

FLN Networker No. 139: August 21, 2013

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: “A Community Approach to Wildfires,” a [good story](#) about the **FireScape Monterey**, ran on KAZU, the **local NPR station** last week. In a fairly brief story, the reporter touched on a number of ways that this FLN is **connecting and benefitting** stakeholders. For more information, contact **Mary Huffman** (mhuffman@tnc.org).

Georgia: A **new landscape**, the **Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains** is coming together in the **Southern Blue Ridge** regional network. A core team led by **Jim Wentworth** (jwentworth@fs.fed.us) and **Malcolm Hodges** (mhodges@tnc.org) met recently and is planning a larger **inaugural workshop** on October 22. A wide range of **partners**—including **Towns County**, a new **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net) pilot community**—are being invited, and together will begin to identify goals for the landscape, discuss obstacles, identify focal areas and data needs and establish an action plan.

Iowa: The **TV show** *Iowa Outdoors* filmed at this spring’s **Loess Hills FLN prescribed fire training exchange**, “where flames and teamwork culminate in conservation and education.” The [segment](#) will **air about a dozen times** on Iowa Public Television from August 11 through September 13. It is also available on [YouTube](#). For more information, contact **Kyle Lapham** (klapham@tnc.org).

Montana: About a dozen people—from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Collaborative, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Northern Rockies Fire Science Consortium, NRCS, The Nature Conservancy and University of Montana—**toured thinning projects** in Douglas-fir and lodgepole forests on the Flying D Ranch earlier this month. This allowed **Centennial FLN** partners to **learn from work** being done on a **neighboring landscape**. Discussion highlights included potential changes in future prescriptions, road and stream zone rehabilitation after the treatments, and the need for fire to maintain the desired condition. For more information, contact **Nathan Korb** (nkorb@tnc.org).

Southern Blue Ridge: A **report** (with rattlesnake!) from the **SBR FLN’s** filled-to-capacity May **workshop** is available in the latest *FLN Notes from the Field*, attached.

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network: An **introduction** to this learning network that launched in the spring is now available on its new Conservation Gateway [page](#). Eight **pilot communities**, from California to Georgia, will help in the development and sharing of **best practices** and innovations to **accelerate the adoption** of fire adapted community concepts nationwide

National: Parts of the recently-submitted **semi-annual report** for the Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration (PERC) cooperative agreement are now available on Conservation Gateway, slightly reformatted to work as **stand-alone handouts**. The [PERC overview](#) document briefly **describes the various aspects** of the agreement, including the FLN, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, prescribed fire training exchanges, implementation under SPER, and outreach efforts. The [PERC highlights](#) document shares a few **selected representative accomplishments** from the first half of the year. (Note to leaders: Rest assured that all the information you shared for the report is contained in one or more of its voluminous appendixes.)

Feedback: Cohesive Strategy / Conservation Gateway

Cohesive Strategy: You're encouraged to **join in conversation** around the Cohesive Strategy on **Facebook** (like the [Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy page](#)) or **Twitter** (follow @USWildfire). The Cohesive Strategy emphasizes the need for “bottom up” and “top down” **collaborative efforts**—for resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and integrated wildland fire response—to address the challenges facing fire managers and communities. How are your communities and landscapes addressing these challenges?

For **more about the Cohesive Strategy**, visit www.forestsandrangelands.gov. New postings include short notes on some of the current **priorities and opportunities** in the three regions: **standards and qualifications** in the [West](#), opportunities for **partnering on wildfire response** in the [Northeast](#), and **air quality** in the [Southeast](#).

Conservation Gateway: If you've used the Conservation Gateway in your work, the site managers would appreciate your input in a **brief survey**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/conservationgateway>.

Resources: Fire Adapted Communities / Make it a Party

Fire Adapted Communities: For a good introduction to FAC **concepts and programs** that support it, check out <http://nature.ly/FireAdapted> (note that this **short URL** is case-sensitive; it re-directs to a [page](#) on **Conservation Gateway**).

FAC Outreach Materials: Free FAC **brochures** and 11x17” infographic **posters** are available at <http://fireadapted.org/resources/media-and-outreach.aspx> to support **community outreach** efforts.

Make it a Party: Montana is **encouraging communities** to prepare for emergencies of all kinds—including wildfire—by hosting **neighborhood preparedness parties** to share **information** and help people start building their own **emergency kits**. The [ReadyMontana website](#) provides step-by-step instructions, along with some resources and forms; some are specific to the state, but the concept can be easily adapted elsewhere, and for similar community engagement projects.

Articles: ESA Special Issue / Rx & Tree Mortality / Climate & Fire Severity

ESA Special Issue: The Ecological Society of America [journal](#) *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* has a **special issue on prescribed fire** this month. Among the articles of interest are an overview of prescribed fire in North American forests, and another on citizens' response (in the form of burn cooperative) to woody encroachment on the Great Plains.

