

# FLN Networker No. 313: March 24, 2021

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*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](http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln).

## News from the Field

**California:** The **Karuk Tribe** has released the [report](#) “**Good Fire: Current Barriers to the Expansion of Cultural Burning and Prescribed Fire in California and Recommended Solutions.**” An [executive summary](#) is also available.

**New Mexico:** Last week, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham [signed into law](#) the **Prescribed Burning Act** (formerly HB 57). The Act is intended to increase prescribed burning by creating a **prescribed burner certification program** and clarifying **private landowner liability** for burns. **The Nature Conservancy**, along with partners, played a key role in **conceptualizing this bill** through a working group, and then through its efforts to get the bill passed. Passage was all the more remarkable, as it occurred during a pandemic-limited legislative session, when most bills are not getting to the finish line. For more information, contact **Emily Hohman** ([emily.hohman@tnc.org](mailto:emily.hohman@tnc.org)).

**New Mexico: Fire Adapted New Mexico** got a hand from Captain **Jerry McAdams**, FAC Net member and wildfire mitigation specialist with the **Boise Fire Department**, for a **home ignition zone webinar** they held last week ([recording](#)). The webinar is part of an [interagency campaign](#), “**Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round.**”

**North Carolina:** With the help of numerous partners in the **High Country FLN landscape**, the North Carolina Forest Service and North Carolina State Parks were able to complete a couple of important **burns in Stone Mountain State Park**. The burns had been planned for 2020, but were delayed by the pandemic. Earlier this month, the burn boss was able to thread the needle of weather, staffing and park visitor considerations to get that one good window for good fire. “He, and all our agency partners, are big fans of TNC’s [as-needed Southern Blue Ridge fire crew!](#)” according to landscape co-lead **Jonathan Hartsell** ([hartselljonathan@gmail.com](mailto:hartselljonathan@gmail.com)). For details about how the burns came to be, see the description (attached) by burn boss **Michael Crouse**.

**Oregon: Project Wildfire** has posted a new [storymap](#), “Deschutes County Firewise Communities.” The [storymap](#) has a bit of **history** and some **lessons learned**, and talks about the importance of community action as well as how communities can receive Firewise USA® recognition.

## Participate: Make Your Mark

**Make Your Mark:** The **Pau Costa Foundation**, based in Spain, has created a “Mapa de Mujeres en Incendios Forestales” (Women in Wildfire) [storymap](#). They **invite women working with wildfire** in any capacity to **put a pin in the map**.

## Resources: Carbon Management / Workforce Resilience / Harassment / Evacuation

**Carbon Management:** A recent [Science You Can Use Bulletin](#) is titled “Need to Manage Management Decisions About Carbon: There Is a **Dashboard** for That.”

**Workforce Resilience:** The International Association of Wildland Fire (**IAWF**) has run a series of webinars covering topics such as **emotional intelligence**, living with **PTSD**, **mindfulness** and **inclusion**. **Recordings** are available on their [website](#).

**Harassment:** The nonprofit **Hollaback!** has a variety of **trainings and resources** to help you “respond to, prevent and intervene in instances of harassment.” Their [website](#) is worth a look.

**Evacuation:** **Good to Go!** is a series of six modules for developing a **personal evacuation plan**. Among the resources in this [program](#) from the Diablo Fire Safe Council (California) is an annotated [sample workbook](#).

## Articles & Reports: Smoke / USGS Fire Science / Forest Roads / Disturbance

**Smoke:** The [article](#) “Wildfire Smoke **Impacts Respiratory Health** More Than Fine Particles From Other Sources: Observational Evidence From Southern California” is based on 14 years of hospital admissions data. (*ScienceDaily* has published a [summary](#) of this article.)

**USGS Fire Science:** The **U.S. Geological Service** has released its **first wildland fire science strategic plan**, which covers 2021 through 2026. The [plan](#) “emphasizes working with stakeholders to identify, develop and share essential information that supports critical decision-making by fire, resource and emergency managers. These include **threat characterization** and management planning before a fire and providing real-time **satellite and field data** to incident commanders and others during a fire. It also includes **assessing fire’s impacts** on infrastructure, terrain, water supply, ecosystems, species and other vital resources after the smoke clears.”

