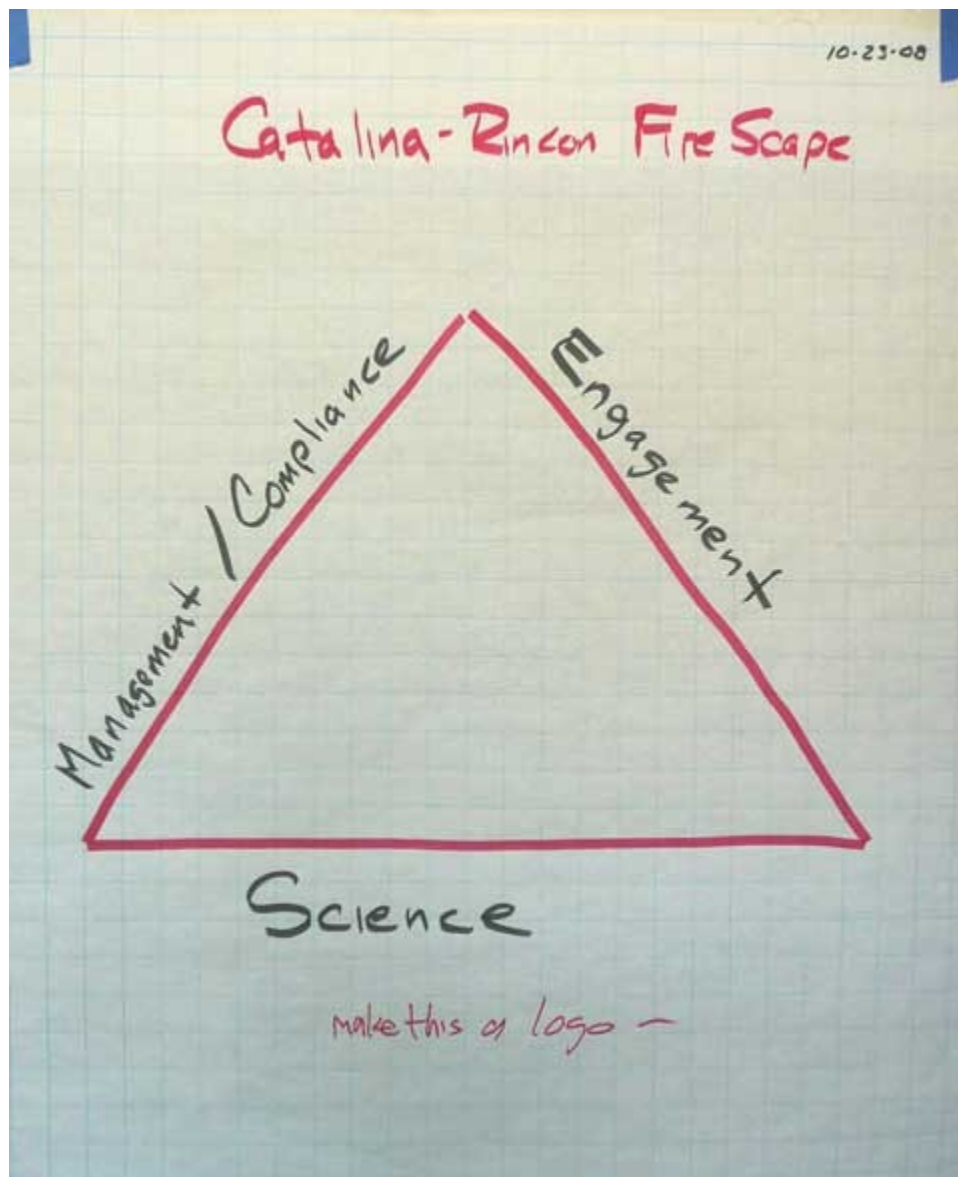
Add graphics.

