FLN Networker No. 181: April 1, 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

Arizona, Colorado, Washington: In the lead-up to Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 2, NFPA has announced the contest winners who will receive funds for activities to be conducted that day. The winners include FAC Learning Network hubs and partners Flagstaff, AZ (Jerolyn Byrne), Southwest Colorado (Rebecca Samulski, montezumafirewise@gmail.com) and Leavenworth, WA (Annie Schmidt, director@chumstickcoalition.org). The Arizona project is hosting a Firewise landscaping contest with the grand prize awarded to the entry that exhibits the best balance of fire-wise elements and aesthetic appeal. The Colorado project is a middle-school essay contest going on now, with students writing on "Why my home needs a Firewise makeover." The winner will get a Firewise makeover on Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. In Washington, families can pick up a bag on Earth Day if they commit to creating an emergency "go kit." Then, each day in the week of events leading up to Preparedness Day, the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition will provide one of the small components needed to fill the bag.

Arizona: The Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project is the only wildfire risk reduction project among the ten finalists selected by judges in the Solution Search "Reducing Our Risk" contest. The grand prize and runner-up winners will be selected by vote—you can cast your vote through May 15.

California: In the Western Klamath Mountains, the Happy Camp Fire Safe Council has announced the release of the Happy Camp Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The goals of the CWPP, which align with those of the Cohesive Strategy, are to (1) prioritize and recommend actions to reduce adverse fire impacts to life, property, infrastructure, and other resources of community value; (2) provide critical information ...that will assist in maximizing safety, effectiveness, efficiency and beneficial measures of fire management and minimize adverse effects; (3) recommend actions to reduce cost of managing large wildfires and (4) recommend measures for restoring beneficial fire to the landscape. The plan and its supporting maps are available online (link expires April 29).

Colorado: The *Durango Herald* ran a <u>story</u> about FAC Learning Network hub FireWise of Southwest Colorado and its partners celebrating a batch of awards at their meeting last week. This included a Community Wildfire Preparedness Pioneer Award for Judy Winzell (neighborhood ambassador), a Fire Adapted Communities Fire Service Leadership Award for Chris Barth (BLM) and an award for Wildfire Mitigation Innovation to the organization itself. (For more about these awards—and other members of the FAC network that received them, see the January post in the <u>FACNetwork.org</u> blog.)

Colorado: A <u>story</u> in the *Pikes Peak Courier*, "Coalition Promotes Forest Health," talks about the **pile burning** that the **Coalition for the Upper South Platte** has been doing over the winter. For more, see the recent post by **Jonathan Bruno** (<u>jonathan@uppersouthplatte.org</u>) on the <u>FACNetwork.org</u> blog, "Pile Burning **Lessons Learned.**"

North Carolina: Participants in the Southern Blue Ridge FLN's recent North Carolina Prescribed Fire Training Exchange are writing up a storm about the event. For a couple perspectives, check out the blog post by the Conservancy's Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Module as well as a posting on the Southeast Prescribed Fire Update site written by Jennifer Evans and other members of the planning team (aptly titled, "A Little Cold and Precipitation Can't Stop Us!"). See also the attached Notes from the Field.

North Carolina: On March 18, partners in the **Grandfather Restoration Project** reached a milestone, conducting **two prescribed burns in one day**. The burns totaled **1,800 acres**, the most acres treated in a day. The units are among the most established in the project, with this being the fifth round of prescribed fire since 1998. According to project coordinator **Lisa Jennings**, "in proposing the CFLRP project, we often talked about **efficiencies gained** through **burning units multiple times**, allowing us to reduce future costs. These two burns were a **great example** of achieving this efficiency. The condition of the fuels, as well as familiarity with the units, allowed the fire team here on the Grandfather to achieve a large number of acres in a single day while ensuring a safe environment for firefighters."

Oregon: The **Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Project** is among those <u>recently awarded</u> Forest Service-NRCS **Joint Chiefs' Restoration Funding**. The project is working to reduce and mitigate wildfire threats to communities, protect the watershed, and improve and protect quality wildlife habitat in an area of interspersed public and private lands.

