

AGENDA ITEM # VII.

Version 1.1 5/31/2018 (TQ)

Community Forestry Stewardship

Problem Statement - While southern Utah abounds in scenic wonder and is rich in tourism with pockets of economic development, the natural resources of the area are also ripe with hazards and risks. Wildfire has a long history in this area but is also a growing threat to vast areas – including communities, wildland urban interface areas, watersheds, forests, and rangelands. In the presence of drought, fire, insect and disease outbreaks, and floods, natural and scenic resources as well as communities in southern Utah face increasing uncertainty and risks. Confronting these uncertainties and risks requires a concerted effort with energy from many sources brought to bear. A combined long-term stewardship effort can effectively address these and create a future where risks and uncertainty are managed and mitigated.

Goal - The goal for Community Forestry Stewardship is to enhance and protect the long-term social and economic benefits derived from the natural and scenic resources of southern Utah through understanding and action that mitigates and manages hazards and risks.

Community Forestry Stewardship Long-term Objectives

1. Increase understanding of the risks and uncertainties to the natural and scenic resources of Southern Utah across all lands – for example, cross-boundary wildfire risk, insect, disease, drought, flood, and other human and natural disturbances.
2. Set and achieve long-term stewardship goals through an all lands scenario planning approach to manage and mitigate the hazards and risks to natural and scenic resources of Southern Utah – for example, implement long-term results-oriented commitments to achieve stewardship goals at the landscape level.
3. Enhance opportunities for family wage jobs to help mitigate and manage risk and uncertainty – for example, establish long-term opportunities where results are achieved through actions taken on landscapes for 20-year time periods to achieve stewardship goals.
4. Employ and explore new technologies that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of stewardship treatments aimed at achieving long-term goals.

Possible approaches

1. Enlist partner organizations who are willing to sign on to the stated goal of Community Forestry Stewardship and the notion that cooperation is the best way to achieve the stated goal. Each partner would become a voice to help shape and actively achieve specific activities of the Stewardship effort.
2. Enlist colleges, universities, and research organizations to bring understanding to the risks and uncertainties and bring new innovative ways to achieve the goal and objectives of the Stewardship effort.
3. Enlist non-profits to engage in achieving specific activities consistent with their stated mission and the goal of the Stewardship effort.
4. Enlist counties and communities to actively engage with the Stewardship effort.
5. Enlist agencies – federal and state – to actively engage with the Stewardship effort.
6. Stewardship activities might include:
 - a. Encouraging the formation of long-term results-oriented stewardship agreements at the landscape level – commitments to achieve long-term outcomes on large landscapes, e.g., 20-year agreements.
 - b. Encouraging research and technology transfer into innovative approaches to reduce and mitigate risk and uncertainty for natural and scenic resources.
 - c. Encouraging communities to develop and maintain plans that address risks and uncertainty from fire, insect, disease, flood, and other natural and human disturbances – e.g., all lands scenario planning.
 - d. Encouraging all landowners within large landscape areas to cooperate in managing and mitigating risks and uncertainty in natural and scenic resources.