FLN Networker No. 152: February 19, 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 <u>www.conservationgateway.org/fln</u> or contact Lynn Decker.

News from the Field

California & Washington: Two communities active in the Fire Learning Network and Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network—**Orleans**, CA and **Forest Ridge** (Wenatchee), WA—were among the ten recipients of NFPA **wildfire mitigation funds**. The funding, supported by a grant from State Farm, was awarded based on **community participation** rates. (See Funding section below for information on upcoming neighborhood project grants.)

Georgia: Earlier this month, 20 practitioners from partnering NGOs and state and federal agencies met to review and **refine LANDFIRE ecological models** for the **six most abundant ecological communities** in the **Upper Warwoman** watershed (Southern Appalachian Oak Forest, Southern & Central Appalachian Cove Forest, Southern Appalachian Montane Pine Forest & Woodland, Southern Appalachian Low-Elevation Pine Forest, Central Appalachian Dry Oak-Pine Forest, and Mesic Oak). All of the models were found to need refinement for this more southerly part of the SBR ecosystem, and partners were pleased with the work produced. For more, contact **Mike Brod** (mbrod@fs.fed.us).

Oregon: Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (www.ashlandwatershed.org) partners are gearing up to start prescribed underburning across a 7,600-acre project area on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Conservation director Darren Borgias (dborgias@tnc.org) enlisted McRee Anderson (wanderson@tnc.org) from the South Central FLN to help convene and facilitate a training exchange supported by Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER II). During the two-day event, participants reviewed recently burned units, then conferred on burn unit selection, developing appropriate prescribed fire objectives and effective monitoring techniques. The event met partner planning goals and solidified the team, laying a foundation for accelerated cross-boundary, collaborative burning on federal, city and private lands in the urban interface and Ashland's municipal watershed. A four-day training exchange focused on fire effects monitoring is planned for spring.

Washington: The Washington Dry Forests FLN is supporting fire adapted communities efforts with a state-wide conference last fall, followed by a more intensive local workshop in the Yakima Valley at the end of January that drew almost 50 participants. Highlights from that workshop are in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Washington: In a <u>recent article</u> in the Yakima Herald, the **Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative** is **credited with giving a new effort a head start**, having given partners a **history of work together**. The new "**Anchor Forest**" work will involve tribes and agencies cooperating to work on forest restoration while supporting the local economy.

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network: Annie Schmidt (<u>director@chumstickcoalition.org</u>), of the Chumstick Coalition, has created an <u>interactive presentation</u> that represents "growing" a fire adapted community from core concepts.

In Colorado, the **Coalition for the Upper South Platte** is hosting a <u>Wildfire Preparedness Kick-Off</u> <u>Event</u> on March 1, with a keynote speaker, presentations and hands-on workshops. For more information (or a copy of the event poster), contact **Jonathan Bruno** (<u>jonathan@uppersouthplatte.org</u>). National: The semi-annual report covering the work of the FLN—as well as prescribed fire training exchanges, Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) and the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC)—was submitted last month. It was constructed as a collection of a dozen one- and two-page fact sheets, which are now on Conservation Gateway. These include:

- stories of <u>four landscapes</u> that are using the foundation of the **FLN to leverage** a variety of work
- highlights of the three fall 2013 prescribed fire training exchanges
- more detail about the tactics, context and community ties of training exchanges, with examples from the fall season
- an introduction to the projects just begun under SPER II
- a collection of lessons learned from the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

Links to the other seven sections can be found in the <u>previous issue of the Networker</u>. If any of these need **modifications** to be more useful to you, don't hesitate to ask—we'll be happy to **work with you to adapt them** as needed (<u>Irank@tnc.org</u>).

Funding: NFPA & State Farm

National Fire Protection Association & State Farm: Twenty neighborhood projects will be awarded \$500 in funding to complete projects on National Wildfire Preparedness Day, set for May 3. Information is at www.wildfireprepday.org, and applications are due by March 19.

Resources: Smoke Management / AAR

Smoke Management: The Southern Fire Exchange has released a new <u>fact sheet</u> that summarizes the six **basic smoke management practices** from the 2011 USFS-NRCS guide. You can also view the January 16 <u>SFE webinar</u> with Dale Wade discussing lessons learned on smoke management on YouTube.

