

FLN Networker No. 203: February 3, 2016

The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior (BIA, BLM, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service) and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, links and subscription requests to Liz Rank.

For more about the FLN, visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln or contact Lynn Decker.

News from the Field

California: The **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council**, **U.S. Forest Service** and **CALFIRE** are among the 11 parties to a recent **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU). The partnership met yesterday in its first workshop aimed at using the MOU to “promote the careful and **expanded use of fire** for **natural resource and other social benefits** in California.” For more, see the [story](#) on the KPCC website (which includes a copy of the MOU) or the [news release](#), or contact **Nick Goulette** (nickg@hayfork.net).

California: Partners from the **Klamath Mountains** landscape spoke about **collaboration** at the **National District Rangers Conference** in Sacramento last week. Among the presenters were **Bill Tripp** (btripp@karuk.us), **Will Harling**, **Mary Huffman**, Forest Supervisor **Patty Grantham**, District Ranger **Nolan Colegrove** and R5 Partnerships Coordinator **Amanda Cundiff**. [Bill's slides](#) on “Partnerships and Opportunities: Building a Bridge between the Cohesive Strategy and Collaborative Engagement” have been posted on the Karuk website.

Central Appalachians: The **Central Apps FLN** has done a quick review of its **2015 highlights**—including starting a **new landscape**, the **Potomac Headwaters**, in western Maryland and West Virginia—in the attached *Notes from the Field*. For more information, contact **Laurel Schablein** (lschablein@tnc.org).

Colorado: **Rebecca Samulski** (montezumafirewise@gmail.com) from **FireWise of Southwest Colorado** is facilitating a new **wildfire risk-assessment group** to minimize impacts on the **Upper Dolores River watershed** and McPhee Reservoir. An [article](#) about the effort recently appeared in the *Cortez Journal*.

New Mexico: **Krys Nystrom** (ttvfd25@gmail.com) of **Wildfire Network** reports that the first classroom sessions in a new **wildland hazard assessment training** went well, with “really lively discussion and tons of questions.” A couple of the classes were interrupted by fire calls, but students returned Sunday to finish up. The classes will be followed by field training, and then the 38 volunteers will gather the data to populate a database, **prepare pre-plans** for a dozen districts, and get started with individual **community plans**. The new **FAC SAT** (see *Resources, below*) will also be integrated into this effort.

New Mexico: The **City of Santa Fe**, **The Nature Conservancy** and the **Forest Stewards Guild** completed **burning 180 piles** over two days last week. To **pave the way for more collaborative burning** near the city, burn boss **Jeremy Bailey** and burn boss trainee **Greg Gallegos** from the City of Santa Fe Wildland Division took **particular care to manage smoke** concerns of city officials and the public, while still accomplishing treatment objectives. For more, read the summary of the [Aztec Springs burn](#) on the Forest Stewards Guild [website](#), or contact **Matt Piccarello** (matt@forestguild.org).

For **more on good burning** in the state, Matt also wrote a [summary](#) of last fall's Cottonwood Gulch / Pratt Ranch burn.

Washington: The **Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** is featured in the December *Best Practices* [document](#) published by **FEMA** Region 10.

FAC Net: The **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** launched a **new website** last month. The new fireadaptednetwork.org has all the information from the previous site, including the **FAC Net blog** and resources, but with **better search** features. **New on this site** are **Focus Areas**—the communities of practice that work on topics from CWPPs to using fire—and **Connect**, which gets you to subnetworks and a member directory. The new site will make it easier for the larger FAC community to connect with both the work and the people of the network. (Note: The old facnetwork.org address redirects to this site.)

Awards: The **Wildfire Mitigation Awards** are jointly sponsored by the National Association of State Foresters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association and the USDA Forest Service. Among the 2016 winners are FAC Net members **Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division, Jonathan Bruno (Coalition for the Upper South Platte)** and Peggy Beach (a volunteer for **Firewise of Southwest Colorado**). More about the awards, including the full list of winners, is on the [NASF website](#).

Resources: FAC SAT / After the Fire / Up Periscope

FAC SAT: Last year, the **FAC Learning Network** developed a **FAC Self-Assessment Tool** (FAC SAT), which walks users through an assessment of their community's **current status in a wide range of areas**, and helps pull everything together to help **set priorities** and **plan action**. Several member organizations **tested it in the field** with their communities and provided feedback, which has been used to rework the tool. The **revised version** is [now available](#), along with a **new user/facilitator guide**. (Note: Improvements to the tool will be ongoing as more feedback is received and incorporated. To make sure people always have the latest version, please always share it by providing the link rather than electronic or hard copy.)

After the Fire: The **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition** has produced a great [short video](#) on **preparing for after** the fire. Especially when paired with the facilitator's guide (attached), it's a good introduction to the topic, interspersing **interviews** with people who have lost homes with **useful snips of information**, and closing with a few **manageable steps to take** to start preparing.

Up Periscope: **Kris Eriksen** (USFS NIMO, PIO) has created a [YouTube tutorial](#) on using **Periscope on incidents**, including some **best practices** worked out during the 2015 wildfire season. (What's Periscope? **Social media**. Basically lets you tweet a **live video broadcast**. And it lets viewers text questions back, so they can be answered on the fly. (Virtual press conference, anyone?))

