



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

May 2011

FireScope Monterey Big Sur, CA Planning Workshop #2

This new FLN held its second workshop May 3-4. Building upon the project scope, vision statement and targets identified in the first workshop, this second workshop began with a field trip to explore critical threats to some of its identified targets. During the field trip, Kerri Frangioso from the University of California-Davis led a roadside discussion about Sudden Oak Death, its biology and ecological impact. Jonathan Pangburn of CAL FIRE led the group's exploration of the complexities of fire management in the wildland urban interface, and Larry Born led a discussion of wildfire occurrence and fire effects in a designated Wilderness area near Botcher's Gap. The group's indoor work focused on exploring threats and opportunities related to three targets: fire adapted human communities; healthy watersheds; and aesthetic, natural and wilderness qualities of the Northern Santa Lucia Mountains. The Pico Blanco Boy Scout camp provided a spectacular location for examining these threats, as it is located along the Little Sur River, which has high quality habitat for steelhead trout, and runs through a redwood stand that burned in a 2008 wildfire that threatened the camp's various structures. Participants in this first day of the workshop included 30 stakeholders from three fire management organizations, two property owners'



As stakeholders from the Ventana Wildlife Society, California Native Plant Society and Forest Service Region 5 listen, the Chief of the Mid-Coast Fire Brigade describes what it is like to fight fire and live surrounded by the fire-prone vegetation near the community of Palo Colorado. Her home is perched atop the steep hill located above and to the right of this photo.

Photo: Mary Huffman / TNC

associations, two academic institutions, the local Fire Safe Council, seven environmental NGOs and two unaffiliated residents. This field experience set the stage for the second day of the workshop to explore threats to two more targets (riparian areas and redwood forest) and engage in an introductory exercise in developing conceptual system models.

On the second day of the FireScope Monterey workshop, the group welcomed new participants from the Sierra Club and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. All together, 34 collaborators worked elbow to elbow



FireScope Monterey promotes protection of both life and property affected by wildfire and healthy resilient ecosystems through collaborative stewardship.

with markers, maps, sticky notes and butcher paper to explore threats and opportunities, and to practice developing conceptual models for identified targets. Participants exchanged a lot of information on the target, Redwood dominated forests, which entail several complexities, including aesthetic appreciation, Sudden Oak Death, fire suppression difficulties, safety risks to firefighters and residents, and susceptibility to changes in moisture patterns. Since the inception of FireScape Monterey in February 2011, collaborators representing 33 public agencies, NGOs and neighborhoods have participated.

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 California Wilderness Project

Participating Agencies & Organizations

- Big Sur Land Trust
- Big Sur resident
- Botcher's Gap Campground
- Boy Scouts of America, Pico Blanco Camp
- CAL FIRE
- California Native Plant Society
- California State Parks
- California Wilderness Project
- California Wilderness Coalition
- Coast Property Owners Association
- HCFSC/UFSC
- Los Padres Forest Watch
- Mal Paso Creek Property Association
- Mid-Coast Fire Brigade
- Monterey County Water Resource Agency
- Monterey-San Benito Range Improvement Association
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Monterey Fire Safe Council
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- NOAA
- Santa Lucia Conservancy
- Sierra Club
- The Wilderness Society
- TNC-Fire Learning Network
- University of California-Davis
- University of California-Santa Cruz, Landel-Hill Big Creek Reserve
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Ventana Wilderness Alliance
- Ventana Wildlife Society



Partners from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Sierra Club and Coast Property Owners Association put their heads together to sort out a conceptual model for the target of "redwood-dominated forests." Participants in the workshop got a first-hand look at this forest type at the Pico Blanco Boy Scout camp on the previous day.

Photo: Mary Huffman / TNC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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