

FLN Networker No. 161: June 25, 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: “[Good Fire, Bad Fire](#)” is a **wide-ranging article** in the *North Coast Journal* on the wildfire situation in the **Klamath Mountains**—past, present, and looking to the future, as communities there are looking to **restore a healthy relationship with fire** on the land. **Bill Tripp** and **Will Harling** are among those quoted, and the article mentions various partnership work in the region, including the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** and the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Training Exchange** (TREX) last fall, the **Yurok TREX** this spring, and another exchange planned for this fall.

California: Thirty stakeholders in **Firescape Mendocino** held the **third workshop** in their Open Standards planning series last week; details are in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

North Carolina: As part of the **outreach efforts** of the **Grandfather District CFLRP** project, **Lisa Jennings**, **Josh Kelly** and **Adam Warwick** toured the site of last November’s **Table Rock Wildfire** with a local journalist. The resulting [article](#) (“Rising from the Ashes: Table Rock Wildfire Stimulates Plant Growth”) highlights the **beneficial effects** of that wildfire, and fire in general, for the landscape.

Southern Blue Ridge: The **ninth annual regional workshop** of the **SBR FLN** drew (as usual!) an almost standing-room-only crowd last month. Highlights are in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

National: And as promised, a brief workshop summary from the joint **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network / Fire Learning Network** workshops can be found in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

FLN Facts: A **newly updated** version of the [two-page FLN fact sheet](#) is now available on the Conservation Gateway.

Resources: One-Day Projects / Capturing Flip Charts / Mobile Maps

One-Day Projects: The [Firewise website](#) has a nice little article that might help answer the question, “Good grief, where do I start?” It has a whole **list of bite-sized projects** that can help a homeowner start reducing wildfire risk.

Capturing Flip Charts: The **FireScape Mendocino** planning team has been capturing its flip charts of brainstorming and other content using the **CamScanner HD app** (for Android devices), and sharing them in pdf form with participants at subsequent workshops. The quality appears to be much higher than what you can capture with a snapshot.

Mobile Maps: If you’re going beyond the range of smart-device connectivity but need to take your maps, check out [this fact sheet](#) from the Southern Fire Exchange. “Offline Maps for Wildland Fire and Natural Resource Management: Custom GPS Enable Maps on a Mobile Device” will walk you through how to **export your maps** to a mobile device **for use in remote locations**.

Jobs: Collaborative Coordinator / Tall Timbers Interns

Collaborative Coordinator: The **Conservancy's Washington chapter** is seeking a part-time coordinator for the **Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative**, a partnership between TNC, Yakama Nation, Forest Service, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and WA Department of Natural Resources. The mission of the collaborative is to "improve the ecosystem health and natural functions of the landscape through active restoration projects backed by best science, community input and adaptive management." Details are available on the Conservancy's [careers page](#) (job ID 42237; search key word "Tapash"); applications are due by **July 7**.

Tall Timbers Interns: The **Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy** has several fire-related internship positions listed, including in northern bobwhite research, vertebrate ecology and fire ecology. Information is at <http://www.talltimbers.org/jobs-interns.html>.

Webinars

June 23

recording available

FLN Monitoring Analysis

Peter Bates shared results from analysis of monitoring conducted on FLN plots across the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** in support of adaptive management across a wide landscape.

Recording: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/lsr.php?RCID=3fbe7caae3814248b2201c541f1b509f>

July 9

FLN webinar

Forest Departure Analysis

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

In this webinar **Josh Kelly** will share some results from a LiDAR-based departure analysis of the Upper Warwoman landscape in the **Southern Blue Ridge** Escarpment of Georgia. Part of the analysis revealed differences in forest structure in burned vs. unburned areas.

Add to calendar: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/j.php?MTID=m35a58025e495f6796883ddebef283f74>

Log in: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/j.php?MTID=m331db5bef18114029f9e04ed44c78260>

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

September 16-30

Spanish-Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / northern NM

This exchange will be conducted in Spanish, with an international participant roster. Supported by Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience (SPER), it will combine capacity-building and strategic implementation of prescribed fire on lands in and around the Santa Fe NF. The application deadline has passed.

Sept 23-Oct 4

Arizona Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Flagstaff, AZ

The Arizona Prescribed Fire Council will host this training exchange, which will help build capacity near Flagstaff, a Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network pilot community. The 20 participants will stay at The Nature Conservancy's Hart Prairie Preserve and conduct controlled burns on strategic state, federal and private lands during this SPER-supported event.

Applications are due by **July 11**.

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

Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

July 22

Butterflies and Fire Prairie Tour / Grand River Grasslands

The Great Plains Fire Science Consortium and Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Consortium are hosting a full-day fire and butterflies tour of northern Missouri and southern Iowa prairies. RSVP by **July 8**.

