

FLN Networker No. 165: August 20, 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

Georgia: From the **SBR FLN**, the [report](#) “Using **LiDAR to Analyze Vegetation Structure and Ecological Departure** in the Upper Warwoman Watershed, Georgia” is now posted on the Conservation Gateway. The analysis, by **Josh Kelly** (josh@wnca.org), showed that five of the seven forest ecosystems in this part of the Chatahoochee NF are highly departed from reference conditions, indicating that fire management and other techniques that create disturbances would be ecologically beneficial here.

New Mexico: In the northern part of the state, the FLN is now casting a wider net, as a key partner in the **Rio Grande Water Fund**, which is working to protect the **watershed** that supplies **more than half the state’s population**. You can read a little about the project on nature.org, or get more detail in the recently-released [comprehensive plan](#).

North Carolina: A recent [blog post](#) on **wildlife monitoring** in the **Grandfather CFLRP** project includes photos of **bears, bobcats and more** using areas that have been treated with prescribed fire. This monitoring project will run through the fall, and is **testing the hypothesis** that wildlife use the treated units more than adjacent unburned areas.

Virginia: They’re putting the **interns to work** in the **Central Apps FLN** this summer. A crew of four [TNC LEAF interns](#) spent four weeks in the **Allegheny Highlands** and **Clinch Valley** this summer. Among their tasks was the **installation** of recently-completed **interpretive signage** about prescribed burning, such as this sign at the Bear Loop burn unit at the Warm Springs Mountain Preserve.



National: **Chris Topik**, director of the Conservancy’s Restoring America’s Forests program, is one of 21 newly-**appointed** members of the **Forest Service’s Planning Rule Federal Advisory Committee** (FACA). According to the [press release](#), “The recommendations provided by the FACA Committee are critical to the successful implementation of the Planning Rule.”

Resources: [Fire GIS Training](#) / [Firebreaks](#) / [USFS FAC](#) / [LANDFIRE](#)

Fire GIS Training: A series of **National Park Service** [webinar recordings](#) cover topics from collection of **field data** to **finding GIS data** to step-by-step **development of a fire map**. The series is aimed at mapping for wildfire incidents, but much of the information may be **useful in other contexts** as well.

Firebreaks: **Great Plains FLN** partner **Pheasants Forever** has an [eight-page brochure](#) on firebreak management. It covers **types of firebreaks** and considerations for choosing **location** and **dimensions**, and **installing** breaks. For more information, contact **Ben Wheeler** (ben.wheeler@nebraska.gov).

USFS FAC: The **Forest Service** now has a [webpage](#) on **fire adapted to communities**, with links to a variety of resources (including an FAQ memo that answers a few key questions—including “What is a fire adapted community?”—and a brochure for professionals).

LANDFIRE: In collaboration with several **JFSP** consortia, LANDFIRE will be offering two **three-webinar series** this fall. In each series, examples will be drawn from the geography of the hosting consortium, but are otherwise applicable to all interested people. More information is on the [Conservation Gateway](#), and the individual webinars are in the **listings below**.

Reports: Cost Drivers / Communities at Risk

Cost Drivers: Last month the Union of Concerned Scientists released the [report](#) “Playing with Fire: How **Climate Change** and **Development Patterns** Are Contributing to the Soaring Costs of **Western Wildfires**,” which provides a reasonably concise overview of the issue.

Communities at Risk: The **National Association of State Foresters** FY2013 “Communities at Risk” brief (attached) reports that there are nearly **73,000 communities** in the U.S. at risk from wildfire. Of those, they note that **6% have taken steps to reduce their risk**—defined as having **Firewise** (or similar) recognition, enacted a mitigation/fire prevention **ordinances**, or **completing high-priority fuel treatments** or maintenance actions identified in their CWPP.

Articles: Oaks / Great Basin Rehab

Oaks: The latest [newsletter](#) from the **Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium** includes a brief article on **herbicides as a fire surrogate** for oak regeneration and a summary of (and link to) an article on **reversing legacy effects** in the understory, as well as listings of webinars and field tours.