Virginia: After surveying recent Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) burning done by Wildland Restoration International (pictures on Facebook), Sam Lindblom has announced his retirement. "I think we've pretty much finished our work here," he said. "These forests are completely restored now." Congratulations have been coming in from colleagues across the country. "I'm really amazed at what they've done," said Nathan Korb, "We have at least six months more work here before we can declare success."

Before you congratulate Sam, check out the details in this post.

Washington: Congratulations to Mason McKinley (mmckinley@cnlm.org), now a qualified Burn Boss Type II after eight years of training that included 380 prescribed burns (including several TREX). His qualification adds much-needed capacity to the South Puget Sound, and will greatly benefit the prairies and native biodiversity of the region.

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network: A dozen members of the Network attended this year's **Wildland Urban Interface conference** in Reno last week. Wednesday included a **full day of FAC sessions** and an evening FAC reception. **Justice Jones** (Austin, TX) took part on a FAC **panel** presentation alongside Forest Service Deputy Chief of Forestry **Jim Hubbard** and CAL FIRE Director **Ken Pimlott**. In addition, **Nick Goulette** moderated a **session on local FAC coordinating groups** that included presentations by **Katie Martel** (California), **Forest Schafer** (North Lake Tahoe), **Justice Jones** and **Frank Riley** (Towns County, GA). Several network members also received **mitigation awards** at a ceremony that afternoon.

Photo highlights from the conference are on the <u>FACNetwork.org blog</u>, and **Frank Riley** was briefly **quoted on TV** news coverage of the conference.

Videos from the Field

FAC Learning Network: The network now has a <u>YouTube channel</u>, which has been set up to **host high-quality videos** that demonstrate **FAC lessons learned and best practices**. The **first video** posted was filmed at the recent **Austin-Boise fire departments' learning exchange**. It's a good introduction to fire adapted communities concepts from a fire department perspective, and would also be **good for general public audiences**.

Nebraska: A recording of a <u>webinar presentation</u> from the recent Niobrara Valley TREX is available. Jack Arterburn (<u>jarterb3@hotmail.com</u>) discussed his findings from research on the <u>interaction</u> of drought and wildfire on the vegetation and stability of <u>sandhills</u>.

Resources: Smoke / Collaboration Triangle / Mapping / Fire-Resistant Forests

Smoke: This one is a **two-way street**—we've started a <u>new section</u> on the **Conservation Gateway** to house technical **smoke and wildfire emissions management** information that's in (relatively) plain language. The goal is to gather resources that are suitable **for practitioners**—scientifically sound, but comprehensible to non-specialists.

Posted there now are the <u>recording</u> and <u>slides</u> from "Wildland Fire Emissions Factors—Latest Research," which **Shawn Urbansk**i presented to the NWCG SmoC last month. Coming soon will be ... resources you share. What articles, tools, presentations and other resources have you found useful? Please **send suggestions** to **Blane Heumann** (<u>bheumann@tnc.org</u>).

Collaboration Triangle: Michelle Medley-Daniel's recent post on <u>FACNetwork.org</u> is called "Considerations for **Fostering Local FAC Collaboratives**," but the concepts are far more **widely applicable**. It's a quick read, and a worthwhile aspect to consider no matter how new or mature a collaboration—how do you **balance results**, **process and relationships** in a collaborative?

Mapping: The <u>Data Basin</u> hosted by the Conservation Biology Institute has a variety of resources, including almost 12,000 publicly available conservation-related spatial datasets. It also provides a means of sharing data—either publicly or privately with specified work groups—as well as tools for manipulating and exploring data. These tools could be especially useful when looking at spatial information with dispersed groups, particularly if some members are not GIS-savvy. There are recorded and live webinars as well as a quick "tour" option that introduce site features.

Fire-Resistant Forests: The Northwest Fire Science Consortium and Oregon State University Extension's "A <u>Land Manager's Guide</u> for Creating Fire-Resistant Forests" covers the basics of fire and fire behavior triangles, fire types (ground, surface, crown), basic principles of fire-resistant forests and fuel reduction methods in about a dozen pages. While the details are specific to the Northwest, the overview may be useful for non-professional audiences anywhere.