GOALS

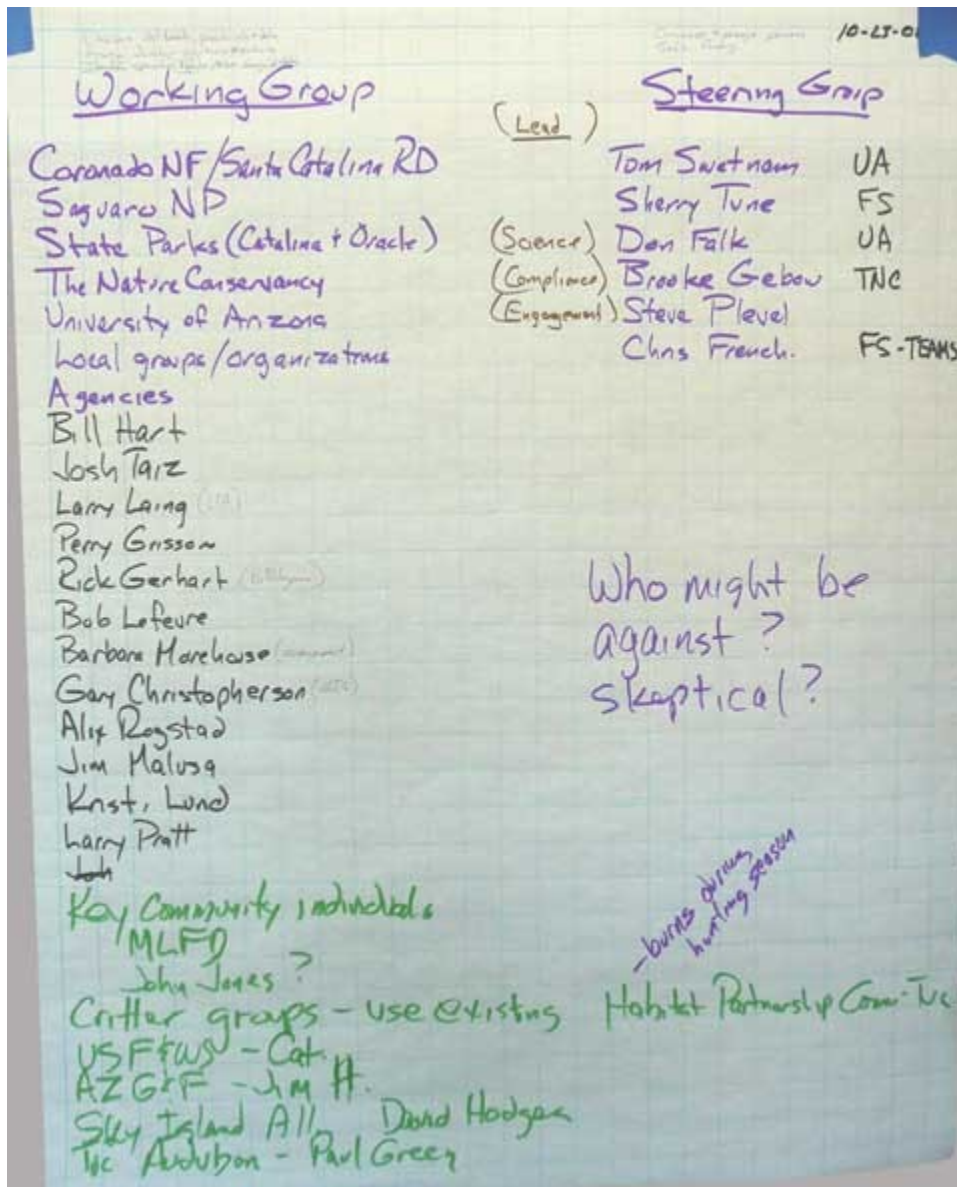
- Apply quantitative, contemporary science to ecosystem management.
- Move to #1. Restore ecosystem processes in fire adapted, and other, ecosystems.
 - Apply adaptive management using a variety of methods and tools including non-fire and prescribed fire treatments.
