

FLN Networker No. 276: January 30, 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

Arizona, Colorado: Seven **winners** have been **announced** for the **2019 Wildfire Mitigation Awards** co-sponsored by the National Association of State Foresters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association and USDA Forest Service. Recipients include **two from FAC Net**—the **Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership** (<http://gffp.org/>), and **Paulette Church**, vice board chair of **Wildfire Adapted Partnership** and a **neighborhood ambassador** for Falls Creek Ranch in La Plata County (see the [story](#) in the *Durango Herald*). The awards will be presented at the WUI conference in Reno on March 27.

California: **Karuk** burning is featured in the [video](#) “**Indigenous Fire' Keeps California Safe** from Wildfires with Controlled Burns” from *NowThis*.

California: **Nick Goulette** talked about **mitigation that worked** when the Oregon 2 Fire burned near Weaverville, for the [article](#) “Exploring Solutions: ‘Wildfire as a Fact of Life’” in the *Daily Yonder*. The article is nicely framed in terms of a **multi-faceted fire adapted communities approach**.

Colorado, Minnesota: The **West Region Wildfire Council** (Montrose, CO) and **Dovetail Partners** (Ely, MN) were among the five recipients of **Action, Implementation and Mitigation (AIM) grants** in the **pilot** round of this program. The Colorado group will use the funding to **increase their capacity** by hiring a part-time program assistant to run their chipping program and coordinate site visits in their high wildfire risk areas. In Minnesota, the support will help two communities **develop mitigation action plans** under updated county Community Wildfire Protection Plans and will fund [Dovetail's](#) ongoing **slash pick-up program**. For more about the AIM grants, see the Funding section below.

Nebraska: The **Loup River TRES** is back this spring, with a couple of twists. They're offering two **international fellowship awards** (to defray travel costs); in return, the fellows will give a public presentation about fire in their home landscapes for the community of Ord. (See the TRES listings below for details.) And the Loup River crew will **share the fireline with an award-winning artist**, Catherine Meier. “This is such a unique opportunity for me as an artist to be invited to be near as firefighters work on grasslands burns. To see such a **natural ecological process** up close and be able to spend time **watching and recording it** is such a gift. I look forward to how this will make its way into my artwork.”

Oregon: The Environmental Quality Commission has approved the **revised smoke management plan**; final approval from the EPA is required, but should not be an issue as the proposed rules are still stricter than the federal Clean Air Act. According to **FAC Net** member **Ed Keith** (ed.keith@deschutes.org), “The revised rules contain an expectation that communities that experience **frequent smoke from prescribed fire**—think Bend and Ashland for starters—create a **community response plan**. We expected this and that is one reason why we started an effort to bring in our public health partners together and created centraloregonfire.org last year to provide information on smoke and public health.” In Ashland, FAC Net member **Chris Chambers** (chris.chambers@ashland.or.us) supported the effort under the lead of Mayor John Stromberg, with the [Smokewise Ashland](#) smoke mitigation program. For more, see the [article](#) “Oregon Approves New Air Quality Rules To **Allow More Prescribed Fire**.”

Washington: The **Department of Natural Resources** recently released “Washington State **Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan**: Solutions For A Prepared, Safe, Resilient Washington.” **Annie Schmidt** was called out as essential to the effort, and several FLN and FAC Net members—including **Ryan Anderson, Ryan Haugo, Kara Karboski, Katie Lighthall** and **Reese Lolley**—are also among those thanked for “contributions that went above and beyond.” This plan marks another milestone as numerous partners, collaboratives and stakeholders work together to build a **new relationship with fire** in the state. For more, read the [full strategic plan](#) or [summary](#).

Appalachians: Conservancy leads from across the **Central Appalachians** and **Southern Blue Ridge FLNs** highlight the **capacity-building benefits of their partnerships** in the most recent *FLN Notes from the Field* (attached).

FLN/FAC Net: Last month, about 30 members of the **FLN** and **FAC Net** took part in **Facilitative Leadership for Social Change workshop** in Boulder, CO. Some of the key take-aways are shared in the attached *Notes from the Field*, along with links to explore more.

Funding/Mentoring Opportunity: Mitigation

Mitigation: Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO) has started the **Action, Implementation and Mitigation Partnership** to help accelerate the adoption of fire adapted communities concepts and reduce the risk from wildfire in the WUI across the country. This funding opportunity is **open to nonprofits, collaborative groups, counties and fire departments** that are working to advance wildfire risk reduction. Since money is only part of the picture, those awarded funding will **join a partnership** of fellow fire and fuel-reduction practitioners who will also **learn together**, as COCO will connect awardees with **FAC Net** and other strategic partners, to provide training, mentorship and guidance along the way. Details are in the attached RFP; proposals are due by **March 8**.

Resources: Zoning Innovation

Zoning Innovation: **Ed Keith** (ed.keith@deschutes.org) reports that “Deschutes County Commissioners gave final approval for an interesting **new zone in an unincorporated area** west of Bend recently. This is an area now zoned for **lower density fire resistant communities** to act as a **buffer** between forested undeveloped areas and the City of Bend. It was previously zoned for the city to grow into with much more dense development.” You can read about the Westside Transect Zone on the county’s [website](#).

