

FLN Networker No. 146: November 27, 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: FireScope Monterey has put out its **first newsletter** (attached), which is full of information about **projects, events and organizations** that are helping make communities in the area safer.

California: More coverage of the recent **prescribed fire training exchange** is now online. The *Two Rivers Tribune* ran an [article](#), “Smoke Barely Cleared, Prep Starts for Next Fire,” putting the TREX **in context** of the summer’s fires, and various **community efforts**, in the landscape around Orleans/Somes Bar. And **Keith Perchemlides** (kperchemlides@tnc.org), an ecologist with the Conservancy’s Oregon chapter, wrote a good [blog post](#) about his **learning experiences** in the field.

Jeremy Bailey will talk about training exchanges in a **SW Fire Science Consortium** [webinar](#) on December 11; see the Webinar listings below for details. See the Trainings section for the [spring’s line-up](#) of training exchanges in Nebraska and Virginia.

Montana: Snow has come to the **Centennial Valley**, and with it some great weather for burning. On one day earlier this month, partners **burned 60 or 70 piles in aspen and old-growth Douglas-fir** and four large slash piles on a nearby ranch. The work is part of the fuels and restoration treatments being done under **Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency**. For more, contact **Nathan Korb** (nkorb@tnc.org).

New Mexico: **Eytan Krasilovsky** (eytan@forestguild.org) and **Phyllis Ashmead** (Southwest Jemez Mountains Restoration Project) were **interviewed** for the [Santa Fe Radio Café](#) on KSFR radio just before the **Southwest Fire Consortium** workshop, **Living with Fire in Northern New Mexico: Fire, Forests and Communities**. In addition to the workshop, they talked about wildfire, FAC concepts, and the Jemez CFLRP project.

Oregon & Washington: At the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region Ecology / Silviculture meeting earlier this month, **Chris Zanger** (czanger@tnc.org) and **Ryan Haugo** (rhaugo@tnc.org) gave a presentation to more than 60 people with initial results from the “**Washington and Oregon Forest Restoration Needs Analysis**” being conducted by a partnership between the two state chapters of the Conservancy and the Forest Service. The analysis will help the partners **set the context** for appropriate vegetation restoration treatments, **allocate limited resources**, **communicate** about forest restoration needs, and **evaluate** whether the restoration efforts are really making a difference. Materials from the analysis will be available early next year.

Virginia: The Virginia chapter of The Nature Conservancy hosted the **national workshop** for **Conservancy fire managers** at the **Allegheny Highlands landscape** a couple weeks ago. The field tour showcased some of the great collaborative work being done on the landscape, and a number of FLN staff and network leaders were able to talk collaboration, training and fire adapted communities with highly-engaged peers. For more, see the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Publication: The latest issue of *Ecology and Society* includes a [synthesis article](#) by **Mary Huffman** (mhuffman@tnc.org), “The Many **Elements of Traditional Fire Knowledge**: Synthesis, Classification, and Aids to **Cross-Cultural Problem Solving** in Fire-Dependent Systems around the World.”

Opportunities for Input: Stewardship Contracting / AZ Rx Council

Stewardship Contracting: The Pinchot Institute is hosting a **virtual meeting** on **December 11**, at which the **Forest Service** and **BLM** are **seeking input** regarding the future **use and development of stewardship contracting** for managing and restoring federal lands. The agenda and log-in information are in the attached flyer.

AZ Rx Council: The fire community in Arizona is **finalizing formation** of a prescribed fire council, and **will be accepting nominations** for chair, vice chair and secretary positions in mid-January. For more information, or to become involved with this council, contact **Bruce Greco** (bruce.greco@nau.edu).

Articles & Resources: Suppression & Bigger Fires / WUI Assessments

Suppression & Bigger Fires: An [MIT press release](#) describes research by a team at the Engineering Systems Division that **modeled** the **interacting physical and political systems** affecting fire management and results in Portugal. The “counterintuitive” results were that “after fifty years or so, a **fire-suppression policy** appears to result in **more burned land and more fires** per year than a prevention policy.” (The original article, “Forest Fire Management to Avoid Unintended Consequences: A Case Study of Portugal Using System Dynamics,” is in the *Journal of Environmental Management* ([abstract](#)).)

