



**The Greater Santa Fe  
Fireshed Coalition**

## **Community Meeting on Wildfire History and Assessment Santa Fe**

**Santa Fe Indian School  
1501 Cerrillos Road**



**July 9, 2018**



## **Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition Community Meeting on Wildfire History and Assessment Santa Fe**

On July 9, 2018, the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition (GSFFC) hosted a community meeting in Santa Fe. The meeting was held at the Francis Abeyta Gymnasium at the Santa Fe Indian School, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. About 35 people attended the meeting, including eleven GSFFC partners. The purpose of the meeting was to present the GSFFC's assessment and strategy to the public, in the context of wildfire history in the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed.

### **Introduction**

Ryan Swazo-Hinds, chair of the GSFFC for 2018, served as moderator for the community meeting. He kicked off the meeting with a brief introduction to the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed and the GSFFC. The Fireshed covers 107,000 acres in the Southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains, to the east of Santa Fe. Since 2015, GSFFC partners have met to coordinate forest management activities on the Fireshed landscape. Partners include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Pueblo of Tesuque, New Mexico State Forestry Division (NMSFD), the Forest Stewards Guild (FSG), the City of Santa Fe Fire Department (SFFD) and Water Division, the Sierra Club and the Santa Fe County Fire Department. Mr. Swazo-Hinds then introduced the speakers for the evening.



*Ryan Swazo-Hinds gives an overview of the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed*

## Wildfire History

The first speaker was Dr. Ellis Margolis, a dendrochronologist and research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey office in Santa Fe, and a partner in the GSFFC. Dr. Margolis gave an overview of fire history in the Southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains in his presentation, titled “A History of Fire and Changing Forests in the Santa Fe Fireshed.” Dr. Margolis has reconstructed the fire history dating back over seven centuries using cross-sections, or “cookies,” taken from the trunks of old logs around the Fireshed landscape. The cross-sections show fire scars on tree rings, indicating when and where wildfires occurred historically. By matching the tree rings from various trees, Dr. Margolis can determine the year that each ring represents, and can assess the size of wildfires indicated by the fire scars in any given year.

Although Dr. Margolis has studied all of the forest types in the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed, his talk focused primarily on Ponderosa Pine forests. Ponderosa Pine ecosystems are common within the Fireshed and historically have been frequent fire ecosystems. In other words, a healthy Ponderosa Pine forest experiences a wildfire, generally at low-intensity, every few years.

Dr. Margolis started his talk by quoting from a Wildland Fire Directive issued by the Department of the Interior in 2017, which said “It is well settled that the steady accumulation of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher intensity fires. These fires are more damaging, more costly, and a threat the safety and security of both the public and firefighters. In recent fire reviews, I have heard the described a ‘a new normal.’” The report says we must think differently about the threat of wildfires and how we respond.

Fire scars are always evident on tree rings in Southwestern Ponderosa Pine forests, and these give a remarkable historic record of wildfires in these forests. Dr. Margolis gave a hands-on demonstration of fire scars on tree rings by handing around cross-sections that he has collected in the Fireshed. Fire scars leave a long record because the low-intensity fires that were common prior to the late nineteenth century did not kill the trees. The fire burns a part of the tree, but the tree can recover and heal over the scar, which creates a wound but is not fatal to the tree. The scar remains visible in the tree ring that the tree adds the year of each fire. Dr. Margolis showed a slide of a cross-section with 12 fire scars. The tree survived all of these fires over the past 200 years.

