

FLN Networker No. 174: December 24, 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: A multiagency crew from the **Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish, The Nature Conservancy** and the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** completed **55 acres** of prescribed burning on Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (**SPER**) projects at the Devil's Eyebrow site earlier this month. This work was in preparation for **another 700 acres** of treatments in the next few weeks. For more information, contact **McRee Anderson** (wanderson@tnc.org).

Colorado: **Twenty-three partners** took part in the **Pike's Peak FLN** workshop a couple weeks ago. Together they refined the charter for the new FLN landscape. This charter outlines the local context, as well as the **group's vision, mission and principles of agreement**. It also states the group's **goals** for the next one to three years: establishing a **functioning and committed network**, building **public support** for the use of fire, and increasing **prescribed fire capacity**. For more information, contact **Paige Lewis** (paige_lewis@tnc.org).

Colorado: As [reported earlier](#), the **Coalition for the Upper South Platte** (CUSP) was a recipient of one of FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Awards this fall. Last week they learned that **Target** has granted them an **additional \$5,000** in recognition of that award. Congratulations to this FAC Learning Network hub for its continuing good work!

North Carolina: The **Forest Service** issued a [news release](#) last week about **the year's progress** on the **Grandfather Restoration Project**. It highlights the contributions of several **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** partners in the landscape, from the **Western North Carolina Alliance** **planning and monitoring** efforts to **The Nature Conservancy** contributions to **prescribed burning** and **public outreach**.

North Carolina / South Carolina / Georgia: Twenty-six partners from **11 organizations in three states** came together earlier this month for a meeting of the **Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment landscape**. There are multiple **active fire programs** in this landscape—meeting attendees reported over 13,000 acres of burns planned in 2015. **Partner coordination** is also good, and continues to grow, for example with a new agreement between NC Forest Service and wildlife agencies for completing burning at a state park. But participants recognize the need to **scale up further**, and **identified actions needed** to do so, including development of a three-state interagency agreement. The group will meet again in the spring when **ecological zone mapping** is complete, to incorporate those results to make restoration programs even more robust. For more information, contact **Kristen Austin** (kaustin@tnc.org).

FAC Learning Network: **Molly Mowery** (molly@wildfireplanning.com) attended the Wyoming Rural Fire-fighters annual meeting. The **Southern Rockies Fire Science Network** has shared her [presentation slides](#) — "**Fire Adapted Communities: A National Perspective on Mitigation**"—which give an overview of fire adapted community concepts, and an introduction to the FAC Learning Network and its people and places.

Funding: Fire Department Community Education

Fire Department Community Education: A **\$5,000** grant is being offered through NFPA to "to implement a **community-wide fire and life safety** program/campaign." The application deadline is **February 6**; details are at <http://www.nfpa.org/Jensen>.

Feedback Requested: LANDFIRE

LANDFIRE: Users of this resource are asked to [take a survey](#) about their **experiences** with LANDFIRE products and services, to help make this an ever more useful tool.

Articles & Briefs: Burn History Effect on Severity / Lightning / Defensible Space

Burn History Effect on Severity: The authors of the [article](#) "Severity of an Uncharacteristically Large Wildfire, the **Rim Fire**, in Forests with **Relatively Restored Frequent Fire Regimes**" found that areas that had burned recently (within the past 14 years) burned **mainly at low severity**, while other areas tended to burn at moderate or high severity. However, they note that "wildfire burning under extreme weather conditions ... can produce large areas of high-severity fire even in fuels-reduced forests with restored fire regimes." A [brief TV news story](#) about this research included the message that "forestry agencies with shared borders and interests **combine their efforts** to conduct **controlled burns during moderate weather** conditions, giving them the best chance for to avoid massive high-intensity fires."

Lightning: The [NFPA FireBreak](#) page has a blog post on lightning as a cause of wildfires, and how it is likely to become (much) **more common due to climate change**, according to a recent [study](#) published in *Science* (and covered by [BBC News](#)).