Report: NPS Plan

NPS Plan: The National Park Service's "Wildland Fire Strategic Plan: 2015-2019" is <u>available online</u>. The plan reaffirms NPS values and establish its priorities for the next five years, incorporating the intent of the Cohesive Strategy.

In the News: Climate Change

Climate Change: Surprising evidence has emerged regarding the source of climate change.

Job: Assistant Program Manager

Assistant Program Manager: This **Joint Fire Science Program** position will have primary responsibility for the **fire and fuels management**-focused aspects of the program, especially **fire science exchange** and adoption. Information is available on <u>usajobs.gov</u> (announcement number FA Merit-2015-0032); applications are due by **April 7**.

Webinars

April 3 new listing

Burning for Birds: Birds, Fire and Southeastern Habitat Management 8:00 Pacific / 9:00 Mountain / 10:00 Central / 11:00 Eastern

Jim Cox (Tall Timbers) will present this Southern Fire Exchange webinar.

Register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/southern-fire-exchange-webinar-burning-for-birds-tickets-16086815097

April 14 A New Age of Wildland Fuel Science

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern

Bob Keane of the Missoula Fire Sciences Lab will present this webinar hosted by

the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network.

Information: http://nrfirescience.org/event/new-age-wildland-fuel-science

April 16 Easy-to-Use Smoke Tools

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

Trent Wickman, an air resource specialist with the Great Lakes National Forests, will present this webinar hosted by the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network.

Information: http://nrfirescience.org/event/easy-use-smoke-tools

FLN and FAC LN Workshops & Field Tours

April 16-17 Burned Area Learning Network / Santa Fe, NM

"Planning for the Next Big One: Managing the Postfire Environment in a Time of Change." Core partners will discuss the development of a new learning network at this workshop supported by the FLN, Southwest Fire Science Consortium and

Southern Rockies Fire Science Network.

April 20 Pike's Peak FLN / TBD

Information: Paige Lewis (paige lewis@tnc.org)

May 12-14 Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Morganton, NC

Registration is now open for the 10th annual regional workshop of the SBR FLN.

Information: http://sbrfln2015.weebly.com/

June 1-4 National FLN Workshop / Santa Fe, NM

new listing Save the date for the national workshop, where leaders will meet with their

counterparts in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and help shape the FLN's upcoming work. The FLN will meet from Monday evening through 5:00

Thursday. Information will be emailed soon.

June 1-5 National FAC Learning Network Workshop / Santa Fe, NM

new listing Save the date for the national workshop, where leaders will meet with their

counterparts in the Fire Learning Network, share learning, and help plan the network's upcoming structure and work. The FAC network will meet from Monday

evening through Friday noon. Information will be emailed soon.

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

April 27 – May 6 East River TREX—Session I / eastern SD

May 11-20 East River TREX—Session II / eastern SD

These TREX are supported by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, SD Wildland Fire Division, TNC and other partners to improve wildlife habitat and range conditions, reduce the possibility of damaging wildfires and provide training and learning opportunities.(The application deadline has passed.)

May 14-21 Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR

This **Northwest FLN** TREX, aimed at prescribed fire partners in the state, will focus on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring and operational dimensions of planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire for

restoration goals. (The application deadline has passed.)

Sept. 15-Oct. 5 Spanish-Language TREX / northern NM

This training exchange will be held in and around the Santa Fe National Forest, and will bring together participants from several countries and across the U.S. Applications are due by May 8.

Information: flyer and application form are attached to FLN Networker No. 180

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

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: https://inawf.memberclicks.net/upcoming-conferences

May 1-3 Colorado Certified Burner B - RXB3 Training / Larkspur, CO

The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners are offering this course on planning, designing and

implementing low complexity pile burns in Colorado.

Information: see the flyer attached to FLN Networker No. 179

May 2 International Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

updated Various events will be taking place. There will be a one-hour **Twitter Chat** to

brainstorm ideas **April 7 at 2:00 Eastern**, with hashtag #WildfirePrepDay; details are at http://wildfire.blog.nfpa.org/2015/03/join-the-wildfire-prepday-twitter-chat.html.

