

FLN Networker No. 200: December 23, 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: In a post on the [FAC Net blog](#), **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** (nwcapfc@gmail.com) nicely summarizes the back-to-back-to-back **Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges** that took place in northern California this fall, and provides context about the **growth of TREX** there.

Central Appalachians: **Nikole Swaney** (nswaney@tnc.org) and **Beth Buchanan** (bbuchanan@fs.fed.us) represented the **Central Appalachians FLN** at the **Association for Fire Ecology Congress** last month, giving presentations during the case studies session. Beth spoke on “**Large-Scale Monitoring Projects** Supplement Fire Effects Research in the Southern U.S.” and Nikole talked about prescribed fire, fire effects monitoring and **adaptive management** in the Central Appalachians. The **presentations** **tiered nicely** to each other, with one discussing the larger picture and work taking place across the Southern Region, while the other was more geographically focused.

The **poster session** also had great participation from **FLN partners**, with posters from the Central Appalachians and Southern Blue Ridge dominating an entire row. These included a [poster](#) presented by **Lindsey Curtin** (lcurtin@fs.fed.us), “Forest Structure and Composition Monitoring: A Collaborative Approach Evaluating Long Term changes on Prescribed Burn Units in Virginia,” and one by **Jacob Royse** on “Fire Effects Monitoring Supports Expansion of Prescribed Burn Program in Kentucky.”

Nikole Swaney also presented a [poster](#) on the **fall 2016 Women in Fire Training Exchange** that will be hosted by the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council**.

New Mexico: The article “Forest Thinning Project Gets off to Good Start” in the *Albuquerque Journal* highlights the first year of work of the **Rio Grande Water Fund**, led by **Laura McCarthy** (lmccarthy@tnc.org). The water fund **thinned more than 10,000 acres** in its first year—**tripling** the rate of thinning in the previous two years.

North Carolina: An enhanced **interpretive trail** through the Pisgah National Forest—the work of the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN**, **The Nature Conservancy** and the **Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists** (CAFMS)—is the lead story in the latest [CAFMS newsletter](#).

North Carolina: Eleven people recently took part in an **ST-Sim training** in Durham to better understand the concepts behind state-and-transition models, and get hands-on training on using the software to build and customize models. Said **Randy Swaty**: “While **modeling** may seem esoteric and difficult, it may be one of the best ways to learn about your ecosystems. It’s **like learning to change the oil in your car**: not too challenging, but a good excuse to get under the hood lets you explore the other parts of the engine, seeing opportunities and how things fit together....I hope to ‘get the call’ from a landscape or two who wants to explore management options.” **Katherine Medlock** had a more concrete goal, planning to use the tool “to provide **support to the Landscape Conservation Forecasting** process starting up for the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**.”

Oregon: A **video** from the **Central Oregon TREX** held in May has been posted on the Oregon page of www.nature.org, The Nature Conservancy’s **public website**. For more, contact **Pete Caligiuri** (pcaligiuri@tnc.org).

Southern Blue Ridge: The new **Southern Blue Ridge Fire Module**, is a multi-organization crew, led by The Nature Conservancy. It is an **as-needed module**, designed to ensure that there is prescribed fire capacity available when weather conditions are favorable for prescribed fire. News of their **first burn**—at Bluff Mountain Preserve—is in an attached *Notes from the Field*. There was also a [newspaper story](#) about the crew in the (Asheville) *Citizen-Times* earlier this month.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges: Access to personal protective equipment (**PPE**) through the **Redding Interagency Fire Cache** helped make the fall TREX in California the success that they were. **Forest Service** fire leadership in Boise **coordinated the administrative efforts** needed to get 20 sets of gear to the citizen fire practitioners-in-training at these events. For more, see the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Nominations: Leadership Award

Leadership Award: The Wildland Fire Leadership Development program (www.fireleadership.gov/) is taking nominations for its **Lead by Example** award through **December 31**. Awards categories are Mentoring and Teamwork, Motivation and Vision, Initiative and Innovation. Nominees can be from federal, state, tribal or local firefighting organizations.

