

FLN Networker No. 189: July 22, 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

National: Last month, **Lynn Jungwirth** (Watershed Research & Training Center), **Lynn Decker** (The Nature Conservancy) and **Karen Hardigg** (Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition) took our messages of **what does work—and is working—for fire, forests and communities** to **Washington, DC**. With the aid of TNC's government relations staff, the trio shared the [Learning Networks Field Guide](#) and a [two-page fact sheet](#) about the PERFECT partnership, and told some of the many **stories that demonstrate** that:

1. There are **dynamic and effective community-based collaborative efforts** that are working and that can be examples for others;
2. **Networks and strong coalitions work**, and are powerful tools for leveraging change;
3. These working systems need to be further **enabled and supported**; and
4. We can and should focus more on what is working, and where—and **build on this** to advance the goals of the **Cohesive Strategy** in an integrated way.

The visit was packed, as these partners met with and briefed **key agency and legislative personnel**. These included the Associate Chief, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry and other key staff at the **Forest Service**; the Chief of Staff, Natural Resources and Environment and Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at the **Department of Agriculture**; the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary-Policy Management and Budget and Deputy Assistant Secretary-Public Safety, Resource Protection and Emergency Services at the **Department of the Interior**; lead staff from the House and Senate Natural Resource Committees in **Congress**; and the **Office of Management and Budget**.

Iowa: Congratulations to **Susanne Hickey** (shickey@tnc.org), who has taken on leadership of the Conservancy's **Grassland Conservation Network**.

Minnesota: Three **Ely FAC Learning Network's Firewise Demo Day events** drew **85 landowners** this week. They learned about steps to take to protect their homes and neighborhoods from wildfire, in presentations and demonstrations by the Department of Natural Resources Firewise Specialist, Forest Service District Ranger, Eagle's Nest Fire Chief and Lake County Emergency Manager. One of the events was covered by the local paper, reaching more people in the community. For more information, contact **Gloria Erickson** (gjerickson@frontiernet.net).

Nebraska: In late June, the **Great Plains Fire Science Exchange**, **TNC** and other partners hosted a **fire field day** on the **Niobrara Valley Preserve**. Thirty-seven people from local and regional agencies and organizations in Nebraska and South Dakota took part in discussions about the **2012 wildfire**, the preserve's **prescribed fire program**, and the **positive impacts** they have had on grass productivity and reduction in eastern redcedar on the preserve.

New Mexico: The **Jemez Mountains** are highlighted (and **Jeremy Bailey**, interviewed) in an [opinion piece](#) at treehugger.com, "**One Burning Solution** to America's Fire Challenges."

Oregon: The *Mail Tribune* ran a good [story](#) about the **Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project**, which is conducting treatments to **protect the city's municipal watershed**. Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (**SPER**) is one of several funding streams supporting the **integrated, multi-landowner** work there.

Request for Input: Gender Survey

Gender Survey: The **Association for Fire Ecology** is [conducting a survey](#) “as part of a proactive effort to identify and solve issues of **gender discrimination** and **sexual harassment** in the wildland fire community.” The results will help shape an AFE position paper, as well as the opening plenary at the conference in San Antonio in November.

Funding Opportunity: JFSP

JFSP: The **Joint Fire Science Program** has issued a [notice of intent](#) to request proposals for research funding. The selection will not be finalized until September, but the **tentative list of topics** includes “**social, organizational and institutional barriers** to implementing prescribed fire,” **post-fire landscape** management, and “**ecological and social dimensions** of resilient landscapes.” The funding opportunity notices themselves will come out around September 15.

Resources: Forest Restoration / Outreach Idea

Forest Restoration: The **Forest Service** has a [webpage](#) that gathers a number of forest restoration resources, including several **spatial tools** and links to TreeSearch (USFS **research publications**) listings sorted **by topic**.

Outreach Idea: From the **Forest Service Chief’s letter**, a note on an activity somewhat like **geocaching**: “On a recent visit with the Connecticut State Fire Supervisor, a ... staff member learned about the state’s use of ‘**letterboxing**’ as a method of connecting with their public and providing a unique way for **sharing educational information** about natural resources. Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly-accessible places (like parks) and **post clues** to finding the box online. There are about 20,000 letterboxes hidden in North America alone. The state plans to include information about the use of prescribed fire in letterboxes hidden near burn areas.”

