

## Appendix 6: About the Phoenix Team

PRESENTED HERE ARE INTRODUCTIONS TO THE FOUR EXPERTS who made up the Phoenix Team of Environmental Action Committee of West Marin.

**Laurel Collins** is a consulting geomorphologist. She received her undergraduate degree in 1981 from the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of California at Berkeley. She has worked on numerous research projects with the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and U.C. Berkeley. Laurel has also served as District Geologist for the East Bay Regional Parks, during which time she mapped landslides along the urban/wildland interface and developed policy for fuelbreak and landslide management. Some of her local research publications concerning hillside and fluvial processes include the effects of the 1982 storm in the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Lorenzo River; hydrology and geomorphology of tidal marshes in the San Francisco Estuary; managing geological hazards in the Regional Parks; and assessing runoff, erosion, and effectiveness of erosion control after the Oakland Hills Firestorm. As part of the research funded by the Marin Community Foundation through Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Laurel is presently studying the effect of fire on stream flow and hillside erosion in portions of Inverness and the Point Reyes National Seashore.

**Tom Gaman** is a California registered forester who lives in Inverness. He holds degrees in forestry from the University of California at Berkeley and Yale University. His business, East- West Forestry Associates, is under contract with the U.S. Forest Service Remote Sensing Lab, monitoring the vegetation, wildlife habitat, and forest fuels accumulation on National Forest lands. In addition, Tom has been involved for 20 years in management and assessment of urban forests and of private lands, developing Geographic Information System databases. He is a member of the California Urban Forests Advisory Council (which advises California Department of Forestry) and is an active volunteer working with local youth and Mexican exchange students through Partners of the Americas.

**Ray Moritz** is an urban forester and fire ecologist. He studied biological science at the University of Chicago and forestry at the University of Minnesota, where his undergraduate program was in silviculture (forest culture) / ecology. Ray's graduate program was in forest ecology with a specialization in fire ecology. His academic research produced the vegetation management program for 33,000 acres of declining pine and boreal forest where fire exclusion had resulted in the forest's failure to reproduce itself. Ray has lived and worked in West Marin for 16 years, developing extensive expertise in the pine, fir and hardwood forests of the of the Inverness Ridge. He was a consultant on the Marin Municipal Water District / MCOSD "Mount Tamalpais Area Vegetation Management Plan."

**Carol Rice** is proprietor of Wildland Resource Management, a consulting firm specializing in fire protection in the wildland/urban interface, and Ms. Rice has been involved in this arena for 18 years. Projects in which she has played a major role include baseline studies of the Mount Tamalpais area and a subsequent vegetation and fire management plan; a regional vegetation management plan for the East Bay Hills; a planning guide for San Mateo County's wildland/urban interface; and several fire hazard reduction programs. She conducts varied investigations of fire behavior and effects, is a frequent lecturer on these subjects, and has written over 35 technical reports and publications (including a chapter on fire ecology in the State Fire Marshal's textbook). Ms. Rice holds a bachelor of science in forestry and a master of science in fire science and management, both from the department of forestry and resource management at the University of California at Berkeley. She is a present or past officer of professional organizations including Fire Working Groups for the National Society of American Foresters.