

Risk Assessment Workshop

Proposal

- Develop a workshop or series of workshops aimed at eliciting public input on the 'relative importance' of highly valued resources and assets (HVRAs).
- Form a working group of interested partners who will:
 1. Provide initial feedback for HVRA ranking
 2. Assist in developing and implementing the public participation workshop(s)

Background

The Nature Conservancy is leading a wildfire risk assessment of the Santa Fe Fireshed, following the procedures established through the GTR 315. The risk assessment relies on quantifying the likelihood of wildfire occurring, its intensity, and the susceptibility of HVRAs to wildfire effects. In the assessment process, HVRAs are identified and weighted on their 'relative importance.' While HVRAs have been identified, an important next step is to assign relative importance values.

The risk assessment that is currently underway in the Fireshed would benefit from public participation. Public participation could improve the relative importance weighting of HVRAs (and sub-HVRAs) and reveal relative value of features within each HVRA (like which trails are most important).

The framework that is being used for the risk assessment (GTR-315) establishes a transparent process for identifying the relative importance of the HVRAs and sub-HVRAs. GTR-315 recommends holding a workshop to elicit relative importance from resource and fire specialists as well as other non-USFS experts, though to increase public engagement an open call could be made for relative importance weighting scenarios. These individual weighting scenarios could then be averaged to create an ensemble weighting scenario. Several methods for eliciting relative importance have been suggested by the authors of GTR-315 including Simple Multi-Attribute Rating Technique (SMART) or the Value Integration Survey approach to multi-attribute value theory (MAVT).

In addition to improving the relative importance weightings baked in to the risk assessment, public participation could also illuminate subtleties within HVRAs that are valued inherently by public perception (such as relative value of trails or developed recreation areas). Mapping the relative importance of features within an HVRA allows the value of the overall HVRA to be distributed by actual importance (so recreation areas that people value the most, are valued the most in the risk assessment).

Action Items / Timeline

- June 8th: Identify Coalition members interested in participating in the working group
- June 18 – 24th: First working group meeting
- End of July/Early August: ~ 2 WG meetings to finalize workshop details
- Mid August: Implement workshop

Interested? Contact Hannah Bergemann (USFS) at hannahbergemann@fs.fed.us or Steve Bassett (TNC) at sbassett@tnc.org