**Forest Roads:** The [communication](#) “Forest Roads and Operational Wildfire Response” explores how roads relate to **potential wildland fire operational delineations** (PODs) and **potential control locations** (PCLs), with examples from national forests in Colorado, and the 2020 **Cameron Peak Fire**.

**Disturbance:** The Forest Service has released the [general technical report](#) “**Disturbance and Sustainability** in Forests of the Western United States.” It addresses disturbances in five categories—fire, drought, insects, disease and abiotic damage agents, and invasive plants.

## In the News: Dept. of the Interior

**Dept. of the Interior:** **Deb Haaland** has been confirmed as the **secretary of the interior**. A member of the Laguna Pueblo, she is the **first Indigenous American** to serve as a U.S. cabinet secretary. Haaland told the [Guardian](#) that as secretary she would “move **climate change** priorities, **tribal consultation** and a **green economic recovery** forward.”

**Smoke:** The *Washington Post* [article](#) “Smoke From **Wildfires Wiped out the U.S. Pandemic-Related Clean Air Gains** in 2020” details the nationwide impact of wildfires in 2020. The article notes that “in September, 24 of the world’s top 25 most polluted cities were in California and Oregon, the report said. Leading the list was **Happy Camp**, Calif., with a monthly average of 154.4 micrograms per cubic meter.”

## For Fun: Volcano

**Volcano:** A [webcam](#) is **livestreaming an eruption** from Fagradalsfjall, Iceland. At present, no inhabited areas are threatened.

## Jobs: Rx Fire Unit Manager / Youth Coordinator / Research Scientist / Indigenous Partnerships

**Rx Fire Unit Manager:** The **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife** is seeking a **natural resource specialist 3** to plan, prioritize, coordinate and implement prescribed burn projects for fire-dependent dry forest ecosystems. Details are on the state's careers page ([job number 2021-00458](#)); applications are due by **March 29**.

**Youth Coordinator:** The **Forest Stewards Guild** is seeking a **Forest Stewards Youth Corps field coordinator** for the summer-fall in New Mexico. See the [job description](#) for details; applications are due by **March 31**.

**Research Scientist:** The **Ecological Restoration Institute** is seeking applications for a research scientist in **natural resource characterization and modeling** to support landscape-scale forest restoration in the Southwest. Details are on the Northern Arizona University careers site ([search keyword 605271](#)); applications are due by **April 12**.

**Indigenous Partnerships:** The **Nature Conservancy** is hiring a **New Mexico Indigenous partnerships program director** to develop a comprehensive strategy and design and implement programs, policies and projects. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 49547](#)); applications are due by **April 22**. Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

## Webinars

### recording available **PODs Collaborative Fire Planning Workshop**

Recordings are now available for the February 24-25 workshop hosted by Wildfire Risk Management Science team for fuels planners, FMOs, line officers, management planners, community collaboratives, scientists, state and local fire and fuel managers and consultants.

Information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/groups/wildfire-risk-management-science-team/workshop2021>

**March 24  
new listing**

### **Potential Applications of Prescribed Burn Associations for Family Forest Landowners**

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

Nick Biemiller will be the presenter on this Southern Fire Exchange webinar.

Register: [https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wJdkZAcCTHipy1GxpRIOUw](https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wJdkZAcCTHipy1GxpRIOUw)

**March 24  
new listing**

### **Air Sensor Performance Targets: Protocols, Metrics, and Target Values for PM2.5 and Ozone**

noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern

This EPA webinar will highlight two reports that outline recommended performance testing protocols, metrics and target values for fine particulate matter in non-regulatory supplemental and informational monitoring applications.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/air-sensor-performance-targets-tickets-142569263505>

**March 31  
new listing**

### **The Future of Landscape Conservation: Pathways to a Just and Equitable Future**

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern (1.5 hours)

This panel discussion will be hosted by The Network for Landscape Conservation.

Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_W7LarVxDRwiQoxL2q-x1qQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_W7LarVxDRwiQoxL2q-x1qQ)

**April 1**  
**new listing**

**How to Use Liberating Structures to Revolutionise Your Meetings**

7:00 AM Pacific / 8:00 Mountain / 9:00 Central / 10:00 Eastern

This webinar is offered by the UK-based group Apolitical.