Reports & Articles: Future Fire / Wildfire Insights

Future Fire: The recent JFSP [Fire Science Digest](#) "Scanning the Future of Wildfire: Resilience Ahead...Whether We Like It or Not?" applied the field of "**futures research**" to wildfire. A panel of six futurists, two wildfire experts and a science fiction writer worked through a process of imagining possible scenarios for the future of wildfire. "Perhaps the most curious and important point of discussion arising amongst the panelists is their **consensus that resilience is coming**"...though **some of the paths** are **far less pleasant** than others. (The FLN and FAC Net are mentioned in a short list of promising efforts now underway.)

Wildfire Insights: **Headwaters Economics** has published a [white paper](#), "Insights from Wildfire Science: A **Resource for Fire Policy Discussions**." The paper is arranged as **seven key science insights**—in concise, easily skimmable subheadings—with supporting text.

Jobs: Forest Ecologist / Mitigation & Education Coordinator / Fire and Fuels Supervisor / Rx Crew & Manager / Job Corps Forest AFMO / Stewardship Crew Lead / Collaborative Coordinator / Fire Management Specialists / Executive Director

Forest Ecologist: The **Ozark-St. Francis NF** is hiring a forest ecologist to serve as a zone ecologist. The position is open to external candidates. Details are on usajobs.gov ([job announcement 16-0810-215005DP-AW](#)); applications are due by **February 4**.

Mitigation & Education Coordinator: The **West Region Wildfire Council** (CO) is seeking fill a coordinator position, to implement its wildfire education and fuels reduction program across the region. Details are at www.cowildfire.org; applications are due by **February 8**.

Fire and Fuels Supervisor: The **Colorado State Forest Service** is hiring an **Assistant Division Supervisor** for its **Fire and Fuels Program**. Details are on the CSU jobs site ([posting 201600021AP](#)); applications are due by **February 9**.

Rx Crew & Manager: The **Nature Conservancy's** North Carolina chapter is hiring a **manager** and **three crew members** for its Cape Fear Arch Burn Crew. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page (manager [job ID 43917](#), crew members [job ID 43896](#)); applications are due by **February 12**.

Job Corps Forest AFMO: The **Daniel Boone National Forest** is conducting **outreach** to fill a Job Corps Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer position (**CRWB, ICT4**); if interested, complete and submit the outreach form (attached) by **February 12**.

Stewardship Crew Lead: The **Nature Conservancy's** Montana chapter is hiring a leader and crew for its **High Divide Stewardship Crew**, based in the **Centennial Valley**; the crew is responsible for a wide range of tasks, including fire effects monitoring. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 43892](#)); applications are due by **February 19**.

Collaborative Coordinator: The **Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative** is a **partnership** between the Nature Conservancy, Yakama Nation, U.S. Forest Service, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and WA Department of Natural Resources. The Conservancy is hiring a coordinator to lead the collaborative (which is an **FLN landscape**). Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 43890](#)); applications are due by **February 21**.

Fire Management Specialists: The **BLM** has **two prescribed fire / fuels positions** open in northern California. Arcata/Ukiah Zone projects range from coastal prairie and forest to inland chaparral; the Applegate projects are primarily in desert mountain and sagebrush steppe. Details are on usajobs.gov; applications are due by **February 22**.

Executive Director: The **California Fire Safe Council** is seeking a "**coalition-building visionary**" to be its executive director. More information is on the [council's website](#).

Webinar

**February 18
new listing**

BpS Review in the Northwest: What is it? How does it work? Why does it Matter?

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

Kori Blankenship will be the presenter in this LANDFIRE [webinar](#) co-hosted by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium.

FLN and FAC Net Workshops & Field Tours

- February 2-4** **Facilitative Leadership Training: FireScape Mendocino / Willows, CA**
This landscape's core team will take part in training to build their skills in facilitating collaborative work in the area.
- February 16** **Pikes Peak FLN / Colorado Springs, CO**
On the agenda is an AAR for the fall's planned burns, as well as planned for the coming year.
Information: **Jason Lawhon** (jlawhon@tnc.org)
- March 1-3** **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership / TBD, CA**
WGRP will continue its work implementing integrated fire management projects in three geographic areas, including advancing collaborative approaches to NEPA.
- March 24-25** **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council / Middletown, CA**
new listing
Save the date for the council's spring meeting and evening mixer on Thursday, followed by a day in the field on Friday. Registration and agenda information will be available in the coming weeks.
Meanwhile, organizers recommend booking lodging soon. A block of rooms at the Twin Pine Casino are being held at the government rate (\$89); call (707) 987-0297 to reserve (mention the council). Another option is the [Eagle and Rose Hotel](#), a few minutes down the road ((707) 987-7330).
- April 25-29** **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."
- November 2-3** **Central Appalachians FLN / Wintergreen Resort, VA**
new listing
Save the date and stay tuned.