WUI Assessments: The **Forest Service** and the **National Volunteer Fire Council** have a **Wildland Fire Assessment Program** ([page](#)) that is offering **training** to help local fire departments conduct assessments for **homes in the wildland-urban interface**. They are offering in-person trainings in Michigan and Iowa (December), Oregon (January) and Nevada (March). For more information, see the attached flyer.

Just for Fun

“**Now**”: **Jeremy Bailey** got **a word in** (literally) on the Conservancy’s holiday [thank-you video](#).

Job: Fire Manager

Fire Manager: The **Conservancy** is hiring a **Colorado Fire Manager** to provide supervision, training and project development and coordination for the **Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Module** program and associated partner **training and public outreach** initiatives. For details, see the listing ([position #41657](#)); applications are due by **December 22**.

Webinars

December 5
new listing

Rx Fire First Aid

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

Eric Ward, EMT and firefighter, will discuss fireline first aid in this Great Plains Fire Science Exchange webinar.

Information: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/2013/11/26/rx-fire-first-aid-webinar-dec-5th-2pm-cst/>

December 10
new listing

The Human Side of Restoration

9:30 Pacific / 10:30 Mountain / 11:30 Central / 12:30 Eastern (1.5 hours)

The Human Side of Restoration webinar series, a joint project of the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, will explore how human communities and individual values, public opinions, and

social structures interface with ecological restoration. The series will provide a forum for managers and social scientists to share their insights and experiences with the “human side” of restoration.

Information & registration: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2V8LN9X>

December 11
new listing

Cooperative Burning and Training Exchanges

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

In this SW Fire Science Consortium webinar, **Jeremy Bailey** will discuss the FLN's prescribed fire training exchanges and how they are being used to train local workforces to advance burning across all lands. In the past seven years, these training exchanges have been deployed on federal, state and private lands, bringing together federal, state and private firefighters of all skill levels. They also integrate scientists, researchers, local land managers and cultural aspects of fire to bring more “good fire” to the landscape.

Information: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/cooperative-burning-and-training-exchanges-registration-9522023629>

FLN Workshops

December 3

Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains Landscape / Blairsville, GA

The inaugural workshop (originally set for October 22) 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)

December 5-6

Northern California Prescribed Fire Council / Redding, CA

Registration is now open for this meeting, which will focus on prescribed fire and oak woodlands, wildlife and habitat. As usual, there will be a full-day meeting with research and management presentations, an evening social with good food and drink, and a field tour guided by local land managers and scientists.

Information: http://norcalrxfirecouncil.org/Fall_2013_Meeting.html

Training, Conferences & Workshops

Jan 13-17, 2014
deadline

Rx510 – Advanced Fire Effects / Tucson, AZ

The National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) is offering this course; the nomination deadline is **December 6**.

Information: http://www.nafri.gov/pages/description_rx510.htm

Feb 20-22, 2014

Fire Ecology of the NE: Restoring Native & Cultural Ecosystems / CT

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?”

(continued)

Some travel grants are available; [applications](#) for these are due January 10.
Info: <http://swfireconsortium.org/Fire%20and%20Resiliency%20Ecology%20Workshop/>

March 10-22
new listing

Niobrara Valley Preserve Spring Break Training Exchange / NE

This FLN prescribed fire training exchange, open to all practitioners, will include numerous university students. Students should register through SAFE at <http://goo.gl/n5qq8z> by **December 15**. All others should apply using form included in the announcement, with a deadline of **January 17**.

Information: https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Documents/Niobrara_River_NE_TREX_Announcement_2014.doc
Application: https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Documents/Niobrara%20River_NE_TRE%20RegistrationForm_2014.docx

March 24-April 2
new listing

Loup River Valley Training Exchange / Ord, NE

Applications for this prescribed fire training hosted by the Great Plains FLN, The Nature Conservancy and Pheasants Forever are due by **January 17**.

