

# FLN Networker No. 141: September 18, 2013

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*The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior (BIA, BLM, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service) and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, links and subscription requests to Liz Rank.*

For more about the FLN, visit [www.conservationgateway.org/fln](http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln) or contact Lynn Decker.

**Time Sensitive Item:** Webinar on prescribed burn associations—this afternoon—see listings below

## News from the Field

**Arizona:** The **Parashant Partnership** has a great **new website** (<http://parashantpartnership.com/>). The site holds documents from workshops, past and future, along with other resources and information about the landscape and partnership. For more, contact **Eli Lauren-Bernstein** ([eli.bernstein@nau.edu](mailto:eli.bernstein@nau.edu)).

**California:** Last week, **Mendocino FireScope** core team members met for a session on “**Seeing our Landscape through One Another’s Eyes**” at which three members gave presentations on how they see the landscape. These perspectives included **motorized recreation and hunting, proactive fire management** by homesteading and ranching families, and **indigenous relationships** with the land of the Paskenta Band of the Nomlaki Tribe. For more, contact **Rick Mowery** ([rmowery@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmowery@fs.fed.us)).

**California:** The summer issue of the Trees Foundation *Forest & River News* has a good **article** by **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** on **prescribed fire training exchanges**—and particularly the one that the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council** will be **hosting next month**. (Download the [full issue](#) (10 MB) or see the article, attached.)

**California:** And as **fire continues to burn** in the landscape in and around the **California Klamath-Siskiyou FLN**, people in the area are communicating via (among other things) Facebook. In her [blog](#), **Michelle Medley-Daniel** ([wrtc@hayfork.net](mailto:wrtc@hayfork.net)) puts it well: “A **community** is defined as a group of people living together in one place, especially when that group **practices common ownership**. If you want to see **what that looks like, in the face of wildfire**, in one remote corner of California, visit: [www.facebook.com/groups/537554202959342](http://www.facebook.com/groups/537554202959342).”

**New Mexico:** A **prescribed fire training exchange** got underway **this week near Santa Fe**. The exchange, conducted **in Spanish**, has 27 participants from 9 countries. In spite of some flooding, the group is making good use of these first days, and expects to be burning soon. For pictures and details, see the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Coincidentally, the annual **stewardship report** just released by the Conservancy’s Michigan chapter has a brief **article** (attached) about Michigan land steward **Rodolfo Zuniga Villegas’** participation on the cadre of last year’s exchange. This year, Ro is leading the day-to-day activities of the exchange, supervising three squads of international participants.

**Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network:** The FAC Net now has a [page](#) on the Conservation Gateway that gives a quick **overview of the network**. A [map](#) of the eight pilot communities—in California, Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington—is also available. Profiles of the communities will be available soon. For more on the network, contact **Nick Goulette** ([nickg@hayfork.net](mailto:nickg@hayfork.net)) or **Wendy Fulks** ([wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org)).

**National:** The Conservancy's "Restoring America's Forests" director, **Chris Topik** ([ctopik@tnc.org](mailto:ctopik@tnc.org)), and fire historian **Steve Pyne** were recent guests on **Science Friday**. The [segment](#), "Wildfires Consume Funds Flagged for Prevention," aired on September 6.

## Request for Input: Northern Rockies / Southern Region

**Northern Rockies:** The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network is conducting a [survey](#) to inform the **Joint Fire Science Program** about high **priority research needs** in the northern Rockies. This survey is targeted for anyone involved in fire or fuels management in that region, including FMOs, fuels specialists, fire ecologists, fire planners, natural resource managers, silviculturists, communication specialists, and others. A [webinar](#) to **discuss the results** will take place on September 23 at 1:00 Mountain.

**Southern Region:** Instead of its usual meetings, the Center for Forest Disturbance Science (**Southern Research Station**) will be conducting a survey and holding a "virtual Technical Assistance Visit" process to **assess and plan its research program**. Input through this process will also be used by the Southern Fire Exchange and will be conveyed to JFSP. If you have comments regarding research needs in the areas of **prescribed fire, smoke management**, ecosystem restoration, or climate change, take the [survey](#), or contact **Scott Goodrick** ([sgoodrick@fs.fed.us](mailto:sgoodrick@fs.fed.us)) for access to the Virtual TAV site.