Great Basin Rehab: A JFSP project (David Pyke and colleagues) looked at seeding **outcomes** under various conditions 8 to 21 years after **post-fire seeding**. The results (and management implications) can be found in the [final report](#) and in the [article](#) “**Long-Term Effects** of Seeding after Wildfire on Vegetation in Great Basin **Shrubland Ecosystems**” in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

Videos: Slide Fire / Rx Fire Uses

Slide Fire: The **Southwest Fire Science Consortium** has an 11-minute [video](#) on the management of the Slide Fire that burned in May between Flagstaff and Sedona, AZ. “**Every Fire is an Opportunity** to Treat a Landscape” discusses how the tactics chosen **lessened negative impacts** to the forest and watershed and supported firefighter safety, and how these **indirect tactics** are part of a **national trend**. The consortium has also posted a **virtual field tour** of the fire area using [Google maps](#).

Prescribed Fire Uses: The **Northwest Fire Science Consortium** [video](#) “Prescribed Fire: A **Multi-Purpose** Tool” gives a couple of **Washington state examples** of the use of prescribed fire—to reduce hazardous fuels in east-side ponderosa pine forests, and for prairie restoration in the western part of the state (the latter described by Sarah Hamman).

Prescribed Fire Series: The **Great Plains Fire Science Exchange** has recently posted a [set of five videos](#) featuring **John Weir** (Oklahoma State University). Topics covered are the effects of burning in different **seasons**, controlling **sericea lespedeza**, consequences of not burning, **controlling brush**, and effects on **grazing**.

In the News: Fires Managed for Resource Benefit

Resource Benefit: An [article](#) in *Wildfire Today* covers the **Sitgreaves Complex** (near Flagstaff, AZ), where managers hope to treat **up to 19,000 acres** of mostly ponderosa pine by managing a fire ignited by lightning on July 13. And on the **Santa Fe NF**—and falling within the **Rio Grande Water Fund**—the **Pino Fire**, first sighted on August 13, is being allowed to burn. According to the [Albuquerque Journal](#), it is located in a unit that was slated for prescribed fire in the coming month.

Job: Ecologist

Ecologist: The **Conservancy's** Arkansas chapter is hiring a **terrestrial ecologist** for its **measures and monitoring** initiative. For information, see the [Conservancy careers page](#) (Job ID 42356); applications are due by **September 3**.

Mark Your Calendar

May 2: The next International Wildfire **Community Preparedness Day** is set for **Saturday, May 2, 2015**. For information about 2014 events—and 2015 ones, as they become available—see the [NFPA website](#). (And network folks are everywhere: the testimonial in the sidebar quotes **Ronda Sutphen** (ronda.sutphen@freshfromflorida.com), lead from the **FAC Learning Network** hub in Florida.)

Webinars

August 27
new listing

A Panel Perspective on Regeneration in Southwestern Pine Forests after High Severity Wildfires

noon Pacific (and Arizona) / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern
The panelists in this Southwest Fire Science Consortium discussion will be Pete Fulé (Northern Arizona University), Collin Haffey (USGS Jemez Field Station), José Iniguez (USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station), Jim Youtz (USFS Southwestern Region) and Joy Mast (Carthage College).

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-panel-perspective-on-regeneration-in-southwest-pine-forests-after-high-severity-wildfires-registration-12671576025>

September 4
new listing

LANDFIRE 101

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

Randy Swaty will present this webinar, which is co-hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/southern-fire-exchange-and-landfire-present-landfire-101-webinar-tickets-12620148203>

September 17
new listing

LANDFIRE 101

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

Randy Swaty will present this webinar, which is co-hosted by the Tallgrass Prairie & Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium and Lake States Fire Science Consortium.

Information: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/news/Pages/ConsortiaSeriesLandingPage.aspx>

September 18
new listing

LANDFIRE: Assessing Needs

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

Webinar will be co-hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange.

Information: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/news/Pages/ConsortiaSeriesLandingPage.aspx>

October 8
new listing

LANDFIRE: Assessing Needs

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

Webinar will be co-hosted by the Tallgrass Prairie & Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium and Lake States Fire Science Consortium.

Information: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/news/Pages/ConsortiaSeriesLandingPage.aspx>

October 10
new listing

LANDFIRE: Customizing Data

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

Webinar will be co-hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange.

Information: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/news/Pages/ConsortiaSeriesLandingPage.aspx>

October 29
new listing

LANDFIRE: Customizing Data

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

Webinar will be co-hosted by the Tallgrass Prairie & Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium and Lake States Fire Science Consortium.

Information: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/news/Pages/ConsortiaSeriesLandingPage.aspx>

FLN Workshops & Field Tours

August 28
new listing

Forest Insects & Their Response to Management Actions / MT

This Centennial FLN field tour will visit several Douglas-fir and aspen sites with forest entomologist Nancy Sturtevant. The effects of thinning and burning on bark beetle, budworm, and other insects will be discussed, along with how these effects can be considered in forest conservation strategies.