Resources: Regulations / Ranching / Drones / Holiday Greenery

Regulations: The **FAC Learning Network** has produced a new set of quick guides on “Using **Plans and Regulations to Increase Community Fire Adaptation**.” The set has four parts: a [summary](#), the [planning process](#), the [regulatory process](#) and [who’s planning](#) for wildfire.

Ranching: An early [issue](#) (from 2012) of the Texas Tech University publication *Rangeland Issues* addressed “The Rancher’s Balancing Act: **Managing for Forage, Prescribed Burning and Mitigating Wildfire**.” It is a brief, pragmatic overview for working rangeland.

Drones: If you’re flying a drone—say to take pictures of that prescribed burn—they **now need to be registered**. Those used for “hobby or recreation” can be registered online, with the fee waived through January 20. For details, see the [FAA press release](#).

Holiday Greenery: Guidelines for going green with the greenery (and disposing of it) are available on the **Don’t Move Firewood** [site](#).

Article: MODIS vs. VIIRS

MODIS vs. VIIRS: The NASA Earth Observatory [website](#) has a **comparison** of images taken by Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (**MODIS**) sensors and by Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (**VIIRS**) on Suomi NPP (which began operating in 2012). In a nutshell, VIIRS has more detailed fire observations, but MODIS has higher-resolution background images.

Good Reads: Fire / Invasives / Thinking

If the season has you ready to **hunker down with a book**, and you want something both delicious and nutritious, you might want to consider:

- **Fire:** In *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human*, primatologist **Richard Wrangham** rather convincingly puts forth the claim that using **fire has literally made us who we are** by outsourcing some of our food processing, thus letting our bodies invest in brains rather than gut.

- **Invasives:** If you're dealing with invasive species, *Where Do Camels Belong?* (**Ken Thompson**) raises some **good questions** about just **what we mean by non-native**, and some food for thought about what we should (and can) be doing about them.
- **Thinking:** **Daniel Kahneman's** *Thinking, Fast and Slow* explores the two parallel ways our brains deal with information, in the process **illuminating both the high and low points of human intelligence** (and giving some good clues for work-arounds).

In the News: Suppression Budget / Climate Action

Suppression Budget: While Congress did not elect to fund wildfire suppression with disaster funding, according to an [AP story](#) last Friday, "Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack vowed to end** the practice of **raiding other programs'** funding to cover firefighting costs." In the current budget, the Forest Service will receive \$1.6 billion for firefighting (up from \$1 billion budgeted this past year—and \$1.7 spent).

Climate Action: The news from **Paris** last week was good—"the world's **greatest diplomatic success**," according to the headline on an [article](#) in the *Guardian*. At the risk of preaching to the choir, let's mark this occasion by, each of us, committing to **add another climate-sustaining action** to our daily lives. And pass it on: **challenge one more person** to do the same.

Jobs: Forestry Tech (Fire) / Fire Program Lead / Director of Forests / Extension Forester

Forestry Tech: The **Conecuh Ranger District** (NF of Alabama) is conducting outreach for a Forestry Technician (Fire). The District, in longleaf country, conducts about 30,000 acres of prescribed fire a year. Details are in the attached notice; if interested, submit the outreach form by **December 31**.

Fire Program Lead: **Texas Parks and Wildlife** is seeking a **Program Specialist V** to direct and coordinate fire management activities in its Wildlife Division. Details are available on the state's jobs page ([posting 16-00204](#)); applications are due by **January 7**.

Director of Forests: **The Nature Conservancy's Colorado** chapter is hiring a **Director of Forest Restoration and Fire**. This person will play a lead role in the **Pikes Peak FLN**. Further details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 43806](#)); applications are due by **January 17**.

Extension Forester: **Oregon State University** is seeking an extension forester to be based in Roseburg. Details are on the OSU jobs page ([posting ID 0016686](#)); applications are due by **January 31**.

Webinars

January 13

Effectiveness of Wildfire Mitigation in the WUI

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 19
new listing**

Management Applications of the LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings Models in the California National Forests

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

Hugh Safford will present this webinar co-hosted by LANDFIRE and the California Fire Science Consortium.

Register: <http://www.cafiresci.org/events-webinars-source/category/management-applications-of-the-landfire-bps-models-in-the-california-national-forests>

January 20
new listing

BpS Review: What is it? How does it work? Why does it matter?