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- March 14-26** **Loup River Valley Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ord, NE**
The application deadline for this TREX has passed.
- March 19-27** **Niobrara Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ainsworth, NE**
The application deadline for this TREX has passed.
- April 3-8** **Yurok TREX / Weitchpec, CA**
Details coming soon.
- April 25-May 6** **Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR**
The second Central Oregon TREX will again provide an opportunity to learn, practice and share knowledge, skills, and experience in a unique, peer-to-peer training environment focused on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring and operational dimensions of planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire for restoration goals. Nominations are due by February 19.
(continued)

Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/2016-CentralOregon-TREX.aspx>

**May 9-21
deadline**

Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ashland, OR

The Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR) team will be hosting this TREX to provide opportunities for local and regional firefighters, scientists and managers to build their experience in prescribed fire practices, fire effects and other conservation efforts affecting forests and grasslands in southwestern Oregon. Applications are due by February 15.

Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/2016-Ashland-TREX.aspx>

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: <http://nebraskapf.com/events/workshops/> and see the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9SG0YE-gVI&feature=youtu.be>

**February 16-17
updated**

Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Conference / State College, PA

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/training/2016-annual-conference.html>

February 23-25

Sagebrush 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.

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 14-16

9th Annual EPA Sponsored Smoke Management Meeting / Airway Heights, WA

This meeting will “bring together burners both public and private, air quality regulators, researchers and others to discuss smoke management and air quality protection in the Pacific Northwest.”

Information: see the invitation attached to [FLN Networker #201](#)

March 16-17

5th Annual Washington Prescribed Fire Conference / Airway Heights, WA

Practitioners will discuss the year in prescribed fire, priorities moving forward, training exchanges, smoke management and more.

Information: coming soon at <http://www.waprescribedfire.org/Events.html>

- March 31-April 2** **New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit / Silver City, NM**
 The theme of this 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**
 (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>
- May 7** **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / Everytown, USA**
 Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day>
- 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** **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/>
- Nov. 28–Dec. 2** **Southwest Association for Fire Ecology Conference / Tucson, AZ**
 Save the date for “Beyond Hazardous Fuels: Managing Fire for Social, Economic and Ecological Benefits,” hosted by AFE and the Southwest Fire Science Consortium.

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Weaverville, CA February 8-12.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Willows, CA February 1-5; in Weaverville February 8-12.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in Weaverville February 8-11.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Willows, CA February 1-5; in Weaverville February 8-11; out February 12-16.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Weaverville February 8-11.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Weaverville February 8-11.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out February 4, in Weaverville February 8-11.

Note: Monday, February 15 is a Conservancy holiday.

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— Story: <http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/02/02/57201/lighting-fires-to-help-california-s-environment/>
MOU news release: http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/new/releases/2016/PrescribedFireMOU_Release.pdf

News from the Field—CA—Slides:

<http://karuk.us/images/docs/dnr/CS%20District%20Rangers%20Conference%20Jan%202016.ppt>

News from the Field—CO: <http://www.cortezjournal.com/article/20160120/NEWS01/160129983/0/new s/Group-forms-to-develop-wildfire-plan-for-McPhee-Reservoir>

News from the Field--WA: <http://nhma.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Washington-Fire-Adapted-Communities-Learning-Netw ork-BP.pdf>

News from the Field--Awards: <http://stateforesters.org/partnership-announces-2016-wildfire-mitigation-aw ardees#sthash.uDGqXD62.0w H7xw Vf.dpbs>

Resources—FAC SAT: <http://fireadaptednetw ork.org/resource/fire-adapted-communities-self-assessment-tool-user-and-facilitators-guide/>

Resources—After the Fire: <https://vimeo.com/152638745>

Resources—Up Periscope: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpVe2r6h0bq&feature=youtu.be>

Reports & Articles—Future fire: <http://www.firescience.gov/Digest/FSdigest22.pdf>

Reports & Articles—Wildfire insights: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/wildfire/insights>

Jobs--Fire mgmt. specialists: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/427256300>

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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Central Appalachians FLN 2015 Year in Review

Over the last decade, the Central Appalachians FLN has built strong, diverse partnerships and demonstrated the synergistic effect this level of collaboration can have in restoring the role of fire to an ecologically significant scale.

Good Fire

Despite a wet start to the 2015 prescribed fire season in many parts of the region, landscape partners were able to burn nearly 8,700 acres in the Heart of the Appalachians, 12,900 acres in the Keystone Appalachians and 6,200 acres in the Cumberland River landscapes this year. Achieving 28,000 acres of good fire across the network can be attributed to the increased coordination among partners making the most of small burn windows.

Among the highlights was the 400-acre Summers Mountain burn in the Highland Wildlife Management Area. Thanks to the FLN's role in helping develop a new prescribed fire policy for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) and MOUs between all partners, this was both the largest burn in DGIF history and the first in Virginia where U.S. Forest Service staff have burned on DGIF lands.

Excellent cross-boundary coordination was also evidenced by The Nature Conservancy staff from Maryland assisting the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR) with the Underwood Trail Burn near State College, while Conservancy staff from Pennsylvania were assisting the Pennsylvania Game Commission with another burn. Successful

Landscapes of the Central Appalachians FLN

Heart of the Appalachians
Keystone Appalachians
Cumberland River
Potomac Headwaters

Virginia / West Virginia
Pennsylvania
Kentucky
Maryland / West Virginia

collaboration in Pennsylvania's Keystone Appalachians landscape also allowed for burning across Pennsylvania Game Commission, Fort Indiantown Gap, PADCNR and Conservancy lands.