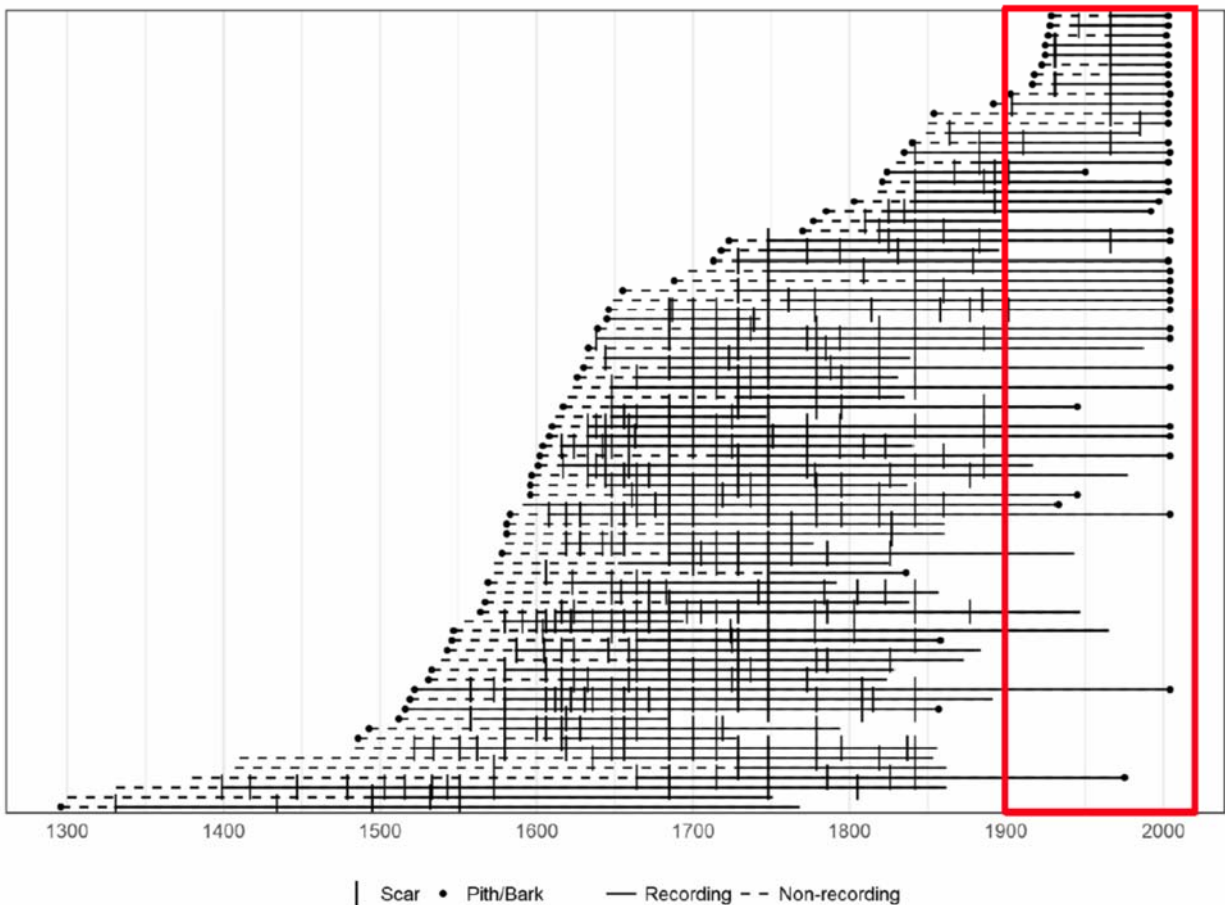
Dr. Margolis has collected and dated tree ring samples in many Southwestern forests, and the evidence of past fires is always very clear. He showed a map of the sites



*Dr. Ellis Margolis discusses wildfire history in the Santa Fe Fireshed*

where he has collected samples of cross-sections with fire scars on the Fireshed landscape. He takes these samples back to his lab, and compares the tree rings to identify similar patterns, and by these comparisons he can identify specific years in each sample's tree rings.

Dr. Margolis creates graphs showing fire scars in all of the samples that he collects on a particular landscape. He showed a slide with a graph, which is reproduced at the top of the next page. This graph is for Ponderosa Pine forests in the Santa Fe Watershed, which is within the boundaries of the Fireshed. The horizontal axis shows the years from 1300 to the present, and each horizontal line on the graph indicates a sample from one tree that Dr. Margolis has collected. The vertical lines indicate fire scars found on the tree rings in each sample. The horizontal lines are arrayed so that the years match up, and the fire scars match in several samples, giving an idea of the size and intensity of each wildfire. The fire scars show that most fires are relatively small in size and low in intensity. Small fires occurred, on average, every four years in the Santa Fe Watershed. A few larger fires broke out as well, on average about every 17 years. Fire scars show up frequently up until about 1880, when fire suppression started in these forests. After about 1880, there are almost no fire scars evident in the trees, indicating that wildfires were no longer burning these forests. This is the "Smokey Bear Effect," which has altered the ecology of Southwestern forests substantially.



