FLN Networker No. 199: December 9, 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: Mary Huffman (mhuffman@tnc.org) gave the plenary talk at the awards banquet at the Association for Fire Ecology Congress last month. The transcript and slides of "Making a World of Difference in Fire and Climate Change" are nowavailable.

California: There's a good **report** from this fall's **Nor Cal TREX** in the attached *Notes from the Field*; for more information, contact **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** (nwcapfc@gmail.com).

Central Appalachians: Adam Christie (adam.christie@dcr.virginia.gov), Shenandoah Valley Region Steward with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, reports on a successful work day prepping for an upcoming controlled burn at Mount Joy Pond Natural Area Preserve in the Heart of the Appalachians FLN landscape. Staff from three other agencies—the U.S. Forest Service, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and The Nature Conservancy—have committed time and resources to this project, which Adam calls a good example of the "effectiveness of the FLN partnership."

New Mexico: Congrats to Krys Nystrom (ttvfd25@gmail.com) for getting the new nonprofit Wildfire Network (www.wildfirenetwork.org) up and running. The intent is to have a "one-stop shop for mitigation information" for people in the state who are ready to do mitigation and forest resiliency work but don't know where to turn to for assistance—and to help build the necessary workforce locally.

New Mexico: There are a couple of nice write-ups online about the Cottonwood Gulch/Pratt prescribed burn led by the Forest Stewards Guild last month. There's a Guild blog post with pictures, for those who like the details—and a great piece in the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation's newsletter (see page 12) by a first-time burner (which starts, "A few weeks ago, for the first time in my life, I walked through a freshly charred forest and saw it as beautiful.") For more information, contact Eytan Krasilovsky (eytan@forestguild.org).

North Carolina: The recent Forest Service report on the summer's Bald Knob wildfire is subtitled "Collaboration is Key—Fuel Treatments that Allowed Fire Management Objectives to Include Restoring Fire Adapted Ecosystems." The fire, on the Pisgah National Forest, fell within the bounds of the Central Escarpment FLN landscape, in the Southern Blue Ridge FLN. The report highlights the importance of the FLN work there in making management for restoration possible on this fire, noting that formation of the SBR FLN marked "a shift in objectives from simply fuel reduction to include restoration of fire adapted ecosystems. The collaboration around the Southern Blue Ridge FLN moved the district from looking at fire impacts on a single burn unit to a holistic approach of creating a mosaic of fire across the landscape."

Oregon: Last month 20 Forest Service staff from central Oregon took part in a fire and forest implementation and monitoring workshop aimed at training forestry professionals on the ecological rationale for heterogeneity in forest restoration. Participants engaged in multiple field trials in the use and application of the ICO (Individuals, Clumps and Openings) tracking app that Oregon FLN partners have been developing and refining in the last couple of years. Use of the app will increase efficiency and reduce costs of restoration implementation and monitoring. For more on the ICO methodology, see the Restoration of Dry Forests in Eastern Oregon field guide.

Resource: Engaging the Public

Engaging the Public: In a <u>webinar</u> for the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** last week, social science researcher **Sarah McCaffrey** covered some of the **conventional wisdom** about public knowledge and attitudes, and what **current research** says about them. Unless you're working deep in the wilderness without human contact, it's worth viewing.

Reports & Articles: Mitigation in WUI / Institutions & Scale

Mitigation in WUI: A <u>new report</u> from the Forest Stewards Guild, "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Wildfire Mitigation Activities in the Wildland-Urban Interface," shares lessons learned from communities across New Mexico. For more information, see the webinar listings below, or contact Zander Evans (<u>zander@forestguild.org</u>).

Institutions & Scale: The article "Re-envisioning Community-Wildfire Relations in the U.S. West as Adaptive Governance" in Ecology and Society frames an analysis "around the concepts of scale matching, linking within and across scales, and institutional flexibility." For a layman's synopsis of the article, read the FAC Net blog post by lead author Jesse Abrams, "Institutions are Key Elements of Fire Adapted Communities."

Jobs: FAC-WUI Coordinator / Ecologist / Natural Resource Specialist / Assistant Professor

FAC-WUI Coordinator: The **Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division** is looking for someone to **facilitate community wildfire readiness**. (Justice Jones: "Don't let the Environmental Compliance Specialist title fool you this is a fire position.") Details are on the city's job site (<u>position 114899</u>); applications are due by **December 18**.

