FireScape Monterey

Partner Agencies & Organizations

Big Sur Land Trust
Bishop Grading and Forestry Services
Bureau of Land Management
Cachagua Fire Prevention District
Carmel River Steelhead Association
CAL FIRE
California Native Plant Society
California State Parks
California State University at Monterey Bay
California Wilderness Project
Coast Property Owners Association
El Sur Ranch
Esselen Tribe of 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
RCD 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
USDA Forest Service—Los Padres National Forest
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. House of Representatives—Sam Farr, Congressional District 20
Ventana Wilderness Alliance

Meeting a Local Challenge

One of the leading challenges we have in our landscape is engaging the public to a level where individuals and communities assume responsibility for making their own properties fire-resistant. We are attempting to coordinate Forest Service pre-suppression measures with proactive measures on private property in the wildland urban interface that are feasible and do-able before the next wildfire.

What Works Here

We are encouraging and supporting implementation of wildfire hazard mitigation in the local wildland urban interface. We're also participating in dialog with wildland urban interface homeowners about how preparing for wildfire can be compatible with their values and beliefs.

What We've Learned

To mitigate property loss from wildfire in the wildland urban interface, FireScape Monterey will play a pivotal role in facilitating close coordination and increased engagement among federal, state, local fire managers, local government and local property owners.

A Recent Success

We sponsored and helped a small local volunteer fire department receive a grant of over half a million dollars from the U.S. Forest Service to develop shaded fuelbreaks around their community. Without Forest Service assistance, small communities that are at risk do not have the resources to implement measures needed for a fire-adapted community.

Partners in FireScape Monterey have come together in numerous workshops to develop shared a shared understanding of the landscape, and to identify and address fire-related threats to it.
Left: Working through one of the steps in the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, workshop participants assemble a diagram of threats and opportunities.
Above: During a field tour, participants learn about and discuss watershed function with a partner from Cal State.
Right: Partners worked on developing the vision for their landscape while immersed in it, rather than in a classroom.
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Looking Ahead

We look forward to continuing to engage with the public, wilderness advocacy groups and agency fire departments to collaborate on how to integrate wilderness character and fire suppression needs in the wildland urban interface. Key questions we'll be addressing are "What approach should we accomplish first (i.e., preventing fires from entering the WUI or preventing home ignitions)?" and " Which approach requires a connected action ?"

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