

FLN Networker No. 159: May 28, 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: The **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** **completed its seven-workshop marathon** in Happy Camp last week. The outcome of the planning series is **three integrated projects**, one in each national forest district in the FLN landscape. While the projects are in different stages of development, each will:

- include both **public and private lands**;
- include an **integrated workforce** of public land managers, tribal members, Fire Safe Council members and other community members;
- use three types of **treatments for fuel reduction and upslope restoration**: manual fuel removal, mechanical fuel removal and prescribed burning;
- prioritize treatments based on a multiple **local values**, captured in a GIS model; and
- include a **small business coaching** element using principles of social entrepreneurship.

The Happy Camp project is the furthest along, with 40,000 acres of NEPA-ready projects, existing partnerships and a ready Fire Safe Council. For more information, contact **Bill Tripp** (btripp@karuk.us) or **Will Harling** (will@mkwc.org).

California: The **Yurok Tribe** is currently hosting a **prescribed fire training exchange** in a remote area near Weitchpec. A report on the start of the event is in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Minnesota: In the article “Wildfire Season Arrives with Spring” in *TimberJay Newspapers*, **Gloria Erickson** (gjerickson@frontier.net) talks about the **fire adapted communities approach**, and its importance to Ely, a town “at the end of the road.” The article also talks about the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** in which **Ely is a pilot community** that the hub organization **Dovetail Partners** is working with.

Montana: News occasionally gets delayed, but the report (attached) on the August field tour of BLM **restoration treatments** and **future management opportunities** in the **Centennial Valley** is a good one.

Nebraska: The grass is green now, and the burners have gone on to other places, but the **stories keep coming**. There are nice articles about this spring’s **prescribed fire training exchanges** in two publications: The May issue of *Prairie Fire* has the article “[Igniting Fires, Sparking Change](#): Fire Trainees Leave Nebraska with New Skills, Perspectives” by **Jill Wells**, and the June issue of *NEBRASKAland* has the article “[Prescribed Fire Training Exchange](#): The Niobrara Valley Preserve Hosts Participants from around the World Interested in Fire Education” by **Amy Kucera**.

Southern Blue Ridge: Last week 87 wildland fire and conservation managers and researchers gathered in Cashiers, North Carolina for the **ninth Southern Blue Ridge FLN workshop**. Much of the meeting was spent discussing options for **scaling-up and improving restoration and maintenance** of fire-dependent communities in one of eight landscapes that make up the SBR FLN, the **Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment**, which is one of the most **biologically diverse** places on the planet. The escarpment spans parts of South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina, with about 45 percent in conservation ownership. The workshop’s field tour was to **Jocassee Gorges**, listed by *National Geographic* in 2012 as one of the world’s 50 “[Last Great Places](#).”

Mike Davis, FMO on the Chattahoochee-Oconee NF, missed the workshop because he was [busy receiving](#) the **2014 Silver Smokey Bear Award**, “the highest honor one can receive for outstanding work and significant program impact in wildfire prevention at a regional level.” Mike is also an **important partner** for the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** and **Firewise** in northern Georgia, according to Frank Riley of the hub organization (Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council): “Our programs would not be near as successful without his help.”

Resources: Climate-Smart Planning / Cohesive Strategy

Climate-Smart Planning: The **National Wildlife Federation** has published a [new guide](#), **Climate-Smart Conservation: Putting Adaptation Principles into Practice**. After introducing the subject, it includes chapters on such things as “Understanding Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability,” “Reconsidering Conservation Goals in Light of Climate Change,” “Managing Under Uncertainty,” “Communicating About Climate Adaptation,” and others, to offer comprehensive guidance for designing and carrying out conservation in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

Cohesive Strategy: For a **quick, high-level introduction** to the Cohesive Strategy, check out this pair of **short videos** (a couple minutes each): **Jim Douglas** (DOI) on “The [Importance](#) of the Cohesive Strategy” and then **Tom Harbour** (Forest Service) on “The [Implementation](#) of the Cohesive Strategy.” Visit <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/index.shtml> for more information.

Chris Topik (TNC) talks about the **Conservancy’s support** for the Cohesive Strategy as well, in a slightly longer [video](#) (which mentions, of course, both the **FLN and FAC Learning Network**).

Job: Biologist

Biologist: The **South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism** is seeking a program coordinator “responsible for implementation of scheduled annual tasks to reach long range habitat goals.” Details are available at <http://www.jobs.sc.gov/OHR/OHR-jobs-portal-index.phtm> (job ID 39027; search on “biologist”); applications are due by **May 29**.