Register: <https://apolitical.co/events/how-to-use-liberating-structures-to-revolutionise-your-meetings>

**April 1**

**Building Effective Partnerships With Indigenous Communities**

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

James Rattling Leaf, Sr. will be the presenter on this webinar from the Conservation Biology Institute and the Society for Conservation GIS.

Register: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Tzb0tQ5oTPKK00PVLGe4fA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Tzb0tQ5oTPKK00PVLGe4fA)

**April 6**  
**new listing**

**Smoke Webinar Series: Resident HEPA Filter Programs—Community Solutions for Creating Clean Air**

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern (1.5 hours)

This panel-style webinar is hosted by **FAC Net** with the Western Region of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council.

Register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdiNRfcy4vh47CsApWMkHgJbhFvb0IADJ5eIXK6aGn6hzOvxQ/viewform?gxids=7628>

**April 15**  
**new listing**

**Forest & Fire Learning Series: Adapting to the Unprecedented**

5:00 PM Pacific / 6:00 Mountain / 7:00 Central / 8:00 Eastern

Emily Hohman will speak at this event hosted by the Mountain Studies Institute in Durango, CO. It will be streamed live on YouTube and Facebook

Details: <http://www.mountainstudies.org/events/ffls3>

## Network Workshops & Field Tours

**May 18 & 20**

**Southern Blue Ridge FLN / online**

Save the date for the (virtual) meeting of this regional network (9:00-11:30 EST). Participants will learn about starting a burn program in a landscape, and about a road map to get more fire on the ground. Established burn programs will also share what has worked well (or not) and discuss firing techniques, smoke and fire effects.

## Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES)

**March 21-April 3**

**Loup River TRES / Central Nebraska**

This TRES is currently in progress.

**April 12-16**  
**new listing**

**Cal-TRES Yuba / Nevada County, CA**

This training exchange is intended for entry-level fire practitioners in Nevada County and adjacent areas. Significant online pre-work (NWCG basic wildland fire courses) will be required. Application materials will be available soon, and will be posted on the [Upcoming TRES](#) page of the Conservation Gateway.

**Oct. 25–Nov. 5**

**Southern Blue Ridge TRES / North Carolina, South Carolina**

Save the date—details will be posted at <https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbtrtex>.

## Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

January–June

### **NWCG Trainings / North Coast region, CA**

The Karuk Tribe is inviting tribes, interested members of the public, and non-governmental organizations in the North Coast region to participate in a variety of trainings as part of its Regional Forest & Fire Capacity demonstration project, “Burning Across Boundaries.” For details, see the flyer attached to [issue #310](#).

March 25

### **LANDFIRE Informal Office Hours: "Capable Fuels" and LANDFIRE / online**

Office hours take place the last Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm Eastern. A brief presentation is followed by at least 40 minutes for you to dig into your LANDFIRE-related questions. (You can also email [meg.dettenmaier@tnc.org](mailto:meg.dettenmaier@tnc.org) with suggestions for upcoming topics.)

Register (same link every month):

<https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtfuCuqjSpHd3pQiLhcBd5292-mHV9cbA9>

April (dates TBA)

### **RX310: Introduction to Fire Effects / online**

This online course offered by the University of Idaho will include two virtual class meetings, self-study assignments and a final assessment.

Details: [https://mcusercontent.com/cf44b367da9a45b27e51b8b3f/files/beeef994-e5b2-4387-926f-b937d69b1e37/RX310 Announcement U of I.03.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/cf44b367da9a45b27e51b8b3f/files/beeef994-e5b2-4387-926f-b937d69b1e37/RX310%20Announcement%20U%20of%20I.03.pdf)

April 6-8

### **Fire in Minnesota Ecosystems: Fire in Boreal Forests / online**

Details: <https://mailchi.mp/97bfec9b01df/fire-in-minnesota-ecosystems-workshop-2021-fire-in-boreal-forests?e=a8d4d11e1f>

April 20, April 27  
new listing

### **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / online**

Parts 1 and 2 are working sessions that will address “Mapping Capacity for Prescribed Fire.”

