

FLN Networker No. 295: March 4, 2020

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.

News from the Field

Arkansas, New Mexico, Virginia: Congratulations to network members involved in three of the new projects that have been awarded **Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership** funding: "Building Resilient Watersheds to Improve Drinking Water in the **Ozark & Ouachita Highlands**" (Arkansas), "**Greater Santa Fe Fireshed**" (New Mexico) and "**North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration Project**" (Virginia). For more, see the [news release](#) and [project summary page](#).

New Mexico: The **Rio Grande Water Fund** is the focus of the Associated Press [article](#) "Report: Work to Reduce Wildfire Risks Has Economic Benefits," which recently ran in numerous papers. For details, see the [USGS report](#) itself, "**Economic Effects of Wildfire Risk Reduction** and Source Water Protection Projects in the Rio Grande River Basin in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado."

New Mexico: The **Forest Stewards Guild** and **Fire Adapted New Mexico Learning Network** have released a [new report](#), "**Prescribed Fire on Private Land** in New Mexico," which is an update to the [2017 report](#) "Controlled Burning on Private Land in New Mexico." It highlights **developments** since 2017, current issues limiting burning, **resources** for landowners, and a set of **recommendations**. For more, contact **Eytan Krasilovsky** (eytan@forestguild.org).

North Carolina: The **Forest Stewards Guild**, **North Carolina Forest Service** and **FLN** are inviting forest landowners in the **Southern Blue Ridge mountains** to the DuPont State Recreational Forest **Learn-and-Burn**, a workshop and technical training on how controlled burns can help restore habitat for native species. See the [event posting](#) on the Guild's website for more about this event. (And see the North Carolina State University [website](#) for a **Learn & Burn Toolkit**.)

Data Call: LANDFIRE

LANDFIRE: The deadline to submit **polygon data on disturbance and treatment** activities from 2019 (along with any from 2017 and 2018 that hasn't already been submitted) to LANDFIRE is **March 31**. For details, see the [data call letter](#) and [reference data webpage](#).

Resources: Certified Burners / Panic Myth / Public Engagement / Traditional Knowledge

Certified Burners: Hot off the presses is [report](#) "**Insights and Suggestions for Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Programs**" from the **Forest Stewards Guild**. The **Washington State** legislature charged the Department of Natural Resources to develop a certified prescribed burn manager program. The DNR, Washington RC&D Council and **Washington Dry Forests FLN** contracted the Forest Stewards Guild to compile information about existing programs and provide guidance for Washington's program. Findings and recommendations in this report are **broadly applicable** to other states considering new certified burner programs or revising existing programs.

Panic Myth: The FAC Net [blog post](#) "The Panic Myth: What Does the Research Say and What Can Practitioners Do?" tackles the **myth that "the public will panic"** in the face of information about an

emergency. Social scientist **Sarah McCaffrey** introduces the **research** on the topic and, wearing her public information officer hat, **Annie Schmidt** lays out some **practical advice** for practitioners.

Public Engagement: The [general technical report](#) “Protocol for Social Vulnerability Assessment to Support National Forest Planning and Management: A Technical Manual for Engaging the Public to **Understand Ecosystem Service Tradeoffs** and Drivers of Change” provides **detailed instructions for an exercise** to elicit and analyze public input. (Note that for this work, vulnerability is defined broadly, as “the potential influence on human well-being that results from a change in the provision of an ecosystem service.”)

Traditional Knowledge: The first issue of a **new newsletter**, “Traditional Knowledge and Fire,” will be available soon. This bi-annual newsletter will provide an avenue for those interested in TK and fire in the **northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest** to find and share upcoming news, events, management tools and applications, research and more. Visit the [subscription page](#) to sign up.

Articles & Reports: PODs / Barriers & Opportunities / Post-Fire Regeneration / Trust

PODs: The [report](#) “Potential Operational Delineations and **Northern New Mexico’s 2019 Fire Season**” gives a **brief introduction** to potential operational delineations (PODs) and quantitative wildfire risk assessments (QWRAs) before diving into a **case study** in the greater Santa Fe landscape.