Partners burning in the Cumberland River landscape. *Photo: Chris Minor/TNC*

The success of this crew led the chapter to again contract with WRI, this time through a participating agreement funded by a Forest Service Supplemental Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels (WFHF) project, to provide a four-person module for the spring of 2016. With additional funding from the Forest Service Region 8, two more modules will be supported in the Southern Blue Ridge FLN. The three modules—based in Virginia, North Carolina/Tennessee and Georgia/South Carolina—will be available for three months, for work spanning state, federal, local and private lands.

Tackling Capacity Barriers

A frequently identified barrier to prescribed fire implementation is insufficient capacity. To help mitigate that challenge, the Conservancy's Virginia chapter, funded through a Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER II) grant, contracted with Wildland Restoration International (WRI) to provide a four-person fire module in the spring of 2015. The module helped prep and implement controlled burns on 2,942 acres in the Heart of the Appalachians landscape and prepped another 1,344 acres for upcoming burns.



The leader of the Wildland Restoration International module conducting ignitions at the Bear Loop burn unit on Warm Springs Mountain Preserve in April 2015. Also pictured is one of the interpretive signs developed by the FLN, which carries information about the role of fire—including prescribed fire—in the landscape.

Photo: Marek Smith/TNC

Continuous Collaboration

In western Maryland, development of a new FLN landscape—the Potomac Headwaters FLN landscape—was initiated in early November. Staff from the Maryland Department of Forestry, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service and the Conservancy's Maryland and Virginia chapters spent two days discussing project goals and touring prospective burn units in Catoctin Mountain Park and Green Ridge State Forest. While partners from Maryland have long participated in the Central Appalachians FLN, they had not yet developed a large landscape upon which they could collaboratively implement cross-boundary projects. With this now underway, partners in the new landscape are planning for a workshop later in 2016.

In Kentucky this fall, a Cumberland River FLN landscape workshop was attended by 12 people from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Heartwood, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service. Three subcommittees were formed—to focus on funding, research and outreach—to better manage upcoming opportunities. Plans for the next six months include hosting a local FLN Shared-Learning Field Day where key people in FLN partner agencies will have the opportunity to hear about recent research, see treatment sites, and address concerns or issues around controlled burning in the area.

In Pennsylvania, the Prescribed Fire Council's Dry Oak and Fire workshops were well attended, drawing 128 participants from 18 organizations and agencies, including state and federal agencies, traditional NGOs, academia, forestry associations, forestry products companies, consulting foresters and hunters. They discussed prescribed fire and management of dry oak and oak-pine communities, covering issues ranging from maintaining oak forests to restoring woodlands, savannas and scrub oak-pitch pine barrens with combinations of fire, timber harvest and other methods.



Ben Jones addressed participants at one of the stops on the Dry Oak and Fire Workshop field tour. Photo: Patrick McElhenny/TNC

Training Modules

An S-219 Fire Operations course was held in July in State College (PA) under the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. There were 28 participants, including students and instructors from the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Conservancy's Pennsylvania chapter.

An RX-310 Fire Effects course was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council in July as well. The 26 participants in the week-long course included students and instructors from Arcadia University,

Natural Lands Trust, National Park Service, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Sustainable Solutions (a natural resource consulting company) and the Conservancy's Pennsylvania chapter.

The Virginia Wildland Fire Academy, coordinated by the Virginia Department of Forestry, held its first NWCG Prescribed Fire Course, Rx310 Fire Effects, in 2015. The course was co-hosted by the Virginia Prescribed Fire Council. This significant milestone was met with enthusiasm: a sold out classroom, and tremendous participation by essentially every land management agency in the state as well as from many private landowners and contractors. In the coming year, the Academy will continue its support of prescribed fire training by offering Rx341 Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation.

Outreach Efforts

Educational outreach targeting visitors to areas where prescribed fire is part of the landscape continues to be a focus of the network.

RESTORING A FIRE ADAPTED LANDSCAPE

Prescribed Burning

A fire adapted landscape is an area created and maintained by fire. Some trees and other plants benefit from fire, as it reduces excess woody debris from the forest floor, promotes seed germination, and reduces competition. Many areas within Kentucky's forests need to be much more open than they are now.

Prairie, savanna, woodland, and forest are general terms used to describe different habitat types defined by the density of trees in a given area. A mixture of different habitat types across a landscape adds to plant and wildlife diversity.

Combined with controlled burning, mechanical thinning can speed up the restoration process.

Thinning allows less desirable trees to be harvested and the understorey to be opened up. This provides more sunlight to the forest floor and encourages more plants to grow.

The photos above provide a visual of the different habitat types represented in our forests. Many wildlife species are in decline due to lack of their associated habitat type.

The eight (east) side of 5016, and the south of KY 90 represent two treatment areas. Both areas will be mechanically thinned with one receiving an early spring or late fall controlled burn while the other receives a late spring, summer, or late summer controlled burn. Pre- and post-burn data will be collected, and results will guide future management decisions.

Monitoring plots are located throughout this area. Data is collected, including plant species, species occurrence, tree size, and fuel load. This allows the impact of treatments to be better defined and documented.

