**January 14, 2015**

**Rare Species and Fire Break Out Group**

**Participants (no list?)**

**Brainstorming Ideas:**

* Implementing fire without incidental take of rare species
* Identify key species that may help address other species (indicator or umbrella species)
* What are the things we need to think about as we plan a fire
* Are there minimum standards that should be implemented on all fires? 1/3rd of occupied habitat, 1/5th of occupied habitat; anything more than threshold needs justification
* Develop guidelines
* Monitoring
* Decision support tools
* Questions that should be asked prior to fire decision
* Awareness of rare species issues to fire practitioners
* Communication of current research to help with fire decisions
* Provide species or group-specific information to help with fire decisions
* Collect anecdotal information (it is Science!)
* Need an outlet for communication information on other management activities (mowing, chemical, etc.) often associated with fire or in combination with fire, or as alternatives = researchers + managers interaction
* Planning for diversity when creating fire-dependent habitat for rare species and wildlife in general (not just as a remnant)
* Help on HOW to DO education most effectively (for researchers and land managers)
* Recognize implications of different choices by agencies/organizations regarding fire (“do nothing” versus other options = fight the “do nothing” culture) (fight the internal inertia, and/or the paralysis by analysis)
* Institutional knowledge transferred to other staff
* Develop a collective knowledge for both intra- and inter- institutional

**Priorities:**

1. **Develop Guidelines and Standards**
2. **“Monitoring” (surveys/inventory/research, etc.)**
3. **Communication between researchers, land managers, fire managers**
4. **Develop Guidelines and Standards**

* Relationship between intensity and refugia
* How do we get present information/knowledge to broad array of land managers (State and Feds, Conservancies, etc.)
* Size of unit (and amount burned) versus refugia size or amount and distribution
* Species-specific guidelines that support doing “something” (population response, sensitivity/**red flag species at risk**)
* Dormant, summer, fall fire effects and fire frequencies (the new or current fire frequencies that are needed to sustain or maintain fire-dependent systems)
* “Natural” fire regimes – timing, intensity and severity
* Combination with fire surrogates – mowing, herbicide, other mechanical, other treatments/techniques
* Firebreak development – permanent versus seasonal (mineral soil, mowed, wet, fuel model change, planting /maintaining green breaks
* A decision tree – objectives/site values
* Ignition patterns – ring/perimeter, strip head, dot, what are differences?

1. **“Monitoring” (surveys/inventory/research, etc.)**

* Land managers need help developing cost-effective strategies for monitoring the effects of their management activities (specific to fire and rare species)
* Emphasize distinction between surveying, inventory, monitoring and research

1. Communicate the need to survey prior to implementing management = develop a process follow when developing a monitoring project
2. Connect land managers to researchers to help with survey and monitoring needs
3. Help identify funding for monitoring
4. Help identify both effective and cost-effective monitoring techniques for specific species or species groups
5. Opportunistic monitoring – i.e. post-wildfire
6. Educating “funders” on monitoring needs
7. Identify and connect to volunteer monitoring opportunities and training
8. **Communication between researchers, land managers, fire managers**

* Provide guidelines to all researchers on the types of fire data to collect, record, and PUBLISH (tie to funding)
  + Connecting researchers looking for a fire-related project to land managers with projects needed or opportunities
* Breakdown the Language barrier between wildlife researchers and fire folks
  + Easy to understand, no or minimal scientific jargon (from both researchers and fire managers)
* Consortia websites for sharing wildlife research, on-going research, sharing “research needed” lists. Central housing on Consortia website and needs to be searchable (keywords)
  + EJournal: open access, peer-reviewed, housed by Consortia; would include land manager experiences, fire experiences, fire notes, wildlife experiences, notes from the field, but keep it all short (bullet points)
  + This may exist already? Natural Areas Journal Notes – but how to make Lake States focused
  + What about www.conservation.regsitry.org?