

FLN Networker No. 171: November 12, 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

California: The **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** held its ninth planning workshop in Happy Camp last week. The workshop focused on **transitioning from agreement in principle** on upslope restoration **to agreement in practice**—on the **actual prescriptions** for various manual, mechanical and prescribed burning treatments. Field trips to areas burned during the **2014 Happy Camp Complex** showed how various treatments affected fire behavior, and participants had a chance to discuss future management of the large swaths that burned at high severity. Photos from the workshop are on the Mid Klamath Watershed Council's [Facebook page](#) (posted November 6). For more information, contact **Will Harling** (will@mkwc.org).

California: The *Trinity Journal* ran an **excellent story** last week on the **NorCal TREX**, hitting all the highlights of “why prescribed fire?” and “why TREX?”

Colorado: The planning team for the new **Pike’s Peak FLN** recently held its **kick-off meeting** to begin developing details of its work plan for the year ahead. The **20 participants** represented a great diversity of organizations and expertise including fire ecology, smoke management, wildfire response, community protection, public outreach, prescribed fire and more. Much of the morning was spent getting to know each other and sharing thoughts on how the FLN can **build on past success** to help **restore a culture of “good fire”** in the region. Clear mutual **priorities emerged** from these discussions, including:

- Addressing public fear and lack of understanding about the role of fire in managing forests by expanding and coordinating public **outreach and engagement** opportunities.
- Addressing fire training and **capacity** needs by providing or facilitating high priority and live fire **training opportunities**.

The team will meet again next month to continue moving forward; see the listings below for details.

Idaho: The **Island Park Sustainable Fire Community** has had a busy year, hiring **outreach representatives** to distribute educational materials door-to-door, holding a **wildfire awareness week** in July, sponsoring slash days to remove **174 piles of slash** from two priority subdivisions and offering free **home risk evaluations**. Their work was recognized with a **Forest Service Conserving Open Space award** at a ceremony on October 22. Read about the award on the [FAC Network blog](#).

Not resting on their laurels, a dozen members of the collaborative working group met in late October to **review and revise the strategic plan** drafted earlier this year. They focused on the first two of their broad targets—**fire adapted human communities** and **wildfire response**—adding and prioritizing actions to be taken, and assigning individuals or committees to address each. The group will meet again in early December to do the same for their third broad target, **resilient landscapes**. For more information, contact **Jessica Simpson** (ipsustainablefire@gmail.com).

TREX: Three videos with different **views of the fall’s prescribed fire training exchanges** are now online. There is a brief [video postcard](#) from the **International TREX** in New Mexico. From the **Klamath River TREX**, there’s a rough draft of a [video](#) by Klamath Media with lots of **good interviews**. And from the **NorCal TREX**, Deer Creek Resources has posted a [video](#) with some fun **time-lapse** sequences.

TREX: The **spring 2015 training exchanges** in Nebraska have been announced—see the listings below.

TREX: A profile of **Jeremy Bailey**, his journey to fire and work with prescribed fire training exchanges is in the posting “**My Place is Fire**” on the Conservancy’s [TALK blog](#).

National: A new **FLN Field Guide** has been [posted on the Conservation Gateway](#). The guide has an **introduction to the Fire Learning Network and its related programs**—prescribed fire training exchanges (TREX), Scaling-up for Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) targeted implementation projects, and the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Network)—as well as pages for each of the **regional FLNs and large collaborative landscapes** and indexes that cross-reference the FLNs with various topics, and an overview of current SPER projects. Sections on the **FAC Network and TREX** will be published **in upcoming versions** of the guide.

Articles & Resources: Socioecological Systems / Fire Regime Reconstruction / Eastern Redcedar

Socioecological Systems: The authors of an [article](#) in the journal *Nature*, “**Learning to Coexist with Wildfire**” (Moritz et al.), “summarize research on fire-prone ecosystems and fire effects on human communities through the lens of [coupled socioecological systems], identify links in these coupled systems, and discuss **recommendations for greater resilience**.”

This paper has had some **media coverage**, including, for example, the *U.S. News & World Report* [story](#) “As Wildfires Worsen, Calls for Change in Tactics” and a [short piece](#) in the *New Yorker*.

