

FLN Networker No. 149: January 8, 2014

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

Welcome: We are fortunate to have our **first FLN volunteer** starting this week. **Guy Duffner** (guyduffner@gmail.com), a Montana native, comes to us with an MS in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University. His graduate school emphasis was in environmental and community health planning, and he interned with the USFS during his time at FSU, completing NEPA analyses and assisting in the management of the Florida National Scenic Trail. His other experiences range from firefighting as a USFS hotshot crew member to working in the Chilean Andes at a Ramsar-designated high mountain wetland preserve to providing medical support to the US Navy and Marine Corps as a hospital corpsman. He will be volunteering for a few months to gain additional experience with the FLN, Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, prescribed fire, and TREX. Guy is working from the Salt Lake City office.

Georgia: The **SBR FLN** will be conducting a **LiDAR analysis of vegetation** condition in the **Upper Warwoman landscape** and a few other focal areas in the Chattooga River RD (Chattahoochee-Oconee NF). As part of this, a workshop will be held next month (see listings below) to refine the relevant LANDFIRE models. A **similar process was completed** on the **Cherokee National Forest** in Tennessee and **Pisgah National Forest** in North Carolina, so **several key players** will attend the Warwoman meeting to **provide input**, direction and **share lessons learned**. For more, contact **Mike Brod** (mbrod@fs.fed.us).

North Carolina: Holidays or not, the **Forest Service** conducted a **200-acre burn** on the Grandfather Ranger District in mid-December, with some **help from partners**, including the **Conservancy**. The press release on the burn linked to a [page with lots of good background](#) on “restoring fire to the mountains.”

Oregon: The *Ashland Daily Tidings* is [reporting](#) a win-win situation: Some of the **small-diameter wood** removed by the **Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project** in **thinning** designed to **reduce wildfire risk** has been **donated** to low-income families to help with **home heating** this winter.

Washington: **Dale Swedberg's** (dale.swedberg@dfw.wa.gov) article “**Rx Fire Helps Deer**” (attached) appears in the November / December issue of the Mule Deer Foundation's magazine. The article **succinctly summarizes the benefits** of fire for this species, based on work in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, and a table comparing wildfire to controlled fire concisely makes an argument in favor of supporting the latter.

National MOU: The **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** and **The Nature Conservancy** now have a **national fire management agreement** in place that allows staff to work together more easily. For more, see the [press release](#), or contact **Blane Heumann** (bheumann@tnc.org).

FLN Map: The Conservation Gateway [link](#) to the updated [FLN map](#) has been **corrected**. Please let Liz Rank know if you continue to have problems with this or other links.

Reports & Articles: Rim Fire & Ecosystem Services / High-Intensity Rx

Rim Fire & Ecosystem Services: Earth Economics has released a [preliminary assessment report](#) on “The Economic Impact of the 2013 Rim Fire on Natural Lands.” The report tallies the **costs not usually counted**, including carbon storage, air quality, recreational values and other **ecosystem services**, and suggests areas for future research in hydrology, soils, air quality and human health. The preliminary estimates—made while the fire still burned—suggest a **loss of nearly half** the environmental benefits normally provided by the landscape in the fire perimeter before the fire. Damage appears to have been **mitigated** where fires had **previously been allowed to burn**. An [article about this report](#) ran in the *Fresno Bee*.

High-Intensity Rx Fire: The [article](#) “**Social and Ecological Factors Influencing Attitudes** Toward the Application of **High-Intensity Prescribed Burns** to Restore Fire Adapted **Grassland Ecosystems**” in the new issue of *Ecology and Society* is based on surveys of prescribed burn association members and landowners in 12 counties in Texas. The “results suggest that experience, risk taking orientation, and especially social norms ... when implementing prescribed burns play an important role in determining the attitudes of landowners toward the use of high-intensity prescribed burns.”

More from *Ecology and Society*: The [table of contents](#) of this issue is worth a look, with articles on **collaborative adaptive management, monitoring, multidisciplinary development** of state-and-transition models, frameworks for **analyzing social-ecological systems**, and many more.