AAR: If you're looking for an alternative after action review format, you can try the PLOWS version (plan—leadership—obstacles—weaknesses—strengths), attached. It has been used by BLM suppression crews and Blane Heumann (<u>bheaumann@tnc.org</u>) reports using it with some success with Conservancy prescribed fire crews.

Articles & Reports: Masticated Fuels / Fire & the Public / SW Season Summary

Masticated Fuels: The <u>article</u> "**Fire Behavior in Masticated Fuels**: A Review" looks at fuel characteristics and fire behavior in masticated fuels **across the United States**, highlighting the variation that is likely to occur over space and time. The authors also suggest a number of science and management needs regarding this widespread and complex fuel type.

Fire & the Public: A <u>new issue</u> of *FireScience Digest* is now available, on **"Building Trust, Establishing Credibility, and Communicating Fire Issues** with the Public." In addition to a current overview of what people know (and feel) and how to use that information, references and recommended readings area included.

SW Season Summary: The Ecological Restoration Institute and Southwest Fire Science Consortium have released an **overview of the 2013 southwest wildfire season**. The <u>report</u> is intended to be a concise reference, summarizing the eight major wildfires in Arizona and New Mexico, including fire severity and effects on vegetation, soils and structures. For more information, contact **Zander Evans** (<u>zander@forestguild.org</u>).

In the News: Wildfire Forum / Western Drought & Fire

Wildfire Forum: *High Country News* has a <u>blog posting</u> about the closed-door **Wildfire Solutions Forum** that was held last month to **generate policy ideas** for protecting communities in the West (where 84% of the WUI is still undeveloped) from wildfire. Proposals included risk mapping, and a variety of ways of readjusting financial and other responsibilities based on the results.

Western Drought: The *Washington Post* has a <u>story</u> (interestingly, in the Politics section) on the effects of the current drought on the **western wildfire season**, and some discussion of the various ways **climate change** is affecting fire.

Job: Program Manager

Program Manager: The **Watershed Research & Training Center** is seeking a program manager to lead its **Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program**. Details are attached; applications are due by **March 7**.

Webinars

February 20 new listing	Introduction to VSmoke 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern In this Southern Fire Exchange webinar, Dr. Scott Goodrick will describe how to use this spatially-explicit smoke model to improve smoke management. Please log in 15 minutes before the start time. Log in: <u>https://ufifas.adobeconnect.com/_a1048984014/r46ostcvul5/</u>
February 25 new listing	Ready, Set, Go! Success Stories—How to Implement the Program 8:00 Pacific / 9:00 Mountain / 10:00 Central / 11:00 Eastern In this International Association of Fire Chiefs webinar, a panel of Ready, Set, Go! members will explain how the program is being customized and implemented to meet their local needs. Information: <u>http://www.iafc.org/Education/Events.cfm?itemnumber=7314</u>
February 26	LANDFIRE: Assessing Needs 9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern In this second of a three-part webinar series hosted by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium, Ryan Haugo will give a presentation on the use of LANDFIRE products in assessing forest restoration needs and key datasets used to quantify reference conditions for Oregon/Washington Region 6 areas. Register: <u>http://nwfirescience.org/content/winter-2014-webinar-assessing-needs</u>
February 27 new listing	Integrated Smoke Management Curriculum 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern In this Southern Fire Exchange webinar, Jennifer Evans will share information on a train-the-trainer smoke management curriculum for teaching prescribed burners about smoke management. Please log in 15 minutes before start time. Log in: <u>https://ufifas.adobeconnect.com/ a1048984014/r37y88fzfe3/</u>
March 5 new listing	Projected Effects of Regional Differences in Change on Plant Production and Communities with Implications for Fire regimes 9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern In this Great Plains Fire Science Exchange webinar, Dr. Wayne Polley will focus on predictions for climate change for rangelands in the Great Plains.

