



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

FireScape Mendocino

Workshop #8
April 6-7, 2016
Upper Lake, CA

More than 55 people took part in FireScape Mendocino's eighth workshop to help shape the future of our fire-prone landscape in and near the Mendocino National Forest. To date, participants in FireScape activities have come from a wide array of organizations—local governments, Forest Service, state water boards, Indian tribes, Resource Conservation Districts, OHV and environmental organizations, BLM and Firesafe Councils—as well as private property owners and other stakeholders.

The first day of the meeting included updates from subgroups on their recent field trips, conference calls and work projects. Those reports covered recreation infrastructure, fire ready communities, large-scale vegetation management, communications, and outreach to sister programs.

Bob Schnieder gave a presentation on the Northern Inner Coast Range State Conservancy, which would be created by recent legislation (SB1396) introduced by State Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis) and Assemblymember Bill Dodd (D-Napa). The proposal has been modeled after the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and sets out a collaborative process with local stakeholders to help fund important conservation projects that can protect natural resources and help provide an economic benefit to rural areas.

Later in the morning, Forest Service staff members gave an update on the Lakeview Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. This project will contribute to ecological restoration by achieving goals established by the Mendocino NF Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for fire and fuels, chaparral, forest health,

timber and other forest products, riparian and aquatic ecosystems, and wildlife and fish.

The 2,572-acre project includes treatments within the wildland-urban interface around Upper Lake. The project includes prescribed fire, non-commercial and commercial thinning, hand and machine piling, and mastication and fuel break construction.

On the second day, participants caravanned up to the Pine Mountain area near Lake Pillsbury for a field learning exercise. Folks were dispersed into five groups, each made up of agency foresters, recreationists, fire and resource specialists, local government, conservationists, and other interests. The groups were assigned to a three-acre plot where they were able to share their values, perspectives and ideas on what a forest health and fuel treatment project might look like. Issues discussed included needs for public access and public safety, restoring the land to its historic mixed conifer, pine and oak woodland mosaic, creating improved current and future forest condition for the northern spotted owl, economic opportunities benefitting the local community, protection of Native American Indian cultural resources, improving habitat for hunting and other recreational activities, and making the area resilient to both human and natural fire starts.

There was a sense of urgency to the discussions since the Pine Mountain area has not seen fire in the last 80 years and is vulnerable to burning with high intensity if subjected to wild-fire. The area is designated as a Late Successional Reserve in the



The Mendocino NF District Forester (*center*) engages participants in a field learning exercise to explore multiple treatment scenarios.

© TNC/Mary Huffman

LRMP. It provides critical habitat for the northern spotted owl as well as opportunities for dispersed recreation and reserved camping at the popular Pine Mountain Lookout.

The FireScape Mendocino Core Team will be following up with discussions of next steps in our continued efforts to engage local stakeholders to help in a long-term collaborative program to support a healthy and fire resilient forest and surrounding landscape.

For more information, contact:

Don Amador
damador@cwo.com

Mary Huffman
mhuffman@tnc.org

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



An equal opportunity provider

v. 12 Apr 16/DA