Information: http://www.nfpa.org/wildfirepreparednessday

May 5-7 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

May 18-19 Intro to State-and-Transition Simulation Modeling of Landscape Vegetation

Dynamics / Ft Collins, CO

Information: http://wiki.syncrosim.com/index.php?title=Courses#Course Descriptions

May 27-29 5th Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference / Tuscaloosa, AL

Information: http://easternfire.as.ua.edu

June 7-12 Fire Ecology Institute for Educators / Durango, CO

new listing Information: see July workshop, below; the registration deadline is May 22

July 6-12 Fire Ecology Institute for Educators / Florissant, CO

new listing This workshop for grade 3-12 educators has sponsors and presenters, including

the Colorado State Forest Service, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Research Station and others. The

registration deadline is June 19 (early bird tuition ends April 1).

Information: scroll through the listings at http://coloradoplt.org/workshops/

July 13-17 RX-310: Introduction to Fire Effects / State College, PA

This course, offered by the **Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council**, will be geared specifically toward Pennsylvania ecosystems, but is open to both Pennsylvania burn practitioners and others. Nominations are due by April 30. Information: the announcement and nomination form are attached to <u>FLN</u>

Networker No. 180

September 24-26 Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Creating Fire Adapted Communities /

Snowmass Village, CO

Information: http://www.wildfire-colorado.com/

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

deadline The call for all proposals is now open; proposals for special sessions are due

April 1. Information: http://afefirecongress.org/

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – <u>Idecker@tnc.org</u> – Lynn is out April 3, in Albuquerque, NM April 7-10.

Jeremy Bailey - <u>jeremy_bailey@tnc.org</u> - Jeremy is in the office.

Wendy Fulks - wfulks@tnc.org - Wendy is out April 10.

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

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.

Guy Duffner – <u>gduffner@tnc.org</u> – Guy is out April 3.

Liz Rank (editor) – <u>Irank@tnc.org</u> – 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—AZ, CO, WA: http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day/2015-contest-winners

News from the Field—AZ—Reducing Our Risk contest: http://www.solutionsearch.org/contest/reducing-our-risk News from the Field—CA—Happy Camp CWPP: https://www.transferbigfiles.com/d1f1dea0-ded0-4427-8005-c43ee432faad/3eG4zQ04-zyMk-wXreU7Bg2

News from the Field—CO—Durango Herald: http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150325/NEWS01/150329739/-1/News01/FireWise-celebrates-big-honors-

News from the Field—CO—Pikes Peak Courier: http://pikespeakcourier.net/stories/Coalition-promotes-forest-health,184147
News from the Field—NCTREX blog—Colorado module: http://southernrockiesfum.blogspot.com/2015/03/nctrex2015.html
Southeast prescribed fire site blog: http://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/2015/03/20/a-review-of-nctrex2015-a-little-cold-and-precipitation-cant-stop-us/

News from the Field—VA:

http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/April-Fool.aspx News from the Field—FAC LN—Blog: http://facnetwork.org/fac-network-at-the-wui-conference/

TV coverage: http://www.ktvn.com/story/28626978/planning-ahead-for-the-fire-season#.VRdZJGIxTJ0.gmail

Videos from the Field--FAC LN YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw0iVIThjzZbd5A4bf3tGkw/videos Videos from the Field--Sandhills research:

https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/lsr.php?RCID=cd8f10af9e234e3bb573771b6d23f7cf

Resources—Smoke:

 $\underline{\text{https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/smoke/Pages/\underline{\text{default.aspx}}}$

Resources—Collaboration triangle: http://facnetwork.org/considerations-for-fostering-local-fac-collaboratives/ Resources--Mapping: http://databasin.org/

Resources—Land managers' guide: http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/43073/EM9087.pdf?sequence=3
Report—NPS strategic plan: http://www.nps.gov/fire/wildland-fire/resources/documents/nps-wildland-fire-strategic-plan-2015-2019.pdf

In the News--Climate change: http://www.theonion.com/articles/new-evidence-suggests-last-ice-age-caused-by-earth,38191/

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



Photo: Nancy Lee Adamso

North Carolina TREX

Prescribed Fire Training Exchange—February 15-28, 2015

Neither rain nor snow nor ice could slow down the North Carolina TREX. A hardy group of prescribed fire practitioners braved the elements to participate in a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange in the North Carolina Sandhills. Despite some of the coldest temperatures on record and precipitation in the form of rain, snow and ice, the 58 participants shared knowledge and techniques to enhance controlled burning skills.

