

FLN Networker No. 206: March 16, 2016

The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, agencies of the Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, information to share, 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 early March workshop of the **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** included two **field sessions** that enabled participants to **deliberate trade-offs** involved in re-opening a road and harvesting timber from a nearby conifer plantation. In general, the network's **zone of agreement** revolves around **treating road edges** and **strategic ridge lines** that will support improved fire management at the landscape scale. Therefore the idea of adding side-treatments to a roadside pilot project required discussion of opportunity costs, income from timber harvest and related issues. Concerns included the erosion from roads and logging activity that typically degrades water quality and affects salmon; the area is also designated for timber production in the Northwest Forest Plan. A smaller **working group will carry these discussions** forward and collaboratively craft language for the **proposed action** under the **NEPA** process.

For more about this workshop—including some photos—see the [WKRP Facebook](#) page.

Nebraska: The spring **Prescribed Fire Training Exchange season kicked off** Monday, with the start of the **Loup River TRES** near Ord, in the central part of the state. The **21-person crew**—from the **U.S. Forest Service**, **Bureau of Indian Affairs**, state agencies, **The Nature Conservancy**, and private fire practitioners—spent the first half of the day getting to know other crew members, training on equipment and scouting the burn area. With favorable weather conditions, they were able to work together on their first day to get **174 acres of good fire** work accomplished.

New Mexico: The **Santa Fe City Council** moved forward last week with an **agreement to share management costs** for **Forest Service** lands that are part of the **city's watershed**. A [story](#) in the *Santa Fe Reporter* captured the flavor of the **opposition** to this agreement—including to the framing of the prescribed fire work as water related—as well as some succinct statements in favor by **Zander Evans** of the **Forest Stewards Guild**. For more, contact **Eytan Krasilovsky** (eytan@forestguild.org).

And on the ground, Eytan reported a **good burn** in the **Greater Santa Fe Fireshed WUI** thanks to a bit of snow and strong partners. Longtime partner **Herman Vigil** was the **burn boss**, the **City of Santa Fe** provided an **engine and engine boss** (the burn was well outside city limits, but close to the municipal watershed), and **Chris' Tree Service** (a **SPER II** project partner) provided a **firefighter** while the owner spent a few hours **talking to neighbors**.

North Carolina: “**What Does Restoration Look Like?** Shortleaf Pine at Roses Creek” is the latest [video](#) from **Lisa Jennings** (lisanjennings@fs.fed.us) about work on the **Grandfather CFLRP** project. For more about this project, located in the **Central Escarpment FLN landscape**, read the March 9 post on the [project blog](#).

And on the ground, the **Grandfather Ranger District** conducted a **two-day, aerial ignition burn** over the **3,100-acre Rose Mountain Unit** with support from **The Nature Conservancy's** Southern Blue Ridge and Sandhills **fire crews**. The burn will help reduce hazardous fuels and improve conditions for oak and southern pine regeneration.

Elsewhere in the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN**, the **Northern Escarpment landscape** successfully pulled off their **first collaborative burn** involving state **gameland, state park and National Park Service** lands. Planning, including drafting a multi-agency MOU, started three years ago. Fire lines were prepared last fall, and weather and crew availability lined up last week to burn 431 acres near Air Bellows Gap. Other recent **partnership burning** includes 1,300 acres in the **South Mountains**, 400 in the **Balsam-Nantahala** landscape (Needmore Gameland), and a 430-acre burn at Lake James State Park in the **Central Escarpment** landscape.

Burned Area Learning Network: A small team of **FLN** and **FAC Net** members and partners met last month in a **design workshop** focused on **applying the learning** from those networks to developing a framework for a Burned Area Learning Network. Recent **large, severe fires** have impacted forests and communities, especially when followed by post-fire flooding and debris flows. This network will **work before, during and after fires** to address post-fire management needs and coordination, including improved science, policy and management practices **beyond the immediate post-fire emergency efforts**. For more information, contact **Anne Bradley** (abradley@tnc.org).

FAC Net: Several coordinators and members of the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** took part in the recent **Wildland Urban Interface Conference** in Reno. Some highlights are in a **blog post** on FireAdaptedNetwork.org written by **Wendy Fulks** (wfulks@tnc.org).

FAC Net: Several FAC Net members have been awarded **community project grants** by the NFPA and State Farm for **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day** on [May 7](#). Among the recipients are **Jon Bruno** (jonathan@uppersouthplatte.org) for a project in Palmer Lake, CO; **Alison Lerch** (alison.lerch@ashland.or.us) in Ashland, OR and **Hilary Lundgren** (hilary@chumstickcoalition.org) in Leavenworth, WA as well as projects in Bend, OR and Monte Sereno, NM.

