

FLN Networker No. 156: April 16, 2014

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

California: In the **FireScope Monterey** landscape, the **Esselen and Salinan tribes** recently held a workshop with the **Forest Service's** Forest Stewardship Program, supported by the **Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA)**, another FireScope Monterey partner. The **workshop provided training** for people to assist with **treating fuels around sites sacred to the tribes**, such as cave paintings, acorn grinding rocks and grandmother trees. The 27 participants included archaeologists from the Forest Service and tribes, a district attorney, and backpackers from the VWA and Sierra Club.

Nebraska: NET—the network of **Nebraska PBS and NPR** stations—ran a story this morning on the recent **Loup River prescribed fire training exchange** that included interviews with the event coordinator, **Ben Wheeler (Pheasants Forever)**, Plans Chief **Philip Dye** (Milpitas Fire Department and **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council**), **Ashley Whitworth** (Colorado Springs Fire Department) and **Jose Duce** (Ministry of the Environment, Spain). The [online version](#) includes the **radio interview** and transcript, and a nice **time-lapse video of the burn** provided by Ben Wheeler.

North Carolina: FLN partners recently **initiated a fire management program** at Lake James State Park, in the **Central Escarpment** landscape of the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN**. Working cooperatively with the NC Forest Service and park neighbors, the park has now placed **about 300 acres of park and private property under prescription**. Nearly 250 acres have already been burned in 2014, and several hundred more acres will be placed under prescription in the coming months. Fuel reduction was the primary focus of the initial burns, all of which occurred in **areas that are targeted as high priority restoration sites** dominated by fire-adapted hardwood and pine dominated communities. For more information, contact **Marshall Ellis** (marshall.ellis@ncparks.gov).

North Carolina: A **prescribed burn at Dobson Knob**, a 1,500 acre area adjacent to the Linville Gorge Wilderness on the Grandfather Ranger District of Pisgah National Forest, was recently completed with support from the Asheville Hotshots, Appalachian Ranger District staff, NC Interagency Coordination Center and **FLN Central Escarpment landscape partners**. The goal of the Dobson Knob Burn—part of the 10-year **CFLRP Grandfather Restoration Project**—was to **reduce fuels in the wildland-urban interface**, as well as help **restore fire-adapted oak and pine communities** and improve wildlife habitat. For more information, contact **Lisa Jennings** (lisanjennings@fs.fed.us).

Oregon: The **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council** held its inaugural meeting last week in Bend, in conjunction with the 3rd biennial Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium. The **70 participants**, who represented **more than 20 agencies and organizations**, used the occasion of the first state-wide council meeting to start to collectively determine the council's purpose, what it hopes to achieve, and how it will organize itself. The newly formed council's **mission** is to serve as a venue for practitioners, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, tribes, coalitions and interested individuals to collaboratively **promote, protect and conserve the fire-adapted natural ecosystems** in Oregon, and **expand the responsible use of fire**. For more about the council, check out their [Facebook page](#).

Oregon: On Monday, KTVL in Medford ran **three live segments** on the work being done by the **Ashland Forest Resiliency** project, which includes some **SPER-supported treatments**. **Darren**

Borgias (dborgias@tnc.org) talked about **fire history** in the watershed in the first segment, “[Fire Scars](#),” showing viewers a cross-section of a fire-scarred tree. Following that, **Chris Chambers** (chamberc@ashland.or.us) discussed **fuel reduction treatments** in “[Fueling’ the Burns](#)” and described the action taking place during the **lighting of a test fire** in “[Reducing Fire Intensity](#).” Partners hope to have suitable weather to **complete the SPER burns** in the next month or so.

Pennsylvania: A [story](#) in the *Centre Daily Times* this week discusses the spring burn season for the **Pennsylvania Game Commission**, a partner in the **Keystone Appalachians FLN** landscape, and mentions the **growth of the prescribed burn program** that has taken place since the 2009 passage of the Fire Practices Act.

Virginia: The **Central Appalachians FLN** wrapped up its **first prescribed fire training exchange** last week, with **23 people from 10 states** completing eight days of prescribed burns on about **1,200 acres**. The first week was spent in the coastal plain burning at Piney Grove and other partner sites, and the second week in the uplands, at the base of Shenandoah Mountain.

Bobby Clontz (bclontz@tnc.org) has [posted](#) a nice **selection of photos** from the event, with great value added: **captions that tell their stories**.

Lessons Learned: Community Meeting

Community Meeting: In a **FAC Learning Network** [blog posting](#), **Forest Schafer**, a FAC Network leader from **North Lake Tahoe**, talks about the lessons learned in an **after action review** of a **community engagement meeting**. The meeting, held to get input on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, was much **better attended** than originally expected—yielding lessons on both how to increase attendance, and how to manage the result.