Information: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/2014/05/16/butterflies-and-fire-prairie-tour/>

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

**October 21-24
new listing**

Longleaf Conference & Eastern Native Grass Symposium / Mobile, AL

Information: <http://www.longleafalliance.org/events/2014-longleaf-alliance-regional-conference>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Minneapolis June 23-27; Island Park, ID July 6-7.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Couer d'Alene, ID June 26-27.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out June 27 and July 2-8.

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

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

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Island Park, ID July 6-7.

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

Note: July 4 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—CA—"Good Fire, Bad Fire"—<http://www.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/good-fire-bad-fire/Content?oid=2636613>

News from the Field—NC: http://www.morganton.com/news/rising-from-the-ashes-table-rock-wildfire-stimulates-plant-growth/article_f254f16c-fbfb-11e3-bbab-0017a43b2370.html

News from the Field—FLN fact sheet: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/fln-fact-sheet-feb-2013.aspx> (in spite of the date in the URL, this is the May 2014 version)

Resources—Firewise project list: <http://firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/project-ideas.aspx?sso=0>

Resources—Flip-chart capture app: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.intsig.camscannerhd>

Resources—Mobile maps: http://southernfireexchange.org/SFE_Publications/factsheets/2014-3.pdf

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

Firescape Mendocino Workshop 3

Paskenta, California

June 10-11, 2014

Thirty stakeholders from 15 organizations in the landscape around the Mendocino National Forest met recently in the third of a series of planning workshops. The group is using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation model, and focused in this workshop on developing their situation diagram (or conceptual model). By the end

of the two-day workshop, participants had worked in small groups to develop five draft situation diagrams for later consolidation by a homework team. They also drafted a series of goals for the group's shared values, and wrapped up one of the viability analyses begun at the previous workshop.

Participating Agencies & Organizations

- Blue Ribbon Coalition
- CAL FIRE
- California State Parks
- California Wilderness Coalition
- Congressman Doug LaMalfa' office
- Sunflower Coordinated Resource Management Plan
- Crane Mills
- Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
- Private landowners
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Tehama County Resource Conservation District
- Tuleyome
- USDA Forest Service—Klamath and Mendocino National Forests
- West Ecosystems Analysis
- Yolo Audubon Society



A local landowner shares his group's situation diagram, as participants from other groups provide peer input. The situation diagram depicts participants' view of the social and ecological linkages in the landscape, and the root causes of threats to the group's shared values (targets).

© TNC/Mary Huffman



A fire ecologist discusses fire regimes and management treatments with workshop participants at an historic meadow on the Mendocino National Forest.

© TNC/Mary Huffman

For more information, contact:

Mary Huffman
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Guy Duffner
gduffner@tnc.org

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Forest Based Economic Opportunities

| Threat | Overall Rank | Why? |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Invasive Species | Very High | Whitings, Severe (SIL, grass, shrub, moss) |
| Loss of Riparian & Marsh Habitat | High | Could be reversed |
| Inconsistent Budget/Staffing | Very High (High P) | Widespread Land Use (Habitat Change) |
| Climate Change | Very High | Already occurring. Trend is to greater impact. Low resiliency. |

Riparian & Aquatic Species

| Threat | Overall Rank | Why? |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Invasive Species | Very High | Whitings, Severe (SIL, grass, shrub, moss) |
| Loss of Riparian & Marsh Habitat | High | Could be reversed |
| Inconsistent Budget/Staffing | Very High (High P) | Widespread Land Use (Habitat Change) |
| Climate Change | Very High | Already occurring. Trend is to greater impact. Low resiliency. |

Economic Opportunities

| Threat | Overall Rank | Why? |
|--|--------------|--|
| LACK OF MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE | HIGH | ISSUES WE THOUGHT COULD BE ADDRESSED WITHIN THE 10 YEAR PERIOD |
| ILLEGAL HARVESTING | HIGH | |
| LACK OF FOCUS OF USES TO SUPPORT LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP | 1st + MEDIUM | |
| LACK OF COLLABORATIVE MARKETING OF ADJACENT OPPORTUNITIES | 3 + MEDIUM | |
| NEPA* MUST BE ADDRESSED | * | |

Participants loved using handouts like these .pdf versions of their flipcharts from the previous workshop. These examples captured the analysis of threats to the group's shared values.



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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field



A Workshop to Remember: Southern Blue Ridge FLN Holds Its Ninth Regional Workshop May 2014

The superlatives were flying at the 2014 SBR FLN workshop. The meeting site in Cashiers, NC could not have been better. The region (the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment) is home to incredible biodiversity and 45 percent of the area is in some type of conservation ownership. The field trip to Jocassee Gorges Wildlife Management Area was exceptionally beautiful, fun and a great learning experience. Even the weather was perfect—in what is the wettest part in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains. But as with all FLN workshops, it was the people who made it all worthwhile.

