

FLN Networker No. 172: November 26, 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

Arkansas: McRee Anderson's (wanderson@tnc.org) essay "**Carrying the Torch from Arkansas to Zambia**," which appeared in the October/November issue of *Nature Conservancy* magazine, can be read on the Conservancy's [TALK blog](#).

California: The **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** met in its **eighth FLN workshop** earlier this month; read about it in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Central Appalachians: The **Central Apps FLN** held its **annual workshop** in early November as well. The attached *Notes from the Field* includes a workshop summary and a sidebar highlighting useful **fire-related apps and websites**.

Colorado: FAC Net hub **Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)** was awarded the Palmer Land Trust's 2014 **Stewardship in Conservation award** earlier this fall. As part of that, the Trust has created a [video about CUSP](#) and its work.

New Mexico: Last week **Eytan Krasilovsky** (eytan@forestguild.org) discussed the importance of **cross-boundary forest planning and restoration** in the **webinar** "Working Across Fence Lines: Multi-jurisdictional Planning and Prescribed Fire" ([recording](#)). He outlined the innovative **multi-jurisdictional NEPA** work taking place in the [Rio Trampas watershed](#) as well as the **multi-agency controlled burns** that constituted the 2014 [Black Lake TREX](#).

Oregon: In **Deschutes County**, Oregon State University Extension recently completed a **Citizen Fire Academy** (read about it, halfway through this [FAC Net blog](#) by Project Wildfire). According to **Ed Keith** (ed.keith@deschutes.org), **student feedback** suggests the time spent on the academy was well spent:

- From a builder: "The concept of building design to keep the embers out is something that no one in the industry is thinking about. **We won't be looking at new construction the same** in the future because of this class—we'll be using the lens of fire resilience when thinking about building and landscape design."
- From a homeowner who was a **self-proclaimed skeptic** going into the class: "My son is a hot-shot, the first two times we walked the property together we got into arguments about the landscaping. The third time, he came back and saw the work we were doing and said '**Oh my gosh, you are learning something!**'"

Texas: Congratulations to the **City of Austin** and **Travis County** on the [recent adoption](#) of a **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**, the largest combined city/county plan in the state. According the local FAC Net lead, **Justice Jones** (justice.jones@austintexas.gov), since the CWPP encompasses the state capitol, "Our hope is the visibility of the plan to local and state leadership combined with our upcoming legislative session will **spur other FAC related activities** around the region and state." Completion of the plan has renewed partners' **faith in the collaborative process**—and it is recognized as "**more of a beginning than an end.**"

Washington: The state Department of Natural Resources submitted the report “**Eastern Washington Forest Health: Hazards, Accomplishments and Restoration Strategy**” to the state legislature a couple weeks ago. The DNR collaborated with **Conservancy** staff—and with the **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition**, for the fire adapted communities parts—to develop the report. Highlights include:

- **Science from TNC/Forest Service and TNC/ Intertribal Timber Council** forms the basis for forest health treatment needs, including how much and where.
- Forest treatment **accomplishments** and active forest **restoration needs across all ownerships** are outlined.
- Potential pathways for **new ways of funding** restoration treatments are summarized.
- The national **Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy** and its three themes—resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities, and wildland fire response—**frame the strategies** section.
- The importance of **partnerships and collaboration** in achieving results is stressed.
- The **fire adapted communities** concept is used to frame investments in wildland-urban interface.
- The forest processing **infrastructure investments** needed to support outcomes are summarized.
- A 2015-17 capital **budget request** is proposed that includes many aspects of the plan, including funding collaboration efforts and cross boundary planning and implementation.

For more information on this **significant shift in the landscape**, contact **Reese Lolley** (rlolley@tnc.org).

Correction: In the last issue, the link to the new **FLN Field Guide** was incorrect. Links to the Field Guide—and to other FLN publications, including a **new index** to all **FLN Notes from the Field**—are on the [FLN Publications page](#) on the Conservation Gateway.