Information: details and registration links are in the attached flyer

May 1

### **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / everywhere**

Information: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>

May 17-20  
new listing

### **44<sup>th</sup> Annual National Intertribal Timber Symposium / online**

Information: [https://www.itcnet.org/issues\\_projects/projects\\_2/symposium.html](https://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/projects_2/symposium.html)

May 24-27

### **16th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 6th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference / online**

Information: <https://firesafety-humandimensions2021.com/>

May 24, June 1  
new listing

### **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / online**

Parts 3 and 4 are working sessions that will address smoke and legislative issues, respectively.

Information: details and registration links are in the attached flyer

June 3

### **North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / online**

Save the date, and sign up to receive details as they become available.

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

September 21-23

### **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Resilient Colorado—Moving Forward In Evolving Wildfire Landscapes / Grand Junction, CO**

Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>

- October 4-8**                    **4th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / Asheville, NC**  
Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/4th-annual-national-cohesive-wildland-fire-management-strategy-workshop/>
- November 3-7**                **Society of American Foresters National Convention / Sacramento, CA**  
**new listing**                    SAF is soliciting submissions for presentations, seminars, panels and workshops (deadline March 31) and for science flashes and posters (deadline August 31).  
Information: <https://eforester.org/safconvention/>
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4**                **9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / online and Miramar Beach, FL**  
**updated**                        A [call for proposals](#), for various formats, is open; proposals for special sessions and workshops, trainings and courses are due May 15.  
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

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## Send News, Links & Comments

- Emily Hohman** – [emily.hohman@tnc.org](mailto:emily.hohman@tnc.org) – Emily is in the office.
- Heather Montanye** – [hmontanye@tnc.org](mailto:hmontanye@tnc.org) – Heather is out March 26.
- Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in Weitchpec, CA (tentative) March 27-April 2.
- Marek Smith** – [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org) – Marek is in the office.
- Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in the office.
- Wendy Fulks** – [wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org) – Wendy is out March 26-31.
- Liz Rank** (editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is out March 25, April 1 and 8

## Full Links

- News from the Field—CA—Report: [https://karuktribeclimatechangeprojects.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/karuk-prescribed-fire-rpt\\_final-1.pdf](https://karuktribeclimatechangeprojects.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/karuk-prescribed-fire-rpt_final-1.pdf)  
Executive summary: <https://karuktribeclimatechangeprojects.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/karuk-exec-summary-final.pdf>
- News from the Field—NM—Rx bill: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-mexico/articles/2021-03-18/new-mexico-governor-signs-prescribed-fire-measure>
- News from the Field—NM—FAC—Recording: <https://www.facebook.com/fireadaptednewmexico/videos/1101797150244740/>  
Interagency campaign: <https://facnm.org/wildfire-preparedness>
- News from the Field—NC: <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/o4wg6j8m0re81xcdjw4a1tfru1ct64ew>
- News from the Field—OR: <https://maps.deschutes.org/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/67f69a98802b4d4fabf00ac55c5cb979>
- News from the Field—IPBN:  
[http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Documents/FactSheet\\_IPBN.pdf](http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Documents/FactSheet_IPBN.pdf)
- Resources—Carbon management:  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU\\_Bulletin\\_CarbonDashboard.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU_Bulletin_CarbonDashboard.pdf)
- Resources—Workforce resilience: <https://www.iawfonline.org/events/webinars/>
- Resources—Harassment: <https://www.ihollaback.org/>
- Articles & Reports—Smoke—Article: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-21708-0>  
Summary: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/03/210305080124.htm>
- Articles & Reports—USGS fire science: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1471/cir1471.pdf>
- Articles & Reports—Forest roads: [https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs\\_journals/2021/rmrs\\_2021\\_thompson\\_m001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2021/rmrs_2021_thompson_m001.pdf)
- Articles & Reports—Disturbance: [https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw\\_gtr992.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr992.pdf)

In the News—Dept. of the Interior: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/15/deb-haaland-interior-secretary-first-indigenous-native-american-cabinet>

In the News—Smoke: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/03/17/air-pollution-us-wildfires/>

For Fun—Volcano: <https://www.ruv.is/frett/2021/03/20/live-feed-from-iceland-volcano>

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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**NC Forest Service and NC State Parks accomplish multiple burns at Stone Mountain State Park in Wilkes and Alleghany Counties. By: C. Michael Crouse NC Forest Service Burn Boss**



*Figure 1. View from Scout Plane of the "Rock" burn unit*



*Figure 2. Burned area along Division Alpha.*

It was two years in the making for a burn to come together at Stone Mountain State Park. The 2020 season started in January just like normal with fire line prep work on the priority units that were predetermined by Thomas Crate (FMO) and Sharon Bischof (Mtn. Region Biologist) with NC State Parks. Everything was going well with all prep work being completed by February. The Stone Mountain Unit (The Rock), the Maintenance Unit, along with the Campground Unit were ready. We were just waiting on the weather, which was very rainy like the past couple of years. Then the bad news of Covid-19 hit, and most agencies shut down prescribed burning. The 2020 Rx burn season was canceled before it really got started.

