

FLN Networker No. 176: January 21, 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.

News from the Field

California: The **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** has nicely **summarized its collaborative planning** work and landscape analysis—and the vision and project plans that resulted from them—in a comprehensive [poster](#) shared at the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council conference** last month.

Washington: **Northwest Public Radio** ran a [story](#) in November on the **Carlton Complex** wildfire, in the Methow Valley. In the interview, **Susan Prichard**, **Reese Lolley** and **Matt Dahlgreen** talk about how forest **treatments**—and careful **use of wildfires**—can be used to help **manage future wildfires**.

Bats: Many forest bats have significantly declined in the eastern U.S. due to **white-nose syndrome**, a fungal disease. As a result, the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** is [currently considering](#) whether the **northern long-eared bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*) should **be listed as threatened**. A number of partners from the **Central Appalachians**, **South Central** and **Southern Blue Ridge FLNs** have **shared their expertise and experience** through the **comment process**. Should the bat be listed, they suggest that provisions be included to **allow for sustainable forest management**, including controlled burning, that will permit habitat creation and restoration, and encourage the long-term sustainability and health the forest and freshwater systems.

Field Guide: An **expanded version** of the [Learning Networks Field Guide](#) is now available, which includes the **FAC Learning Network** and 2014 **TREX** as well as the **FLN**. (The FLN-only version can still be accessed through a link at the bottom of that page; the FAC LN pages will also be gathered into a separate document, soon to be available on <http://facnetwork.org/>.) In addition to pages for **regional FLNs**, **FAC hub organizations** and the eight 2014 **TREX events**, the guide has **brief introductions** to the FLN and FAC LN and **indexes** that cross-reference the landscapes and hubs by areas of expertise, habitat type, strategies being used and many other variables. To request individual pages as stand-alone handouts (or report errors), contact **Liz Rank** (lrank@tnc.org).

Cohesive Strategy: Priority Maps

Priority Maps: The [Cohesive Strategy website](#) has a set of **four maps** that show, at the **county level**, national **priority places** in four areas: **broad-scale fuels management** (as opposed to hazard reduction near structures), **community planning and coordination**, managing **human-caused ignitions**, and opportunities for **managing wildfires for resource objectives**. If you're reading this, your county is probably a high priority on at least one of the maps (and a look at the big picture is always interesting).

Resources: 1000 Words / LANDFIRE Bulletins / Geospatial Technologies

1000 Words: If you **need to communicate** (and you do), consider **strengthening your visual skills** as well as verbal ones. Given the amount of information we must all process on a daily basis, it's easy to argue that **a good picture** is a good deal more **valuable** than a thousand words in many cases. On the **FAC Learning Network** blog, **Michelle Medley-Daniel** has a series of **quick reads** on how to help your pictures tell the story. [General tips](#) are in the first post of the series, followed by a post that covers some fire- and FAC-[specific suggestions](#).

Also check out the **Firewise** [collection of photos](#) (of community meetings, good landscaping, hazards, etc.) that can be used in presentations—or as **inspiration** for developing your own local photo library.

LANDFIRE Bulletins: LANDFIRE has **changed to an opt-in mailing list**, so if you wish to continue (or begin) receiving the emailed bulletins, visit http://eepurl.com/baJ_BH and get signed up.

Geospatial Technologies: The **National Fire Protection Association** has released the [report](#) “A Collection of Geospatial Technological Approaches for Wildland and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Events.” As the title suggests, it is a thorough (if dry) catalog of applicable **GIS, remote sensing** and **global positioning applications** now available.

Articles & Briefs: Social Constraints / Vapor Pressure Deficits

Social Constraints: The **California Fire Science Consortium** [brief](#) “Social Constraints to **Mitigation in a WUI Community**” reports on a survey of a community in the Sierra-Cascade foothills. Among the findings were that many of the highly-**valued environmental characteristics** were also **wildfire risk factors**, and that many residents see adequate fire **suppression as a substitute for mitigation**.

Vapor Pressure Deficits: It's **not just the heat**, it's the (lack of) humidity. A story on [Climate Central](#) talks about the effects of forecast continuing vapor pressure deficits (an indicator of the **evaporative power** of air) on the forests of the Southwest, as high-VPD years like 2011 could become a new normal.

Jobs: Foresters

Foresters: The **Nature Conservancy's** Washington chapter is hiring **two field foresters**—for the Central Cascades and Willapa Bay regions. For information, see the Conservancy's [careers page](#) (job IDs 42711 and 42712); applications are due by **January 25**.

Webinars

January 23
new listing

Good Neighbor Authority

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

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the U.S. Forest Service to partner with states to implement restoration projects across state-federal boundaries. Until recently, GNA was limited to Utah and Colorado; expansion of the authority presents an opportunity for additional states and National Forests to take advantage of a new tool..

Information: <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=1947d6cd971c70f8ef837d21a&id=b76712f0fb&e=f5a2295b12>

FLN Workshops & Field Tours

January 28-29

FireScape 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 SBR FLN workshop; details will follow.

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

February 15-23*

Klamath River Communities TREX / Weitchpec, CA

This TREX, hosted by the Yurok Tribe and FLN, will provide training opportunities to local and regional fire practitioners while completing local priority burns. (The application deadline has passed.)

* Dates are tentative. To accommodate weather contingencies, participants will be fire-ready and on-call starting February 1. If the TREX 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
deadline**

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
deadline**

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
deadline**

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**

**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

Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR

This TREX, aimed 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.

Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

February 4

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/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9NDQ4NzEzMSZzdWJzY3JpYmVyaWQ9MTA1MDU5OTE4MQ==>

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.

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.
 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**
updated
 The call for proposals (oral & poster presentations, special sessions, workshops & trainings, attached meetings) is now open; deadlines vary.
 Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

- Lynn Decker** – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Boise, ID January 20-22.
- Jeremy Bailey** – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Austin, TX February 2-4.
- Wendy Fulks** – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Boise, ID January 20-22; Austin, TX February 2-5.
- Mary Huffman** – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Elk Creek, CA January 27-30.
- Heather Montanye** – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.
- Guy Duffner** – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Elk Creek, CA January 27-30.
- Liz Rank** (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—California: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/WKMts-Poster-NorCalRxConf-2014.aspx>
- News from the Field—Washington: <http://earthfix.info/news/article/protecting-forests-from-increasing-wildfires/>
- News from the Field—Bats: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nleb/>
- News from the Field—Field Guide: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/FLN-Field-Guide.aspx>
- Cohesive Strategy—Priority maps: <http://forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/nationalpriorities.shtml>
- Resources—1000 Words: <http://facnetwork.org/telling-fac-stories-photos-tips-practitioners/>
<http://facnetwork.org/photo-challenges-opportunities-specific-fac-practitioners/>
- Firewise photo library: <http://firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/teaching-tools/photo-library.aspx>
- Resources—Geospatial technologies: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/Research/Research%20Foundation/Research%20Foundation%20reports/Other%20research%20topics/RFGeospatialTechnologicalApproachesforWildlandandWUIFireEvents.pdf>
- Articles & Briefs—Social constraints: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/50083efce4b0c6fedbca9def/t/54a7a5c9e4b039f26ff7055d/1420273097415/WUI_Collins_2005_Social+Constraints+to+Mitigation+in+a+WUI+Community_Dicus.pdf
- Articles & Briefs—Vapor pressure deficits: <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/climate-change-southwestern-wildfires-18523>
- Jobs—TNC careers page: https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?SiteId=1

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