

FireScape Monterey

Fire Learning Network



FireScape Monterey completed its Open Standards planning process in 2012, and members emerged from the process re-energized, informed and ready to take action. Since then, the group's core team—made up of property owners and representatives from wilderness groups, federal and state agencies and the University of California—holds regular conference calls to update one another on the progress of various fire-related projects throughout Monterey County. **A project** of particular focus is the U.S. Forest Service Strategic Community Fuelbreak Improvement Project, which concept was derived from the Open Standards process. This project is located on the northern portion of the Monterey Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest. It is designed to enhance community protection from wildfire within the wildland-urban interface threat zone. The project includes improving and maintaining strategic historically-used firelines to function as fuelbreaks. In total, the project proposes work on about 24 miles of fuelbreaks, as well as a key 64-acre unit, for a total of 544 acres. A variety of treatment types are proposed, including machine and hand thinning, piling and burning or chipping, and mastication. The notice of intent to

prepare an environmental impact statement for the Strategic Community Fuelbreak Improvement Project was posted on December 28, 2012, and the Forest Service is currently undertaking the NEPA process.

Volunteer fire departments—the Mid Coast Fire Brigade and Cachagua Fire Prevention District—are working to increase local fire suppression capacity to meet community protection needs. This year, both received Forest Service grants for work such as on fuel-breaks and road improvement to facilitate suppression crew access.

Other work in this landscape includes research on sudden oak death (SOD) led by faculty from the University of California at Davis. Related to this, some partners are working to remove symptomatic bay trees near healthy oak trees along a shared roadway; this will both mitigate the effects of SOD, and reduce fuels and widen the road for better firefighting vehicle access.



Partners discuss landscape issues at Botcher's Gap during a 2012 workshop
Jeff Kwasny/USFS

Jeff Kwasny	jkwasny@fs.fed.us	(831) 667-1126
Butch Kronlund	bkronlund@aol.com	(831) 667-0332
Gordon Johnson	gjohnson@ridgeline.net	(530) 347-1627

Landscape Partners

Big Sur Land Trust
Bishop Grading and Forestry Services
Bureau of Land Management
Cachagua Fire Prevention District
CAL FIRE
California Native Plant Society
California State Parks
California State University at Monterey Bay
California Wilderness Project
Carmel Highland Fire Protection District
Coast Property Owners Association
El Sur Ranch
Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
Fire Safe Council for Monterey County
Galante Vineyards
Jamesburg-Cachagua Neighbors United
Los Padres Forest Watch
Mal Paso Creek Property Association
Mid-Coast Fire Brigade
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Monterey FireSafe Council
Monterey Institute of Research & Astronomy
Monterey San Benito Range Improvement Association
USDA Forest Service—Los Padres NF
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County



Santa Lucia Conservancy
Sierra Club—Ventana Chapter
Tassajara Zen Mountain Center
University of California, Davis—Plant Pathology
University of California, Santa Cruz—Big Creek Preserve
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. House of Representatives—Office of Sam Farr (Congressional District 20)
Ventana Wilderness Alliance



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Top photo: View from the Prewitt Ridge fire break
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