

FLN Networker No. 148: December 24, 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: In the [fall/winter issue](#) of *Forest & River News*, a good **article** (p. 13) by **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** (lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu) covers this fall's northern California **prescribed fire training exchange**, and how it fit in with **local needs** across a wide landscape and the work of the **prescribed fire council**. Later in the issue, an article (p. 26) by **Redwood National Park** fire ecologist **Eamon Engber** describes the burning done in the Park in **more depth**, giving a shout-out to the **TREX for making the burns possible**.

California: A **workshop summary and presentations** from the meeting of the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council** are now available on the [council's website](#).

California: In the **FireScope Monterey** landscape, the 917-acre **Pfeiffer Fire** started around midnight on December 17. [The fire](#) is now contained, but destroyed 38 structures. FireScope **co-leads** from the Forest Service and the Big Sur community were able to put their **collaborative relationships** and **local knowledge** to use to **assist the Incident Management Team** during the fire.

California: The **response** of the **Karuk Tribe** to last summer's **Dance Fire**—along with good application of **fire adapted community principles**—was highlighted in the most recent [newsletter](#) of the Western Regional Strategy Committee.

Washington: The **Washington Prescribed Fire Council** has announced the hiring of a part-time **coordinator**, **Kara Karbowski** (wa.rxfirecouncil@gmail.com), starting the first of the year. This will greatly **increase its capacity** for the planning, communications and outreach needed for a vibrant council. The council has also announced the dates for the spring **conference—March 4-5**; see the listings below for details as they are available.

Map: An updated **map of the FLN** is now available on [Conservation Gateway](#). This is a good time to **replace any older versions** you may have in presentations, etc. As always, if you need a map in a different format or with different labelling, contact **Liz Rank** (lrnk@tnc.org).

Funding: NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program

NRCS CSP: Funds are available for conservation activities on **private or tribal agricultural or nonindustrial forest lands**. Details (including a [self-screening checklist](#)) are available on the [NRCS website](#). Eligible landowners should apply by **January 17**.

Resources & Reports: Downscaled Climate Data / Wildfire Cost / Local Fire Departments

Downscaled Climate Data: **Maps and summaries** of historical and **projected temperature and precipitation changes** for the 21st century for the continental U.S. at a **county level** are [available on a website](#) developed by the USGS in collaboration with Oregon State University ([press release](#)). The results are based on **NASA downscaling of 33 climate models**, with the resulting NASA dataset on an 800-meter grid. A similar implementation for USGS nested **hydrologic units** will be available in the next month.

Wildfire Cost: A [report](#) released last summer by **Headwaters Economics**, “The Rising Cost of Wildfire Protection,” documents the increasing severity of wildfire seasons and the rising cost of fighting wildfires, discusses how home **development helps drive those costs**, and suggests some **possible solutions**.

Local Fire Departments: The National Fire Protection Association (**NFPA**) has [released the report](#), “**Brush, Grass and Forest Fires**.” The report looks at various aspects of the fires to which **municipal and county fire departments responded** from 2007 through 2011 (an average of 915 a day), as well as some **safety guidelines**, and a section analyzing **mulch fires**.

For Fun: Call for Exhibit Photos

Photos: Organizers of the *Fire Ecology in the Northeast* workshop (to be held at the Yale School of Forestry, February 20-22) are soliciting **entries for a photography exhibit** to run in conjunction with the workshop. The exhibit will feature **fire and ecosystems in North America**; photos chosen will be mounted on foam core and displayed during and after the workshop. Submit entries (a high resolution file with a title and two or three sentences about the photo) to **Mary Tyrrell** (mary.tyrrell@yale.edu) by **January 5**.

Job: Wildlife Biologist (Rx)

Wildlife Biologist: Pheasants Forever and **Nebraska Game & Parks Commission** are hiring a wildlife biologist with a **focus on prescribed fire** duties. See the attached flyer for details; applications are due by **January 10**.

Webinar

January 15
new listing

Black Lake Prescribed Burn: Lessons Learned in Capacity Building for Prescribed Fire

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

In this Southwest Fire Science Consortium webinar, **Eytan Krasilovsky** will share challenges and lessons learned surrounding the Forest Guild's prescribed fire training exchange. Forest Guild and the New Mexico State Land Office, with support from the Fire Learning Network, held the exchange to burn 900 acres of state trust lands in a wildland-urban interface in northern New Mexico. Funded by the Forest Service's Collaborative Forest Restoration Program, this 5-day event included both experienced and first-time firefighters. The after-action reviews contributed to meaningful lessons learned for the parties involved but also for those interested in implementing collaborative burning efforts elsewhere.