Webinars

May 29
new listing

A Resilience Ecology Framework for Southwestern Forests: Ecosystem Shifts, Landscape Disturbance and Climate Change

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

Don Falk (University of Arizona) will speak in this Southwest Fire Science Consortium webinar.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-resilience-ecology-framework-for-southwestern-forests-ecosystem-shifts-landscape-disturbance-and-registration-11650325437>

June 23
FLN webinar

FLN Monitoring Analysis

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

In this webinar **Peter Bates** will share some results from analysis of monitoring conducted on FLN plots across the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN**.

Add to calendar: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/j.php?MTID=mb27b4ff99dfa7a4a30eed3e76d69a224>

Log in: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/j.php?MTID=m9719fcc51db36e5b7fe0ef1a5a079c67>

FLN Workshops

- June 2-5** **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network / Colorado Springs, CO**
Representatives from the 18 pilot communities will meet to exchange learning with each other, and with FLN leaders, who will be convening during the latter part of the week.
Information: **Michelle Medley-Daniel** (info@wrtc.org)
- June 4-6** **FLN Network Leaders / Colorado Springs, CO**
Information: **Lynn Decker** (ldecker@tnc.org)

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- September 16-30** **Spanish-Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / northern NM**
new listing
This training exchange will be conducted in Spanish, with an international roster of participants, in and around the Santa Fe National Forest. Applications are due by **June 12**. Limited to 15 participants.
Information: see attached flyer
- Sept 23-Oct 4** **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**.
Information: <http://azprescribedfirecouncil.org/event/prescribed-fire-training-exchange/>

Conferences & Workshops

- June 3** **Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / Jefferson City, MO**
Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/missouri-prescribed-fire-council-business-meeting-tickets-11448575999>
- 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 out May 22-31; in Colorado Springs June 2-6.
- Jeremy Bailey** – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Weitchpec, CA May 24-31; out June 3; in Colorado Springs June 4-6.
- Wendy Fulks** – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Colorado Springs June 2-6.
- Mary Huffman** – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Colorado Springs June 3-6; Mendocino, CA June 9-13.
- Heather Montanye** – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.
- Guy Duffner** – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Colorado Springs June 2-6; in Mendocino, CA June 9-13.
- Liz Rank** (Networker Editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is in in Colorado Springs June 2-6.

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—NE TREX articles—*Prairie Fire*: <http://www.prairiefirenewspaper.com/2014/05/igniting-flames-sparking-change-fire-trainees-leave-nebraska-with-new-skills-perspectives>
NEBRASKAland: <http://digital.outdoornebraska.gov/i/315021/45>

News from the Field—SBR FLN—Last Great Places: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/yr2012/dec20/dec20_natgeo.html

Resources—Climate-smart planning guide: http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Climate-Smart-Conservation/NWF-Climate-Smart-Conservation_5-08-14.pdf

Resources—Cohesive Strategy—Importance video: <http://youtu.be/aR-mx0mlnrY>

Implementation video: <http://youtu.be/Pp5drFfeHDk>

TNC video: <http://vimeo.com/96200964>

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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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Yurok Prescribed Fire Training Exchange

Weitchpec, CA May/June 2014

The Yurok Tribe of Indians in the Klamath Mountains of northern California is hosting a ten-day prescribed fire training exchange. The Tribe's Cultural Fire Management Committee has prepared a series of burn units that, once burned, will help produce better basket-

making materials. Long known for their incredible basketry skills, the Yurok use numerous native plants found along the Klamath River to construct and color their baskets. The Yurok have managed culturally important plants like hazel (*Corylus cornuta*) with fire for millennia.

The training exchange started with a boat ride down river along the Klamath, where resource managers from the Tribe pointed out different vegetation communities, discussed observed changes since the removal of fire from the landscape and also identified village sites and places where traditional dances and other important ceremonies still occur. At one point, the boat beached along a stand of willows and one of the women disembarked, reached into the water and pulled out some of the long, thin, red roots from the shoreline willows; cutting them with a knife she talked about how these would be used for baskets. In addition to the orientation boat ride and tours of the planned burn units, the training exchange management team also spent a day with tribal leaders hearing about the different management and cultural practices of the Tribe. The meeting opened with a song and dance, and a prayer of thanks, followed by a welcoming presentation from the chairman of the Tribe.