	Information: http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/2014/02/03/webinar- climate-change-and-rangelands/
March 12 new listing	MTBS Applications in the South 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern In this Southern Fire Exchange webinar, Josh Picotte (USGS) will provide an introduction to the Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS) dataset, and a discussion of MTBS data applications in the South. Log on: <u>https://ufifas.adobeconnect.com/_a1048984014/r4cpquc0v84/</u>
April 2 new listing	Basic Smoke Management Practices 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern In this Southern Fire Exchange offering, Pete Lahm (USFS Fire Weather and Air Quality Specialist) will discuss the development of basic smoke management practices for prescribed burners. Log on: <u>https://ufifas.adobeconnect.com/_a1048984014/r7ii07e2xa1/</u>
April 4	LANDFIRE: Customizing Data 11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern In this final webinar of a three-part series hosted by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium, Kori Blankenship will looking at the methodology involved in modifying LANDFIRE data for local conditions and specific needs. Register: <u>http://nwfirescience.org/content/winter-2014-webinar-customizing-data</u>

FLN Workshops

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. The conference will center on the themes of policy and partnerships. Registration is now open. Information: <u>http://www.waprescribedfire.org/Conferences.html</u>
April 15-17	Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium / Orleans, CA The fourth Klamath fire symposium will focus on the nexus between fire science and fire management in the Western Klamath Mountains, and how it relates to people and place. Information: <u>http://www.mkwc.org/programs/fire-fuels/klamath-fire-ecology- symposium/</u>
May 20-22	Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Cashiers, NC Save the date for the next SBR FLN regional workshop. A draft agenda will be available in early March. Information: Margit Bucher (<u>mbucher@tnc.org</u>) or Beth Buchanan (<u>bbuchanan@fs.fed.us</u>)

Training, Conferences & Workshops

March 6New Hampshire Prescribed Fire Council Quarterly Meeting / Campton, NHThe meeting, held at the White Mountain NF HQ, will include pre-burn season
coordination, discussion of public awareness activities, planned local training

	needs and priorities, opportunities for private and municipal use of Rx fire and resource needs and opportunities. Information: <u>http://extension.unh.edu/New-Hampshire-Prescribed-Fire-Council</u> or Zack Boyajian (<u>zachary.l.boyajian.nfg@mail.mil</u>)
March 17-19	2014 Wildland-Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV This conference, hosted by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, will offer a range of sessions (and pre-conference courses) on various wildfire and WUI topics, including one on building a fire adapted community by a lead of the Towns County, GA Fire Adapted Community Learning Network hub organization. Information: <u>http://www.iafc.org/wui</u>
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. Info: oregonrxfirecouncil@gmail.com or http://centraloregonfiresymposium.org/
April 16-17	Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: The True Cost of Wildfire / Glenwood Springs, CO Save the date for this conference for planners, elected officials and municipal managers for the Colorado Western Slope, eastern Utah and southern Wyoming. Information: see the <u>save-the-date "postcard"</u>
April 25-27	Wildland Fire Litigation Conference / Monterey, CA Information: <u>http://www.wildlandfirelitigation.com/</u>
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 <u>FLN Networker issue 148</u>
May 19-23	Large Wildland Fires: Social, Political & Ecological Effects / Missoula, MT This conference will be co-hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology and the International association of Wildland Fire. Nominations for various awards are due March 14. Information: <u>http://largefireconference.org/</u>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – <u>Idecker@tnc.org</u> – Lynn is in the Klamath Mts. February 22-27.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out February 20-28.

Wendy Fulks – <u>wfulks@tnc.org</u> – Wendy is in the office.

Mary Huffman – <u>mhuffman@tnc.org</u> – Mary is in Mendocino, CA February 17-21; Klamath Mts. February 24-27.

Heather Montanye – <u>hmontanye@tnc.org</u> – Heather is in the office.

Guy Duffner – <u>guyduffner@gmail.com</u> – Guy is in the office.

Liz Rank (Networker Editor) – <u>Irank@tnc.org</u> – Liz is in the office.

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—Tapash cited: <u>http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/1860159-8/yakamas-take-lead-on-restoring-forest-health</u>
- News from the Field—FAC—Presentation: <u>http://prezi.com/ydr8ezdt3zmj/common-understanding/</u>CO kick-off event: <u>http://www.wphfi.org/?p=910</u>
- Resources & Reports—Smoke management: <u>http://southernfireexchange.org/SFE_Publications/etc/2014-1.pdf</u>

Resources & Reports—Fire & the public: <u>http://www.firescience.gov/Digest/FSdigest17.pdf</u>

Resources & Reports—SW summary: <u>http://www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2014/2013_SW_Fire_Summary.pdf</u> Article—Masticated fuels:

http://gallery.mailchimp.com/2263fe298f4df255d22b80097/files/Kreye_etal2014_FEM_MasticationFireBx.pdf