Resources: Resilience / Holiday Greenery / Firewise Webinars

Resilience: **Wendy Fulks** (wfulks@tnc.org) has collected links to some good information on resilience in a [recent blog](#) on the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** site. They’re grouped into three categories: **defining resilience**, why it’s **important**, and **resilience training**.

Holiday Greenery: The **Don’t Move Firewood** project has some [tips worth sharing](#) to **prevent the spread of forests pests** through the transport of Christmas trees and other seasonal greens.

Firewise Webinars: **Firewise** has been offering a series of “virtual workshops,” with **recordings and transcripts** [archived](#) for later viewing. Recent topics include improving **access for wildland firefighters**, mulch combustibility and roof ignition.

Articles & Reports: Wildfire Risk Transmission / Forest Conversion / Forests & Water / Climate Change & Fire (SE)

Wildfire Risk Transmission: The authors of the [article](#) “Wildfire Risk Transmission in the Colorado Front Range, USA” **modelled** community locations and **fire spread potential** to determine where ignitions would pose the greatest **risk to populations along the Front Range**. Their discussion speaks to **mitigation and management strategies** to address this risk.

Forest Conversion: The [article](#) “A High-Resolution Chronology of **Rapid Forest Transitions** Following Polynesian Arrival in New Zealand” (McWethy et al.) reports on the examination of two sites that illustrate “how **seemingly stable forest ecosystems** can experience rapid and permanent conversions” (with “rapid” meaning **decades**). A [summary](#) of the work can also be found on *ScienceDaily*.

Forests & Water: Question—Precisely how important are protected forest areas to our water supply? Answer—For Forest Service Region 8, see the [report](#) “Quantifying the Role of **National Forest System Lands** in Providing **Surface Drinking Water** Supply for the **Southern United States**.”

Climate Change & Fire in the Southeast: The 2013 article “Climate Change and Associated Fire Potential in the South-Eastern United States in the 21st Century” (Bedel et al.) is now [available online](#).

Just for Fun: Fire Whirls

Fire Whirls: The [article](#) “Fire Whirls: Twisters that Light the Sky” appears in *Weatherwise*.

Webinars

**December 2
new listing**

Forest-Dwelling Bats: Interactions with Prescribed Fire and Regulatory Considerations

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

Shauna Marquardt (US FWS) will present this Northern Rockies Fire Science Network webinar.

Information: <http://nrfirescience.org/event/forest-dwelling-bats-interactions-prescribed-fire-and-regulatory-considerations>

**December 2
new listing**

The How, What, and Where of Safety Zones: Recent Findings

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

In this IAWF / Wildland Fire LLC / JFSP webinar, **Bret Butler** will discuss recent work that challenges some of the assumptions in current safety zone guidelines.

Information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/118386016>

December 2

A New Approach to Evaluate Forest Structure Restoration Needs across Oregon and Washington

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

In this LANDFIRE and the Northwest Fire Science Consortium webinar, **Mark Stern, Chris Zanger** and **Ryan Haugo** will present the results of a new TNC/USFS Region 6 Ecology Program study. A [paper](#) on this work is being published in *Forest Ecology and Management*.

Information: <http://www.nwfirescience.org/event-types/webinar>

**December 4
new listing**

Prescribed Fire Opportunities for Forestry & Wildlife Consultants in the SE

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

This SERPAS webinar is intended for extension agents, NRCS employees and others who work with private consultants.

Information: <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/prescribed-fire-opportunities-for-forestry-wildlife-consultants-in-the-southeast>

**December 9
new listing**

Timing Fire to Minimize Damage in Managing Oak Ecosystems

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

Daniel Dey will be the presenter in this Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium webinar.