*This graph shows the frequency of fires in Ponderosa Pine forests in the Santa Fe Fireshed from 1300 to the present, as represented in fire scars on tree rings. The horizontal lines represent individual trees and the vertical lines represent fire scars. Since 1880, when fire suppression started, very few wildfires have been observed in the Fireshed.*

Dr. Margolis showed evidence from another set of cross-sections, from an area he called the “West Slope Watersheds.” These included four watersheds in the northern part of the Fireshed. Samples were collected near Black Canyon in the Little Tesuque drainage, and in the Big Tesuque, Chupadero and Rio Medio watersheds. A graph similar to the Ponderosa Pine graph from the Santa Fe Watershed showed comparable results for the West Slope Watersheds. There are lots of fire scars in this area dating back to 1300; however, after 1880, there are no widespread fires. In the West Slope Watersheds, the average frequency for small fires was 6 years and for large fires was 12 years.

There also has been overlap in the fires within the Santa Fe Watershed and in the other West Slope Watersheds. A Venn diagram of the wildfires shows that 28 percent of the fires were found in both areas, while 39 percent of the fires were just in the Santa Fe Watershed and 23 percent were just in the West Slope Watersheds. In 1842, there was a



large wildfire that showed up across much of the range. The whole west slope of the Sangre de Cristos burned that year. The large aspen stands near Taos and in other parts of the mountains are from the 1842 fire.

All around the Southwest, you see the same pattern in Ponderosa Pine forests. There are many fire scars up until about 1880, and then almost no fires thereafter. And this pattern is not unique to the Southwest. You see a similar pattern in Siberia, on Scots Pine, which is a Eurasian species that is similar to Ponderosa Pine. A Venn Diagram showing Sta. Fe Watershed in one circle and the other watersheds in the other circle shows the overlap. 28% of fires were in both areas, 39% just in SF watershed, and 23% just in west slope watersheds.

In response to a question about how the fires were ignited, Dr. Margolis noted that today, fires are started by lightning and by people. These also were likely the causes historically. The Southwest has the second highest incidence of lightning-started wildfires in the U.S., after Florida.

Showing slides of Ponderosa Pine forests in the Fireshed, Dr. Margolis explained that pines younger than 100 years have dark bark, with trunks that generally are smaller in diameter, while the pines that are older than 100 years have orange bark and typically are larger in diameter. Showing a photo taken near Glorieta, Dr. Margolis highlighted 5 orange bark Ponderosa Pines, and so many dark pines that they were hard to count, but at least eight times as many younger trees than those over 100 years old. This means that there are eight times as many trees on the landscape today as there were in the early 1900s. Without fire in the system, the trees get much more dense, as one function of frequent fires is to thin out the smaller, younger trees. But, all of the small trees evident in the photos have survived since wildfires have been suppressed in the forest.

Many smaller trees increase the risk of large, catastrophic wildfires, as there is more fuel in the forest. But, even more so, small trees provide ladder fuels, which are branches lower to the ground that can catch fire and move up the tree, igniting the crowns of both smaller and larger trees. Once a fire is carried into the crowns of trees, it becomes higher intensity and spreads faster. Burning on the ground, as most fires did historically, the fires tend to burn grasses and seedlings, but older trees can withstand the fires, leaving only fire scars that do not kill the tree. If a fire can climb up the limbs of small trees, it is likely to burn everything in the whole area, including the larger trees that historically survived many small fires. These are the devastating high-intensity fires that are more common today.

So, the bottom line is that increased forest density and connectivity leads to a greater risk of high-severity fire. Dr. Margolis illustrated this with a slide comparing

wildfires in 1935 and 2005. This year, the Ute Park Fire near Cimarron, NM, was the big fire that got a lot of attention, but a similar fire could have occurred in the Santa Fe Fireshed. We still have not had a big fire like the Ute Park Fire in the Santa Fe Fireshed since fire suppression began in the late 19th century.

Another danger with large, high-intensity wildfires is the risk of post-fire flooding, debris flows, and erosion. These can be very serious and threaten communities, and they also disrupt the ecosystems. Dr. Margolis showed slides taken of the same area near Highway 101 in Montecito, CA, which had large fires and flooding last year. One slide showed the area before the fires, and the second showed the same area flooded from a rain event after the fire.