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

Randy Swaty will present this webinar co-hosted by LANDFIRE and the Southwest Fire Science Network.

Information: will be posted on <http://swfireconsortium.org/events/> when available

January 27

Smoke from a Distant Fire: Human-Wildfire Interactions in Prehistoric Forests of the Southwestern US

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

In this [ArcBurn](#) 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/190>

February 2
new listing

Demystifying LANDFIRE's Biophysical Settings Descriptions and Models

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

Kori Blankenship will present this webinar co-hosted by LANDFIRE and the California Fire Science Consortium.

Information: <http://www.cafiresci.org/events-webinars-source/category/demystifying-landfires-bps>

FLN and FAC Net Workshops & Field Tours

January 15-16
new listing

Yurok-Hupa-Karuk Cultural Burning Network / Orleans, CA

In its third workshop, this group—which is working to develop a support network for restoring cultural burning within the ancestral territories of the three tribes—will discuss opportunities to advance cultural burning through the forest plan revision process. There will also be a work session on developing secondary school courses related to cultural burning.

March 1-3
new listing

Western Klamath Restoration Partnership / TBD, CA

WKRP will continue its work implementing integrated fire management projects in three geographic areas, including advancing collaborative approaches to NEPA..

April 25-29
new listing

National FLN-FAC Net Workshop / Jacksonville, FL

Leads from the two networks, along with key national partners, will meet to exchange information, strengthen the ties between the networks, and plan the coming year's work.

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

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 TRES—details will be available soon
- May 1-14*** **Bend Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR**
*These are the tentative dates for this TRES—details will be available soon
- May 8-22*** **Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ashland, OR**
*These are the tentative dates for this TRES—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](#)
- February 16-17** **Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Conference / State College, PA**
new listing
Speakers from across the country will discuss fire and forest bats; state fire history; public perceptions of prescribed fire; canopy tree mortality after burns; fire's role in snowshoe hare habitat; wildland fire GIS, mapping apps, and devices; statewide prescribed fire updates, lessons learned and more.
Information: <http://www.paprescribedfire.org/images/5679c96a4e182-2016%20PAPFC%20Annual%20Meeting%20Brochure%2012-22-15.pdf>
- February 23-25** **Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation: All Lands, All Hands / Salt Lake City, UT**
updated
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. The call for posters is open—submissions are due by January 25.
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>
- March 31-April 2** **New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit / Silver City, NM**
new listing
The theme of this year's statewide conference is "re-energize community fire response."
Information: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1784598>
- 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/>
- April 26-28** **Collaborative Restoration Workshop: Working Toward Resilient Landscapes and Communities / Denver, CO**
new listing
(FLN and FAC Net leads—note that this workshop coincides with the annual workshop FAC Net/FLN workshop.)
Information: to take a pre-workshop survey and get on the contact list for this National Forest Foundation workshop, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CollaborativeRestorationWorkshop>

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/>

November 14-17
new listing

International Smoke Symposium / Long Beach, CA

The IAWF and the NWCG SmoC (smoke committee) will be hosting this in-person / virtual symposium.

Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/2016SmokeSymposium/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is out December 23-29, January 1.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is out December 24-25, December 30-January 1.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out December 23-25, January 1.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out December 17-January 5.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is out December 24-25, December 31-January 1.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out December 24-25, December 31-January 1.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out December 25, December 31-January 1.

Note: December 25 and January 1 are Conservancy holidays (and many offices will be closed December 24 and 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—CA: <http://facnetwork.org/2578-2/>

News from the Field—Central Apps—Monitoring poster: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/Poster-CAApps-Monitor-AFE-2015.aspx>

WTREX poster: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Poster-WTREX-AFE-2015.aspx>

News from the Field—NC:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e2093863b4879c06a3bdd3e72/files/CAFMS_new_sletter_vol_5_issue_4.pdf

News from the Field—OR: <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/oregon/oregon-videos.xml>

Resources—Regulations: <http://facnetwork.org/resources/network-quick-guides/> (scroll down to access guides in series 3)

Resources—Ranching: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ranchhc/RI_2012no2.pdf

Resources--Drones: http://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=19856&cid=TW378

Resources—Holiday greenery: <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/HolidayGreenery>

