

# FLN Networker No. 163: July 23, 2014

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

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

## News from the Field

**New Mexico:** A 22-minute [conversation](#) about fire and **fire adapted communities** aired on **KSFR radio** in Santa Fe on July 11, **taking advantage of public attention** to wildfire due to smoke in the air from the Diego Fire. **Eytan Krasilovsky** ([eytan@forestguild.org](mailto:eytan@forestguild.org)), county commissioner **Kathy Holian** an Santa Fe County WUI specialist **Krys Nystrom** were the guests on this Santa Fe Radio Café conversation.

Visit the Santa Fe FAC LN hub's public website at <http://www.fireadaptednewmexico.org>.

**New Mexico:** The **Rio Grande Water Fund** was in the **business section of the news** last week ([link](#)), suggesting that the **message is taking hold** that a resilient watershed makes **good economic sense** as well as ecological sense.

**North Carolina:** The **Grandfather RD CFLRP** project—which works closely with the **Central Escarpment landscape** in the Southern Blue Ridge FLN—pulled off the **first growing season prescribed burn** in recent memory on July 8. While the unit didn't burn as fully as anticipated, partners will use lessons learned during this **collaborative effort** in planning more burns for next summer. For more information, see the [Grandfather Restoration Project blog](#).

**North Carolina:** A couple of partners from that landscape—**Lisa Jennings** and **Josh Kelly**—were also quoted in a newspaper [article](#) (“Silver Lining Seen in Linville Gorge Wildfire”) that revisited the site of **last year's wildfire**. The **beneficial effects of the fire** were highlighted, and a (stalled) proposal to conduct prescribed burning in this wilderness area was touched upon.

**Oregon:** The **Ashland Forest Resiliency** project, which includes work supported by Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience (**SPER**)—hosted a **tour of watershed treatments** for **Jim Hubbard**, **Elizabeth Reinhardt** and **Chris Topik** late last month. See the attached *Notes from the Field* for a report on the tour, and contact **Mark Stern** ([mstern@tnc.org](mailto:mstern@tnc.org)) or **Darren Borgias** ([dborgias@tnc.org](mailto:dborgias@tnc.org)) for more about the project.

**Texas:** **FAC Learning Network** hub organization **Austin Fire Department** took advantage of the opening of the **movie Planes: Fire & Rescue** to conduct a little public **outreach**; see their [Facebook page](#) for more.

**Washington:** The **Washington Dry Forests FLN** and the **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition** (FAC Learning Network hub) are among the partners who have crafted a new **toolkit** to help communities and individuals **plan and react** in ways that will **mitigate post-fire damage**. See the **After the Fire** listing in the Resources section (below) and **Annie Schmidt's** [blog post](#) for more about it. The [toolkit](#) is currently getting its **first field test** on the Mills Canyon complex of fires (with the Chiwaukum branch of the fire very near **Leavenworth**, a FAC LN pilot community). The Washington people have their hands full now, so for more information, contact **Wendy Fulks** ([wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org)).

## Safety First: Safety Zone Rule

**Safety Zone Rule:** A JFSP-supported [study](#) (two-page [brief](#)) recommends a **new rule for calculating** a wildfire safety zone, based on **vegetation height rather than flame length**. The difference in safe separation distance calculated by the existing and proposed rules can be significant. (Note: these results are preliminary.)

## Resources: After the Fire / Working with an IMT / FAC Guide / Resource Database

**After the Fire:** This [toolkit](#)—developed with support from the **FLN** and other partners (see the News from the Field (above))—is designed to help **communities and local groups** quickly, accurately and comprehensively **share practical information** with residents and businesses that may be affected by post-fire risks. The kit includes easily **customizable** documents (e.g. door hanger, brochure, information sheets) and **media templates** (e.g., press release, PSA scripts, social media posts) as well as a library for further reading.

**Working with an IMT:** A **FAC Learning Network** [blog post](#) that could have been titled “**Before the Fire**,” the Firechasers lists the **top three things a community can do** to make the work of an incident command team assigned to a wildfire near them easier—and better aligned with local needs. The researchers who wrote “When Help Arrives: Is Your Community Ready?” gleaned these suggestions from their six years of studying how ICTs can work more effectively with communities.

**FAC Guide:** The **Fire Adapted Communities Coalition** released its *Guide to Fire Adapted Communities* last week. The [guide](#) covers **foundational concepts and resources**, as well as snapshot case studies that **illustrate the principles** outlined. Intended to “help leaders, planners, emergency professionals, and citizens learn the best approaches and programs to help their community become more fire adapted,” it is a clear and handy resource to **share with partners**.

**Resource Database:** The **Northern Rockies Fire Science Network’s** [resource database](#) is now online. More than **1,600 documents** can be searched by fire topic, ecosystem and resource type.

## Reports: Communication & Smoke / Fuel Reduction & Soil

**Communication & Smoke:** The [final report](#) for the JFSP-supported study “Examining the Influence and Effectiveness of **Communication Programs and Community Partnerships** on **Public Perceptions** of Smoke Management: A Multi-Region Analysis” (Eric Toman et al.) is now available. Published in June, the report is based on interviews with both fire / smoke managers and the residents of four study locations (in California, Montana, Oregon and South Carolina).