Register: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-lake-prescribed-burn-lessons-learned-in-building-capacity-for-prescribed-fire-registration-9853187148>

FLN Workshops

March 4-5
save the date

Washington Prescribed Fire Council Conference / Olympia, WA

Save the date for the next gathering of this council, which will feature speakers, mini-workshops and a poster session to share learning and training opportunities from around the state.

May 20-22

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

February 20-22

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/>

February 25-27

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

Niobrara Valley Preserve Spring Break Training Exchange / NE

This FLN prescribed fire training exchange, open to all practitioners, will include numerous university students. Applications are due by **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
deadline**

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

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

**April 30-May 1
new listing**

Relationships between Fire Management and Quality of Foraging Habitat for Bats: A Workshop for Scientists and Managers / Mammoth Cave NP, KY

Save the date for this workshop that will feature a synthesis of JFSP research on the topic

Information: see the attached CAFMS newsletter

May 19-23

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 out December 27 and 30.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out December 26-27.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out January 2-3.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is out December 31.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out December 23-27.

Liz Rank (Networker Editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out December 26 and 31.

Note: December 25 and January 1 are Conservancy holidays: all FLN staff off.

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—CA—Karuk Tribe in WRSC newsletter: <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b4052ed78560498da372b666f&id=126995d9c4&e=09f23eca7d>

News from the Field—CA—Forest & River News: http://www.treesfoundation.org/FRN_FallWinter2013.pdf

News from the Field—CA—NorCal Rx Council: <http://www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org/Events.html>

News from the Field—FLN map: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/Files/Pages/map-fire-learning-network.aspx>

Funding—NRCS CSP: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

Resources & Reports—Downscaled climate data: http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/clu_rd/nex-dcp30.asp

Resources & Reports—Wildfire cost: <http://www.wphfi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/fire-costs-background-report.pdf>

Reports & Resources—Local fire departments: <http://wildfire.blog.nfpa.org/2013/11/according-to-new-nfpa-report-local-fire-departments-respond-to-915-brush-grass-and-forest-fires-per-.html>

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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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



LOCATION

TBD

TITLE

**Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
Pheasants Forever**

SALARY

**\$36,000
+ benefits**

Start Date: on or about February 1, 2014

Full Time, Long-term

Application Deadline: January 10, 2014

Salary Information:

Starting salary of \$36,000 per year increasing to \$39,164 per year after 1 year of service with a favorable annual review.

Description

The employee will encourage safe and effective prescribed burning on private and public lands in Nebraska. They will also increase the credibility, support, and capacity of prescribed burning activities on private and public lands in Nebraska. Pheasants Forever (PF) and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) staff will jointly supervise this position. This employee will coordinate the development of prescribed and wildfire standards for NGPC staff. This employee will be building advocacy for prescribed fire with landowners, fire departments, prescribed burn associations and key decision makers within the state.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant, quail and other upland wildlife through habitat improvement, public awareness, education and advocacy for sound land management policy.

Responsibilities

Primary responsibilities of this position include the development and implementation of prescribed and wildfire guidelines/standards and training to be used by Nebraska Game and Parks and Pheasants Forever staff. Continue the development of training workshops for private landowners. Provide outreach to fire departments and prescribed fire associations on prescribed fire. Write and review prescribed burn plans for private landowners and biologists.

The biologist will work closely with a wide range of individuals and resource professionals to meet the objectives. This position will require a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills and a strong work ethic. This effort will provide an opportunity to make significant contributions to the conservation of natural resources in Nebraska.

Essential Job Duties:

- Coordinate, design, and implement prescribed and wildfire standards and training for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Identify prescribed fire training needs and develop training for private landowners
- Write prescribed burn plans for private landowners

- Review prescribed burn plans for biologists
- Increase credibility and support of prescribed fire with private landowners, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals.
- Prepare budgets, assist with grant writing, and monitor expenditures.
- Assist with annual Prescribed Fire Conference/Council
- Provide outreach to Fire Districts regarding prescribed fire

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Extensive knowledge of wildlife habitat management techniques, principles, goals and objectives; This includes familiarity with Great Plains prairie plant and animal species and knowledge of grazing systems, prescribed fire, tree clearing and exotic plant control.
- Extensive Knowledge and experience with prescribed fire and/or wildfire
- The individual must be able to work effectively with private landowners, governmental agency staff and conservation organization representatives.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision and with diverse personalities.
- Ability to accomplish goals with limited supervision.
- Ability to organize, develop, and implement educational and outreach activities, including workshops, seminars, and publications.
- Knowledge of conservation program offerings, including USDA Conservation Programs (CRP, CCRP, EQIP, WHIP, etc.) and state and local programs.
- Good computer skills including knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, and ArcView/ArcGIS.
- Valid driver's license required.

