

FLN Networker No. 318: July 7, 2021

The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, agencies of the Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, information to share, and subscription requests to Liz Rank.

For more about the FLN, visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln.

News from the Field

California: For a look at the spring **Plumas TREX** through the eyes of an artist, check out the [story](#) “Learning to Put Fire on the Ground” by **Laurie Wigham**, who joined the TREX to teach **nature journaling** as a way to develop and support observational skills.

Sierra magazine also has a [story](#)—“The Fine Art of Wildfire Awareness”—about “pyrosketchology,” including **Miriam Morrill’s pilot program** at the **2019 Klamath TREX**.

Georgia: In the *Virginia Mercury* [article](#) “The **Smooth Coneflower Makes a Comeback**,” **Mike Brod** credits “being **consistent with periodic prescribed fires**” as critical to habitat restoration for this species. In late June the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service [proposed downlisting](#) the species from endangered to threatened.

North Carolina: With support from the **FLN**, the **Forest Stewards Guild** worked with the **Mountain Valleys RC&D Council**, **North Carolina Forest Service** and **North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission** to produce the [video](#) “Learning About Burning: An **Introduction to Prescribed Fire** for NC **Landowners**.”

FAC Net: In 2019, the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** launched an **Opportunity Fund** to help affiliate members push important projects to completion. From training community ambassadors to post-fire outreach, read about some of their projects in the FAC Net [blog post](#) “**Small Investments Can Have Large Impacts**: Affiliate Member Opportunity Fund Recap.”

Funding: JFSP

JFSP: The Joint Fire Science Program intends to request proposals through one or more **Funding Opportunity Announcements** beginning this month and remaining open for about two months. Proposals will be accepted for research on “social and ecological **recovery of communities** impacted by wildfire” and “**collaborative development of ecosystem mapping products** for fire and fuels management.” For more, see the [grant opportunity forecast](#) on grants.gov.

Resources: Safety PSAs / Weather / HIZ

Safety PSAs: CBS 9 in San Diego has a [collection](#) of brief **videos** touching on air quality, evacuation and other **aspects of wildfire safety** for community members.

Weather: June updates of the **NWCG publications** “Guide to Fire Weather Forecasts” ([PMS 425](#)) and “Fire Weather” ([PMS 425-1](#)) are now available.

HIZ: The **Colorado State Forest Service** has updated “The **Home Ignition Zone**.” The [guide](#) includes both **general principles** for creating and maintaining defensible space, and information on fuel and forest types found in Colorado.

Articles & Reports: Fuels, Beetles & Drought / Greenbelts / Insurance / Pyrodiversity

Fuels, Beetles & Drought: The authors of the [article](#) “Do Forest **Fuel Reduction Treatments** Confer Resistance to Beetle Infestation and Drought Mortality?” took advantage of a **natural experiment** when the 2012-2016 drought affected research plots at the Teakettle Experimental Forest in the Sierra NF. The effects on the more than 10,000 mapped and tagged trees were complex. “Density reduction treatments that rely on **mechanical thinning alone** had **neutral to positive** effects on conifer survival during the 2012–2016 drought.... **Prescribed burning** appears less effective than mechanical thinning at reducing drought mortality and in some cases **can lead to higher beetle infestation** and mortality rates.”

Greenbelts: The Greenbelt Alliance [white paper](#) “The Critical Role of Greenbelts in **Wildfire Resilience**” looks at the roles **four types of greenbelts** (properly maintained) can play in protecting communities from wildfire.

Insurance: The [report](#) “Wildfire Resilience Insurance: **Quantifying the Risk Reduction** of Ecological Forestry with Insurance” was co-authored by **The Nature Conservancy** and **Willis Towers Watson**. It shows how **ecological forestry**—thinning and prescribed burning—can reduce insurance costs, increase its availability, and reduce the likelihood of extreme wildfires in high risk areas. For an overview, see the [post](#) on the consultancy’s site or the [summary of insights](#).

Pyrodiversity: The [article](#) “**Quantifying Pyrodiversity** and Its Drivers” lays out a multi-factor method for capturing pyrodiversity, and applies it to forests of the western U.S. “While we demonstrate its utility at the regional scale, the 30 m resolution of the underlying **data also allow calculation** of pyrodiversity at scales relevant to **point or plot-based** ecological sampling methods.”