Information: **Nathan Korb** (nkorb@tnc.org)

→ If attending, reply by August 21: <http://doodle.com/8xap2ydh54bqh7a>

September 3-4
new listing

FireScope Mendocino / Willits, CA

At the fourth workshop in the planning series, participants will use the situation diagram from the previous workshop and work through various exercises to develop strategies and start on an activity plan to guide work on the ground.

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

September 11
new listing

Centennial Valley Sage Grouse Project / Centennial Valley, MT

Kyle Cutting, Sean Schroff and their field crews tracked over 40 sage grouse hens across private and public lands in the eastern Centennial through nesting and brood-rearing this summer. Participants in this tour will visit their study area and hear about observations and research plans, and discuss the management implications of the project. Information: **Nathan Korb** (nkorb@tnc.org)

→ If attending, reply by September 4: <http://doodle.com/8xap2ydh54bqh7a>

September 16
new listing

Eureka Fire / Centennial Valley, MT

The 2013 Eureka Fire burned subalpine stands of whitebark pine, spruce and fir forests, including many areas where mountain pine beetle had recently killed the dominant pines. The effects of fire in these forests are poorly understood and participants will explore whitebark pine ecology and conservation in a dynamic and changing environment. Information: **Nathan Korb** (nkorb@tnc.org)

→ If attending, reply by September 9: <http://doodle.com/8xap2ydh54bqh7a>

December 2-3

California Prescribed Fire Conference / McClellan, CA

The **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council**, **Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council** and other partners will be hosting this conference focused on increasing the pace and scale of fire-based treatments—both managed wildfire and landscape-scale prescribed fire—in California. An agenda and other information will be available soon.

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- September 14-30** **Spanish-Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / northern NM**
This TREX, supported by Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience (SPER), will combine capacity-building and strategic implementation of fire on lands in and around the Santa Fe NF. (Application 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. The 20 participants will stay at TNC's Hart Prairie Preserve and conduct controlled burns on strategic state, federal and private lands during this SPER-supported event. (Application deadline passed.)
- Sept 28 – Oct 4** **Black Lake Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Black Lake, NM**
This TREX will conduct burning that supports the goals of the **Rio Grande Water Fund**, protecting local communities, restoring the watershed and developing local capacity. Invitees must respond by August 21.
- Sept 29 – Oct 11** **Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Orleans, CA**
This TREX, supported by Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience (SPER), will combine capacity-building and strategic implementation of fire on lands in the Klamath FLN/FAC landscape. (Application deadline passed.)
- October 13-26** **Northern California Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Arcata, CA**
This TREX, hosted by the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council and supported in part by Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience (SPER), will reprise last fall's very successful event, integrating a diverse group of participants to support conservation, community safety and capacity-building in the northwest part of the state. (Application deadline passed.)

Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

- 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 20-31** **Mississippi Wildland Fire Academy / Pearl, MS**
Among the courses being offered at the Southern Regional Fire Training Center during this time is Rx301 Prescribed Fire Implementation.
Info: 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 23-24** **National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation / Washington, DC**
new listing
Information: <http://www.largelandscapenetwork.org/2014-national-workshop/>

November 6-8
new listing

Wildland Fire Smoke Workshop / Albuquerque, NM

Hosted by the Southwest Fire Science Consortium and AFE, “Smoke in the Sky—What does it Mean to Me?” is a workshop for all stakeholders. It will cover ecology and technical tools (day 1), health and communication (day 2) and public participation and input (day 3).

Information: <http://swfireconsortium.org/smoke-workshop/>

April 20-24, 2015
new listing

Managing Fire, Understanding Ourselves: Human Dimensions in Safety and Wildland Fire / Boise, ID

Save the date for the 13th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 4th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference.

Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/>

October 22-24, 2015 **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**

The deadline for abstracts for next year’s NFPA conference is this August 29.

Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond>

Nov. 16-20, 2015

Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX

The dates for the 6th international congress of the Association for Fire Ecology have been set. Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in the office.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out August 22-29.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Island Park, ID August 25-28.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Mendocino, CA September 2-5.

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

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Island Park, ID August 25-28; in Mendocino, CA September 2-5.

Liz Rank (Networker Editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out August 22.