## Reports & Articles: Treatments & Fire Severity / Beetles & Fire / Public Opinion

**Treatments & Fire Severity:** The JFSP [report](#), "Fuel Treatments and Fire Severity: A Meta-Analysis," released this summer, synthesized results from 62 cases reported in 19 publications to "**assess the empirical support** for the **current fuel management paradigm**." The report is rather technical, but the discussion and management implications sections (pp. 18-21) are crisp and clear.

**Beetles & Fire:** The *Forest Science* [article](#) "**Interactions** Among the **Mountain Pine Beetle**, Fire and Fuels" reviews the **current state of knowledge** of how wildfire and fuel reduction treatment affect the beetles, as well as the effects of beetle activity on fuels and wildfire behavior and its implications for firefighter safety. There is also an extensive list of literature cited.

**Public Opinion:** A [July 2013 poll](#) commissioned by the National Forest Foundation found that there is **strong support for the funding and stewardship** of the country's **national forests**. In terms of wildfire, a large (and regionally variable) proportion of voters see uncontrollable **wildfires as a "serious" problem**; by a slim majority, respondents chose the "should be extinguished as soon as possible" option over "forest fires are a part of nature" (see the [wildfire results](#) for exact phrasing).

## Videos: Fire Adapted / How Climate Change Fuels Fires / Inside a Fire

**Fire Adapted:** This **Bureau of Indian Affairs** (BIA) [video](#) "Fire Adapted" gives a good **introduction** to the basics of fire adapted community principles, and outlines a number of **things that individuals can do**. It also puts fire—and preparedness—in a **cultural context**. A companion [video](#), "Elders," describes and encourages the use of fire as part of indigenous cultural heritage.

**How Climate Change Fuels Fires:** In a [grist.org](#) "**Explained in 90 Seconds**" [video](#), **Matt Hurteau** explains, in the promised minute and a half, how climate change (and past management) fuels the large fires we're now seeing.

**Inside a Fire:** And finally, National Geographic has a [video clip](#) taken from **inside a lodgepole stand** during an experimental **crown fire**.

## In the News: Insurance & Mitigation / Losing the War

**Insurance & Mitigation:** According to an [article](#) in the Colorado Springs *Gazette*, a **major insurance company** has alerted customers in six western states that inspectors will be visiting their homes to assess their risk from wildfire. The company will be **recommending mitigation** measures, and **may cancel policies** of those that fail to take action.

**Losing the War:** The *Durango [CO] Herald* ran a **long and thorough series** by Joe Hanel, starting with the article “Losing the War on Wildfire: National Attitude toward Fire Creates Indefensible Space” with sidebars on the [decision process](#) and [climate](#). (For the rest of the series, see [part 2](#), [part 3](#) and its [sidebar](#), [part 4](#) and [part 5](#) and its [sidebar](#).) **Lynn Jungwirth** of the Watershed Center and **Chris Topik** of the Conservancy are quoted in these articles.

## Just for Fun: Photo Contest

**Photo Contest:** *Fire Management Today* is inviting submissions for its 2013 photo contest. Among the categories are **prescribed fire**, **WUI fire** and a miscellaneous category that includes things like **fire effects** and **fire-dependent communities or species**. Details are on the [FMT home page](#) (right side); entries are due by **December 7**.

## Jobs: Fire Crews & Managers

**Fire Crews & Managers:** The **Conservancy's** North Carolina chapter is advertising for several **seasonal fire crew positions**. For information, visit the [careers page](#) and search on “fire.” Applications for a crew manager (job ID 41411), assistant manager (41412) and technician (41410) for the Sandhills crew are due **September 26**; applications for a crew manager (41405) and technician (41406) for the Coastal Plain crew are due **September 27**.

## Webinars

**September 18**  
**new listing**

### **Working with Prescribed Burn Associations**

noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern

This NRCS webinar is intended to highlight the usefulness of PBAs in overcoming obstacles to burning. The presenters are Chuck Stanley, John Weir and Doug Whisenhunt.

Information: <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/working-with-prescribed-burn-associations>

**September 25**  
**new listing**

### **How Will Climate Change and Treatments Affect Future Forests? Testing Alternatives with the Climate-FVS Model**

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern

What will burned systems look like over the coming decades under warming climate? Do management treatments make a lasting difference or will climate override their effects? The presenters in this SW Fire Science Consortium webinar will discuss an application of the relatively new feature of the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) called Climate-FVS, which modifies the widely used FVS model to make it simulate effects of climate change.