Dr. Margolis took questions from the audience.

**First Question:** What is the total acreage of prescribed fires versus the acreage burned in wildfires in New Mexico? The questioner believed a recent article said that acreage burned in prescribed fires exceeded wildfires in the state.

Dr. Margolis replied that wildfire acreage exceeds the acreage burned in prescribed burns every year in New Mexico. He noted that in Florida, they do a lot of prescribed burning, and there they burn more acres through prescribed fires than wildfires, but this is not the case in New Mexico.

**Second Question:** What effect does grazing have on tree density?

Dr. Margolis said that this really depends on several factors. Sometimes grazers eat seedlings and reduce tree density, and sometimes they eat grass and don't bother the trees, so tree density increases. Historically, overgrazing on an industrial scale has had an effect on wildfires, as it coincided with efforts to suppress wildfires. Grazing contributed to stopping wildfires, which led to many more smaller trees, changing the landscape significantly.

### Wildfire Risk Assessment and Strategy

Steve Bassett then presented the results of an assessment he has conducted on wildfire risk across the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed landscape. Mr. Bassett is an Analyst with The Nature Conservancy in Santa Fe. He has been doing analyses of wildfires for the past six years, but he particularly enjoyed the project on the Fireshed as it is close to home. As a resident of Santa Fe, like others in the GSFFC, he cares about this landscape. The Fireshed is an area that would affect everyone if it burned in a high-intensity wildfire. A large wildfire has the potential to do a tremendous amount of damage to the region.



Mr. Bassett reviewed the current condition on the forests in the Fireshed. Echoing Dr. Margolis, Mr. Bassett noted that due to high tree density, fuels have accumulated in the Fireshed beyond a resilient level.

To understand wildfire behavior and how a wildfire might spread across the Fireshed landscape, Steve used a model to simulate many wildfires. From this he developed a risk assessment for wildfires in different parts of the landscape. He noted that there are three factors that contribute to a wildfire once it ignites: fuels, weather and topography. People cannot control the topography where forests grow, and have little control over the weather. Wind pushes flames at a faster speed and low humidity increases flammability of forest fuels, and knowing this, humans can increase their preparedness for wildfires during windy or dry conditions, but cannot control the weather directly. The one factor that people can control is the fuel level on the landscape. Moreover, fuels are what have changed significantly over the past century, increasing the risk of high-intensity, catastrophic wildfires.

Mr. Bassett showed two photos comparing a low-intensity and a high-intensity fire. Ponderosa Pine forests are resilient to low-intensity fires. The Las Conchas Fire, which burned 150,000 acres in two weeks, is an extreme example of a high-intensity fire. At 107,000 acres, the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed is smaller than that. Since the 1980s, there have been no wildfires in the Fireshed. It is scary to consider what a fire like Las Conchas would do if it burned in the Fireshed.

Post-fire effects pose an additional hazard. Debris flows cause a lot of damage. Mr. Bassett showed some of the post-fire effects from the Las Conchas fire. Reservoirs such as Cochiti filled with logs and mud. He showed a video of a debris flow that buried the Dixon Apple Orchard. And it was not an extreme storm event that caused this flood, yet it did significant damage. We have built in the floodplains, and if the hills burn, it causes a lot of damage in the communities downstream.

The GSFFC is concerned with planning for the future. The communities around Santa Fe cannot suppress our way out of wildfires. Firefighters used a full suppression strategy to stop the Las Conchas Fire, throwing everything they had at it. Yet, they could not stop the fire from burning thousands of acres very quickly.

So, what can we do? First, we can invest in resilience, by restoring healthy ecosystems. Second, we can reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, by reducing the fuels to levels that are more in line with the historic patterns. Under these conditions, wildfires are more likely to stay at low intensity, burning near the ground.

To analyze wildfire risk, we start with the observation that a catastrophic wildfire is a function of the likelihood of a fire, the intensity of a fire, and the susceptibility of the values at risk. Values are the different elements on the landscape that people care about. Therefore, to reduce the risk of a damaging wildfire, we need to reduce at least one of these things: the likelihood of a fire, the intensity of a fire, or the susceptibility of the values on the landscape.

