

FLN Networker No. 275: January 9, 2019

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 Marek Smith.

News from the Field

California: The **Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association** now has a [Facebook page](#). Check it out for some **take-aways from a recent burn** in oak woodlands.

New Mexico: The **Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition** recently hosted a sold-out screening of the **Era of Megafires** film at a downtown theater. **Sam Berry** (sam@forestguild.org) reported that they've "hosted some free seminars in the past that were promoted the same way as this movie, but were modestly attended—so we were ecstatic that we filled 140+ seats for this showing.... Although the movie was a great draw, a **crucial part of the event was a panel discussion** afterward with **Anne Bradley** (The Nature Conservancy), **Eytan Krasilovsky** (Forest Stewards Guild), **James Melonas** (U.S. Forest Service) and **Jens Stevens** (U.S. Geological Service), moderated by **Kendal Martel**. This really helped to **focus the messages** from the movie to a more local Southwest context, and many of the attendees stuck around for this and provided some great conversation." The coalition hopes to repeat this event in association with the **fire preparedness day in May**, with a **community adaptation focus** in the panel discussion.

New Mexico: **Santa Clara Pueblo Forestry** put together the [storymap](#) "**A Tribe's Collaborative Journey** Toward Establishing **Forest Resiliency**." Among the partners mentioned are the **Forest Stewards Guild**, **Rio Grande Water Fund** and **The Nature Conservancy**—and the presentation offers a good view of the landscape in which they work.

Washington: In the wake of the recently released survey of prescribed fire use from the **Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils**, the *Yakima Herald* published the [story](#) "State Agency Wants to **Increase Prescribed Burns for Healthier Forests**." Behind many of the changes noted in the article is a good deal of work by the **FLN**, **TREX** and **Washington Prescribed Fire Council**. For more information, contact **Reese Lolley** (rlolley@tnc.org).

IPBN: Two members of the **Indigenous Peoples Burning Network**—the **Karuk Tribe** and the **Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe**—are among the four tribe-Forest Service collaborations highlighted in a new report from the **Intertribal Timber Council**. "**Cross Boundary Collaboration** Between Tribes and the United States Forest Service: **Success Stories** from Forest Systems Using the **Tribal Forest Protection Act**"—and other resources related to the Tribal Forest Protection Act—can be downloaded from the [ITC website](#).

TREX: The **graphic** that shows the growth in size and diversity of TREX since 2008 has been **updated with 2018 data**, and is [posted](#) on the Conservation Gateway. The spring season will be getting underway soon—see the listings below (or on the CG [Upcoming TREX](#) page) for details and application deadlines.

Resources: Wildfire Prep Day / TREX Outreach / Red Flag Warning

Wildfire Prep Day: The national **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day** has been set for **May 4** this year. **NFPA** will again be offering funding to 150 communities for **wildfire safety projects**; a brief [blog post](#) has some suggestions for creating a successful project.

TREX Outreach: Partners in the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** brought a **strong public communications team** to support the TREX they hosted in the Carolinas this fall. **Jen Bunty** (jen@cafms.org) captured their **lessons learned** in the FAC Net [blog post](#) “Talking about **Lighting Fire Near Recently Burned Communities**: Communications at the **Southern Blue Ridge TREX**.” Good reading for anyone running public outreach during a TREX—or other prescribed burning.

Red Flag Warning: The **Ready, Set, Go!** program has a couple of new resources that **explain red flag warnings**, and what **actions people should take** during a warning. The information is available in a one-page [flyer](#) and four-page [booklet](#). Links to these guides and other resources—including numerous recorded webinars—can also be found at <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/Explore/Resources-and-Tools>.

