



Changing Roles: WUI Professional Development Program

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The complex issues in the wildland-urban interface affect how interface forests can be managed, how natural resource professionals communicate and work with interface residents and community decision makers, and how managers respond to and assist the development of local land use decisions and regulations that affect natural resources. To help natural resource professionals work more effectively in the wildland-urban interface, Changing Roles: Wildland-Urban Interface Professional Development Program was created. The program consists of four training modules: (1) Introduction to the range and complexity of wildland-urban interface issues, (2) Tools for effectively managing natural resources in the wildland-urban interface, (3) Strategies for understanding and influencing the development of policies and plans that affect natural resources, and (4) Communication skills for working with interface residents and community planners and leaders. Each module contains a trainers guide with background information and interactive exercises to be used with workshop participants. A total of 39 exercises were created and pilot tested with students and resource professionals. Much of the information in the modules is presented in 28 fact sheets that can be distributed as reading material or used with other audiences as handouts. Twenty-three case studies provide vivid descriptions of interface issues across the South and how they are being resolved. PowerPoint; Presentations are provided to help introduce concepts, discuss exercises, and engage participants in exploring case studies. Evaluation materials and additional resources are also provided. The program materials can be found at http://www.interfacesouth.org/products/training/changing_roles.html.

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