Fire Regime Reconstruction: The **Ecological Restoration Institute** and **Southwest Fire Science Consortium** have completed a [new working paper](#), “**An Evaluation of Fire Regime Reconstruction Methods**.” It examines several methods for reconstructing historical fire regimes, including historical documents and photos, dendrochronology (both fire-scar data and tree age, death and growth data), forest structure data, plant traits and charcoal. The **advantages, disadvantages, inherent uncertainties, assumptions**, and temporal and spatial **precision** of each method are explored.

Eastern Redcedar: The **Great Plains Fire Science Exchange** and **Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium** have released a **literature review**, “Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) Expansion, Effects, and Control” (Tracy Hmielowski). You may wish to start perusing this [document](#) now if you plan to take part in one of the Nebraska TREX.

Perspective: Community Adaptation

Community Adaptation: The keynote speaker at the first conference of the **Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities** ([website](#)), Elwood Miller, nicely [addressed the questions](#) of **what makes a community** and what does it **mean to adapt**.

Just for Fun: Great Photo

Great Photo: The Conservancy’s **photo of the month** was taken by **Kent Mason**, from the top of Panther Knob in the **Central Appalachians FLN**. The sunset view is available to [download as wallpaper](#).

Jobs: Land Management Specialist / Burn Boss / Fire Ecologist / Seasonal Fire Crew

Land Management Specialist: The **University of Florida** is hiring a land management specialist to work with **prescribed burning, invasive species control, habitat restoration** and other projects at the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station. Details are available on the university’s [job postings site](#); applications are due by **November 17**.

Burn Boss: The **Conservancy's** Oregon chapter is hiring an **RXB2-qualified burn boss and state FMO**. For details, see the Conservancy's [careers page](#) (position 42546); applications are due by **November 25**.

Fire Ecologist: **Tall Timbers** is hiring a **fire ecologist**. More information is in the attached memo; applications are due by **January 1**.

Seasonal Fire Crew: The **Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge** in Arkansas is filling a term position in its **prescribed fire and wildland firefighting** organization. More information is in the attached memo.

Webinars

- November 17** **Modifying Data—Leveraging LANDFIRE for the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment**
9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern
This Southern Fire Exchange webinar will be presented by Curt Stripling and David Buckley of SouthWRAP.
Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/landfire-webinar-modifying-data-leveraging-landfire-for-the-southern-wildfire-risk-assessment-tickets-13675039411>
- December 2**
new listing **A New Approach to Evaluate Forest Structure Restoration Needs across Oregon and Washington**
1:00 Pacific / 2:00 Mountain / 3:00 Central / 4:00 Eastern
In this LANDFIRE and the Northwest Fire Science Consortium webinar, **Mark Stern, Chris Zanger** and **Ryan Haugo** will present the results of a new TNC/USFS Region 6 Ecology Program study. A [paper](#) on this work is being published in *Forest Ecology and Management*.
Information: <http://www.nwfirescience.org/event-types/webinar>
- January 21, 2015**
new listing **Training Exchanges from the Ground Up**
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern (1:15 long)
The Great Plains Fire Science Exchange will host this webinar with **Jeremy Bailey** and **Ben Wheeler** discussing the strategy behind TREX and how to create burn units across multiple landownerships in the Great Plains.
Log in: <http://acp2.missouristate.edu/trex/>

FLN Workshops & Field Tours

- December 2-3**
deadline **A Future with Fire: Exploring Opportunities for a More Resilient California / McClellan, CA**
Registration is now open for this conference being hosted by the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council** and other partners. It will focus on increasing the pace and scale of fire-based treatments—both managed wildfire and landscape-scale prescribed fire—in California. Please register by **November 24**.
Information: <http://www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org/home.html>
- December 4** **Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains FLN / Ellijay, GA**
Partners will meet for presentations on fire in the Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains, and discussions on facilitating the wise use of fire and protecting communities that shouldn't burn. Information: **Malcolm Hodges** (mhodges@tnc.org)

December 11
new listing

Pike's Peak FLN / Monument, CO

Agenda items for this planning team meeting will include refining the overall vision and charter and building specifics into the draft work plan.

Information: **Paige Lewis** (paige_lewis@tnc.org)

May 12-14, 2015

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / location TBD

Save the date for the 10th annual regional workshop of the SBR FLN; details will follow. (Meanwhile, you can check out information from this past May's workshop at <http://sbrflnworkshop9.weebly.com/>.)

