

FLN Networker No. 142: October 2, 2013

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 or contact Lynn Decker.

News from the Field

Arkansas: FLN partners from **The Nature Conservancy** and **Arkansas Forestry and Game and Fish** agencies were among the 40 people who took part in a recent **prescribed fire school** at Camp Robinson hosted by the **Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council**. Two news crews filmed parts of the event for three stations; the [story](#) by **KATV** is particularly good, with the anchor starting by **asking why prescribed fire is so important**, and closing by answering that it is returning the forests “to the way nature intended.”

California: In a [blog](#) titled “Fighting Fire with Fire,” Sustainable Northwest has profiled **Michelle Medley-Daniel** (wrtc@hayfork.net) of the **Watershed Research & Training Center** as “the **next generation**” leading Trinity County (CA) in its **adaptation to climate change**. In truth, because of her key roles in the **CKS FLN** and the new **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network**, Michelle’s influence is far more than county-wide.

California: See also the Articles section, below, for an article with a **FireScope Monterey** co-author.

New Mexico: The **international prescribed fire training exchange** that wrapped up last week included training in **media outreach**, and as with previous events, reached a wide audience with its fire and restoration messages. The [first story](#) ran on **Fronteras: The Changing America Desk**, a **multimedia collaboration** among seven public radio stations. From central Texas to southern California, and Las Vegas to the Mexican border, Fronteras reaches about **a million listeners**.

In addition, **Telemundo New Mexico** covered a controlled burn in a Spanish-language [video](#) posted on their Facebook feed, a **KRQE News 13** crew made the two-hour trip to share the [story](#) with their audience, and **Jeremy Bailey** (jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) was interviewed by Santa Fe **radio station KSFR** for a noon newscast.

An *FLN Notes from the Field* covering the first week of the training exchange is also attached. The **second prescribed fire training event** of the fall is currently underway near Angel Fire, New Mexico.

New Mexico: **Anne Bradley** (abradley@tnc.org) was quoted (and pictured) in a [story](#) in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* last week. Along with a specially-trained dog from Conservation Canines, she was in the field tracking **endangered Jemez Mountains salamanders**, which are threatened by a combination of uncharacteristic **wildfire and drought**.

Oregon: **Pete Caligiuri** (pcaligiuri@tnc.org), **Russ Hoeflich** and **Chris Topik** are among those quoted in a **three-part series of articles** in the *Bend Bulletin*: [Part 1](#): “Decades of human intervention have **reshaped the timber landscape**,” [Part 2](#): “Growing fires consume **forest management budgets** and threaten life and property,” and [Part 3](#): “**Collaboratives** bring stakeholders together to find a **solution** for east-side forests.”

Oregon: See also the Resources section, below, for a new **forest restoration guide**.

Virginia: The third season of the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project **Avian Monitoring Program** has been completed, and a [brief report](#) is now available. In this landscape, **FLN partners** have conducted almost **6,000 acres of controlled burns**, and another 880 acres burned in a managed wildfire. The monitoring has revealed **increased species diversity in burned areas**. For more information, contact **Laurel Schablein** (lschablein@tnc.org) or **Marek Smith** (marek_smith@tnc.org).

Funding Opportunities: JFSP

JFSP: The Joint Fire Science Program has announced its **2014 research funding** opportunities. All pre-proposals are due by **November 22**. See the [announcements](#) for complete details on all programs.

- Areas of interest for the **primary funding opportunity** include **fuels treatment effectiveness** across landscapes; **influence of past wildfires** on wildfire behaviour, effects and management; and compatibility of fire and fuel treatments with **bats**, among others.
- The two areas of interest in the **social sciences** are **fire adapted communities** and **risk perception**.
- There is also a **Graduate Research Innovation Award** opportunity for graduate students in the fields of wildland fire and related human dimensions and ecological sciences.

Resources: Forest Restoration Guide / New Rx Council

Forest Restoration Guide: *Restoration of Dry Forests in Eastern Oregon: A Field Guide* has been published with support from the **Northwest FLN** and several other partners. This thorough and practical **200-page guide** covers principles of restoring dry forests, landscape planning and stand prescriptions for restoration, field implementation, and other considerations. It is **posted as a pdf** on Conservation Gateway (shortcut: <http://nature.ly/dryforests>) and is also available in **print form**. Contact **Mark Stern** (mstern@tnc.org) or **Karen Gleason** (kgleason@tnc.org) for more information.

New Rx Council: A **prescribed fire council** is getting started in **Oregon**. According to the chair, **Amanda Stamper**, “this process began last December at the **Association for Fire Ecology** International Congress in response to **presentations by Leyna Quinn-Davdison and Morgan Varner** on prescribed fire councils,” and over 100 people are now becoming involved. The first **statewide meeting** is planned for April 8-10 (details below). For more information, see the council’s [Facebook page](#), or email oregonrxfirecouncil@gmail.com.