 - Use the post-burn mosaic created by the Bullock and Aspen fires as an opportunity for management.
 - Create/support ecosystem resilience.
- Demonstrate the potential for a large scale, integrated approach to ecosystem management.
 - Share our experiences.
 - Plan and work at the landscape/mountain range scale.
- Move to #2. Reduce/manage fire hazards to people and communities; reduce the risk of catastrophic fire.
 - Continue ~~current work~~ on-going fire restoration projects while developing FireScape. Integrate into FireScape.
 - Improve (increase) management efficiency.
- Develop social consensus/shared vision/community support.
 - Engage collaborators and the public.
 - Develop financial support for initial work and on-going management.



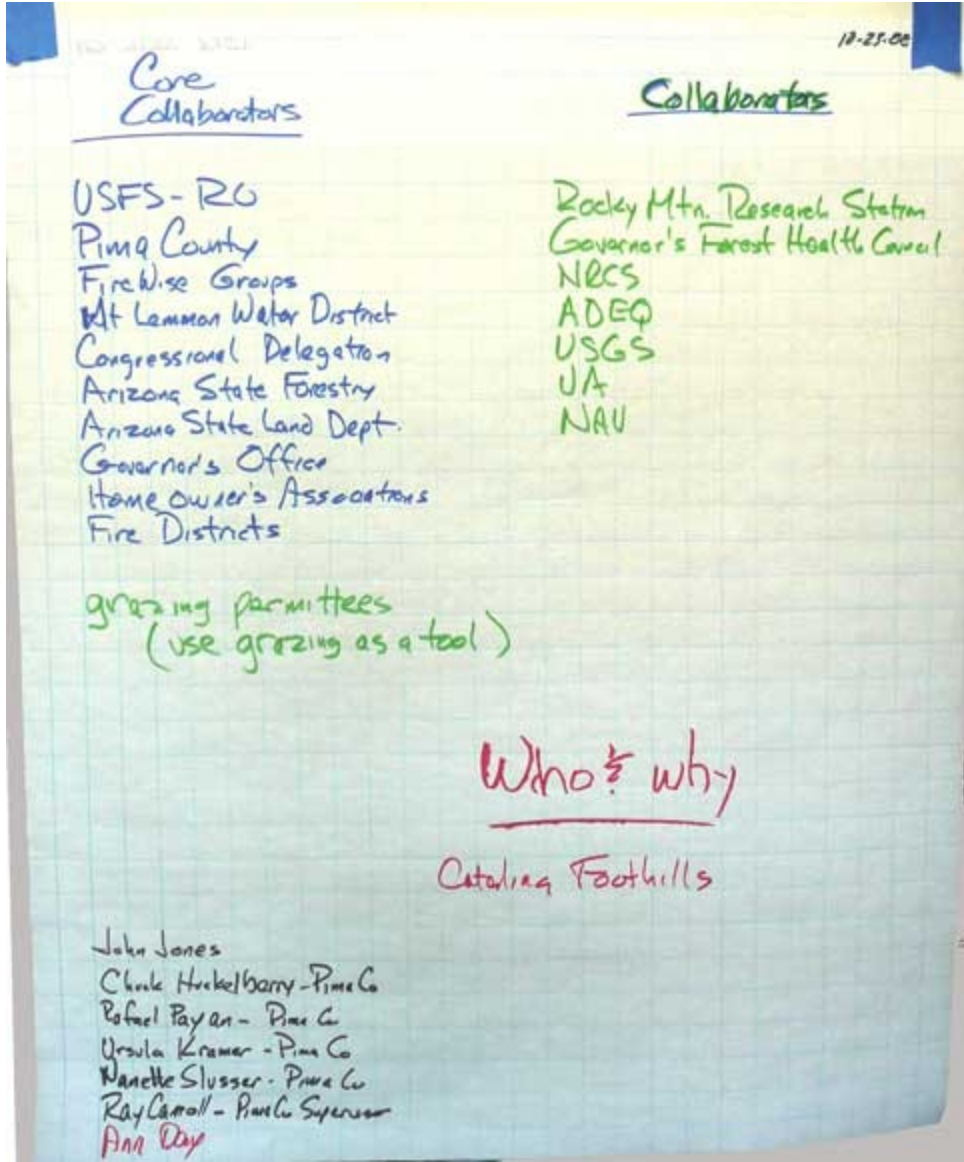
There are additional sub-groups within the Working Group such as Carbon & GIS. There are other projects and activities related to the Catalina-Rincon FireScope but not directly attached which need to be identified and the relationship described.

