FLN Networker No. 299: May 27, 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

California: North State Public Radio produced a five-episode <u>podcast series</u> last fall. The second episode—"**California Burning—Native Intelligence**"—features an interview with **Margo Robbins**.

California: TREX coaches were instrumental in getting a couple of important cooperative burns done this past week in Sonoma County. Working with the **Good Fire Alliance** (Sonoma County's <u>PBA</u>) and the Mendocino County PBA **Sasha Berleman** (<u>sasha.berleman@egret.org</u>) and **Jared Childress** from the Audubon Canyon Ranch <u>Fire Forward</u> program helped to coordinate a **28-acre burn** at the <u>Van Hoosear</u> <u>Wildflower Preserve</u> and an **115-acre burn** at the impressively steep <u>Cooley Ranch</u>. One burn was led by long-time TREX coach and incident commander **Phil Dye** (<u>phil@prometheusfireconsulting.com</u>), and the other by a recently retired CAL FIRE unit chief. With permits issued by CAL FIRE, the **community-based volunteer burn team** members managed **social distancing and safety** with a thoughtful approach. This included arriving in individual vehicles, wearing masks during briefings, sanitizing all equipment and tools (including the pens used for filling in forms), and providing individual pre-packed lunches. And as expected, Sasha and Jared created a safe and productive **learning environment** for their team members, including several for whom this was their **first prescribed burn**. (See <u>some photos</u>.)

New Mexico: The <u>podcast</u> Hot & Dry, produced by the Southwest Fire Science Consortium, looks at the effects of climate change in the Southwest. This week co-hosts Collin Haffey (<u>collin.haffey@tnc.org</u>) and Cally Carswell look at "Wildfire and COVID19 Response."

Pennsylvania: Several weeks ago some counties in the state had their **COVID-19 response phase transitioned** from Red to Yellow, which **allowed some prescribed fire work** to move forward (<u>map</u>). Although most of the southern portion of the state had already greened up, northern counties—which had experienced one of the coldest months of May on record—were weeks behind. This set the stage for fire crews to get some much needed management done in the **oak forests**. Due to the virus, the state had canceled the contract for burn bosses, so **The Nature Conservancy** provided two **burn bosses**. Working with **Pennsylvania Game Commission** crews, they've completed five burns (about 2,500 acres) so far, while following the agency's **COVID-19 best management practices** (attached). For more, contact **Jenny Case** (<u>icase@tnc.org</u>).

Virginia: For 12 weeks this spring, the five-person Allegheny Highlands Burn Crew mobilized to support partner work across the landscape. As planned, they assisted the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Program with fire line prep and burn implementation on over 2,000 acres. As prescribed fire activity was suspended due to the pandemic, they turned to helping The Nature Conservancy's Allegheny Highlands program clear trails, conduct fee lands visits and reporting, develop a literature review for the bird monitoring program, gather materials for the website, and support a number of other projects. "This has been a challenging burn season," said restoration coordinator Nikole Simmons (<u>nikole.simmons@tnc.org</u>), "and I can't tell you how much I appreciated their hard work, patience and flexibility during such uncertainty." **FAC Net**: The recent FAC Net <u>blog post</u> "An Ambassador by Any Name Doth Broaden Wildfire Resilience" by **Rebecca Samulski** (<u>fireadaptedco@gmail.com</u>) highlights the value that **local volunteer leaders** bring to wildfire preparedness efforts. The post sketches the history of **Wildfire Adapted Partnership's neighborhood ambassador approach** (see the <u>toolkit</u>), how it has spread through FAC Net connections and been **adapted in communities throughout the country**, and looks forward to engaging even more wildfire mitigation staff and volunteers.

TREX: As part of its **strategy to build capacity for prescribed fire**, TREX provides **opportunities for students** to gain hands-on experience. This spring, this included support for students from the **University of Idaho** chapter of the **Student Association for Fire Ecology** to burn alongside practitioners from **The Nature Conservancy** in Florida. For more, see the <u>story</u> "College of Natural Resources Student Prepared to 'Tackle Almost Anything.'"

