

FLN Networker No. 175: January 7, 2015

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.

Welcome to the new year, and we wish everyone a safe, fruitful, satisfying and happy 2015. If you missed the previous edition of the *Networker* over the holidays (mailed December 24), it is [available online](#), with news from the Pike's Peak, South Central and Southern Blue Ridge FLNs and FAC Learning Network, and links to articles about burn severity on the Rim Fire, lightning and climate change, and defensible space guidelines in chaparral.

News from the Field

FLN Author: The December issue of *Fire Ecology* has an [essay](#) by **Mary Huffman** (mhuffman@tnc.org) in its Forum section. In “Making a World of Difference in Fire and Climate Change,” she argues that “too much fire and the wrong kinds of fire” are getting a great deal of attention at the expense of **other critical issues**. She proposes that **fire ecologists come together** to bring more attention to four of these—“ecological systems in which **people depend on fire** for survival and well-being; systems in which governments unwisely insist on **command and control** approaches to fire; places where **peatlands** are burning; and, places where climate-driven changes in fire will cause **type conversion**”—and help create fire **management goals at a global scale**.

TREX Pictures: **Larry Luckham** has put together a **website of photos** from the **Northern California** prescribed fire training exchange. Photos from last October's TREX—sorted by photographer—can be seen at <http://www.trex-2014.com/>. Thanks go to Larry for his great photos, and for his great work on the TREX team.

Upcoming TREX: See the listings below for **several new training exchanges** being offered this spring in California, Nebraska, Oregon and South Dakota.

Federal Fire Policy: Rangeland / Cohesive Strategy Language

Rangeland: Yesterday, **Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell** [issued a secretarial order](#) on **rangeland fire prevention, management and restoration** outlining actions “essential for conserving habitat for the **greater sage-grouse** as well as other wildlife species and **economic activity**, such as ranching and recreation, associated with the **sagebrush-steppe ecosystem** in the Great Basin region.” The order reads a little fire prevention- and suppression-heavy, but does include language about working “cooperatively and collaboratively” with a variety of stakeholders. A **task force** is also created to develop a plan to implement the order, with an initial report due March 1 (for the 2015 fire season) and a final report due May, for implementation before the 2016 fire season.

Cohesive Strategy Language: With the third and **final phase** of the Cohesive Strategy completed last year, there was some **subtle change in language and messaging emphasis**. If you're framing your work in terms of the CS and you haven't checked the website lately, it may be a good time to do so. Two items of note:

- The **three main**—themes, issues?—that didn't quite have a name, now do: they are **clearly stated as goals**: restore and maintain landscapes, create fire-adapted communities, and improve fire response.

- But, interestingly, they are not listed on the [main landing page](#) for the CS. Instead there is a list of “**four broad challenges**” we face: managing **vegetation and fuels; protecting homes, communities, and other values** at risk; managing **human-caused ignitions**; and effectively and efficiently **responding** to wildfire.

There are links at the bottom of the page for a variety of resources, including a [trifold brochure](#) that succinctly captures some of the **key concepts and phrases**.

Resources: Telling Your Story / Fire & Art

Telling Your Story: In her post “The Art of Story Telling: Communications Resources” on the [FAC Learning Network blog](#), **Emily Troisi** has **three suggestions for tools** that can make it a little easier to share messages, including a storytelling tool that walks you **through the process step-by-step**.

Fire & Art: *Wildfire Today* has a [short video](#) about “**Fires of Change**”, a **collaborative art and science project** of the **Southwest Fire Science Consortium, Flagstaff Arts Council** and the **Landscape Conservation Initiative**. In the project, artists experience wildfire first hand, and will then create works that will provide another means for **connecting people with wildfire** science and management.

Articles & Reports: Collaboration / Comparing Models / Treatments & Wildlife

Collaboration: The **FLN** is one of the **models of collaboration** noted in the [chapter](#) “Collaboration in National Forest Management” by Susan Charnley, Jonathan Long and Frank Lake in the [General Technical Report *Science Synthesis to Support Socioecological Resilience in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Range*](#). The chapter covers a **wide range of topics** relevant to collaboration in national forest management.

Comparing Models: In the [article](#) “Evaluation of the **CONSUME and FOFEM Fuel Consumption Models** in Pine and Mixed Hardwood Forests of the Eastern United States,” Susan Prichard and colleagues compare fuel consumption as predicted by these two models to samples from **54 validation sites** in nine landscapes.

Treatments & Wildlife: In the *BioScience* [article](#) “California Spotted Owl, Songbird, and Small Mammal **Responses to Landscape Fuel Treatments**,” Scott Stephens and colleagues report on a study area in the Plumas National Forest in the northern Sierra Nevada and discuss some management implications.

For Fun: Big Burn

Big Burn: **PBS** will premiere a program on the **1910 wildfires** on [American Experience](#) on **February 3**.