In the News: Documentary / Local Responders

Documentary: The *Denver Post* has a good half-hour [documentary](#) on **wildfire in the WUI**, touching—with **interviews and vivid footage**—on the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires in Colorado, as well as the Yarnell Hill disaster. Among other things, “The Fire Line: Wildfire in Colorado” observes that wildfire is the only natural disaster that we claim to be able to control—and that we need to reconsider that view.

Local Responders: Colorado **governor John Hickenlooper** is considering training **ranchers and farmers** in remote areas to be **first responders on wildfires**, noting that “the first hour is where it matters,” according to a [story](#) in the *Durango Herald*.

Webinar

January 15

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

January 30
new listing

Working Together: Collaboration for Fire Adapted Communities in the Yakima Valley / Yakima, WA

This workshop is being held to help find ways to bring civic leaders, developers, business owners, first responders, land managers and homeowners together to develop strategies and connections that will transform wildfire-prone areas in the Yakima Valley into Fire Adapted Communities.

Info: Draft agenda attached; for more, contact **Reese Lolley** (rlolley@tnc.org)

February 6-7
new listing

SBR FLN—Upper Warwoman Workshop: LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings & VDDT Models / Lakemont, GA

At this workshop, partners will review LANDFIRE BpS and VDDT models to determine their fit with the more southerly ecosystems of Georgia, in preparation for conducting LiDAR-based vegetation analysis for this landscape.

Info: Agenda attached; RSVP to **Mike Brod** (mbrod@fs.fed.us) by **January 17**

March 4-5

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 11-12
new listing

Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / State College, PA

The council's annual meeting will include sessions on burn history in the state, incident management, burning on private lands and more. Register by January 30 for student or early-bird discounts.

Information: see the attached flyer for agenda & registration information

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
deadline

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 deadline** **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 deadline** **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
- 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** **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: CAFMS newsletter attached to [FLN Networker issue 148](#)
- May 19-23** **Large Wildland Fires: Social, Political & Ecological Effects / Missoula, MT**
 Abstracts for oral and poster presentations at this conference co-hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology and the International association of Wildland Fire are due January 31.
 Information: <http://largefireconference.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Boulder, CO January 20-23.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Boulder, CO January 20-23.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out January 10-13, 17; in training January 21-22.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in training January 21-22.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in Boulder, CO January 20-23.

Guy Duffner – guyduffner@gmail.com – Guy is in the office.

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

Note: Monday, January 20 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—CA— FAC Net video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZW46tVO4Ok4&feature=youtu.be>

News from the Field—NC burn background: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=STELPRDB5407778>

News from the Field—National MOU: <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=E2B97395-E661-A2E5-7426849632B23831>

News from the Field—FLN map:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/FLN-map.aspx>

Reports & Articles—Rim Fire & ecosystem services—Report:

<http://www.eartheconomics.org/FileLibrary/file/Reports/Earth%20Economics%20Rim%20Fire%20Report%2011.27.2013.pdf>

Article: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2013/12/26/3684924/report-puts-797m-price-tag-on.html>

Reports & Articles—High intensity Rx fire: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol18/iss4/art9/>

Reports & Articles—Ecology and Society table of contents: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol18/iss4/>

In the News—*Denver Post* documentary: http://www.denverpost.com/fireline/ci_24638312/watch-fire-line

In the News--Local responders: <http://durangoherald.com/article/20131219/NEWS01/131219490/Guv:-Firefighting-air-corps-too-costly->

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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Rx *Fire Helps Deer*

MDF donation helps conservation of deer and other species with prescribed burns to manage and improve habitat in Washington State.

By Dale Swedberg

Recently the Mule Deer Foundation sponsored the purchase of a fully enclosed double-axle trailer for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Prescribed Burn Team. The trailer has been outfitted to store and haul virtually all equipment and supplies needed to implement a prescribed burn.

In 2009 the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Prescribed Burn Program was started on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area with very little in the way of equipment and personnel. The program has now grown to include a full-time prescribed burn boss with a prescribed burn team staffed by five career seasonal people plus one part-time burn boss and three part-time on-call "backup" burn bosses. Additionally, equipment needed to meet the needs for implementing prescribed burns has been incrementally accumulated. This equipment includes water pumps, tanks, hoses, fittings, radios, tools and personal protection equipment.