- In the News—Wildfire forum: <u>http://www.hcn.org/blogs/goat/behind-closed-doors-wildfire-solutions-forum-takes-radical-approach-to-protecting-wui-from-wildfire</u>
- In the News—Western drought: <u>http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/amid-drought-california-and-other-western-states-gird-for-a-landmark-year-in-forest-fires/2014/02/13/ec23fbae-9417-11e3-84e1-27626c5ef5fb_story.html</u>
- Training, etc.—Colorado Wildland Fire Conference postcard: <u>http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=2263fe298f4df255</u> <u>d22b80097&id=eb783750ff&e=06d744032b</u>

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

Working Together: Collaboration for Fire Adapted CommunitiesYakima Valley WorkshopJanuary 2014

In September 2013, the a statewide conference in Washington, Collaboration for Fire Adapted Communities, brought together civic leaders, developers, business owners, first responders, land managers and homeowners to share and better understand each other's roles in wildfire, barriers to effectiveness, and adaptive actions we can take together to better respond before, during and after wildfire. Several of the Yakima Valley participants in that conference decided that a similar gathering, focused specifically on local community needs, issues and resources, would be useful. The resulting Working Together workshop in January was attended by

A fire adapted community "is a community that is willing to change the way they live, in order to adapt and thrive in the presence of wildfire."

> Annie Schmidt Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition

47 participants from a range of fire adapted communities (FAC) roles, including representation from private organizations and federal, state and tribal agencies.

The first part of the day included an overview of changing fire policy and an introduction to the fire adapted communities concept, providing all participants with a shared understanding to work from. Speakers highlighted the roles of different actors in the wildland urban interface (WUI) before, during, and after wildfire. Each presentation incorporated group discussion of the challenges faced by people in their respective roles and how they could work together to overcome those challenges.

In the afternoon, participants broke into smaller workgroups and drafted strategies and proposed actions that can make Yakima County better adapted to wildfire, and discussed opportunities and follow-up actions.

Groups identified four priority actions:

 A quarter of the participants, representing a cross-section of FAC roles, committed to meeting monthly to address specific actions identified and form an open Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition within thirty days of this workshop.

Yakima County Commissioner Kevin Bouchey welcomed workshop participants, and thanked them for their work on behalf of the community. © Paul Jenkins



- Work will include finding specific ways to more effectively engage homeowners and residents about their role in adapting to wildfire, and let them know how other FAC roles can assist them. First actions on this include having an FAC booth a local home and garden show; organizing broad, coordinated outreach for the national Wildfire Preparedness Day on May 3; and engaging Block Watch programs.
- A plan will be developed, specific to the Yakima Valley, and with



Annie Schmidt from the Leavenworth, WA Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network pilot community summarized the elements of creating a fire adapted community using a metaphor of roots, trunk and branches of an apple tree.

© Paul Jenkins , Fire Corps Volunteer



Breakout groups worked to draft strategies and actions for making communities in Yakima County better adapted to wildfire. © Paul Jenkins

clear actions outlined, to enable valley-wide and local coordination and engagement of all FAC roles. This will be a revision of the current Yakima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), to be signed by county commissioners and the state forester by the end of the year.

The Yakima Valley community of Tieton-Naches will be engaged through work with local community stakeholders to adapt the FAC framework locally, reviewing community accomplishments—and the challenges they have encountered—in implementing their five-year-old CWPP.

For more information on the Washington Dry Forests FLN:

Reese Lolley rlolley@tnc.org (509) 248-6697

For more information on the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition:

Jakki MacLean

Yakima County Fire Marshall jakki.maclean@co.yakima.wa.us (509) 574-2378

Karen Bicchieri

Tapash Sustainable Forests Coordinator kbicchieri@tnc.org (509) 899-6451

The Fire Learning Network (FLN) and Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network are part of the *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, contact Lynn Decker at *Idecker@tnc.org* or (801) 320-0524.



An equal opportunity provider

Working Together: Collaboration for Fire Adapted Communities Conference & Workshop Information

Washington (state-wide)—September 25-26, 2013 (includes slides from presentations) http://www.scwrcd.org/wui2.html

Yakima Valley—January 30, 2014 (agenda) http://www.scwrcd.org/docs/Yakima_FAC_Workshop_2014.pdf

After Action Review (AAR) Alternative

(Created by Craig Cunningham and implemented by the Ruby Mountain Hotshots during the 2011 fire season and received the US BLM 2012 National Safety Award.)

