



Fostering Resilience in Southwestern Ecosystems: A problem-solving workshop

February 25 – 27, 2014

Tucson, Arizona

Roundtable Sessions Overview

Roundtable Schedule

DAY 1 - Feb 25 8:00-5:30pm

10:15 – 11:15 **Roundtable 1: Defining Resiliency**

11:45 – 12:45 **Roundtable 2: Large Fire preparedness and resilience building**

2:45 – 3:45 **Roundtable 3: Using Wildfire as a Resiliency Tool: Tactics, Strategies and Communication**

4:15 – 5:15 **Roundtable 4: Post-fire management options for building resiliency**

DAY 2 – Feb 26 8:00 – 4:30pm

10:15 – 11:45 **Roundtable 5: Collaborative problem-solving: Accelerating the development of fire adapted communities** (interdisciplinary)

1:45 – 3:30 **Roundtable 6: Strategy development** – Participate in 3 tables (world café)

Roundtable Discussions – Working Agreements

1. Share the air - Take turns, listen to others
2. Respect your fellow participants, facilitators and notetakers
3. Silence electronics
4. Participate actively
5. All ideas count, even the wild ones - be creative!

Roundtable Topics and Discussion Questions

Roundtable 1: Defining Resiliency

Objective: Within each discipline, identify and discuss the resources and/or ecosystem services to be made more resilient, and the primary disturbances that threaten these.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about what resilience means in your discipline. What resources and/or ecosystem processes are you trying to make resilient?
2. What disturbances threaten these resources/processes, and at what scales?
3. Reflecting on the discussions above, might you apply the concept of resilience differently in your future work? If so, how?



Roundtable 2: Large fire preparedness and resilience building

Objective: Evaluate pre-fire management practices in light of the current discussion of resiliency.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are current land management activities, such as mechanical treatments and burning, successful at building resiliency? If not, why not and what needs to change? If so, why?
 - a. *Examples of land management to consider: Silvicultural treatments (even-aged management, un-even aged management, thinning, clear-cutting...etc.), wildfire (suppressed and multiple objectives), prescribed fire, road decommissioning, invasive species management, wildlife/fish population enhancement, planting native species, erosion control, stream modification*
2. What are the primary barriers to changing current practices?
3. What are suggested strategies to improve pre-fire management practices?

Roundtable 3: Using wildfire as a resiliency tool: Tactics, strategies and communication

Objective: Discuss options for improving wildfire management to enhance ecological outcomes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the impacts (positive and negative) on natural resources, ecosystem processes, and native species from wildfire suppression techniques?
2. How can we improve practices so that suppression- firing operations enhance the ecological benefits of fire and improve our ability to build resiliency at the landscape level?
3. What are key suggestions for improving communication between non-local fire suppression teams and local resource managers?

Roundtable 4: Post-fire management options for building resiliency

Objective: Discuss the impact of fire on ecosystem functions and resiliency. Evaluate the success of current post-fire management practices and suggest new practices to address impacts and improve outcomes.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are there certain metrics (or characteristics) of resiliency that are impacted more than others by large fires?
2. What are the critical ecosystem functions and/or services that need to be maintained post-disturbance?
3. How successful are current management practices that attempt to rebuild resilience or critical ecosystem functions following a large disturbance, e.g. BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) and reforestation?



4. What are suggested post-fire management practices/strategies to improve post-disturbance outcomes and resiliency?

Roundtable 5: Collaborative problem-solving: Accelerating the development of resilient, fire-adapted communities

Problem statement: Severe wildfires are becoming larger and more frequent. We expect this trend to continue given the climate change projections for the Southwest. Land managers believe that to effectively address the threat of damaging fire, they must be able to work more quickly and at a much larger scale than in the past.

Valuable time and resources are often spent in working to protect communities that are not adapted to cope with these fires, thereby hindering managers' ability to work with the speed and at the scale necessary to build resilience. How can we accelerate the development and expansion of safer, resilient, fire-adapted human communities that contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem?

Discussion Questions:

1. Who needs to be involved to create successful fire-adapted communities, and what are their roles?
2. How can we encourage better communication and sustained engagement amongst all these stakeholders, before during and after fires?

Roundtable 6 – Strategy Development

Participants will work on strategies developed during Roundtables 2-5.

Strategy development guidance:

- a. **Cost/Benefit:** What are the key benefits and potential negative impacts?
- b. **Challenges:** What are the biggest challenges/barriers to implementing the strategy, and how can we address these?
- c. **Needs:** What are the resource, information and communication needs?
- d. **Who:** Who needs to be involved to implement the strategy and what are their roles?
- e. **Next Steps:** What are the most important next steps (short term and longer term)?