As is typical of TREX, participants with a wide range of skill levels and from diverse geographies—in this case from 15 states and Spain—came together to teach and learn from one another. Thirty organizations were represented, along with one private landowner. Thirty-five of the participants were working on their position task books for NWCG qualifications.

The North Carolina TREX got off to a good start—one the second



While North Carolina was, of course, well represented at this TREX, participants came from across the country. They brought with them varied ecological and fire culture experiences that enriched the event.



Participants improved conditions for longleaf pine seedlings. *Photo: TNC/Kara Karboski*

day, participants worked together to burn 163 acres of longleaf pine habitat on three tracts owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NC WRC). As the weather took a turn on the third day, with a rainy mix not conducive to burning, the training and knowledge exchange was just beginning. The next few days were spent learning about the need for fire in the longleaf ecosystem, local ecology, weather monitoring and forecasts, smoke modeling, medical planning, operation of pumps and engines. firing techniques, and other topics, with lessons both in and out of the classroom.

Participating Agencies & Organizations

Bureau of Land Management
Department of Defense— Camp
Lejeune, Fort Bragg, Joint Base
Lewis-McChord

Duke University

Fort Bragg

Mecklenburg County

National Park Service

National Center for Landscape Fire Analyses

Northern Prairies Land Trust

Nebraska Game and Parks

North Carolina State Parks

North Carolina Forest Service

North Carolina State University

North Carolina Wildlife Resource

Commission

The Nature Conservancy University of South Carolina Xerces Society

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Forest Service

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



TREX participants taking part in a field tour with author and ecologist Bruce Sorrie.

Photo: Nancy Lee Adamson

Four days later, the participants got back out to burn some more, treating 102 acres of longleaf pine on NC WRC and TNC land. They also conducted pile burning on private lands, which served as a training opportunity for participants to work on skills to suppress a "wildfire." The weather held the next day, allowing 258 acres of burning on three tracts owned by TNC and one on private lands.

The weather then went from bad to worse—but morale remained high, and the dedication to training did not end. Classroom and other non-burning field training continued. And on the last day of the TREX, participants were rewarded, when a small burn window allowed for one more acre of burning, and all of the

participants had a chance to practice their skills at initial attack on several "wildfires."

During this TREX, about 525 acres of longleaf forest were burned on both private and public lands. But by many accounts the most valuable aspect of the TREX was the exposure to the techniques, approaches and cultures of fire programs from many different organizations and different states, and learning about experiences in different fuel types.



Creative use of ice on the ground brightens your outlook when you are trying to burn.

Photo: Jose Luís Duce

Despite the poor weather, we maximized the training opportunities on each burn by having solid plans, motivated participants and well-coordinated operations at each prescribed fire.

Mike Norris, Incident Commander



A log of the units treated in the course of this TREX kept particpants updated.





What can you burn with southern snow on the ground? Piles! When weather did not permit broadcast burning, pile-burning provided participants with experience in wildfire suppression techniques while reducing excess fuels.

Photo: Katelynn Jenkins

Left: A happy module, post-fire.

Photo: TNC/Margit Bucher

For more information about this TREX, contact:

Mike Norris mnorris@tnc.org

For more information about TREX being offered eslewhere across the country, visit:

http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges

Funding for this TREX was provided by the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Prescribed Fire Working Group led by North Carolina State University, The Nature Conservancy, the Fire Learning Network, the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council and others.

The North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy took the lead in coordinating logistics, planning and prepping burn units, and providing Incident Commander Mike Norris. Based on how well this TREX went, he is already starting to make plans for another TREX in May 2017.

TREX are part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT)*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information on PERFACT, contact Lynn Decker Idecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.













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