Article—MODIS vs. VIIRS: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87111>

In the News—Suppression budget: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/238af7ab062f41f09f91f02add7eb76f/show-down-looms-between-vilsack-congress-over-wildfire-costs>

Jobs—TX fire program lead: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/tpwd/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=1314367>

Jobs—TNC CO forests: https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=43806&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

Jobs—Extension forester: https://jobs.oregonstate.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp?postingId=436475

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

Southern Blue Ridge Fire Module

Bluff Mountain Burn

November 2015

The new Southern Blue Ridge Fire Module, led by The Nature Conservancy, got its first burn on the books in mid-November. The as-needed module includes several veteran firefighters with decades of experience as well as some currently working in local mountain fire departments and as stand-by firefighters for the North Carolina Forest Service. Together, the crew has 156 years of experience.

Because controlled burning is weather dependent, fire crews need to be available when the weather permits. As a result, many burns can't be conducted despite favorable weather conditions because a crew is not available. This Conservancy crew can burn when needed, removing an important barrier to prescribed burning. The crew is modeled on a successful effort on the North Carolina coast, where Conservancy crews have helped burn on public game lands, forests and parks.

The crew's first burn took place on 87 acres at the Conservancy's Bluff Mountain Preserve in Ashe County, North Carolina. This successful burn aided an ongoing restoration effort aimed at bringing back high elevation red oak trees at the preserve. Young oak trees haven't been growing well at Bluff Mountain and many other places in the Southern Blue Ridge. Fewer young oaks today mean fewer mature oaks in the future—which is a problem, because acorns are a valuable source of food for wildlife. This burn was designed to reduce shrubs that are preventing oak seedling growth. Removing shrubs will also encourage more flowers and other plants to grow on the forest floor.

Partnering Organizations

- North Carolina Forest Service
- North Carolina State Parks
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA Forest Service

Why Prescribe Fire?

Naturally occurring fire was once common across the mountains, but a focus on fire suppression in the last century has disrupted the natural balance of the ecosystem. Controlled burns are restoring that balance. Controlled burning with low-intensity fire also removes fuel that could stoke wildfires, which could endanger nearby communities.

Controlled burning, also known as prescribed fire, is a science: A burn plan is created, laying out the ecological goals for the fire, how to achieve those goals and what conditions are necessary for a successful controlled burn. Burns can't occur unless weather conditions are favorable for meeting the goals in the plan, and for limiting the impact of smoke on surrounding communities and minimizing the potential for fire to escape the planned boundaries.

For more about the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Module, contact:

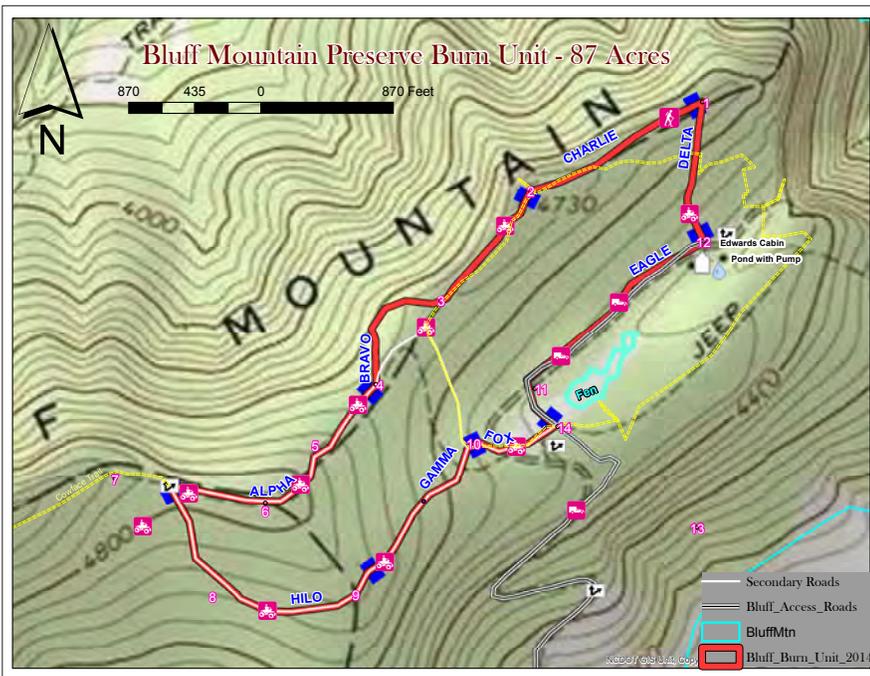
Adam Warwick
awarwick@tnc.org

The FLN is part of the *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT)* cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more on PERFACT, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org.



