



Fall 2014 Meeting: *Scaling Up*



Exploring managed wildfire and landscape-scale prescribed fire in California

Brief summary:

The fall meeting of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council will partner with the Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council, and other agencies and organizations to host a two-day conference focused on the need to increase the pace and scale of fire-based treatments in California, including both landscape-scale prescribed fire and managed wildfire. The meeting will emphasize science and management examples from within California. It will also invite out-of-state participation and highlight opportunities at the regional, state, and national levels that may be transferable or informative to progress in CA. The Council is seeking broad support and sponsorship for the meeting, and welcomes collaboration and input from interested organizations and agencies in both planning and participation.

Date: December 2-3, 2014

Location: Lion's Gate Hotel in McClellan, Sacramento, CA.

Goals:

- Provide scientific framework and foundation in support of discussing and acting on the issues
- Identify major limiting factors, many of which are shared across managed wildfire and prescribed fire, and highlight the ways those limitations act on local, state, and national levels. Include political, social, and economic issues:
 - Social issues: air quality, including human health and haze, public safety, firefighter safety, etc.
 - Economic issues: wildfire cost containment, resource sharing among agencies/organizations, impacts to private businesses, etc.
 - Ecological issues: fire effects on vegetation and ecosystems, climate change impacts, etc.
- Build agreement on the need for increased pace and scale of fire-based treatments
- Identify next steps for individual and collective action, demonstration/pilot projects, research, public and stakeholder education, capacity building, policy, future dialogue

Potential areas of focus for meeting:

- Demonstrations at local level: highlight examples of success; let those stories be told (by communities, innovative managers, partners, etc.)
- State/region level: forest plan revision process as opportunity to incorporate new scientific understandings and enable policy
- Upcoming projects as opportunities to test ideas: Boulder Burn, Trinity Alps Rx Fire, etc. Also discuss the need for pilot air quality exemptions that would allow for these types of projects.
- Potentially suitable landscapes in CA
- National policy discussion: engage National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils, AFE, and other national groups to strengthen discussion and build opportunities.

Key participants and audiences:

- Forest and fire managers (federal, state, private, NGO), academics, air quality regulators, clean air advocates, public health officials, environmental advocates, elected officials, etc.