Articles & Reports: Wallow Fire / Umbrella Species

Wallow Fire: The **Ecological Restoration Institute** has released a pair of documents about the effects of the 2011 Wallow Fire. Research highlighted in the [fact sheet](#) “**Plant Community Dynamics Following Fuel Treatments** and Mega-Wildfire in a Warm, Dry Mixed-Conifer Forest” showed that fuel treatments that reduce overstory density and implement prescribed burning are likely to lead to **more resilient plant communities** that are more tolerant of drought and warm temperatures. The [fact sheet](#) “**Assessing Trajectories** Toward Resiliency Five Years Following the Wallow Fire, Arizona” focused on an evaluation of indicators of ecosystem resiliency in terms of forest structure, bark beetle activity and tree regeneration. The results suggest that pre-fire fuel reduction **treatments contribute more in the short-term** to high-severity fire resilience, but treatment effects were less apparent five years following initial responses.

Umbrella Species: The [article](#) “Single Species Conservation as an Umbrella for Management of Landscape Threats” **compares** a single-species conservation prioritization method with other, diversity-based prioritization tools. The results were not statistically different in this case, and the approach outlined “can be used to **evaluate biological equitability** of protections provided by flagship species in other settings.”

In the News: Farm Bill

Farm Bill: The **Cohesive Strategy Western Region** [blog post](#) “**2018 Farm Bill and Executive Order 13855** and their **Impact on Implementing the Cohesive Strategy**” briefly highlights key aspects of these two items that were signed on December 21.

Jobs: Wetlands Restoration / Fire Program Manager / Burn Teams / Conservation Tech / Fire & Restoration Coordinator / Fire Management Specialist

Wetlands Restoration: The **Longleaf Alliance** is hiring two members for its **Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP) Wetland Ecosystem Support Team**, to support restoration of isolated wetlands in the GCPEP landscape. Work will include mechanical treatments, invasive species control and prescribed fire. See the [announcement](#) for details; applications are due by **January 31**.

Fire Program Manager: The **Karuk Tribe** is hiring a unit fire program manager for its **Integrated Wildland Fire Management Program**. Details are on the tribe’s [employment page](#); applications are due by **February 1**.

Burn Teams: The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** will be filling **seven natural resource technician positions** for two prescribed fire teams. Details are on the state careers site for the Okanogan (job number [2019-00457W](#)) and Yakima (job number [2019-00458W](#)) country crews; applications are due by **February 3**.

Note: The **Department of Natural Resources** will also be posting a **prescribed fire manager** position soon; watch for it at <http://www.careers.wa.gov/>.

Conservation Tech: The **Nature Conservancy** is hiring an **Allegheny Highlands conservation technician** to assist on the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project in western Virginia; the position may assist with prescribed burning. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 47264](#)); applications are due by **February 18**. (Current Conservancy employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Fire & Restoration Coordinator: The **Nature Conservancy** is hiring a **prescribed fire / ecological restoration coordinator** to manage the day-to-day implementation of multiple restoration projects in **Minnesota** in collaboration with multiple project partners. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 47267](#)); applications are due by **February 19**. (Current Conservancy employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Fire Management Specialist: The **Central Pine Barrens** Joint Planning and Policy Commission of the Suffolk County (NY) Water Authority is seeking a fire management specialist. See the [job description](#) or www.scwa.com for details.

Webinars

**February 6
new listing**

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) for Measuring Canopy Fuels and Aerial Ignitions

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

Patrick Shin and Jim Higgins will be the presenters for this Southwest Fire Consortium webinar (originally scheduled for January 31).

Details: https://mailchi.mp/8d2399927d66/feb_drone_webinar

February 20 **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>

Network Workshops & Field Tours

- February 4-8** **New Mexico Pueblos Capacity Building Workshop / Santa Fe, NM**
new listing The Rio Grande Water Fund is hosting local stakeholders for a workshop to learn more about designing restoration projects in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed
- February 11-15** **Annual FLN Leaders-TREX Coaches-IPBN Workshop / Russellville, AR**
POSTPONED This workshop for regional network leads, TREX coaches and IPBN leads has been postponed due to the government shutdown. New dates are being explored.
- February 20-21** **Potomac Headwaters Landscape Workshop / McHenry, MD**
updated The next workshop of this Central Appalachians FLN landscape will be held at Garrett College.
Register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecqaPbaioDPRwTB1S9FtZDFAq5Rt0vnfk0hTtSeemsftqhXA/viewform>
- 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 (est.)** **Yurok Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Weitchpec, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- March 17-30** **Loup River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ord, NE**
deadline / updated This TREX is hosted by Pheasants Forever and The Nature Conservancy. Applications are due by **February 1**.
New > This event will offer two international fire fellowships to help cover travel costs; applications for these are due by February 10. See the attached flyer. Information: links to the flyer and application are on the [Upcoming TREX](#) page
- 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**
updated deadline Fire practitioners seeking trainee experience in FFT2, FFT1, FIRB, ENGB and RXB2 positions are invited to take part in this TREX based at a Conservancy preserve. Due to the effects of the government shutdown, the application deadline has been extended to **February 15**.
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 deadline **Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange**
Details for both Oregon TREX are in the [announcement](#); applications are due by **February 15**.

May 13-24 deadline **Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange**
Details for both Oregon TREX are in the [announcement](#); applications are due by **February 15**.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

February 7 updated **Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / Gettysburg, PA**
Details: <http://www.paprescribedfire.org>

February 7 POSTPONED **North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / Jasper, GA**
This workshop has been postponed; organizers will set a new date soon.
Workshop page: <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**
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/

October 21-Nov. 4 new listing **Hart Prairie Preserve Workshop on Ecological Burning / Flagstaff, AZ**
Save the date for this WEB, which will provide participants with the knowledge and training required to develop and implement prescribed burn plans with a focus on setting ecological objectives, assessing burn complexity, assessing resource needs, contingency planning, managing smoke, prescribed burn execution, and post-burn follow-up.