Tree Mortality: The [article](#), “**Tree Mortality Patterns** Following Prescribed Fire for **Pinus and Abies** across the Southwestern United States,” looked at fire effects data from the FFI ([FEAT/FIREMON Integrated](#)) to assess whether prescribed burns were having unintended consequences, in particular high rates of mortality for **large trees** or *Pinus* species. “Across the southwestern US we did not find evidence for unusually high post-fire mortality of trees >50 cm DBH or differential mortality of *Pinus* and *Abies* in this size class.”

Climate & Fire Severity: An [article](#)—“**Climatic Stress Increases Forest Fire Severity** across the Western United States”—by several of the same authors (and using the same plot data) appears in *Ecology Letters*. Their results “suggest that warming may also **increase forest fire severity** (the number of trees killed) **independent of fire intensity** (the amount of heat released during a fire).”

In the News: WUI, Wildfire & Laws

WUI: An [opinion piece](#) in the Denver Post, “The True Costs of Living in the Forest,” outlines the three **legal approaches** used by western states to get **residents to mitigate wildfire in the WUI**, and some of the legal, economic and moral aspects of the issue. The piece is based on a [white paper](#) prepared as a group research project by the author’s students at the University of Colorado, Denver.

What’s in a Name?: Words Matter

As budgets get increasingly tighter, many organizations are having to exercise even more care in targeting travel spending to ensure that every trip clearly meets a unit’s needs. When you set up a gathering, careful attention to the choice of words can help make sure that the people who need to come can more easily document the fit between their organization’s need and the purpose of the event.

The words **Meeting, Conference, Symposium, Workshop** and **Training** (among others) are **not interchangeable**—they indicate different levels of **formality**; different **emphases** on science, practical problem-solving and skills-development; and, often, different target **audiences**. As part of an event-planning process it may be well worth a little time to make sure the event name, as well as its content, is developed in a way that will make it most useful—and accessible—to the intended audience.

On a related note: from the business world, [here’s a blog](#) with a tip to **cut meeting time** by 90%.

FLN Workshops

October 8-10

Appalachian FLN

See the Wildland Fire in the Appalachians conference listing, below.

October 22
new listing

Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains Landscape / Blairsville, GA

The inaugural workshop of this new landscape will include introductions to fire adapted communities, fire ecology and lessons learned from the FLN as a diverse partnership comes together in north Georgia.

Information: **Malcolm Hodges** (mhodges@tnc.org) or **Jim Wentworth** (jwentworth@fs.fed.us)

October 22-25

Parashant Partnership / St. George, UT

The partnership’s fall workshop will include a 2½ day working field trip to Mount Trumbull and the Bar 10 Ranch, as well as a day-long work session in St. George. Participants will gather information and begin to draft comments for the NEPA scoping process on the BLM Uinkaret Mts. Vegetation Management Plan.

Information: **Eli Lauren-Bernstein** (eli.bernstein@nau.edu)

Training, Conferences & Workshops

September 12
new listing

Prescribed Fire & Ecosystem Restoration: Lessons from the Fall Line Region / Talbot County, GA

The Southern Fire Exchange and The Nature Conservancy are hosting this field tour in conjunction with the Alabama Prescribed Fire Council [annual meeting](#).

The tour will showcase a 10-year research study site that demonstrates the influence of prescribed fire seasonality and longleaf pine overstory density on understory vegetation. Limited to 35 participants; pre-registration is required.

Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/7851539165>

- September 24** **Learn to Plan for Contingencies / Pickstown, SD**
 This Great Plains Fire Science Exchange training will help participants—including public and private land managers and prescribed fire associations—“think like a burn boss,” using sand table exercises to simulate their own burn units. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.
 Information: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/qpfirescience/2013/05/21/learn-to-plan-for-contingencies/>
- September 25-26 new listing** **Washington State WUI Conference: Collaboration for Fire Adapted Communities / Wenatchee, WA**
 Information: <http://www.scwrcd.org/wui.html>
- September 25-26** **Patch Burn Grazing Working Group Conference / Gary, SD**
 Save the date for this meeting—registration information coming soon.
 Information: Pete Bauman (peter.bauman@sdstate.edu)
- October 3** **Field Review of Bethlehem Authority Lands / Monroe County, PA**
 The Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council is hosting a review of treatments conducted by a successful partnership on this 9,000-acre oak barrens complex.
 Information: see flyer attached to [Networker issue #137](#)
- October 8-10** **Wildland Fire in the Appalachians / Roanoke, VA**
 This conference, sponsored by the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists and the Association for Fire Ecology, will **likely take the place of the Appalachians FLN annual fall meeting**, so network leads are encouraging everyone to attend. The poster abstract submission deadline has been extended to **September 1**. Higher registration fees also start that day.
 Information: <http://appfireconference.org/>
- October 12** **Basic Wildland Firefighter Training (S-130 / S-190) / Honey Creek, IA**
 Partners in the **Loess Hills** will be offering this training for volunteer firefighters and others interested in wildland fire training. The classroom portion of the work must be completed online before this field day.
 Information: see attached flyer and application
- October 15-17** **Tenth Symposium on Fire & Forest Meteorology / Bowling Green, KY**
 See the call for papers in the sidebar for a list of topics for this American Meteorological Society conference.
 Information: <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201310fireforest.html>
- October 21-24** **IAWF International Smoke Symposium / Adelphi, MD**
 Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/2013SmokeSymposium/>
- November 5-6 new listing** **Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council / Clovis, CA**
 The inaugural meeting of this prescribed fire council will include discussions of fire management, air quality, fire research and outreach in support of the council’s mission of working collaboratively “to promote, protect, conserve, and expand the responsible use of prescribed fire and cultural fire in the southern Sierra Nevada’s fire-adapted landscapes and fire-dependent landscapes, and to promote public understanding and acceptance on the ecological and cultural importance of burning.”
 Information: <http://www.sosierrapfc.org/calendar-of-events>

- November 13-19** **Agency Administrators' Prescribed Fire Workshop / Florida**
 This workshop offered by the Prescribed Fire Training Center uses group and field exercises as well as classroom presentations to cover prescribed fire program management, risk management and burn plans. The application deadline is **September 20**.
 Info: www.fws.gov/fire/pftc/training_opportunities.shtml#AgencyAdministrators
- November 14-16** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education / Salt Lake City, UT**
 This National Fire Protection Association conference will bring together wildfire experts, Firewise community representatives, community planners, civic leaders, homeowners, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others for a chance to network and share best-practices.
 Info: <http://www.firewise.org/courses-and-training/backyards-and-beyond.aspx>
- Feb 8-13, 2014**
new listing **Society for Range Management: 67th Annual Meeting, Technical Training & Trade Show / Orlando, FL**
 The theme for the meeting, "From Dusty Trails to Waning Wetlands," will bring drought and water management to the fore. The technical sessions, workshops and symposia will cover a wide range of topics, from wildlife to fire ecology.
 Information: <http://rangelands.org/orlando2014/>
- Feb 20-22, 2014**
new listing **Fire Ecology of the Northeast: Restoring Native and Cultural Ecosystems / New Haven, CT**
 The call for papers is open (through October 31) for this workshop hosted by the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy .
 Information: <http://www.talltimbers.org/YALEworkshop/>
- Feb 25-27, 2014** **Fostering Resilience in Southwestern Ecosystems: A Problem-Solving Workshop / Tucson, AZ**
 This JFSP workshop will help develop answers to pressing questions such as "How can managers build resilience when ecosystems are undergoing rapid change?" and "What are our options when megafires removes huge swaths of forests not adapted to this disturbance?"
 Info: <http://swfireconsortium.org/Fire%20and%20Resiliency%20Ecology%20Workshop/>
- May 19-23, 2014** **Large Wildland Fires: Social, Political & Ecological Effects / Missoula, MT**
 The call for workshops and special sessions for this conference co-hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology and the International association of Wildland Fire is now open. Early bird registration opens September 1.
 Information: <http://largefireconference.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in the office.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is on call for wildfire detail through September.

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

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is out August 21-25.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.

Liz Rank (Networker Editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out August 23.

Note: Monday, September 2 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—FireScape Monterey: <http://kazu.org/post/community-approach-wildfires>

News from the Field—Iowa training exchange:

http://www.iptv.org/iowaoutdoors/story.cfm/clip/10782/iao_20130812_304_loess_hills_prescribed_fire/video

News from the Field—FAC Net website:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/fac/facnet/Pages/default.aspx>

News from the Field—PERC overview: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/PERC-Overview-Jan-Jun-2013.aspx>

PERC highlights: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/PERC-Highlights-Jan-June-2013.aspx>

Feedback—Cohesive Strategy—Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Cohesive-Wildland-Fire-Management-Strategy/169360363246751>

West: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/news/westpriority.shtml>

Northeast: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/news/northeastopportunities.shtml>

Southeast: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/news/southeastcoordination.shtml>

Resources—Make it a party: <http://serve.mt.gov/ready-montana/neighborhood-preparedness-party/>

Articles—ESA special issue: <http://www.esajournals.org/toc/fron/11/s1>

Articles—Rx & tree mortality: <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/fileHandler.ashx?File=/Lists/Products/Attachments/4830/1-s2.0-S0378112712005713-main.pdf>

Article—Climate & fire severity: <http://eepurl.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5f6de7b069a57255f980944b4&id=3392e8752f&e=a0d720a5e9>

In the News—WUI: http://www.denverpost.com/opinioncolumnists/ci_23778891/true-costs-living-forest

What's in a Name—Blog: <http://www.linkedin.com/today/post/article/20130819190438-36052017-cut-your-meeting-time-by-90>

Webinars—Effects of fuel treatments on wildfire (W TX): <http://fireindavismountains.eventbrite.com/>

Training, Conferences & Workshops—Networker #137: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/FLN-Networker-137.aspx>

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.