Pam Wilson (swcoloradofirewise@gmail.com) of **FireWise of Southwest Colorado** reports that **four projects** there received grants: "Our Montezuma Chapter will be developing a '**Fire House**' at the local community college. Our Archuleta Chapter is partnering with the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership on an educational event at Reservoir Hill in Pagosa Springs to **show off fuels reduction work** completed this winter. One of our Firewise Communities, Vista de Oro, is partnering with their local fire department, La Plata County, State Patrol, and our local helitack crew on a **fuels reduction project** along the county road leading to their subdivision which is very overgrown. And we just heard of a fourth project, in Falls Creek Ranch."

Look forward to hearing more about some great community engagement!

Indigenous Peoples Burning Network: A good summary of the January workshop of the **Indigenous Peoples Burning Network** with members of the **Hupa, Karuk** and **Yurok** tribes is in the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Networks: **Curtis Ogden**, of the **Interaction Institute for Social Change**, said working with the **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** and **FireScape Mendocino** leading their Facilitative Leadership workshops, and conversations with network staff **inspired** his most recent [blog post](#), "**Regenerative Networks: Giving Fire Back to People**."

Communities of Practice: CWPP

CWPP: Members of the **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network CWPP CoP** met in a webinar recently to discuss some of the **innovative approaches** they are taking to **community wildfire protection planning**. Highlights from the meeting, as well as some links to resources, are in the attached *FAC Net Notes from the Field*.

Resources: Communities + Fires Map / LANDFIRE Data Access Tool

Communities + Fires Map: Ray Rasker and the team at [Headwaters Economics](#) have developed an **interactive map** showing highest **incidence of wildfire near communities**, based on information from 2000-2014. The map, along with its sortable data table, may be helpful for focusing mitigation efforts, as it identifies **frequently impacted areas**. (Note that it's not a predictive model of wildfire potential or probability.)

LANDFIRE Data Access Tool: The LFDAT—the **ArcGIS toolbar** that interacts with the LANDFIRE data distribution site—has **moved** to the program's website. A few **updates** were also made—[LFDAT 2.6](#) works with the latest version of **ArcMap (v10.3)**, is able to access some recently added 2012 data, and fixes an ArcMap 9.0 pixel issue.

Articles: Large Wildland Fires Conference

Large Wildland Fires Conference: The [volume](#) *Proceedings of the Large Wildland Fires Conference* (Missoula, May 2014) is now available. The **table of contents is worth a skim** at least—the papers and abstracts are a rather eclectic collection. (If there's nothing of interest to you, you're probably reading the wrong newsletter.)

In the News: International Day of Forests

International Day of Forests: The **United Nations** has proclaimed **March 21** as the annual day that “we celebrate the ways in which forests and trees sustain and protect us.” This year's focus is on how **forests are key to freshwater** supplies. Pictures, video, event listings and such are on their [website](#).

Jobs: Fire Ecologist / Fire Manager

Fire Ecologist: The **Nez Perce-Clearwater NF** is conducting **outreach** for a fire ecologist position at the supervisor's office, to be part of the **Forest Plan Revision Team**. Information is in the attached flyer; if interested, return the outreach form by **March 17**.

Fire Manager: The **Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **Colorado fire manager** to provide supervision, training, and project development and coordination for the Conservancy's **Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Module** and associated partner **training** and public **outreach** initiatives. For more information, visit the Conservancy's careers page ([Job ID 44045](#)); applications are due by **April 3**.

Webinar

April 24

Demystifying LANDFIRE's Biophysical Settings Descriptions and Models in the Great Plains of the U.S.

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern

Information: <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/Pages/KoriGreatPlains.aspx>

FLN and FAC Net Workshops & Field Tours

March 16

Pikes Peak FLN / Colorado Springs, CO

Information: **Jason Lawhon** (jlawhon@tnc.org)

March 23

Island Park Sustainable Fire Community / TBD, ID

The IPSFC will meet to discuss successes and lessons learned from the past year, plan work for the coming summer season and make annual updates to their strategic plan in continued pursuit of a strong social, ecological, and sustainable forest community in southeast Idaho.

- March 24-25 updated** **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council / Middletown, CA**
 The agenda for this workshop is now posted; please register by **March 18**.
 Information & registration: <http://www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org/events.html>
 Lodging: Rooms at the Twin Pine Casino are being held at the government rate (\$89); call (707) 987-0297 to reserve (mention the council). Another option is the [Eagle and Rose Hotel](#), a few minutes down the road ((707) 987-7330).
- April 6-7 updated** **FireScape Mendocino / Upper Lake, CA**
 At the eighth FireScape Mendocino workshop, the group will continue its collaborative efforts to create a resilient landscape that provides sustainable habitats for people and animals while supporting the social and economic needs of communities in and around the Mendocino NF.
 Information: see the attached flyer for details
- April 25-29** **National FLN-FAC Net Workshop / Jacksonville, FL**
 Leads from the two networks, along with key national partners, will meet to exchange information, strengthen the ties between the networks and plan the coming year's work.
- May 17-19** **Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Johnson City, TN**
 This workshop will be held in the Great Smoky and Unaka Mountains Landscape, with a field tour of project areas in the Cherokee National Forest.
 Information & registration: <http://sbrfln2016.weebly.com/>
- June 7-8 new listing** **Texas Shortleaf Pine Initiative / Rusk, TX**
 The South Central FLN is a key partner in the growing multi-state Shortleaf Pine Initiative. For more about the SPI, contact McRee Anderson (wanderson@tnc.org).
 Information & registration for this workshop: mzavala@tfs.tamu.edu
- November 2-3** **Central Appalachians FLN / Wintergreen Resort, VA**
 Save the date and stay tuned.