Articles & Reports: Rx Survey—Correction / Radio Communication / Relationships with Fire / Rx & Carbon / Pyroaerobiology

Rx Survey—Correction: In a message from the **Northern California Prescribed Fire Council** (nwcapfc@gmail.com), **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** pointed out an **error** in the “**2018 National Prescribed Fire Use Survey Report**,” shared in the last *Networker*. According to Lenya:

On page 15, there is a map of all the states' liability laws, and **California** is mapped as having a strict liability standard. This is not the case—we have a **simple negligence standard**, and the **differences are very important**.... California has a simple negligence law, which means that people are liable for damages from prescribed fire if they are being negligent. California's Health and Safety Code (13008) provides: “Any person who allows any fire burning upon his property to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, without exercising due diligence to control such fire, is liable to the owner of such property for the damages to the property caused by the fire.” The key thing there is the idea of due diligence.... See this report by **Chanyou Sun**, which **summarizes the different categories of liability law** and where California sits: <http://sofew.cfr.msstate.edu/papers/0519sun.pdf>.

Radio Communication: “Clear communication” is essential on the fireline. The [article](#) “**Cultivating a Reluctance to Simplify**: Exploring the Radio Communication Context in Wildland Firefighting” addresses some of the challenges behind that apparently simple directive.

Relationships with Fire: The [article](#) “Wildland–Urban Interface Residents' Relationships with Wildfire: **Variation Within and Across Communities**” is based on consistently collected data from 68 Colorado communities that were provided by the **West Region Wildfire Council** and **FireWise of Southwest Colorado** (now **Wildfire Adapted Partnership**), a **FAC Net** core member. The results contribute to the “growing chorus emphasizing **caution in extrapolating wildfire social science** findings from one context to another, finding that community context matters for many human dimensions of wildfire risk.”

Rx & Carbon: A [research brief](#) from the **North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange** summarizes the article “Decadal-scale Reduction in Forest Net Ecosystem Production Following Insect Defoliation Contrasts with Short-term Impacts of Prescribed Fires” recently published in *Forests*. Speaking of **prescribed fire in a pitch pine stand**, the brief notes that while “a large amount of carbon was lost during the burns, the forest recovered its ability to absorb the same amount of carbon as soon as the next growing season. The **carbon lost during the fire equaled the carbon gains** in the forest after only **two to three years**.”

Pyroaerobiology: There's lots of good stuff in the most recent issue of the **Southern Fire Exchange newsletter**, including a synopsis of “Pyroaerobiology: The **Aerosolization** and Transport of **Viable Microbial Life** by Wildland Fire” (and a link to the full article).

In the News: Home Insurance

Home Insurance: The [article](#) “As **Wildfire Risk** Increases in Colorado and the West, **Home Insurance Grows Harder to Find**” ran on the front page of the *Denver Post* yesterday. The story highlights the work of Wildfire Partners (in Boulder) and briefly quotes **Bill Trimarco** of **Wildfire Adapted Partnership**, a FAC Net core member.

Job: Burn Boss

Burn Boss: The Nature Conservancy is hiring a burn boss to be based in **Victoria, Texas**. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 47197](#)); applications are due by **January 23**. (Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Webinars

January 29

Hot Burns, Cold Burns, and Everything In Between: Exploring Prescribed Burning’s Impacts on Forest Structure in the Appalachians

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

In this FLN webinar, Jean Lorber will give a short presentation about new fire monitoring results; this will be followed by case studies of individual burn units, presented by the folks that burned them, to showcase a range of fire intensities and talk about why the units burned the way they did. Join the webinar:

<https://tnc.webex.com/tnc/j.php?MTID=m3e327fe32b89e3ada50775ad14c5e161>

(or use the attached file “Hot Burns, Cold Burns” to add this to your calendar)

**February 20
new listing**

Homeowner Preparedness in the WUI: What Motivates Action?

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

Claire Rapp will be the presenter for this Southern Fire Exchange webinar.

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sfe-webinar-homeowner-preparedness-in-the-wui-tickets-52045979927>

Recording

Lessons Learned from Learn-n-Burn Events: Moving Landowners from Interest to Action

Jennifer Fawcett and Bobby Clontz were the presenters for this October 10

Southern Fire Exchange webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-8lw2ccxeQ>

Recording

Using Drone Imagery to Analyze Prescribed Burns

Morgan Treadwell was the presenter for this October 31 Great Plains Fire

Science Exchange webinar: <https://www.frames.gov/catalog/56909>

Network Workshops & Field Tours

February 11-15

Annual FLN Leaders-TREX Coaches-IPBN Workshop / Russellville, AR

Regional network leads, TREX coaches and leaders from the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network will be hosted by the South Central FLN.