**Fuel Reduction & Soil:** The [report](#) from the Pacific Southwest Research Station, “Fuel Reduction Practices and Their Effects on Soil Quality” (Busse et al.), “provides a **synthesis** of soil chemical, biological, and physical responses to various **prescribed fire and mechanical thinning practices** and offers **practical considerations** for use in fuel reduction planning.” The issues addressed are those identified in a nationwide survey of land managers.

## In the News: Pyne Essay

**Pyne Essay:** Stephen Pyne’s July 4 [essay in slate.com](#) puts current wildfire in some **historical and policy context** for the lay reader.

## (Mostly) for Fun: Bandicoots & Bushfires

**Bandicoots:** A **small digging marsupial** may have a large role in shaping the country's bushfires, according to an interesting [report from Australia](#). (And how often do you get to use the word 'bandicoot'?)

## Jobs: Rx Burn Crew

**Rx Burn Crew:** The **Arkansas** chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **fire management technician** (job ID 42274) and a **fire management crew leader** (job ID 42275). For information, visit the TNC [careers page](#); applications are due by midnight (Eastern) on **July 23**.

## Webinars

**August 19**  
**new listing**

### **Mulch Combustibility: Choosing the Right Type for Your WUI Home**

1:00 Pacific / 2:00 Mountain / 3:00 Central / 4:00 Eastern

In this Firewise webinar, Dr. Stephen Quarles will discuss the properties of various kinds of mulch and their potential to ignite from wildfire embers. You must pre-register—attendance is limited to 100.

Info: <http://firewise.org/online-courses-and-education/virtualworkshops.aspx?sso=0>

## FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

**September 16-30**

### **Spanish-Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / northern NM**

This TREX will be conducted in Spanish, with an international roster. Supported by Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience (SPER), it will combine capacity-building and strategic implementation around the Santa Fe NF. (Deadline passed.)

**Sept 23-Oct 4**

### **Arizona Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Flagstaff, AZ**

The Arizona Prescribed Fire Council will host this TREX, which will help build capacity near Flagstaff, a FAC Learning Network pilot community. 20 participants will stay at TNC's Hart Prairie Preserve and conduct controlled burns on strategic state, federal and private lands in this SPER-supported event. (Deadline passed.)

**Sept 29 – Oct 11**  
**save the date**

### **Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Orleans, CA**

Save the date for this new TREX that will conduct treatments in support of fire adapted communities in the region. Details will be available soon.

**October 13-26**  
**save the date**

### **Northern California Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Arcata, CA**

Save the date for the second NorCal TREX, co-hosted by the FLN and Northern California Prescribed Fire Council. Details will be available soon.

## Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

**August 21**  
**grant deadline**

### **Pinaleño Field Trip / Safford, AZ**

This one-day SW Fire Science Consortium field trip will explore the fire and disturbance history of the Pinaleño range and management plans to restore mixed conifer and spruce-fir through the Pinaleño Ecosystem Restoration Project. It will include visits to the areas affected by the Nuttall-Gibson (2004) and Clark Peak Fires (1996). Some **travel grants** are available; the application deadline for those is **July 25**.

Information: <http://swfireconsortium.org/events/>

- 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](http://www.stsm2014.org)
- October 20-31** **Mississippi Wildland Fire Academy / Pearl, MS**  
Info: [http://www.mfc.ms.gov/pdf/Training/2014\\_Wildland\\_Fire\\_Academy.pdf](http://www.mfc.ms.gov/pdf/Training/2014_Wildland_Fire_Academy.pdf)
- October 21-24** **Longleaf Conference & Eastern Native Grass Symposium / Mobile, AL**  
Information: <http://www.cvent.com/events/our-roots-run-deep/event-summary-e7799b2b1c014d61a029c82d19126b05.aspx>
- October 22-24, 2015** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**  
**save the date** The deadline for abstracts for next year's NFPA conference is this August 29.  
Information: [http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond?order\\_src=C365](http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond?order_src=C365)

## Send News, Links & Comments

- Lynn Decker** – [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) – Lynn is out July 25.
- Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in the office.
- Wendy Fulks** – [wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org) – Wendy is out July 24.
- Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in the office.
- Heather Montanye** – [hmontanye@tnc.org](mailto:hmontanye@tnc.org) – Heather is in the office
- Guy Duffner** – [gduffner@tnc.org](mailto:gduffner@tnc.org) – Guy is in the office.
- Liz Rank** (Networker Editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is out July 31-August 1.