For more on this PODs project, see the [recording](#) of the **FLN webinar** “Potential Operational Delineations: **Developing PODs Collaboratively** on Mixed Ownership Landscapes” presented by **Mike Caggiano** (michael.caggiano@colostate.edu) and **Kit O’Connor**.

Barriers & Opportunities: The authors of the [article](#) “Policy Barriers and Opportunities for Prescribed Fire Application in the Western United States” (Courtney A. Schultz, Sarah M. McCaffrey and Heidi R. Huber-Stearns) found that “**lack of adequate capacity and funding** were the most commonly cited barriers to increasing application of prescribed fire,” and that **collaborative forums and resource sharing** are among the hallmarks of successful approaches.

Post-Fire Regeneration: The **Northern Rockies Fire Science Network** has published the [science review](#) “**Post-fire Tree Regeneration** (or Lack Thereof) Can **Change Ecosystems**.” For more on the topic, see their post-fire tree regeneration [webpage](#).

Trust: The [article](#) “Exploring Wildfire-Prone **Community Trust in Wildfire Management Agencies**” gives an introduction to the **components of trust** (expressed, for example, as competence, benevolence and honesty), and the reports on focus group results from five communities in the West. Among other things, the authors found that “**trust** was most often expressed in the context of agency abilities or **competence**, whereas **distrust** was framed in the context of **intentions** or the belief that the agency is not acting in the best interest of the community.”

Jobs: Rx Unit Manager / Extension Forester / Planning Coordinator / Program Assistant

Rx Unit Manager: The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** is seeking a **Prescribed Fire Unit Manager** to plan, prioritize, coordinate and implement projects. Details are on the careers.wa.gov ([job number 2020-01796](#)); applications are due by **March 8**.

Extension Forester: The **Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension** program is filling an **Assistant Professor of Practice**–Extension Forester position. Details are on the university’s jobs page ([posting number P03606UF](#)); applications are due by **March 11**.

Planning Coordinator: The **Forest Stewards Guild** is hiring an Intermountain West Region Planning Coordinator to be based in Loveland, Colorado. This position will **support FLN projects, CWPPs**, and other similar work around increasing the pace and scale of **good fire and fire adapted communities**. See the [posting on SmartRecruiters](#) for details; apply by **March 13** for full consideration.

Program Assistant: The **Watershed Research and Training Center** is seeking a program assistant for its **Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program**. Details are in the attached flyer; applications are due by **March 13**.

Webinars

**March 12
new listing** **Statutory, Regulatory and Legal Constraints on Prescribed Fire in the USA**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Carissa Wonkka will be the presenter on this webinar from the University of Nebraska, Southern Fire Exchange and University of Florida
Register: https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iHBIeb7oQI2ru51BK5oK3w

Network Workshops & Field Tours

May 19-21 **Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Dillard, GA**
Save the date for this regional FLN workshop hosted by the Balsam-Nantahala landscape.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES)

March TBD **Yurok TRES / Weitchpec, CA**
Burn dates depend on weather and fuel conditions.

March 12-19 **Alto Minho TRES / Viana do Castelo, Alto Minho, Portugal**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

March 21-April 3 **Niobrara Valley Preserve TRES / Johnstown, NE**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

March 22-April 4 **Loup TRES / Central NE**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

March 30-April 10 **Women-in-Fire TRES (WTRES) / Southeastern VA**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

April 27-May 8 **Northeast Washington TRES / Chewelah, WA**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

April 27-May 8 **Central Oregon TRES / Central OR**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

April 27-May 8 **Ashland TRES / Southwestern OR**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

**May 4-17
deadline** **Northwoods TRES / Minnesota**
See the [flyer](#) for details and the application form; applications are due by March 15.