Mule deer are a fire dependent species, at least indirectly. More specifically, much of the forage mule deer depend on is fire dependent, that is to say it does not stay healthy and provide nutritious feed for mule deer without periodic fire to refresh or rejuvenate it.

One example of this is on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area is known by many names: Evergreen Ceanothus, Snowbrush Ceanothus, Shiny Leaved Ceanothus, Buck

Brush or Mountain Laurel. In a food habitat study in the Sinlahekin from November 1983 to March 1984, Ceanothus was in the top 50% of the diet four of the five months (Nov, Dec, Feb, Mar) with Ceanothus comprising 22.5%, 47.3% and 25.6% of the food items in November, December and March respectively. During January Ceanothus comprised 4.8% of the diet, yet was still in the top 75% of the diet. Whereas during February Ceanothus comprised only 4.1% of the diet, yet was in the top 50% of the diet.

Results of the Sinlahekin mule deer food habits study, although data were collected for only for one winter, demonstrates the apparent preference of mule deer for Ceanothus as a winter food item.

Ceanothus seeds generally do not sprout until they are heated to about 176 to 203 degrees F, which causes the seed coat to crack and allow moisture in to begin the germination process. Additionally in the absence of periodic fire Ceanothus shrubs will become old and decadent, and eventually die with only the seeds in the soil, waiting up to 200 years for a fire to trigger germination. However, when mature plants are top-killed by fire they sprout vigorously from the root crown with sprouts often growing up to two feet in one season. A notable characteristic of Ceanothus is the highly resinous leaves that burn very hot when ignited, thus they can contribute to heating the seeds to enable germination.



Photo - Pet Carlson



"In a nutshell, periodic fire is essential to the health and maintenance of the ecosystem that mule deer inhabit."

Many other mule deer foods including shrubs, grasses and forbs respond well to being burned periodically in fact some will not produce many seeds until immediately after being burned. In addition to providing and maintaining mule deer foods, there are many other benefits of fire. These benefits are known as fire effects and fire by-products. Examples of fire effects would include: 1) reduced fuels, 2) mosaic pattern of burning, e.g., light or no burn to very

hot burns, on the landscape, 3) increased surface and ground water availability due to a decrease of fire sensitive plants after burning, 4) stimulating plants to regrow/regenerate, and seeds to germinate. Whereas, examples of fire by-products would include: 1) charcoal, 2) ash, 3) smoke, 4) heat, etc. Benefits of some of the fire effects are obvious such as reduced fuels, which in turn reduces extreme or severe fire behavior, and increased surface and

ground water, which makes more water available for fish and wildlife. The fire effect of a mosaic pattern on the landscape may be less obvious, but it is a benefit in that this provides for a patchiness of vegetation in different stages of succession on the landscape, thus providing a greater variety of foods and plant structures on the landscape.

Benefits of fire by-products may not be as apparent as some of the fire effects.



MDF sponsored the purchase of a fully enclosed double-axle trailer for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Prescribed Burn Team. The trailer has been outfitted to store and haul virtually all equipment and supplies needed to implement a prescribed burn.



The by-product, charcoal, provides multiple benefits including: 1) contributes to soil building, 2) increases water holding capacity of the soil since charcoal will absorb 5-7 times its weight in water, 3) reducing or mitigating chemicals emitted by certain plants to stop or discourage competition from other plants growing next to them, effects often used by exotic plants such as diffuse knap-

weed to out compete native vegetation. Other fire by-products and their benefits include: 1) ash - provides nutrients to growing plants and increases soil pH; 2) smoke - several species of plants' seeds are adapted to increase in germination rate after exposure to wood smoke with the seedlings from this germination being more vigorous than seedlings from seeds not exposed to wood smoke;

3) heat - Ceanothus is an example of a plant whose seeds are highly dependent on being heated by fire in order to stimulate germination, another example are the serotinous cones of lodgepole pine which need to be heated to open up and release seeds.

