



FSM Collaborative Charter

Approved August 8, 2022

Background

FireScope Mendocino (FSM) is part of a national grassroots effort to enable people with diverse perspectives find agreement on forest health, watershed, and fire planning. In 2013, with assistance from the Fire Learning Network and guided by the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, stakeholders began to craft the vision and scope of the collaborative and to identify strategies that address threats to their shared values.

Collaborative Mission

Working together through stakeholder meetings and field learning exchanges on the Mendocino National Forest and surrounding communities (see Figure 1), participants share ideas and skills as well as identify shared values and knowledge to support land management strategies with a goal of getting tangible results in community fire readiness and ecosystem resilience.

Within the FSM landscape we seek to:

- Increase communications between communities and organizations
- Strengthen relationship to value differences and leverage our strengths to create a safe and healthy forest
- Help landowners and land managers address resource concerns on their property for the greater good of the community
- Increase the number of Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in FSM
- Grow each other's capacity to be successful
- Implement forest health projects

Shared Values

FSM believes that shared values of its communities are important to identify as they provide the foundation for project planning and implementation.

FSM has identified the following shared values based on what the community desires as identified during various public FSM workshops:

- Fire-adapted human communities

- Fire-adapted landscape mosaic
- Maintained cultural heritage incorporating the past, present, and future
- Diverse economic opportunities
- Enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities
- Long-term maintenance of terrestrial environments, particularly oak woodlands, meadows, late-seral conifer forests, and chaparral
- Long-term maintenance of aquatic and riparian environments

Strategies

Listed below are the strategies FSM has developed through the collaborative process to improve the viability of shared values.

- Build capacity of communities to increase defensible space; utilize Fire Safe Councils where appropriate
- Implement collaborative vegetation management treatments
- Increase tribal involvement in land management
- Capitalize on climate change and wildfire emissions trade-offs to support air quality permitting for controlled burning
- Use fire education and outreach to support FireScape Mendocino projects and strategies
- Continue to build partnerships capable of addressing complex challenges in the landscape
- Configure management treatments to meet site-specific needs

Organization

FSM is part of the Fire Learning Network and is supported by 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 and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The partnership helps to restore our nation's forests and grasslands contributing to community safety in the event of wildfire. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FSM follows an open and transparent collaborative process and governance including a diversity of stakeholder interests and geographic representation. Meetings of the collaborative group are scheduled as needed to provide opportunities for progress tracking, to discuss work within the FSM landscape, to coordinate, and to provide both recommendations on and endorsements for work to U.S. Forest Service, Native American Tribes, other government agencies, and/or private sector partners. The meetings also serve as a check to ensure the Core Team represents community desires and values. Collaborative meetings, as well as Sub-Committee meetings and field tours are open to the public.

The purpose of the Core-Team is to:

- Be a resource for community members who want to work with us
- Support projects that directly impact the health and safety of the forest and adjacent lands
- Bring resources to local organizations to help landowners/ land manager implement projects on-the-ground
- Support local projects that align with our shared values
- Be inclusive and open to new perspectives
- Promote and help get work on the ground to improve forest and fuels management on both public and private lands
- Represent the views and opinions of the greater FireScape community

The roles and responsibilities of the Core-Team are:

Shared Learning

- Seek out opportunities to plan and implement workshops, field trips, meetings, and workshops
- Facilitate sharing local accomplishments with the entire collaborative
- Host public/landowners/land managers (stakeholder) meetings to gather local insight (i.e., vegetation treatment informational exchange)
- Technical support is available to Core Team members from subject matter experts within the partnership. This expertise is also made available to the public through FSMendocino through its workshops and website

Collaboration

- Resources and Information
- Training
- Networking within local communities
- Interactions with other collaboratives

Fiscal Management

- Annual budget request to funding sources
- Be innovative and collaborative in finding ways to fund and staff ideas
- The extent of staffing services is based on the availability of partner funding

Projects and Landscape Level Treatments

- Develop and implement projects based on our shared values
- Implement treatments to address complexity of landscape level management
- Implement/act upon desired outcomes gained from public meetings as applicable

Liaison

- Serve as a liaison between the public/landowners/land managers and natural resource professionals, etc.
- Promote vegetation treatment informational exchange

Group Norms and Operations

Decision-Making: Will Live-With Consensus

- Core team members agreed to how they will make core team decisions using the “Will Live With” consensus decision
- Each core team member attending the meeting will articulate verbally if they “will live with” the decision. If one person is unwilling to accept the decision, then you have not achieved “will-live-with” consensus
- If there isn’t full agreement to “will live with a decision” then the core team members will review where they stand on the gradient of agreement and ask each person the following question – “What will it take to get you to be able to live with the decision?”

GRADIENTS OF AGREEMENT



Quorum

- When an action is needed a simple majority vote will be called the day of the meeting

Subcommittees

- Project and Landscape Level Treatment - Accomplish treatment largely through subcommittee work that reports back to full Core Team
- Public Forums – Develop inclusive stakeholder workshops/forums through subcommittee work that reports back to the full Core Team

Attendance at meetings

- Core team members are expected to attend monthly meetings—in person or virtually
- Subcommittee members are expected to participate in subcommittee meetings

Membership

Core-Team Membership requires individuals and organizations to demonstrate their support of collaborative projects by agreeing to FSM's purpose and adhering to accepted tenets for effective collaboration outlined herein.