Job: Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist: **Summit County, CO** is seeking a wildfire mitigation specialist to serve as a hazard mitigation **resource; coordinate with property owners**, agencies, municipalities, professional associations and neighborhoods to plan, promote, review, and monitor mitigation activities; and support **implementation of the county’s CWPP**. Details are available on the [county website](#); the position will be open until filled.

Webinars

January 13
new listing

Managing Vegetation Composition and Structure in Eastern Grasslands Using Fire and Combinations of Fire and Other Treatments

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

John Gruchy will present this Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Science Consortium webinar. Information: <http://oakfirescience.squarespace.com/gruchy-webinar/>

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 TRES 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

Pike's Peak FLN / Colorado Springs, CO

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 15-23*
new listing

Klamath River Communities TRES / Weitchpec, CA

This TRES, hosted by the Yurok Tribe and FLN, will provide training opportunities to local and regional fire practitioners while completing local priority burns. Applications are due by **January 12**.

Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Klamath-River-Communities-2015.aspx>

* These dates are tentative. To accommodate weather contingencies, participants should fire-ready and on-call starting February 1. If the TRES needs to be moved earlier, 48-hour notice will be given to participants to mobilize in Weitchpec.

- 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>
- March 20-22**
new listing **Firing Operations on Wildland Fires TREX / Johnstown, NE**
This brief TREX, aimed primarily at officers and firefighters from rural and municipal fire departments in the Great Plains states, will focus on ignition techniques, timing and sequence of ignition patterns, and planning and briefing firing operations. Applications are due by **February 2**. Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Niobrara-Firing-Ops.aspx>
- April 27 – May 6**
May 11-20
new listing **South Dakota TREX—Session I / eastern SD**
South Dakota TREX—Session II / eastern SD
In these TREX supported by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, The Nature Conservancy and other partners, burns will be conducted near Aberdeen, Huron, Madison and Waubay to improve wildlife habitat and range conditions, reduce the possibility of damaging wildfires and provide training and learning opportunities for participants. Applications for both sessions are due **March 2**. Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/USFWS-TREX-2015.aspx>

May 14-21
new listing

Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR

This TREX, aimed primarily at prescribed fire partners in the state of Oregon, will focus on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring and operational dimensions of planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire for restoration goals. Applications are due by **February 17**. Information will be posted soon at <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/2015-Training-Exchanges.aspx>.

Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

January 12
new listing

Colorado Prescribed Fire Council / Colorado Springs, CO

State leaders in prescribed fire policy and management will hold a discussion of the state of prescribed fire in Colorado at this evening meeting. Information: see the [meeting flyer](#) or contact **Jason Lawhon** (jlawhon@tnc.org)

February 4
new listing

Ready, Set, Go! Train-the-Trainer Session / Salem, OR

This training, sponsored by the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Forestry and Keep Oregon Green, will guide fire service agencies and supporting organizations through implementation of the RSG! program. Information:

<http://iafc.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3Rhb mNlaWQ9NDQ4NzEzMSZzdWJzY3JpYmVyaWQ9MTA1MDU5OTE4MQ==>

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 out January 15-16.
- Jeremy Bailey** – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Happy Camp, CA January 12-16.
- Wendy Fulks** – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Boise, ID January 20-22.
- Mary Huffman** – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Happy Camp, CA January 12-16.
- Heather Montanye** – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.
- Guy Duffner** – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in the office.
- Liz Rank** (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is in the office.

Note: January 19 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

- Previous issue—FLN Networker No. 174: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/FLN-Networker-174.aspx>
- News from the Field—FLN author—Huffman: <http://fireecologyjournal.org/docs/Journal/pdf/Volume10/Issue03/090.pdf>
- Federal Fire Policy—Rangeland: <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-launches-comprehensive-strategy-to-protect-and-restore-sagebrush-lands-threatened-by-rangeland-fire.cfm>
- Federal Fire Policy—Cohesive Strategy language: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/thestrategy.shtml>
- Resources—Telling your story: <http://facnetwork.org/art-story-telling-communications-resources/>
- Resources—Fire & art: <http://wildfiretoday.com/2014/12/18/a-confluence-of-wildfire-and-art/>
- Articles & Reports—Collaboration: http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr247/chapters/psw_gtr247_chapter9_6.pdf
- Articles & Reports—Comparing models: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_2014_prichard_s001.pdf
- Articles & Reports—Treatments & wildlife: http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/bigelow/psw_2014_bigelow001_stephens.pdf
- For Fun—Big Burn: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/burn/player/>
- Job—Wildfire mitigation specialist: <http://www.co.summit.co.us/Jobs.aspx?UniqueId=97&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Wildfire-Mitigation-Specialist-154>
- Conferences, Workshops, Etc.—CO Rx council meeting: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2263fe298f4df255d22b80097/files/CORxC_RoundtableFlyer_final.pdf

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.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.