- Sept. 28-Oct. 9** **Klamath River TREX / Northern CA**
 Planning is underway—save the date.
- Oct. 25-Nov. 6** **Southern Blue Ridge TREX / Pickens, SC**
 Save the date for the next SBR TREX. Organizers are planning both small- and large-scale burns on private, local, state and federal lands, some using aerial ignition. Application materials will be available in May.
 Website: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbtrex>

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

- March 5** **Idaho Prescribed Fire Council Workshop / Twin Falls, ID**
 Idaho is starting a prescribed fire council and organizers are reaching out to involve as many people as possible, including through these two workshops held in conjunction with the Idaho Burners group. Visit www.idahoprescribedfirecouncil.org for more information and to fill out a questionnaire to get added to an email list.
- March 12-14** **Rivercane Gathering / Welling, OK**
 Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the IPBN, this symposium will focus on restoration, ecology and cultural significance of rivercane. Once common throughout the central and southeastern parts of the country, rivercane is a native species of bamboo. It was long used by many tribes for furniture, flutes, blowguns, basketry, etc., and eco-cultural revitalization is gaining momentum.
 Information: <https://usfs.regfox.com/2020-river-cane-meeting>
- March 17-18** **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council Meeting / Bend, OR**
new listing
 Information: <https://oregonrxfire.weebly.com/2020-annual-meeting.html>
- March 18-20** **Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium / Bend, OR**
new listing
 Information: <http://centraloregonfiresymposium.org/>
- April 6-8** **After the Flames / Tahoe, CA**
 This conference has two tracks—one for property owners, community leaders, and agencies responding to fire, and another providing technical information for scientists, engineers, trainers and consultants.
 Information: <https://aftertheflames.com/>
- April 15-16** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Grand Junction, CO**
 Fire Adapted Colorado is presenting this conference focused on “Discover Your Role: Reducing Wildland Fire Risk.”
 Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>
- April 20-24** **3rd International Smoke Symposium / Raleigh, NC and Davis, CA**
 Presented by International Association of Wildland Fire in partnership with NWCG Smoke Committee and the UC-Davis Air Quality Research Center, the symposium will have based in Raleigh, with a [satellite location at UC-Davis](#).
 Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/3rd-international-smoke-symposium/>
- May 2** **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / Everytown, USA**
 Applications for project awards are due by February 28.
 Information: www.wildfireprepdays.org

June 2-3
new listing

Glades, Quail and Prescribed Fire / Ash Flat, AR

This workshop is co-hosted by the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and The Nature Conservancy. Attendance will be limited to 50 people.

Information: <https://oakfirescience.com/events/glades-quail-and-prescribed-fire-workshop-in-arkansas/>

June 4
new listing

North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / Jasper, GA

Information available soon at: <http://www.garxfire.com/events.htm>

September 22-24

Great Plains Fire Summit / North Platte, NE

Information will be posted on nefirecouncil.org, or send an email to nefirecouncil@gmail.com to be added to the conference email list.

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Send News, Links & Comments

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is in Missouri March 23-April 3.

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

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is Brussels March 5-10; Alto Minho, Portugal March 11-20; Brussels March 21-27.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in Washington, DC March 24-26.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Welling, OK March 12-14; in the Black Hills, SD March 23-27.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out March 13.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out March 13.

Full Links

News from the Field—AR, NM, VA—News release: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-invests-more-41-million-protect-communities-wildfires-restore-forest-ecosystems>

Project summaries: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/initiatives/?cid=nrcseprd1550015>

News from the Field—NM—RGWF—Article: <https://www.abqjournal.com/1422737/report-work-to-reduce-wildfire-risks-has-economic-benefits.html>

Report: <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20191108>

News from the Field—NM—Rx—New report: https://foreststewardsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FSG_Prescribed-Fire-on-Private-Land-in-New-Mexico-Update_12022019_Final.pdf

2017 report: <https://westernlandowners.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Controlled-Burning-in-NM.pdf>