Partners in the GSFFC have been working to reduce the risk of a wildfire in the Fireshed. The USFS has two proposed projects to reduce the fuels in high risk areas. Other partners are working with landowners to help them protect their houses using firewise techniques, such as thinning vegetation near the homes and covering vents to prevent embers from entering.

Yet, there is more that we can do. The question is what should we do next? Where should we invest our resources? This is what the risk assessment shows us. The wildfire risk assessment models wildfire risk, by simulating the likelihood and intensity of fires, and mapping the susceptibility of values. Mr. Bassett used a USFS publication from the Rocky Mountain Research Station known as GTR-315 which provides a widely used spatial analysis framework.

To model the wildfire risk, Mr. Bassett simulated 640,000 fires under various conditions, including various wind directions and speeds and different weather conditions that were consistent with historic weather patterns. The modeling simulates all fires, and it shows the variation in the burn probability across the landscape, according to the characteristics at each site.

Mr. Bassett showed a slide of a composite map that illustrated the wildfire risk across the landscape. Considering likelihood, and using a threshold of 80 percent likelihood or greater, much of the Fireshed is at risk, except for higher altitude forests in the northeastern corner of the landscape. Most of the likelihood is concentrated in lower and mid elevations.

Considering wildfire intensity, the simulations model fires burning on the ground with low energy release, ranging to crown fires with high energy release. Damage potential is much higher at higher intensity. In the fire simulations, the intensity was recorded for each fire. Mr. Bassett categorized these into seven intensity levels, and mapped them, showing where the probability of occurrence is for each fire intensity level. The seven fire intensity categories are based on flame length, which is a good proxy for fire intensity.



*Steve Bassett of The Nature Conservancy responds to questions from the audience*

Considering values, the highly valued resources and assets are the things that we care about and that are susceptible. Initially, Steve identified 54 valued resources and assets (VRAs), but in order to include a value in the analysis, there had to be a feasible way to map the value for the entire landscape, and the value had to respond to wildfire. So, for example, cultural resources are important values but they were not included in the analysis because they couldn't be mapped across the whole landscape; the scale is too large. Reservoirs are an important value but they aren't affected by wildfire, so they were not included in the analysis.

In the end, 19 VRAs were included in the analysis, ranging from structures to more abstract values representing ecosystem services. The VRAs were grouped into five categories: private investment, watershed function, infrastructure, recreation and cultural use, and forest ecology. For each VRA, Mr. Bassett characterized how it would respond to a wildfire, based on varying levels of fire intensity and the resulting expected change in the value.

Predicting change in some VRAs is difficult. For example, downstream effects from a wildfire are hard to predict. To measure this you need to look at the whole watershed, and the hazard upstream to determine downstream effects. Watersheds provide many benefits, including drinking water, irrigation, flood control and erosion control. Flooding and erosion are mapped as things you want to avoid.

What would happen to VRAs in the case of a wildfire? Mr. Bassett looked at each of the five categories of value, considering how the value would be affected by a fire. He did this for each category individually, as well as all of them together. From this analysis

he produced a wildfire risk map. The map identifies the level of risk with different colors. The darker red colors show the highest levels of risk, in areas where there is a high risk of a high intensity fire and there are lots of VRAs. The lightest colored areas are where there are fewer VRAs, lower risk, and lower intensity fires. The risk assessment takes all into account and maps risk at each place. The risk assessment map can be viewed on the GSFFC website.

In the risk assessment, VRAs are all valued equally. Further analysis, involving interviews with people in the area, would allow a more nuanced assessment that would weight VRAs based on people's level of attachment to them. Steve has a handout – on the table. People can weigh in on what VRAs are meaningful to them. He asks everyone to rate these. This will help us figure out how to combine the relative importance of VRAs.

Viewing the risk assessment map, a member of the audience noted that it is impressive how the Santa Fe City Watershed, where many prescribed burns have been carried out, shows up clearly on the map as very low risk.

In conclusion, Mr. Bassett recommended that we work at the scale that we can. Homeowners should make sure their house is ready for a wildfire. And for those who can work at a landscape scale, do so. Prepare for 10,000 acre fires, not just 100,000 acre fires. Smaller fires can be very damaging. And think about and prepare for post-fire hazards.

Mr. Bassett then took questions from the audience.