Firefighters from federal and state agencies and NGOs as well as the Tribe's fire crew are taking part in this exchange. Participants will be working with Tribal elders and learning about the history and cultural practices of the Yurok, as well as hearing from local scientists, ecologists and private land owners who are cooperating with the Tribe.

Left: An informational flyer about the training and burning has been posted in community post offices, general stores and the like.

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 or (801) 320-0524



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v. 27 May 14/Jeremy Bailey

Yurok Hwy 169 Prescribed Fire Project



The Yurok Tribe in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Firestorm Inc., Yurok Forestry/Wildland Fire, the Cultural Fire Management Council, Northern California Indian Development Council and the U.S. Forest Service will be conducting a series of controlled burns designed to restore natural habitats, reduce hazardous forest accumulations and train wildland firefighters. The project's intent is to conduct cultural restoration burns designed to help native

basket weavers obtain weaving materials, begin restoring natural prairie openings and to create defensible space from future wildfires for local landowners.

The Cultural Fire Management Council has identified several burn units on the Highway 169 corridor from approximately Weitchpec School Road to Coon Creek. Burning is scheduled to begin on Tuesday May 27th and continuing until approximately June 4th as weather and burning conditions allow.

Fire crews will be working in these areas with fire equipment and personnel on Highway 169 and some of the adjoining roads. Smokey conditions may be present and the public is asked to please drive carefully in the prescribed fire area during these times.

The Cultural Fire Management Council is committed to helping restore cultural and ecological health and sustainability within Yurok ancestral territory. These prescribed fire units have been selected because they are known for weaving materials and other culturally important considerations. We envision that the training local fire crews will receive could eventually lead to the Yurok Tribe's capability to independently conduct cultural burns, resulting in a healthier environment for wildlife and public safety.



This training is hosted by the Fire Learning Network, Yurok Tribe and Firestorm Inc. The Fire Learning Network is a cooperative program of the Forest Service, Department of the Interior agencies and The Nature Conservancy with a ten-year track record of helping to restore our nation's forests and grasslands and making communities safer from fire.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LIVING IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Wildfire season arrives with spring

Fire preparedness initiative helps North Country communities to work together

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY—As Ely-area residents endured the seemingly endless sub-zero temperatures of this winter, thoughts were far from the annual return of the spring wildfire season. But as sure as the calendar turns to spring, the threat of fire in area forests returns.

Gloria Erickson, with the support of Dovetail Partners, is working to increase the preparedness of area officials and residents to work in concert to address the very real threat of wildfires in the North Country.

As part of the Regenerate Ely Speaker Series, area officials gathered and discussed the details of how their community must be prepared for the next wildfire.

Panelists involved in the forum included Barb Thompson, United States Forest Service West Zone Fire Management, Jeffery Jackson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Regional Firewise Specialist, and Ted Krueger, Morse/Fall Lake Township Fire Chief.

“Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) is a collaborative approach to reducing wildfire risks throughout an entire community,” Erickson said. “FAC helps connect all those who play a role in wildfire education, planning and action with organ-



izations and programs that provide comprehensive resources for their specific wildfire mitigation needs. The combination of these efforts strengthens a community’s resiliency for the next wildfire.”

She described the network of wildfire response that has existed out west for the past 15 to 20 years. “They have big fires out there which make the news each year,” she said. “They have created a network of response. But look at our area. We have lots of forest here and lots of residents who live in those forests.”

Erickson is focusing on the Ely area and surrounding townships. She said adjacent Lake County is well-established in coordinating the communication necessary to respond to a wildfire. “They are so on top of it,” she said. “And St. Louis County resources are mostly going to the more populous areas. Ely is at the end of the road.”

Fire adapted

Fire is a natural part of the environment in Northern Minnesota, Erickson explained. “As

we choose to live in areas where wildfires occur, we must adapt the way we design, build and live within these areas to help protect our communities from the risks of wildfire.”

“The most effective way to reduce wildfire impact is through a collaborative approach with all community members and leaders,” said Erickson. “Fire Adapted Communities brings together comprehensive resources under a single umbrella to connect people with the national programs and organizations that can help them meet their specific needs. By joining together through FAC, organizations are better positioned to share information, resources and contacts to extend the reach of their programs—and ultimately reduce more risks.”