Information: <https://climate-change-future-forests.eventbrite.com/>

**October 22**  
**new listing**

**Predicting Long-Term Wildfire Effects across Complex Landscapes**

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern

Steve Norman will present this Forest Service webinar.

Information: see the [series flyer](#) for a “join here” button, or contact Amy Daniels ([adaniels02@fs.fed.us](mailto:adaniels02@fs.fed.us)) to be added to the mailing list to receive a detailed flyer

## FLN Workshops

**October 8-10**

**Appalachian FLN**

See the Wildland Fire in the Appalachians conference listing, below.

**October 22**

**Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains Landscape / Blairsville, GA**

The inaugural workshop of this new landscape will include introductions to fire adapted communities, fire ecology and lessons learned from the FLN as a diverse partnership comes together in north Georgia.

Information: **Malcolm Hodges** ([mhodges@tnc.org](mailto:mhodges@tnc.org)) or **Jim Wentworth** ([jwentworth@fs.fed.us](mailto:jwentworth@fs.fed.us))

**October 15-18**  
**corrected dates**

**Parashant Partnership / St. George, UT**

The partnership’s fall workshop will include a 2½ day working field trip to Mount Trumbull and the Bar 10 Ranch, as well as a day-long work session in St. George. Participants will gather information and begin to draft comments for the NEPA scoping process on the BLM Uinkaret Mts. Vegetation Management Plan.

Information: **Eli Lauren-Bernstein** ([eli.bernstein@nau.edu](mailto:eli.bernstein@nau.edu))

**December 4**  
**new listing**

**Southern Blue Ridge FLN Leads Workshop / Asheville, NC**

Information: **Margit Bucher** ([mbucher@tnc.org](mailto:mbucher@tnc.org)) or **Beth Buchanan** ([bbuchanan@fs.fed.us](mailto:bbuchanan@fs.fed.us))

**December 5-6**  
**new listing**

**Northern California Prescribed Fire Council / Redding, CA**

Save the date for this fall meeting, which will focus on prescribed fire and oak woodlands, wildlife and habitat. As usual, there will be a full-day meeting with research and management presentations, an evening social with good food and drink, and a field tour guided by local land managers and scientists.

Information: Details will be available soon; contact Lenya Quinn-Davidson ([nwcapfc@gmail.com](mailto:nwcapfc@gmail.com)) to be added to the mailing list.

## Training, Conferences & Workshops

**September 20-21**  
**new listing**

**Challenges of Whitebark Pine Restoration / Bozeman, MT**

This annual science & management workshop is co-sponsored by the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation and the Northern Rockies Fire Science Exchange.

Information: <http://whitebarkfound.org/?p=87>

**September 24**

**Learn to Plan for Contingencies / Pickstown, SD**

This Great Plains Fire Science Exchange training will help participants—including public and private land managers and prescribed fire associations—“think like a burn boss,” using sand table exercises to simulate their own burn units. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

Information: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/2013/05/21/learn-to-plan-for-contingencies/>