In all, 89 people attended, including a number of new partners. The workshop was hosted by FLN'ers from a variety of groups working in the SBR Escarpment, which spans parts of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. One outcome of the workshop was increased cohesion and enthusiasm for working together among these escarpment partners, including the U.S. Forest Service, Greenville Watershed, South Carolina State Parks and The Nature Conservancy.

The SBR FLN has been meeting for nine years now, expanding steadily in terms of geographic footprint and participation. Informal conversations and presentations indicated that the Network has fostered relationships that have significantly increased the number of multi-agency and cross-boundary burns, and increased the acres burned. Crews and equipment are available and better able to seize opportunities to burn. With only 7-10 good burn days in the spring fire season, this has made a big difference.

Some common themes emerged from presentations, the field trip and breakout group discussions at this year's workshop:

- Burn operations: How aggressive should we be in using fire to restore ecosystems? When is patience called for vs. bold action? What is the role of growing season burns? What are some of the risks and opportunities related to multiple-day burns? What is the right fire return interval to control hardwood resprouting? To promote Table Mountain pine regeneration?
- How can we in the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment increase the social carrying capacity for yellow pine restoration in a temperate rainforest that contains a great deal of seldom-disturbed climax forest?
- Addressing the opportunities and constraints related to rare animals (salamanders, some avian species) and fire restoration
- Increasing regional capacity for fire management through interagency burn teams, etc.
- Managing for multiple objectives: recreation, hunting, rare species, bird diversity, fuels reduction, tourism, etc.
- Improving interagency prioritization and coordination to facilitate true landscape-scale management

For more information, contact:

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Participating Organizations

Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D Council
Clemson University
Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers & Scientists
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
Greenville Water
Land Trust for the Little Tennessee
National Park Service
North Carolina Forest Service
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
North Carolina State Parks
North Carolina State University
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
South Carolina Forestry Commission
South Carolina State Parks
The Nature Conservancy—Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
USDA Forest Service
Western Carolina University
Western North Carolina Alliance



Participants enjoyed learning opportunities at the Jocassee Gorges WMA photos TNC/W. Fulks

Read more: A post about this workshop is on the Grandfather Restoration Project (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)) blog: <http://grandfatherrestorationproject.wordpress.com/2014/06/02/learning-about-fire-in-the-southern-blue-ridge-3/>

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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Fire Learning Network National Workshops

June 2-6, 2014

Colorado Springs, CO

More than 60 people from the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and Fire Learning Network met in overlapping workshops in Colorado Springs during the first week of June. In the first part of the week, members of the young FAC network discussed key issues they face, learned about a community self-assessment tool now in development, and then began laying out their work for the upcoming year. Midweek, the two networks met together for the first time, in a poster session and field tour, to share ideas across the networks

and build connections between the two networks. In the latter part of the week, the FLN reflected on its work over the last several years, and then spent some time working on a vision for the next several years.

In the words of one participant, the workshop was “like a pit stop for me to refuel, put on new tires, and go back out and continue the race. After a while we all run low on gas so this was what I needed to get me back up to speed. We have already laid plans for the next FAC project in the county to our south.”



Billy Snipes gave a presentation on lessons learned about collaboration and partnership. Leaders from two FAC hub organizations were asked to give introductory talks on each of the six themes that were addressed by the group (see box).

Reflections on the week ...

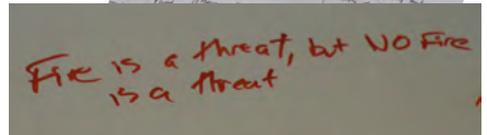
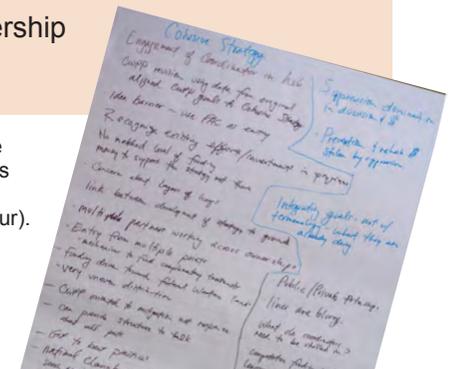
At one point, FAC Learning Network leader Nick Goulette asked us to suspend our disbelief—that really stuck with me because I felt like that’s what we are all asking people to do. We’re asking them to change and to adapt. And in order to get there, they have to suspend their disbelief long enough to make space for the change.

Annie Schmidt
Director, Chumstick Wildfire
Stewardship Coalition
Leavenworth, WA

Fire Adapted Communities: Presentation & World Cafe Themes

- Fire Department Roles and Models
- State-Level Partnerships
- Integrating Cohesive Strategy Goals in Planning & Implementation
- Ground-Up Grassroots Leadership
- Lessons about Collaboration and Partnership
- Regional Networking Systems

Following the introductory presentations, participants broke into small groups to discuss questions related to the various themes in a “world cafe” format. This format allows small groups to have rich discussions (in this case, for half an hour).