Nov. 18-22 updated **Cultivating Pyrodiversity: The 8th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Tucson, AZ**
The call for proposals is now open. The first deadline—for special sessions, workshops, trainings and courses—is April 1.
Information: <http://afirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

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

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

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in Arkansas February 11-15.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Santa Fe, NM February 4-8.

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

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out February 1.

Note: February 18 is a Conservancy holiday.

Full Links

News from the Field—AZ, CO—Announcement: <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/News-and-media/Press-Room/News-releases/2019/Partnership-announces-2019-Wildfire-Mitigation-Awardees>
Paulette Church: <https://durangoherald.com/articles/259401>

News from the Field—CA—Karuk: <https://www.facebook.com/NowThisNews/videos/314211162551182/>

News from the Field—CA—Weaverville: <https://www.dailyonder.com/exploring-solutions-wildfire-fact-life/2018/12/11/29283/>

News from the Field—MN: http://www.dovetailinc.org/programs/land_use/fac_learning_network

News from the Field—OR—Central Oregon outreach website: <http://www.centraloregonfire.org/>

SmokeWise Ashland: <http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=17502>

Article: <https://www.opb.org/news/article/prescribed-fire-oregon-new-rules/>

News from the Field—WA—Strategic plan: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_wildfire_strategic_plan.pdf?81f0ob0

Summary: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_wildfire_plan_summary.pdf?e9bsp5t

Resources—Zoning innovation: <https://www.deschutes.org/cd/page/westside-transect-zone>

Articles & Reports—Wallow Fire—Plant community dynamics:

<https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/942/rec/4>

Assessing trajectories: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/944/rec/1>

Articles & Reports—Umbrella species: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0209619>

In the News—Farm Bill: <https://wildfireinthewest.blogspot.com/2019/01/2018-farm-bill-and-executive-order.html>

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

Building Capacity in the Appalachians

Looking Back at 2018
Looking Ahead to 2019

Partnerships Work in the Southern Blue Ridge and Central Appalachians Fire Learning Networks

Fire history studies show that fires burned frequently across the Appalachian region, maintaining open forest conditions conducive for pine, oak and, historically, chestnut. But fire has been missing in recent decades. About ten years ago, the Southern Blue Ridge and Central Appalachian FLNs identified four forest types in greatest need of fire: shortleaf pine-oak forest, pine-oak heath, dry-mesic oak-hickory forest, and high-elevation red oak forest. These systems cover about 60 percent of the FLN landscapes. As FLN land managers and partners have worked to reestablish regular fire regimes to promote healthy, resilient forests in the Appalachians, they have identified limited capacity* as a key obstacle to increasing burning to the necessary scale.

The long-standing relationship between the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy has enabled tremendous advances in the use of prescribed fire as a tool for forest restoration in recent years. In the spring of 2015, with support from the FLN's Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency initiative, the Conservancy's Virginia Chapter contracted with the nonprofit Wildland Restoration International to provide a seasonal four-person fire module. The success of this crew led the Conservancy to deploy another module in 2016 with Forest Service

Supplemental Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels funding. Additional modules were added in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina in 2016 and 2017 with funding through an agreement with Forest Service Region 8. And now a national participating agreement between the Forest Service and the Conservancy—facilitated through the FLN—continues to expand this effort in the Southern Blue Ridge, Central Appalachians and other landscapes across the country.

These modules have been effective in building capacity, assisting with 20,000 acres of burning. Modules adopt different approaches in response to local landscape needs and opportunities; this adaptability, along with increased support from the Forest Service and Conservancy, has enabled further scaling up of capacity over time.

Scaling Up in 2018

Over the course of the 2018 fiscal year,** effective collaboration enabled federal and state programs in the region to better meet their fire and land management goals.

The Conservancy's Southern Blue Ridge Fire Crew—an “as needed” crew

funded through a Forest Service Region 8 agreement—helped conduct 15 controlled burns totaling 8,696 acres in North Carolina and Tennessee. These included burns on U.S. Forest Service (Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests) and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission lands, as well as on private lands through the North Carolina Forest Service. The goal for most of these sites is to achieve a fire-return interval of three to six years, which will help restore native groundcover, maintain forage for deer, support pollinator habitat and enhance woodland shrub cover for turkey and songbird nesting, among other benefits.



“The Nature Conservancy’s squad of five people came out and helped us burn. They helped fire and hold half a mile of steep dozer line with no water readily available. They accomplished the mission without complaint (ate a lot of smoke) and did a great job. I know to expect quality and experience with this crew, and they are always a pleasure to work with.”

Fire Management Officer
Cherokee National Forest

* Narrow burn windows, smoke management issues and liability concerns also affect the ability to burn at scale.

** This refers to the Conservancy's fiscal year, or July 2017-June 2018, encompassing the fall 2017 and spring 2018 prescribed burn seasons

“The Conservancy fire crew has proven to be critical for holding fire lines, attack of slopovers, securing base lines and strategic interior ignitions. All crew members were highly competent, knowledgeable, positive in thinking, willing to work hard and willing to do all requested tasks.”

Mountains Wildlife Forester
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission



In Kentucky, the Conservancy worked with Kentucky Division of Forestry staff to augment prescribed fire resources from the Forest Service and partner agencies in and around the Cumberland River FLN landscape. Using the Region 8 subaward model, the Conservancy funded the state forestry agency to provide a Type 6 engine (staffed with an engine boss and firefighters), an on-call dozer and three or four additional on-call personnel per burn. This provided assistance on about 12 burns totaling about 10,000 acres. This partnership shows great potential, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry is interested in building additional controlled burning experience.