Resources & Reports: Cohesive Strategy / Avoided Cost Analysis / Treatments & Beetles / Smoke Webinars

Cohesive Strategy: The **National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy** has been released. The [hundred-page document](#) is intended to provide “the **strategic direction** necessary to achieve the **vision for the next century** -- To safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and, as a Nation, live with wildland fire.” The three goals identified as needed to achieve this vision are **restore and maintain landscapes, fire-adapted communities**, and **wildfire response**.

Avoided Cost Analysis: The **Sierra Nevada Conservancy**, **The Nature Conservancy**, and **Forest Service** led a diverse set of stakeholders to seek the answer to the burning question, “Does it make **economic sense** to increase investment in proactive **forest management** to **reduce the risk of large, damaging wildfires?**” using the Mokelumne watershed in central California as a case study. The short answer seems to be **yes**. For more detail and nuance, read the [executive summary](#) or [full report](#).

Treatments & Beetles: The **Ecological Restoration Institute** and **Southwest Fire Science Consortium** have published a [working paper](#) entitled “Impact of Forest Restoration Treatments on Southwestern **Ponderosa Pine Tree Resistance to Bark Beetles**.” It examines the effects of tree **thinning** and **prescribed fire** on bark beetle activity and offers management recommendations based on the findings.

Smoke Webinars: The **Southern Fire Exchange** has been presenting quite a bit of information on **smoke management** recently. Webinar recordings—such as “Basic Smoke Management Practices” or “Introduction to VSmoke”—are on the YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/SouthernFireExch>.

Odd News: Golf Clubs

Golf Clubs: A [ScienceDaily story](#) based on research done at the University of California–Irvine suggests that **titanium alloy golf clubs** may be able to **cause wildfires**.

Jobs: 4FRI Leader / Fish & Wildlife Biologist

4FRI Leader: The **Forest Service** is seeking an **Interdisciplinary – Social Scientist / Biological Scientist** to lead the operations, coordination and planning for the Four Forest Restoration Initiative project (4FRI). For more information, visit www.usajobs.gov (job announcement # 14-0304-04507G-BL); applications are due by **April 28**.

Fish & Wildlife Biologist: The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife is seeking a **biologist** to be located at the **Methow Wildlife Area**. For more information, visit careers.wa.gov and enter the position number (01935W-R) in the keyword field; applications are due by **May 4**.

Webinars

April 17

GIS Migration from Desktop to Web

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

In this Southern Fire Exchange webinar, Justin Shedd will discuss natural resource management examples and lessons from moving GIS applications from the desktop environment to a web platform.

Log on: <https://ufifas.adobeconnect.com/a1048984014/r6r7ew5iz58/>

April 23

Customizing Data (LANDFIRE)

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern

In this Northern Rockies Fire Science Network / Southern Rockies Fire Science Network offering, Don Helmbrecht will look at how one can use LANDFIRE Data in the Rockies Region, with a focus on fuels examples.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/landfirenorthern-southern-rockies-fire-science-networkscustomizing-data-registration-10555438601>

May 7
new listing

Predicting Local Smoke Dispersion During Low-Intensity Wildland Fires in Forested Environments

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

This webinar, presented by Warren Heilman, is based on a JFSP-supported study focused on evaluating and adapting existing modeling systems for predicting the meteorological and air quality impacts of low-intensity wildland fires in forested environments.

Information & registration: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/463246376>

May 15

Remote Fire Monitoring

7:00 Pacific / 8:00 Mountain / 9:00 Central / 10:00 Eastern

In this webinar of the Cherokee NF Landscape Restoration Initiative, **Rob Klein** (regional fire ecologist, National Park Service) will discuss tools being used in the Smokies and explain the efforts to learn more about how best to put them to use.

Marek Smith (Allegheny Highlands program director, The Nature Conservancy—VA) will share his FLN experiences with the tools on the George Washington NF. FLN members and partners are invited to join the webinar.

Log in: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/j.php?MTID=m8dad8817a781538ba837365ed5fe30c>

FLN Workshops

April 15-17

Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium / Orleans, CA

The symposium focuses on the nexus between fire science and fire management in the Western Klamath Mountains, and how it relates to people and place.

Info: <http://www.mkwc.org/programs/fire-fuels/klamath-fire-ecology-symposium/>

April 23

Fire Science Field Day / Redwood National Park

The California Fire Science Consortium, Redwood NP, UC Cooperative Extension and Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council are hosting this field tour, which will focus on research and management in the Bald Hills, with a special emphasis on tree mortality and fire (including small conifer mortality during prescribed fire; using fire to thin second growth; and interactions between drought, tree stress, and fire management).

