

Catalina-Rincon FireScape Steering Group Meeting Notes
September 2, 2009
1 p.m. at The Nature Conservancy (1510 E. Fort Lowell)
(Notes by Brooke Gebow + Lori Wilson)

In attendance: Don Falk, Brooke Gebow, Randall Smith, Kristy Lund, Jim Malusa, Martin Munro, Steve Plevel, Jennifer Ruyle, Randall Smith, Josh Taiz, Lori Wilson (chaired by Brooke). (All acknowledged we are still in reinvention mode and still redefining roles and tasks.)

Mapping our way towards a proposed action: Josh Taiz presented a map that breaks out the new “manageable block” treatment areas. These blocks are defined by ridgelines, roads, and other feasible fire control features. The treatment “why” for these areas would be WUI safety, habitat improvement, watershed improvement, or a combination of these factors. These maps will be refined with input from Jim Malusa’s ecological mapping and fire behavior modeling to form a master plan that will be the basis for a proposed action. The Steering group agreed we need this work completed before handing off compliance to TEAMS. **Josh will coordinate with Jim, Kristy, and others to refine map and draw rest of units before October 7 steering meeting.** Stan has suggested that for ecological units shared by Saguaro NP and the CNF, treatments proposed by the park be extended onto the forest.

We discussed whether Devin Quintana would serve GIS central for this project. **Don needs to clarify with Gary Christopherson about limits to his GIS role.** Jennifer also has access to GIS resources.

Outreach/web update: We have acquired www.azfirescape.org, and Martin Munro from the Tree-Ring Lab has created the initial set up of the website (<http://devel.azfirescape.org/>). The website will be housed in the School of Natural Resources at the U of A and Mickey Reed (who has worked on Jim Malusa's mapping site) will be the designated Webmaster. Brooke will be the overall decision maker for what is approved for the website and each of the leads (Jennifer for compliance, Don for science, and Steve for engagement) will be responsible for creating the content and ensuring it is current. We proposed that Lori, Brooke, and Steve would have editing abilities, and Mickey would have overall development responsibility to avoid conflicting information and errors. GIS will be on display but not “active” on the site. The site can house documents for Steering Group use and also for the sake of public record. We will provide links to agency and other related sites. Goal is “going public” by January 1, 2010. **Everyone is asked to look again at the site and send suggestions to Steve, Martin, Mickey, Lori** (how about by the end of September?).

Everyone is asked to fill in contact list blanks, especially the far right column for who within the C-R FireScape ranks knows the person best, **by September 15. Steve will email the list to Jennifer** who will get it cross-checked with the bigger CNF mailing list.

Steve, Josh, Kristy, Jennifer will be meeting with Pima County (Kerry Baldwin, Brian Powell) on September 4 to clarify how county lands will fit into FireScape program. Steve also meeting with SAF on September 17 as a general outreach move.

Contract/budget status: New UA-CNF agreement and its amendment have been signed. Don and Brooke are working on the UA-TNC agreement. **Don and Brooke need to meet to look at budget allocations** across all projects.

Ecological unit descriptions for proposed action: Brooke again presented the unit descriptions that contain existing conditions by Jim, desired conditions gleaned from forest planning materials, fire frequency from TNC regional work, tools for treatment. **Brooke and Jim will coordinate on finishing the writeups; Don and Jim will coordinate on adding fuel models to writeups (probably at the smaller LTA scale). Goal is by October 7.** These unit descriptions can become the repository for a lot of information that may be needed to refine treatment proposals, mitigation measures, and other items of fire management importance.

Planning for Chris French Oct 21-22 visit: On the agenda are
--a show and tell from science for Chris, agency staff, and others Wednesday afternoon
--time for science folks to pick Chris's brain about getting TEAMS help Thursday morning
--a discussion about NEPA and other compliance + handing off proposed action Thursday afternoon

Brooke will coordinate with all to make sure the right people are invited to the right sessions. This meeting will again be on the October 7 meeting agenda.

October 7 meeting with NEPA focus: We discussed the form of NEPA and agreed that an EA was our likely choice but that we would make sure we followed HFRA steps such that we had that option as long as possible. We will use Josh's blocks as the basis for a proposed action. We want to work at the Oct 7 meeting on the elements of a package to hand off to TEAMS at the time of Chris French's visit.