PRairie (Photo: Ben Jones)

SAVANNA (Photo: Ben Jones)

WOODLAND (Photo: Ben Jones)

FOREST (Photo: Ben Jones)

Logos for The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, and Kentucky State Forestry are present at the bottom.

Partners in the Cumberland River FLN landscape continued work on interpretive signs for the Stearns Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The signs are part of driving tour being developed with support from the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists. The tour will have eight to ten stops and feature messages about the historic role of fire in the Appalachians; fire effects monitoring; plant, wildlife and fuel reduction benefits of controlled burns; and fire teams and safety.



Two interpretive signs developed by partners in the Heart of the Appalachians landscape were installed around the 2014 Blue Suck burn unit in Douthat State Park. This site was targeted for the opportunity to generate awareness of the value of prescribed fire in a large audience, with the park seeing more than 200,000 visitors a year.
Photo: Al Cire/VADCR

Monitoring Progress

The Heart of the Appalachians

FLN Monitoring Working Group held its third annual Plant Identification and Protocol Refresher Workshop this year, in a new two-day format. Eighteen participants from the Conservancy's Virginia chapter, U.S. Forest Service and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation spent the first day at Hungry Mother State Park identifying plants, with a focus on ericaceous shrubs. The second part of the workshop consisted of a Forest Structure and Composition Protocol review and the installment of four new monitoring plots in the Huff Hollow burn unit on the Eastern Divide Ranger District of the Jefferson National Forest. The new workshop format allowed for plenty of identification practice and discussion and will better ensure consistency in data collection across the landscape.

The Working Group welcomed new members Adam Christie (DCR) and Jean Lorber (TNC) at a December meeting set to share new knowledge of the FFI software, uphold consistency and accuracy in methods, and discuss future monitoring needs. The group decided to redesign the plot-less basal area protocol to reduce user variability and ensure the same overstory trees are measured each visit. Instead of using prisms, a fixed area plot will be used to determine

overstory basal area. Preliminary results show a significant increase in open canopy and increases in forb cover one year post-burn.

In the **Keystone Appalachians** landscape, monitoring collaborations continue among the Arcadia University, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Penn State University and the Conservancy. They are working to identify ways to move forward on the pre/post-burn vegetation monitoring initiative that was started in 2013. Monitoring during burns is also being integrated, through use of FEMO-qualified personnel. This collaboration led to a Fire Monitoring Workshop in the spring, sponsored by the Center for Landscape Dynamics at Penn State; this evolved to include several additional faculty (including social scientists) and staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Fort Indiantown Gap military installation.

New Publications

Dr. Lauren Howard (Arcadia University) compared the results of his extensive observations of the largest high-elevation pitch pine community in the Central Appalachians to a 1985 study by Gary Fleming in the recent article "A Quarter-Century of Change Without Fire: The High-Elevation Pitch Pine Community on Panther Knob, Pendleton County, West Virginia." The study suggests that the threatened variable sedge (*Carex polymorpha*) has declined, ericaceous shrubs have become more dense, and little pine regeneration has occurred recently. Howard discusses further research needs and management implications of this for Panther Knob.

Also published in 2015 were research papers by Wayne Tyndall (Maryland Department of Natural Resources) and Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy (USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Center and Monongahela National Forest). (See the summer *FLN Notes from the Field* for more on these papers.)

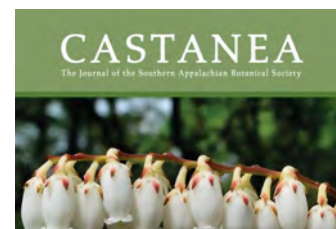
Sharing Nationally

Pat Sheridan (USFS) represented the Central Appalachians FLN at the FLN and Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network national workshop in Santa Fe (NM) in June. A poster featuring the Central Appalachians FLN was presented at the workshop; that poster, as well as those from other networks, can be found at <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/Fire-Landscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/Posters-FLN-2015.aspx>.



Pat Sheridan (right), District Ranger for the Warm Springs and James River Districts of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, retired at the end of December after 38 years with the USFS. Pat participated in the initial scoping meeting to form the Central Appalachians and Southern Blue Ridge regional FLNs in 2006, and was responsible for much of Central Appalachians FLN's growth and accomplishments over the last decade. FLN partners all thank Pat for his leadership and look forward to his continued participation as an AD or volunteer.

Photo: Laurel Schablein/TNC



A Quarter-Century of Change Without Fire: The High-Elevation Pitch Pine Community on Panther Knob, Pendleton County, West Virginia

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ABSTRACT The Panther Knob Preserve is situated in the Central Appalachians because it is the largest, largest high-elevation pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) community containing numerous rare and threatened plants and animals. Plant community structure and evidence of fire in 2008 were quantified by using 100 quadrats (100 × 100 cm) randomly located across the preserve. Plant species richness, percent cover of plants, and percent cover of plants were measured. Diameter at breast height (DBH) of trees and percent cover of shrubs within 10 plots, each 20 × 20 m, were measured. Succession histories were used to estimate stand age, and evidence of fire, such as black charring and soil charcoal, was recorded. Mineral soil from the top 10 cm was collected to evaluate the connection between soil characteristics and plant composition. Cluster analysis of percent cover values identified four plant community types. Succession distribution, age structure, and the presence of only seven woody indicators indicate recent fire regeneration on the plateau. Comparison with Fleming's (1985) observations showed that pine cover had declined in percent cover, that succession of shrubs was slower, and that the threatened variable sedge, *Carex polymorpha*, had declined. Charred woody debris, fire scars, or soil charcoal occurred at 11 of 10 plots. Plant community structure, represented by accurate multidimensional scaling (MDS) ordination axes, was not correlated directly with the presence of fire evidence or soil mineral nutrients. Principal components analysis (PCA) scores. A new conceptual model of pine dynamics on Panther Knob is introduced. Successional pathways with and without fire are discussed in the context of management.