Information: see flyer attached to [FLN Networker #155](#)

April 24

Georgia Blue Ridge Landscape / Blairsville, GA

Information: **Malcolm Hodges** (mhodges@tnc.org)

April 28-30

Western Klamath Mountains / Happy Camp, CA

In the sixth workshop in their Open Standards series, network participants will focus on implementation planning and monitoring for adaptive management

Information: **Mary Huffman** (mhuffman@tnc.org)

May 13

Parashant Partnership / St. George, UT

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

May 20-22

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Cashiers, NC

Register by **May 1** to reserve a space at this workshop, themed “Managing Lands with Multiple Objectives: How does Fire Fit in?”

Information: <http://sbrflnworkshop9.weebly.com/>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

May 24-June 4
new listing

Yurok Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Weitchpec, CA

The Yurok Tribe will be hosting this FLN training exchange to develop the Tribe’s capacity to safely and effectively reintroduce fire onto the local landscape while providing participants with experience and training in conducting controlled burns. The Cultural Burn Council of the Yurok Tribe is leading the development of the agenda, with a focus on burning for cultural objectives and community protection. Tribal members and forestry employees, local contractors, federal and state firefighters, volunteer firefighters from the community, county/regional regulators, university students, NGO staff and volunteers—from the area, and beyond—are invited to take part. Applications are due by **May 5**.

Information: see the attached flyer and registration form

Sept 23-Oct 4
new listing

Arizona Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Flagstaff, AZ

The Arizona Prescribed Fire Council will host this training exchange. The 20 participants will stay at The Nature Conservancy’s Hart Prairie Preserve and conduct controlled burns on federal, state and private lands. Applications are due by **July 11**.

Info: <http://azprescribedfirecouncil.org/event/prescribed-fire-training-exchange/>

Conferences & Workshops

- April 30-May 1** **Relationships between Fire Management and Quality of Foraging Habitat for Bats: A Workshop for Scientists and Managers / Mammoth Cave NP, KY**
This workshop will feature a synthesis of JFSP research on the topic, and is aimed at land stewards and scientists across the Appalachians and Oak Woodlands consortia. Full details and registration information are online.
Information: <http://www.cafms.org/node/74>
- May 5-8 deadline** **Ignition Planning & Prescribed Fire Techniques for Wildlife/Jacksonville, FL**
The Wildlife Society (Florida), Florida Forest Service, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will host this training, which combines classroom lectures, panel discussions and field exercises. The registration deadline is **April 18**.
Information: <http://www.fltws.org/new-events/2014/5/5/ignition-planning-prescribed-fire-techniques-for-wildlife>.
- May 16-17 new listing** **5th Northwest Regional Fire Safe Conference / Mt. Shasta, CA**
The theme of this California Fire Safe Council conference is "Maintenance of Fuelbreaks, Shaded Fuelbreaks, and Related Fuel Reduction in the WUI."
Information: <http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org/5th-northwest-regional-fire-safe-conference/>
- May 19-23** **Large Wildland Fires: Social, Political & Ecological Effects / Missoula, MT**
This conference will be co-hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology and the International Association of Wildland Fire.
Information: <http://largefireconference.org/>
- September 16-18** **State-and-Transition Simulation Modeling Conference / Ft. Collins, CO**
Co-sponsored by the USGS, TNC and Apex Resource Management Solutions, the event includes an optional one-day training on ST-Sim software and two days of presentations on a range of topics.
Information: www.stsm2014.org

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Boulder, CO April 14-18.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out April 17-18.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out April 16-22, 25.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Portland, OR April 15-17; Happy Camp/Orleans, CA April 27-May 1.

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

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Island Park, ID April 16; Happy Camp/Orleans, CA April 27-May 1.

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

Full Links

News from the Field—NE TREX: <http://netnebraska.org/article/news/911117/firefighters-make-fire-work-them-prescribed-burn>

News from the Field—Ashland on TV—

Segment 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwFVCXiZhnY&list=UU2_r6Z93uDWKpBcsdTr9PGA

Segment 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7dcWlvUsm4&list=UU2_r6Z93uDWKpBcsdTr9PGA

Segment 3: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOVSdD_Q9-0&list=UU2_r6Z93uDWKpBcsdTr9PGA

News from the Field—PA: <http://www.centredaily.com/2014/04/13/4133076/woods-and-waters-more-controlled.html?sp=/99/264/&ihp=1>

News from the Field—VA photos: <http://clontzphoto.smugmug.com/TNC/Training-Exchange-Virginia-2011/n-HLXbF/i-pgqzB82>

Lessons Learned—FAC Net blog: <http://facnetwork.org/lessons-in-community-engagement-from-north-lake-tahoe/>

Resources & Reports—Cohesive Strategy:

http://www.doi.gov/news/upload/20140328_CSPHaseIIINationalStrategy_SurnameCopy_execSec_FINAL_v3.pdf

Resources & Reports—Avoided cost analysis: <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/our-work/mokelumne-watershed-analysis>

Resources & Reports—Treatments & beetles: <http://library.eri.nau.edu/gsd/collect/erilibra/index/assoc/D2014014.dir/doc.pdf>

FLN Workshops—*FLN Networker* #155: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/FLN-Networker-155.aspx>



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.