Resources: Better Presentations / COVID-19 & Wildland Fire

Better Presentations: The **Goodman Center** has a selection of <u>resources</u> to help "do-gooders learn to do better" at communicating. The <u>free pdf book</u> "**Why Bad Presentations Happen to Good Causes**" is worth a read—for at least 82 percent of us, anyhow. (In a survey conducted by the author, 49 percent of respondents rated their own presentations as good or excellent, but only felt 18 percent of other presenters met that standard.)

COVID-19 & Wildland Fire: The **Association for Fire Ecology** has a <u>page</u> of **white papers**, **agency guidance**, **media stories and general information** relevant to the wildland fire community. They are also adapting their <u>website</u> and conferences to improve virtual connections and access to information.

Articles & Reports: Western Wildfires / Smoke Inversions / Pacific Northwest Wildfire

Western Wildfires: The **Ecological Restoration Institute** has released the <u>white paper</u> "Wildfire **Trends Across the Western US**: Forest Fires Have Increased in Size, Severity, and Frequency Across Western Forests." It summarizes the literature analyzing changes in wildfire season since 1950, in response to critics who maintain the changes are consistent with historical conditions.

Smoke Inversions: In a process akin to winter temperature inversions that trap polluted air in valleys, **smoke from wildfires** may be **trapped in valleys**. Read more in the ScienceDaily <u>article</u> "Fire Inversions' Lock Smoke in Valleys."

Pacific Northwest Wildfire: The <u>article</u> "Changing Wildfire, Changing Forests: The Effects of **Climate Change** on Fire Regimes and Vegetation in the Pacific Northwest, USA" includes a fairly robust section on **management actions** that can mitigate the effects of climate change on these forests.

Coming Together: Integrated Fire Management

Integrated Fire Management: David Ganz talks about **community-based approaches** to wildfire as it can apply in Asia in the <u>post</u> "Coronavirus, Climate Change, Forest Fires: Integrated Fire Management and **People-Centred Policymaking**."

Jobs: Fire Mgmt Specialist / Fellowship / Forester / Rx Fire/Fuels

Fire Management Specialist: The **Bureau of Indian Affairs** is hiring a **Fire Management Specialist** (**Prescribed Fire and Fuels**) to be based in Albuquerque. Details are on usajobs.gov (<u>control number</u> <u>567068800</u>); applications are due by **June 1**.

Fellowship: **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking candidates for an **Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education fellow** position in the sandhills of North Carolina. **Recent graduates** in ecology, conservation biology or similar fields are eligible to apply. Details are in the attached flyer; applications are due by **June 4**.

Forester: **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **Natural Climate Solutions Forester** to be part of its Global Natural Climate Solutions Science Team. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page (job ID 48679); applications are due by **June 4**. (As always, current employees apply through <u>PeopleSoft</u>.)

Rx Fire/Fuels: The **Bureau of Indian Affairs** is hiring a **Forestry Technician** to serve in a key fire management position in a field fire management organization in San Juan Pueblo. Details are on usajobs.gov (<u>control number 569182700</u>); applications are due by **June 8**.

Webinars

May 27	Prescribed Fire Webinar Series: Resources for Burning 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern (1.5 hours) Lenya Quinn-Davidson and Robyn Smith will be the presenters—on PBAs and EQIP, respectively—on this webinar from the University of California Cooperative Extension. See the <u>flyer</u> for details (as well as information on other sessions in the series on May 13, May 20 and June 3). Register: <u>https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=30060</u>
May 27 new listing	North Carolina Climate Science Report: Implications for Wildland Fire 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern Assistant state climatologist Rebecca Ward will be the presenter on this webinar from North Carolina State University, the Southern Fire Exchange and the University of Florida. Register: <u>https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IOxBYhjOT8uZlugxejWHnQ</u>
May 28	Woodland Owner Lunch and Learn - Managing Your Woodlands with Prescribed Fire 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern Jennifer Fawcett and Laurel Kays will be the presenters on this webinar from North Carolina State Extension Forestry. Details: <u>http://www.forestrywebinars.net/</u> webinars/managing-your-woodlands-with-prescribed-fire
May 28 new listing	Data, Science and Methods Behind the Wildfire Risk to Communities Website 11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern Greg Dillon, Frank Fay, Jim Menakis, Kelly Pohl and Joe Scott speak about this new <u>interactive website</u> in this webinar hosted by the Forest Stewards Guild. Details: <u>https://foreststewardsguild.org/event/data-science-and-methods-behind-the-wildfire-risk-to-communities-website-webinar/</u>
June 3 new listing	Towards an Integrated Fire Management 7:00 am Pacific / 8:00 Mountain / 9:00 Central / 10:00 Eastern (1:45 hours) This is the first in a series of weekly webinars in the Pyrolife International Symposium. This week's topics are "Pyrogeography and the Need for Diversity" (Cathelijine Stoof) and "Extreme Wildfire Events Under Climate Change: What to Expect on Central/Northern Europe" (Marc Castellnou Ribau). Registration: <u>https://pyrolife.lessonsonfire.eu/pyrolife-international-symposium</u>