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Fire Learning Network
Notes from the Field

National Fire Cache Provides PPE for TRES, Communities Bring Good Fire to Their Neighborhoods



Newly trained citizen fire practitioners from local tribes and rural communities were provided PPE so they could fully participate in two weeks of burning in the Klamath Mountains. These citizen burners completed nearly 500 acres of burning with a little help from their professional firefighter colleagues. *Photos: Margo Robbins*

Forest Service fire leadership at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise coordinated the sharing of personal protective equipment (PPE) with the Fire Learning Network's innovative training program. The Redding Interagency Fire Cache provided PPE for prescribed fire crews made up of wildland firefighters and community members for community-based training and burning events. The newly trained firefighters—who made up half the burn team—gained experience over the two-week assignment and grew into capable and effective citizen fire practitioners. Working directly for professional wildland fire-fighters, these first-time fire practitioners took part in burns that protect their communities and help restore forests, and are now part of a more robust local fire management workforce.

Numerous towns and rural communities are accepting responsibility for fire, and are working to return controlled burning to their landscapes. The Fire Learning Network (FLN) is proving that by training and outfitting interested and available members of a community and partnering them with professional wildland firefighters, we can increase both implementation capacity and social support for prescribed burns.

Though the need to use prescribed fire is widely recognized, managers, landowners and organizations remain largely unsuccessful at achieving their burning goals. The FLN is working to change that. Community-focused fire training events led by the FLN are overcoming the common barriers that prevent agencies, organizations and individuals from fulfilling their prescribed fire goals. These prescribed fire training exchanges—TRES, for short—are proving successful even under the most challenging circumstances. Even when faced with unpredictable weather, burn bans across wide areas, national shortages of firefighting resources, and reluctant or resistant adjacent neighbors, land managers and politicians, people using the TRES model to organize their burning efforts are having unprecedented success. Rather than cancelling or postponing burns, communities are banding together, consolidating their resources and cooperating to get their burning done. These efforts are demonstrating that a unified community is much more effective at achieving burning goals than any one agency, organization or individual alone could be.

Developing a community's capacity to safely and effectively engage in fire management involves building ties—and removing barriers—between local people and knowledge on one hand and fire professionals on the

In the past, the FLN has rented PPE from private contractors or state agencies, borrowed from generous partners, and pieced together sets of PPE from hand-me-downs. This can be costly in terms of time and logistics as well as money, and is a complicating factor in an already complex event. Access to the Redding Fire Cache this fall—and future support from the Forest Service—is a game changer. It will help the FLN ensure that there is always enough PPE for the volunteer and non-traditional citizen fire practitioners that are quickly becoming an important part of the fire community and a critical investment for ensuring resilient communities and landscapes in the long term.

other. This often requires that training organizers provide basic firefighter training courses like S-130 and S-190, pack tests and other NWCG/FEMA trainings. It also requires that we provide personal protective equipment, from hardhats to fire shelters. With some common standards and language in place, we're learning how to create squads and crews of citizen fire practitioners. Paired with professional wildland firefighters and managers an effective local or regional crew can be built. For the past eight years the FLN has been building these burn teams with a mix of volunteer and professional firefighters. The volunteers are landowners and homeowners, students and scientists, biologists, hunters and gatherers, and other people who are dependent on the products that come from healthy and vibrant ecosystems.

In the fall of 2015, the U.S. Forest Service, through the Redding Interagency Fire Cache, provided PPE to one such group of newly trained citizens paired with professional firefighters to form a burn team. With basic qualifications met, this team then gained experience while conducting controlled burns in and around their towns and communities in the Klamath Mountains of northern California. Together, these fire practitioners completed 400 acres of burning that may prove critical when the next fire threatens these places.