On Wednesday evening, the Fire Learning Network arrived, and joined the FAC Learning Network for a joint poster session. The session was one of the highlights of the week, combining a game that helped everyone get to know the full range of landscapes and communities in both networks with opportunities to catch up with old friends and make some new connections.

Above: Almost the whole group—missing only a couple of people on weather-delayed planes.

Below (clockwise from top left): David Burchfield, a University of Colorado graduate student studying the FAC network, explains the rules of the game, wherein each project used its poster and persuasive powers to convince others to invest in it; Annie Schmidt of the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition accepts the prize for the highest-earning FAC (Jeremy Bailey took the prize for high-scoring FLN with the prescribed fire training exchanges); Chris Topik (director of TNC's Restoring America's Forests) and Forest Service social scientist Sarah McCaffrey got a few words in; Nathan Korb stands ready to pitch his work in the Centennial Valley FLN; Will Harling (Western Klamath Mountains FLN and northern California FAC) and Marek Smith (Central Appalachians FLN) catch up; and Jeff Kwasny (FireScope Monterey FLN), researcher Bruce Goldstein and Annie Schmidt share ideas.



Reflections on the week ...

Someone at the workshop said “If you still have a culture of fire, don’t lose it.” This really resonated with me, and I’ve shared it with some partners since I came home. We’re on that cusp now in our landscape, and this was a great reminder of what we have, and need to protect.”

Marek Smith
 Director, Allegheny Highlands Program, TNC
 Central Appalachians Fire Learning Network

Participating Agencies & Organizations

- Ashland Fire and Rescue
- Austin Fire Department
- Baker County Fire Department
- Barnegat Fire Company
- Boise Fire Department
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Fire Safe Council
- Chestatee-Chattahoochee Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition
- Coalition for the Upper South Platte
- Deschutes County
- Dovetail Partners
- FireWise of Southwest Colorado
- Flagstaff Fire Department
- Florida State Forest Service
- Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Island Park Sustainable Fire Community
- Karuk Tribe
- Mercer County Soil Conservation District
- Mid-Klamath Watershed Council
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Ojai Fire Safe Council
- Project Wildfire
- Santa Fe County Wildland Fire
- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- Summit County Wildfire Council
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- The Forest Guild
- The Nature Conservancy—
 Arkansas, Colorado, Montana,
 New Mexico, North Carolina,
 Oregon, Virginia, Washington
- The Watershed Center
- Towns County FAC Citizens’ Coalition
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- USDA Forest Service



On Thursday morning, the two networks got together again, this time for a field tour and learning exchange hosted by Jon Bruno of the FAC Learning Network hub organization Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) and several community partners. The trip included a stop to learn about post-fire restoration and flood mitigation after the Waldo Fire (*top row*). This was followed by a visit to the Forest Edge neighborhood (*lower left*), where WUI challenges were discussed in the yard of a home that demonstrated significant mitigation while a local TV crew filmed. The morning wrapped up at the Sourdough restoration and fuels mitigation project, where a lively discussion of whether thinning alone would meet goals continued as people returned to the buses (*lower right*).



On Thursday afternoon, the FLN enjoyed a working lunch in the field, followed by an after action review of the last four years of work under the PERC agreement—a chance to step back, look at the five-year outcomes, and ask whether we got there and how, what worked and didn't, and what was missing. These insights were captured and then used to inform the discussion on Friday morning, when FLN leads and key partners addressed the question, Where do we want to go next?



Reflections on the week ...

What I saw at the workshop was that no matter what part of the country we live in, we all live with the risk of a wildfire, some higher than others, but the risk is always there. A wildfire that destroys 400 homes or just one is a tragedy, just the same, for the people involved.

The common thread and goal of the FAC Learning Network is to share information, ideas, successes, failures, and help each other better learn how to keep our citizens safe from the threat of wildfire and help them be prepared for it and know what to do when it does arrive in their neighborhood ...

Frank Riley
Executive Director,
Chestatee/Chattahoochee
RC&D Council
Towns County, GA

For more information about the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, contact:

Nick Goulette
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For more on the Fire Learning Network, contact:

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Reflections on the week ...

After being an engaged member of the Fire Learning Network for eight years, what struck me is the how proximate, but distant, the space between resilient landscapes (FLN) and urban interface (FAC) is—and how much benefit for communities and native landscapes can be gained by our shared experience, insight, and collective actions.

Reese Lolley
Director of Eastern Washington Forests Program, TNC
Washington Dry Forests FLN

The Fire Learning Network (FLN) and Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Learning Network are part of the *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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