Information: <http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=f23217ee8bf309f0cf771aaf&id=71af58d270&e=e8f10b9764>

January 21, 2015

Training Exchanges from the Ground Up

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern (1:15 long)

The Great Plains Fire Science Exchange will host this webinar with **Jeremy Bailey** and **Ben Wheeler** discussing the strategy behind TRES and how to create burn units across multiple landownerships in the Great Plains.

Log in: <http://acp2.missouristate.edu/trex/>

January 21
new listing

The Ability of Wildfire to Act as a Fuel Treatment

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

This Northern Rockies Fire Science Network webinar will be based on the research of Sean Parks, Carol Miller and Lisa Holsinger.

Log in: <http://nrfirescience.org/event/ability-wildfire-act-fuel-treatment>

FLN Workshops & Field Tours

December 2-3

A Future with Fire: Exploring Opportunities for a More Resilient California / McClellan, CA

Registration is now open for this conference being hosted by the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council**, **Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council** and other partners. It will focus on increasing the pace and scale of fire-based treatments—both managed wildfire and landscape-scale prescribed fire—in California.

Information: <http://www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org/home.html>

December 4

Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains FLN / Ellijay, GA

Partners will meet for presentations on fire in the Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains, and discussions on facilitating the wise use of fire and protecting communities that shouldn't burn.

Information: **Malcolm Hodges** (mhodges@tnc.org)

December 11

Pike's Peak FLN / Monument, CO

Agenda items for this planning team meeting will include discussion of the vision, mission and charter for this FLN, as well as specific activities to be completed in the coming months.

Information: **Paige Lewis** (paige_lewis@tnc.org)

May 12-14, 2015

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / location TBD

Save the date for the 10th annual regional workshop of the SBR FLN; details will follow. (Meanwhile, you can check out information from this past May's workshop at <http://sbrflnworkshop9.weebly.com/>.)

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

Feb 15-28, 2015

North Carolina Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ellerbe, NC

The North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council, Southern Blue Ridge FLN and numerous other partners will host this TREX in the sandhills and piedmont region of the state. (The application deadline has passed.)

March 14-29, 2015

Niobrara River Valley TREX / Ainsworth, NE

This "spring break TREX" will integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners, including university students; municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters; and other natural resource managers, scientists and researchers. It will provide experiential learning opportunities through a series of controlled burns on The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fort Niobrara NWR. Applications are due by February 2.

Information & application form are on the Conservation Gateway:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/NVP-2015.aspx>

March 16-27, 2015 **Lower Loup Valley TREX / Broken Bow, NE**
This TREX will focus on about 5,000 acres of privately-owned grassland that is used for livestock production. Prescribed fire is being used to manage eastern redcedar and promote habitat for grassland-dependent species such as the greater prairie chicken. The TREX is a partnership between Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, the Fire Learning Network, and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. A grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund has provided financial resources to allow participating landowners to rest the land from grazing in order to build up fuel that will increase the effectiveness of the burns. Applications are due by February 2.
Information & application form are on the Conservation Gateway:
<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Loup-2015.aspx>

Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

- January 18-23, 2015** **Wildland Urban Interface: Fire Adapted Communities / Emmitsburg, MD**
The National Fire Academy is offering this course (R0614) for persons with organizational responsibility for WUI risk reduction operations in their agency or jurisdiction (federal, state, tribal and local governments).
Information: see the flyer attached to [Networker #168](#)
- Feb 17-19, 2015** **Midwest Fire Conference: Keep Fire Working for the Land / Dubuque, IA**
This Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium conference will focus on fire in the tallgrass prairie, savanna and oak woodland region of the Midwestern United States and adjacent regions of Canada.
Information: <http://www.tposfirescience.org/mwfire15-overview/>
- March 22-27, 2015** **Wildland Urban Interface: Fire Adapted Communities / Emmitsburg, MD**
See the January 18-23 listing.
- April 20-24, 2015** **Managing Fire, Understanding Ourselves: Human Dimensions in Safety and Wildland Fire / Boise, ID**
deadline
13th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 4th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference. Abstracts are due **December 1**.
Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/>
- May 2, 2015** **International Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**
Various events will be taking place. The logo and a save-the-date postcard are now available; for those, and more information, visit <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day>.
- May 5-7, 2015** **11th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology / Minneapolis, MN**
The American Meteorological Society is hosting this conference; the abstract deadline is January 12.
Information: <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201511fireforest.html>
- October 22-24, 2015** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**
The deadline for abstracts for next year's NFPA conference is December 15.
Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond>