With the foregoing information in mind it is not difficult to understand the importance of fire in maintaining mule deer habitat and all the other wildlife species that share the same fire dependent habitat. In a nutshell, periodic fire is essential to the health and maintenance of the ecosystem that mule deer inhabit.

Since fire is essential to mule deer and there are two kinds of fire - wildfire and controlled/prescribed fire. We have a choice; we can either let fire happen to us or we can begin to use controlled fire to manage mule deer habitat.

A BRIEF COMPARISON BETWEEN WILDFIRE AND CONTROLLED/PREScribed FIRE:

	Wild Fire	Controlled Fire
Where it will start?	Unknown	Known
When will it start?	Unknown	Known
How big will it be?	Unknown	Known
How long will it last?	Unknown	Known
How much will it cost?	Unknown	Known
How much smoke will there be?	Unknown	Known
Where will the smoke be?	Unknown	Known
How long will the smoke last?	Unknown	Known

Anybody who opposes prescribed/controlled fire is, by default, supporting the wild fire option.

The choice is ours and we choose Controlled/Prescribed Fire.

Dale Swedberg is the Manager of Okanogan County Wildlife Area Complex for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Talks and tours of prescribed burned areas will be provided as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area - the first wildlife area in the State of Washington. Talks and tours can also be arranged independent of the 75th Anniversary Celebration by calling 509-223-3358 or e-mail Dale.Swedberg@dfw.wa.gov

Working Together (Draft)

Collaboration for Fire Adapted Communities in the Yakima Valley

2014 Yakima Valley Workshop
Howard Johnson, Date January 30th

Conference Purpose: To find ways to bring civic leaders, developers and business owners, first responders, land managers and homeowners together in their current roles and programs to develop strategies and connections that will transform wildfire prone areas into **Fire Adapted Communities** in the Yakima Valley.

Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) is a collaborative approach that connects all who play a role in wildfire education, planning, and action with comprehensive resources to help reduce risk before, during, and after wildfire.



AGENDA

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES – UNDERSTANDING OUR ROLE

8:30 OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS-(5-10 MIN)

Kevin Bouchey, *Yakima County Commissioner*

8:45-9:15 NATIONAL TO LOCAL: FIRE POLICY UPDATE

Description: National fire policy is changing. How will the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the associated Western Regional Action Plan affect the Yakima Valley and why should you care? Presentation with Q&A to follow.

Lauren Maloney, *Fire Mitigation & Education Specialist. Fire, Fuels & Aviation Management Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service*

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES 9:15 – 9:45 (INCLUDES Q&A)

Description: Overview of the fire adapted communities (FAC) approach. What are the elements of a fire adapted community? Examples from the Leavenworth pilot FAC. **Annie Schmidt?**, *Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition*



Roles and Topic Areas in Reducing Wildfire Risk

9:45-10:30 (INCLUDES DISCUSSION Q&A) YAKIMA WILDFIRE SAFETY CODES AND THE ROLE OF DEVELOPERS AND BUILDERS

Description: Brief overview of the wildland urban interface code enforced in Yakima County and why it is important. What is the role of developers and homebuilders in ensuring compliance? How can noncompliance affect a resident's ability to insure their home? Successes and barriers to implementing the WUI code.

Jakki MacLean- *Yakima County Fire Marshall's Office, codes expert*

Joe Walsh- *Central WA Homebuilders Association, builder*

Jedean Corpron- *Senior VP, Wells Fargo Insurance*

COFFEE BREAK – -10:30- 10:45

FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONDERS 10:45 – 11:15

Description: Fire and Emergency Responders are there when the flames hit. What other roles do they play in a fire adapted community? Ready, Set, Go! is an important program being implemented nationally. A representative from the state Fire Chief's Association will describe the role of fire districts before, during, and after fires and discuss successes and barriers faced by first responders in fulfilling their role.

TBA- *Representative from the state Fire Chief's Association*

FOREST & LAND MANAGERS 11:15-11:45

Description: What roles do the managers of larger wildland landscapes play before, during, and after a fire in a fire adapted community? Two presentations here will describe these roles within forest ecosystems and shrub/grassland ecosystems in Yakima County and discuss successes and barriers to fulfilling these roles.