News from the Field—NC—Event: <https://foreststewardsguild.org/event/dupont-forest-learn-and-burn/>

Toolkit: <https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/learn-burn-workshops/>

Data Call—LANDFIRE—Letter: https://www.landfire.gov/documents/LANDFIRE_DataCallLetter_2019.pdf

Webpage: https://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata.php

Resources—Certified burners: <https://foreststewardsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/InsightsRecommendationsCPMBprograms.pdf>

Resources—Panic myth: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/the-panic-myth-what-does-the-research-say-and-what-can-practitioners-do/>

Resources—Public engagement: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_series/rmrs/gtr/rmrs_gtr396.pdf

Resources—Traditional knowledge: <https://www.nrfirescience.org/subscribe-tk-and-fire-newsletter>

Articles & Reports—PODs—Report: <https://cfri.colostate.edu/2020/02/17/new-publication-potential-operational-delineations-and-northern-new-mexicos-2019-fire-season/>

Webinar recording: <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/qmbaus6nc4w7g7myce34f7r5xmw9wf2f/file/615702942390>

Articles & Reports—Barriers & opportunities: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2019/rmrs_2019_schultz_c002.pdf

Articles & Reports—Post-fire regeneration—Science review:

https://www.nrfirescience.org/sites/default/files/TreeRegenerationReviewFinal_Jan15-compress.pdf

Webpage: <https://www.nrfirescience.org/hot-topics/post-fire-tree-regeneration>

Articles & Reports—Trust: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2019/rmrs_2019_rasch_r001.pdf

FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/webinars.aspx>

TREX—The latest application information for upcoming TREX is always listed at:

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

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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JOB TITLE: Program Assistant
JOB CLASS: Full time, 40 hours a week, hourly with benefits,
\$18-26 hour



About the Watershed Research and Training Center

Tucked in rural Trinity County, the Watershed Research and Training Center (Watershed Center) has been cultivating triple-bottom-line solutions to forest conservation challenges since our founding in 1996. Our mission is to create and sustain healthy lands and healthy communities. What started as a project to re-train displaced loggers and mill workers in ecosystem management is now a vibrant nonprofit organization working locally, statewide and nationally.

In addition to putting dozens of our community members back to work in the woods each year, we lead several land and watershed conservation programs, coordinate state biomass and fire management partnerships, and have played an influential role in state and federal policy-making and program direction. Through our programs, we've built strong networks of partner leaders and practitioners dedicated to advancing local solutions and transferring their learning to improve land management and community well-being.

Our Statewide Forest and Fire Work

In May of 2019, the Watershed Center launched a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program, supported by the Department of Conservation and the California Natural Resources Agency. Through a grant from the Resource Legacy Fund, we have since expanded RFFC to include a Tribal Forest and Fire Project. The RFFC program is multi-faceted, involving dozens of state agency partners and over two hundred practitioners. It has an emphasis on capacity-building among community-based practitioners, particularly on finding opportunities for capacity to be leveraged through existing assets, peer learning and peer mentoring. There is also a technical service component, through which the Watershed Center deploys trainers to build a community's technical capacity in areas such as prescribed fire, forest management and community wildfire planning. This work involves numerous virtual meetings and webinars, and we plan to host 2-4 multi-day workshops (each for 30-60 people) in the next phase of the project. There is an element of state fire policy and planning inherent to this work, as the program is both funded by, and meant to inform, state programs and policy.