Nov. 16-20, 2015 **Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX**
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Boise December 4-5.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out December 1-5, in New Mexico December 8-12.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in the office.

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

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out November 26.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in the office.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out December 3.

Note: November 27 & 28 are Conservancy holidays.

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—AR: <http://blog.nature.org/conservancy/2014/11/24/45232/>

News from the Field—CO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KwqFi3c448&feature=youtu.be>

News from the Field—NM—Recording: <https://forestguild.mitel-nhwc.com/join/cxwckzh>

Rio Trampas watershed: www.forestguild.org/RioTrampasWatershed

Black Lake TREX: www.forestguild.org/BlackLake

News from the Field—OR: <http://facnetwork.org/building-local-capacity-deschutes-county/>

News from the Field—TX: <http://crime.blog.statesman.com/2014/11/14/austin-travis-co-sign-wildfire-protection-plan/>
<http://www.austintexas.gov/wildfireprotectionplan>

News from the Field—Correction—FLN Publications:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/usfln-publications.aspx>

Resources—Resilience: <http://facnetwork.org/resilience-resources/>

Resources—Holiday greenery: <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/HolidayGreenery>

Resources--Firewise webinars: <http://firewise.org/online-courses-and-education/virtualworkshops.aspx>

Articles & Reports—Wildfire risk transmission: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_2014_haas_j001.pdf

Articles & Reports—Forest conversion:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/fetchObject.action?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0111328&representation=PDF>

ScienceDaily summary: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141105154557.htm>

Articles & Reports--Forests & water: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs197/gtr_srs197.pdf

Articles & Reports—Climate change & fire (SE): http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2013/ja_2013_goodrick_001.pdf

Just for Fun—Fire whirls: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00431672.2014.960326#.VHOP9prn-os>

Webinars—Haugo et al. paper: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112714005519>

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, 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

Western Klamath Restoration Partnership Maps Out Prescriptions and Next Steps for Implementation

November 3-5, 2014

Happy Camp, CA

The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, with support from the Fire Learning Network, held its eighth workshop focused on making a landscape-level shift away from full fire suppression toward increased use of prescribed fire to protect shared community values. Community support for restoring fire processes at the landscape scale is core to the group's landscape level planning efforts.

This workshop took place as participants were still articulating lessons learned from an intense fire season and prescribed fire training exchange that both wrapped up in October. A recent large influx of federal funds to build momentum toward realizing the group's goals signals high level support within the Forest Service for such a shift, and puts participants under pressure to produce results. The funding stream enables hiring of employees to do the work outlined in these capacity-building grants.

During the workshop, the group honed in on the nuts and bolts of treatment prescriptions, repeatedly coming back to the questions, "What did this place look like 100 years ago?" and, "What do we want this place to look like 100 years from now?" Using ecological forensics as a basis for prescriptions surfaced during the field trip of burned areas: "When you plant trees, ask 'What will the soil support?'" suggested a member of the Happy Camp Fire Safe Council and the Karuk Tribe. To get site-specific, a second tribal member proposed looking closely for clues about past uses of a place, such as stumps where fire-resistant conifers may have been prior to



A partnership co-leader from the Forest Service points out how the summer's fires relate to treatment priorities previously identified by the group.

logging, or gathering grounds where oak woodlands may have once dominated a slope before fire exclusion.

