

Southwest Fire Learning Network Workshop
Global Resources Center, Western New Mexico University
Silver City, New Mexico
February 15-17, 2005

Background:

As part of The Nature Conservancy's Global Fire Initiative, and a cooperative agreement with the US Departments of Interior and Agriculture, several regional "Fire Learning Networks" have been established across the United States. The Southwestern Fire Learning Network (SWFLN) is being organized by the New Mexico Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The Goal of the SWFLN is to support and accelerate collaborative, community-based, landscape scale fire management through the use of regional workshops. The potential partners for the SWFLN include federal and state land management agencies, universities, private land owners and conservation groups with an interest in assessing and reestablishing fire's ecological role in natural ecosystems. A series of at least three annual regional workshops is planned, each with a different theme of interest to SWFLN participants

Workshop Objectives:

- ✓ Review scope, scale, and techniques used for landscape level assessments under development in the greater southwest- AZ, NM, CO, northern Mexico
- ✓ Provide a forum to share lessons learned and discuss common problems encountered by assessment and modeling teams
- ✓ Identify opportunities to expand the assessment process-geographically and partners involved
- ✓ Identify opportunities for data sharing, linking to other resource assessments (wildlife, watershed), developing joint communication tools, site visits
- ✓ Identify audience and focus of next SWFLN workshop and priority activities for the Southwest Fire Initiative Manager

Focal Ecosystems: Presenters and participants work in a range of ecosystems in the Southwest. We hope to take an in-depth look at grassland/shrubland/woodland systems.

Session Agenda

Feb, 15th

1:00-1:15 Introduction and Welcome *Anne Bradley, TNC New Mexico*

Disturbance Ecology of Southwestern Ecosystems

1:15-1:45 Disturbance Ecology of SW Ecosystems *Guy McPherson, U. of Arizona*

1:45-2:15 Climate variation and SW ecosystems: relevance to establishing reference conditions in assessments. *Grant Meyer, U. of New Mexico*

2:15-2:45 Q and A for speakers and potential discussion: How do we incorporate climate variation into our assessments? What is the role of historical information in a changing environment?

2:45-3:00 break

Two Approaches to Modeling Dynamic Processes

3:00-3:45 Fire Regime Condition Class and the LANDFIRE Project - *Mike Babler, TNC LANDFIRE team*

3:45-4:15 Ecological Site Descriptions and State-Transition Models for Rangelands- *Brandon Bestelmeyer, Agricultural Research Service, Jornada Experimental Range*

4:15-4:45 Q and A for speakers and potential discussion: What are strengths of these approaches in characterizing dynamic systems? What are opportunities for further development?

5:00-6:30 Group Social Meeting Rooms

Feb 16th

Review of ongoing fire and fuels assessments in the Southwest

9:00-9:15 Intro to the session and housekeeping – *Gary Bell, TNC New Mexico*

9:15-9:30 Spatial Extent and Condition of Central and Southern Arizona Grasslands- *Dave Gori, and Heather Schussman, TNC Arizona*

9:30-10:00 New Mexico Rangeland Ecological Assessment *Steven Yanoff and Joanna Bate, TNC New Mexico*

10:00-10:15 Q and A for speakers and potential discussion: what questions do we still have regarding the role of fire in desert grasslands?

10:15-10:30 break

10:30-11:00 Fire Return Interval Assessment at White Sands Missile Range and White Sands National Monument -*Tim Christiansen, TNC New Mexico*

11:00-11:30 Forest Ecosystem Restoration Analysis (ForestERA) Project- *John Prather, Northern Ariz. Univ.*

11:30-11:45 Q and A for speakers

11:45-1:15 Lunch

1:15-1:45 Fire Regime Condition Class Assessment Process on the Gila NF- *Reese Lolley, TNC New Mexico/ Gila National Forest*

1:45-2:15 Fire Size and Patterns of Burn Severity on Post-fire Regeneration and Trajectories of Change in Ponderosa Pine Forests- *Sandra Haire, USGS and Univ. of Mass.*

2:15-2:30 Q and A for speakers

2:30-2:50 break

Application of Assessments and Fire Management Planning

2:50-3:00 Introduction to the session-*Deborah Nethers, TNC New Mexico*

3:00-3:30: What do land managers need from assessments? *Tom Zimmerman US Forest Service Region 3*

3:30-4:00 BLM application of State-Transition models and indicators of rangeland health *Bob Alexander NM State Office BLM*

4:00-4:30 Great Sand Dunes Fire Management Plan *Terri Shulz, TNC Colorado*

4:30-5:00 Q and A for speakers

Feb 17th

Application of Assessments and Fire Management Planning, cont.

9:00-9:10 Intro to the session *Ruth Smith, TNC NM*

9:10-9:40 Gila National Forest assessment-to-project implementation process- *Ceci McNicoll Gila NF*

0940-10:20 Apache-Sitgreaves Fire Use Planning and monitoring-*Deb Bumpus, Apache-Sitgreaves NF*

10:20-10:35 Q and A for speakers

10:35-10:50 break

10:50-11:20 Using Historical Reconstructions of Ecosystem Processes to Guide Ecological Restoration: A Case Study from the Jemez Mountains *Don Falk, Lab. of Tree Ring Research.*

11:20-11:35 Q and A for speaker and potential discussion: restoration vs fuel abatement prescriptions

Sharing Fire Management Tools and Information- The Fire Learning Network

11-35-12:05-The National Fire Learning Network-*Lynn Decker, TNC*

12:05-12:35- Participants Discuss Priorities and Next Steps for the Southwest Fire Learning Network-*Anne Bradley, TNC New Mexico*

12:35-4:00 **Field Trip:** Signal Peak Restoration Project,. sack lunch to take along

End of Session

Workshop Logistics

Flying and Driving: Silver City, New Mexico is in the southwestern Corner of New Mexico. Participants can fly directly to Silver City from Albuquerque, New Mexico via Mesa Airlines. You should allow 5 hours to drive from Albuquerque. Because of the uncertain driving conditions in February, we recommend you drive through Hatch, NM rather than going over the Black Range through Hillsboro. You may also fly into Tucson, AZ or El Paso, TX and drive approx. three hours.

Lodging:

Below are a few options offering reasonable rates.

Comfort Inn Silver City
1060 E. US Hwy 180
Silver City, NM 88061 US
(505) 534-1883

EconoLodge Silver City
1120 Hwy 180 E
Silver City, NM 88061
505-534-1111
800-55-ECONO (32666)

Holiday Inn Express Silver City
1103 Superior Street
Silver City, NM 88061 US
(505) 538-3696

You may want to consider sharing a room at TNC's Bear Mt Lodge, which is approximately 3 miles from town.

2251 Cottage San Rd
Silver City, NM 88061
Rooms have 2 queen beds and include breakfast
505-538-2538
1-877-620-2327

innkeeper@bearmountainlodge.com

<http://www.bearmountainlodge.com>

There are a few other ideas listed on the Silver City website <http://www.silvercity.org/dininglodging.html>

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