June 3 new listing	AIM Summer 2020 Grant Announcement Webinar 12:30 Pacific / 1:30 Mountain / 2:30 Central / 3:30 Eastern This webinar is recommended for those who wish to apply for the Summer 2020 Action and Implementation for Mitigation (<u>AIM</u>) funding from Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc. Applications for the funding will be available June 1. Register: <u>https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/505886806622337037</u>
June 11	West Region Wildfire Council Bi-Monthly Meeting noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern (2 hours) Mike Caggiano will be the speaker at this meeting, and will give a presentation on WUI mapping methods, examining how well different methods capture patterns of building loss observed during wildfires and exploring the national and local implications for using fine scale mapping methods. He will also discusses how fine scale mapping efforts can be leveraged in strategic planning applications including quantitative risk assessments and potential operational delineations (PODs) Register: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpfuGtpzsoGdbCV7</u> m7mDW1_tAyB8qBk9lv
June 17	LANDFIRE Remap in the Southeast 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern Jim Smith will be the presenter on this webinar from LANDFIRE, the Southern Fire Exchange and the University of Florida. Register: <u>https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7vDgykmFTwKX6ehSqsQ9gg</u>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

Sept. 28-Oct. 9	Klamath River TREX / Northern CA Planning is underway—save the date.
Oct. 19-Nov. 2 updated	Flagstaff TREX / Flagstaff, AZ See the <u>announcement</u> for details; <u>applications</u> are due by July 31.
Oct. 25-Nov. 6	Southern Blue Ridge TREX / Pickens, SC Information: <u>https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbrtrex</u>

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

June 4	North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / online Details & registration: <u>http://www.garxfire.com/events.htm</u>
June 16 deadline	S-131: Firefighter Type I / online The Natural Areas Training Academy is offering this NWCG course for those with FFT2 qualifications to work toward FFT1 or ICT5 qualifications. Register by June 1 and complete 7.5 hours of online work between June 1 and June 15. Details: <u>https://mailchi.mp/db4473937072/attend-s-131-firefighter-type-i-entirely-online</u>
July 12-15 new listing	45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop / online "Active Hope in an Era of Environmental Extremes" will be this workshop's theme. Information: <u>https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2020</u>
September 22-24	Great Plains Fire Summit / North Platte, NE Information: <u>https://nefirecouncil.org/great-plains-fire-summit</u>

Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Grand Junction, CO Fire Adapted Colorado has rescheduled (from April) this conference focused on "Discover Your Role: Reducing Wildland Fire Risk." Information: <u>https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/</u>
 Fire Ecology Across Boundaries: Connecting Science and Management / Florence, Italy The Association for Fire Ecology, Pau Costa Foundation, Regione Toscana and University of Florence are hosting this workshop; virtual participation may be possible, depending on the COVID-19 situation. Proposals for workshops and short films and photos are being accepted through June 1; abstracts for oral presentations are due June 30. Information: <u>http://fireacrossboundaries.org/</u>
National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / Asheville, NC This workshop has been postponed to October 4-8, 2021.
WUI 2020 / Reno, NV Information: <u>https://www.iafc.org/events/wui/</u>