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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Southern Blue Ridge FLN Annual Workshop

May 2013

Using our knowledge of past fire regimes, current landscape conditions, and lessons learned to manage for more resilient landscapes with public support

At the 8th annual SBR FLN workshop, 75 attendees from more than 15 organizations participated in two days of presentations and discussions and a field trip to Tallulah Gorge State Park and the Chattooga River Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest. This was an opportunity for FLN members to return to sites visited during Workshop 4 to observe and discuss the fire effects on sites that had been treated with between one and three prescribed fires.

The workshop began with an overview of the Chattooga River Ranger District and the Upper Warwoman Landscape Management Project, followed by updates from researchers at the University of Tennessee on their work using dendrochronology and macroscopic soil charcoal to evaluate fire and forest history in the Southern Blue Ridge. The afternoon included presentations on smoke management and an outstanding series of presentations led by Megan Sutton, Katherine Medlock and Josh Kelly on landscape-level planning using VDDT models as a reference / benchmark for restoration. Discussion focused on assessing forest

structure and integrating those assessments into forest planning processes. The day concluded with a panel of representatives from each of the SBR FLN landscapes discussing successes and challenges within their landscapes.

Day two was a highlight of the workshop for many participants. A big “hats off” is in order to Nathan Klaus (Georgia DNR), and Dave Martin and Mike Brod (Chattooga River Ranger District) for a successful field trip that brought participants to a variety of thought-provoking areas and facilitated great discussions. Participants were impressed by restoration

work being done to create early successional habitat on Chestnut Mountain, where golden-winged warbler habitat is a management goal. They also enjoyed seeing some shortleaf pine restoration work in the Tugalo Village Burn Unit. The fire team showed flexibility in burning parts of a large

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Participants discussed fire effects at the Tugalo Village Burn Unit, the first stop on the workshop's field tour. © Evan Raskin/TNC



Participants engaged with a timber rattlesnake during the field trip, and discussed how prescribed fire is improving habitat for these and other reptiles in the Southern Blue Ridge.

© Evan Raskin/TNC

unit on days when resources like the helicopter and larger crews were not available. This was more efficient and increased safety when conditions were right to burn the bulk of the unit. Lunch overlooking the Tallulah Gorge provided a great vantage point for discussing the need to better communicate with the public about prescribed fire, as well as a beautiful view. A surprise visitor from the Orianne Society—a timber rattlesnake that participants had the chance to touch and observe up close!—and some

outstanding bus driving (thanks, Dave Martin) provided humor to an overall excellent day in the field.

The final day of the workshop packed in a number of great topics and discussions. Staff from North Carolina State Parks presented an excellent after action review of the Pilot Mountain Fire, a prescribed fire escape, demonstrating how lessons learned can significantly improve safety standards for a program. This led nicely into a discussion, led by Judy Toppins (USFS) and Debbie Crane (The Nature Conservancy), of communications and public opinion surrounding fire. Participants then had a chance to engage in discussion with a panel regarding lessons learned and landscape needs related to public relations and communications. Other highlights from the day included updates from state prescribed fire councils, a presentation from Eric Mosley of the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, and discussion of the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest plan revision process.

Overall this record-attendance workshop was very successful. Presentations from the workshop and other materials are posted at <http://2013sbrfln.weebly.com/>.

Participating Agencies & Organizations

Georgia Department of Natural Resources--Game Management, Nongame Conservation Section, and State Parks
 Georgia Forest Watch
 Georgia Forestry Commission
 Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance
 Greenville Water
 Land Trust for the Little Tennessee
 North Carolina State Parks
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Orianne Society
 Ruffed Grouse Society
 Shortleaf Pine Initiative
 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
 The Nature Conservancy—Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee chapters
 Towns County, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council
 University of Tennessee
 Upstate Forever
 US Forest Service--Chattahoochee-Oconee NF, Francis Marion & Sumter NFs, National Forests in North Carolina, Pisgah NF, Oconee NF, Region 8, and Southern Research Station
 Western Carolina University
 Western North Carolina Alliance



Nathan Klaus and Mike Brod gave a brief presentation on the Chestnut Mountain Project, while standing in an area of great habitat for the golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) on the last stop of the day. © Evan Raskin/TNC

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