Key words: fire evidence, fire exclusion, Panther Knob, pine regeneration, *Pinus rigida*, soil characteristics, West Virginia.

INTRODUCTION The Panther Knob pitch pine, located at 2,200 m elevation in the southern Appalachian mountains of the Shavers Fork North Fork tributation complex, is the largest single pitch pine-dominated ecosystem in West Virginia and is the largest Central Appalachian system. Panther Knob is thought to be one of the oldest continuous stands of pitch pine in the eastern United States (Howard et al. 2007). In addition, it is one of the few remaining stands of pitch pine in the Southern Blue Ridge region (Howard et al. 2007a, 2007b). As large tracts of pitch pine have been modified in the region dominated at lower elevations by *Quercus* (*Quercus* spp.), *Cypripedium* (*Cypripedium* spp.), and *Asplenium* (*Asplenium* spp.) side-slope niches for rare and threatened plant species have been modified. The pitch pine species of organisms that either depend on specific host plants or on the open, well-drained, nutrient-poor, and well-aerated soil conditions of the pitch pine ecosystem are at risk. The pitch pine ecosystem is a unique and important part of the Southern Blue Ridge region. The pitch pine ecosystem is a unique and important part of the Southern Blue Ridge region. The pitch pine ecosystem is a unique and important part of the Southern Blue Ridge region.

The Central Appalachians FLN was represented at the Association for Fire Ecology's 6th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress in San Antonio (TX) by Nikole Swaney (TNC), Beth Buchanan (USFS) and Lindsey Curtin (USFS). Their presentations detailed fire effects monitoring efforts and adaptive management for the Southern Region of the Forest Service and the Central Appalachians. Nikole Swaney also presented a poster on the upcoming Women in Fire Training Exchange that will be hosted by the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council in the fall of 2016. Partners from the Pennsylvania Game Commission also gave a presentation based on initial results of the second year of a dendrochronology fire history study being undertaken with the University of Missouri Tree Ring Lab.



Nikole Swaney with the Women in TREX poster at the AFE Congress. Photo: Wendy Fulks/TNC

Annual Workshop

More than 60 participants from 20 agencies attended the joint workshop held by the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists (CAFMS) and the Central Appalachians FLN in October. CAFMS coordinated a fire history workshop that brought together many of the pioneers of Central Appalachians dendrochronological, soil and peat charcoal, witness tree and other techniques used to develop current understanding of the historic fire regime in the Central Appalachians. The FLN then hosted presentations on collaborative success stories, new technological tools, northern long-eared bats and fire effects monitoring. The joint workshop helped reinforce the long-standing ties between science and management in the region.



Top: The annual FLN Partnership Award was presented to Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for their tenacity and commitment to building fire management capacity within their agency, collaborative planning and implementation across organizational boundaries. Bottom: Soil charcoal sampling during the workshop field tour.

Photos: Laurel Schablein/TNC, Marek Smith/TNC

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Links to products of the Central Appalachians FLN, including reports, posters, interpretive signs and brochure and other materials can be found on the network's Conservation Gateway page at:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/RegionalNetworks/Pages/CentralApps.aspx>

Upcoming Meetings

Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Conference

February 16-17, 2016

Speakers from across the country will discuss fire and forest bats; Pennsylvania's 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!

Online registration:
<http://www.paprescribedfire.org/training/2016-annual-conference.html>

Central Appalachians FLN Annual Workshop

November 2-3, 2016

Wintergreen Resort, Virginia

Save the date and stay tuned for more.

The FLN, Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency 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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v. 3 Feb 16/Laurel Schablein

PREPARING FOR AFTER THE FIRE

Discussion Guide

Facilitator’s Note: *This guide is designed to be used together with the After the Fire video. The video itself lasts approximately five minutes. It can be shown alone or used together with this guide and a facilitated discussion. Should you choose to use this video during a workshop and work through the discussion guide, we recommend setting aside 30 minutes to both watch the video and discuss its contents.*

Video Location:

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/152638745>

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition: <http://www.chumstickcoalition.org/>

Time	Video Content	Key Takeaways	Discussion Questions	Resources
0:00-0:45	Emotional Shock	Residents feel overwhelmed and unsure where to begin. There are a range of emotions that can be expected; all are normal after a disaster.	If you lost your home in a wildfire, what was it like to return the first time? NOTE: This question is potentially very emotional for some. If you haven’t lost your home in a wildfire, can you imagine what it would feel like? How do you think returning to a changed landscape would feel? What would you expect to see the first week? The next month? The following spring?	<i>Surviving Wildfire</i> by Linda Masterson

