



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

May 2012

FireScope Monterey Workshop #6 and Beyond From Planning to Action

Having completed its sixth planning workshop in April, FireScope Monterey is moving from planning to action. Over the course of the workshops, over 100 people contributed to the work that led to defining five core values in the landscape and then identified and refined 14 strategies needed to protect and promote those values.

In early May, the Core Team identified the strategies and actions that are the most promising starting points for moving forward on FireScope's five shared values. The team gauged the level of energy and commitment for concerted effort, and selected pilot projects with a high probability of showing tangible results within the next year. The planning team then restructured itself into the working groups that will catapult FireScope Monterey forward.

FireScope Monterey will start work on six collaborative projects (see box, next page). Each will be coordinated by a person from the Core Team. These leaders will begin by recruiting working group members from among those who participated in FireScope Monterey planning activities, so that the partnerships developed during planning will be sustained and grown and the community works to implement its plans in the coming years.

FireScope Monterey Values

- fire-adapted human communities
- healthy watersheds
- native biodiversity
- cultural resources
- aesthetic, natural and wilderness qualities of the northern Santa Lucia Mountains

FireScope Monterey Strategies

1. Develop funding sources for residential fire protection retrofits and defensible space.
2. Develop fire outreach program.
3. Use controlled burning and "managing wildland fires for multiple objectives" along with fire suppression.
4. Update or include fire issues in relevant management plans.
5. Develop and implement a unified pre-attack plan.
6. Develop and implement a SOD management plan.
7. Maintain roads, trails and fire access points, including near riparian areas, wetlands and streams.
8. Reintroduce indigenous fire and land management practices (including grazing) where appropriate.
9. Create and maintain a strategic network of pre-attack access points, pathways and defensible space linkages. (See also Strategy 5.)
10. Heavy equipment operators and others establish best practices for local suppression activities.
11. Develop sustainable labor source for maintaining trails, camp sites, and rehabilitating firelines.
12. Protect culturally important resources.
13. Invest in continual learning to increase effectiveness, speed accomplishment and work productively amid uncertainty.
14. Develop and implement weed management plan.



Stakeholders from a wide variety of backgrounds, including (left to right) UC-Davis, the Mal Paso Creek Property Owner's Association and a local rancher, discuss how success will be measured as FireScape Monterey moves from planning to action.
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Collaborative Projects To Move the Strategies Forward

Inventory and map **cultural resources**, with an emphasis on Esselen and Salinan tribal sites. Identify areas to be avoided during wildfire suppression activities and areas that will need traditional fire management (e.g., selective burning under grandmother oak trees).

Secure new funding for **reducing the ignitibility of homes and businesses**.

Complete existing **collaborative vegetation (fuel) treatment projects** and arrange for the next projects. These include the "East Side" projects and the Little Sur project.

Establish a **fire outreach** program, including participant observation of live fire where appropriate.

Develop a unified **pre-attack fire response plan**, starting with the Cachagua area. Include considerations for watershed health and native biodiversity, together with community safety.

Establish **cooperative research and monitoring projects** with universities and research stations to meet identified information needs. These include Cal State University at Monterey Bay, Cal Polytechnic State University, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and their nearby field sites.

Participating Agencies & Organizations

Big Sur Community
Big Sur Land Trust
Bishop Grading and Forestry Services
Bureau of Land Management
CAL FIRE
California Native Plant Society
California State Parks
California State University at Monterey Bay—
Watershed Institute
California Wilderness Coalition
California Wilderness Project
Coast Property Owners Association
El Sur Ranch
Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
Jamesburg-Cachagua Neighbors United
Los Padres ForestWatch
Mid-Coast Fire Brigade
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Monterey FireSafe Council
Monterey San Benito Range Improvement
Association and Wildland Fire Safe Council
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Santa Lucia Conservancy
Sierra Club—Ventana Chapter
The Wilderness Society—California Region
University of California Davis, Plant Pathology
USDA Forest Service—Los Padres National Forest
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Ventana Wildlife Society
Ventana Wilderness Alliance

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The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



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