



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Facilitative Leadership for Social Change Workshop

FireScape Mendocino /
Mendocino National Forest Leadership Team

February 2-4, 2016
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge—Willows, CA

Sixteen participants from FireScape Mendocino, the Mendocino National Forest Leadership Team and The Nature Conservancy recently completed a “Facilitative Leadership for Social Change” workshop conducted by the Interaction Institute for Social Change (IISC). Based on the success of—and the continued, thorough use of tools from—the initial Facilitative Leadership workshop hosted for the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership in the spring of 2015, the FLN brought workshop facilitator Curtis Ogden, Senior Associate with IISC, back for round two. The results were just as enthusiastically embraced in Willows as they were in Happy Camp.

Through modeling and practicing and teaching effective tools and skills of collaboration, IISC works to build capacity of people to collaborate to achieve increased social impact. The purpose of the IISC Facilitative Leadership workshop is

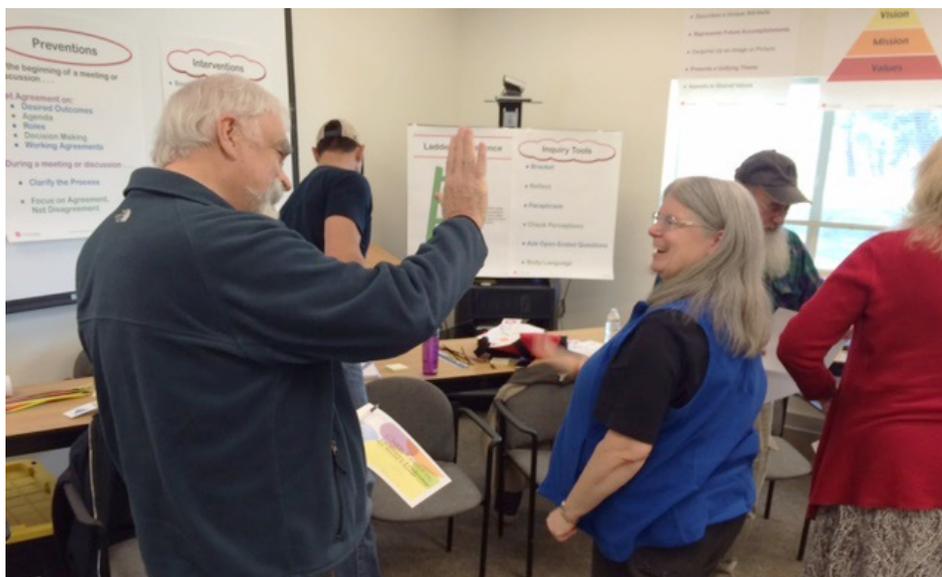
to discover—and practice—the tools and skills necessary “for engaging the creativity, experience, wisdom and commitment” of those with whom we work. In other words, as FireScape Mendocino Core Team member Chad Roberts reflected, “the workshop helps to provide practical, achievable processes that can be adapted or implemented by organizations to achieve their goals, whatever those may be. The workshop provides tools to till the garden.”

Although all the material presented received acclaim, two pieces stood out as being particularly timely and applicable for the workshop participants: Tools for Reaching Agreement and Key Elements for Planning Your Meetings. For example, the “open, narrow, close” framework was taught as an efficient way to help amass and elucidate (open) ideas and information, organize and assess (narrow) the assembled

“It was the most useful workshop I’ve attended in my career—which has spanned five decades.”

material, then bring the group to agreement (close) on the most relevant options. Then, working to maximize the effectiveness of planning and conducting meetings, the group learned about the five key components of an effective meeting agenda: purpose, desired outcome statement, stakeholder analysis, involvement in decision making, and meeting roles. To this end, one workshop participant said, “In these two days of training is the solution to 80 percent of what’s wrong in the way we do meetings!”

As FireScape Mendocino forges ahead with its vision to help create a resilient landscape that provides sustainable habitats for people and animals while supporting the social and economic needs of communities in and around the Mendocino National Forest, these leadership tools will undoubtedly become useful in the group’s collaborative interactions.



Two members of the FireScape Mendocino Core Team—private and Forest Service—exchange smiles and a high five on graduating from the workshop.
Photo: TNC/Guy Duffner

The Fire Learning Network is part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



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