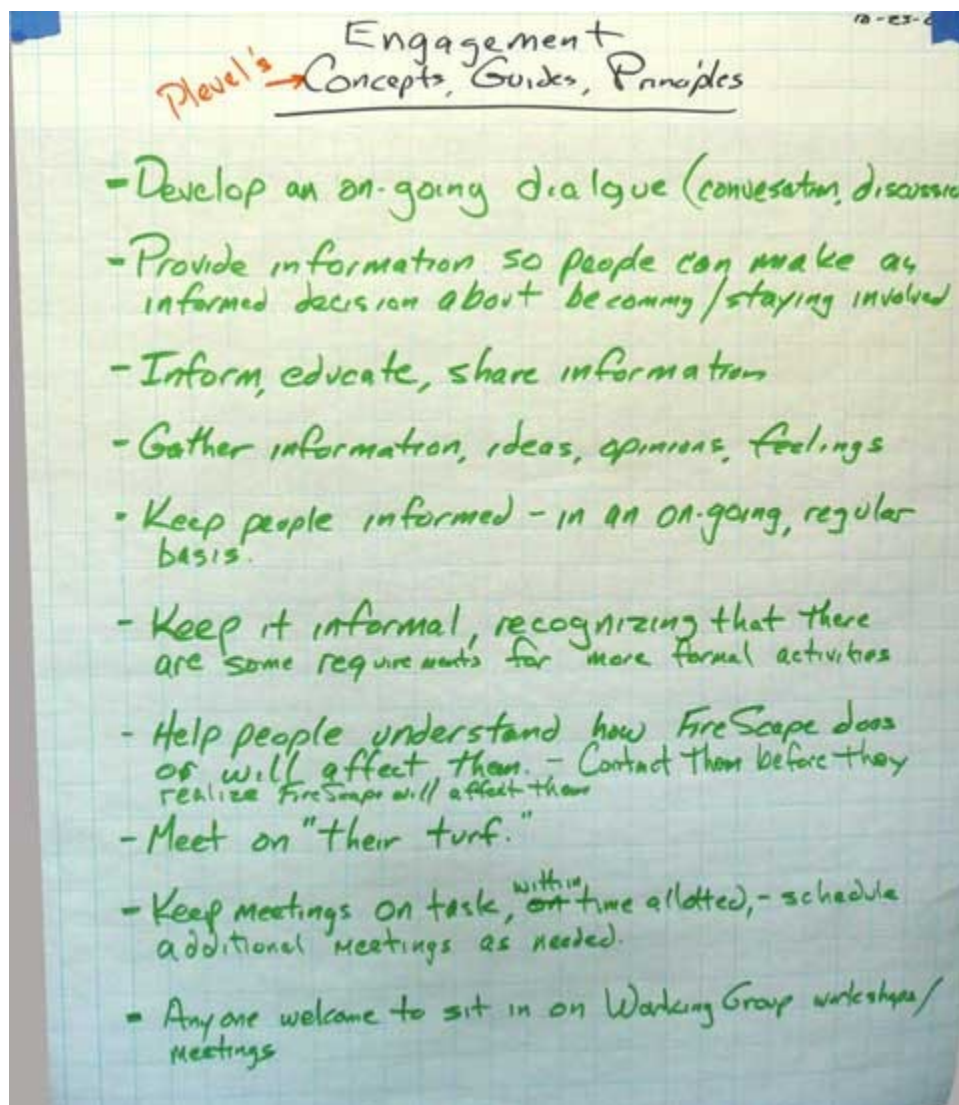


Anyone want to develop our FireScape triangle into a logo? Submit your ideas and artwork to Steve Plevel.

