

FLN Networker No. 147: December 11, 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 diverse group of 30 stakeholders in the new **FireScape Mendocino** landscape gathered for their **first planning workshop** last month. A brief summary is in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Georgia: A **new landscape** project was launched in the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** with a **workshop** in Blairsville last week. The **Georgia Blue Ridge Landscape** encompasses much of the Blue Ridge in Georgia west of the existing landscape in the Warwoman/Tallulah Gorge area, and includes the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** hub community of **Towns County**. The day-long workshop attracted a diverse group of **48 people** from a wide variety of agencies, organizations and interest groups; landscape leads made the case for initiating the project, then solicited ideas for **goals**, constraints, **focal areas** and research needs. A smaller **follow-up meeting** will take place in late January or early February to refine these lists and begin an action plan. For more on this new landscape, contact **Malcolm Hodges** (mhodges@tnc.org) or **Jim Wentworth** (jwentworth@fs.fed.us).

Missouri: **Daniel Godwin** recently received the Edward Komarek **Graduate Student Excellence Award** from the **Association of Fire Ecology**. Among the items cited for his [selection for this national award](#) were his leadership in the University of Missouri **Student Association for Fire Ecology** chapter, including his work **participating** in—and **promoting** among fellow students—FLN **prescribed fire training exchanges**.

New Mexico: The **prescribed fire training exchange** in Black Lake this fall was intended to build local capacity and support for prescribed fire. **Eytan Krasilovsky** (eytan@forestquild.org) reports that **four Rocky Mountain Youth Corps** members who **took part in the exchange** are **leading prescribed pile burning** this month on ten acres of private lands in Taos Canyon under a partnership between Taos County and the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District.

Eytan also reports a **good response at a community meeting** last weekend to a presentation he gave on treatments that will be conducted in the coming year under **Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency** (SPER). Motivated by the nearby Tres Lagunas Fire last summer, landowners have already begin submitting applications to be a part of this work.

Opportunity for Input: NPS Wildland Fire Strategic Plan

NPS Plan: The **National Park Service** is inviting those who “live, work, or play in an area which has the potential to be affected by wildland fire activity” to **comment on** its 12-page [2014-2019 Wildland Fire Strategic Plan](#). The comment period closes **January 15**.

Articles & Reports: Great Basin Fire Effects / Fire Severity

Great Basin Fire Effects: The **Forest Service** has published a [general technical report](#), “A Review of **Fire Effects on Vegetation and Soils** in the Great Basin Regions: Response and Ecological Site Characteristics.” The report—covering **semi-arid systems** in the central and northern **Great Basin and Range**, **Columbia River Basin** and **Snake River Plain**—summarizes available literature on topics that include effects on individual species and communities, invasive species, surrogate treatments, etc.

Fire Severity: In “Unsupported Inferences of High-Severity Fire in Historical Dry Forests of the Western United States: Response to Williams and Baker,” a [correspondence item](#) in *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, Peter Fulé and 17 co-authors **take issue with the conclusions** drawn by **Williams and Baker (2012)** in “Spatially Extensive Reconstructions Show Variable-Severity Fire and Heterogeneous Structure in Historical Western United States Dry Forests.” Fulé et al. assert that “conservation of dry forest ecosystems in the western United States ... is not consistent with a present-day disturbance regime of large, high-severity fires, especially under changing climate.”

Maps: WUI Development / Forest Service App

WUI Development: [Headwaters Economics](#) has an interesting **interactive map** of WUI development in the West, on a county basis. Counties are coded based on **percentage of the WUI** that is still **undeveloped**, highlighting places where **land-use policy** changes may have the greatest effect on **managing costs** of wildfire.

Forest Service App: According to a recent [news release](#), a variety of maps are now available for **Android and iOS mobile devices**. Maps are available through a free app, with individual maps ranging from free (e.g. motor vehicle use maps) to a few dollars (forest visitor maps). About **700 maps are available** now, and **interactive maps are in the works**. The release notes that these should be useful to wildland firefighters as well as for public use.

Jobs: Partnership Coordinator / Fire Manager & Module / Extension

Partnership Coordinator: The **Malheur National Forest** is accepting applications for a partnership coordinator through **December 17**. Details (for [current federal](#) employees and [others](#)) on [usajobs.gov](#).

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 initiatives** in partner training and public outreach. For details, see the listing ([position #41657](#)); applications are due by **December 22**.

Module: The chapter is also hiring a **squad boss** ([position #41674](#)), **lead firefighter** ([position #41673](#)) and two **crew members** ([position #41675](#)) for the module. Applications are due **December 22**.