Ecologist: The **Rocky Mountain Research Station** (Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science Program) will be advertising for a permanent **supervisory ecologist**. Details are in the attached outreach flyer; if interested, submit the outreach form by **December 24**. (Note: there is a typo in the due date on the form (2014), but this notice is being currently circulated.)

Natural Resource Specialist: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is recruiting a natural resource specialist to provide fire management and consultative services on wildlife areas statewide (including habitat restoration and maintenance using prescribed fire) and to help develop, implement and lead a prescribed burn program for fire-dependent dry forest ecosystems (with an initial focus in north-central Washington). Details are on the state's <u>careers page</u> (search keyword 11928W); applications are due by December 27.

Assistant Professor: The University of Florida (Gainesville) is seeking an assistant professor of fire science. Details are on the university's jobs site (job 494992); for best results, apply by February 1.

Webinars

December 10 new listing

A Diné Perspective on Cultural Resources and Fire Management: The 2015 Rock Fire

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern In this <u>ArcBurn</u> webinar, Jason Nez, fire archaeologist on the 2015 Rock Fire (Kaibab NF), will discuss how cultural resources can be protected during managed wildfires.

Register: http://www.nwfirescience.org/events/dine-perspective-cultural-resources-and-fire-management-2015-rock-fire

December 16 Fire Recovery Approaches

new listing 9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern (1.5 hours)

This peer learning session sponsored by Forest Service and National Forest

Foundation will cover (among other topics) dealing with NEPA-related

implications of "significant new information or circumstances" in a project area

and building post-fire resiliency through reforestation and re-vegetation.

Information: http://www.nff.wildapricot.org/event-2105449

January 13 Effectiveness of Wildfire Mitigation in the WUI

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

Zander Evans will present this Forest Stewards Guild webinar discussing the Guild's recent report, "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Wildfire Mitigation Activities

in the Wildland-Urban Interface."

Information: http://www.forestguild.org/node/189

January 27 Smoke from a Distant Fire: Human-Wildfire Interactions in Prehistoric

new listing Forests of the Southwestern US

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

In this <u>ArcBurn</u> webinar from the Forest Stewards Guild, Rachel Loehman (USGS) looks at two millennia of humans and wildfire in the southwest Jemez

Mountains of New Mexico.

Information: http://www.forestguild.org/node/189

FLN and FAC Net Workshops & Field Tours

May 17-19 Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Johnson City, TN

Save the date for the 11th workshop of the SBR FLN, with "insightful programming,

engaging discussions, and one of our famous field trips."

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

March 14-26 Loup River Valley Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ord, NE

date corrected This TREX will integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners, including university

students; municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters; other natural resource

managers; scientists and researchers for training and burning on private

properties in Valley County. Applications are due by January 15.

Information: announcement and application are on the Conservation Gateway

March 19-27* Niobrara Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / north-central NE

*These are the tentative dates for this TREX—details will be available soon

May 1-14* Bend Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR

*These are the tentative dates for this TREX—details will be available soon

May 8-22* Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ashland, OR

*These are the tentative dates for this TREX—details will be available soon

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

various dates Prescribed Fire Training Workshops / various locations, NE

Pheasants Forever and partners are offering a dozen prescribed fire workshops

—basic and advanced topics—for landowners. The workshops are being offering

in numerous locations across the state between January 20 and May 25.

Information: see flyer attached to FLN Networker No. 198

January 13, 20, 27 deadline

Behave Plus 5.0.5/ Online

This training, offered by the Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science

Consortium and taught by Ray Guse (Smoked Goose Consulting), will be held as a series of interactive webinars; a fourth session will be added if needed.

Sessions will start at noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern.

Registration will close at **50 participants or December 9**, whichever comes first.

Information: http://www.tposfirescience.org/e-news/behave-plus-training-

registration-open.html

February 23-25

Sage brush Ecosystem Conservation: All Lands, All Hands / Salt Lake City, UT

This conference will share the latest information on the conservation, restoration and maintenance of resilient sagebrush ecosystems. An online streaming version of the conference will be available.

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Information: http://www.sagebrushconference2016.org/

March 8-10

IAFC Wildland Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV

Information: http://www.iafc.org/micrositeWUI/homeWUI.cfm?ItemNumber=7987

April 11-15

5th International Fire Behavior + Fuels Conference / Portland, OR*

The theme of this IAWF conference is "Wicked Problems, New Solutions: Our Fire,

Our Problem."