February 20-21

Potomac Headwaters Landscape Workshop / McHenry, MD

Save the date for the next workshop of this Central Appalachians FLN landscape, which will be held at Garrett College.

April 22-26

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Workshop / Ashland, OR

FAC Net core members and key partners will meet at this national workshop.

May 14-16

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Athens, TN

Save the date for the next annual workshop of this regional FLN network.

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

- February 3-9
deadline** **Yurok Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Weitchpec, CA**
These are target dates—participants must be able to mobilize to Weitchpec on 72 hours' notice. This TREX will incorporate knowledge from the native tribes of Northern California and develop understanding about their traditional and contemporary use of prescribed fire. Applications are due by **January 15**. Information: see the attached flyer and application form
- March 17-30** **Loup River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ord, NE**
Participants in this TREX, hosted by Pheasants Forever and The Nature Conservancy, will conduct pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment, and practice fireline leadership skills while burning on private lands. Applications are due by **February 1**. Information: see the attached flyer and application form
- March 18-29** **Women in Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (WTREX) / Tallahassee, FL**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- March 30-April 13** **Niobrara Valley Preserve Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ainsworth, NE**
Fire practitioners—including private landowners; volunteer fire departments; university students; municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters—and other natural resource managers, scientists and researchers seeking trainee experience in FFT2, FFT1, FIRB, ENGB and RXB2 positions are invited to take part in this TREX based at a Conservancy preserve. Applications are due by **January 30**. Information: see the [announcement](#) and [application form](#) posted on the Upcoming TREX page of the Conservation Gateway
- April 29-May 3** **Iowa Cooperative Burn Week / Council Bluffs, IA**
Save the date for this week of cooperative burning and learning together.
- April 29-May 10
updated** **Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange**
Details and a link to the online application form for both Oregon TREX are in the attached announcement. Applications are due by **February 15**.
- May 13-24
updated** **Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange**
Details and a link to the online application form for both Oregon TREX are in the attached announcement. Applications are due by **February 15**.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

- January 15-17** **Longleaf Academy: Fire & Longleaf 201 / Guyton, GA**
Details: <https://longleafalliance.org/events/longleaf-academy-fire-longleaf-201-4>
- January 30-31
new listing** **Fire in Minnesota Ecosystems / Cloquet, MN**
Details: <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2019-fire-in-mn-ecosystems>
- February 7** **Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / Gettysburg, PA**
Details will be available soon at: <http://www.paprescribedfire.org>
- February 7** **North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / Jasper, GA**
This meeting, hosted by the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D, is intended to help grow the state council's efforts in North Georgia.
Details: <http://www.garxfire.com/events.htm>

- March 26-28** **Wildland Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV**
Pre-conference events will take place March 23-26.
Information: <https://www.iafc.org/events/wui>
- April 1-3** **After the Flames / Denver, CO**
This conference is being convened by The Nature Conservancy, Forest Stewards Guild and Southern Rockies Fire Science Network, and hosted by Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO). It will include sessions on community resilience and preparation, pre-fire planning for post-fire response, and “fantastic failures” (sharing lessons from what didn’t work). [Registration](#) is open.
Information: <http://aftertheflames.com/>
- April 29-May 3** **6th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference / Albuquerque, NM**
The conference theme is "Fuels of Today–Fire Behavior of Tomorrow," and will be held simultaneously in Albuquerque, Sydney (NSW Australia) and Marseille (France).
Information: <http://www.firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com/>
- May 4** **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / Everytown, USA**
new listing
Information: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>
- June 2-5** **North American Prairie Conference / Houston, TX**
Information: <http://www.northamericanprairie.org/>
- July 23-25** **Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference / State College, PA**
Save the date for this conference organized by the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium and Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council.
- October 1-3** **5th Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference / Van Buren, MO**
Information: <http://www.shortleafpine.net/shortleaf-pine-initiative/conferences>
- October 21-24** **3rd Annual Cohesive Strategy Workshop / Plymouth, MA**
Information: https://www.iawfonline.org/event/2019_cohesive_strategy_workshop/
- Nov. 18-22** **Cultivating Pyrodiversity: The 8th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Tucson, AZ**
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