Fast forward to the 2021 season with new excitement! I was given the green light in mid-December that we could begin preparing for Rx burning at the park. I started the process of getting things line up and crews assembled to start work as soon as the holidays were over. We had our priorities set since they weren't accomplished last season, so I knew where to focus on. In mid-January the Nature Conservancy and NC Forest Service employees began fire line prep. I used these crews for 4 days over 2 weeks with them overnight camping 2 nights at the park. I then switched up and used the NC State Park crews for a week straight. A week to remember! The week prior we had scheduled to work it snowed 5 to 6 inches. The week we worked there was 2 inches of snow still on the ground. The first two days we worked the winds were from the northwest at 30 mph to sometimes 50 mph. It was cold and wind chills were rough. I was able to identify a couple of areas to work that kept the wind off us for one and half days. That last half day of wind and snow was rough, but we pushed through. We finished all prep with these crews in mid-February. Once finished the waiting game was on for our burn window to open. It however, still rained, rained, and rained some more.





*Figures 3 and 4. Fire line prep during snowy and windy conditions*

Toward the end of February and the first of March it started to look promising that we were finally ready to burn at the park. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> I started the process of letting everyone know that I was looking at March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 10<sup>th</sup> for a potential burn day at Stone Mountain. It was really shaping up that March 8<sup>th</sup> was going to be the day. We had been drying for well over a week and fuel moistures were in the range we needed them to be in. Ground moisture numbers were still high, and I knew mop up would be a breeze. I assembled a mix roster of NC Forest Service, NC State Parks, the Nature Conservancy, and Blue Ridge RC&D employees along with volunteer firemen from Cherry Lane and Traphill Fire Departments to perform the burn. Most of these employees indicated that they were available both Monday and Tuesday but not later in the week. I was ready to burn if the weather allowed.

So, over the weekend on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> I watched the weather closely since the RH values were bottoming out lower than I was approved at. I was approved at 20% and values were in the teens to 10% range. On Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> I submitted a spot weather request. It came back on the borderline with RH values. The rest of the weather parameters were perfect. On Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> I woke up at 5:40am to request an update to the spot weather forecast. It came back with RH values well below my 20% cut off. I canceled the burn at 6:00 am. During the afternoon on March 8<sup>th</sup> I started the process over. I requested the spot weather for March 9<sup>th</sup> and then I began filling the holes in my roster. By 5:00 pm I had the roster built again and we had a borderline spot weather forecast, but it was a little bit better than Monday's.

On Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> I woke at 5:40 am to request an update to my spot weather request. It came back and had RH values still below my approved 20% level for 2 hours of burning. At 6:00 am I had to cancel the burn for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. This was a huge blow because I lost several parts of my roster that I had built. On the spot weather request though I saw a glimmer of hope for Wednesday. I knew that this was perhaps my last shot since the park supervisor is not for burning on Thursdays through Sundays since this is their high visitation days. When we burn, the park is closed for safety reasons. With this small chance of burning I began putting together my 3<sup>rd</sup> roster for burning on March 10<sup>th</sup>. This roster was by far the hardest one to assemble. It wasn't completed until 7:00 pm on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I submitted another spot weather forecast for the 10<sup>th</sup> and it came back with a RH of 24% as the minimum. This gave me hope!!!