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- March 14-26** **Loup River Valley Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ord, NE**
 The application deadline for this TREX has passed.
- March 19-27** **Niobrara Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ainsworth, NE**
 The application deadline for this TREX has passed.
- April 3-8** **Yurok TREX / Weitchpec, CA**
 Local partners will mobilize resources and conduct training as weather conditions allow during this window.
- April 25-May 6** **Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR**
 The application deadline for this TREX has passed.
- May 9-21** **Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ashland, OR**
 The application deadline for this TREX has passed.
- September 14-30 new listing** **Spanish-language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Santa Fe, NM**
 This TREX, conducted in Spanish, will again take place on and around the Santa Fe National Forest in northern New Mexico, with participants from numerous countries and U.S. states. The application deadline is May 6. (*continued*)

Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/2016-Espanol-TREX.aspx>

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

- March 16-17** **5th Annual Washington Prescribed Fire Conference / Airway Heights, WA**
Practitioners will discuss the year in prescribed fire, priorities moving forward, training exchanges, smoke management and more.
A block of rooms is reserved at the North Quest Resort & Casino for the night of March 16. To get the government rate, call them at (877) 871-6772 by **March 2** and mention the WPFC Conference.
Information: <http://waprescribedfire.org/Conferences.php>
- March 22-23** **Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone / Sacramento, CA**
April 14-15 **Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone / Phoenix, AZ**
April 22-23 **Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone / Oklahoma City, OK**
May 5-6 **Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone / Portland, OR**
May 20-21 **Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone / Spokane, WA**
This seminar is offered by the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA for local fire departments (including VFDs); state fire employees are also eligible if space permits. Travel scholarships are available.
Information: http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/wildfire-safety-training-and-conferences/assessing-wildfire-hazards-in-the-home-ignition-zone-courses?order_src=C365
- March 31-April 2** **New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit / Silver City, NM**
The theme of this statewide conference is “Re-energize Community Fire Response.”
Information: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1784598>
- April 1-2** **Arizona Wildland-Urban Interface & Firewise Summit / Phoenix, AZ**
Information: <https://azsf.az.gov/arizona-wildland-urban-interface-firewise-summit>
- April 6-7** **FFI-Lite Software Training / online**
FEAT/FIREMON Integrated (FFI) is an interagency-supported plot-level monitoring software tool designed to assist managers with collection, storage, and analysis of ecological information.
Information: <http://nrfirescience.org/event/ffi-lite-software-training>
- April 11-15** **5th International Fire Behavior + Fuels Conference / Portland, OR**
The theme of this IAWF conference is “Wicked Problems, New Solutions: Our Fire, Our Problem.” The Northern Rockies Fire Science Consortium is offering a limited number of **travel grants** to this conference (<http://nrfirescience.org/nrfsn-travel-grant-application>).
Information: <http://www.firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com/>
- April 26-28** **Collaborative Restoration Workshop: Working Toward Resilient Landscapes and Communities / Denver, CO**
(FLN and FAC Net leads—this workshop coincides with our annual workshop.)
Information: to take a pre-workshop survey and get on the contact list for this NFF workshop, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CollaborativeRestorationWorkshop>

- May 2-13 deadline** **East River South Dakota Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (1 of 2)**
 The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy will be hosting this training, conducting burns in mixed grass prairies around the Sand Lake and Waubay NWRs. (See also the May 16-27 listing.) The announcement and application form are attached to [FLN Networker #204](#). Applications are due by **March 28**.
- May 2-3** **Wildfire Habitat Restoration on Private Lands—Field Tours / northern AR**
 The Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium will host two one-day field tours as part of this joint offering. Tours will cover the pine-bluestem restoration on the Ouachita NF and glade and fire management at City Rock Bluff.
 Information & registration for one or both of these two days:
<http://www.oakfirescience.com/events-webinars-source/arkansasfiretour>
- May 4-5** **Wildfire Habitat Restoration on Private Lands—Part II / Batesville, AR**
 The second two days of this conference will be hosted by the Arkansas Private Land Partnership. Both days will include field tours or demonstrations and indoor presentations.
 Information and registration for one or both of these two days:
<http://www.uaex.edu/environment-nature/wildlife/conferences/>
- May 7** **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / Everytown, USA**
 Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day>
- May 16-27 deadline** **East River South Dakota Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (2 of 2)**
 The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy will be hosting this training, conducting burns in mixed grass prairies around the Sand Lake and Waubay NWRs. (See also the May 2-13 listing.) The announcement and application form are attached to [FLN Networker #204](#). Applications are due by **March 28**.
- July 17-20** **North American Prairie Conference—From Cemetery Prairies to National Tallgrass Prairies / Normal, IL**
 Illinois State University is hosting this conference, with presentations on prairie ecology, restoration, management and some innovative ideas on working lands.
 Information: <http://nap2016.illinoisstate.edu/>
- November 14-17** **International Smoke Symposium / Long Beach, CA**
 The IAWF and the NWCG SmoC (smoke committee) will be hosting this in-person / virtual symposium. The call for presentations is now open; submissions are due by May 16.
 Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/2016SmokeSymposium/>
- Nov. 28–Dec. 2** **Southwest Association for Fire Ecology Conference / Tucson, AZ**
 Save the date for “Beyond Hazardous Fuels: Managing Fire for Social, Economic and Ecological Benefits,” hosted by AFE and the Southwest Fire Science Consortium.