TBA- *USFS Representative,*

Erik Ellis- *Wildlife/Fuels Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Wenatchee, WA*

LUNCH: 11:45-12:45PM

RESIDENTS & HOMEOWNERS 12:45 – 1:15

Description: What are the responsibilities of residents and homeowners in a fire adapted community? Where do they find resources and information to support their role? What programs are available in Yakima County that aid residents and homeowners in fulfilling their role? What are the greatest challenges faced by the homeowner and the providers of these programs in Yakima County? What are some strategies and actions that could be taken to make these programs more effective and broaden homeowner participation?

Frank Freshwater?- *Resident, Goose Prairie*

Chuck Wytko?- *Landowner Assistance District Manager, SE Region, Department of Natural Resources*

DISCUSSION/INTERACTIVE EXERCISE/WHAT IS YOUR ROLE? 1:15-2:30

Breakout Groups: Group 1- Civic Leaders/Developers/Business Owners, Group 2- First Responders, Group 3- Land Managers, Group 4- Homeowners. Groups summarize experience. In what ways are you successful in your role? What barriers do you experience in fulfilling your role?

BREAK – 2:30-2:45

2:45-3:45 PUTTING ALL THE PIECES & ROLES TOGETHER - COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Description- this section will provide a brief overview of CWPP's, what they are, where the concept originated (HFRA, FEMA), and what they enable within the FAC context. We will then delve into local CWPP history and a description of current CWPP's in Yakima County followed by discussion of opportunities and next steps.

Lauren Maloney, Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service, CWPP Overview

Jim Hall? Emergency Management (CWPP w/in context if overall disaster planning)- CWPP overview

TBA- Representative from Hwy 410/12 plan-

TBA- Representative from original countywide plan-

Betsy Bloomfield – *Executive Director, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy*

Others: Richard Parrish, Terra?

WRAP UP – 3:45 – 4:30

- Capture recommendations from the group moving forward (from wall posters and final words)
- Discuss priorities for future strategies.
- What next / Final Q&A.

SYNTHESIS: have posters on walls for audience to write on throughout.

NEXT STEPS YAKIM VALLEY WILDFIRE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- SFD

- Actions come from the day. Next steps.

MEETING AGENDA

Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network
Workshop to Review LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings and VDDT Models
February 6 - 7, 2014
Lakemont, GA

Day 1: Thursday, February 6

Location: Chattooga River Ranger District, 9975 Hwy. 441 S., Lakemont, GA 706-754-6221

- 10:00 – 10:10am Welcome and Introductions – Mike Brod & Margit Bucher (TNC)
- 10:10 – 11:00am Past and Future Applications of Biophysical Settings/VDDT Models
- Mike Brod (USFS) – Future Applications for Upper Warwoman
 - Gary Kaufman (USFS) and Josh Kelly (WNCA) – Ecological Systems Departure Analysis for National Forests of North Carolina
 - Katherine Medlock (TNC) – Cherokee Restoration Initiative / Real-time Model demonstration
- 11:00 – 11:15am Review Workshop Goal(s) – Mike Brod and Margit Bucher
- 11:15 – 11:30am LANDFIRE Modeling Past and Future – Jim Smith (TNC)
- 11:30 – 11:45am Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool (VDDT) 101: A Brief Refresher for Past Users and Introduction for New Users – Jim Smith (TNC)
- 11:45am – 5:00pm Review and Refine the Fundamental Structures for the following Biophysical Settings Descriptions and VDDT Models:

Southern and Central Appalachian Cove Forest (5713180 & 6113180)

Southern Appalachian Montane Pine Forest and Woodland (5713520)

Southern Appalachian Oak Forest (5713150 & 6113150)

Southern Appalachian Low-Elevation Pine Forest (5713530)

Mesic Oak (??)

Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland (5713170)

Central Appalachian Dry Oak-Pine Forest (6113690)

Day 2: Friday, February 7

Location: Chattooga River Ranger District, 9975 Hwy. 441 S., Lakemont, GA 706-754-6221

8:00 - 8:15am Brief Recap of Day 1 Progress

8:15am – 3:00pm Continue Review and Refinement of Biophysical Settings Descriptions and VDDT Models

No Later Than 3:00pm Workshop Concludes and Next Steps

Notes: Agenda may change depending of participant availability. Breaks and lunches will be worked in throughout each day. Bring Your Own Lunch. Day 1 end time and Day 2 start time subject to change based on participant feedback. Workshop may conclude earlier on Day 2 depending on results. If you plan to join the workshop in progress, please RSVP with Mike Brod (706-754-6221 ext 101 or mbrod@fs.fed.us).

**2014
Pennsylvania
Prescribed Fire Council
Annual Meeting**

**February 11 - 12, 2014
Ramada Conference Center
1450 S Atherton Street,
State College, PA**



**PENNSYLVANIA
PRESCRIBED
FIRE COUNCIL**

*The mission of the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council is to
promote the exchange of information, techniques, and experiences
of the Pennsylvania prescribed fire community, and to promote public understanding
of the importance and benefits of prescribed fire.*

Welcome!

I'd like to invite you all to join us at this year's Annual Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Meeting at the Ramada Conference Center in State College, on February 11-12, 2014. Here's a little about what you can expect:

The sessions this year include a breadth of subjects relevant to prescribed fire implementation in PA. The session topics were chosen directly from comments received after summer surveys. You will **pick two of the three topics** listed each day, so come ready to participate with ideas, comments, questions and suggestions.

Session topics are:

Day 1:

Fire Scars and PA Burn History– Frequency of burn intervals in PA has varied over the centuries. Current research on red and pitch pine give us clues as to why.

Incident Within an Incident Sand Tables – Complex burns can become more complicated with unanticipated incidents. Test your skills and learn from others' responses to these unusual complicating factors. What should you know and how can you prepare? Come prepared to play out different scenarios dealing with this topic.

Affect of Burning on Red Oak Silviculture - Some concerns have been expressed with burning in red oak stands, find out what the fire effects are and how stands of red oak respond to burning, including saw log values.

Day 2:

BehavePlus v5.0.1 fire modeling system and additional smoke modeling software – HANDS ON - Learn how to use these programs to fine tune your prescribed burn plan prescription and create smoke maps for your plan. Must pre-register for this, so we can ensure software is loaded in advance, and must bring your own computer.

French Creek Wildfire – Hear about the fire effects on this southeast PA forested habitat as a result of a large 2012 wildfire.

Burning on Private Lands – Status, opportunities, and obstacles to implementing prescribed fire on private properties, both farmland and forestland. Federal cost-share programs for burn plans and implementation. This is a facilitated interactive breakout, please bring your questions and experiences to the discussion.

Finally, the PA Prescribed Fire Council is very excited to introduce our special guest speaker, Tom Toman. Tom works for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and will present, ***“Smoked Elk - Prescribed Fire Use for Elk Management”***, in which he shares his decades of experience using prescribed fire to benefit a host of wildlife species, including elk. Tom has worked in the prescribed fire world for 36 years. He retired from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department after 25 years of service. In 1995, Tom was hired by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and is now responsible for Science, Planning and Grant Funding programs out of their national headquarters, including planning and funding for prescribed fire.

Thank you and I hope to see you in February,

Jenny Case, Chair

Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

11:00 – 12:00 – Registration

12:00 – 12:45 – Welcome, Fire Council meeting

- 🔥 Call to order – *Jenny Case, PPFC Chair*
- 🔥 Approval of minutes
- 🔥 Treasurers Report – *George Miller*
- 🔥 Reports from Working Groups
 - 🔥 Training – *Nick Hoffman*
 - 🔥 Outreach – *Gene Odato and Rachel Wagoner*
 - 🔥 Website – *JD Lambrinos*
 - 🔥 Private Lands – *Tim Smail*
- 🔥 Unfinished Business
 - 🔥 2014 Fire & Oaks Conference – *P.Brose/J.Thorne*
- 🔥 New Business
 - 🔥 New By-Laws – *George Miller*
 - 🔥 Non-Profit Status – *George Miller*
 - 🔥 Election of Board of Directors – *George Miller*
- 🔥 Adjourn