You can learn more about the program by reading our recently published [*Investment Opportunities for Increasing Forest and Fire Management Capacity in California: A Capacity and Needs Assessment of Local Groups, Non-Profits, and Tribes.*](#)

Job Summary and Activities

The Program Assistant will be responsible for providing administrative support to the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Director (75%), and also providing administrative support (25%) to the Tribal Forest and Fire Project, under leadership of the Tribal Forest and Fire Project Manager. This will include:

I.) Supporting virtual and in-person meeting, webinar and convening logistics, by:

- Scheduling calls with partners (Doodle polls etc.)
- Hosting Zoom meetings
- Creating electronic invitations, scheduling with partners, managing RSVPs
- Managing event correspondence with attendees, partners, and vendors
- Securing and managing contracts with venues, caterers and other service providers under the direction of the Program Director
- Researching and soliciting bids from vendors, interacting with service providers prior to events and acting as the onsite point-of-contact during events
- Managing webinar recordings and taking meeting minutes
- Leading additional logistics as needed

II.) Overseeing administration of our online networking platform, Podio:

- Developing proficiency with Podio and training and onboarding users to the site.
- Providing customer service to users, managing profiles and accounts

III.) Managing team documents:

- Organizing and managing an online resource library
- Creating and maintaining contact lists
- Filing and maintaining documents and records
- Performing other data entry as assigned

IV.) Creating and circulating promotional materials:

- Producing and editing electronic newsletters, including managing a MailChimp account
- Producing flyers and other materials
- Managing other communication platforms as needed

V.) Other, including

- Coordinating Program Director and other staff travel logistics
- Providing other program assistance as assigned

Required Qualifications, Skills and Competencies

- The willingness and ability to work remotely
- Ability to live in the state of California (requirement of our funding)
- Enthusiasm to work on detail-oriented, administrative tasks
- Interest in the forest and fire management domain within California
- Interest in working with indigenous communities
- A commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- Exceptional attention to detail, great time management
- Ability to use Google Suite, Microsoft Office Suite; willingness to learn and operate new software/programs such as a Podio, Zoom and Trello
- A commitment to open, pro-active and transparent communication
- Excellent communication skills, written and verbal, both virtually and in-person, and with staff, partners and vendors
- Dynamic problem solving skills
- Demonstrated initiative and pride in one's work
- Flexible and adaptable style
- Self-awareness and sense of humor

Additional Desired Skills

- Experience managing audiences and creating campaigns in MailChimp
- Experience with graphic design and layout
- Experience working with indigenous communities and/or working within the natural resources domain

Compensation

Compensation for this position will be based on experience, within the range of \$18-26/hour. This is a full-time position with a benefit package including:

- 10 paid holidays per year
- Paid time off (PTO) – PTO accrues each pay period on actual hours worked (below based on 40 hours/week)
 - First 2 years – approximately 15 days per year
 - After 2 full years – approximately 20 days per year
 - After 5 years – approximately 25 days per year
 - After 10 years – approximately 30 days per year

- Employer-sponsored health coverage (medical, dental and vision) is available on the first of the month following 60 days of continuous employment. The premium for employee coverage is currently paid in full by the employer.
- Position will qualify for employer retirement plan; additional details about eligibility are available from WRTC's HR department.
- Monthly cell phone stipend of \$55 for remote employees (taxable benefit).
- Monthly remote office space stipend of \$100 for remote employees (taxable benefit).

Other Details

This position will likely be a remote position, though the Program Assistant must reside within the state of California at the time of employment. This position is full time and will require in-state, overnight travel. We will consider flexible work schedules to accommodate family or other commitments. The Program Assistant reports to the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Director. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to use a computer and phone and will occasionally need to lift and/or move up to 30 pounds.

The Watershed Research and Training Center is an equal opportunity employer. The Watershed Center is dedicated to providing an open, transparent, and just organization and workplace. We strive for clear, open, and kind communication and are committed to recruiting, hiring, mentoring, and supporting people from underrepresented communities.

To Apply

Submit a cover letter, current resume and contact information for three professional references (email and phone) by email to: Allison Jolley, RFFC Program Director at allison@thewatershedcenter.com. Applications are due by March 13, 2020.

This position is funded from a grant awarded by the California Natural Resources Agency as part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Additional funding for this position is being provided through the California Conservation Innovations program of Resources Legacy Fund.