- September 25-26** **Washington State WUI Conference: Collaboration for Fire Adapted Communities / Wenatchee, WA**  
Information: <http://www.scwrcd.org/wui.html>
- September 25-26** **Patch Burn Grazing Workshop / Gary, SD**  
This workshop will feature a combination of ranch tours, talks and advice on using fire and grazing rotations for grassland health, and livestock and wildlife production. The draft agenda is attached to [Networker issue #140](#).  
Information: <http://igrow.org/events/patch-burn-grazing-workshop/>
- October 3** **Field Review of Bethlehem Authority Lands / Monroe County, PA**  
The Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council is hosting a review of treatments conducted by a successful partnership on this 9,000-acre oak barrens complex.  
Information: see flyer attached to [Networker issue #137](#)
- October 8-10** **Wildland Fire in the Appalachians / Roanoke, VA**  
This conference, sponsored by the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists and the Association for Fire Ecology, will **likely take the place of the Appalachians FLN annual fall meeting**, so network leads are encouraging everyone to attend.  
The conference program and a list of registrants (among other things) are now on the website.  
Information: <http://appfireconference.org/>
- October 12 deadline** **Basic Wildland Firefighter Training (S-130 / S-190) / Honey Creek, IA**  
Partners in the **Loess Hills** will be offering this training for volunteer firefighters and others interested in wildland fire training. The classroom portion of the work must be completed online before this field day. The registration deadline is **September 24**.  
Information: see the flyer and application attached to [Networker issue #138](#)
- October 15-17** **Tenth Symposium on Fire & Forest Meteorology / Bowling Green, KY**  
See the call for papers in the sidebar for a list of topics for this American Meteorological Society conference.  
Information: <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201310fireforest.html>
- October 16 new listing** **Field Trip in the Pinaleno / Safford, AZ**  
This SW Fire Science Consortium tour the 2004 Nuttall-Gibson Complex and 1996 Clark Peak Fire near Safford, Arizona will explore the fire and disturbance history of the Pinaleno range and new efforts to restore mixed conifer and spruce-fir through the Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project.  
Information: <https://pinaleno-fieldtrip.eventbrite.com>
- October 21-24 deadline** **IAWF International Smoke Symposium / Adelphi, MD**  
Early registration ends **September 21**.  
Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/2013SmokeSymposium/>
- November 5-6** **Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council / Clovis, CA**  
The inaugural meeting of this prescribed fire council will include discussions of fire management, air quality, fire research and outreach in support of the council's mission of working collaboratively "to promote, protect, conserve, and expand the responsible use of prescribed fire and cultural fire in the southern



Sierra Nevada's fire-adapted landscapes and fire-dependent landscapes, and to promote public understanding and acceptance on the ecological and cultural importance of burning.”

Information: <http://www.sosierapfc.org/calendar-of-events>

**November 13-19**

**Agency Administrators' Prescribed Fire Workshop / Florida**

This workshop offered by the Prescribed Fire Training Center uses group and field exercises as well as classroom presentations to cover prescribed fire program management, risk management and burn plans. The application deadline in **September 20**.

Info: [www.fws.gov/fire/pftc/training\\_opportunities.shtml#AgencyAdministrators](http://www.fws.gov/fire/pftc/training_opportunities.shtml#AgencyAdministrators)

**November 14-16**

**Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education / Salt Lake City, UT**

This National Fire Protection Association conference will bring together wildfire experts, Firewise community representatives, community planners, civic leaders, homeowners, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others for a chance to network and share best-practices.

Info: <http://www.firewise.org/courses-and-training/backyards-and-beyond.aspx>

**Jan 13-17, 2014**  
**new listing**

**Rx510 – Advanced Fire Effects / Tucson, AZ**

The National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) is offering this course; nominations are due (through GATRs) by November 1.

Information: [http://www.nafri.gov/pages/description\\_rx510.htm](http://www.nafri.gov/pages/description_rx510.htm)

**Feb 8-13, 2014**

**Society for Range Management: 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Technical Training & Trade Show / Orlando, FL**

The theme for the meeting, “From Dusty Trails to Waning Wetlands,” will bring drought and water management to the fore. The technical sessions, workshops and symposia will cover a wide range of topics, from wildlife to fire ecology.

Information: <http://rangelands.org/orlando2014/>

**Feb 20-22, 2014**

**Fire Ecology of the Northeast: Restoring Native and Cultural Ecosystems / New Haven, CT**

The call for papers is open (through October 31) for this workshop hosted by the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy .

Information: <http://www.talltimbers.org/YALEworkshop/>

**Feb 25-27, 2014**

**Fostering Resilience in Southwestern Ecosystems: A Problem-Solving Workshop / Tucson, AZ**

This JFSP workshop will help develop answers to pressing questions such as “How can managers build resilience when ecosystems are undergoing rapid change?” and “What are our options when megafires removes huge swaths of forests not adapted to this disturbance?”

Info: <http://swfireconsortium.org/Fire%20and%20Resiliency%20Ecology%20Workshop/>

**May 19-23, 2014**

**Large Wildland Fires: Social, Political & Ecological Effects / Missoula, MT**

The call for workshops and special sessions for this conference co-hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology and the International association of Wildland Fire is now open. Early bird registration is open.

Information: <http://largefireconference.org/>

## Send News, Links & Comments

**Lynn Decker** – [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) – Lynn is in Oregon September 30-October 4, and out October 7-11.

**Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in New Mexico through October 3, and out October 4-11.

**Wendy Fulks** – [wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org) – Wendy is in New Mexico September 15-22; out September 23, 26, 27; and in Oregon September 30-October 4.

**Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in the office.

**Heather Montanye** – [hmontanye@tnc.org](mailto:hmontanye@tnc.org) – Heather is out September 18-23 and September 27-30.

**Liz Rank** (Networker Editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is in the office.

To stop receiving the FLN Networker, please reply to this message and include your request in the body of the message.

### Full Links

News—California—Blog: [http://www.thewatershedcenter.com/?page\\_id=1214](http://www.thewatershedcenter.com/?page_id=1214)

News—FAC Net: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/fac/facnet/Pages/default.aspx>

News—Science Friday: <http://www.sciencefriday.com/segment/09/06/2013/wildfires-consume-funds-flagged-for-prevention.html#comments>

Request for Input—Northern Rockies survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CR37ZCF>

Webinar: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/298079281>

Southern Region survey: <http://disturbedforests.net/lime/index.php/956454/lang-en>

Reports & Articles—Fuel treatments & fire severity: [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_rp103.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_rp103.pdf)

Reports & Articles—Beetles & fire: <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/44259>

Reports & Articles—NFF poll: <http://www.nationalforests.org/poll>

Wildfire results: <https://www.nationalforests.org/file/download/975>

Videos—Fire adapted (BIA): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vLzLsd0dFo>

Elders: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tmWpGaxSdw>

Videos—How climate change fuels fires: <http://grist.org/climate-energy/explained-in-90-seconds-how-climate-change-fuels-wildfires>

Videos—Inside a fire: <http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/news/environment-news/surrounded-by-fire-vin/>

In the News—Insurance & mitigation: <http://gazette.com/side-streets-insurance-demands-for-fire-mitigation-may-mean-big-changes-in-communities/article/1502864>

In the News--Losing the war: <http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20130824/NEWS01/130829650/0/wildfires/Losing-the-war-on-wildfire>

Just for Fun—Photo contest: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fmt/>

Jobs—TNC careers page: [https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC\\_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS\\_HRAM.HRS\\_CE.GBL](https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL)

Webinars—FS series: <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/docs/landscape-science/webinar-series.pdf>

Training, Conferences & Workshops—Networker #137: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/FLN-Networker-137.aspx>

Training, Conferences & Workshops—Networker #138: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/FLN-Networker-138.aspx>

Training, Conferences & Workshops—Networker #140: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/FLN-Networker-140.aspx>

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## LIVING WITH FIRE

# Burning Together, Learning Together

## Bringing the TRES Model to the North Coast

By Lenya Quinn-Davidson

This fall, the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council will be hosting a unique training event in our region. The two-week prescribed fire training exchange, or TRES, will bring fire managers, students, private landowners, and other interested individuals—local, out of state, and maybe even international—to northwestern California to share and build

their experience in prescribed fire practices and fire effects. The TRES will take place from October 21 – November 3, and will involve up to 30 participants with a wide range of backgrounds and experience levels. Participants will work with local agencies and organizations, including Redwood National Park, the Bureau of Land Management, the Watershed Research and Training Center, and the Mid Klamath

Watershed Council, to implement burns in different ecosystems and fuel types across the region. They will also participate in field tours and presentations by local managers and researchers, giving them the opportunity to learn about conservation issues and strategies in northern California.

This event is sponsored by the Fire Learning Network (FLN) (a joint project



Spanish TRES participants and Redwood National Park staff conducting a prescribed burn in the white oak woodlands of the Bald Hills.  
PHOTO BY EAMON ENGBER, REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK, OCTOBER 2012



of The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, and several Department of Interior land management agencies), and it is one of many similar events that the FLN has inspired and supported across the country in recent years. The TRES is also sponsored by the groups listed above, the California Fire Science Consortium, Humboldt State Wildland Fire Lab, and a number of other partner agencies and organizations.

These events are invaluable to the natural resource communities where they take place, as they not only increase individual participants' knowledge of and experience with prescribed fire, but they also increase the capacity of the region's agencies, organizations, and landowners to effectively manage their lands and put much-needed "good fire" back on the ground. In both local and national surveys of fire managers, the lack of qualified personnel has been identified as a major obstacle to the use of prescribed fire. However, this is not the result of a lack of interest or enthusiasm for prescribed fire; rather, it is a lack of training opportunities and legal protections that keeps many land managers and landowners from



The press interviews a TRES participant in New Mexico, putting her media training to the test.  
PHOTO BY MARY HUFFMAN, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, SEPTEMBER 2012

gaining the necessary qualifications and experience to use fire as a tool.