Building Capacity Through Learning and Networking at TREX

Since 2008, Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) have helped develop capacity for prescribed burning by bringing participants from various backgrounds and organizations together to share and build knowledge. Over the last couple of years, the leadership of TREX events has become increasingly local—and increasingly networked—with leaders traveling to assist in one another’s events. As a result, this fall saw a record nine events that took place over eight weeks in California, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington and—for the first time—in the Southern Blue Ridge.

The Southern Blue Ridge TREX, hosted by the Conservancy’s South Carolina chapter and the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists, took place from October 29 through November 9. The objective of this two-week TREX was to facilitate peer-to-peer experiential learning for prescribed fire professionals and others interested in advancing their understanding of innovative tools to restore fire-adapted ecosystems.

More than 50 people took part in the event. From their base in Pickens, South Carolina, they worked on lands owned by seven of the ten FLN partners across the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment landscape in North Carolina and South

Carolina. In addition to conducting three burns, they established 5½ miles of firebreak, setting the stage for 10 controlled burns in the coming season.

The Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment is a high rainfall area, and rain certainly provided a unique challenge with logistics for the training. But the planning team’s leadership in adaptive management made certain every opportunity to burn was seized, while offering other training opportunities on rainy days. It was a great example of the importance for good planning and execution under shifting conditions, which are important factors to a successful burn program.



In the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment area, state and private partners are just starting their burn programs after collaboratively identifying burn needs. Hosting a TREX was an ideal opportunity for learning and building partnerships and trust.

Conservancy Highlights: Forest Service Regional Support Means Great Plans for 2019

In Georgia, the Conservancy fire program will continue to support a four-person prescribed fire module in the Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains landscape. Work will be conducted with an all-lands approach, on FLN partner lands including national forests and state parks and wild-life management areas in Georgia and South Carolina. Priority will be placed on preparing burn units and assisting with the implementation of prescribed fires as the most cost efficient ecological management tool at a significant scale. Based on accomplishments in previous years, the module is expected to conduct 15-25 controlled burns (10,000-15,000 acres) over 14 weeks. On days when burning isn't possible, the crew will work on ecological projects that support the role of fire in restoring habitat for rare species such as bog turtles, carnivorous pitcher plants and smooth coneflower. The module coordinator will also be available for assistance on similar projects and is tasked with setting up project work for the prescribed fire module and other volunteer teams to enhance public lands throughout the year.

The Conservancy's Kentucky program will build two fire crews to help coordinate and implement controlled burning in the Cumberland River FLN landscape in and around the Daniel Boone National Forest. The controlled burning target in this landscape is 10,000 acres a year.

For the fifth year running, the Conservancy's North Carolina program will hire a 20-person on-call fire crew. Based in Asheville, the crew will aid in controlled burn operations in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The crew hopes for 25 burn days, to accomplish about 16,000 acres of burning on FLN partner. Arrangements are in place for the crew to work under Conservancy agreements with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and state agencies in North Carolina (Forest Service; State Parks; Wildlife Resources Commission) and South Carolina (State Parks; Department of Natural Resources). Their work will include burning, fire line preparation and some mechanical treatments.

And in Virginia, the Conservancy's fire program will continue its work on a seasonal module with FLN partners in the state—the U.S. Forest Service, along with the National Park Service and state agencies (Forestry; Game and Inland Fisheries; Conservation and Recreation). The module is co-managed by a small interagency team, who take a truly collaborative approach to set priorities and handle competing requests on burn days. This module focuses mainly on controlled burn treatments, but is available for local wildfire assignments on occasion. It generally completes 8,000-10,000 acres of preparation and burning per year.

Conservancy Fire Program Leads in the Appalachians

Georgia	Erick Brown	erick_brown@tnc.org
Kentucky	Chris Minor	cminor@tnc.org
North Carolina	Adam Warwick	awarwick@tnc.org
Virginia	Sam Lindblom	slindblom@tnc.org



Learn more about the Southern Blue Ridge TREX on its website:

<https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbtrex2018>
or on its Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/SBRTREX>

Learn more about the SBR on-call fire crew:
<http://www.sbrfln.com/fire-crew-poster.html>

For more on the Central Appalachians regional FLN, contact:

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<http://www.sbrfln.com>

The Fire Learning Network is 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 about PERFACT, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Facilitative Leadership: Concepts Every Wildland Fire Leader Can Use

December 2018 ~ Boulder, Colorado

by Wendy Fulks, Fire Adapted Communities Partnerships Director

Twenty members of the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net) and Fire Learning Network (FLN)—experts in prescribed burning, ecosystem management and community wildfire adaptation—gathered in Boulder, Colorado, in December 2018 to learn a different kind of skill: how to create the conditions for people to move together from vision to action. The Facilitative Leadership for Social Change workshop, designed by the Interaction Institute for Social Change, helps leaders make it “easy for others to offer their unique perspectives and talents, speak up when they have problems, take initiative, make appropriate decisions, work with others, and share responsibility for the health of the team, organization or community.”

This was the third time the FLN has offered this training to members. Unlike the first two workshops, which were landscape-based, participants in this offering self-selected based on interest and availability. The result was a diverse group, with representatives from a dozen organizations and 13 states, adding richness to the experience.

It Was Magic

Over the course of two days, the Interaction Institute’s Curtis Ogden led us through an exercise-rich agenda that also allowed ample time for reflection.