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in the office.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is out March 16, March 25.

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

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Airway Heights, WA March 16-17; Humboldt, CA March 22; Middleton, CA March 23-25.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in the office.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in the office.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – 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—CA: <https://www.facebook.com/WesternKlamathRestorationPartnership/>

News from the Field—NM: <http://www.sfreporter.com/santafe/article-11688-city-signs-on-to-watershed-grant.html>

News from the Field—NC—Video: <https://vimeo.com/157748138>

Blog: <https://grandfatherrestorationproject.wordpress.com/>

News from the Field—FAC Net: <http://fireadaptednetwork.org/fac-net-members-get-together-at-2016-wui-conference/>

News from the Field—Networks: <http://interactioninstitute.org/regenerative-networks-giving-fire-back-to-people/>

Resources—Communities + fires map: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/wildfire/homes-risk/communities-wildfire-threat>

Resources—LANDFIRE Data Access Tool: <http://landfire.gov/datatool.php>

Articles--Large wildland fires conference: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_p073.pdf

In the News—International Day of Forests: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/international-day-of-forests/en/>

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 Learning Network Notes from the Field

Indigenous Peoples Burning Network

Workshop #3
January 15-16, 2016
Orleans, CA

Seventeen members of the Hupa, Karuk and Yurok tribes—along with guests from the Six Rivers National Forest and the Mid Klamath Watershed Center and two Fire Learning Network staff—met in mid-January for their third workshop. Among the outcomes of the workshop was a name change for their collective effort, to the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network.

Through interactions over the course of the workshop, the group:

- learned about upper level management priorities for the Six Rivers National Forest. The Forest Supervisor emphasized the importance of the Forest Service working with collaborative groups like this network and the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership to develop the “social license” needed to move good projects forward.
- discussed plans to participate in Forest Plan revision for the Six Rivers National Forest. This will include reviewing and discussing the current Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and participating in public meetings.
- used aerial and satellite imagery from the 1940s and 2010s to visualize changes in vegetation cover and other features of their ancestral territories at the landscape scale.
- continued their exploration of fire effects and treatment options by touring an area burned during this fall’s Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX). The Simms Gulch burn unit was of particular interest because the burn was designed to reduce fuels without thinning before burning (the control lines had received thinning treatment, however).

Local TREX organizers also began to discuss inviting members of other tribes to participate in TREX events in the future, including the idea of creating an Indigenous Peoples TREX in the future. This would require developing some new elements under the guidance of tribal members.