- Apply through a simple application form - <https://form.jotform.com/210345665082049>
- Core team appoints members
- Core team seeks volunteers
- Core team votes to include a member at the monthly meeting
- When a core team member vacates a position, the vacating team members will recommend a replacement based on their expertise, networking capability, and organizational representation. Core team needs to be composed of people committed to collaboration, and who serve the collaborative
- Individuals can approach the core team and express interest in joining the team

Terms of Core-Team Membership – Currently there are no formal term limits or time commitments.

Develop and Maintain Diversity of Membership- FSM maintains a diverse membership passed on location, knowledge, and associated work experiences. Potential members who could add to the diversity of the group are encouraged to join the Core Team.

Development of Sub-Committees- Sub-committees will be developed consisting of Core Team members and public volunteers, as needed.

Appointment and responsibilities of Core-Team Lead [i.e., Chair] and Core-Team Vice-Lead [i.e., Vice-Chair]

Appointment: The Core Team members will select the Lead and Co-Lead with an opportunity for annual reappointment.

Responsibilities: Lead and/or Co-Lead

- Represent FSM professionally while honoring the variety of stakeholder interest
- Attend the Fire Learning Network's (FLN) annual leadership workshop, including any associated pre-workshop preparation
- Participate in quarterly FLN leadership meetings (conference call)
- Routinely contribute content to the *FLN Networker* newsletter featuring FSM projects, lessons learned, milestones, training announcements, publications, and similar content
- Collaboratively develop the monthly Core Team meeting agenda with RCD staff
- Facilitate monthly Core Team meetings
- Participate in FSM workshops

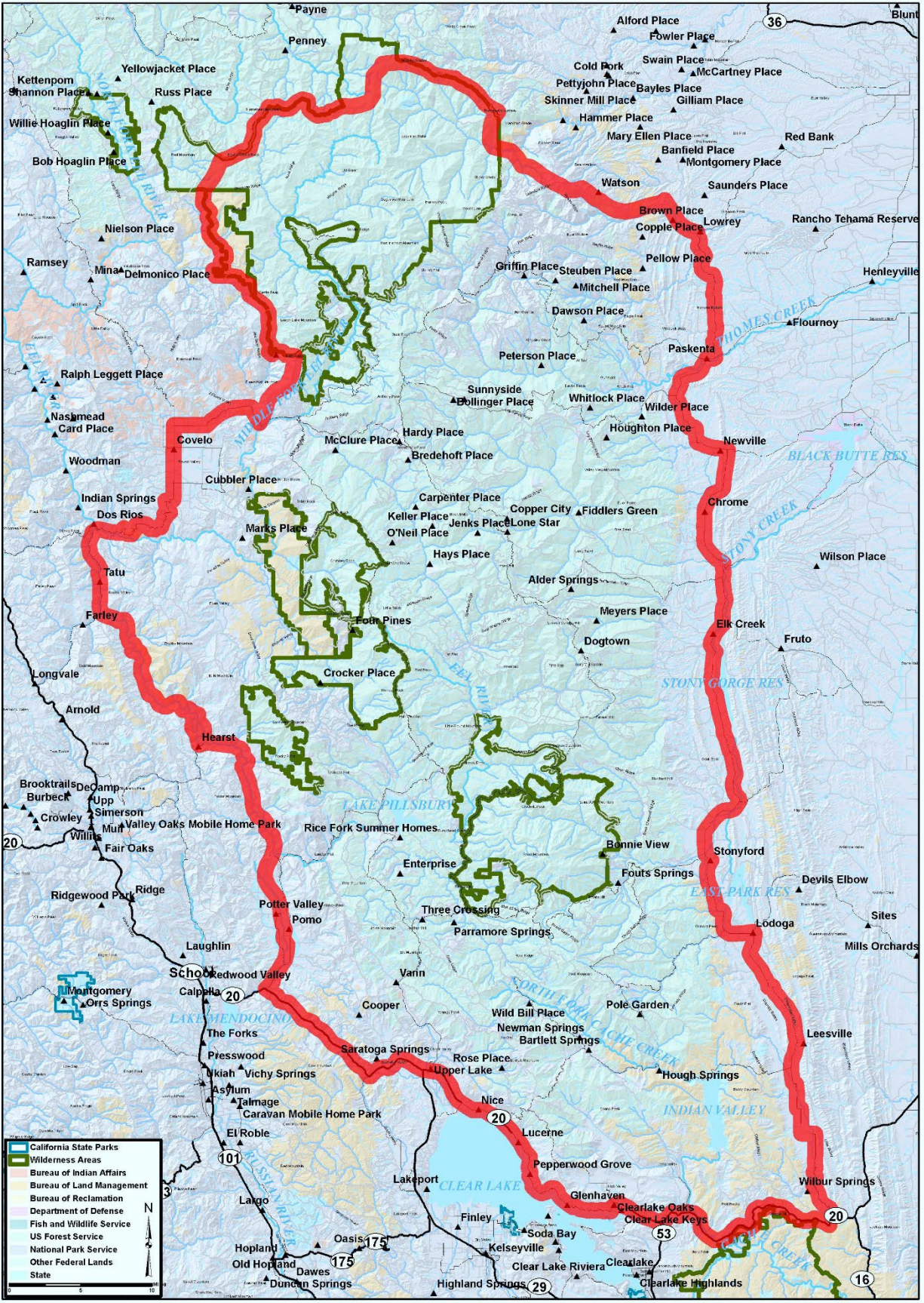


Figure 1 FireScope Mendocino collaborative focal area