*The conference will be held concurrently in Portland and in Melbourne, Australia.

Information: http://www.firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com/

July 17-20

North American Prairie Conference—From Cemetery Prairies to National

Tallgrass Prairies / Normal, IL

Illinois State University Is hosting this conference, with presentations on prairie ecology, restoration, management and some innovative ideas on working lands.

Information: http://nap2016.illinoisstate.edu/

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker - <u>Idecker@tnc.org</u> - Lynn is out December 11, December 23-29.

Guy Duffner – <u>gduffner@tnc.org</u> – Guy is in the office.

Heather Montanye – <u>hmontanye@tnc.org</u> – Heather is in the office.

Jeremy Bailey - jeremy bailey@tnc.org - Jeremy is out December 17-January 3.

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

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

Liz Rank (editor) - <u>Irank@tnc.org</u> - Liz is out December 17.

Full Links

News from the Field--National: http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/ FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/Huffman-AFE-Keynote-2015.aspx

News from the Field—NM burn—blog: http://forestquild.ning.com/blog/burning-across-fence-lines-the-cottonwood-qulch-pratt-prescribed-

New sletter: http://files.ctctcdn.com/9de712f1201/ce93026e-9b2b-4079-b7c5-f97064116e74.pdf

Resource—Engaging the public:

http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/fac/facnet/Pages/McCaffrey-Dec2015.aspx

Reports & Articles—Mitigation in WUI: http://www.forestquild.org/node/187

Reports & Articles—Institutions & scale: http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol20/iss3/art34/
Blog post: http://facnetwork.org/institutions-are-key-elements-of-fire-adapted-communities/

Jobs—FAC/WUI coordinator: https://www.austincityjobs.org/postings/51172

Jobs—Natural resource specialist: http://agency.governmentjobs.com/washington/default.cfm

Jobs--Assistant professor: http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/494992

TREX—Loup: http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/TrainingExchanges/Pages/2016-Loup-TREX.aspx

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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Third Annual Nor Cal TREX

October 20 – November 1, 2015







The Nor Cal TREX team burned in a variety of fuel types, including this forested area on private land in Hayfork (*top*). They also brought fire back to this white oak woodland on a ranch near Hayfork (*center*), which historically experienced frequent fire but hadn't been burned in many years.

Public hiking/biking trails were used as firelines for burns on BLM land near Redding (*bottom*). TREX participants took every opportunity to talk to passersby about the need for controlled burning, and they found the public to be enthusiastic and grateful for their hard work.

Photos: Lenya Quinn-Davidson

As crews for the Northern California Prescribed Fire **Training Exchange** (Nor Cal TREX) assembled for a two-week burn assignment, other TREX teams that had been working for the previous three weeks around the nearby communities of Happy Camp, Orleans, Somes Bar and Weitchpec were just wrapping up. Those crews had mostly been focused on burning around homes and neighborhoods to create defensible space, but the Nor Cal TREX would be different, including a wide diversity of ecosystems and ownerships. Nor Cal TREX crews burned on private, tribal, Forest Service and BLM lands, migrating from the coastally influenced Klamath River corridor to the forests and rangelands of Trinity County and then to the xeric hills west of Redding. During the two-week event, they burned remnant prairies, white oak woodlands, mixed-conifer forests, black oak-ponderosa pine stands, and chaparral—a true sampling of the diverse northern California landscape.

The Northern California Prescribed Fire Council was the primary host of this TREX. The Council is a venue for practitioners, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, tribes, coalitions, and interested individuals to work collaboratively to promote, protect, conserve and expand the responsible use of prescribed fire in Northern California's fire-adapted landscapes.

Controlled burning is inherently complex, and as land managers scale up their use of this important tool, cooperation and planning become increasingly important. Mobilizing burn teams for weeks at a time takes committed leaders, landowners, participants and firefighters, as well as the agencies and organizations that support them. Increased burning also requires better coordination and communication around air quality, as burners must be able to share the airshed and work together to enable treatments across the landscape. The TREX program is leading the charge on this new model of cooperation, engaging diverse stakeholders in both planning and implementation. For the Nor Cal TREX, burning was coordinated among numerous agencies and other burn teams during the fall burn season to maximize the benefits of fire while minimizing smoke impacts to local communities.