Twenty full sets of PPE were provided. Had the cache not been available, it would have cost nearly \$20,000 to outfit these burners for the duration of the training. For perspective, a two-week TREX in this kind of landscape—timber and wildland-urban interface—costs on average about \$40,000 (plus volunteer time and resources). Clearly, the PPE provided by the Forest Service was crucial to the cost effectiveness and success of these training events.

One of these two-week TREX typically results in about 400 acres of completed burns—with an average cash cost of \$100 an acre, TREX burning is very cost effective compared with other prescribed burning in similar settings and fuel types. And the investment also provides training and evaluation for about 30 firefighters, and generates impressive media interest and positive coverage. The uniquely integrated approach of the TREX program—incorporating training, treatments and outreach—attracts support and involvement from a wide variety of groups and individuals.

Collaboration with local contractors, volunteers and landowners—and their donations of time and resources—increases both the cost effectiveness and beneficial impact of the program. The participants are well-invested in TREX—and its benefits—so that each additional resource is leveraged by the contributions of many others, and encourages and enables further growth.



The initial burn team briefing in Orleans, California, just before participants were outfitted and assigned to the three burn crews. At the briefing they heard a presentation on local ecology and community conservation programs and learned about local tactics and safety. They then broke out into their three teams to meet their burn bosses and fellow crew members, and get their PPE, further instructions and more on expectations. The three burn crews went on to implement controlled burns in the communities of Happy Camp, Orleans and Somes Bar, including an important ceremonial burn for the Karuk Tribe. *Photo: Jeremy Bailey/TNC*

For more information about Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges, visit:

<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>

or contact:

Jeremy Bailey
jeremy_bailey@tnc.org

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 ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



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NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

"Great Escapes to Nature"

Outreach Announcement

Forestry Technician (Fire) GS-0462-07
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region
National Forests in Alabama
Conecuh Ranger District
www.fs.usda.gov/alabama

The National Forests in Alabama will soon advertise a Forestry Technician (Fire), GS-0462-07, position on the Conecuh Ranger District. The incumbent serves as member of the fire organization and is responsible for a variety of duties associated with fire management. The position will be located at the Conecuh Ranger District office in Andalusia, Alabama.

THE POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

The Conecuh Ranger District has an active and growing prescribed fire program currently treating approximately 25,000 to 30,000 acres annually with opportunities for significant growth.

This position is permanent and fulltime. It is a standard wildland fire management position description intended for use in the USDA Forest Service. This position is located on a Ranger District and meets the definition of a Forest Service Fire Management Program (FS-FPM) position as designated by WO Fire Management. The incumbent serves in a key fire management position in a field fire management organization as a Fuels Technician. The FS-FPM minimum qualification standards (MQS) for this position must be met prior to entrance into the position as a condition of hire. Refer to the Forest Service FS-FPM Standard Position Description Crosswalk for a full description of the MQS. The position will be filled under a standard GS-462-07 Firefighter position description (FS0931) with the addition of heavy equipment operation duties (<20%). The incumbent must hold and maintain a Type B Commercial Driver's License.

This is an arduous position subject to medical screening. This position is subject to random drug testing. The position is covered by the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Bargaining Unit. It is not eligible for telework.

DUTIES:

Major duties will include preparing and implementing prescribed fire plans, fire effects monitoring plans, manual and mechanical hazardous fuels treatments, smoke and wildland fire use monitoring plans. The incumbent integrates prescribed fire/fuels management, smoke management, fuels modification principles and procedures, fire effects knowledge, and knowledge of scientific data collection and analysis principles into a comprehensive prescribed fire/fuels management program for a unit.

Also this position will perform a variety of fire and natural resource management tasks such as fire line construction with a Type III dozer, operation of a Type VI and Type VII wildland engines, fuels mitigation with hand and power tools and holding/patrol/mop-up operations. This work will be performed on flat to rolling terrain in daytime and nighttime conditions. Working independently or with others, the incumbent may be assigned to carry out specialized work such as flagging and rehabilitation of dozer line, scouting fires, felling trees and burning out. The incumbent will be responsible for transport of heavy equipment.

Prior wildland firefighting experience on the fire-line and experience with southern fuel types and conditions is highly recommended. The incumbent will support other resource areas (timber, wildlife, silviculture, recreation, roads, etc.) as needed and assigned.

FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENT COVERAGE: This is a primary/rigorous firefighter position under the provisions of 5 USC 8336(c) (CSRS) and 8412(d) (FERS). Applicants must be under age 37. Applicants who are age 37 or over may subtract prior federal service that is prior to 1987 and in approved primary/rigorous positions and that is creditable for retirement from their current age to meet this requirement. Applicants must provide proof of this creditable service prior to appointment. Applicants who are entitled to veteran's preference are eligible to request a waiver to the maximum age requirement. In instances where the maximum entry-age is waived,

the corresponding mandatory retirement age for these individuals will also be higher because it will be reached after 20 years of coverage under special retirement provisions for the entitlement to an immediate enhanced annuity.

WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) for Wildland Firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, **TAKING and PASSING** the WCT at the **ARDUOUS** level is a "condition of employment." The Arduous fitness (Pack) test consists of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your physician and begin training immediately if you are applying for this position.

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: Permanent, fulltime

DUTY STATION:

Duty Station is the Conecuh Ranger District Office at 24481 AL Hwy 55, Andalusia, AL.

THE FOREST:

The Conecuh National Forest covers 84,000 acres in the coastal plain of South Alabama. We are located in "the heart of longleaf country" as part of a large landscape of partner properties with more than a million acres dedicated to restoration of longleaf pine associated ecosystems. Longleaf pine ecosystem restoration is the mission that drives our management activities. These activities include prescribe burning 30,000 acres annually, harvesting 12,000 ccf of timber per year to restore longleaf pine to appropriate sites, recovery of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, reintroduction of the threatened indigo snake, and providing a variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. Hunting of deer, turkey, and quail are especially popular recreational activities. Natural sinkhole ponds, pitcher plant bogs, and other wetlands are signature natural communities on the Conecuh that support the highest diversity of reptiles and amphibians of any U.S. national forest.

The District is active in supporting conservation education programs and ecological research. Our list of partners is growing, and includes Auburn University's Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, the Covington County Forestry Planning Committee, The Longleaf Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, and the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP).

District staff includes 18-20 employees. We work as an integrated mission-driven team with strong traditions of innovation, partnerships, and accomplishment. We pride ourselves in being a small district with a big vision.

THE COMMUNITY:

This position is located in Andalusia, Alabama. Andalusia has a small town atmosphere with a generous complement of Southern hospitality and old-fashioned values of welcoming neighbors and strangers alike. Most goods and services are readily available. Population is around 10,000. Andalusia is located in South Alabama about 20 miles north of the Florida state line, 1 1/2 hours from the Forest Supervisor's office in Montgomery, and less than 1 1/2 hours from Gulf Coast beaches. Timber and agriculture are mainstays of the area. Manufacturing includes a Shaw Carpet mill.

The school system in Andalusia and surrounding Covington County is considered one of the best in the state. The community has full service hospital/health care services as well as abundant churches of most denominations. Recreation resources include developed camping on the National Forest and at State Parks, reservoirs and ponds for boating and fishing, and lengthy hunting seasons with liberal bag limits.

There is no government housing available, but housing in the community is readily available for both rental and purchase. Real estate prices range from 80's and up for average family dwellings. Colleges and universities in the area include Troy University located approximately one hour from Andalusia. Lurleen B. Wallace State Community College is located in Andalusia.

CONTACT:

For more information on this opportunity, contact Mary Owen, Zone Fire Management Officer, at 334-222-2555 (ext. 104), or maowen@fs.fed.us.



NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

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Outreach Announcement
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region
National Forests in Alabama
Conecuh Ranger District
www.fs.usda.gov/alabama

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP : _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE? YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, CURRENT AGENCY AND LOCATION: _____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: PERMANENT _____ TEMPORARY _____ TERM _____
VRA _____ PWD _____ OTHER _____

Thank you for your interest!

Please return your completed form as soon as possible, but no later than COB Dec 31, 2015 via e-mail to Mary Owen at: maowen@fs.fed.us or by surface mail:

National Forests in Alabama
Conecuh Ranger District
ATTN: Mary Owen
24481 Alabama Highway 55
Andalusia, AL 36420

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