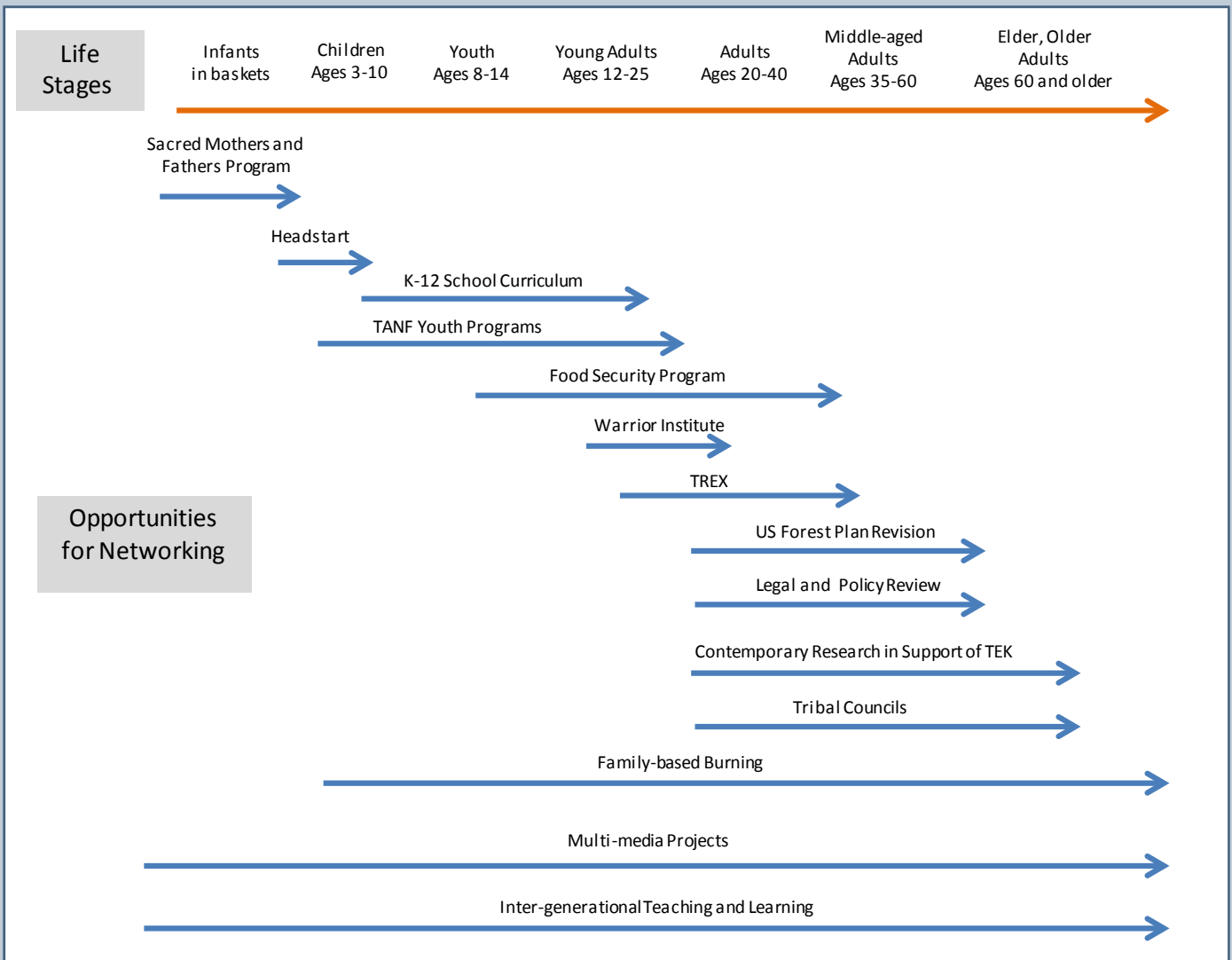
Participants in the workshop also reported on networking and group activities that had taken place since the previous workshop. This wide-ranging work included:

- The Yurok Cultural Fire Management Council (CFMC) submitted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the Yurok Tribal Council for approval at its next meeting. The MOU would advance the working relationship between CFMC and the Tribe.
- The CFMC is also developing an MOU for working with the Terra Fuego Resource Foundation.



The Yurok Tribal Chairman (left) exchanges ideas with other network participants.

Photo: TNC/Mary Huffman



Framework for Developing Traditional Fire Practitioners in a Contemporary Context

This diagram illustrates how local programs and activities provide networking opportunities at each life stage in the development of traditional Yurok, Hupa and Karuk fire practitioners in a contemporary context.

Maintaining traditional fire culture is an inter-generational endeavor that requires lifelong investment by the practitioners and the community. Restoration of local fire culture will require the Yurok-Hupa-Karuk IPBN to develop a support network for each stage of life.

- Members of the Yurok Tribal Council are considering refreshing the tribe’s forest management plan to include traditional burning and burning for forest health. The Department of Natural Resources of the Karuk Tribe will share its Eco-cultural Resource Management Plan as a resource.
- The Karuk Tribe and leadership of the Klamath National Forest are working to connect the Karuk’s Eco-cultural Resource Management Plan with the forest’s Land and Resource Management Plan. Authority for this arises from the MOU for the Katimiin Cultural Management Area and adjacent landscapes, the Orleans Some Bar Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and Federal Land Management and Policy Act.
- The Hoopa Fire Department is working with the Hoopa Valley High School and the District Coordinator for Indian Education to offer a class in wildland fire. The class will include elements of both traditional and contemporary fire management, and successful completion of the course will provide students with the classroom portion of training needed for certification and eligibility for employment as a basic federal firefighter.
- Burn unit selection for the spring Yurok TRES is underway, with planned burn dates of April 3-8; the dates are flexible and dependent on the weather.

Updated: Network Operating Principles

(change since last workshop is highlighted in bold type)

1. We work and pray to fix our world, restoring the balance with fire.
2. With fire, our three tribes work together just as we dance together.
3. We provide a support system among our communities for restoring traditional burning practices. **We do this because Indian People have a responsibility to our home place: the land and the people.**
4. Yurok, Hupa and Karuk communities have leadership, oversight and control of our work.
5. Our elders and cultural practitioners mentor tribal youth in traditional fire practices, while also preparing them for fire-related employment in contemporary fire management.
6. We protect the intellectual property rights of our tribes and respect territorial rights of families.
7. We work toward individuals having the ability to burn their own private spaces.
8. We recognize the need to clear out excessive fuel loading before we can burn in the traditional way.
9. We stay in tune with traditional eco-cultural indicators to plan, carry out and evaluate our fires.
10. We educate agencies and non-governmental organizations about traditional fire by providing hands on learning, conveying principles, and creating a community of practice.
11. We recognize the need to reverse the effects of fire exclusion.