Geoff Galaski, leader of the Ely Emergency Preparedness Group, stressed the importance of collaboration. “Fire Adapted Communities is crucial in the Ely area as we saw with the Highway 1 fire,” he said. “When I was asked to be the Chair of the Ely Area Emergency

See FIRE...pg. 6C



The origin point of the 2012 Highway 1 fire is shown in this aerial view southeast of Ely taken in September, 2013. Fire Adapted Communities (FAC), a collaborative approach to reducing wildfire risks throughout the Ely-area community, is underway. Photo by K. Vandervort

FIRE...Continued from page 5C

Preparedness Group (EAEPG), my first goal was to see where we are at locally as far as public education, city and township officials' participation, and emergency plans."

Over the last few months the group has identified areas that need immediate attention, including communication and education. "Communication has many areas in itself," Galaski said "For example, how do we communicate to our area citizens when a disaster or emergency exists? Do citizens know where to go for information during an emergency (public bulletin boards, radio station announcements, etc.)? How well do the local, county, state and federal agencies communicate across jurisdictional lines?"

These questions are the basis of the education piece. "We need citizens

to understand the importance of the Firewise program, for example, as they can help local fire agencies protect their homes," he said. "As an Incident Commander, you have to decide which houses are salvageable and which you can't save due to safety, resources or communications."

Programs like FAC help educate citizens on the importance of clearing brush and making their properties Firewise. "A perfect example of this is the controlled burns the U.S. Forest Service is looking at," he said. "We have a huge fuel load from downed trees in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and if it ignites from a lightning strike during the night, it may be too late for some citizens to escape before the fire builds and cuts off their only exit down the road," he said.

Programs that discuss the risks and dangers of wildfires make a well-educated and informed community. "People who have been through these programs have a different viewpoint, on the fire service for instance, than before because typically we take the public safety agencies for granted until we need them," he said.

The other education piece of the EAEPG is education of all individuals, agencies and government officials to understand their role during a disaster/emergency. "We want to make sure that elected officials are aware of their responsibilities and ensuring their political jurisdiction has updated emergency plans, for example.

"There is free training through FEMA for every person from police, fire, EMS, public works

employees, school officials and so on. We need to get over the mentality that 'it can't or won't happen here.'"

He continued, "The Highway 1 fire was here and can happen again. You look at our current weather and if something happened to the entire water system due to the cold, what are we going to do? How are we going to manage getting water to every citizen? Where do we get the water? If we don't plan for the what if's, we're not going to be prepared. FAC gets people thinking what they need to do to prepare for the one day a fire does hit and they will know what to do without even thinking about it. That's why law enforcement, fire and EMS train monthly and annually, so during an emergency, they will react and know what to do."

The Fire Adapted Communities initiative is a central source for wildfire mitigation efforts. It was formed to help connect people with the national programs and organizations that can address their specific needs.

"While Firewise focuses specifically on helping residents take action to prepare their homes and neighborhoods for wildfire," Erickson said, "Fire Adapted Communities connects to other organizations and programs to address all aspects of community-wide preparedness—from residents to business leaders to planners and developers."

"Residents need to be involved," Erickson said. "There are simple things they can do on their property. They can create a defensible space. That does not mean they have to cut down every tree on their land to be safe and responsible."

Community approach

"A Fire Adapted Communities approach involves a coordinated effort among all members of a community to be educated about wildfire behavior and mitigation,"

Erickson said. "We all need to consider wildfire risks in community wildfire planning and development, to develop individual and community-based plans for wildfire response and evacuation and to take action to reduce wildfire risks throughout the community before a wildfire occurs."

FAC is designed for everyone who lives, works and plays in our area who may be impacted by wildfire. FAC works to connect community officials with education and resources to plan for wildfires:

► Residents and business owners with programs to develop individual plans for wildfire preparation, evacuation and rebuilding and information on how to take action to protect homes and businesses from wildfire effects;

► Planners and developers with tools to plan more fire adapted cities and neighborhoods;

► Emergency responders with education programs for community residents on how to develop wildfire emergency plans and take action to protect buildings and property within the community from wildfire;

► Insurance companies with education on wildfire preparedness benefits for homeowners; and

► Land managers and public utilities with information on best ways to take action to protect public lands and utilities from wildfire and educate residents on the role fire plays in our environment.

National network

Fire Adapted Communities is powered by a coalition of the nation's leaders in wild fire education, planning and protection, including: U.S.D.A. Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of State Foresters, National Fire Protection Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, The Nature

Conservancy, U.S. Fire Administration and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Dovetail Partners, an environmental think-tank, is serving as the Upper Midwest Coordinator for the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.