## Part 1- Rock Unit

On Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup> I woke at 5:40 am to request an update to my spot weather request. It came back and had RH values above my 20% cut off and I knew the burn was a go. I sent out the good news and told everyone to be at the park around 9:30 to 9:45. I gave a briefing to put all the pieces into motion for the burn. We conducted a preflight of the area to familiarize the pilot and to check for unauthorized visitors. Once this was completed a test fire was conducted and approved. We then began aerial firing with the NCFS helicopter. Once we covered all we could with the helicopter, ground crews then began firing the lines with torches. We were able to complete the 522-acre unit and mop it up before dark. I along with Stone Mountain State Park employees mopped up some and monitored the fire on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were no problems and I was very pleased with the results of the burn. The goal was to remove 30% to 50% of the 10-hour fuels and 10% to 30% of the 100-hour fuels. We removed more than this since fuel moistures were low enough for them to consume. This unit was burned the first time in February 2017. There was plenty of brushy fuel created from that burn. We really were able to clean up the unit and get rid of the brush and I am sure park visitors will notice the difference.

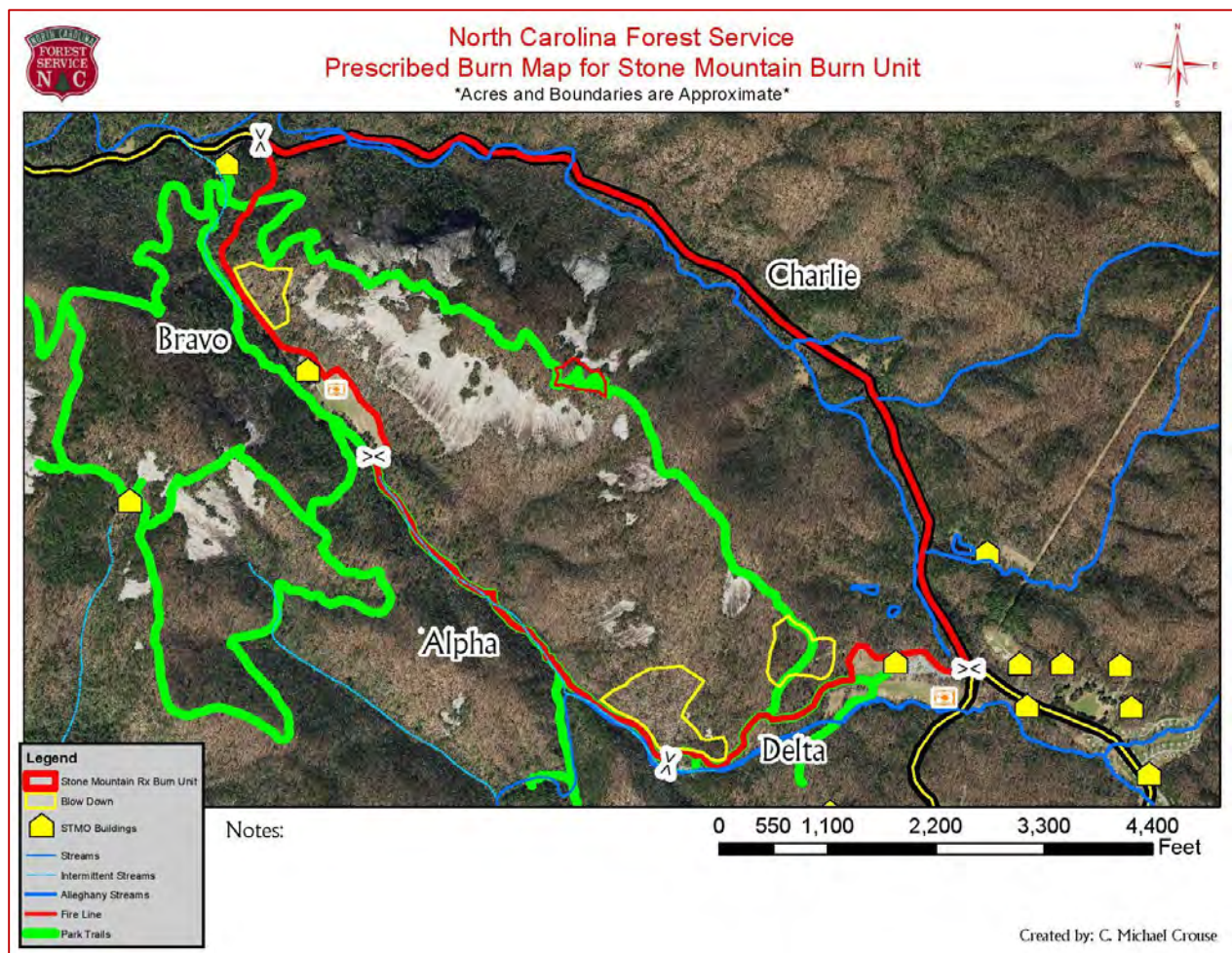


Figure 5. Rock burn unit map

## Part 2 – Maintenance Unit

The second accomplishment was conducted on March 15<sup>th</sup> when we were able to burn the Maintenance Unit for 132-acres. We were able to burn this unit by hand firing with torches only. Brandon Keener was the Burn Boss trainee and I was the certified burn boss. Brandon is the Alleghany County Ranger. We were able to fill the roster on Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> with the help of NC Forest Service, NC State Parks, the Nature Conservancy, and with volunteer 3/19/2021