In the News: Federal Policy / USFS Chief / Pyrocene / Beavers

Federal Policy: Last week the **White House** released “[Fact Sheet](#): The Biden-Harris Administration Acts to **Address the Growing Wildfire Threat**,” which outlines planned actions to meet the challenges of what is expected to be a severe wildfire season.

USFS Chief: Pacific Southwest Regional Forester **Randy Moore** will serve as the **next chief** of the USDA Forest Service beginning on July 26. See the [announcement](#) from Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack for details.

Pyrocene: **Stephen Pyne**’s latest essay latest essay ran as an [op-ed](#) over the weekend: “Arizona has **Too Much Bad Fire** and **Not Enough Good**. Are We Willing to Accept That?”

Beavers: *The Sacramento Bee* recently ran the [article](#) “A Dry California Creek Bed Looked Like a **Wildfire Risk**. Then the Beavers Went to Work.” (For fun, how about an unrelated [video](#) infographic on beavers and wildfire?)

Jobs: Fuels Module Lead / Fire Mgmt Technician / Program Assistant / Fire Program Manager / Land Program Manager / Fire & Stewardship / GIS Tech / Operations & Communications / Program Director

Fuels Module Lead: The **Bureau of Indian Affairs** is seeking a **fuels module leader** based at the Eastern Cherokee Agency. Details are on usajobs.gov ([control number 605521400](#)); applications are due by **July 8**.

Fire Mgmt Technician: The Arkansas chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a fire management technician (**FFT2**). For details, see the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 49949](#)); applications are due by **July 8**. Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Program Assistant: The **Florida Park Service** is seeking a **fire management program assistant** for detail-oriented administrative work, with opportunities for participating in the fire program with boots on the ground. See the [position announcement](#) for details; applications are due by **July 9**.

Fire Program Manager: The **Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources** is seeking a **unit fire program manager** for The Karuk Integrated Wildland Fire Management Program. Details can be found in the [vacancy announcement](#); applications are due by **July 12**.

Land Program Manager: The Kansas chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **sustainable grazing lands program manager** to work with private landowners, land managers and partners on priority grasslands. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 49917](#)); applications are due by **July 20**. Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Fire & Stewardship: The Missouri chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **fire and stewardship coordinator** (FFT2 or FFT1) to be based in Lebanon, MO. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 49985](#)); applications are due by **July 23**. Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

GIS Tech: The **Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources** is seeking a **GIS/GPS technician** to provide GIS **mapping and data management** services for DNR programs and Western Klamath Restoration Partnership organizations in furthering the planning, implementation, research and monitoring activities of the Tribe and its partners. See the [announcement](#) for details.

Operations & Communications: Fire Adapted Colorado is seeking an operations & communications specialist to work with the director, board and members to lead **organizational operations**, build effective **internal and external communications systems**, and provide **accounting and logistics** support. Details are on the [FACO website](#).

Program Director: The Kentucky chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is hiring a **Central Appalachians project director** to serve as the regional lead for conservation programs and projects; **RXB2 burn boss** is a **desired qualification**. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 49923](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Webinars

July 20

new listing

Western Drought Crisis

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

This Great Basin Fire Science Exchange webinar will include an update on the current drought situation and outlook and an overview of wildland fire conditions and outlook. It will feature perspectives from those on the ground who are responding to worsening drought conditions.

Register: <https://greatbasinfirescience.org/event/western-drought-crisis/>

August 12

new listing

Potential Impacts of Prescribed Fire Smoke on Air Quality, Public Health, and Socially Vulnerable Populations in the Southeastern U.S.

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

This Southern Fire Exchange webinar will cover a recent project that used burn permit records, air quality modelling, and epidemiological associations between fine particulate matter concentrations and multiple health endpoints to examine

these impacts, with a focus on case studies in Georgia and North Carolina. Register: <https://southernfireexchange.org/calendar/sfe-webinar-potential-impacts-of-prescribed-fire-smoke-on-air-quality-public-health-and-socially-vulnerable-populations-in-the-southeastern-u-s/>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

**Oct. 18–Nov. 1
deadline**

Flagstaff TREX / Flagstaff, AZ

See the [announcement](#) for details about this TREX hosted by the Flagstaff Fire Department and Summit Fire and Medical District; applications are due by **July 16**.