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Send News, Links & Comments

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

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in San Francisco, CA January 7-10.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in San Francisco, CA January 7-10.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in San Francisco, CA January 7-10.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Seattle, WA January 14-18.

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

Note: January 21 is a Conservancy holiday.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA: <https://www.facebook.com/hcpba/>

News from the Field—NM—Storymap:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=23463ab7bf624b478e5553e27299d7e5>

News from the Field—WA: https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/state-agency-wants-to-increase-prescribed-burns-for-healthier-forests/article_9bad3474-073a-11e9-8abf-db01e71ab3fb.html

News from the Field—IPBN: http://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/tpa/tpareports.html

News from the Field—TRES:

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

Resources—TRES outreach: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/talking-about-lighting-fire-near-recently-burned-communities-communications-at-the-southern-blue-ridge-tres/>

Resources—Wildfire prep day: <https://community.nfpa.org/community/fire-break/blog/2018/12/15/create-your-own-wildfire-community-preparedness-day-success-story-in-the-new-year>

Articles & Reports—Radio communication: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2017/rmrs_2017_fox_r001.pdf

Articles & Reports—Relationships with fire: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2018/rmrs_2018_meldrum_j001.pdf

Articles & Reports—Rx & carbon:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/546103b0e4b0cbd962ebde25/t/5c09996a21c67c4be284fba3/1544132971761/Clark_2018_finalDEC2018.pdf

Articles & Reports—Pyroaerobiology: <http://southernfireexchange.org/newsletters/v8-6.pdf>

In the News—Home insurance: <https://www.denverpost.com/2019/01/07/colorado-west-wildfire-risk-home-insurance/>

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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OREGON PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE (TREX) PROGRAMS

Central Oregon TREX – April 29 to May 10, 2019 – Bend, Oregon

Ashland TREX – May 13 to May 24, 2019 – Ashland, Oregon

BACKGROUND

There is widespread recognition within conservation, restoration, and land management agencies across the state of the need to increase ecologically-based, landscape restoration. To do so will require the expanded use of prescribed fire to achieve a wide range of desired outcomes.

Significant barriers exist to expanded application of fire to achieve restoration and stewardship benefits in fire-adapted ecosystems. Such challenges highlight the need for collaboration between local, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations to achieve our shared goal of increased application of prescribed fire for ecological, economic, and social benefits.

Ongoing complementary efforts like the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the Fire Learning Network, the Fire-Adapted Communities Network, and the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council underscore the timeliness of cross-organizational cooperative efforts to develop new tools, partnerships, resources, and strategies to increase the quality, pace, and scale of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration.

The Oregon TREX Programs are a direct response to the growing need to demonstrate local leadership and innovative solutions towards our common goal of increasing the quality, pace and scale of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration and creation of fire-adapted communities.

TREX is not a new concept. The TREX program is a component of the national Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together Cooperative Agreement between The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service and the agencies of the Department of Interior. Since 2008 more than 80 TREX events in more than a dozen states have contributed to more than 100,000 acres burned and 2,500+ fire practitioners acquiring new knowledge and skills. Similar training programs like the Prescribed Fire Training Center and Fire Use Training Academy deploy firefighters to planned events for training and evaluation opportunities. What is unique regarding the TREX program is the flexibility to tailor the training to local context and needs and the opportunity to harness regional knowledge, expertise, and resources.



WHAT WILL I GET FROM THE OREGON TREX PROGRAMS?