Required Education and Experience:

Bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, plant ecology, range management, or closely related natural resources field (M.S. preferred). Prior experience with private lands conservation and land management is also preferred. Working knowledge of farming and ranching operations. Prescribed fire training with field experience and writing of burn plans required.

Application:

To apply, visit the Pheasants Forever website at: www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs
Application consists of a cover letter that outlines your experience and interest in this position along with a resume and list of references. Please attach all the application materials as one word document.

For more information about the position, contact Peter Berthelsen, Director of Habitat Partnerships at 308-390-0848 or e-mail at: pberthelsen@pheasantsforever.org.

Pheasants Forever, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Posted December 17, 2013

CAFMS Newsletter



December 19, 2013

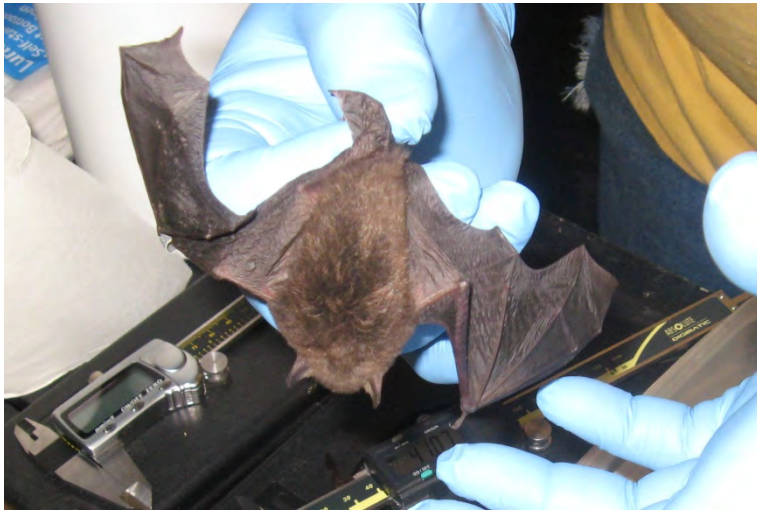
Volume 3 Issue 4

Discussing the relationships between fire management and the quality of foraging habitat for bats: A workshop for scientists and land managers

Mark your calendars for this event on April 30th and May 1st, 2014, at Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky. The primary focus of this workshop will be a synthesis of research funded through the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP #10-1-06-1). Results will be presented in a multi-trophic context that that will be relevant for stewards and scientists alike across the Appalachians and Oak Woodlands Consortia.

Prescribed fires in mixed-oak forests are hypothesized to have positive effects on foraging and roosting habitat that may outweigh the risks to forest bats from smoke and heat exposures during fires. Published data on fire and bat foraging habitat are few for this ecosystem, however, particularly for the critical periods before and after hibernation. This project has focused on testing hypotheses about the relationships between fire's effects on insect prey availability and canopy structure and their relationship to bats' selection of foraging areas during the pre- and post-hibernation periods at Mammoth Cave National Park (MCNP) in Kentucky. Habitat quality pre- and post-hibernation is critical because bats must go into hibernation with sufficient fat reserves and they often leave hibernation in poor condition. Bat condition may become even more important with the arrival of the White-nose Syndrome (WNS), which was detected at MCNP during the winter of 2012-2013.





Studies have been ongoing at MCNP since fall of 2010, resulting in a data set that is comprehensive in its coverage of forest vegetation, insect herbivores, and bats prior to and concurrent with the arrival of WNS at this burned landscape. This study has elucidated relationships between bats and forest vegetation, with data suggesting that varied bat species (including the Indiana bat and other *Myotis* species) are responsive to forest canopy conditions in ways that are directly relatable to fire

management prescriptions. These models of activity patterns across a burned landscape will be discussed in relation to prey consumption patterns and measurements of insect abundance and diversity. Discussion will also encompass the applications of LiDAR-mapping efforts for other management applications, as well as describe multi-year effects of prescribed fire and herbivory on oak seedlings. Registration will begin in February of 2014 on www.cafms.org.



Communicate With Us!



Find us on twitter @APfirescience or find us on Facebook by searching Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists.

Join CAFMS:

The consortium is for all land managers and researchers in the region who deal with any aspect of fire. To join, simply provide us with some contact information at the web site listed below.

www.CAFMS.org

Helen Mohr helen@cafms.org

Tom Waldrop tom@cafms.org