Send News, Links & Comments

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is in the office.
Heather Montanye – <u>hmontanye@tnc.org</u> – Heather is out May 29.
Jeremy Bailey – <u>jeremy bailey@tnc.org</u> – Jeremy is in the office.
Marek Smith – <u>marek_smith@tnc.org</u> – Marek is in the office.
Mary Huffman – <u>mhuffman@tnc.org</u> – Mary is in the office.
Wendy Fulks – weighted.org – Wendy is in the office.
Liz Rank (editor) – <u>Irank@tnc.org</u> – Liz is out June 11.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA: <u>https://www.npr.org/podcasts/759973777/california-burning-solutions-to-california-s-wildfire-problem</u> News from the Field—CA—Fire Forward: <u>https://www.egret.org/fire-forward</u>

Wildflower preserve: <u>https://sonomaecologycenter.org/van-hoosear-wildflower-preserve/</u> Cooley Ranch: <u>https://sonomafb.org/cooley-ranch-19000-acre-ag-preserve-adjacent-to-lake-sonoma-is-farm-bureaus-newest-premium-member/</u>

News from the Field—FAC Net: <u>https://fireadaptednetwork.org/an-ambassador-by-any-name-doth-broaden-wildfire-resilience/</u> News from the Field—TREX: <u>https://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/about/feature-stories/sparking-a-career</u>

Resources—Better presentations—Goodman Center: <u>https://www.thegoodmancenter.com/resources/</u> Book: <u>https://www.thegoodmancenter.com/wp-</u>

content/uploads/2012/07/Why Bad Presentations Happen to Good Causes.pdf

Resources—COVID-19 & wildland fire: https://fireecology.org/news/covid-19

Articles & Reports-PODs: https://colostate-

News from the Field—NM: https://hot-and-dry-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes

my.sharepoint.com/personal/caschult_colostate_edu/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fcaschult%5Fcolostate te%5Fedu%2FDocuments%2FPODs%20Report%20final%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fcaschult%5Fcolostate%5Fed u%2FDocuments&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9jb2xvc3RhdGUtbXkuc2hhcmVwb2ludC5jb20vOmI6L2cvcGVyc29uYWwY 2FzY2h1bHRfY29sb3N0YXRIX2VkdS9FYTVaVE83NkM5TkZtMldmTThaLUpXSUJUNE9mUy04dEEySDB2UHJnckgxR1 VnP3J0aW1IPVZCUnJjcW45MTBn

- Articles & Reports—Western wildfires: <u>https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/1043/rec/1</u> Articles & Reports—Smoke inversions: https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/09/190912134354.htm
- Articles & Reports—Pacific Northwest wildfire: https://fireecology.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s42408-019-0062-8
- Coming Together—Integrated fire management: <u>https://www.recoftc.org/stories/coronavirus-climate-change-forest-fires-integrated-fire-management-and-people-centred</u>
- FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at: <u>http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/web</u> <u>inars.aspx</u>
- TREX—The latest application information for upcoming TREX is always listed at: <u>http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/Tr</u> <u>ainingExchanges/Pages/Upcoming-Training-Exchanges.aspx</u>

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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2001 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Wildlife Habitat Management 717-787-6818

Conducting Prescribed Fire During COVID-19 Best Practices to Maintain Crew and Public Safety

April 29, 2020

On April 23, 2020, Governor Wolf released a 'Process to Reopen Pennsylvania'. This plan for a phased reopening of Pennsylvania provides the opportunity for resuming limited prescribed fire operations in identified locations across the Commonwealth. The following guidance has been developed to ensure the safety of our employees and the public while concerns to human health related to COVID-19 remain high. Prescribed fire operations will follow a tiered approach in line with the Governor's plan.

RED PHASE: No burning will be conducted in these areas.

-OW PHASE: Burning is permitted following the Operational Guidance outlined below. No aerial ignition is permitted in these areas.

GREEN PHASE: Normal operations. Aerial ignition permitted.