In California, the primary users of prescribed fire are federal agencies, as they are some of the only groups with sufficient organizational capacity to conduct prescribed burns on a large scale. Many non-governmental groups,

timber companies, private landowners, and researchers—and even some local, state, and federal agencies that don't have fire management programs—are unable to build or maintain qualified crews, and they are therefore unable to use prescribed fire as part of their land management or restoration strategies. Likewise, agencies that do have fire management programs are finding it harder and harder to prioritize and staff prescribed burns, given deep cuts to their fuels and restoration budgets. The TRES model addresses these issues in direct and indirect ways. In a direct sense, these training events give burners from all backgrounds the rare opportunity to gain experience and qualifications in prescribed fire implementation, and during the two-week event, participants also constitute a fully staffed crew that increases the capacity of the local prescribed fire workforce by leaps and bounds. Indirectly, TRESs also forms a foundation for future collaboration, often spawning new cross-boundary prescribed fire projects and trainings.



TRES participants review maps and plans on a burn in New Mexico.  
PHOTO BY MARY HUFFMAN, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, SEPTEMBER 2010





Group photo: Spanish TRES participants and Redwood National Park staff, just after successfully completing a prescribed burn in the Bald Hills.  
 PHOTO BY EAMON ENGBER, REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK, OCTOBER 2012

### Spanish TRES Last Fall

Last fall, the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council helped host 20 firefighters from Spain who were touring northern California during a one-week international TRES (organized by the California Klamath-Siskiyou Fire Learning Network, one of the local hubs of the national FLN). The Spanish participants were mostly seasoned firefighters with years of experience, and they were eager to learn about fire ecology and effects here in northern California, where climate and vegetation patterns are not unlike the Mediterranean area where they live and work. During their visit to the North Coast, they toured the Canoe Fire in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, spent an evening comparing notes with local fire managers and students, and spent a full day in Redwood National Park, where they helped implement a prescribed burn in the white oak woodlands of the Bald Hills. That burn was a testament to the efficacy of the TRES model: due to a statewide burn ban, the park was not able to bring in

outside fire crews to assist with the burn (as they would under normal circumstances), and without the assistance of the Spanish fire crew, they most likely would have had to cancel the burn due to understaffing. The Spanish crew was equally grateful for the opportunity to participate in the burn—it turned out to be both a training experience and a cultural experience!

### Other TRESs This Year

A couple of other TRESs are taking place this year across the country. In April, the FLN hosted a TRES in the Loess Hills of Iowa, and this fall, they will be hosting an international Spanish-language TRES in New Mexico. A similar event last year brought participants from Argentina, Costa Rica, Spain, and Mexico. These events focus on the art and science of prescribed fire—including presentations by local researchers and managers, and hands-on experience in burning—but they also emphasize the social side of prescribed fire, including media training and discussions of local culture and

attitudes. Participants are also asked to give a presentation on their local fire ecology and management issues, which fosters a sense of shared learning and respect within the group. The Northern California TRES will employ the same model, offering a truly unique and valuable opportunity for this region's prescribed fire community!

### For More information

The application deadline for the Northern California TRES is July 26, just before this edition of *Forest and River News* comes off the press. However, if you are interested in learning more about this or future events, please feel free to contact Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Director of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, for more information ([nwcapfc@gmail.com](mailto:nwcapfc@gmail.com)). There may be opportunities to observe prescribed burns or interact with TRES participants during the two-week event, so please ask Lenya to add your name to her contact list if you are interested. You can also visit the Council's website for more information at [www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org](http://www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org).