Defensible Space: The **California Fire Science Consortium** has a new two-page [research brief](#) on "**How Much** Defensible Space is Needed to **Reduce Home Losses in Chaparral?**"

Jobs: Postdoc / Natural Resource Specialist / Executive Director

Postdoc: The **Rutgers Center for Resilient Landscapes** is seeking a **postdoctoral fellow** to work on a **socio-ecological model of landscape-level disturbance** that can be applied to the New Jersey landscape. Details are on the [center's website](#); applications should be submitted by **January 1** for a February 15 start date (but the application period will remain open until a suitable candidate is found).

Natural Resource Specialist: The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** is seeking an **assistant manager for the Methow Wildlife Area**. For more information, see www.careers.wa.gov and use the position number (11561W) as search keyword; applications are due by **January 5**.

Executive Director: **Blue Mountains Forest Partners**, which collaborates on forest restoration projects on the **Malheur National Forest** in Oregon, is seeking an executive director. Details are in the attached memo; applications are due by **January 15**.

Webinars

January 21

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 TREX and how to create burn units across multiple landownerships in the Great Plains.

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

January 21

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

January 28-29

FireScope Mendocino / Elk Creek, CA

Objectives for workshop #5 include refining the draft strategies developed in the last workshop, using results chains to test strategies, and starting work in subgroups to tackle the strategies while continuing to build shared learning among participants.

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

**January 29
new listing**

Pike's Peak FLN / Colorado Springs, CO

At this workshop, partners will finalize a work plan for the next six months, with an emphasis on identifying opportunities for collaborative on-the-ground fire projects.

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

May 12-14

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Morganton, NC

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

February 15-28

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

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

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.

- February 17-19** **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. Registration is open (the early registration rate is good through **January 15**).
Information: <http://www.tposfirescience.org/mwfire15-overview/>
- March 24-26** **Wildland-Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV**
There will be a FAC track at this IAFC conference.
Information: www.iafc.org/wui
- April 20-24** **Managing Fire, Understanding Ourselves: Human Dimensions in Safety and Wildland Fire / Boise, ID**
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. 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** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**
Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond>
- November 16-20** **Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX**
Presentation and poster abstracts are due **January 15**.
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 December 23-26, January 1-2.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out December 24-26, January 1-2.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is out December 21-30.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out December 19-26.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is out December 25-26; December 31-January 1.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out December 25-29, January 1-2.

Note: December 25 and January 1 are Conservancy holidays.

Full Links

News from the Field—CO—CUSP: <http://www.wphfi.org/?p=1413>

News from the Field—North Carolina: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/news-events/?cid=STELPRD3825172>

News from the Field—FAC Net:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2263fe298f4df255d22b80097/files/WY_Rural_Firefighters_Dec_2014_FAC_NETWORK.pdf

Feedback—LANDFIRE survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y9Q36ZM>

Articles & Briefs—Burn history effect on severity: <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46372>

News story: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/study-huge-wildfire-supports-need-for-controlled-burns/30292672>

Articles & Briefs—Lightning: <http://wildfire.blog.nfpa.org/2014/11/new-research-by-ucal-berkeley-on-future-increases-in-lightning-strikes-related-to-rising-global-temperatures-caused-by-climate.html>

BBC News story: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-30023536>

Articles & Briefs—Defensible space: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8Yh0_JsSs8aUXVVNEgxNDd6Z0U/view

Jobs—Rutgers postdoc: <http://crl.rutgers.edu/employment.html>

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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CAREER OPPORTUNITY: Executive Director
Blue Mountains Forest Partners
DATE OPEN: December 19, 2014
DEADLINE: January 15, 2015
LOCATION: Grant County/John Day, Oregon
STATUS: Full Time

Organizational Background:

Formed in 2006, the Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP) is a partnership of diverse interests who have come together to enhance forest ecosystem health, economic opportunities and public safety in Grant County. The BMFP successfully collaborates on forest restoration projects on the Malheur National Forest through discussions of science and values and working with Forest Service personnel. Since its inception, the BMFP has worked to provide the Malheur National Forest common ground agreement on forest restoration on thousands of acres focusing on increasing forest resilience, supporting local jobs, and reducing risk of wildfires to communities.

The Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP) is seeking an energetic and hardworking Executive Director who is passionately committed to working in a collaborative manner to fulfill the mission of the BMFP.

Position Summary:

The Executive Director will manage the daily operations of the BMFP and facilitate the continued progress of the collaborative through organization management, meeting facilitation, project development, personal communication, and fundraising. The work of the BMFP will be conducted by the Executive Director as well as volunteer-supported committees focused on projects or specific tasks related to the Malheur National Forest. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors that manages the direction of the collaborative and carries executive decision making power.

Key Responsibilities:

Program Implementation: advance forest restoration projects with BMFP members and Malheur National Forest staff by:

- Facilitating monthly meetings of the Full Group of BMFP members
- Facilitating Project Committee meetings and field tours on Forest Service restoration treatment project areas to guide BMFP members through sometimes contentious issues
- Guiding and supporting committee chairpersons in their assignments to ensure efficient execution, appropriate participation, record keeping and reporting, and to ensure an effective and appropriate interface with the Forest Service
- Planning and facilitating science workshops around ecological topics relevant to restoration activities
- Ensuring implementation of the multiparty monitoring program in consultation with BMFP Monitoring Committee and the Malheur National Forest staff
- Overseeing the Monitoring Coordinator's work and contract
- Obtaining and managing grant funding to support staff and projects

- Additional project development as needed and identified by the members

Financial Development and Organizational Management:

- Maintain an active fundraising effort to ensure financial stability, diversity, and growth potential of the collaborative
- Develop grant proposals, prepare reports as required by grantors, and manage and track grant funding and projects
- Maintain and develop relationships with foundation program officers and other funders
- Work with Board Treasurer to ensure that BMFP financial operations are conducted in a responsible manner
- Develop and cultivate volunteer relationships
- Develop donor campaigns
- Maintain 501(c)(3) status with state and federal agencies
- Coordinate annual tax preparation and occasional audits

Communication and Outreach:

- Ensure consistent communication within the BMFP members through email, website, Facebook, and other media including meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and other information relevant to BMFP members' interests and operations
- Maintain communication with the Malheur National Forest and the Forest Service's Regional Office to enhance the ability to move landscape scale restoration forward
- Communicate with local and regional organizations and businesses to promote the work of the BMFP and to share information and the opportunity to collaborate
- Conduct outreach to the communities within Grant County to increase participation in and awareness of BMFP
- Develop and maintain regular communication with local media outlets, including writing articles for publication about the work of BMFP

Candidate Requirements:

The position requires demonstrated skill, experience, and success in the following areas:

- Passion for the mission of the BMFP and ability to exemplify the organization's mission and values
- Working with a diverse group of people representing a broad spectrum of interests
- Planning and facilitating meetings and bringing stakeholders towards consensus
- Knowledge of federal forest management, ecological restoration principles, and forest industry infrastructure issues and how they relate to community well being
- Have a strong interest in the health of the public forests and community economic development in Grant County
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated experience grant writing, major donor fundraising and financial management. Use of Quickbooks for nonprofits a plus.

Compensation: The compensation package includes an annual salary of \$45,000 - \$60,000, depending on experience, a health insurance stipend and annual vacation leave.

How to apply:

Interested candidates should email a resume and letter of interest explaining 1) why the mission and work of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners appeals to you and 2) what experience, skills and personal characteristics qualify you for this position. Email Patrick Shannon at: pshannon@sustainablenorthwest.org. Full consideration is assured if letters and resumes are received by January 15, 2015.