**Oct. 25–Nov. 5
deadline**

Southern Blue Ridge TREX / North Carolina, South Carolina

Applications are being accepted through **July 17**. Visit <https://www.sbrtrex.com/> for details.

Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

August 18-19

North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / Morganton, NC

Save the date for the meeting on August 18 and field tour on August 19.

September 21-23

Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Resilient Colorado—Moving Forward in Evolving Wildfire Landscapes / Grand Junction, CO

Early Bird Registration is open through July 15.

Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>

September 21-23

Great Plains Fire Summit & Nebraska Prescribed Fire Conference / North Platte, NE

Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-plains-fire-summit9th-annual-nebraska-prescribed-fire-conference-registration-92767210223>

October 4-8

4th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / Asheville, NC

Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/4th-annual-national-cohesive-wildland-fire-management-strategy-workshop/>

**October 28-29
new listing**

New Mexico Wildland Urban Fire Summit / online

There is a call for presentations on the theme “Community, resilience and recovery”: <https://facnm.org/news/2021/7/2/call-for-presentations-new-mexico-virtual-wildland-urban-fire-summit>

November 3-7

Society of American Foresters National Convention / Sacramento, CA

SAF is soliciting submissions for science flashes and posters (deadline August 31).

Information: <https://eforester.org/safconvention/>

Nov. 30-Dec. 4

9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / online and Miramar Beach, FL

The theme this year is “Life with Fire: Prescriptions for Resilience.” A [call for proposals](#), for various formats, is open; proposals for oral presentations and fire circles are due August 15 and proposals for posters are due August 30.

Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is in Island Park, ID July 20-23; in Blackfoot Valley, MT July 26-28.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out July 7, 15-16, and 28.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out July 15-24.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in Island Park, ID July 19-23.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is out July 15-16.

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

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out July 8, 15, 22.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA—Plumas TREX:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Documents/PlumasTREX-2021-Wigham-NatureJournaling.pdf>

Sierra: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/fine-art-wildfire-awareness>

News from the Field—GA: <https://www.virginiamercury.com/blog-va/the-smooth-coneflower-makes-a-comeback/>

Federal register: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-06-24/pdf/2021-13481.pdf#page=3>

News from the Field—NC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYFkkwE4P5k>

News from the field—FAC Net: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/affiliate-member-opportunity-fund-recap/>

Funding—JFSP: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=JFSP-FY22-FORECAST>

Resources—Safety PSAs: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaPMn2PMzxdGHVsirLE7pZNVH8jS49B4n>

Resources—Weather—Guide to Fire Weather Forecasts: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/425>

Fire Weather: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/425-1>

Resources—HIZ: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/2021/05/10/home-ignition-zone-guide-for-wildfire/>

Articles & Reports—Fuels, beetles & drought: https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/north/psw_2021_north002_steel.pdf

Articles & Reports—Greenbelts: <https://www.greenbelt.org/wp-content/uploads/edd/2021/06/The-Critical-Role-of-Greenbelts-in-Wildfire-Resilience.pdf>

Articles & Reports—Insurance: <https://www.willistowerswatson.com/en-US/Insights/2021/07/wildfire-resilience-insurance-quantifying-the-risk-reduction-of-ecological-forestry-with-insurance#>

Articles & Reports—Pyrodiversity: https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/collins/psw_2021_collins001_steel.pdf

In the News—Federal policy: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/30/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-administration-acts-to-address-the-growing-wildfire-threat/>

In the News—USFS chief: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/leadership/secretary-tom-vilsack-announces-20th-chief-forest-service>

In the News—Pyrocene: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2021/07/04/arizona-too-much-bad-fire-not-enough-good/7788969002/>

In the News—Beavers: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article252187473.html>

FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/webinars.aspx>

TREX—The latest application information for upcoming TREX is always listed at:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Upcoming-Training-Exchanges.aspx>

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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