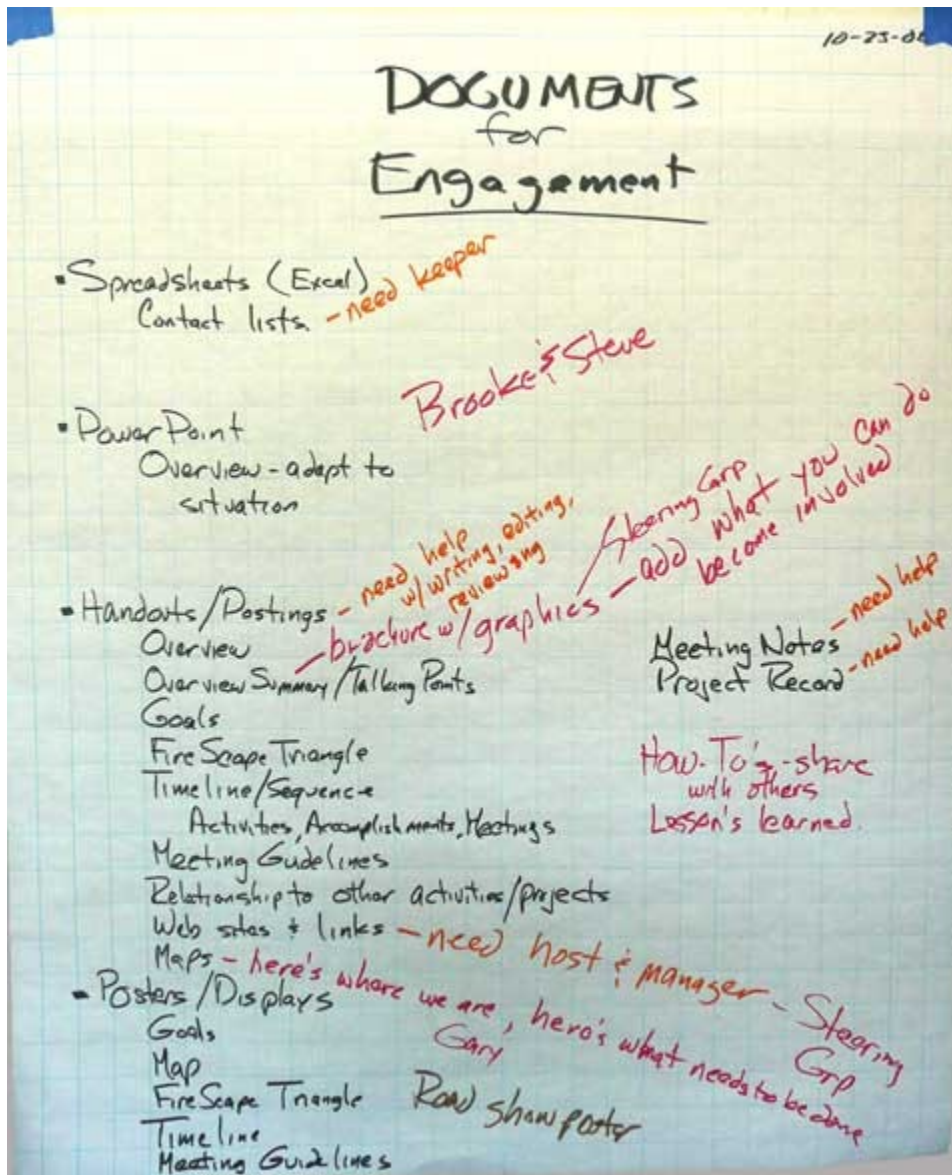


This list and the one on the following page represent some of the names from previously lists.
