



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

October 2011

FireScape Monterey Big Sur Station, CA Symposium & Workshop 4

On October 26-27, FireScape Monterey held a one day symposium followed by a one day workshop. Esselen tribal leader Thomas Little Bear Nason opened the session with a traditional blessing accompanied by a ceremonial flute. Using the conceptual model and questions posed by the core team, ten guest speakers addressed key issues and uncertainties related to the five FireScape values. Two panel discussions provided participants with additional opportunities to ask questions of the guest speakers.

The symposium provided a rich closing for the Conceptualizing phase (Phase 1) of FireScape Monterey's planning process, based on the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. Armed with both scientific local cultural knowledge, the group returned on the second day to dive into the Action Planning and Monitoring phase (Phase 2) of its planning process. Working in small groups, participants drew on maps and described desired future conditions for all five of the FireScape Values. The challenge they tackled was envisioning on-the-ground, spatially explicit desired future conditions that would meet not just the needs of one value, but the needs of all the values simultaneously. The next step in the planning process will be to further analyze take each group's maps and descriptions. For fire-related scenarios, we will apply state of the art fire modeling to test the probabilities that such actions could be effective.

Five FireScape Values

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

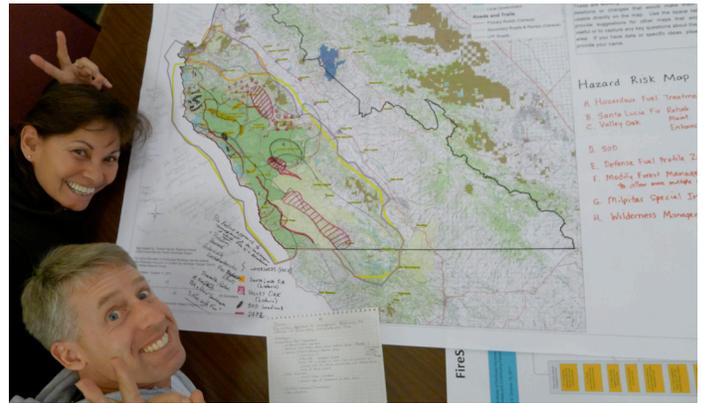
FireScape Monterey promotes protection of both life and property affected by wildfire and healthy resilient ecosystems through collaborative stewardship.



Ten guest speakers and 25 participants from 20 organizations participated in the symposium, which provided the capstone for the first phase (conceptualization) of the group's planning process

Photo: © USDA Forest Service / Sarah Tomskey

Right: Sherry Tune (Forest Service) and Mike Stake (Ventana Wildlife Society) celebrate their group's success in mapping where actions could benefit all five FireScape Monterey values simultaneously Photo: © USDA Forest Service / Sarah Tomsky



Symposium Speakers and Topics

Seth Hiatt, San Francisco State University
Ecological landscape planning units (mapping) for FireScape Monterey

Thomas Little Bear Nason, Esselen Tribe
Esselen cultural resources and fire practices

Gordon Johnson, California Wilderness Project, and
Christina Boston, USDA Forest Service
Fire in wilderness: legislative and US Forest Service directives.

Jeff Kwasny, USDA Forest Service, **Mark Readdie**, University of California-Santa Cruz, and
Terry Bishop, Bishop Excavating
Photographic observations of dozer line recovery

Doug Smith, California State University-Monterey Bay
What defines a healthy watershed in FireScape Monterey?

Dave Sapsis, CAL FIRE
Designing fire risk solutions: one, two, three, four

Phil Bowden, USDA Forest Service
Using fire probability modeling for strategic level fire planning

Neil Sugihara, USDA Forest Service
Ecological effects and effectiveness of fuel treatments in local vegetation types

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Participating Agencies & Organizations

Big Sur Community
Big Sur Land Trust
CAL FIRE
California Native Plant Society
California State Parks
California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB)—Watershed Institute
California Wilderness Coalition
California Wilderness Project
Coast Property Owners Association
El Sur Ranch
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
Santa Lucia Conservancy
Sierra Club—Ventana Chapter
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society—California Region
University of California Davis—Plant Pathology
USDA Forest Service—Los Padres National Forest
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ventana Wildlife Society
Ventana Wilderness Alliance

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