Note: September 1 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--GA—LiDAR analysis: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/SBR-Warwoman-Report-July-2014.aspx>

News from the Field—NM—Rio Grande Water Fund: <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/newmexico/new-mexico-rio-grande-water-fund.xml>

News from the Field—NC—Wildlife monitoring: <http://grandfatherrestorationproject.wordpress.com/2014/08/15/wildlife-monitoring-turkey-bobcats-and-bears-oh-my/>

News from the Field—National:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/08/0175.xml&contentidonly=true>

Resources—Fire GIS training: <http://www.nps.gov/fire/wildland-fire/professional-tools/fire-gis-webinars.cfm>

Resources--Firebreaks: <http://nebraskapf.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Firebreak-Management-Brchure.pdf>

Resources—USFS FAC page: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/prev_ed/fac/

Resources—LANDFIRE: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/news/Pages/ConsortiaSeriesLandingPage.aspx>

Report—Cost drivers: http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science_and_impacts/impacts/climate-change-development-patterns-wildfire-costs.html

Articles—Oaks: http://oakfirescience.squarespace.com/storage/July_2014_newsletter.pdf

Articles—Great Basin rehab—JFSP final report: https://www.firescience.gov/projects/09-S-02-1/project/09-S-02-1_final_report.pdf

Journal article: http://www.firescience.gov/projects/09-S-02-1/project/09-S-02-1_Knutson_et_al_2014_Long-term_seeding_effects_after_wildfires_-_with_Suppl_-_J_Appl_Ecol.pdf

Videos—Slide Fire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSfT9BqoYVE&feature=youtu.be>

Virtual tour: <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/viewer?mid=zfUCbGJbEYI8.k9uvAMO5kpC0>

Videos—Rx fire uses: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_Fj00_4n6Q&feature=youtu.be

Videos—Great Plains series: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/2014/08/05/prescribed-fire-videos-released/>

In the News—Sitgreaves Complex: <http://wildfiretoday.com/2014/08/14/arizona-sitgreaves-complex-managed-fires/>

Pino Fire: <http://www.abqjournal.com/448211/abqnewsseeker/lightning-caused-fire-grows-but-still-small.html>

Mark Your Calendar—NFPA site: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day>

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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Communities at Risk Report

National Association of State Foresters

[FY2013]



The National Association of State Foresters continually surveys all states to determine progress in identifying communities at risk and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

This report helps provide a national snapshot of wildland fire risk, preparedness and capacity. The FY 2013 data were collected through the U.S. Forest Service's National Fire Plan Operations & Reporting System, and reflects data accomplishments through September 30, 2013.

Photography by NASF Foundation photo fellow Joel Prince

Background

State Foresters have made advances in the methods and information used to identify and assess communities at risk (CAR), which has led to the identification of 72,681 communities at risk. The number of CARs covered by a CWPP (17,060) shows an increase of 2,285 since last year's report, an increase of 15%.

Reduced Risk

A community is at reduced risk from wildland fire if it has satisfied at least one of the following requirements:

1. Recognized as a Firewise community or equivalent,
2. Enacted a mitigation/fire prevention ordinance, or
3. High priority hazardous fuels identified in a CWPP are reduced or appropriate fuel levels on such lands are maintained in accordance with plan schedule.

Number of Communities at Risk (CAR)	72,681
Number of CAR covered by a CWPP or equivalent	17,060
Percent of CAR covered by a CWPP	23%
Number of CAR at reduced risk	4,418
Percent of CAR at reduced risk	6%

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

State Foresters collaborate with local communities and others to prepare CWPPs. The table below shows how many of those communities in need are now covered by a CWPP, as well as how many CAR are at reduced risk.

Year	Region	Communities		
		Total CAR	Covered by a CWPP	At Reduced Risk
2013				
	West	7,606	6,108	1,184
	South	59,603	9,653	2,128
	Northeast	5,472	1,299	1106
	TOTAL	72, 681	17,060	4,418

National Increases in Capacity

Many at risk communities reported increased local suppression capacity as evidenced by:

1. The increasing number of trained and/or certified fire fighters and crews, or
2. Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment obtained, or
3. Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department.

Total firefighters trained State Fire Assistance (SFA): 55,522; Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): 27,865,	61,204
Funding provided for upgraded or new fire suppression equipment (SFA: 6.8 million, VFA: \$9.1 million)	\$15.9 million in funding for communities
Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department	171
Total Number of communities assisted by SFA and VFA	12,041
Total Communities at Risk	72,681
Percent of Communities with increased capacity	17%

Contact

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