Articles: Wildfire Weather Season / Geodiversity / Ecology & Society

Wildfire Weather Season: The authors of an [article](#) in *Nature*—“Climate-Induced Variations in Global Wildfire Danger from 1979 to 2013”—found that fire weather seasons have **lengthened** for about a **quarter of the vegetated surface** of the Earth.

Geodiversity: The June issue of *Conservation Biology* has a [special section](#) on “**Conserving Nature’s Stage**”—namely, using **landform, bedrock, soil and topography** as a coarse filter in conservation planning. An overview of the concept and the nine articles in the special section is in the June [Science Chronicles](#) (see page 25).

Ecology & Society: The [latest issue](#) of *Ecology and Society* has quite a few articles that may be of interest. These include “The Role of **Bridging Organizations** in Environmental Management: Examining **Social Networks in Working Groups**,” “Managing for Climate Change on Federal Lands of the Western United States: **Perceived Usefulness of Climate Science**, Effectiveness of Adaptation Strategies, and Barriers to Implementation,” “**Dual Thinking** for Scientists,” “**Trust Ecology** and the Resilience of Natural Resource Management Institutions,” and many more.

Videos: Safety Zones / Restoring Composition

Safety Zones: NIFC has a new [six-minute video](#) available on the “Latest Research on **Estimating Safety Zones**.” The new work includes taking into account **slope and wind** in calculating the safety zone size. According to the blurb, there’s also a beta version of an Android app.

Restoring Composition: The **Forest Service** has a [six-video series](#) that covers the 2013 report, “**Restoring Composition and Structure in Southwestern Frequent-Fire Forests: A Science-Based Framework for Improving Ecosystem Resiliency**” ([RMRS-GR-310](#)). The videos appear to be suitable for general audiences.

In the News: Prescribed Fire in California

Prescribed Fire in California: *Al Jazeera America* published a great [article](#) about the **need for more prescribed fire and fire managed fire**. “Fighting Fire with Fire may Reduce Risk of Major Wildfires During Drought” quotes the **director of CAL FIRE** as well as members of the prescribed fire councils, including Malcolm North (Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station), Ed Smith (TNC) and Craig Thomas (Sierra Forest Legacy).

Jobs: Fire Mgmt Tech / Fire Ops Tech / Fire Management Specialist / Burn Crew

Fire Mgmt Tech: The **Conservancy’s Arkansas chapter** is hiring a fire management technician (**FFT2**) for its prescribed burn crew. Applications are due by **July 24**; details are available on the TNC careers page ([job ID# 43329](#)).

Fire Ops Technician: The **Air Force Wildland Fire Center** has a fire operations technician position open at Avon Park Air Force Range (FL). Applications are due by **July 29**; details are at <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/16358>.

Fire Management Specialist: The **National Park Service** is hiring a **Southeast Region Deputy Regional FMO (Planning and Ecology)**; the position combines the former Regional Fire Ecologist and Regional Fire Planner positions. Status candidates and VEOA eligibles may apply; applications are due by **July 30**. Details are at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/PrintPreview/408651100>.

Burn Crew: The **Conservancy’s North Carolina chapter** is hiring **as-needed burn crew members** to be called upon from October 2015 through April 2016 as opportunities for burning arise. The crew will assist with prescribed fires in the **Southern Blue Ridge** and western parts of the state. Applications are due by **July 31**; details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID# 43339](#)).

Webinars

July 30
new listing

Tracking Progress through Collaborative Monitoring

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

Tom DeMeos (USFS) will be the presenter at this Sustainable Forests Roundtable webinar based on a recent [working paper](#) from the Ecosystem Workforce Program.

Information: <http://www.sustainableforestswebinars.net/webinars/monitoring-and-adaptive-management-reporting-and-communicating-progress/>

August 18

Compositional and Structural Changes over Time with Different Fire Regimes in Linville Gorge, NC

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

In this **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** webinar, **Cassandra Pallai** will discuss research conducted in Linville Gorge based on resampling plots originally put in during 1992 for her Master’s project at Duke University. The plots have been resampled (by Waldrop and others) periodically and give a nice sampling of

different fire regimes in Linville. Plots within the Table Rock Fire footprint were recently sampled, and Pallai combined those results with the original sampling and Waldrop's resampling to study compositional and structural changes over time with different fire regimes. ([Add to your calendar.](#))

Join the webinar: <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/j.php?MTID=m62d49eb623f92bc2c4019d26003c1a66>

FLN and FAC LN Workshops & Field Tours

September 14
new listing

Pike's Peak FLN Field Tour / CO

Save the date for this field visit to the Sourdough and North Slope prescribed burn project sites.

