

Angora Fire – Future Forest Workshop Evaluation

November 3rd, 2007 Lake Tahoe Community College

N = 41 of 80 attendees

Ratings of workshop elements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
1. The information presented in this workshop was informative and comprehensive.	40%	50%	8%	--
2. The level of detail covered in this workshop was about right.	22%	72%	6%	--
3. This workshop made good use of the time allotted.	41%	49%	10%	--
4. The registration process for this workshop was straight forward and easy to complete.	64%	33%	3%	--

5. How did you hear about this workshop? (*Circle all*)

<i>Mailing</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>From colleague</i>	<i>Other</i>
15%	51%	10%	41%	7%

7. Overall how would you rate this workshop?

<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
30%	58%	13%	--	--

8. Average of ratings workshop presentation (*5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = fair, 1 = poor*)

Overview of the Angora Fire and Forest Ecology and Restoration

a. Richard Harris – Angora Fire: What will the Future Forest Be?	4.1
b. Michael Barbour – Forest Ecology of the Tahoe Basin	4.3
c. Joe McBride – Land Use Impacts on Tahoe Forests	3.8
d. John Helms – Forest Restoration Alternatives	4.8

Overview of Agency Approaches to Forest Restoration, Monitoring, and Modeling

e. Eli Illano - Forest Service Approaches to Forest Restoration	3.9
f. Judy Brozo-Clot – California Tahoe Conservancy Approaches to Forest Restoration	3.1
g. Daylin Wade - Field Monitoring Methods	4.1
h. Susie Kocher – Field Monitoring Methods	4.1
i. Mike DeLasaux – Simulation of Future Vegetation	3.8

9. What stake do you hold in this issue? (*does not total 100% because participants expressed multiple affiliations.*)

Resident affected by Angora	Resident of the Basin	Environmental or interest group	Land management agency	Private company/ consultant	Other:
17%	27%	29%	32%	15%	10%

10. How familiar were you with forest ecology and management at Tahoe before today?

Very familiar	Some what familiar	A little familiar	Not at all familiar
59%	27%	14%	0%

11. What is your utilization of the Tahoe Basin?

Live here full time	Live here part time	Visit frequently	Visit occasionally
67%	6%	14%	14%

12. Please share any comments you might have about this workshop or the issue of fire recovery at Lake Tahoe.

Overall:

- Great workshop - I will check your website for updates on the information presented.
- A good start to the interdisciplinary dialogue and planning process that John Helms recommended (2)
- We bought our home 10 years ago because of its location! Excellent discussion at end - will read material, use websites and learn more! Thank you!
- Great bringing together of specialists with tremendously relevant experience and knowledge as well as different perspectives. Thanks!

Speakers:

- All speakers very informative and presented in an interesting and engaging manner, inspired by the passion of the presenters. (2)
- *McBride* - I am afraid that Dr. McBride's presentation may encourage planting of non-natives rather than encouraging natives, but defensible space landscaping post Angora does not show that the native vegetation was the cause of structure ignition. In many cases, houses in fact ignited trees. Storage of fire wood, density of vegetation, composition of roofs are bigger concerns! This presentation was a red herring, which could backfire for extension service and land management. Excess of fuels and poor defensible space were the problem - I may have taken this the opposite of how it was intended, but it sure was not clear. You need to be direct about what you are saying to the lay public.
 - Joe McBride gave an interesting talk on urban forests but it would have benefited from landowner planting suggestions
- *De Lasaux* - . You need to be direct about what you are saying to the lay public in the modeling discussion. Some groups will seize on modeling, even though model appears extremely deficient.
 - Re: modeling - include no artificial regeneration of any tree species and artificial regeneration of both/all species. Also, make it very clear how the models' limitations apply to the real world.
- *Barbour* - Data on TRPA (80% LSOG) was wrong. Should find out about local regs before presentation.
- *Helms* - John Helm's presentation was supposed to be providing objective information for public consideration but it was clear via numerous statements that there's a not-so subtle suggestion to the public to not leave burn area alone but to instead replant in some way.
 - Michael Barbour and John Helms gave excellent talks on post fire forests. .
- *Roundtable* - The roundtable was best as it illustrated different ways to consider potential solutions.
 - Answer section/panel was excellent!

Program:

- Great way to communicate to the agencies and organizations and public enough historic, scientific, agency policies and interpretation.
- Nice that it was info focused and people were not being controversial.
- The agenda/invitation may have overstated the ambitions of the workshop - I think some participants thought they were going to get a chance to give input/ opinion on what the future look/ composition of the Angora Ridge would be and it seems the opportunity for that was limited.

- Also need to make sure you present realistic future possibilities and examples for the Tahoe Basin. Don't imply that public will see full forest in their lifetime if they replant - provide realistic expectations.
- There were few disclaimers to prevent the public from getting an incorrect impression of what the future forest would look like. Dr. Helms very appropriately pointed out that a brush field is the most likely short term future composition of the burn area. Other presenters showed slides of heavily managed private (industrial forestry) stands that are very unrealistic for the Tahoe Basin. This sets the USFS and other local agencies up to look bad in the eyes of lay people.
- The emphasis was strongly focused on late-stage successional coniferous forests as the goal - no discussion of other alternatives. Not a strong ecology emphasis, more tree -farming. For example, 6 to 10 mentions of herbicide treatments, not a mention of possible problems, i.e. sever problems for amphibians
- Emphasis was on the past and immediate response to the fire. It is imperative that we look to the future and determine what the fuels and stand conditions may be to ameliorate inevitable effects of wildfire and epidemics.

Time management:

- Very well organized and managed. Kept presentations on time and allowed for discussion panel at end
- Some presentations could have been better refined for efficient use of time.
- I think it might have been better to have more time for questions throughout versus at the end when everyone was tired, but maybe ok.
- Although speakers were right on the nose or better with keeping within allotted time, I would find an hour shorter would have been a plus.
- The frequent breaks were wonderful

Facilities/Location:

- LTCC was a great facility for the workshop.
- For almost all speakers, placing the podium to face the audience, rather than the south wall, would have increased connection of speaker to audience. It's awkward for the speaker to look away or a different direction from the audience.
- Most of the speakers were actually better without the microphone.
- I had a difficult time viewing info/text on screen because was so far away.
- Would have appreciated having coffee/snacks available in the morning (2)
- Great food (2)

Next Steps:

- Not sure how our questions/input might be used - perhaps give agency staff present some idea what people are thinking/ wanting to see for Angora ridge. Thank you for organizing!
- I think a lot more people would be interested in hearing some of this.
- Would be good to hear/learn more about how can members of the public help.
- Hopefully some of the speakers could be contacted for individual presentations to various local groups.
- I would like to see a follow up session on what the monitoring shows
- Much of Tahoe's forests can be characterized as interface forest. Fore this reason I believe that a workshop that focused on the relationship between human communities and forest health... Address such topics as the effects of performing defensible space measures on an individual basis versus a community/neighborhood basis.
- Had hoped that USFS were further along in planning to provide vision of future.