Information: https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Documents/Loup_River_NE_TREX_Announcement_2014.doc
Application: https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Documents/Loup_River_NE_TREX_RegistrationForm_2014.docx

March 31-April 11
updated link

Virginia Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / VA

This prescribed fire training exchange, hosted by the Central Appalachians FLN and partners, will be held in the mountains and coastal plain of Virginia.

Nomination forms are due by **December 31**.

Info: https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Documents/VA_TREX_2014_Announcement_and_Nomination_Form.docx

April 8-10, 2014

Oregon Prescribed Fire Council / Bend, OR

The first meeting of this new prescribed fire council will be held in conjunction with the Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium at OSU. Rx310 Fire Effects will be offered that week as well.

Information: oregonrxfirecouncil@gmail.com

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 is open.

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

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Austin, TX December 9-13.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in out December 3.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Georgia & North Carolina December 2-7.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in the office.

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

Liz Rank (Networker Editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is in the office.

Note: November 28 and 29 are Conservancy holidays.

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—TRENCH article: <http://www.tworivertribune.com/2013/11/smoke-barely-cleared-prep-starts-for-next-fire/>
Blog: https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Pages/Perchemlides_blog.aspx

News from the Field—NM—Santa Fe Radio Café interview: <http://www.santaferadiocafe.org/shows/RC%2011-13-13%202.mp3>

News from the Field—Huffman publication: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol18/iss4/art3/>

Articles & Resources—Suppression & bigger fires: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2013/forest-fire-management-1120.html>

Articles & Resources—Wildland Fire Assessment Program: <http://www.nvfc.org/programs/wildland-fire-assessment-program>

Just for Fun—Video: <http://my.nature.org/donate/thanksgiving.html?src=fln.networker>

Job—Fire manager: https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=41657&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

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 Scape Monterey

As part of the on-going collaborative spirit of Fire Scape Monterey, and in an effort to bring motivated people together toward accomplishment, we have compiled a list of active projects happening in the Big Sur area that reflect the values of Fire Scape Monterey. We are excited because there are a lot of projects going on in our area to make our communities more fire safe. We have kept the description of each project short but following the description is a way to get more information and how to get involved and help. Together we ARE making it happen!

- **The Fire Safe Council for Monterey County** meets on the last Thursday of every month. They have several different fuel reduction projects happening around the county. Check out their website <http://www.firesafemonterey.org/> and drop by one of the meetings to learn more about the potential this great group of people offer.
- **Big Sur Land Use Plan Update Process** - The Big Sur Land Use Plan is being updated through weekly public meetings held by the Big Sur and South Coast Land Use Advisory Committees. The Committees have included in the Update an added emphasis on the need for fuel reduction work around structures and infrastructures. Meetings are held every Monday from 9:30- 12:30 p.m. at the Big Sur Multi-Agency Facility. Contact: bigsur@sprynet.com; or visit the Big Sur LUP update Web Site: <http://bslup.weebly.com/> for more information.
- **Andrew Molera State Park Prescribed Burn Project** – California State Parks, in collaboration with Cal Fire, El Sur Ranch and U.S. Forest Service, is scheduled to burn a 70 acre plot in the eastern portion of the park in fall 2013, for vegetation management/native grassland restoration. (Contact: Jeff Frey at (831)384-0956)
- **Strategic Community Fuelbreak Improvement Project** – The Monterey District of the Los Padres National Forest is proposing to re-establish and maintain selected historically used fuelbreaks located in and outside of wilderness – all of which originated as firelines – within the wildland urban interface on National Forest System lands. The purpose of this project is to enhance protection of at-risk communities from wildfire. (Contact: Jeff Kwasny; j kwasny@fs.fed.us)
- **Hazard Mitigation Treatments on Non-Federal Lands** – The Los Padres National Forest has received funds that will be passed through to the Mid Coast Fire Brigade and Cachagua Fire Protection District for hazard mitigation treatments in the wildland urban interface immediately adjacent to planned fuel hazard reduction projects on National Forest System lands. (Contact: Jeff Kwasny; j kwasny@fs.fed.us)
- **The South Coast Community Fuel Hazard Reduction project** – The Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, in cooperation with CAL FIRE and utilizing grant money from the USFS, has completed significant fuel reduction work in some of the enclaves from Lucia to Gorda Mountain. This project included roadside fuel management and strategic defensible space.
- **Pre-Attack Planning** – CAL FIRE, Monterey County – Fuel Mitigation Officer, and the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association, have completed draft pre-attack planning maps and associated geodatabase for the communities of Palo Colorado and Bryson-Hesperia. Work continues to refine those maps, as well as branching out to other communities in Monterey County. The efforts include interagency planning and coordination, as well as future grant applications for funding printing and distribution to emergency responders, as well as community evacuation maps.