**First Question:** Did you calculate the probability of a fire occurring in a particular area in a specific time frame?

Mr. Bassett responded no, he tried to control for incidence of fire to match historical patterns, but the landscape was too small to say with certainty that a specific area could burn at a given time.

The questioner followed up asking isn't it difficult to calculate risk if you don't know the likelihood?

Mr. Bassett said that absolute risk is hard to calculate, but relative risk is easy to calculate. It is the relative risk across the landscape that is shown in the risk assessment. So, across the Fireshed, the areas at highest risk relative to other areas in the landscape are shown, as are the areas at lowest risk and all levels of risk in between.



*During the question and answer, Ryan Swazo-Hinds and Mike Martinez of the Pueblo of Tesuque Department of Environment and Natural Resources responded to questions about proposed forest thinning projects that the Pueblo is carrying out in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service in the area of Pacheco Canyon and Aspen Ranch in the northern part of the Santa Fe Fireshed*

**Second Question:** How did you model wildfire behavior and debris flow hazard?

Mr. Bassett said he modeled debris flow using two models from the USGS. For fire, he used FConstMTT, a wildfire simulation model similar to FlamMap, but it iterates through weather scenarios.

**Third Question:** Did you look at the risk of prescribed fires getting out of control?

Mr. Bassett said no. There is a background distribution showing where fires start on the landscape, so background prescribed burns are calculated.

**Fourth Question:** Where are treatments planned?

Mr. Bassett said currently, the GSFFC isn't planning treatments. The USFS is proposing some treatments on their land in the Fireshed area. They can discuss that.

The questioner asked where these treatments are they on the map?

Mr. Bassett showed the two proposed project areas for the USFS, one in Pacheco Canyon to the north near the Pueblo of Tesuque, and one near Hyde State Park. Mr.

Bassett said he doesn't know where treatments will occur within these areas. The GSFFC project area that encompasses 107,000 acres is the area the GSFFC cares about, but there is no reason to treat all of it. The same can be said for the planned USFS treatments. There is an identified project area, but this does not mean the USFS will conduct treatments throughout the whole project area.

However, the risk assessment shows that the two USFS project areas are at extremely high wildfire risk on the maps.

Anne Bradley, who works with Mr. Bassett at The Nature Conservancy, said the role of the GSFFC to date has been to assess the risk on the whole landscape. Each of the land management agencies can take this and create their own projects.

Sandy Hurlocker of the USFS noted that half of the project is on Española Ranger District and half is on the Pecos-Las Vegas District. The USFS will use the information in the risk assessment to see the risk and the values at risk. This is one step prior to going out to get input from the public to plan projects. Knowing the risks, they'll go to the public and ask where they can do the most good given the resources they want to protect. The key is finding a balance in where to treat and how much to treat. The USFS cannot treat 60,000 acres all at once; that would be bad for the forest and bad for their budget.

**Fifth Question:** The project area that is near the Santa Fe Watershed is a priority because a fire there can spread to the watershed. What are concerns in the other project area?

Mr. Bassett answered that the USFS looked at the two proposed treatments before the risk assessment was completed. He wasn't sure the wildfire risk would be high in the two proposed sites. But, it turned out the USFS knew what they were doing, as the risk assessment shows a high risk for wildfires at both sites. These projects will reduce the risk of wildfires in these areas.

**Sixth Question:** What makes the northern part of the Fireshed high risk for a wildfire?

Mr. Bassett asked Mike Martinez, who is Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) Coordinator for the Pueblo of Tesuque, to respond to the question. The Pueblo of Tesuque is a partner in the GSFFC and Mr. Martinez is the point person for the Pacheco Canyon project. The project is part of an RTRL collaboration grant that the Pueblo of Tesuque has from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which allows the Pueblo to work with other entities that own land near the Pueblo of Tesuque, including other pueblos,





*Following the meeting, members of the public viewed exhibits on the Fireshed*

the USFS and private landowners, to reduce threats to the Pueblo lands posed by conditions on nearby lands.

Mr. Martinez explained that the lands in the Pacheco Grant project are important to the Pueblo of Tesuque, and they want to protect these lands. They are concerned about the Tesuque Creek watershed in the future as well. The Pacheco Canyon area includes the Aspen Ranch property, which is owned by the Pueblo and an important site. The Pueblo is working with the USFS to protect Pueblo lands by reducing the high risk of wildfire on national forest lands.