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

- Practice social distancing at all times (particularly briefings, AARs).
- If you are not comfortable participating in prescribed burning at this time, mark yourself as unavailable.
- Don't report for duty if you have been exposed to the virus, feel ill (high temp, dry cough), or are High-Risk (see CDC guidance for definition of High-Risk).
- 2 persons per vehicle while traveling to and from the burn, while wearing a face covering at all times.
- While riding in a UTV or engine during prescribed fire operations, you may ride with another person, however, smoke masks or other masks must be worn at this time.
- Wear gloves when handling tools, hose, and drip torches that could be used by other people and avoid sharing tools.
- Sanitize/disinfect seats, steering wheels, tools and other common touch points after fire operations are completed, and throughout the day as needed.
- Hand sanitizer and/or washing stations must be made available and should be used regularly throughout the day.
- All forested burns must be staffed with at least one designated contingency resource, separate from the burn crew. A minimum contingency is 1 engine and 2 people.
- Aerial burns will only be permitted in GREEN PHASE counties due to the mass volume of smoke produced and higher probability for impacting the public.

The Nature Conservancy North Carolina Sandhills ORISE Fellowship Announcement

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking candidates for one Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Fellow stationed in the Conservation Center of the Sandhills located in Southern Pines, North Carolina. This appointment will assist the TNC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to accomplish the mission of the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership (Partnership). Eligible candidates must have graduated with a natural resources related degree within three years of the hiring date. The one-year appointment may be renewed for three to five years (a minimum of three years of funding is guaranteed). Information on the ORISE program can be found at: http://www.orau.org/maryland/participants/default.htm.

The NC Sandhills TNC ORISE Fellow will help to advance the wildlife and habitat conservation mission of TNC and USFWS through conservation planning and research, project management, and data analysis. He or she will:

- Lead the implementation of field surveys for the <u>Longleaf Ecosystem Occurrences</u> database project. The Fellow will conduct rapid habitat assessments of longleaf pine forests from publicly accessible roads, and recruit and support partners and volunteers to assist. Project will involve overnight travel and extensive driving. This project will account for 19 weeks of the first year of the fellowship.
- Help to plan and facilitate Partnership meetings.
- Conduct literature review and other research to inform actions of the Partnership. Compile, synthesize, and communicate scientific or other information via oral and written presentations.
- Provide technical GIS support for the TNC, USFWS, and the Partnership. Conduct GIS analyses to support conservation projects and update and distribute data.
- Support TNC Stewardship staff in land management activities, including prescribed burning, easement monitoring, assisting with volunteer workdays, and other activities as needed.
- Assist TNC Stewardship staff with planning activities, including developing preserve management plans and prescribed burn maps.
- Assist with TNC land protection projects, including environmental assessments, and baseline documentation reports.
- Support biological monitoring activities, including data collection on habitat quality, species, and management actions. Complete data entry, analysis, reporting, and presentation.
- Attend TNC staff meetings and retreats.

Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Bachelor's degree required. Master of Science preferred in ecology, conservation biology, wildlife biology, or other relevant subject. Candidate must have graduated within the last 3 years.
- Familiarity with advanced principles of GIS and experience using ArcGIS (ArcPro preferred) and field data collection applications (such as Arc Collector).
- Experience with vegetation and wildlife surveys and adhering to standardized data collection protocols. Familiarity with the longleaf pine habitats and species, and/or ability to learn quickly.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook). Proficiency in computer database management using Microsoft Access and/or willingness to learn.
- Experience with data analysis, including occupancy modeling, preferred.
- Excellent communication skills. Demonstrated ability to work effectively and positively with a diverse group of people.
- Strong problem-solving and organizational skills. Ability to set priorities and work productively without close supervision.
- Highly motivated candidate who desires to be an effective part of a team that is on the leading edge of longleaf pine conservation.
- Certified in Wildland Firefighting and Prescribed Burning (S130/190, L180, I100) and/or willingness to become certified within 6 months and pass the pack test (carrying 45 pounds for 3 miles in 45 min).
- Able to pass federal security background check (includes fingerprinting) in order to access a government issued computer.
- Possess valid driver's license and good driving record.

The ORISE Fellow will not be an employee of The Nature Conservancy. The Fellow will receive a monthly stipend of \$3,400 - \$3,900 depending on skills and experience. The Fellow will be responsible for his/her own taxes and health insurance.

The Nature Conservancy's commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our conservation mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of men and women of diverse backgrounds, beliefs and culture. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status or other status protected by law.

For further information, please contact Jeff Marcus at (910) 915-8813. To apply, please email a resume, cover letter and references to <u>jmarcus@tnc.org</u> by 5pm on June 4, 2020.