Updated: Current Work Priorities*

(changes since last workshop are highlighted in bold type)

- Family-based burning
- **Fire effects monitoring**
- Hands-on community education
- Legal and policy review regarding sovereign rights to burning
- **Reintroducing fire ceremony**
- Revision of national Forest Management Plans
- TREX—includes filling trainee slots for positions specific to tribes in Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges.
- Warrior Institute and Karuk youth programs

* in alphabetical, not priority, order



Workshop participants compare historical and current imagery of the landscape

Photo: TNC/Mary Huffman

For more information about the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network, contact:

Mary Huffman
mhuffman@tnc.org

The Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN), Fire Learning Network (FLN) and Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) are part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

For more information, contact Lynn Decker ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



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FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

Notes from the Field

FAC Net Members Discuss Innovative CWPPs

February 2015

FAC Net members discuss innovative community wildfire protection plans in a webinar meeting of the CWPP Community of Practice.

The CWPP Community of Practice held a members-only webinar on February 25 that highlighted innovative community wildfire protection planning efforts from Travis County (Texas), Bend (Oregon), Lake Tahoe Basin (California and Nevada) and Ashland (Oregon). Network members from these places discussed their own planning efforts—including community engagement, plan organization, outreach and how their CWPPs have evolved—as well as the new CWPP guidance that was recently developed for New Mexico (see box).

Highlights from Case Studies

The Travis County CWPP core team engaged land managers, planners, fire departments and other emergency responders, and other community leaders. According to Justice Jones, “the plan serves as a springboard for transforming our communities at risk into fire adapted communities.” Outreach related to the CWPP targeted urban, suburban and rural audiences with messages tailored for each.

Deschutes County, Oregon is covered by seven CWPPs. Creators of the 2016 Greater Bend CWPP have reorganized its action plan around the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) goals. Ed Keith

and Alison Green noted that they also added a large section on business wildfire resiliency. Another innovation was an appendix with post-fire recovery information for residents, which will also be available as a stand-alone document. Project staff are circulating the document for signatures on the final version.

In the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team updated their “Multi-jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy” in 2014. The new plan has the same goals as the Cohesive Strategy: resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and safe and effective wildfire response.

The team changed how it designated wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas, resulting in more private land falling into the WUI category than had been the case in 2007.

“This was the most useful process that we went through.”

on the use of the FAC Net’s FAC Self-Assessment Tool for community engagement

This highlights the need for better cooperation between private and government entities. The Lake Tahoe Basin CWPP tiers from the this plan and is essentially its implementation plan. The CWPP team worked hard to make the plan accessible to a wide spectrum of audiences. They invested in a designer, which resulted in a more attractive document that has been viewed by more people.

Related Resources

Visit the FAC Net YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw0iViThjzZbd5A4bf3tGkw>) to view recordings of the webinar presentations.

Email info@fireadaptednetwork.org for more information about the CWPP Community of Practice.

See the New Mexico CWPP guidance at <http://allaboutwatersheds.org/library/inbox/2015-community-wildfire-protection-plan-cwpp-update-guidelines/view>.

“The plan serves as a **springboard** for transforming our communities at risk into fire adapted communities.”

on the CWPP for Austin, Texas



surveyed were aware of fire risk, Ashland’s wildfire history and actions necessary to be safe. About half had taken some action related to wildfire preparedness. The city has created a wildfire mitigation commission, and the Chamber of Commerce is creating a fire plan task force that includes key stakeholders. This group will form the foundation for a CWPP advisory committee.

New Guidance

In addition to these examples, Eytan Krasilovsky of the Forest Stewards Guild spoke to the group about new CWPP guidance developed in New Mexico. Among other things, the guidance uses the Cohesive Strategy as a frame, and requires a list of prioritized projects. It also includes the following suggestions or best practices for CWPPs:

- Develop a plan to keep your core team active;
- Use plain language;
- Plan at multiple scales;
- Ensure the plan recognizes vulnerable populations (elderly, disabled and disadvantaged);
- Make action plans specific;
- Don’t label large areas or entire counties as WUI;
- Connect your CWPP to other plans and work with land use planners; and
- Plan for before, during and after wildfire in your CWPP.

Forest Schafer from the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District stressed the importance of creating a CWPP that allows for flexibility in prioritizing fuel reduction projects. Action plans for five areas surrounding the lake are adapted from results from the FAC Net “FAC Self-Assessment Tool.” According to Schafer, “this was the most useful process that we went through,” for planning around community engagement. The sub-plans include actions that the entire community can implement, not just agencies. Participation from a wide variety of groups is essential in the creation of fire adapted communities.