The questioner asked if the analysis factored in roadless areas?

Mr. Martinez said that it did. They cannot work in the Tesuque Creek area now because it is a roadless area. They are working in Pacheco Canyon.

The questioner asked if treatments would be conducted in any roadless areas?

Mr. Martinez said that the area where they are working is on Santa Fe National Forest land, so it is their decision. The Pueblo can provide resources for the work. He urged anyone who has not walked in this area to do so. You will see right away that it is not a healthy forest. A fire in this area would greatly affect everyone who is downstream from this site. Protecting the Aspen Ranch site and the Pueblo's nearby Vigil property, are big priorities for the Pueblo. They are applying for another RTRL grant to continue forest restoration projects on these sites, and they are currently in the running for this additional grant.



The moderator, Mr. Swazo-Hinds, pointed to the tables in the back of the room, where there are maps and more information on the projects in the northern part of the Fireshed.

**Seventh Question:** Could you characterize the overall forest, for example, how much is Ponderosa Pine, how much is Pinyon-Juniper, and how much is shrub?

Mr. Bassett said that existing data on the forest types in the Fireshed is very high resolution, but this is not good enough for him. LIDAR will allow analysts to characterize seral stages, which would be very valuable data.

The questioner asked how dry is the watershed?

Dr. Margolis responded that we have relatively good vegetation maps, which allow us to distinguish different vegetation classes. But different vegetation types have different hydrology. The USGS is currently recruiting someone to look just at this issue, so we should have a better response to this question in the future.

*The GSFFC thanks the Santa Fe Indian School for providing the space for the meeting. The GSFFC acknowledges the work that Mike Martinez, Ryan Swazo-Hinds, Hannah Bergemann, Alan Barton, and the rest of the GSFFC Communications Team, put into organizing the meeting. The contributions of the speakers, Dr. Ellis Margolis and Steve Bassett, are greatly appreciated.*

## Appendix A: Meeting Flyer

# FIRE HISTORY <sup>in</sup> the FIRESHED:

## A Wildfire Risk Assessment

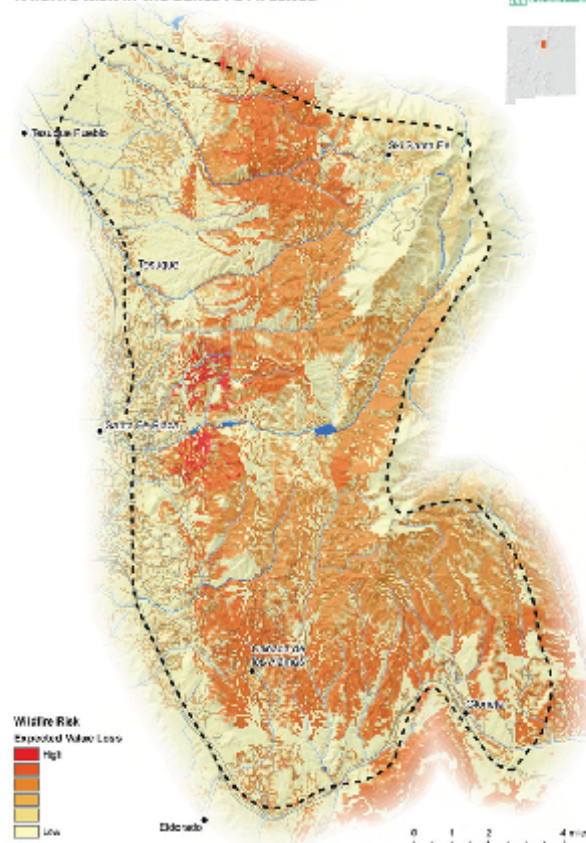
**COMMUNITY MEETING**  
**July 9th 5:30 - 7:00pm**  
**Santa Fe Indian School,**  
**Francis Abeyta Building**

As the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition works towards building resilience to wildfire, mitigating the risk of wildfire is a core strategy. Join us for a free community meeting on Monday, July 9th to learn about fire history in the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed, a Fireshed Assessment of wildfire risk, and a strategy for mitigating the wildfire risk across the landscape. Learn more by visiting our website.