It just so happened that our workshop began a mere 10 days after the devastating Camp Fire in California had been fully contained. As a result, the mood was somber as we trickled into the meeting room on the first day and took our seats. To begin, Curtis helped us calm and open our minds, encouraging us to “luxuriate in this time together”—which we did!—and consider how our work was addressing the larger, timely need to promote *healing* for both people and landscapes.

He talked about other, seemingly very different groups he was working with, and how our fire networks are part of a bigger story. And he spoke of connections, courage, innovation and systems built on social agreements and interactions.

Curtis was grounding us in the notions that, job titles notwithstanding, all of us in the room were in the business of effecting social change, and that there are some common realities and challenges that all social change agents constantly grapple with. The group seemed reassured to hear that they would leave the workshop with some practical concepts, tools and behaviors to help them be more successful change agents. And that was, indeed, the case.

Powerful Lessons

While it’s impossible to share the full impact of this workshop in a brief document, some key take-aways are worth highlighting—and exploring:

- One’s approach can change after realizing that **it’s impossible to “empower others.”** It’s better to think in terms of “**creating conditions for self-empowerment.**” A discussion about this brought to mind Jana Carp’s asset-based community development work, which took place in a part of rural Northern California threatened by wildfire.
- If you haven’t tried taking a **systems thinking** approach to your situation, give it a try. Then ask yourself, “How do I change myself to help change the system?”
- The importance of listening (aka “deep listening” and “listening as an ally”) can’t be overstated. You can **learn to be a better listener.**
- Have you ever thought about the importance of space when designing a meeting or a social change effort? Just the **right amount of space** is important. (The blog post “Change Is About Letting Go, Creating Space ... and Connecting” explains.)
- Do you agree with Curtis, who said, “**Busyness is oppressive**, especially when one is trying to work with an equity lens”? How might you address this in your world?
- How might you do things differently if you thought about your professional role as simply working to **create shared meaning?**



What People Said

“Probably the most helpful workshop I have ever participated in. The tools presented I feel I will use not only in my work but in my personal life as well.”

“Our long-term success depends on all of us becoming better facilitative leaders, and this training lays the groundwork and opens up the tool box that will allow us to live up to our true potential.”

“Provided a new way to think about being a leader by supporting and encouraging opportunities for others to lead themselves and be successful.”

“An excellent survey course that integrates meeting facilitation best practices with a focus on relationships and conditions that support them. It is a facilitation training with heart, not a presentation of clinical checklists common to other training courses.”



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What Next?

I suggest we all make a point of honing our facilitative leadership skills in 2019. For me that will include focusing on **relationships** and **process** as much as—or more than—**results**, and practicing my deep listening skills. As social change agents, what are your most vexing problems? And how might you change your thinking and behaviors to address them?

Explore Facilitative Leadership and More

Visit the Interaction Institute for Social Change website:
<http://interactioninstitute.org/training/facilitative-leadership-for-social-change/>

Follow Curtis Ogden on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/curtisogden>

Links from the lessons section —

Read Jana Carp’s introduction to asset-based community development (ABCD): <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/ABCD.aspx>

Watch a video introduction to systems thinking:
https://youtu.be/A_BtS008J0k

Learn how to be a better listener:
<http://interactioninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Listening-as-an-ally-page.pdf>

Consider the importance of space:
<https://medium.com/@curtisogden/change-is-about-letting-go-creating-space-and-connecting-b4c407a39b93>

Connect With Our Networks

Follow us on social media:
<https://twitter.com/fireadaptednet>
<https://www.facebook.com/FACNetwork>

Read the FAC Net blog: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/blog/>

Browse FAC Net resources:
<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/resources/#p=1>

Sign up for the FAC Net newsletter:
<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/subscribe/>

Read other FLN Notes from the Field:
<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/Index-FLN-Notes-from-the-Field.aspx>

Sign up for the FLN Networker newsletter: lrnk@tnc.org

The Fire Learning Network and Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network 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 about PERFACT, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

An equal opportunity provider



Request for Proposals: Action and Implementation for Mitigation Partnership

Background

Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO), a Colorado-based non-profit, has started the Action, Implementation and Mitigation (AIM) Partnership to help accelerate Fire Adapted Community concepts and reduce the risk from wildfire in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) across the United States. By increasing capacity and on-the-ground work, the Partnership hopes to increase community resilience, restore fire-adapted ecosystems and create safer conditions for firefighters and communities.

This funding opportunity is open to non-profits, collaborative groups, counties, and fire departments that are working to advance wildfire risk reduction; **it is NOT open to homeowner associations, property owner associations, or metro districts.** This is, in part, due to the amount of funding available and also due to our desire to offer both financial help and mentoring to applicants that are really in need of assistance to move their programs forward, which will in turn benefit HOAs, POAs, and the local communities they engage with. Please feel free to share this opportunity with other organizations that you know fit the definition above.

The AIM Partnership

AIM is a unique funding opportunity: At COCO, we understand that funding is only part of the picture. If awarded funding, you will be joining a partnership of fellow fire and fuel-reduction practitioners who will not only receive funding but who will also learn together. COCO recognizes that different groups are in different places in terms of partners and mentors. COCO will connect awardees, as appropriate, with the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FACLN) and other strategic partners, to provide training, mentorship and guidance along the way. If your project is awarded you will have the opportunity to participate in the AIM Partnership, to learn from and share with others who also face challenges associated with wildfire. If you anticipate you will need some mentorship or guidance, please build time into your proposal to accommodate your involvement.