1245 – 1:15 – Annual Update on Council Activities

1:15 – 1:45 – Break

1:45 – 2:00 – Sort into break-out sessions (Pick Two)

2:00 – 3:00 – Breakout Sessions – Round I

Bring questions, comments, experiences

- 1-A) Fire Scars and PA Fire History – *Pat Brose*
- 2-A) Sand Table Exercises (3): Incident With-in an Incident - how to be prepared if this happens to you.
- 3-A) Burning in Red Oak Stands - Presentation on benefits and costs at the stand level. – *Joe Marshall*

3:00 – 3:30 – Break

3:30 – 4:30 - Breakout Sessions - Round II (same as Round I)

- 1-B) Fire Scars and PA Fire History
- 2-B) Sand Table Exercises:
- 3-B) Burning in Red Oak Stands:

4:30 – AAR

4:45– 6:00 –Tom Toman, RMEF, “Smoked Elk – Prescribed Fire Use for Elk Management”

★ Tom will talk about his first-hand experience with Elk Habitat Management and the Use of Prescribed Fire.



6:30 – The PPFC has reserved a room for an informal dinner at The Autoport, directly across the street from the Ramada. **Please join us!**



<http://www.theautoport.com/>

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

8:00 – 8:30 – Agency Prescribed Fire Reports – Todd Breininger

8:30 – 9:30 – Prescribed Fire Use in the NE US – Mike Pruss

9:30 – 10:00 – Incident within an Incident – Dan LeCrone

10:00 – 10:30 - Break

10:30 – 11:45 – Breakout Sessions Day II

- 1) **BehavePlus 5.0.1 and Smoke Modeling** – Use for Burn Plans; pre-registration required, bring your computer – *Eric Miller*
- 2) **French Creek Wildfire** – Fire Effects on Forest and Habitat - *DCNR*
- 3) **Burning on Private Lands** – Status, opportunities, and obstacles. *Tim Smail*

11:45 – 12:00 – AAR and Adjourn



Special Thanks to our Steering Committee members:

- Association of Consulting Foresters
- Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry
- Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of State Parks
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Penn State Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
- Forest Stewardship Association
- PA Forestry Association
- Society of American Foresters
- The Nature Conservancy
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US National Park Service
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Pheasants Forever
- Quality Deer Management
- Natural Lands Trust
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Chester County Parks and Recreation



Driving Directions:

[Map & Directions to Ramada Conference Center](#)

Accommodations:

[Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA](#)

1-800-992-2694

Please Note: Room availability cannot be guaranteed, so please make reservations early.



FEE AND REGISTRATION*:

Cost: \$85.00 for both days- includes 2014 membership and free t-shirt PSU (For 320 students) \$10.00/day-includes 2014 membership-with proof of completion or current enrollment

Payments not received by noon on January 30, 2014, must pay \$90 at the door (student rate is not available at the door)

Please print clearly

Name: _____

Organization: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL (Very Important, please write clearly): _____
Email is our primary means of communication, so please provide a legible email address

BEHAVEPLUS 5.0.1: _____ Yes, I'm will attend this breakout, _____ No, I will not attend this breakout.

*Payments made by check should be mailed along with your registration information to:

George Miller, Treasurer
Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council
4075 Linglestown Road #330
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Please allow at least 10 working days for the check to arrive before January 30th, 2014.

Make your check payable to "PA Prescribed Fire Council".

A registration confirmation and detail receipt will be emailed to you.

*Payments made by credit card should be emailed to the Treasurer at treasurer@paprescribedfire.org with your registration information and a phone number where you can be reached during the day. The Treasurer will call you to collect your credit card information. Registrations paid as a group (several registrations paid in a single credit card payment) are preferred if possible. A registration confirmation and detail receipt will be emailed to you.



CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

The PA Prescribed Fire Council reserves the right to cancel or postpone any program because of insufficient enrollment or other unforeseen circumstances. If a program is cancelled or postponed, the Council will refund registration fees but cannot be held responsible for any other related costs, charges, or expenses.

Refunds will be made for cancellations received in writing by January 22, 2014. After that date, the participant or organization will be held responsible for the fee. Anyone who is registered but cannot attend may send a substitute.