The NorCal team began their two-week assignment in one of the most remote communities in the Lower 48: Weitchpec, the home of the Yurok Tribe. Famous for their basketry and salmon fisheries, the Yurok people still have access to their historical cultural knowledge of fire use in this region. Thanks to intergenerational teaching traditions within the tribe, fire use

knowledge has been shared from one generation to the next for millennia. The Yurok (and other local tribes) are capable burners and hosted the first few days of the TREX learning and burning curriculum.

For many of the participants, this was the first time they had worked with communities that are adamant about bringing fire back to their lands. This is true not only for the tribes in the Klamath Mountains, but also for a smattering of very rural towns and villages throughout the region that understand the value of having fire as a tool to restore their forests and protect their communities.

The NorCal TREX kicked off with fire management field trips and presentations from local burners. Participants learned about the important role that fire plays in preparing culturally important plants such as hazel, bear grass and tanoak trees, and met scientists and researchers who are finding innovative ways to integrate traditional ecological knowledge with western science. In Trinity and Shasta counties, participants met with community leaders, heard presentations from revered fire scientists, and got to know the landscape in field trips with fire ecologists and land managers. In these ways, the Nor Cal TREX balanced hands-on burning with many other modes of learning and networking.

By the time the crews were finishing up their last assignments of mopup and patrol, they had moved their Incident Command Post three times and burned on seven different ownerships (using fire on seven of their eleven operational days). In all, the crew completed 240 acres of controlled burning, and met the objectives for the burns as set out in the plans. The TREX also provided position task book evaluations for 10 Firing Bosses, 5 Burn Bosses and another 20 firefighters in the positions of Firefighter Type 1 and Type 2, Fire Effects Monitor and Engine Boss.

Nor Cal TREX participants had many positive things to say about the event. One participant noted that "the training opportunities and the chance to burn in multiple unfamiliar veg types were fantastic and everything I was hoping for. The quality of the people both on the IMT and the attendees was extremely high. I appreciate the chance to meet and learn from such a diverse group." Another said "the learning environment was awesome! I loved the presentations, the diverse participants, and all the experiences involved...The organization and ICT were great. I think this is a challenging program and the organization was as good as it could be considering the unpredictable nature of prescribed fire. Overall, a very, very positive experience!"

The Type 3 Incident Management Team that led this two-week burn team was also extremely happy with the success of the crew, the dedication of the hosting landowners and agencies, and the contributions of the volunteers who donated their time and equipment to make these good fires possible. Nor Cal TREX leaders are already working together to plan next year's training.



Yurok host Elizabeth Azzuz pointing out Indian tea (yerba buena) to TREX participants during a field tour. *Photo: Lenya Quinn-Davidson*



While many of the Nor Cal TREX participants were from Northern California, adding to the local capacity to manage wildland fire, the experience was made richer by the diversity of the crew. The 40 participants came from seven U.S. states and also included two practitioners from Spain.

For more information about the Nor Cal TREX, contact:

Lenya Quinn-Davidson

nwcapfc@gmail.com

For more about the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, visit: www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org

For information about other Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges, visit: http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges

The Fire Learning Network (FLN) and Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) are part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

For more information, contact Lynn Decker Idecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.











An equal opportunity provider



Rocky Mountain Research Station USDA Forest Service Supervisory Ecologist GS-0408-11/12 Missoula, MT

OPEN: 12/4/2015 CLOSE: 12/24/2015

OUTREACH NOTICE

The Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science Program will soon be advertising for a permanent **Supervisory Ecologist, GS-0408-11/12.** The incumbent will be responsible for managing the Fire Effects Information System (FEIS), a website that publishes syntheses of knowledge on individual species' relationships to fire and on historical fire regimes throughout the United States. The incumbent will review and edit knowledge syntheses, supervise a staff of ecologists who write syntheses for FEIS, and manage a library and reference database on fire ecology. The incumbent will also conduct investigations on science delivery strategies regarding wildland fire, provide training to managers, and develop and implement curriculum on wildland fire science for educators – in particular, the Fire Works educational program.

<u>**DUTY STATION:**</u> This position will be located at the Fire Sciences Laboratory, Missoula, MT. Interested candidates can visit the RMRS website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/ and the Fire, Fuels, and Smoke Program website at: http://www.firelab.org/. For additional information about Missoula, MT please access the Missoula Chamber of Commerce website at http://www.missoulachamber.com/.