Ashland, Oregon is in the process of revamping their CWPP. According to Chris Chambers, forest division chief for the city, more than a decade ago the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 provided a means for Ashland stakeholders to craft a

CWPP and offer an alternative plan for treatments on federal forestlands. That plan, while outdated, has been useful and it catalyzed a 7,600-acre project that is about three-fourths complete. However, Ashland’s first CWPP did not engage the community in collaborative wildland fire planning, which is being addressed in the new plan. The main sections of the new plan will mirror the goals of the Cohesive Strategy. It will also include sections about vulnerable populations and post-fire recovery.

Alison Lerch, Ashland’s fire adapted communities coordinator, described how, in preparation for launching into the planning process, the city worked with a contractor to conduct a community engagement study. They contacted more than 400 residents and asked them about perceptions of wildfire risk and the fire plan. Two-thirds of those

For more about the FAC Learning Network, visit:

<http://fireadaptednetwork.org/>

or contact:

Michelle Medley-Daniel

michelle@thewatershedcenter.com

The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center.

An equal opportunity provider and employer.





Outreach Notice: *Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs*
Fire Ecologist
GS-0401-12 PFT
Merit or Demo

The Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests will soon be filling a **GS-0401-Fire Ecologist PFT** position at the Supervisors Office in Kamiah, ID. The Forests are in the process of revising their Forest Plans into one plan. This position would be the Fire Ecologist on the Forest Plan Revision team. This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of the upcoming opportunity and to determine interest in the position.

Forest plan revision is an opportunity to be involved in shaping the direction of land and resource management on the Forests for years to come. The Forests have scoped a proposed action and will be releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Monitoring Plan early in 2017.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs are a complex fire forest with diverse ecosystems that range from dry ponderosa pine to coastal disjunct communities. Wildfire is the primary driving force in the forested ecosystems. Last year, approximately 190,000 acres burned on the Forests along with many acres on state and private land.

The position will be a permanent, full time position. The duty station is Kamiah, ID.

Duties of the Position:

This position serves as the Fire Ecologist on the Forest Plan Revision (FPR) Team over the next two years. Duties will include a broad range of activities including compiling, evaluating, and analyzing data, assessing fire ecology on the forest ecosystems, interpreting National and Regional level direction to the team, developing plan components, coordinating development of the plan components with forest, district, and regional office specialists, drafting and editing resource specific reports, and participating in public outreach and collaboration. The individual will be working with a contractor who is preparing a risk assessment for the Forests. They will also work closely with Fire personnel on the Forests.

The incumbent stays abreast of the legal aspects of forest planning and associated planning regulations as they pertain to fisheries issues. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively in a team environment are essential.

After the Forest Plan is completed the incumbent will be supporting objections and litigation, if any. They will also serve as a Fire Planner to assist in identifying management areas that will feed the spatial WFDSS process. Other duties may be assigned.

Information about the Forests and Communities:

The Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests are located in an area rich with history, abundant wildlife and unique recreation opportunities.

Kamiah is located on the Nez Perce Reservation. The Tribe holds events in Kamiah and invites non-tribal members to participate. The town's population is approximately 1300; however, there are about twice

that many residents in the surrounding area. Many people live in other areas and communities and commute to Kamiah to work and vice versa.

Lewis and Clark traveled through the area on their quest for the Northwest Passage. The Niimiipuu (Nez Perce) Trail is another important landmark where the Nez Perce traveled to hunt buffalo and trade with their neighbors to the east. It is also the route that Chief Joseph took in his flight to Canada.

The Forests are also historical in regards to fire history. The first smokejumper jumped on the Moose Creek District in 1940. The Great Burn of 1910 covered part of the Clearwater National Forest. The Forests hosts the Grangeville Smokejumpers and also the Grangeville Area Command Center.

The area is known for its excellent outdoor recreational opportunities. Kamiah is located next to the Clearwater River. To the south are the Salmon and Snake Rivers. The Forests' rivers and streams also provide nationally-renowned blue ribbon catch-and-release trout fishing opportunities for large westslope cutthroat trout, including Kelly Creek, the Lochsa River, and the Selway River. Salmon and Steelhead fishing is some of the best in the lower 48. Whitewater rafting is popular on the rivers. The four wilderness areas offer opportunities to explore: Hells Canyon, Gospel Hump, Frank Church River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot. The Forests provide year-round habitat for one of the most significant elk herds in Idaho. White tail deer are abundant.

Outdoor recreation, lumber production, farming and cattle ranching are the major industries in the area.

Area population centers are Lewiston - 66 miles; Moscow - 93 miles; Missoula, Montana - 152 miles and Spokane, Washington - 166 miles.

Housing - Government housing is not available. Rental rates for an average three-bedroom home range from \$400 to \$700 per month. Purchase price for a three-bedroom home ranges from \$90,000 to \$250,000.