Assistant Professor (Extension): This position is being established to **connect** the College of Forestry at Oregon State with **collaboratives and community-based groups**. The incumbent will work with federal agencies like the Forest Service and BLM; NGOs like Sustainable Northwest and The Nature Conservancy; state agencies; and the myriad collaborative natural resource management groups operating around the state and region. For details, visit <http://oregonstate.edu/jobs/> and search for posting 0011646; applications are due by **January 1**.

Webinar

**December 12
new listing**

Validation of Fuel Consumption Models for Smoke Management Planning in the Eastern United States

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern (2 hours)

Roger Ottmar and Susan Prichard will present and discuss data in this webinar hosted by the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center, JFSP and IAWF.

Information: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/773568369>

FLN Workshops

May 20-22
new listing

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Cashiers, NC

Save the date for the next SBR FLN regional workshop. Suggestions for topics and speakers should be submitted by early January, and a draft agenda will be available in February.

Information: **Margit Bucher** (mbucher@tnc.org) or **Beth Buchanan** (bbuchanan@fs.fed.us)

Training, Conferences & Workshops

Feb 20-22, 2014

Fire Ecology of the Northeast: Restoring Native and Cultural Ecosystems / New Haven, 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?”

Some travel grants are available; [applications](#) for these are due January 10.

Info: <http://swfireconsortium.org/Fire%20and%20Resiliency%20Ecology%20Workshop/>

March 10-22

SAFE deadline

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: http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Pages/2014_trex_announce.aspx

March 24-April 2

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: http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Pages/2014_trex_announce.aspx

March 31-April 11

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**.

Information: http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Pages/2014_trex_announce.aspx

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 the office.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out December 20.

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: December 25 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—Daniel Godwin: <http://biology.missouri.edu/news/daniel-godwin-wins-national-student-excellence-award-for-fire-ecology-work/>

Opportunity for Input—NPS plan: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=48692>

Articles & Reports—Great Basin fire effects: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr308.pdf

Articles & Reports—Fire severity: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/geb.12136/full>

Maps—WUI development: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/interactive/wui-development-and-wildfire-costs>

Maps—FS app: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2013/releases/11/e-maps.shtml>

Jobs—Partnership coordinator—Current federal employees: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/356603700>

Other applicants: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/356605000>

Jobs—Colorado 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

Jobs—Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Module—Squad boss: https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=41674&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

Lead firefighter: https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=41673&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

Crew members: https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=41675&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 Learning Network Notes from the Field

Stonyford, California

FireScape Mendocino Workshop 1

November 2013

In early November, 30 people gathered to initiate a stakeholder-based approach to fire management of the Mendocino National Forest and, to the extent that neighboring landowners are interested, to the surrounding area. The group brought diverse backgrounds to the table—and to the field, as they visited the forest together—as well as enthusiasm for diving in to the work.

Fire Learning Network staff will help facilitate the early stages for this “all lands approach,” using a planning methodology outlined in the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. This first workshop was designed to guide the group to conceptualize the scope, vision and conservation targets for its work, which will bring focus to the emerging collaboration. After two days of drawing on maps, brainstorming and peer assists, six sets of draft scope maps, vision statements and targets had been produced. The landscape’s core team will follow this up by consolidating the perspectives of

all the participants into a single draft scope map and vision statement, as well as five to seven targets for the group’s consideration at the next workshop.



The language and culture advisor for the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians collects acorns in a black oak grove near the Summit Springs Trailhead of the Mendocino National Forest, sharing with others on the field tour their importance as food for many California tribes. © TNC/Wendy Fulks



In a peer assist exercise, an archaeologist from one working group shares his group’s work on the geographic scope for FireScape Mendocino. Around him, participants from other work groups will ask clarifying questions and probe assumptions, allowing his group to refine their work. © TNC/Mary Huffman



Near the Summit Springs Trailhead, participants share their reflections on what the landscape of the Mendocino National Forest means to each of them. © TNC/Wendy Fulks

Participating Agencies & Organizations

- Blue Ribbon Coalition
- California State Parks
- Earth Island Institute
- Environmental Protection Information Center
- Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians
- Pendell Apiaries
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Sunflower Coordinated Resource Management Plan
- Tehama County Resource Conservation District
- The Nature Conservancy—California
- USDA Forest Service—Mendocino National Forest
- and area residents and landowners

For more information, contact:

Mary Huffman
mhuffman@tnc.org

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