P.L.O.W.S.

P.L.O.W.S. is an alternative to the standard after action review (AAR) emphasizing safety in a learning environment. Information as it pertains to facilitating an AAR in the standard format is still relevant and applicable.

PLAN:

- □ State the plans that were in place. Follow up by asking any relevant questions.
- Did everybody know what the plan was?
- □ Was the plan sufficient to accomplish the objectives?

LEADERSHIP:

- □ What leadership was in place?
- □ Was the chain of command clear?
- □ Was leader's intent communicated and sufficient?

OBSTACLES:

□ What obstacles were encountered and how were they mitigated?

WEAKNESSES:

- □ What were weaknesses that should be improved upon?
- □ How will they be improved?
- □ Is follow-up action required?

STRENGTHS:

- □ What were strengths that should be sustained?
- □ How will they be sustained?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

□ Are there any additional questions or topics that should be discussed?



The Watershed Research and Training Center

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February 7, 2014

Subject: Employment opportunity for immediate circulation - closes March 7

The Watershed Center is seeking a Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program Manager to lead the continued development and management of our Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program. This program area includes forest planning, integrated fire management, hazardous fuels reduction, ecological restoration, and a wide range of associated field projects. Applicant must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in Fire Ecology or Forestry with a fire management focus. Experience with burn planning, NEPA planning, and prescribed fire operations preferred. The position requires good communication skills and a disposition for community outreach and working with a wide range of partners. Current program includes fuel break planning and implementation, prescribed fire planning and operations, forest planning, and participation in local and regional networks, including the US Fire Learning Network, the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council, and the Trinity County Collaborative Group.

The Watershed Center is a national leader in advancing the practice of land stewardship through integrating fire and fuels management, forestry, and community development. We focus on building local workforce capacity, innovative partnerships, and mobilizing communities to take leadership in the management of their natural resources.

This is a full time position. Salary starting at \$20.00/hour with benefits. For more information please call 530-628-4206 and ask for Cindy Blackburn. Application can be found at <u>www.thewatershedcenter.com</u>. Please submit applications to <u>cindy@thewatershedcenter.com</u> The Watershed Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job Description – Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program Manager:

The Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program Manager is the organizational lead in the day-to-day management of the fire program, including prescribed fire and fuels reduction on public and private lands. The Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program Manager will also work on projects focusing on silviculture and sustainable forest management.

Responsibilities include planning, agency and community outreach, regional networking, training, development, and coordination with the field projects leadership.

Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program Manager Duties:

- 1. Building the administrative infrastructure for the integrated Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program.
 - Plans, develops, and coordinates the execution of fire, fuels, and forestry-related policy, procedures, and operations; monitors compliance with organizational policies, procedures, regulations, and appropriate laws.
 - Continually monitors, evaluates, and improves all elements of the Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program operations.
 - Maintains official records and documents, and ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations.

- 2. Leading project managers in achieving the organization's service and departmental goals:
 - Helps to develop short and long range program goals with the Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program teams.
 - ♦ Leads or assists in implementation of strategies designed to achieve these goals including:
 - Fire planning
 - o Burn Operations
 - Liaison with Forest Service, NRCS, and BLM
 - Participation on NEPA teams as necessary
 - Training including FLN/TREX and Basic 32
 - o Leadership of Klamath/Siskiyou Fire Learning Network
 - Monitoring and adaptive management
 - Supervises review of effectiveness of strategies and assists with adjustments as necessary to facilitate achievement of program goals.
- 3. Coordinating fiscal control for Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program:
 - Works jointly with the Operations Manager and Project Leaders to create budgets, keep costs within projected amounts, and monitor the financial side of the fire/fuels program.
 - Assists with the development of program and project reports to funders and oversees maintenance of program records and/or inventories.
 - Seeks continued revenue streams from a diversity of sources jointly with Development Lead, Executive Director, and program staff.
- 4. HR:
 - ✤ Recruits, hires, and trains program personnel.
 - Performs program staff performance evaluations.
- 5. Community and regional outreach and networking:
 - Participation in Trinity Forest Collaborative
 - Participation in Trinity County Fire Safe Council
 - Participation in Nor-Cal Prescribed Fire Council
 - ✤ Assist project staff in landowner outreach/training as necessary