More immediately, the group's zones of agreement will be tested by the Forest Service's proposed Westside (Fire) Recovery Project. That project proposes combining salvage logging with the removal of killed trees near homes and along roadways, which led the group to tackle a tough question: Can fire recovery activities that include controversial logging techniques actually advance the group's strategies for restoration and community vitality? If so, how could the treatments be refined?

Discussions about salvage logging resulted in a series of principles that could guide specific prescriptions. For example, salvage areas could be located where the group wishes to maintain low fuel loads such as along strategic fire control lines (near roads, ridges and/or in the Wildland Urban Interface), only on the uppermost third of the slope. Or, some salvage and post-salvage prescriptions could be planned to



In the field, workshop participants discuss post-burn hazards and treatment options, including salvage logging, to find zones of agreement.

allow for prescribed burning within 3-10 years, then every 5-15 years after that.

The group agreed that a Western Klamath Restoration Partnership annual work plan would help keep all participants in the loop about activities under different grants towards the same goals. A work plan could also help spell out how key tasks would reinforce shared values, strategies and principles of the group.

For more information about the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership and Western Klamath Mountains FLN, contact:

Will Harling
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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Central Appalachians FLN Annual Workshop

November 5-6, 2014
Warm Springs, VA



Steve Smestad accepting the Central Appalachians FLN Partnership Award
Photo: TNC/Marek Smith

More than 80 participants from 14 different agencies and organizations attended the annual meeting of the Central Appalachians Fire Learning Network. Dr. Morgan Varner, Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech and Chair of the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils, kicked off the meeting with a keynote presentation on the Past, Present, and Future of Fire in the Eastern United States. Subsequent presentations included updates from the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists, a summary of the recent synthesis of the Fire-Oak Literature of Eastern North America, lessons learned from the national Fire Learning Network, an analysis of the effects of prescribed fire on forest overstory, and a report on dendrochronological studies on North Fork Mountain, West Virginia. Additional presentations included updates from the Monitoring Working Group and Communications & Outreach Working Group, along with an introduction to two new projects in West Virginia and Kentucky funded by the Two Chiefs' Restoration Initiative. An interactive panel session helped address barriers to implementation and provided a forecast for prescribed fire from federal, state and private perspectives.

Steve Smestad, Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Warm Springs and James River Districts of the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, was the recipient of the inaugural Central Appalachians FLN Partnership Award. In the partnership's eight-year history, Steve has been at the table since day one, participated in fire history discussions, attended ecological modeling workshops, sat through situational diagramming sessions, helped develop the first monitoring program, designed firelines around

and personally walked more burn units in this landscape than we can name, and served as burn boss on some of the largest units our partnership has attempted to burn together. He has probably single-handedly been responsible for putting more fire on the ground through the FLN than anyone.

Jason Hattersley, Timber Sale Administrator and frequent Division Supervisor for the Warm Springs and James River Districts of the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, gave what was arguably the most entertaining and practical presentation of the day. Entitled *My Phone is on Fire: Apps for the Fireline*, Jason's presentation detailed some of today's most useful smartphone applications and web sites for both wildland fire and prescribed fire management. In addition to the standard built-in camera and compass, Jason's favorite phone apps and web sites include:

- Avenza PDF Maps
- Burnt Planet
- Firefighter RH Calculator
- Google Earth
- GPS Kit Pro
- IRPG+ Pro
- NOAA Hi-Def Radar
- Peak.AR
- National Weather Service Fire Briefing Page
- Weather Underground Wildland Toolkit
- Wildfire Pro / Wildfire Info



For more information: **Sam Lindblom**
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Right: Twenty-three people took part in the field trip on the second day. Despite 40° temperatures and driving rain for most of the morning, they visited four burn units, with varying fire entries, in the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project, a collaborative initiative spanning lands owned by The Nature Conservancy and the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests. Discussions covered topics ranging from aerial ignition techniques, forest structure and composition monitoring results, fire history studies, and interagency cooperation. *Photo: TNC/M. Smith*



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