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—NM: <http://www.santaferadiocafe.org/sfradiocafe/2014/07/11/eytan-krasilovsky-kathy-holian-krys-nystrom/>
- News from the Field—NM—Rio Grande Water Fund: <http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/news/2014/07/18/businesses-join-effort-to-thin-forests.html>
- News from the Field—NC—Rx burn: <http://grandfatherrestorationproject.wordpress.com/2014/07/09/rockhouse-creek-prescribed-burn-first-ever-growing-season-burn-for-us-forest-service-in-the-nc-mountains/>
- Wildfire follow-up: <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/local/2014/07/19/silver-lining-seen-linville-gorge-wildfire/12891387/>
- News from the Field—TX: <https://www.facebook.com/AustinFireDeptWildfireDivision>
- News from the Field—WA—After the Fire toolkit blog post: <http://facnetwork.org/afterthefire-toolkit/>
- Safety First—Safety zone rule: [http://www.firescience.gov/projects/07-2-1-20/project/07-2-1-20\\_Safety\\_zones\\_07112014.pdf](http://www.firescience.gov/projects/07-2-1-20/project/07-2-1-20_Safety_zones_07112014.pdf)
- Resources—After the Fire: <http://afterthefirewa.org/>
- Resources—Working with an IMT: <http://facnetwork.org/help-arrives-community-ready/>
- Resources—FAC guide: <http://www.fireadapted.org/~media/Fire%20Adapted/Files/FAC%20Reference%20Guide%202014%20FINAL%20reduced%202.pdf>
- Resources—Database: <http://nrfirescience.org/resources>
- Reports—Communication & smoke: <http://gallery.mailchimp.com/86ca80b729f35593df087eace/files/94a415cd-49a2-479a-8f25-e8be4a6d65bf.pdf>
- Reports—Fuel reduction & soil: [http://www.firescience.gov/projects/08-2-1-14/project/08-2-1-14\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.firescience.gov/projects/08-2-1-14/project/08-2-1-14_final_report.pdf)
- In the News: [http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future\\_tense/2014/07/box\\_and\\_burn\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_u\\_s\\_wildfire\\_policy.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2014/07/box_and_burn_the_future_of_u_s_wildfire_policy.html)
- (Mostly) for Fun—Bandicoots: <http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/06/30/4029166.htm>

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

# Ashland Forest Resiliency Project Showcases Progress

Ashland, OR

June 2014

In June, Ashland Mayor John Stromberg and partners in the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project Master Stewardship Agreement hosted a field visit from Jim Hubbard (Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry) and Elizabeth Reinhardt (Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation Management) of the Forest Service and Chris Topik (Director, North America Forest Priority) of The Nature Conservancy. They toured the 22,000-acre mixed conifer project area encompassing the watershed that is home to Ashland's municipal water supply, talking with local Conservancy staff and other partners, including the Ashland Fire Department, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Partners in this landscape recently completed 4,000 acres of fuel reduction and restoration treatments, including nearly 1,000 acres of work with ground-based machinery and helicopters; prescribed fire treatments are now planned and ramping up. The restoration thinning under this project has so far delivered 3.5 million board-feet to a local mill and

generated \$1.5 million in receipts, which will be redirected to project work. Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) funding is supporting some of the treatments on strategic private and city units in the lower reaches of the watershed.

Partners on this project have engaged key stakeholders from the start, and surveys show increasing social—and financial—support for this place-based work. Forest supervisor Rob MacWhorter, and city leaders from the world-renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Chamber of Commerce, and the Public Works Department shared their perspectives with the visitors. Citing the recreation / tourism, economic and aesthetic values in the watershed, they emphasized the importance of restoration and fuels treatments in reducing the risk of wildfire to local homes and community, protecting clean drinking water and conserving these diverse frequent-fire forests that are home to the northern spotted owl, Pacific fisher and other wildlife. Local community support is strong enough that Mayor Stromberg recently committed \$350,000 on

behalf of the city to support restoration actions on national forest lands in the city's watershed.

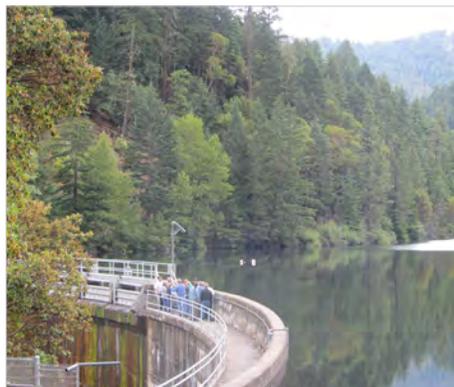
Future work will complete treatment on another 3,600 acres on the national forest. Partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, AFR partners will broaden the work to adjacent private lands, further securing the watershed and other landscape values around the community. Partners appreciated the opportunity to showcase the work they have completed so far, thanking Jim and Elizabeth, and encouraged their continued support in advancing critical cross-boundary, all lands forest conservation work.

### Ashland Forest Resiliency Partners & Contractors

- City of Ashland
- Columbia Helicopters
- Forest Energy Group
- Grayback Forestry
- KSWild (Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center)
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Murphy Lumber
- Oregon State University Extension.
- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA Forest Service—Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest



Jim Hubbard, Elizabeth Reinhardt (both Forest Service) and Chris Topik (TNC) joined community leaders and restoration partners to get the big picture of the forest/city interface, and visit the city's municipal water supply on Ashland Creek to appreciate the historical foundation for effective partnership between the Forest Service and community.  
photos: TNC/Kerry Metlen



The Fire Learning Network and Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) are 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, contact Lynn Decker at [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524



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