The Greater  
Santa Fe  
Fireshed  
Coalition

Wildfire Risk in the Santa Fe Fireshed



[www.santafefireshed.org](http://www.santafefireshed.org)

## **Appendix B: Meeting Agenda**

### **Santa Fe Community Meeting**

Date: July 9, 2018

Location: Santa Fe Indian School, 1510 Cerrillos Road

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 pm

*Welcome to the GSFFC Santa Fe Community Meeting!*

The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition acts to create healthy resilient forests, secure water sources, fire adapted communities and effective firefighter response. Coalition partners collaborate with communities to design and carry out projects that meet these goals.

#### Purpose

The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition has prepared a wildfire risk assessment and wildfire mitigation strategy for the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed in the mountains east of Santa Fe. The purpose of this meeting is to learn about the history of wildfire in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which establishes the need for this assessment and strategy, and to present the results of the risk assessment and discuss the strategy with the public.

#### Agenda

5:15–5:30 pm Public arrives

5:30 pm        Community Meeting begins  
                 Introduction to the GSFFC  
                 Ryan Swazo-Hinds, moderator  
                 Pueblo of Tesuque and Chair of the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition

5:40 pm        Wildfire History on the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed  
                 Dr. Ellis Margolis  
                 U.S. Geological Survey

6:00 pm        Wildfire Risk Assessment and Strategy for Mitigating the Wildfire Risk  
                 Steve Bassett  
                 The Nature Conservancy

6:35 pm        Questions and Discussion

7:00 pm        Community Meeting ends

7:00–7:15 pm Public departs, can view displays

Visit the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition at:

World Wide Web:  <http://www.santafefireshed.org/>

Facebook:  @SFFireshed

Twitter:  @SFFireshed

Instagram:  @SantaFeFireshed

Join our Contact List to receive periodic updates: <http://www.santafefireshed.org/joinus/>

## GSFFC Vision

We envision a landscape with healthy forests and secure water sources. Communities in and near forested landscapes are fire adapted, with residents who take responsibility to reduce risks before wildfire occurs. Prepared communities feel secure and understand the role of fire in the landscape. Residents support treatments, including thinning trees, prescribed burns and managed wildfires, and accept smoke associated with fire management. Firefighting agencies provide well-coordinated, safe, and effective response to wildfires. Resilient forests and thriving communities create economic, recreational and spiritual benefits for residents and visitors to enjoy.

## GSFFC Mission

The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition uses a pro-active, collaborative approach to improve the health and long-term resilience of forested watersheds and communities by addressing wildfire. The Coalition works to build support, understanding, and shared knowledge of the role of fire in an adaptive framework to realize our goals. Our primary goal is to identify and implement high priority on-the-ground projects that make the Fireshed and its communities more resilient to wildfire while maintaining and restoring resilient landscapes. This goal will be realized when fire is used as a tool for management throughout our fire adapted forests, and the communities in and adjacent to these forests become fire adapted—they understand the role of fire and are prepared for its occurrence.

## Legal Status

The GSFFC is a coalition of public and private organizations. The GSFFC is *not* a subdivision of the State of New Mexico, as defined in the state's Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 §§ 10-15-1 to 10-15-4. Although federal agencies participate in the GSFFC, the Coalition is *not* a federal advisory board and was not created by a federal agency, as defined by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. app. 2, §§ 1 to 16 (2016). The GSFFC operates informally to support its partners, and is *not* incorporated as a non-profit organization, 501(C)(3), partnership, or other legal entity. All partners in the GSFFC participate on a voluntary basis; no one receives remuneration for participating in the GSFFC.

## Partners

Organizations participating in the GSFFC include New Mexico State Forestry Division, Pueblo of Tesuque, Forest Stewards Guild, City of Santa Fe Fire Department, Santa Fe Watershed Association, The Nature Conservancy, Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil & Water Conservation District, Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, U.S. Forest Service, Sierra Club, City of Santa Fe Water Division, U.S. Geological Survey, New Mexico Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute, New Mexico Game & Fish Department, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wildfire Network, County of Santa Fe Fire Department, Tesuque Valley Community Association, New Mexico Forest Industry Association, Tetra Tech, and Aspen CRM Solutions.



**This report was prepared by Alan Barton of the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWR), a partnering organization in the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition. This report was issued in July, 2018.**

**Photos ©2018 by Alan Barton of the NMFWR.**