

FireScope Mendocino

Fire Learning Network



FireScope Mendocino is one of the newest landscapes in the FLN, having hosted its first workshop in November 2013. The group hopes to develop a stakeholder-based approach to fire management of the Mendocino National Forest and the surrounding area.

The group is using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation for its foundational planning. This is being supported by field trips, historical photos, GIS-based fire risk assessment, traditional ecological knowledge and other tools. To date, the group has identified its geographic scope, landscape vision and a suite of enduring



Field tours are an important part of learning during workshops. *Above:* Stakeholders examine a shaded fuel break on private timberland. *Top of page:* A Forest Service archaeologist and elder of a pioneer family discuss grazing to reduce fuels on sacred sites, like this oak woodland.

Photos: TNC/Wendy Fulks, USFS/Rick Mowery

landscape values—ecological, cultural and economic—which form the basis for working together.

In late 2014, the group's shared values were identified as:

- Quality recreation opportunities
- Cultural heritage—past, present and future
- Fire adapted human communities
- Healthy terrestrial systems—structure, function and species
- Healthy riparian and aquatic systems—structure, function and species
- Diverse landscape-based economic opportunities

Moving forward, the group is forming working teams to implement the strategies they have developed, which are designed to improve the viability of those values. Key strategies include:

- building local capacity for fire adapted communities,
- expanding proactive fire management as part of integrated vegetation management,
- adjusting air quality policy to support prescribed burning,
- increasing tribal involvement in public land management, and
- ensuring that late successional forest areas are resilient to future temperature and moisture regimes.

Rick Mowery

rmowery@fs.fed.us

(530) 934-1175

Kimberly Baker

kimberly@wildcalifornia.org

(707) 822-7711

Don Amador

damador@cwo.com

(925) 625-6287

Gary Evans

(530) 570-1908



Top: At the group's fourth planning workshop in September 2014, a commercial forester, local resident and Forest Service ecosystem management staff officer use Google Earth to explore possible treatment approaches. *Bottom:* Participants work on revising the situation diagram.

Photos: TNC/Mary Huffman



Landscape Partners

Blue Ribbon Coalition
 Bureau of Land Management
 CAL FIRE
 California Wilderness Coalition
 Environment Now
 Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
 Lake County Fire Safe Council
 Mendocino Redwood Company and Humboldt Redwood Company
 Office of Congressman Jared Huffman
 Round Valley Confederated Indian Tribes—Yuki Tribe

Tehama County Resource Conservation District
 Tuleyome/Yolo Audubon Society
 USDA Forest Service—Mendocino National Forest
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



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