



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Western Klamath Restoration Partnership

Workshop 11

Orleans, California
July 21-23, 2015



Above: Participants worked in small groups to flag take and leave trees in a field exercise that sparked useful conversations.

Right: After working together in the field, participants reconvened to share updates and further discuss management practices and options.
Photos: MKWC/Will Harling

The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership continues to be busy. In July, the collaborative group’s eleventh workshop drew about 40 people for three days of discussion and work together. The workshop was designed around three themes: fuels treatments, pre-NEPA work and information sharing. Things kicked off with a field trip into the Rodgers Creek pilot project area for a first-hand look at some of the steep terrain and limited access that will factor into subsequent planning conversations. Discussion centered on topics like “How much tree mortality are we willing to accept?” with regard to benefits and impacts of implementing projects, and “How do we work in riparian areas?” and “Where exactly do we focus treatments?”

The group also went into the field to discuss potential fuels treatments in both natural stands and pine plantations along a road on a ridge located just below private property with structures. For this exercise, attendees were divided into five groups, and each group spent some time marking both stand types in their designated areas with orange (take) and blue (leave) flagging. The group then came back together and talked through the example markings and thought processes that each of the small groups had used to mark their sample plots. Conversation topics were varied, ranging from desired canopy cover to historic cultural burning practices to managing for threatened and endangered species. Afterwards, members of the group felt that the exercise helped garner a “feeling

of accomplishment” in daylighting potential zones of agreement regarding fuels treatments.

The workshop wrapped up with a day packed with updates from the Salmon River, Happy Camp, and Orleans-Somes Bar focal areas as well as work to further refine the pre-NEPA purpose and need statements for the Rodgers Creek pilot project. Forest Service fire ecologist and geographer Carl Skinner gave a captivating presentation on landscape-level fire management. A parting piece of advice he gave the group was to diversify fuels treatments, especially since uncertainties like drought and climate change are such important parts of the equation.



For more information about the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, contact:

Will Harling
will@mkwc.org

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



An equal opportunity provider