They are incomplete as all previous lists have not been examined and the information included.
Steve Plevel will be working on this over the next few weeks.

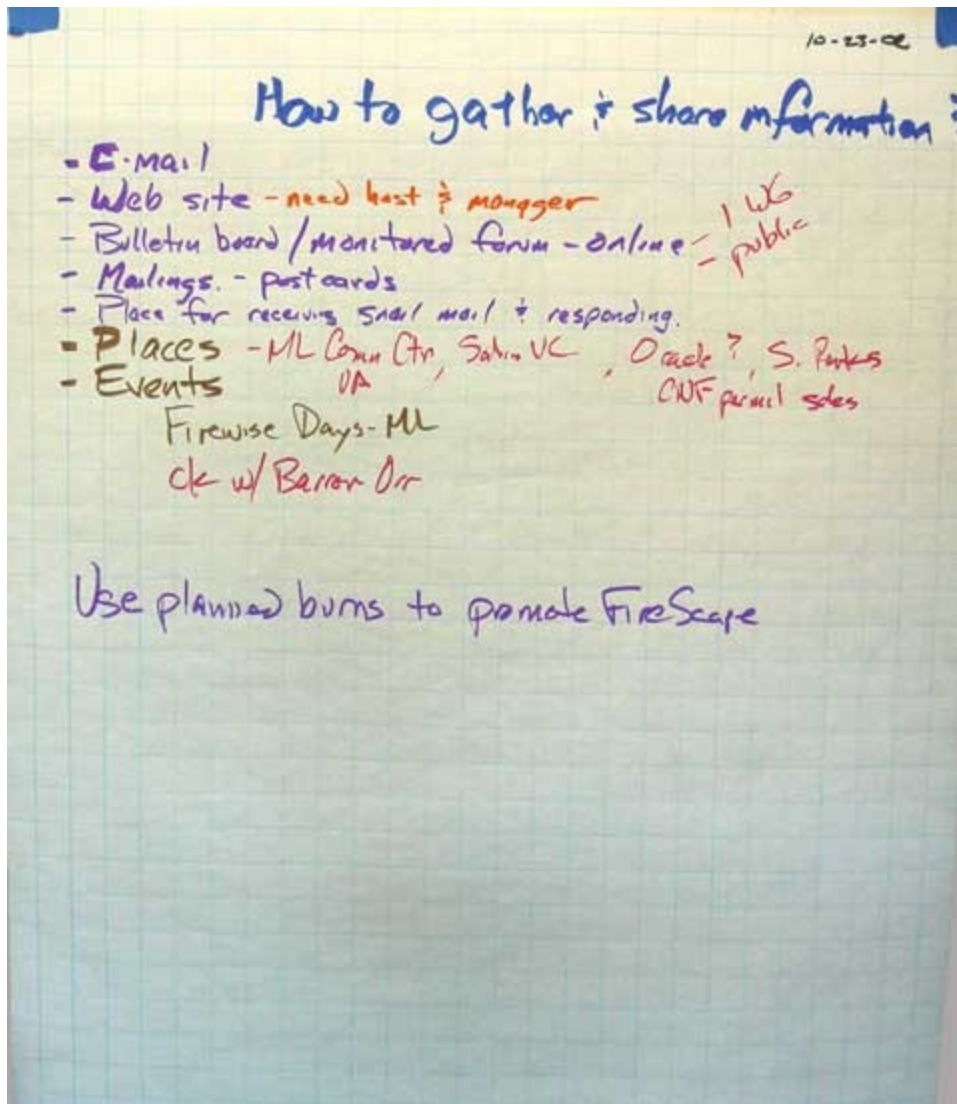