"Wildfire mitigation efforts are incredibly important for homeowners who live in areas prone to risk, and Dovetail is working in collaboration with other respected FAC Network partners to make the project a success moving forward," said Kathryn Fernholz, Dovetail's Executive Director.

Dovetail's involvement in the FAC Network includes assisting with community-driven wildfire risk reduction efforts in this region. Dovetail is involved with data compilation, analysis of existing programs and partnerships, and working with partners to develop future strategies for program implementation and partnership growth, Fernholz said.

"This is about saving lives and saving property," Erickson said. "All of us need to take responsibility."

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network program has been made possible by the United States Forest Service, Department of Interior and managed by the Watershed Research and Training Center and The Nature Conservancy. Dovetail Partners, Inc. is the Minnesota FAC Hub.

For more information, contact Katie Fernholz, executive director, katie@dovetailinc.org, 612-333-0430. The local FAC Network Coordinator for the Ely pilot project is Gloria Erickson, gjerickson@frontiernet.net, 218-365-0878.

To learn more about fire adapted communities and available resources and opportunities for reducing wildfire risks, visit: www.fireadapted.org.

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Tour showcases BLM forestry projects



Overlooking commercial harvest treatment in Price Creek, discussing prescribed fire as a management tool. Photo by Ashley Wells (BLM)

The Centennial Valley's population likely doubled on a hot day last summer during a Centennial Fire Learning Network Field Tour that showcased several BLM forestry-related projects.

Thirty-three participants convened on the south side of the spectacular Centennial Valley of southwestern Montana to see large-scale forest restoration treatments targeting old-growth Douglas-fir savannahs and several ongoing aspen enhancement projects. The diverse crowd represented federal and state land management agencies, Beaverhead County, University of Montana-Western, University of New Mexico, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Montana Logging Association, and The Nature Conservancy.

The Centennial Fire Learning Network (FLN) was established in 2005. It is one of 12 Nature Conservancy-organized Learning Networks throughout the country, but the only one in Montana. Its

primary goal is to advance landscape-scale fire restoration in the western portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and the High Divide region through focused multi-agency projects, sharing of lessons learned, and the use of rigorous science to guide managers. As the name implies, fire is a central theme of discussion, but all natural sciences are pertinent topics.

Aly Piwowar, a forester at the BLM's Dillon Field Office at the time, began by leading the convoy of vehicles through the forested slopes of the Price Creek drainage to showcase the lower-elevation Douglas-fir commercial harvest treatment. The sunlight that poured through the freshly opened canopy allowed native grasses to flourish this summer, creating open, timbered

more....



Aly Piwowar describes the Douglas-fir savannah restoration treatment in Price Creek. Photo by Kipper Blotkamp (BLM)



Standing amongst young aspen, the group discusses the Bean Creek commercial harvest, aspen restoration, and future management opportunities in the Centennial Mountains. Photo by Ashley Wells (BLM)

habitat otherwise rare on the forested north face of the Centennial Mountains. The tawny-colored, thigh-high grass prompted a discussion about using prescribed fire as a future management tool.

“The widely-spaced Douglas-fir trees and continuous fine surface fuels are ideal for using low-intensity, broadcast prescribed fire to maintain the savannah-like tree density, and to stimulate aspen regeneration,” stated Kipper Blotkamp, Dillon Field Office Fire Ecologist. He added that the harvested areas may offer a greater range of opportunities to safely manage future wildfires in the area.

Dillon Field Office resource specialists scribbled notes about the discussion, anticipating the Centennial Watershed Environmental Assessment scheduled for 2014-2015. BLM Central Montana District Forester Bruce Reid and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forester Mike Atwood asked technical forestry-related questions with the expressed interest of implementing similar landscape-scale treatments on their respective home units. Overall, there was agreement that the final result of the BLM’s restoration-based commercial harvest was more than satisfactory. It looked fantastic!

The next stop was a BLM non-commercial treatment designed to coax vigor into a decadent aspen stand where a few live aspens and an interconnected root system had been clinging to life beneath a closed canopy conifer forest. During the fall of 2012, the BLM contracted sawyers to cut and girdle most conifers in proximity to live aspen across the two-hundred acre treatment area.