- **SOD Research** – UCDavis has been researching Sudden Oak Death in the Big Sur area since 2006. Researchers are not only learning about the pathogen that causes SOD, but also about the fire ecology of coastal California. (Contact: Kerri Frangioso; kfrangioso@ucdavis.edu)
- **Coastlands Mutual Water Company SOD management plan**– Includes the removal of symptomatic bay trees near healthy oak trees along a shared roadway. Utilizing an established, working protocol to permanently remove bays they are in the process of soliciting feedback from the affected property owners prior to removal. (Contact: Butch Kronlund, bpkronlund@aol.com)
- **The Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA)** works to preserve and restore the wilderness qualities and biodiversity of public lands within the northern Santa Lucia Mountains by protecting wilderness access (VWA Trail Crew), educating backcountry visitors (Volunteer Wilderness Rangers), and inspiring the next generation of advocates and stewards (Youth in Wilderness Program). Please visit www.ventanawild.org for interactive trail conditions reports, a backcountry discussion forum, and ways you can help protect our shared legacy of public lands in the Big Sur and Ventana region.
- A **Cultural Resources Program** is currently being designed by members of the Esselen tribe. The program will begin with a workshop on Native American Cultural Burning Practices next Spring – 2014 on Esselen Elder, Fred Nason’s (90 years old) Ranch on Tassajara Rd. It will include stories and demonstrations on how the Esselen used fire to manipulate the landscape and produce more abundant foods for survival. Old photos and slide shows will be shown to help guests to understand these ancient practices.(Contact: Tom “Little Bear” Nason, tom@ventana.us)
- **Fire Scape Monterey Workshop #8** was at Rancho San Carlos where we saw examples of invasive species management, rangeland management including prescribed fire, bay removal to help slow Sudden Oak Death, fuel reduction in a variety of habitats and examples of how the community strives to be more fire adapted. Next workshop Spring of 2014 TBA, please visit <http://firescape.ning.com/> for more information.

It is an exciting time for the area! Since the 2008 fires people all over the area have been working together in an array of ways to make our area safer and more prepared for the next fire. We want to keep the momentum moving forward toward a well prepared fire safe community which can contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

If you have a project, or an idea for a project and are looking for a way to share or get it off the ground, please join the Fire Scape Monterey web site <http://firescape.ning.com/>, share it with us and look for the dates of our next workshop in the spring of 2014.



Kuksui Fire Ceremony in Round House- Esselen Tribe, and Fire Scape Monterey participants at workshop #8.



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Allegheny Highlands FLN Hosts The Nature Conservancy Fire Managers & Burn Boss Meeting

Warm Springs, Virginia

November 2013

The Allegheny Highlands FLN hosted 70 staff from around the country at the Conservancy's annual Fire Managers and Burn Boss Workshop. For three days, participants engaged in discussions on a wide range of topics, including leadership skills, fire policy, the organization's history of fire management, and funding for fire management.

The FLN—locally and nationally—contributed much to the discussions on communications, collaboration and partnerships, and training opportunities. Wendy Fulks and Jeremy Bailey were part of a panel discussion on working with other fire networks, introducing the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network to the group, and talking

about the Fire Learning Network, prescribed fire training exchanges and prescribed fire councils. Many attendees expressed an intention of following up with them to see how they might incorporate the training, fire adapted communities, or both in their work.