MAJOR DUTIES: The principal emphasis of this position is management of FEIS to ensure it contains accurate science syntheses and is easily usable for fire management planning, fuel reduction planning, postfire rehabilitation, NEPA analyses, and other applications. The incumbent reviews and edits Species Reviews, Fire Studies, and Fire Regime Syntheses and approves these products for publication in FEIS. Applies knowledge of ecological concepts including ecology, fire history, fire behavior, fire effects, succession, fire suppression and management, climate change, and traditional ecological knowledge regarding fire. Manages the Fire Effects Library, a collection of more than 80,000 references on fire and ecology, and the Citation Retrieval System that enables electronic searches of the Library. Works to integrate information from other sources such as LANDFIRE into FEIS.

The incumbent initiates, coordinates, and conducts outreach to educators and students regarding the science of wildland fire. Develops and implements curricula and educational materials, especially for the FireWorks Program, which furnishes curriculum and hands-on activities for teaching about wildland fire.

Investigates science delivery strategies for information on fire management. Seeks and responds to requests for proposals on synthesizing information for managers and providing educational materials on wildland fire. Develops and manages grants and agreements with collaborators to leverage assistance, support, and funding of synthesis and education programs.

Communicates via oral and poster presentations, webinars, and workshops with various audiences, including scientists, fire and other resource managers, teachers, students from the Elementary through College level, and the general public.

Plans work, establishes work schedules and priorities, and assigns and reviews work for the Information Team of the Fire Modeling Institute, a staff of Ecologists and Technical Information Specialists who work primarily on preparing syntheses for publication in FEIS. Manages budget for the Information Team and serves as Technical Contact on contracts and cooperative agreements.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL GRADES:

Degree: biology, or a related field of science underlying ecological research that included at least 30 semester hours in basic and applied biological sciences. These hours must have included at least 9 semester hours in ecology, and 12 semester hours in physical and mathematical sciences.

GS-11 QUALIFICATIONS:

EDUCATION: 3 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a Ph.D. degree or Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree <u>directly related to the work of the position</u>

-OR-

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE: 1 year specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-9 level. Specialized experience is defined as the following:

- Writes and reviews syntheses of knowledge on fire ecology and fire regimes
- Develops and tests curriculum about wildland fire science, and provides curriculum to educators
- Gives oral presentations, webinars, poster presentations, and workshops on fire ecology and fire education
- Coordinates a teamof professional ecologists to produce information syntheses or educational materials on wildland fire science
- Works on collaborative teams to develop proposals for synthesizing and delivering knowledge about wildland fire science

GS-12 QUALIFICATIONS (NO EDUCATION SUBSTITUTION AT THIS LEVEL)

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE: 1 year specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-11 level. Specialized experience is defined as the following:

- Writes and reviews syntheses of knowledge on fire ecology and fire regimes
- Develops, tests, and delivers curriculum that provides a science basis for both formal and informal education about the science of wildland fire
- Gives oral presentations, webinars, poster presentations, and workshops on fire ecology, fire education, and innovative science delivery strategies
- Leads a team of professional ecologists to publish information syntheses and educational materials on wildland fire science
- Initiates proposals and works on collaborative teams to develop proposals for synthesizing and delivering knowledge about wildland fire science

 $See \ \underline{http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0400/ecology-series-0408/ \ for information on the minimum requirements for an Ecologist.$

For more information regarding duties for the position, please contact:

Primary Contact: Charles McHugh, Acting Deputy Program Manager, Fire, Fuel and Smoke Program

Phone Number: 406-829-6977 **E-mail address**: cmchugh@fs.fed.us

If you are interested in this opportunity, please fill out the attached Outreach Notice From and send to cmchugh@fs.fed.us by

December 24, 2015.

HOW TO APPLY:

The vacancy announcements will appear on the Office of Personnel Management's USAJOBS website: http://www.usajobs.opm.gov.

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OUTREACH NOTICE FORM

Rocky Mountain Research Station

Fire Sciences Laboratory Missoula, MT Supervisory Ecologist GS-0408-11/12

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete this form and send it by e-mail to cmchugh@fs.fed.us. (Please include "GS-0408-11/12 Supervisory Ecologist Outreach" on the subject line of your message.) Please respond no later than December 24, 2014.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:	Date:			
Address:	Phone:			
Email:				
Are you currently a Forest Service employee: YES		NO		
Current title/series/grade/location/classification:				
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted-A	NILCA, Exce	epted VRA	, etc)	
Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate	for this positi	on:		

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