Articles: Sudden Oak Death Surprise / Adaptive Management

Sudden Oak Death Surprise: **Kerry Frangioso** (kfrangioso@ucdavis.edu), a core team member in the **FireScape Monterey FLN** landscape, is a **co-author** of the article, “**Unexpected Redwood Mortality** from Synergies between **Wildfire** and an **Emerging Infectious Disease**,” published in *Ecology* ([abstract](#)). Stories about the findings of this work also appear on the National Science Foundation [website](#) and in the September [newsletter](#) of the California Oak Mortality Task Force.

Adaptive Management: The [new issue](#) of *Ecology and Society* has a number of pieces related to adaptive management. These include, for example, an [essay](#) by Lynn Scarlett, “**Collaborative Adaptive Management: Challenges and Opportunities**,” and the [article](#), “**Results Chains: A Tool for Conservation Action Design, Management, and Evaluation**.”

Link: Trail Rehabilitation

Trail Rehabilitation: **Don Amador** (damador@cwoc.com), a long-time recreation use advocate and partner in the new **Mendocino FireScape** landscape, has written a [blog](#) on **volunteer work parties** organized to assist agency personnel in **vehicle trail rehabilitation** in the wake of wildfire. Markers identifying trail entrances and vehicle restrictions are often destroyed by fire or heavy equipment, so new trail delineators are needed. He “believes that volunteers will continue to play an important role in those trail projects. It is a team effort to repair post-fire damage and will require **continued partnerships** with users, agency staff... and other stakeholders.”

In the News: New York Times / WUI Fee Proposed

New York Times: A long and **wide-ranging** [article](#), “Into the Wildfire,” in the *New York Times* magazine covers some of the **science challenges** of managing fire (for example, the surprising finding that fine fuels do not ignite from radiative heating) also addresses the thornier **socio-political issues**.

WUI Fee Proposed: A **task force in Colorado** has presented its **recommendations** to the governor, according to a [story](#) by a Denver TV station. Among them are assigning **risk scores** to homes in the **wildland-urban interface**, assessing **fees** on properties at high risk, and an **improved prescribed burn** program.

Jobs: Fire Management / Policy

Fire Management: The **Conservancy's Arkansas program** is hiring a **fire management coordinator** to run their **prescribed burn field operations**. Candidates should have (or be able to obtain within 18 months) **RxB2** qualifications. For more details, see **job #41458** on the Conservancy's [careers page](#) (current employees should apply through PeopleSoft); applications are due **October 17**.

Policy: The **Council of Western State Foresters** and **Western Forestry Leadership Coalition** are hiring a **Forest Policy Director** (to be based in Colorado). See the [position announcement](#) for details; applications are due by **October 11**.

Webinars

October 9

Burning on Private Lands with Consultants

October 17

Federal Agency Ground-Based Burn Crews and the PFTC

October 23

Prescribed Burning Techniques and Lessons Learned

October 31

Techniques, Planning, and Precautions in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas

November 6

Planning Large Scale Burns

new listing

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

The Southern Fire Exchange, North Carolina State University Extension Forestry, and Southeast Regional Partnership have organized a fall series of webinars on prescribed fire.

Information: <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/>

October 22

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) to be added to the mailing list to receive a detailed flyer

FLN Workshops

October 9

Central Appalachians FLN / Southern Blue Ridge FLN

updated

The Central Appalachians FLN will host an FLN reception at 5:00 pm Wednesday at the Wildland Fire in the Appalachians conference, immediately following the closing plenary. This will provide an informal setting for old and new FLN partners to catch up and reflect on our accomplishments over the seven years since the two regional networks formed. Network leads will also share a few comments.

Info: **Marek Smith** (marek_smith@tnc.org), **Sam Lindblom** (slindblom@tnc.org)

- 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) or **Jim Wentworth** (jwentworth@fs.fed.us)
- October 15-18** **Parashant Partnership / St. George, UT**
RSVP October 4 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)
- December 4** **Southern Blue Ridge FLN Leads Workshop / Asheville, NC**
 Information: **Margit Bucher** (mbucher@tnc.org) or **Beth Buchanan** (bbuchanan@fs.fed.us)
- December 5-6** **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) to be added to the mailing list.

Training, Conferences & Workshops

- October 8-10** **Wildland Fire in the Appalachians / Roanoke, VA**
important update The Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists has confirmed that this conference will go on, regardless of the temporary government shutdown. Registration fees cannot be refunded, but the hotel website indicates that cancelations may be made up to 24 hours before check-in. Federal employees may send a personal email address to office@fireecology.net (subject line: "app conf personal email") to receive any communications sent out during the federal shutdown.
 Information: <http://appfireconference.org/>
- 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** **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** **IAWF International Smoke Symposium / Adelphi, MD**
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.sosierrapfc.org/calendar-of-events>
- November 14-16 updated** **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. The program includes a **Fire Adapted Communities** panel discussion on November 16.
Info: <http://www.firewise.org/courses-and-training/backyards-and-beyond.aspx>
- Jan 13-17, 2014** **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
- Feb 8-13, 2014** **Society for Range Management: 67th 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/>
- April 8-10, 2014 new listing** **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council / Bend, OR**
The first meeting of this new prescribed fire council will be held in conjunction with the Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium at OSU. Rx310 Fire Effects will be offered that week as well. Information: oregonrxfirecouncil@gmail.com

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 – Lynn is in Oregon September 30-October 4, and out October 7-11.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in New Mexico through Oct. 3, and out Oct. 4-11.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Virginia October 7-11.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in the office.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.

