

## USFS Desired Conditions Workshop Series October 10-11 Mixed Conifer

The Southwestern Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERI), in cooperation with the Southwestern Region of the U.S. Forest Service, plan on hosting a series of workshops on desired conditions for forested ecosystems of Arizona and New Mexico. The next series of workshops are focused on mixed conifer forested ecosystems and they will be held in Arizona on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The October 10-11 workshop is structured for Forest Service participants, the October 17-18 workshop is structured for non-agency participants.

This two day workshop will start out at the Holiday Inn Express in Show-Low Arizona. The schedule is as follows:

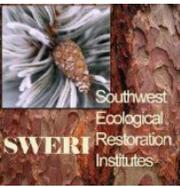
Wednesday October 10, starting at 8:00 A.M. in the Holiday Inn conference room, begins with a half day in a classroom setting, and includes presentations and a discussion session. The morning session will introduce the desired conditions, the why here/why now, a discussion regarding the need for restoration, and a conversation related to the science behind the DC's. There will also be a presentation on wildlife and MSO management. The workshop is supported by an information notebook that will be provided to all participants.

The afternoon session consists of a field trip to the Greens Peak and Whiting Knoll area on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest to look at mixed conifer stands and have further discussions about the mixed conifer desired conditions. Field trip transportation will be provided. Following the field visit we will return to Show-Low at around 5:00 P.M.

Day two, Thursday October 11, starting at 8:00 A.M. in the Holiday Inn Parking lot, will be an all-day field trip to the Rim Lakes area on the Black Mesa RD, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, to visit additional sites that will facilitate the understanding and discussion of the desired conditions. Transportation, water, and hardhats will be provided but participants will need to bring a lunch and field clothes. An agenda will be posted as soon as it is finalized. The second day will end around 5:00 P.M. at the Holiday Inn in Show-Low.

The high intensity wildfires of 2011 and 2012 provide the backdrop to pursue a dialogue on what current and future forests should look like and how they can function from an ecological perspective. Key concepts include composition, structure, and function of the forested communities, ecological disturbances, and the sustainable provision of ecosystem services such as clean water, wood products, wildlife habitat, and forage.

The role of SWERI is to bring the unique assets of the universities to set the stage for learning and to help build understanding of the ecological and social science that informs our choices. The Southwestern Region of the U.S. Forest Service has developed a manuscript defining desired conditions based on a review of the scientific literature to describe resilient and sustainable forests. These desired conditions will be the focal point for the workshop discussions. This series of workshops is different than other Forest Service meetings in that they are not geared toward a triggering event such as Forest Planning or environmental review, but rather are intended to create an ongoing dialogue as we learn from the recent large fires as well as the impacts from other stressors such as drought and the potential effects of climate change.



### **Proposed Workshop Series Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Desired Conditions Discussion Topic</b>
October 10-October 11	Arizona	Mixed Conifer vegetation types

Additional details will be distributed in early September. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn for this workshop. To register for the workshops please go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Oct10-11DCWksp>

**For more information, please contact:**

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