Time	Video Content	Key Takeaways	Discussion Questions	Resources
1:00-1:30	Safety upon Return	<p>The environment will be changed even if your home is not lost or damaged.</p> <p>Prepare for the possibility of debris flows and flooding. Talk to your insurance agent about flood insurance</p> <p>Wear long sleeves to re-enter your home and use a recommended respirator mask to protect your airway.</p>	<p>When is okay to return home?</p> <p>What are some other risks or watch out situations to consider when re-entering the landscape?</p> <p>When re-entering your home after the fire, maintain a fire watch. Where would you look for embers?</p>	<p>You Can Go Home Again by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety https://disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/you-can-go-home-again.pdf</p> <p>Flood Smart by the National Flood Insurance Program https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/flood_after_fire.jsp</p> <p>Weather Warnings: National Weather Service http://www.noaa.gov/wx.html</p> <p>Recover After a Wildfire by the US Environmental Protection Agency http://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/wildfires#recover and http://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/imr/cdm/debris.htm</p>

Time	Video Content	Key Takeaways	Discussion Questions	Resources
1:30-2:00	The First Week	<p>There are immediate needs that require your attention post-disaster.</p> <p>Purchase a notebook to document conversations and 'to-do' items.</p> <p>Report damage to your lender, tax assessor and insurance agent.</p> <p>Discuss your policy and documentation needs with your insurance agent. Provide your home inventory, if completed.</p> <p>Begin replacing your Driver's License and other important papers.</p> <p>Secure temporary housing.</p> <p>Even if you did not lose your home or have significant damage, you may have experienced long-term power loss or need to clean-up retardant from your property.</p>	<p>Are you insured?</p> <p>During the Carlton Complex fires in Washington State in 2014, 40% of those who lost homes did <u>not</u> have insurance. Many others were significantly under-insured.</p> <p>If you do not have insurance, what resources do you have available to help you in the immediate week following disaster? Do you have somewhere to stay? Funds for alternate housing? Friends or family who can help?</p>	<p><i>Surviving Wildfire</i> by Linda Masterson</p> <p>Replace vital documents (USA.gov) https://www.usa.gov/replace-vital-documents</p> <p>Clean up after a wildfire disaster (University of Colorado Extension) http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/DisasterPreparedness_2012-05.pdf</p> <p>Wildland Fire Chemical Clean-up (US Forest Service) http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/documents/cleanup.pdf</p>

Time	Video Content	Key Takeaways	Discussion Questions	Resources
2:30-3:45	Recovery	<p>Recovery is a long-term process.</p> <p>Support networks are key to long-term recovery.</p> <p>Find people or communities that you can talk to and learn from.</p>	<p>What personal support networks do you have in place?</p> <p>What support networks or organizations exist within your community?</p>	<p>Recovering Emotionally After Disaster (American Red Cross) http://www.redcross.org/find-help/disaster-recovery/recovering-emotionally</p> <p>Disaster Emotional Care (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) http://www.nvoad.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/POC_-_DISASTEREMOTIONALCARE-_Final.pdf</p>
3:45-4:00	Rebuilding	The construction community is an important piece of the puzzle.	<p>What other community organizations or groups would be instrumental in recovery and rebuilding?</p> <p>How does the phrase "There is a lot of love in that house." Impact you?</p> <p>Rebuilding "Firewise" is an important part of the conversation. But how do we talk about that without placing disproportionate blame on those who lost homes?</p>	

Time	Video Content	Key Takeaways	Discussion Questions	Resources
4:00-5:00	Calls to action	<p>Actions can be taken to increase our ability to recover.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory your home. • Develop a personal support network. • Review and update your insurance policy. • Familiarize yourself with community resources. • Participate in community recovery planning efforts. 	<p>What would happen in your community if you lost 3 homes? 30 homes? 300 homes?</p> <p>If you are a community organization or wildfire preparedness organization, have you given any thought to what happens after the fire? What is your role?</p> <p>What can you do now to better prepare for what happens after the fire?</p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>And</p> <p>www.chumstickcoalition.org www.fireadapted.org www.novad.org</p>



Funding for the After the Fire video provided by:



ICICLE FUND



The *After the Fire* video is supported by *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 through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information, contact Michelle Medley-Daniel at michelle@thewatershedcenter.com or (530) 628-4206. *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*



OUTREACH NOTICE

Forestry Technician (Fire)

Job Corps Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer (JCFAFMO)

Daniel Boone National Forest

GS-462-8/9 (one position to be filled)

The Daniel Boone National Forest plans to fill a Job Corps Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer (JCFAFMO) Forestry Technician (Fire) GS-0462-8/9 position. This position is a Forest Service, Fire Program Management (FPM) position and must meet the Incident Qualifications & Certification System (IQCS) minimum core requirements to be considered:

- Primary core requirement is Crew Boss (CRWB) and
- Secondary core requirement is Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4).

The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform interested candidates in applying for the position to submit the Outreach Notice Form (attached) no later than **February 12, 2016**.

One (1) position will be filled at the Frenchburg Job Corp Civilian Conservation Center (JCC), near Frenchburg, KY.

About the Position

Series/Grade: GS-0462-08/09

Title: Forestry Technician (Fire), JCFAFMO

Duty Locations: Frenchburg JCC, Frenchburg, KY

Tour of Duty: Permanent Full Time

Housing: Government quarters may be available at Frenchburg JCC.