Schools and Churches - Public schools are available in Kamiah from preschool through 12th grades. There is a private Catholic school in Cottonwood, Summit Academy. The University of Idaho at Moscow is a 1 1/2 hour drive from Kamiah, and Washington State University at Pullman, Washington is 15 miles beyond that. Lewis-Clark State College at Lewiston is approximately an hour and half drive. Most major religious affiliations are represented in the area.

Medical - A small medical clinic is located in Kamiah. There are small hospitals in Grangeville, Cottonwood and Orofino. Full service medical facilities are located in Lewiston, Spokane and Missoula.

Contact Information: If you have any questions regarding the position, please contact: Joyce Thompson, Planning and Public Affairs Staff Officer, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, phone: 1-208-935-4273, email: jthompson@fs.fed.us

Outreach Response: If you're interested in the position, please complete the Outreach Interest Form and return it to Joyce Thompson by COB March 17, 2016. If you respond to this outreach, you will be notified when the position is advertised. Responses after March 17, 2017 will not be considered in identifying how to advertise the position.

**Outreach Interest Form: Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests
Fire Ecologist – GS-0401-12 PFT
Merit or Demo**

Please Respond by: COB on Feb. March 17, 2016

The objectives of an outreach is to identify individuals interested in the position and to gather information on how to advertise the position. Please answer the questions if you are interested in the position to help inform us on how to best advertise the position to get the best applicants. Attaching your resume would be very beneficial to us. Merit positions are to federal employees or individuals covered under a special authorities only. Demo positions are open to all US Citizens.

NOTE: This is not a job advertisement. All federal jobs are advertised at www.usajobs.gov. If you respond to this outreach, you will be notified when the position is open for you to apply. You may want to consider getting your job profile into www.usajobs.gov before the position is advertised.

Please complete this form and return it to Joyce Thompson at:

Email: jthompson@fs.fed.us

Hardcopy: Joyce Thompson
Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests
Planning and Public Affairs Staff Officer
903 3rd Street
Kamiah, ID 83536

Fax: 1-208-935-4274

Phone: 1-208-935-4273, cell: 1-208-660-2058

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Are you a current permanent Federal employee or are you eligible for reinstatement?

Current/Last Agency, Unit and Duty Station:

Title/Series/Grade:

If you are not a current permanent employee, are you eligible for appointment under a special authority?

If you are eligible for appointment under a special authority, please list the authority. Special authorities include: Persons with Disabilities, Former Peace Corps Volunteer, Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability, Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998, Other (please describe).

We are considering whether to advertise the position as a secondary firefighter. This is an important consideration as Firefighters have different retirement qualifications than non-Firefighters.

Would you be interested in the position if it was a secondary firefighter?

Would you be interested in the position if it was NOT a secondary firefighter?



FireScape Mendocino Workshop 8

We need people...

... With local community perspectives
... Who enjoy outdoor recreation (camping, hunting, hiking, OHV, etc.)
... With perspectives on living with wildfires
... Who manage land - whether it's a ranch, timberlands or their backyard
... With thoughts about community and landscape planning
... With enthusiasm and an interest in the future of our local landscapes

All meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to participate. If you know someone who might be interested in this, please pass along this invitation.

Location & Dates:

Wednesday, Apr 6th &
Thursday, Apr 7th
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm

Upper Lake Grange Hall

9355 Government St.
Upper Lake, CA 95485
Just off Highway 20

A Foundation for Working Together on the Landscape

Please join us in Upper Lake for the eighth in a series of workshops for FireScape Mendocino **Wednesday, April 6th and Thursday, April 7th, 2016** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

FireScape is a voluntary collaborative of residents, agencies and organizations working to shape the future of our fire-prone landscape in and near the Mendocino National Forest. Taking the next step in this collaborative effort, our goals will be:

- Hear from participants about ongoing work related to our shared values.
- Explore potential areas of work near Upper Lake.
- Continue building skills for networking and collaborative problem solving within the scope of FireScape Mendocino.
- Learn about other collaborative efforts that have the potential to intersect with FireScape Mendocino.

During this two-day event, participants will work in both small and large groups, indoors and outdoors. Guided by the best practices of the North America Fire Learning Network, our collaboration is designed to enable people with diverse perspectives to find zones of agreement where we can achieve tangible results in our communities and the surrounding landscape. For more information, check out our blog at mendocinofirescape.blogspot.com.

Prior workshop attendance is NOT required - Please come if you are interested! Lunch will be provided both days.

There will be a field trip on Thursday lasting much of the day and participants should be prepared for weather conditions in the field. Carpooling will be organized that morning and is highly encouraged to avoid the complications that arise from too many vehicles at the project location. The trip will be fairly accessible, but may involve walking short distances off roads on gentle slopes.

In order to make sure we have food and materials for everyone, we ask that you register by Wednesday March 30th. To register, or for more information, please contact Marilyn Perham at 530-897-6370 ext. 200 or by email at mperham@tnc.org

Thank you and we look forward to your participation in this collaborative effort.