The group viewed the resultant tangled mass of tree boles and branches with raised eyebrows as Dillon FO specialists explained the tactic: the combination of cutting and girdling conifers will allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor, and hopefully the woody debris will provide a temporary browse barrier to protect new aspen shoots from hungry ungulates. There were skeptics among the group, but all are interested in the outcome. Dillon Assistant Field Manager Pat Fosse concluded, “We know what will happen if we do nothing; the aspen will die. We’re doing something, and we’ll learn from it.”

Following lunch in the cool shade of a massive, 61-inch diameter Douglas-fir tree, the tour moved east to the Bean Creek drainage to see another commercial harvest treatment area. Again, the group of biologists, ecologists, environmental advocates,

conservationists, and foresters agreed that the project was soundly based in science, and could be considered a model for forest management in similar habitats.

Nathan Korb of The Nature Conservancy conceived the idea for the Centennial Fire Learning Network eight years ago, facilitated the 2013 tour, and couldn’t pass up posing the really heavy questions weighing on his mind: Where do we go from here? How can fire play a more active role in this area in the future? How do we get other agencies on board with this type of landscape-scale forest restoration? How might climate change affect what we’ve seen and discussed during this tour?

The discussion deepened and many ideas arose. The answers to Mr. Korb’s questions, however, were far from complete or concrete. The overarching themes that developed are certainly food for further thought: Managing forests to make them more resilient to insects and disease, climate fluctuations, and fire is a good first step where active management is permitted. Maintaining the initial management investment in forest health is also critical. In areas where human intervention in natural environments is not a goal, such as within the Centennial Mountains Wilderness Study Area, managing fire may be the most viable tool we have to promote long-term resiliency. Heterogeneity of vegetation and habitat across the landscape is important for fish and wildlife, and periodic disturbance is key to promoting this variation and enhancing biodiversity. And finally, the BLM’s future natural resource management budget is uncertain, so seeking consistent interdisciplinary funding will be a top priority to maintain the current investment in the Centennial Mountains, and to continue managing for healthy, resilient forests.

*Kipper Blotkamp
Fire Ecologist
Dillon Field Office*



Intercambio y entrenamiento en quemas controladas en español en el norte de Nuevo Méjico, USA, del 16 al 30 de Septiembre, 2014

Objetivos: integrar a un grupo internacional de bomberos forestales con un grupo de bomberos forestales locales para trabajar juntos en el campo, compartir experiencias en quemas controladas, analizar los efectos de incendios forestales y otros temas ambientales relacionados con la conservación de bosques y praderas tanto en Nuevo Méjico como en los respectivos países de procedencia de los participantes.

Grupo meta: bomberos forestales de habla hispana con experiencia en quemas controladas e incendios forestales, personal con experiencia administrativa en manejo de incendios forestales como por ejemplo miembros de grupos interdisciplinarios, planificadores y ejecutivos con responsabilidades directas en este campo.

Costo de matrícula: US 400 dólares (se ofrecerán exenciones de pago de matrícula basado en la necesidad o mérito financiero de ciertos participantes).

Descripción: todos los participantes tendrán la oportunidad de trabajar en diferentes posiciones durante las quemas controladas en la región norteña del estado de Nuevo Méjico. Las posiciones incluyen ignición y seguridad en la línea de fuego. También tendremos la oportunidad de completar el monitoreo previo y posterior a la quema prescrita, inspeccionar y preparar las barreras cortafuegos, entrenarse en el uso de equipo (herramientas manuales, equipo meteorológico, motobombas, etc) y también asumir posiciones de liderazgo en la quema. Las labores de quemas, preparación de las unidades o parcelas a ser quemadas y su monitoreo tendrán lugar en bosques ubicados en zonas montañosas entre 1.800 a 3.000 metros sobre el nivel del mar (entre 6.000 y 10.000 pies de elevación). Se realizarán giras de campo donde se visitarán ciertas áreas que se quemaron en el Cerro Grande en el año 2.000 y a sectores quemados en el 2011 en el area de Las Conchas en donde escucharemos las opiniones de científicos, administradores y técnicos en incendios forestales. Además, todos los participantes de este curso tendrán que hacer una presentación a cerca del rol del fuego, tanto en quemas controladas como en incendios forestales en su país de origen y analizar los retos en torno al manejo de recursos naturales y aspectos positivos de sus programas. Finalmente, los participantes también tendrán la oportunidad de interactuar con algunos medios de comunicación locales por medio de entrevistas en el campo.

