

Highlights for SPER II

Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency

Building on the accomplishments of earlier SPER work as well as those of Fire Learning Networks and prescribed fire training exchanges, SPER II supports targeted treatments that both improve system health and resiliency and contribute to longer term progress by strengthening partnerships and increasing workforce capacity.

All of the projects target treatments to key areas that help *restore and maintain resilient landscapes*. The projects in California, New Mexico and Oregon focus treatments on sites that provide critical support to *fire adapted communities* in those landscapes. And in a variety of different ways, all of these projects also support improved *response to wildfire*—by bringing diverse partners to work together, by increasing contact between fire practitioners and communities, and by augmenting the fire workforce. In short, SPER II projects are on-the-ground embodiments of the Cohesive Strategy emphasis on a broad-based and integrated approach to fire management.

Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency implementation projects are supported by a USDA Forest Service amendment to *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning & Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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expanding collaborative action
to help restore naturally functioning ecosystems
and reduce wildfire risk to resources and communities

Ashland Watershed Resilience

SPER II will further SPER I work by supporting a two-day multi-party monitoring workshop to refine burn prescriptions, a week-long training exchange focused on underburning and implementing cooperative burns adjacent to the community, and 50 acres of burning in the Ashland City watershed. The city, state forestry department, Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and Lomatski Restoration, are partners in this work.

Trinity Integrated Fire Management Partnership

Building on the relationships and training under SPER I, the Partnership will complete two additional landscape-scale burn plans, conduct a training course to build local capacity, and conduct burns on 100 acres in Trinity County. The Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, Forest Service, BLM, CAL FIRE, Trinity Fire Safe Council, Weaverville VFD, NRCS and others are partners in this project.

Collaboration to Reduce Risk in the Fire-Prone Southern Sangre de Cristos

City, state, Forest Service and private partners will thin and burn 50 acres of private land in Santa Fe County through a landowner cost-share effort in a community that was heavily impacted by smoke and suppression efforts from the Tres Lagunas and Jaroso fires in 2013. The project will also provide controlled burning training for local firefighters and managers.



Ozark Pine-Oak Woodland and Glade Restoration Partnership

Furthering work done under SPER I—and relying on long-term FLN partnerships in the state—this project will implement 1,000 acres of prescribed fire and 50 acres of treatments to manage non-native invasive species on state wildlife management areas adjoining the Ozark National Forest and Buffalo National River.

Allegheny and Potomac Highlands Ecosystem Restoration Project

As with SPER I, partners from state agencies, the Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Conservancy and others will burn 2,097 acres of natural areas on state, federal and private land. Field tours for neighbors and other stakeholders will provide opportunities to see active and completed controlled burns and their effects.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

Prescribed fire councils in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Oregon will be supported in events that treat up to 9,000 acres and build local and regional prescribed fire capacity.