This funding is available for a wide variety of activities, including capacity building for personnel or equipment, planning efforts, and wildfire risk reduction work (on non-federal lands only), and we expect the competition for funding to be quite high. COCO will be looking to fund a variety of different types of projects across the country. Applicants must show how their project proposal fits into the bigger wildfire preparedness picture, and are encouraged to coordinate with federal partners on nearby public lands projects. Applicants must contribute a 100% non-federal match, (cash or in-kind match is eligible) for a 1:1 grant to match ratio. Funding will be provided to a wide array of organizations. Award funding will range from \$10,000 - \$50,000. Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS

- The community and/or project must be considered at high risk from wildfire and be in reasonable proximity to public lands. Applicants are encouraged to work with local federal personnel (USFS/BLM/NPS/BIA) in determining where federal treatments are planned for the wildland-urban interface and how to best coordinate work (funded by this grant or planned for the near future if requesting capacity or assessment/planning funds) on non-federal lands in proximity to federal treatment areas (past or future).
- Proposals must ultimately lead to a meaningful increase in on-the-ground wildfire risk reduction activities.
- The County, community or fire district should have a completed Community Wildfire Protection Plan or Wildfire Risk Assessment covering the project area, or have one underway.
- Organizations or community groups should currently be conducting or planning pre-fire mitigation activities aimed at protecting their communities, watersheds and ecosystems.

- Organizations must be willing to collaboratively work with COCO staff to develop their mitigation projects and proposal for funding.
- Organizations must be willing to share their lessons, challenges and successes with partners such as state and national Fire Adapted Communities Networks.
- Organizations must be able to ensure compliance with all grant reporting requirements and meet project completion milestones and deadlines.

Award Program Criteria

Project proposals must fit within one or more of the following categories:

1. Project Purpose

A. Capacity Building - Personnel

COCO recognizes that it is difficult, if not impossible, to complete projects without adequate staffing, whether that be someone to run incentive programs, motivate residents, conduct wildfire risk assessments, or lay out projects. If your proposal is seeking funding for a staff position, please be prepared to articulate how that position will increase your capacity for accomplishing on-the-ground work in the near future, and your plans to sustain that position over time.

B. Capacity Building - Equipment

Often times the ability to own your own equipment can be a huge boost to a program. If seeking funding for equipment funding be prepared to discuss why it is critical to own a piece of equipment rather than rent or contract for your equipment; also discuss your capacity to maintain it, and what the structure of your program will be for use of the equipment.

C. Reduction of Hazardous Fuels

Successful project applicants shall facilitate and implement strategic fuels treatment at a meaningful scale in or adjacent to the zones at high risk to wildfire near public lands. Projects should be designed to limit the potential risk to life, property, infrastructure, water supplies, and other high-valued assets as a result of wildfire. Effective fuels mitigation treatments may be implemented across jurisdictional boundaries, on non-federal land. Successful applicants should consider all elements required to implement treatments on the ground, which includes acquiring necessary permits and consultations.

D. Planning Efforts

COCO recognizes how valuable planning efforts, like Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and Community Wildfire Risk Assessments, can be, especially when developed in a collaborative manner with a wide array of stakeholders and partners. Applicants with these types of projects should be prepared to discuss their capacity to facilitate such planning efforts, how the effort fits into their overall program of work, and how the planning effort will help to advance their on-the-ground wildfire mitigation efforts.

Examples of **qualifying project elements** within the four categories above include:

- Developing training programs for homeowners, fire department personnel specific to mitigation activities (chainsaw training, Mitigation 101, prescribed fire or other pertinent training)
- Developing a mitigation collaborative - paying for facilitators, staff, etc.
- Hiring a Mitigation Coordinator or fuels/forestry staff to increase on-the-ground mitigation activities
- Hiring staff to develop or manage a chipping or slash-disposal program
- Hiring staff to conduct home site assessments
- Creating defensible space around homes and structures, based on approved defensible space guidelines
- Constructing fuel breaks, based on approved guidelines
- Reducing fuels beyond defensible space, especially designed to reduce fire intensity and protect water supplies or other valued resources
- Removal of useable materials with specific utilization plans; removal of slash including chipping, mulching, grinding, or mechanical removal

- Developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans or Community Wildfire Risk Assessments that identify wildfire risk and make specific recommendations on ways to improve wildfire preparedness and define areas in need of treatment
- The purchase of a chipper, forestry equipment or other equipment needed for use during implementation of hazardous fuels reduction treatments, including removal and utilization of slash or other woody biomass (i.e. a wood chipper to be made available to community)
- Equipment for the establishment and operation of neighborhood slash sites
- Implementation of cross-jurisdictional prescribed fire—e.g., hiring of a burn boss to complete burning
- Pile burning projects

These projects are just examples. Please remember that the funding is intended to help you increase activities that will lead to more on-the-ground work. As a funded project, you will be required to provide details on how the project will increase mitigation activities from where they are today, and will be expected to report actual mitigation outcomes.

Examples of Projects that **DO NOT** qualify for this Grant Program:

- Suppression programs or projects (i.e. purchase of fire department equipment and/or fire training)
- Construction of permanent infrastructure (i.e. buildings or road construction)
- Local, state or federal policy development or advocacy
- Projects undertaken by and benefiting only an individual homeowner
- Projects completed on Federal lands

2. Coordination Efforts

Applicants must coordinate proposed projects with relevant county, state, or federal officials to ensure consistency with county-level wildfire risk reduction planning. The application should identify which officials were consulted, and the outcome of those discussions. Attach to the grant application two letters of support for your project -- at least one must be from a local official (BOCC, Emergency Manager or Fire Chief); the other should be from a key partner who understands how the project will benefit your program and move mitigation efforts forward in your area.