Requisitos: todos los participantes están en la obligación de completar los cursos básicos requeridos por parte del gobierno federal de los Estados Unidos sobre seguridad conocidos como S-130 y S-190 previo arribo a Nuevo Méjico. Estos son cursos autoadministrados por los participantes seleccionados. El material didáctico (discos compactos) les será facilitado por el TREX y los estudiantes establecerán contacto con varios instructores del curso para evacuar sus preguntas. La fase práctica requerida para el cumplimiento final de estos cursos se realizará en Nuevo Méjico durante un día de ejercicios y prácticas. Los certificados respectivos serán otorgados al cumplir con la parte teórica y práctica de estos cursos. Además, los (as) participantes seleccionados tendrán que autoadministrarse la prueba de condición física previo arribo a Nuevo Méjico. Esta prueba consiste en acarrear o llevar una mochila (salveque, bambador, etc) en la espalda con 11.4 kilogramos (25 libras) y caminar a paso rápido (sin correr) 3.2 kilómetros (2 millas) en 30 minutos o menos. El respectivo formulario les será suministrado cuando sea pertinente.



This training is hosted by the Fire Learning Network, Santa Fe National Forest and the Valles Caldera Trust. The Fire Learning Network is a cooperative program of the Forest Service, Department of the Interior agencies and The Nature Conservancy with a ten-year track record of helping to restore our nation's forests and grasslands and making communities safer from fire.

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Todos los participantes internacionales deben obtener la visa necesaria y otros documentos requeridos como pasaportes por su propia cuenta. El TREX suministrará una carta de invitación oficial a los candidatos seleccionados para facilitar el proceso de obtención de la visa correspondiente.

Todos los participantes deben contar con seguro (compensación del trabajador, seguro de viaje, seguro propio, etc) para cubrirlos en caso de accidentes durante el evento. También deberán firmar un documento de renuncia a demandas legales en contra del FLN en caso de accidentes, daños y perjuicios relacionados con el evento TREX. Todo el entrenamiento e intercambio se llevará a cabo en español, por lo que todos los participantes deben ser fluidos en español. Traductores y facilitadores bilingües con experiencia en fuegos serán parte de los escuadrones de bomberos forestales.

Sin excepción, todos los participantes deberán traer botas certificadas para combatir fuegos (botas de trabajo de cuero, de 20 cm (8 pulgadas) de alto, con suelas tractivas y sin puntera de acero). El o la participante que arrive a Albuquerque, Nuevo Méjico sin sus botas será automáticamente rechazado. El resto del equipo de protección personal necesario para participar en las quemas controladas les será suministrado en Nuevo Méjico. Visite esta página para obtener más información del tipo de bota de trabajo requerida (<http://www.redwingshoes.com/red-wing-shoe/4415-red-wing-shoes/4415-red-wing-mens-9-inch-logger-lineman-boot-brown>).

Viajes y comidas: todas las comidas, transporte y alojamiento serán suministrados durante el entrenamiento a partir de la cena del Lunes 15 de Septiembre. Sin embargo, los costos de transporte, alimentación y hospedaje desde el país de origen hasta Albuquerque, Nuevo Méjico y retorno a sus países de origen correrán por cuenta de los participantes. Facilitadores del TREX recogerán a los participantes el Lunes 15 de Septiembre hasta las 4 p.m. y los trasladarán a Jemez Springs. Sin embargo, los participantes podrán arivar el Domingo 14 de Septiembre pero deberán pagar los costos de alimentación y hotel. El último viaje de Albuquerque a Jemez Springs saldrá a las 4 p.m en punto. El entrenamiento terminará el Martes 30 de Septiembre. Los viajes de regreso a sus países o partida desde Albuquerque deberán realizarse entre el 1 y 2 de Octubre.

Matrícula: si tienes preguntas o si estás interesado en participar en este entrenamiento sírvase completar el formulario de registro adjunto más una carta de presentación y envíalos a Rodolfo Zúñiga Villegas (rvillegas@tnc.org). La fecha límite es el 12 de Junio del 2014. El cupo de este entrenamiento está limitado a 15 participantes y la selección será hecha teniendo en cuenta la diversidad geográfica del grupo. Las personas seleccionadas recibirán una carta de invitación de parte de The Nature Conservancy, the Fire Learning Network, y del Santa Fe National Forest, invitación que puede ser usada para obtener la visa y otros documentos de viaje requeridos.



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