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

Feb 15-28, 2015

North Carolina Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ellerbe, NC

The North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council, Southern Blue Ridge FLN and numerous other partners will host this TREX in the sandhills and piedmont region of the state. (The application deadline has passed.)

March 14-29, 2015

new listing

Niobrara River Valley TREX / Ainsworth, NE

This "spring break TREX" will integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners, including university students; municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters; and other natural resource managers, scientists and researchers. It will provide experiential learning opportunities through a series of controlled burns on The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fort Niobrara NWR. Applications are due by February 2.

Information & application form are on the Conservation Gateway:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/NVP-2015.aspx>

March 16-27, 2015

new listing

Lower Loup Valley TREX / Broken Bow, NE

This TREX will focus on about 5,000 acres of privately-owned grassland that is used for livestock production. Prescribed fire is being used to manage eastern redcedar and promote habitat for grassland-dependent species such as the greater prairie chicken. The TREX is a partnership between Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, the Fire Learning Network, and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. A grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund has provided financial resources to allow participating landowners to rest the land from grazing in order to build up fuel that will increase the effectiveness of the burns.

Applications are due by February 2.

Information & application form are on the Conservation Gateway:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Loup-2015.aspx>

Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

January 18-23, 2015 Wildland Urban Interface: Fire Adapted Communities / Emmitsburg, MD

The National Fire Academy is offering this course (R0614) for persons with organizational responsibility for WUI risk reduction operations in their agency or jurisdiction (federal, state, tribal and local governments).

Information: see the flyer attached to [Networker #168](#)

- Feb 17-19, 2015** **Midwest Fire Conference: Keep Fire Working for the Land / Dubuque, IA**
This Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium conference will focus on fire in the tallgrass prairie, savanna and oak woodland region of the Midwestern United States and adjacent regions of Canada.
Information: <http://www.tposfirescience.org/mwfire15-overview/>
- March 22-27, 2015** **Wildland Urban Interface: Fire Adapted Communities / Emmitsburg, MD**
See the January 18-23 listing.
- April 20-24, 2015** **Managing Fire, Understanding Ourselves: Human Dimensions in Safety and Wildland Fire / Boise, ID**
13th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 4th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference.
Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/>
- May 2, 2015** **International Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**
Various events will be taking place. The logo and a save-the-date postcard are now available; for those, and more information, visit <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day>.
- May 5-7, 2015** **11th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology / Minneapolis, MN**
The American Meteorological Society is hosting this conference; the abstract deadline is January 12.
Information: <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201511fireforest.html>
- October 22-24, 2015** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**
The deadline for abstracts for next year's NFPA conference is December 15.
Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond>
- Nov. 16-20, 2015** **Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX**
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is Albuquerque November 13-15.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in the office.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out November 21.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in the Klamath Mountains, CA November 2-15.

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

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in the office.

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

Note: November 27 & 28 are Conservancy holidays.

To stop receiving the FLN Networker, please reply to this message and include your request in the body of the message.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA—Klamath workshop photos: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Klamath-Watershed-Council/107985815891032>

News from the Field—CA—NorCal TREX: http://www.trinityjournal.com/news/environment/article_e9e9ba2a-6498-11e4-a154-0017a43b2370.html

News from the Field--ID--Island Park: <http://facnetwork.org/forest-service-recognizes-accomplishments-diverse-collaborative-idahomontana/>

News from the Field—TREX videos—International TREX: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrNQyzqAajg>
Klamath River TREX: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-SQVi9oP-8>
NorCal TREX time lapse: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSZbWGe1qcw>

News from the Field—TREX—Bailey profile: <http://blog.nature.org/conservancy/2014/11/10/my-place-is-fire>

News from the Field—FLN Field Guide: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/FLN-Field-Guide.aspx>

Articles & Resources—Socioecological systems: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v515/n7525/full/nature13946.html>
U.S. News & World Report: <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/11/05/as-wildfires-worsen-calls-for-change-in-tactics>
New Yorker: <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/living-wildfire>

Articles & Resources—Fire regime reconstruction: <http://library.eri.nau.edu/gsdli/collect/erilibra/index/assoc/D2014037.dir/doc.pdf>

Articles & Resources—Eastern redcedar: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/files/2014/09/Juniper-Review.pdf>

Perspective—Community adaptation: <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1115718176526-119/The+Adaptation+of+a+Community+to+the+Threat+of+Fire.pdf>