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Training Announcement

Yurok Prescribed Fire Training Exchange Weitchpec, CA May 24 - June 4, 2014

Objectives: To develop the Tribe's capacity to safely and effectively reintroduce fire onto the local landscape while providing participants with experience and training in conducting controlled burns.

Target Group: This training is designed to integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners with varying degrees of knowledge and experience. Participants include tribal members, tribal forestry employees, local contractors, federal and state firefighters, volunteer firefighters from the community, The Nature Conservancy staff and volunteers, university students, county/regional regulators, and out-of-region and international guests and fire workers.

Tuition: The regular fee is \$250. University students pay \$100. Waivers are available for participants who bring equipment (e.g. engines, UTVs, etc.) or who provide their own lodging and accommodations. Please note that tuition is not pro-rated based on the amount of time at TREX.

Description: The training is organized as an incident, using the Incident Command System. Participants will serve in qualified and trainee firefighting positions on a burn team and will assist with preparing, scouting, briefing, igniting, holding, mop-up, and patrol on numerous controlled burns in the area. We will also complete pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment, practice fire line leadership skills, and learn about local fire ecology and fire management.

There will be field trips to areas burned in recent wildfires and presentations from local tribal elders, scientists, land managers, and practitioners. Participants will also present briefings about the fire regimes in their home region and discuss management challenges and opportunities there. In addition, participants will practice for local media interviews.

Requirements:

1. All participants must be **current and qualified**, or have **completed NWCG courses I-100, S-130, S-190 and FEMA IS-700**. Self-study materials for these courses will be offered to participants who need them.
2. Participants must complete an **arduous pack test** before arrival at the event. Completion of a moderate pack test is acceptable if coming as a TNC volunteer and serving in an RxCM (Rx crewmember) position.
3. Participants must have **insurance** (e.g., workers' comp, health or travel insurance) to cover any injury they may sustain during the training exchange.
4. Participants must bring **fireline-approved boots** (all leather work boots, 8-inches tall, non-slip soles and no steel toe). Participants should come with **all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**, including: a Next Generation Fire Shelter, a hard hat, Nomex clothing, all leather gloves, eye protection and canteens for drinking water. If you do not have proper PPE, please let us know. For an additional \$50, we will provide a complete set.

Meals & Travel: All meals, ground transportation and lodging will be provided during the training. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from Weitchpec, California. Participants should **arrive at the Morek Won Community Center by 8:00 am on Monday, May 26th** (Saturday, May 24th, for burn bosses and incident management team). Although we encourage you to stay for the full assignment, we understand you may have time constraints and are happy to host you for the first or second week (full tuition still applies).

Registration: To apply, complete the registration form & submit to Guy Duffner (gduffner@tnc.org) no later than May 5.



This training 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.

An equal opportunity provider

YUROK PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE REGISTRATION: MAY 24-JUNE 4, 2014

I. PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (PLEASE LEGIBLY PRINT OR TYPE RESPONSES)		
Full name (for course certificate):		
Organization and position:		
Work address (street, city, state, zip/postal code, country):		
Work phone:	Cell phone:	Email:
II. QUALIFICATIONS:		
Qualified positions (or indicate if you require introductory firefighting courses):		
Trainee position:		
Can you contribute equipment? If so, please explain.		
III. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:		
Name:		Phone number(s):
Relationship (family, supervisor, friend, other):		
IV. MEDICAL INFORMATION AND DIET		
Do you have any allergies, medical problems or other conditions that could affect your ability to conduct prescribed fire or take part in other field exercises? If so, please describe below (continue on reverse if needed).		
Are you vegetarian or vegan (be specific)? Do you have any food allergies or other dietary restrictions?		
V. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION		
Arrival date:	Travel method:	Details:
Departure date:	Travel method:	Details:
VI: COURSE EXPECTATIONS		
Briefly describe your expectations for the training. What do you expect to learn, to bring to the course, and to experience? How will this benefit your workplace, organization, and career?		
VII: SUPERVISOR INFORMATION		
Name:		Phone:
Job title:		
VIII: OPTIONAL—TUITION WAIVED REQUEST		
Tuition waivers will be available for participants whose organization is providing significant equipment such as engines and UTVs or extra PPE like shelters, Nomex clothing, gloves and hardhats.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please list the equipment you will provide _____		