3. Geography Relevant to Federal Land (informational)

Applicants must identify if their proposed project will take place in close proximity to, or adjacent to, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or other public lands projects that are planned and/or previously treated with an eye toward protecting the WUI. Maps identifying current, recent, and proposed projects should be available through your local USFS/BLM/NPS/Tribal offices. A map showing identified wildfire risk for your project area is also critical. Your local state forest service office or federal land manager may be able to assist you with developing maps if you do not currently have that capability.

4. Eligible Organizations

The organization must have its nonprofit (501c3) status, or have a nonprofit or local government fiscal sponsor that may include:

- Regional and local collaborative efforts
- Fire Safe Councils and/or Wildfire Councils
- Non-profit groups that promote hazardous forest fuel reduction treatment projects in partnership with local, state or private entities
- Fire departments
- Tribes
- City or county government

Even if they have 501c3 status, homeowner or property owner associations, metro districts, road districts, etc. are NOT eligible to apply.

5. Matching Funds

All applicants will be required to demonstrate an ability to match 100% of requested grant resources. The match may be in the form of a private or state dollar-for-dollar match or in-kind support for the project. In-kind support must be clearly quantified and documented. In-kind funds include donated supplies, equipment or time. For efficiency, donated time should be accounted for using a \$25.00 per hour rate, and must have documentation such as sign-in sheets. COCO will assist funded organizations in creating a system to manage this documentation if you do not currently have that capability.

6. Reporting and Monitoring Requirements

Recipients will be required to provide monthly project reporting updates. Upon completion of the project, recipients must report on project implementation outcomes that resulted from utilizing AIM funds or were enabled because of AIM capacity support, including the following that apply to your project:

1. Number of acres treated
2. Number of homes/properties treated or protected
3. Cost per acre to treat
4. Number of partnerships created or enhanced
5. Amount of woody material generated
6. Number of jobs created
7. Use of any forest products generated
8. Map of project area
9. Before and after pictures
10. How activities or outcomes increased from baseline conditions, i.e. 20% more homeowners or 5% more HOAs engaged, increase in the number of slash sites from 0 to 2 or increase in chipper program participants from 20 to 75, increase in slash chipped from 100 tons to 250 tons, etc.

Awardees will also be asked to share their story or lessons learned and to participate in several AIM Partnership calls and webinars throughout the duration of the project.

How to Apply

Applications are due March 8, 2019, 5:00 PM MDT. We plan to review all applications and make award notifications within approximately one month. All work must be completed within one year of receiving a signed sub-award agreement.

Max pages for submittal – 8 pages. Maps and two letters of support are also required and are not part of the page count. Please adhere to the specified word count limits in each section; applications that do not follow the submittal requirements may be rejected. Any additional materials that are submitted will be removed before being sent to the selection panel.

Applicants should submit the attached application form electronically to:
jonathan.bruno@co-co.org

Questions about project proposals should be directed to Pam Wilson at 970-799-2926 or Jon Bruno at 719-433-6775.

Timeline

RFP Release – January 18, 2019

Proposal Deadline – March 8, 2019, 5:00 PM

Anticipated award date – Within four weeks of application review

Anticipated project completion date – 1 year from execution of award

AIM Partnership APPLICATION (Round 2)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Project:

Applicant:

Organization (include org name and org type (501c3, fire department, county, etc.):

Mailing Address:

City / State / Zip Code:

Phone:

Email:

ELIGIBILITY

Is your organization a non-profit, fire department, regional or local collaborative, tribe, fire safe or wildfire council?

If your organization does not fit within one of these categories, please explain.

PROJECT PURPOSE: Put an X by applicable purpose(s):

Personnel Capacity ___ Equipment Purchase ___ Fuels Reduction ___ Planning _____

PROJECT SUMMARY and OBJECTIVES

Provide a short summary of your proposed project, list the project objectives and describe how this project will either increase local capacity for wildfire resilience, or act as strategic seed money to advance fire adaptation efforts. (500 words or less)

IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATED NEAR OR ADJACENT TO PUBLIC LANDS? YES/NO

Please explain how your project will positively impact the larger area at risk and provide cross-ownership benefit. (250 words or less)

IS THE COMMUNITY OR LANDSCAPE CONSIDERED TO BE AT HIGH RISK? YES/NO

Please provide a map showing wildfire risk from a CWPP or Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (if your state has one). Please explain what values are at risk and why this area is considered a priority. (100 words or less)

DOES THE COMMUNITY HAVE A CWPP OR COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT? YES/NO

Is your proposed project one of the recommended actions? YES/NO

Provide a link to the relevant document. Do not send us a copy of the document unless requested. If you do not have a completed CWPP or Wildfire Risk Assessment please explain why your project is a priority. (100 words or less)

BUDGET

	AIM Award Share	In-Kind Match (non-federal)	Cash Match	Leveraged Federal Match	Total
Labor					
Mileage					
Materials/Supplies					
Contractual					
Equipment					
Indirect					
TOTAL					

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Please be specific regarding how funds will be allocated. Describe source(s) of matching funds and whether cash or in-kind match has been confirmed. Describe the role of each entity involved in project implementation, any known terms of contracts associated with the project, and your ability to leverage grant funds with other funding sources. Consider attaching bids or contract estimates from industry if available.