Information: Paige Lewis (paige_lewis@tnc.org)

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

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. (The application deadline has passed.)

Sept. 29-Oct. 11

Klamath River TREX / northern CA

This TREX will provide communities along the Klamath River with experience and training on how to plan and implement controlled burns, protect communities from wildfires, and prepare for managing wildfires for resource benefits. It is designed to integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners with varying degrees of knowledge and experience. Applications are due by August 17.

Information: details are in the announcement on the application page (<http://trexregistration.weebly.com/klamath-river-trex.html>); applications should be submitted through the online system

Oct. 20-Nov. 1

NorCal TREX / northern CA

At this TREX a diverse group of international and domestic fire practitioners will work together to share and build their experience in prescribed fire practices, fire effects, and other conservation efforts affecting forests and grasslands in northwestern California. Prescribed fire and wildfire personnel and other natural resource managers involved in fire and ecosystem management, including federal, state, tribal, non-governmental and private practitioners are encouraged to apply. Applications are due by August 17.

Information: details are in the announcement on the application page (<http://trexregistration.weebly.com/norcal-trex.html>); applications should be submitted through the online system

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

July 29-30

Shortleaf Pine in the Appalachians—A Workshop to Discuss Threats, Barriers and Successes in the Restoration of Shortleaf Pine / Asheville, NC

The Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists and The Nature Conservancy host this workshop, which will include facilitated discussions and a field tour of the Sandymush Game Land.

Information: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/news/591>

- August 19** **Firing Operations and Initial Attack in Grassland Habitats / WA**
Joint Base Lewis McChord, the Center for Natural Lands Management and the Washington Prescribed Fire council will be hosting training opportunities targeted for firefighters working on firing boss task books or wishing to increase their experience with initial attack on grassland fires. Anyone who is NWCG qualified and current is welcome. Note: *dates are tentative*.
Information: see flyer attached to [FLN Networker No. 188](#)
- August 26-27** **Patch Burn Grazing Meeting / Pratt, KS**
Information: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/2015/04/28/call-for-abstracts-2015-patch-burn-grazing-meeting/>
- September 16** **Firing Operations and Initial Attack in Grassland Habitats / WA**
See August 19 listing. Note: *dates are tentative*.
- September 24-26** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Creating Fire Adapted Communities / Snowmass Village, CO**
The conference theme will be “Fire adapted communities—who owns the risk?” FAC Net liaison Molly Mowery will be among the keynote speakers at this conference.
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 deadline** **AFE Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX**
Additional offerings with this conference include an Rx310 course and several field tours, including one to Aransas NWR. Early registration is open until **July 31**.
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Ashland, OR July 27-29.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Orleans, CA July 19-24.

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

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in New Mexico July 15-23.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Orleans, CA July 19-24.

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

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out July 31.

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—Field Guide: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/FLN-Field-Guide.aspx>

Fact sheet: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/fln-fact-sheet.aspx>

Request for Input: Gender survey: <http://afefirecongress.org/afe-gender-survey/>

Funding Opportunity—JFSP: http://www.firescience.gov/documents/NOI_FY16_potential_FON_topics.pdf

Resources—Forest restoration: <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/forest-restoration/>

Articles--Wildfire weather season: <http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/150714/ncomms8537/full/ncomms8537.html#3>

Articles—Geodiversity: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.2015.29.issue-3/issuetoc>

Science Chronicles: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ScienceChronicles/Pages/sc062015.aspx>

Articles—*Ecology and Society*: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol20/iss2/>

Videos—Safety zones: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW8AMbmifOA&feature=youtu.be>

Videos—Forest composition: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNsZX2SBTIVkiwgly0BpqG9CfLLorBcjs>

RMRS-GTR-310: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr310.pdf

In the News—Prescribed fire in CA: <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/7/8/fighting-fire-with-fire-may-reduce-risk-of-major-wildfires-during-drought.html>

Jobs—TNC-AR fire mgmt. tech: https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=43329&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

Jobs—TNC-NC burn crew: https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=43339&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

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