Liz Rank (Networker Editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is in the office.

Note: Monday, October 14 is a Conservancy holiday.

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

Full Links

News from the Field—AR: <http://www.katv.com/story/23531520/controlled-burns-reduce-wildfire-fuel-maintain-wildlife-habitats>

News from the Field—CA—Michelle Medley-Daniel: <http://sustainablenorthwest.org/blog/posts/fighting-fire-with-fire>

News from the Field--NM--Anne Bradley & salamanders: http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/article_860b3d4f-1d31-54fb-ae60-b54989ae3b00.html

News from the Field—NM—Fronteras: <http://www.fronterasdesk.org/content/9037/bilingual-fire-training-brings-international-pros-new-mexico>

Telemundo NM—English intro & link: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/TelemundoNM-Sept-2013-TREX.aspx>

Telemundo NM: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=573911369324974&set=vb.159523267430455&type=2&theater>
KRQE: <http://www.krqe.com/news/local/international-fire-crews-train-in-nm>

News from the Field—VA—Avian monitoring report: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/Avian-Monitoring-Allegheny-Highlands---2013-Report.aspx>

Funding Opportunities—JFSP: http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_funding_announcements.cfm

Resources—OR prescribed fire council: <https://www.facebook.com/OregonPrescribedFireCouncil?ref=hl>

Articles—Sudden oak death—Abstract: <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/13-0915.1>

NSF website: http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=128879

Oak mortality newsletter: <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/news-and-events/current-newsletter/>

Articles—Adaptive management—Ecology and Society 18(3): <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol18/iss3/>

Collaborative adaptive management essay: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-05762-180326>

Results chains article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-05610-180322>

Link—Trail rehabilitation: <http://quietwarriorracing.blogspot.com/2013/09/post-fire-travel-management-tools-trail.html>

In the News—*New York Times*: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/22/magazine/into-the-wildfire.html?ref=magazine>

In the News—WUI fee proposed: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/task-force-reveals-recommendations-to-reduce-risk-of-losing-homes-in-wildfire-prone-areas>

Jobs—TNC careers page: https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL

Jobs—Forest policy director: <http://www.wflcweb.org/about/CWSF%20Forest%20Policy%20Director.pdf>

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

The FLN 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 Dept. of the Interior.

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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Prescribed Fire Training Exchange: Week 1 Wrap-up

September 2013

Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico

“It’s a real treat to be here when everything is green and lush, and the clouds are low. A real treat.”

With those words, Jeremy Bailey and the 27 exchange participants headed out on the first of several 6:00 a.m. hikes. The overnight

rain had just ended. Everyone was “fire-ready,” tools in hand and headlamps affixed to their helmets.

During the first week of the training exchange, morning hikes have helped participants acclimate to the elevation. Lectures and field exercises have covered ignition

techniques, shelter deployment, first aid, fire line construction, radio use and weather. Local fire experts have dropped by in the evenings to share their perspectives, and there have been day-long field trips to visit wildfire burned areas as well as areas treated with thinning and burning. Participants have also



Clockwise from upper left: Participants test radio protocols outside the Valles Caldera Science and Education Center in Jemez Springs. Several crew members practice digging fireline in Valles Caldera National Preserve. Team building exercises were integrated into morning hikes. The group has a question and answer session with a crew monitoring a burn unit on the Santa Fe National Forest. © TNC/Wendy Fulks

given detailed presentations about fire management issues from the countries where they work, and woven through it all have been lively discussions on a variety of topics.

On Friday, before a visit to scout the Mesa Camino burn unit in the Coyote Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest, the district ranger addressed the group, highlighting the importance of the partnership with these training exchanges. He also discussed the need for a more vibrant wood products industry in the area. The group proceeded to Mesa Camino, which is in a remote part of the state, east of the town of Cuba, and more than two hours from Santa Fe by car, and in spite of a week that started with local flash-flooding, were able to put a little smoke in the air. Learning from this exercise was captured during the evening's after action review.

Sunny weather over the weekend continued to dry out burn units, so the crews prepared to spend the second week of the exchange burning on Borrego Mesa, just north of New Mexico's capital, Santa Fe.



The ignition crew lights a test fire and observes its behavior while scouting the Mesa Camino burn unit on the Santa Fe National Forest. © TNC/Wendy Fulks

After a day in the field scouting the burn unit, the crew gathered for a group photo. Participants in this training exchange bring experience from eight foreign countries—Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Portugal and Spain—and seven U.S. states—Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina, New Mexico and Utah. © TNC/Wendy Fulks



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