



# Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

July 2011

## Loess Hills, Iowa 2012 Training Exchange Planning Workshop

**Recognizing a collective need** to increase the amount of prescribed fire in the Loess Hills, partners from five agencies and organizations met on July 12 to plan two ten-day prescribed fire training exchanges that will take place during April 2012.

The Loess Hills landscape is a globally rare habitat type winding 200 miles along the Missouri River from northwest Iowa to northwest Missouri. It is a fire-adapted system, requiring regular fire not only to prevent invasion by red cedar, but also to maintain prairie and oak woodland health. As partners discuss how to get more fire onto the land, conversations are expanding to include discussion on seasonality of burning. Traditionally, spring burning has been the norm, but land managers are now seeking to scale up fire and move beyond using it simply to control invasives. In this work toward reestablishing fire as an integral landscape process, they are looking at fires throughout the year. Learning the best way to use all types of fire is one of the goals of this partnership.

The training exchanges will link partners across this landscape and up into the nearby prairie pothole region, increasing not only their capacity for getting fire into the prairie, but also strengthening the bonds that will allow each land manager to accomplish more together than they could working individually.

## Participants

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Pottawattamie County – Hitchcock Nature Center  
The Nature Conservancy – Iowa  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Woodbury County Soil & Water Conservation District

### For more information, contact:

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Broken Kettle Preserve

Photo: Susanne Hickey

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524. *An equal opportunity provider.*