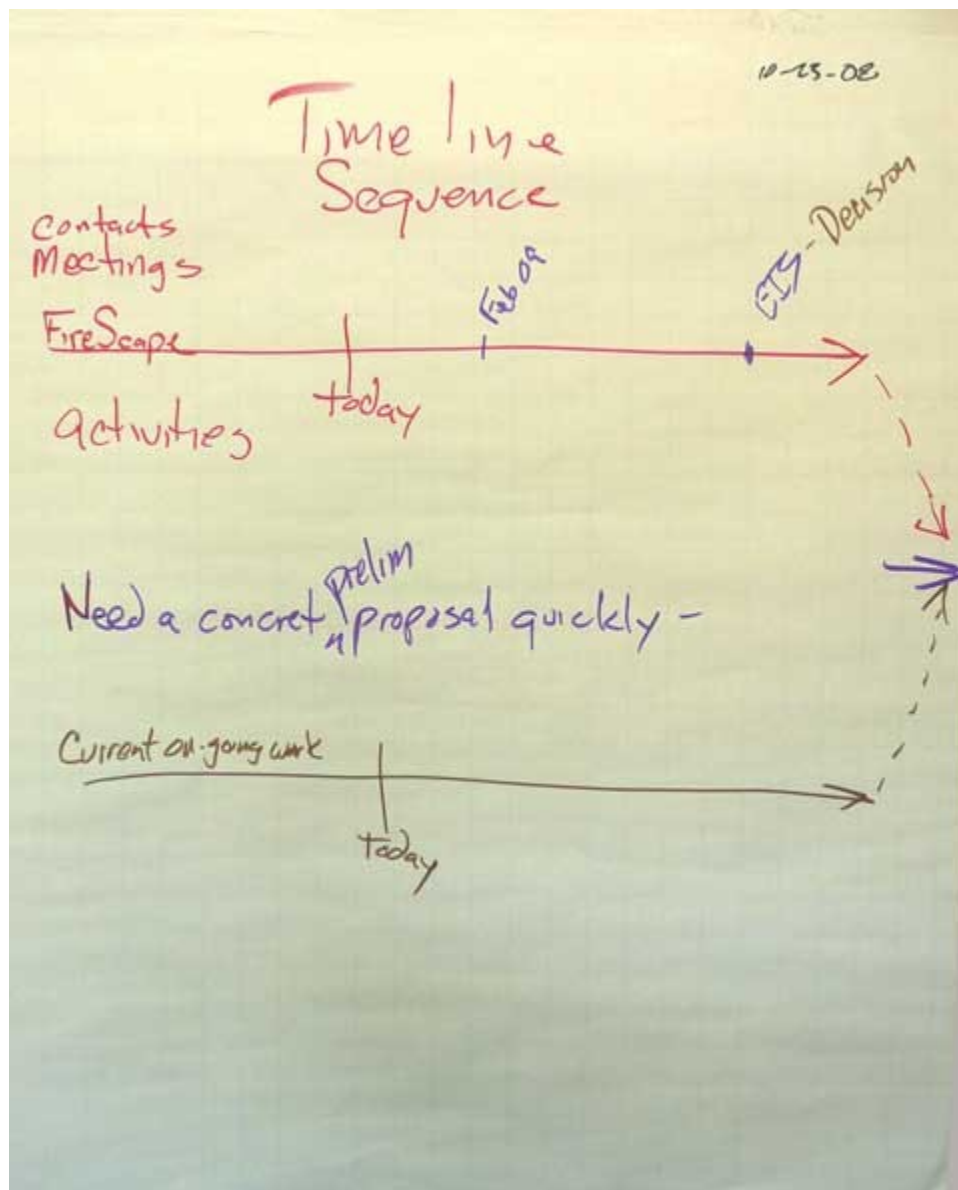
These are ideas developed by Steve Plevel which might help focus and explain the Engagement process. Additions and questions are welcome, send them to Steve.



