

FLN Networker No. 166: September 3, 2014

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

For more about the FLN, visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln or contact Lynn Decker.

News from the Field

California: In northern California, where several large fires are burning, there's also some good news. A **prescribed burn** conducted by the Forest Service last fall **helped firefighters stop the Oregon Fire** at under 600 acres. See the [post in Wildfire Today](#) for the **remarkable image** of the prescribed fire and wildfire footprints—certainly a case of a picture that's worth a thousand words.

California: In **FireScope Monterey**, **sudden oak death** (SOD) is a threat to biodiversity, human communities, cultural resources and the aesthetic and spiritual values of the northern Santa Lucia Mountains. Hundreds of thousands of oaks in the area have died from the *Phytophthora ramorum* pathogen, creating **high fuel loads**, **changing forest composition** and **reducing acorn production**. Core team members from UC Davis and the Coastlands neighborhood near Big Sur recently coordinated the first phase of a privately-funded **SOD mitigation project**. They collected samples from 140 California bay laurels (a host for the pathogen) and sent them to a lab. They also removed about 150 symptomatic bay trees, and trimmed others to allow light and drying to limit the pathogen. The project **also improved access for fire control** in the neighborhood, creating adequate clearance for the Type 3 engines used by the local fire brigade.

Idaho / Montana: The **Island Park Sustainable Fire Community** wrapped up the summer with three days of **touring and discussing treatments and issues** in the FAC LN pilot communities of Island Park and West Yellowstone. For more, see the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Washington: With wildfire in their backyard this summer, the FAC LN hub **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition** developed a nice reference for **adding FAC concepts to existing wildfire messaging**. The brief table lists likely messages, along with “**one more sentence**” that can be added to align the outreach with the **2014 National Fire Season Theme #4**: “A community that has adapted to wildfire is a better-protected community.” An [introduction letter](#) for public information officers and the [suggested messages](#) are posted on the NIFC PIO bulletin board, and the messaging is being shared by the Western Region Strategy Committee. For more information, contact **Annie Schmidt** (director@chumstickcoalition.org).

National: The **FLN's partnering with researchers** to **evaluate and adapt** our work is discussed in an upcoming **book about networks**. [Connecting to Change the World: Harnessing the Power of Networks for Social Impact](#) (Peter Plastrik, Madeleine Taylor and John Cleveland) will be available September 29; Island Press is offering a 30% discount (code EARLYNET) for orders before then.

Articles & Resources: WUI Mitigation Guide / Working Woodlands / Juniper Fuel Moisture / Equipment Sharing

WUI Mitigation Guide: The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has just released a Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Desk Reference Guide. The [27-page guide](#) is intended to help integrate WUI principles into national wildland fire training; promote a common, consistent language for wildfire mitigation; and establish an authoritative source for WUI mitigation information.

Working Woodlands: *National Woodlands* is a publication of the National Woodland Owners Association. The [summer 2014 issue](#) focuses on wildfire, mainly from the **perspective of privately-owned working woodlands**.

Juniper Fuel Moisture: The **Great Plains Fire Science Exchange** has a [new fact sheet](#) on “Determining Live Fuel Moisture in Junipers.” It includes **step-by-step instructions** for determining and interpreting fuel moisture.

Equipment Sharing: Iowa State University has produced a [guidebook](#) for small farmers that may have applicability to groups considering sharing other types of equipment. The *Machinery Sharing Manual for Fruit and Vegetable Growers* includes sections on choosing suitable partners, agreements, joint ownership and other **operational and organizational issues** to consider.

In the News: Wildfires to Talk About

Wildfires to Talk About: In an [op-ed piece](#) on livescience.com (“The Two Wildfires Everyone Should Be Talking About”), **Wally Covington** (Northern Arizona University) talks about the **Slide Fire** and **San Juan Fire** in Arizona. Fire crews and post-fire recovery teams on these fires noted that **prescribed fire treatments** in place near these fires helped **keep them “small,”** at least by today’s standards, and under the dry, hot, windy conditions when they burned.

Job: Project Director

Project Director: The **Nature Conservancy’s** Iowa chapter is hiring a **Loess Hills Project Director**. **Susanne Hickey** mentions “**great partners**” as one of the perks of the position. More information is available on the Conservancy’s [careers page](#) (job ID #42379); applications are due by **September 26**.

Webinars

- September 4** **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** **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** **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** **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

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

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

September 3-4

FireScape 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

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

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>

November 5
new listing

Central Appalachians FLN Annual Workshop / Warm Springs, VA

Colleagues from Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Kentucky will discuss the state of fire management as a tool for eastern forests; plans for 2015 controlled burns; updates on monitoring programs; communications, outreach and education; and ecological zones mapping, vegetation assessment tool and other resources. An agenda will be available next month.