ECOLOGY OF FIRE-ADAPTED ECOSYSTEMS

Increased knowledge of the ecological role of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration. Participants will learn, share, and apply their knowledge of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration in and around human communities through experiential training in the classroom, the field, and on the fire-line.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Improved understanding of the social dimensions of prescribed fire use in and around communities. Participants will practice the art of crafting and conveying articulate, compelling messages to internal and external audiences regarding the role of fire and the need for prescribed fire to restore resilient, fire-adapted forests and promote fire-adapted communities.

PRESCRIBED FIRE MONITORING

Application of prescribed fire monitoring to evaluate treatment effectiveness. Participants will learn, practice, and apply pre-fire, fire-effects, and post-fire monitoring methods and reporting protocols, a critical tool for evaluating the ecological and cost-effectiveness of prescribed fire use for restoration objectives.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Unparalleled peer-to-peer, experience-based teaching and learning environment. Participants will train in the classroom, field, and on the fire-line emphasizing leadership and followership and the characteristics of high reliability organizations, with opportunities for position task book evaluation for FFT1, FEMO, PIO, SOFR, SRB (CRWB, ENGB, FIRB), and RXB2.

ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Cross-organizational collaboration among diverse fire organizations, fire practitioners, land stewards, conservationists, and resource specialists. Participants will train with other prescribed fire practitioners who share a vested interest in landscape-scale restoration and the application of ecological fire, thereby reducing barriers to future cooperation and sharing of knowledge, skills, and resources.



WHAT ARE THE OREGON TREX TRAININGS LIKE?

The objective of the two-week TREX programs in Central and Southwest Oregon is to facilitate peer-to-peer, experiential learning for prescribed fire professionals and others interested in advancing their understanding of ecological burning to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. Like other TREX programs (see National TREX infographic [HERE](#) and a Central Oregon TREX video [HERE](#)), participants will learn, practice, and share knowledge, skills, and experience in a unique, hands-on training environment. Participants will be exposed to new concepts, innovations, and best practices shared by a diverse set of fire practitioners, land stewards, conservationists, and resource specialists from a wide array of organizations. In this way, TREX is a two-way training and learning program, in which everyone is simultaneously a participant, a teacher, and a student.

The Oregon TREX curriculums will focus on five main themes:

1. Ecological and Social Landscape of Fire-adapted Ecosystems
2. Fire Effects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
3. Communications, Public Outreach & Media Relations
4. Prescribed Fire Planning and Operations
5. Position Taskbook Training Opportunities

Participants will learn, share, and practice through a mix of classroom, field-based, and live-fire training with the help of experts from The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, university and research institutions, and other partners.

The programs consist of approximately three days of classroom and field sessions, up to eight days of live-fire operations, and a final day of post-fire monitoring discussion and wrap-up. The exact schedule and mix of activities varies with each TREX and will be contingent upon weather and fuel conditions that will dictate when, where, and how training will take place. TREX cadre and operational staff will do their best to create as many position taskbook training and evaluation opportunities as safely possible. However, no guarantee can be made regarding the number of trainee assignments that will be available or the completion of position taskbooks during TREX.

The cost to participate is \$300, due upon selection and acceptance to one of the Oregon TREX programs. Participants and employers are responsible for all paid and/or vacation time, including overtime, accrued during TREX. It is the participant's responsibility to inform supervisors of the training schedule, hours (approx. 10-12 hours/day), and costs to participate in TREX and make all logistical/administrative arrangements prior to arrival.

Space is limited to approximately 40 participants per TREX, so if this program sounds like a fit for you and your organization submit your application ASAP. If you have additional questions, please contact:

2019 Central Oregon TREX: Pete Caligiuri (pcaligiuri@tnc.org - 541-693-4897)

2019 Ashland TREX: Amanda Stamper (amanda.stamper@tnc.org - 541-968-5851)

Applications (available online [HERE](#)) for the 2019 Oregon TREX programs are DUE NO LATER than February 15, 2019!



This training is hosted by The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, the Oregon Fire Learning Network, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The FLN 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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.