firemen from Cherry Lane and Traphill Fire Departments. Relative humidity values were not as low as the previous week, so it was easier to get over that hurdle. However, the mixing winds were the issue this time. We had to run the smoke models to make sure we could burn. We got the green light from the spot weather forecast and got the green light from our smoke modeler. The morning of the burn it rained 0.01-0.02". We were concerned that the burn wouldn't happen, but we wanted to wait to call it off completely.

Once we arrived at the park, we began field checking the moisture and to see if there were any pockets that were dry. We found that under Rhododendron, Mountain Laurel, small pine trees, and other sheltered areas it was very dry. In the open areas of the hardwood forest the leaves were very damp and even some of the upward cupped leaves had pools of water in them. We held off on firing until as late as possible since the RH was forecasted to drop into the middle 20's and the wind was forecasted to be between 3 and 9 mph.

We started burning around 11:30 am with little luck. We kept trying different areas with some success. Around 12:30 pm the skies cleared enough for the sun to come out and dry the leaves. Once the sun was out the RH dropped into the middle to upper 20's. This was a blessing that we hadn't expected, and it really opened the burn window on the unit. It wasn't long after this that fire behavior increased, and we knew the unit was going to burn well. We finished up the burn around 5:30 pm with no problems and very little mop up. The goals were the same on this unit as the Rock unit. We accomplished the goals by removing the leaves and a lot of the brush. This burn also removed fuels around the shop complex and one of the resident park rangers house.