Information: **Sam Lindblom** (slindblom@tnc.org) or Marek Smith (marek_smith@tnc.org)

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. (Application deadline passed.)
- 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 25**
new listing **New Hampshire Prescribed Fire Council / Campton, NH**
Topics for this quarterly meeting include upcoming training and burn plans, results of the NE regional public outreach survey and engaging local and municipal partners.
Info: Zack Boyajian (zachary.l.boyajian.nfg@mail.mil)
- 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**
Information: <http://www.largelandscapenetwork.org/2014-national-workshop/>
- November 6-8** **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/>
- Feb 17-19, 2015** **Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Regional Fire Conference / Dubuque, IA**
new listing
Save the date for this conference on fire in the upper Midwest, with presentations and discussions for fire researchers, practitioners and land managers.
Information: to receive updates, join the mailing list at <http://bit.ly/TPOSlist>
- April 20-24, 2015** **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/>
- May 2, 2015** **International Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**
Various events will be taking place. Check <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day> for details as they become available.
- October 22-24, 2015** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**
updated
The deadline for abstracts for next year's NFPA conference has been extended to December 15.
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 at New Mexico/Arizona TREX September 11-October 1.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out September 15-26.

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

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out September 5-8, September 12-22.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Mendocino, CA September 1-5.

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

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—WA—One more sentence (letter): http://www.nifc.gov/PIO_bb/Background/OneMoreSentenceIntro.pdf

Table of suggested messages: http://www.nifc.gov/PIO_bb/Background/OneMoreSentence.pdf

News from the Field—Book: [http://in4c.us8.list-](http://in4c.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0900a4c1d62bec87523dc52cb&id=e0b3873d01&e=531cb7dd08)

[manage.com/track/click?u=0900a4c1d62bec87523dc52cb&id=e0b3873d01&e=531cb7dd08](http://in4c.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0900a4c1d62bec87523dc52cb&id=e0b3873d01&e=531cb7dd08)

Articles & Resource—WUI mitigation guide: <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/pms051.pdf>

Articles & Resources—Working woodlands: <http://www.southernfireexchange.org/etc/NWSummer2014.pdf>

Articles & Resources--Juniper fuel moisture:

<http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/files/2014/08/CedarFuelMoistureGPE2014-13.pdf>

(Note: pdf did not open in older version of Internet Explorer; try an alternate browser if this link fails)

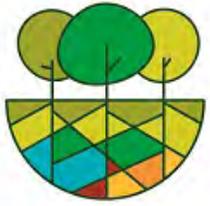
Articles & Resources—Equipment sharing: <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/pubs-and-papers/2014-06-machinery-sharing-manual-fruit-and-vegetable-growers.pdf>

In the News—Wildfires to talk about: <http://www.livescience.com/47510-wildfire-prevention-is-science-not-art.html>

Job—TNC careers: https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?SiteId=1

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 ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

Notes from the Field

Community Field Trip Provides Opportunity for Shared Learning

Island Park Sustainable Fire Community

The **Island Park** Sustainable Fire Community is a FAC Learning Network hub that works in an area extending from Island Park, just north of Ashton, Idaho, into West Yellowstone, Montana. Island Park is also a Western Cohesive Strategy pilot project. Targhee National Forest land surrounds much of the town of Island Park and its unincorporated neighborhoods. Few homeowners live in Island Park year-round, and many only visit their homes for a handful of weekends each summer.

As the summer came to a close, the collaborative hosted a series of field trips designed to update members on recent accomplishments and to facilitate discussion about a number of issues.

On the first day, the group visited the Yale Creek, Palmer Summer Homes and Stonegate neighborhoods, where landowners have created defensible space in the home ignition zone. The collaborative provided funding for four of these demonstration sites in 2014, and each treated property has a sign indicating that it is a "Sustainable Fire Property." In addition, the collaborative hired two outreach coordinators to go door-to-door in the Yale Creek and Stonegate neighborhoods and have conversations with homeowners about wildfire risk. Their interviews indicate that the sustainable fire property signs are getting noticed

and that neighbors are talking with one another about fire. Although there are some residents who oppose tree removal, many others are interested in mitigation.

The next morning, the collaborative convened its monthly meeting and then the group visited some fuels treatments in and around West Yellowstone, Montana, close to the boundary between the Targhee and Gallatin National Forests. Forest Service staff from the two forests coordinate their work closely and have taken steps to ensure their fire plans are similar. (Due to the prevailing winds, wildfires on the Targhee can and do threaten homes and other values in Montana.) Gallatin National Forest staff also coordinate closely with the West Yellowstone Fire Department, conducting joint fuel reduction projects in wildland-urban interface areas.

And on the following day, the group visited an aspen restoration project near Henry's Lake, Idaho and a proposed fuels reduction project adjacent to the Yale Creek neighborhood. Discussions touched on litigation, the challenges associated with getting homeowners to accept prescribed fire as a restoration and fuels reduction tool, conifer encroachment into aspen, Douglas fir regeneration and options for improving ingress/egress for Yale Park residents.

August 26-28, 2014

Island Park, ID



Top: Field trip participants discuss aspen restoration and prescribed fire near Henry's Lake, Idaho.

Photo: Wendy Fulks

Bottom: Signs are raising awareness about the Island Park collaborative and the need to create defensible space around homes.

Photo: Guy Duffner

For more information about the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, visit FACnetwork.org or contact:

Nick Goulette
nickg@hayfork.net

The Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Learning Network is 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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