**Northern California  
 Prescribed Fire Council**

*Trees Foundation Board Member Lenya Quinn-Davidson is a Staff Research Associate with University of California Cooperative Extension in Eureka. She received her master's degree from Humboldt State University in 2009, and she is particularly interested in issues surrounding fire ecology and management in northern California forests. Feel free to contact her at [lquinn davidson@ucanr.edu](mailto:lquinn davidson@ucanr.edu).*



# Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

## Prescribed Fire Training Exchange

Northern New Mexico

September 2013

The 2013 Spanish Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange got underway September 16 in Jemez Springs, New Mexico, with 27 participants and trainers from eight countries. Northern New Mexico received significant rainfall just before participants arrived, but with a forecast calling for drier and warmer weather, the crew expected to begin burning on the Santa Fe National Forest by early the next week. Even with wet weather, the first few days of the exchange were busy, as trainees began to acclimate to the New Mexico mountains, completed their basic NWCG firefighter training, and prepared for two weeks of work together.



The roads in the vicinity of Jemez Springs were flooded by heavy rains just prior to participants' arrival. © TNC/Jeremy Bailey

On their first night most attendees went to a benefit dinner for the family of Token Adams, a Santa Fe National Forest firefighter who died earlier this month while scouting the location of a wildfire. The dinner was hosted by the Jemez

Springs VFW, and provided a good opportunity for participants to have a hearty meal while interacting with members of the community where they will be working. The group also attended a benefit breakfast Sunday morning.

The next day participants visited Bandelier National Monument to pick up fireline gear and personal protective equipment (PPE)—and to deal with some equipment issues.

As with all training exchanges, any further weather delays will provide excellent opportunities to advance training through scenarios, coursework and local fire management field trips and discussions, and to scout units that will be burned later in the event.



Several participants enjoyed a hike on the Cerro Grande trail the day before the training exchange got started. © TNC/Wendy Fulks



People of Jemez Springs are coming together to help the family of fallen firefighter Token Adams. © TNC/WF

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A squad of trainees consults prior to picking up gear from the baseyard at Bandelier National Monument. © TNC/Jeremy Bailey



Fortunately, partners at Bandelier had the equipment to help make sure this spare tire was ready for the road. © TNC/Wendy Fulks

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524.



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The "One Conservancy" spirit spreads to restoration and stewardship, including intensive training in fire management with Michigan's Rodolfo Zuniga Villegas (seen in top image) helping the Conservancy's Fire Learning Network. © TNC Archives

## Michigan Steward Helps International Fire Training



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In many parts of the world, including the U.S., wildfires have become more devastating and unpredictable due to increased fire intensity and erratic fire behavior. According to the Fire Learning Network (FLN), "an estimated 80 percent of U.S. forests and rangelands have altered fire dynamic." Coincidentally, we have seen greater international awareness among land owners, local and federal governments, indigenous groups, conservation organizations and land management agencies of wildfires' devastating consequences on native forests, due to changing weather patterns and limited or deficient forest management. The FLN was created in 2002 as a joint project among the Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, and other agencies of the U.S. Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service) to accelerate the restoration of fire-dependent ecosystems by collaborating on landscape-scale planning, regional capacity building, and nationwide project coordination.

During late summer last year, The Nature Conservancy's Michigan Land Steward Rodolfo Zúñiga Villegas served as an instructor and translator for a prescribed fire training exchange in Santa Fe, New Mexico, led by the Conservancy's Fire Learning Network. Crews from Spain and multiple Latin American countries from Argentina to Mexico, representing diverse cultures and prescribed burn backgrounds, came to learn

and burn together for two weeks. Most of the prescribed burns took place from September 17 through October 2 in and around the Santa Fe National Forest in northern New Mexico.

The exchange occurred at a time when unusually high firefighting costs in the western U.S. (due to unexpected catastrophic wildfire events) have forced the U.S. Forest Service to curtail prescribed burning nationwide. The training allowed Santa Fe National Forest to conduct ecologically important prescribed fire burns on 700 acres of critical habitat. Exchange participants learned through a combination of lectures, presentations, field visits, and prescribed fire implementation exercises that a solid prescribed burn regime along with vegetation management (selective removal of trees, lower branches, and shrubs) are pivotal to reducing the intensity and damage of wildfires.

Additionally, participants learned basics about NEPA (U.S. National Environmental Policy Act) preparation, prescribed burn management plan writing, and several ways to integrate local fire management into regional policy. FLN facilitation of lessons learned among both the international participants and local fire practitioners during the exchange advances the goal to overcome many common global challenges to achieving social, economic, and ecologically sustainable solutions. By supporting this international prescribed burning exchange, The Nature Conservancy in Michigan catalyzes both local and global conservation solutions.