Announcement number: The USAJobs (www.usajobs.gov) announcement number is not available at this time, but will be posted in this notice for at least 10 days when it becomes available.

This is a standard wildland fire management position descriptions intended for use in the USDA Forest Service. The incumbent serves as a JCFAFMO assigned as a liaison between the JCC and the Daniel Boone National Forest, the host forest. This position reports to the Forest Fire Management Officer on the host forest, but interacts closely with District Zone FMOs, Job Corps Center Managers and their staff. This position works closely with the JCFAFMO at the Pine Knot JCC. Both JCFAFMO's provide support to the Great Onyx JCC in Mammoth Cave, KY. The primary purpose of this position is to provide operational oversight and preparedness planning, hazardous fuels reduction and planning, and training for Job Corps personnel (students and staff) to actively support the wildland fire mission of the Forest Service.

This position is categorized as Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer (FAFMO) and is subject to the Forest Service Fire Program Management (FS-FPM) Standard and Guide, as designated by Fire and Aviation Management in the Washington Office. 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 incumbent may be required to possess and maintain a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). If a CDL is required, the position is a Testing Designated Position under the Department of Transportation/Forest Service Alcohol and Controlled Substance Testing Program. The incumbent will be required to submit a urinalysis specimen at a designated medical facility, to screen for illegal drug use. These screenings are required prior to appointment and on a random basis post appointment.

This is a **secondary firefighter position** under 5 USC 8336(c) (CSRS) and 8412(d) (FERS). Ninety (90) days of experience as a primary/rigorous firefighter or equivalent experience outside federal employment is a basic qualification requirement for this position.

This position is subject to medical monitoring program.

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 FOREST

The Daniel Boone National Forest provides administrative oversight and support to four districts, and support to three Job Corps Centers. The Forest covers approximately 700,000 acres of National Forest System lands (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf/>).

LOCATION

Frenchburg, KY (Frenchburg JCC)

Frenchburg JCC is in Menifee County, KY and is located approximately 75 miles East of Lexington, Kentucky, home of the UK Wildcats. There is an airport located in Lexington with major carriers.

The Frenchburg JCC is fortunate to be located close to several scenic sites on the Forest, such as the Red River Gorge Geologic Area, the Wild and Scenic Red River, and Cave Run Lake. This intensively managed Forest includes vigorous timber, recreation, and fire programs and consists of four Ranger Districts. The area has historic sites, snowy winters, warm summers, colorful falls and gorgeous springs. The area has crappie, bass, musky, white tail deer, wild turkey, grouse, and quail.

The Frenchburg Job Corps CCC houses 126+ co-ed students in a 7-day a week, 24-hour a day residential program. The Center trains young people from the ages of 16-24 in vocational skills, educational goals, and social development. The Center offers six vocational trades (Culinary Arts, Facilities Maintenance, Office Administration, Union Bricklaying, Union Carpentry, and Union Cement Masonry), high school diploma, GEDs, transfers to advanced training, college and Armed Forces. The Center has a co-enrollment agreement with Menifee County High School. The Center has a recreational program that meets the needs of the students. The Center functions similar to a small community college campus with dormitory living. The Center's wildland fire program is in its second year of operation and has already provided student support to local and national assignments.

The Center is located 11 miles from Frenchburg, Kentucky, a small community offering one medium-sized grocery store, numerous gas stations, four restaurants, a Family Dollar and Dollar General store, a high school/elementary school combined, (another elementary school is located approximately nine miles from the Center), numerous churches, one bank, a community park with swimming pool and baseball field, and two health clinics staffed with various doctors and nurses.

Approximately 35 miles from Center is Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, a manufacturing community. Mt. Sterling offers a full service hospital, several clinics, restaurants, banks, hotels, etc. Montgomery County (Mt. Sterling) has several elementary and middle schools and one high school. Several denominations of churches can be found in and around Mt. Sterling.

Rental property is available, but somewhat limited in the Frenchburg area. However, there are several FHA approved homes in subdivisions for sale. The Mt. Sterling and Morehead areas offer more variety in housing. Rental rates run from \$500 and up. FHA houses start at \$85,000 for a small 3-bedroom house.

OUTREACH RESPONSE AND INFORMATION

Interested applicants should return the following information to EJ Bunzendahl, Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer. For more information contact EJ at 859.745.3148 (work), or by email at ejbunzendahl@fs.fed.us.

OUTREACH RESPONSE

**Forestry Technician (Fire)
Job Corp Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer (JCFAFMO)
GS-462-8/9**

Daniel Boone National Forest
1700 Bypass Road Winchester, Kentucky 40391

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Current Region/Forest/District: _____

Current Position Type (Permanent, Temporary, Term, etc.): _____

Current Position Title: _____

Current Series and Grade: _____

Other Information: (i.e. Qualifications under a special hire authority) _____

**Interested applicants should return this form or information to:
EJ Bunzendahl, Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer (FAFMO)
E-mail: ejbunzendahl@fs.fed.us**

**For further information contact: EJ Bunzendahl at: 859.745.3148 or
CorDell Taylor, FFMO at 859.745.3192, cetaylor@fs.fed.us**