Because AIM funding is federal funding, you may not use federal funds for your match. Additional leveraged Federal resources add value but are not necessary to receive this funding. (150 words or less)

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

Provide an overview of the project area. Identify vegetation types, fuel types or hazard rating and the relative wildfire risk to the communities, ecosystem, or other values at risk. (400 words or less)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the following: the project/activity, the role of key players, and anticipated outcomes as related to the grant purpose criteria and budget, the project area (including a legal description), the project's land ownership breakdown, the community in which your project will take place (including population, number of homes and structures). If the project relates to a utility, describe the utility service area, population served, and infrastructure and/or water supplies protected. In addition to the project description, provide a Scope of Work that clearly describes tasks in the project, giving consideration to the questions posed below. This discussion ties directly back to the purpose of your project (i.e. don't talk about Equipment if you are not proposing purchasing equipment). (500 words or less)

Please include a detailed and clear one-page PDF map that indicates the treatment area, with location description, if applicable.

SCOPE OF WORK

For Capacity -- Personnel: Discuss the amount of hours the person will work, what those hours will be spent on, how that position will increase your capacity for accomplishing on-the-ground work in the near future and whether you are leveraging other funding for the position.

For Capacity -- Equipment: Describe how the proposed equipment purchase directly supports and expands on-the-ground opportunities to reduce hazardous fuels and how it will be maintained beyond the life of the project.

For Fuels Reduction Projects: This should be more specific than the project description. Include how many treatments will be applied to the area and what kind of treatment will be used (i.e. removing vegetation (bull hogging, hand treatment, etc), burning slash, piling slash, chipping, reseeding, etc) and the acreage. Also explain how this project aligns with the active, proposed or past projects on nearby lands, public or private.

For Planning Efforts: Describe the area to be covered by the CWPP or Community Assessment and the roles of key players (time, meeting support, facilitation, technical expertise or other contributions). Explain your past successes with similar planning efforts, if applicable, and how those planning efforts helped to increase the ability of the residents, fire department, county, or non-profits to complete mitigation efforts.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Outline the proposed timeline for the project including major milestones and the anticipated outcomes and key milestones that will define project completion. Add more lines as needed. (200 words or less)

Date	Major Milestone	Anticipated Outcomes

STRATEGIC VALUE OF PROJECT

How will this project increase mitigation activities or create broader collaborative landscape risk reduction efforts in a strategic way over time? Explain the strategic nature of the project including: **For mitigation projects**, whether the project will be implemented across land ownership boundaries; if it is within a priority area identified in a completed Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Wildfire Risk Assessment or FEMA Mitigation Plan; if it is part of a larger landscape-scale treatment effort; if it addresses a specific environmental consideration, and/or if it is in geographic proximity to public lands that have been recently treated or are in the queue for treatment. **For capacity building projects**, include outreach or engagement or other strategic value of the new capacity and how you anticipate this capacity will lead to increased action on the ground. (250 words or less)

WHY ARE YOU REQUESTING FUNDING?

Clearly describe why this funding is needed and how it will help to grow or enhance your program -- in essence, describe how this project fits into the overall vision for your organization. If your project would occur, at least in part, without this funding, discuss how this funding will enhance your project. Explain how this funding may/will help you to leverage other resources (such as a County contribution to a position, or by increasing the ability of residents to dispose of slash). (200 words or less)

COLLABORATION, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Identify the private, local, tribal, county, state, federal and/or non-governmental (501c3) organizations that will contribute to or participate in the completion of this project. Describe briefly the contributions each partner will make (i.e. – donating time/equipment, technical assistance or funding) and whether you have a firm commitment from the partner(s). (250 words or less)

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

This funding is intended to increase mitigation activities from the level they are at today. How will you measure the short and long-term success of the project? How will you know that you have increased on-the-ground wildfire risk reduction activities? Please describe your monitoring and assessment process. (200 words or less)

MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Clearly demonstrate how this project will remain effective over time by clearly outlining commitments, monitoring measures, future funding, environmental factors and outreach. (250 words or less)

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- 2 letters of support -- one must be from a county official like the Board of County Commissioners, Emergency Manager or local fire chief and the other should be from one of your key local partners like USFS, State Forestry, BLM etc.
- Project Map(s) and Wildfire Risk Map
- For mitigation projects, bids may be included and will not count against your page total.

Applications should be submitted electronically as one document to
jonathan.bruno@co-co.org
by March 8, 2019.

2019 Loup TREX International Fire Fellowship

We are pleased to announce two travel fellowship opportunities for international participants of the 2019 Loup TREX. The Loup TREX International Fire Fellowship will be available on a competitive basis. Two successful fellowship applicants will be awarded \$1,000 each toward the cost of airfare. Awards will be issued in the form of funding vouchers and copies of airfare receipts will need to be submitted following purchase.

Successful applicants agree to provide a 20 minute presentation to the community of Ord residents during the 2019 Loup TREX event. This presentation should discuss the applicant's role in fire at their home district as well as the importance of using fire in their local landscape.

To apply for the 2019 Loup TREX International Fire Fellowship, develop an essay the value of the Loup TREX to your fire career. Topics to consider include:

- Applicants role with fire from their home district
- Applicants history working with fire in other areas
- Previous experience with the Loup TREX prescribed fire program
- Similarities or differences with Loup TREX fire ecology and home unit fire ecology
- Unique cultural challenges and opportunities provided through the Loup TREX program

Essay should be no longer than 500 words and should be submitted in English.

The 2019 Loup TREX International Fire Fellowship has been financially supported by gracious contributions from the Valley County Community Foundation Fund as well as two anonymous donors.

Submit applications or questions to Ben Wheeler at Ben.Wheeler@nebraska.gov

Deadline for submission of the 2019 Loup TREX International Fire Fellowship is February 10, 2019.