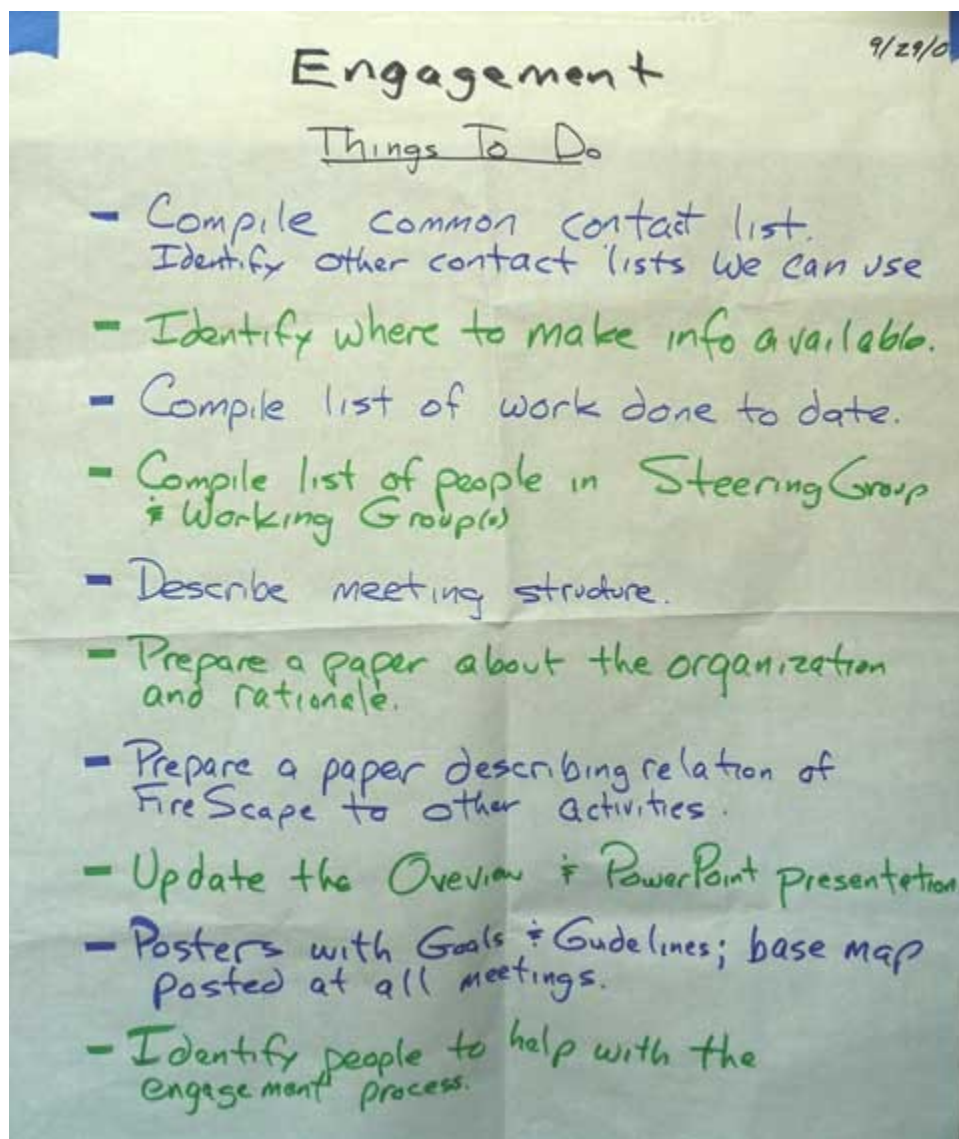
The word "document" is very inclusive. This list will evolve as we better identify who wants/needs to be involved and informed.



This list will expand as we better identify who wants/needs to be involved and informed.



A "timeline-event sequence" needs to be developed ASAP. The Steering Group will work on this at their October 30, 2008 meeting.



This flip chart is from the 9-30-08 Working Group meeting.