Just for Fun—Photo: <http://www.nature.org/photos-and-video/photoofthefirstmonth/photo-of-the-month-november-2014.xml?src=e.gp>

Jobs--Land management specialist: <https://jobs.ufl.edu/postings/58567>

Jobs--TNC careers page: https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?SiteId=1

Webinars—Haugo et al. paper: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112714005519>

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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Fire Ecologist

Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Fire Ecology Program

Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (Tallahassee, Florida) is seeking a Masters level ecologist to assist with research in the areas of plant ecology and fire science in southeastern U.S. with an emphasis on pine-grasslands. The Fire Ecologist will work closely with the Fire Ecology Program Director to implement collaborative and independent research in the Fire Ecology Program.

Qualifications: (1) Masters degree completed in biology, forestry, wildlife, natural resources, or related field, (2) enthusiastic about conducting independent research and writing articles for publication with assistance from the Fire Ecology Program Director, (3) enjoys plant identification and wants to become proficient in knowledge of local flora, (4) enjoys working in difficult (hot and humid) outdoor conditions, (5) ability to organize and manage a laboratory, (6) comfortable with leadership role in supervising interns and technicians, (7) comfortable with using and maintaining various tools, technology, and equipment, (8) willing to receive training in prescribed burning and to provide leadership on burns, (9) relational database and GIS skills desirable, (10) supportive of land management practices for conservation (prescribed burning, timber thinning, wildlife management, hunting).

Oversight: Fire Ecology Program Director (Kevin Robertson)

Description: This position provides an unusual opportunity to practice professional science at the Masters degree level. The Fire Ecologist is responsible for assisting the Fire Ecology Program Director in implementing and developing plant ecology and fire science research and providing information and education to the public. Duties will include supervision of existing long-term research projects, assisting development and implementation of new research projects, data management, writing manuscripts, hiring and supervising interns, acquiring and maintaining supplies and equipment, assisting with prescribed burning and other institutional needs, and assisting with extension and education activities. Research interests of the Fire Ecology Program are diverse and include effects of fire regime on natural community composition and structure, landscape fire history, natural community classification, fire and soil nutrient cycling, remote sensing of burn severity, and hardwood forest community ecology. The position includes support to receive annual fire training and other educational experiences, such as attending professional conferences and workshops.

Salary and Benefits: Starting salary (Biologist I level) will be \$40,000 annually, with the opportunity for promotion to Biologist II after two years. Benefits include medical, unemployment, and worker's compensation insurance for the employee, and retirement benefits after one year of employment.

To Apply: Submit by e-mail a copy of current resume/CV, college transcripts (if graduated within the past 5 years), a writing sample (publication, thesis chapter, etc.), and contact information for three references, including name, affiliation, email address, and phone number, to:

Kevin Robertson, PhD
krobertson@ttrs.org
Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy
13093 Henry Beadel Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32312
Office: 850-893-4153 x 254
Mobile: 850-508-5499

Review of applications will begin January 1, 2015 with the goal of starting the position in February, 2015.

Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy was established in 1958 as a non-profit scientific and educational organization. Its primary goal is to promote exemplary land stewardship on private and public land. Its areas of focus are ecological research, promoting the use and understanding of prescribed fire, wildlife management, sustainable forestry, and conservation through education and conservation easements.

Tall Timbers Research, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.



Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge is seeking individuals interested in a term (not to exceed 180 day) wildland firefighter position. The individual must have prior wildland fire experience and a valid driver's license. The 180 day term will likely start around February 2015. This is an arduous position that is subject to medical screening, drug screening and physical fitness testing (arduous work capacity / "pack" test).

The position will be based out of the town of Crossett, in southeastern Arkansas, but may involve travel. Housing MAY be available. Hourly pay rate is expected to be commensurate to the GS4 level.

This position will serve in a prescribed fire and wildland firefighting organization. The individual will be required to work with hand tools and around equipment including dozers, engines and all-terrain vehicles. Felsenthal NWR conducts prescribed burning to reduce hazardous fuel loading and to control understory vegetation to benefit the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Interested individuals can send a resume, references and documented wildland fire experience (copy of red card, IQCS record, etc) to:

Matthew Johnson
matthew_johnson@fws.gov
(870) 415-0185

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Matthew Johnson
Fire Management Specialist
South Arkansas Refuge Complex