Marek Smith gave an overview of the partnership work in the Allegheny Highlands, which served as an introduction to the field trip. The field tour of the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project, organized by Nikole Swaney, was described by several people as the best TNC field trip they'd been on. It included four working stops, covering an overview of the preserve, an introduction to fire in montane pine barrens and the FLN work

there, benefits and challenges to landscape-scale burning, a review of the Big Wilson Burn, and the Forest-wide monitoring program. Participants were also able to interact with a number of partners on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, and heard great support for the partnership's work from Forest Supervisor Tom Speaks. The outing closed with a social hour a short walk from the Mare Run burn unit, where participants could explore the effects of burns conducted in 2009 and 2013. A packet of maps and monitoring information provided excellent supporting information for this tour.



Sam Lindblom, who was the local lead in delivering this outstanding workshop, leads a discussion during a field tour of the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project.

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For more information, contact:

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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 or (801) 320-0524.



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National Stewardship Contracting Virtual Meeting

December 11, 2013

12:30pm EST - 2:45pm EST

<https://connect.msu.edu/sc>



You are invited to participate in a web-based meeting about Stewardship Contracting on federal public lands. Stewardship Contracting is one of the most important tools the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have for managing and restoring federal lands. We are seeking your input regarding the future use and development of Stewardship Contracting as part of the 2013 Programmatic Monitoring of Stewardship Contracts and Agreements.

During this web-based meeting you will help identify strategies for:

- Improving the use of stewardship authorities and engagement by communities;
- Replicating successes identified through the programmatic monitoring program;
- Overcoming barriers to the expanded use of stewardship contracting identified through the programmatic monitoring program.

Agenda

Virtual Meeting Room and Conference Line:

<https://connect.msu.edu/sc>

Dial-in Number: (712) 432-1500

Access Code: 671438#

National Level Update - 12:30-1:20pm EST

- Perspectives from the BLM and Forest Service on Stewardship Contracting Authority
- Stewardship Contracting in the context of agency management and restoration strategies
- 2013 Programmatic Monitoring Survey Results
- Facilitated discussion: question & answer

Regional Perspectives - 1:20-2:45pm EST

- Regional distinctions and trends, obstacles, opportunities, and innovations
- Case studies of stewardship contracts and agreements
- Facilitated discussion: identifying strategies for implementing recommendations, replicating successes, and overcoming barriers

For background on Programmatic Monitoring of Stewardship Contracting:

http://www.pinchot.org/gp/Stewardship_Contracting



Wildland Fire Assessment Program Coming to an Area Near You!

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Volunteer Fire Council to provide departments with training on how to properly conduct assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface. This is the first program targeted to volunteers that specifically prepares a firefighter or a non-operational department volunteer for how to conduct an assessment, what to look for during an assessment, as well as provides printed materials needed to determine how close they are to becoming a fire-adapted community. The course is a four-part, train-the-trainer series that covers understanding the WUI problem, identifying the zones, evaluating the home, and available resources.

WFAP has a variety of in-person training sessions scheduled. Check out the locations below to see if WFAP will be presented in your area. A registration link is provided for each session. Classroom attendance is limited, so sign up today to participate in this training.

- **Saturday, December 7 at the MI Fire Service Training Center – Grand Rapids, MI**
<https://wfap.wufoo.com/forms/mi-wildland-fire-assessment-program/>
- **Saturday, December 14 at the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau – Ames, IA**
<https://wfap.wufoo.com/forms/ia-wildland-fire-assessment-program/>
- **Saturday, January 4 at Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue – The Dalles, OR**
<https://wfap.wufoo.com/forms/or-wildland-fire-assessment-program/>
- **Monday, March 17 at the IAFC Wildland-Urban Interface Conference - Reno, NV**
<http://www.iafc.org/WUI>

If you have questions about any of the trainings above, email Lori Moon at lmoon@nvfc.org or call 202-887-5700.