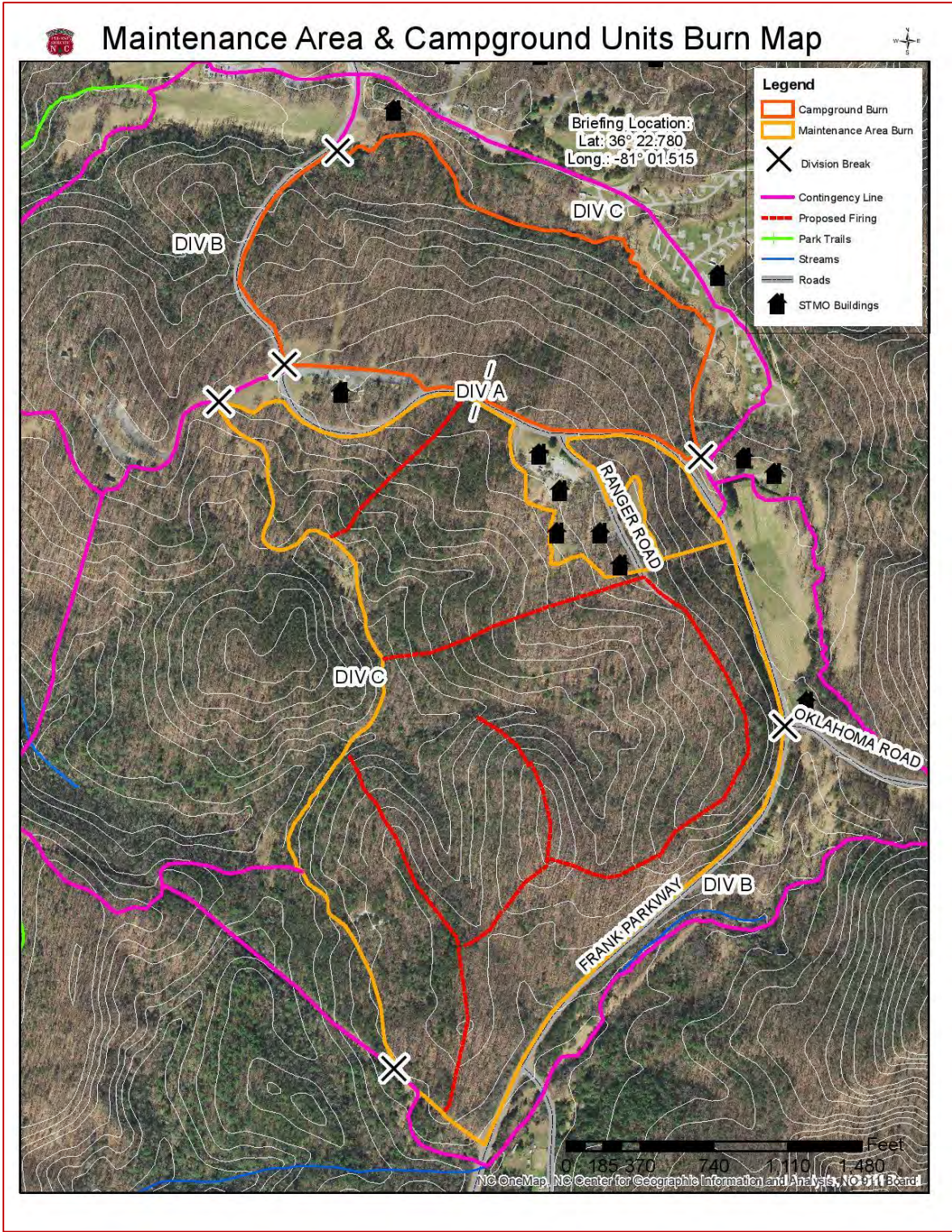


Figure 6. Maintenance burn unit map



*Figure 7. View from entrance road of Maintenance burn unit*

## AAR-Lessons Learned

- Topography in the park is a communication killer. Also, with multiple agencies involved having a common shared channel is difficult. We typically use NCFS tactical channels. For example, D-2 TAC 1 is common in NCFS District 2 or Northwest NC. I am going to work with our Radio Engineers to develop a communication plan and to implement the use of mobile repeaters. Please see the channels at the bottom of this document.
- Adequate staffing on divisions can become an issue depending on how much we can ignite with the helicopter. Divisions on the Stone Mountain Rock unit are miles long and if the conditions allow the helicopter to ignite long sections then more people are needed. We learn more and more each time we burn these established units and can adjust staffing on future burns.
- Use of flare guns became needed. Agencies normally have flare guns that are available, but weren't on the burn this time. In the future we need to make sure we have these tools with us on these larger units.

For more information about the Stone Mountain State Park burn units please contact:

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# OREGON PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Mapping Capacity for Prescribed Fire

Last summer the OPFC mapped the agencies involved in permitting a prescribed burn through the lens of liability. At this working session will map different pathways for a private landowner to develop burn plans and tap resources to conduct burns. We will consider different models, from the Prescribed Burn Associations, trainings like TRES, and full service contracts as well as resources such as support from ODF Foresters, NRCS, and others. *This will be a two part session.*

#### Part 1: Basic Resources & Needs for Planning a Burn

APRIL 20, 2021 | 9AM - 10:30AM

[Register in advance here.](#)

#### Part 2: Strategies for Building Capacity

APRIL 27, 2021 | 9AM - 10:30AM

[Register in advance here.](#)

### Protecting your Community from Smoke

Community Response Plans (CRPs) create a community-led roadmap for how local entities should respond to smoke, with an emphasis on protecting populations who are most at risk. While CRPs were originally developed to enable more flexible smoke management for prescribed fire, they are also broadly applicable for smoke impacts from wildfire events. We will highlight key communication needs for smoke and discuss different approaches and resources for developing plans.

MAY 24, 2021 | 10AM - 11:30AM

[Register in advance here.](#)

### Oregon Rx Fire Policy: 2021 Legislative Session

In addition to wildfire bills, the Oregon Legislature took up prescribed fire by considering formalizing a Certified Burn Manager program and a funding a study to examine liability and insurance in the state to inform more action in future sessions. We will debrief what made it across the finish line in 2021, how it fits into wildfire policy as a whole, and discuss next steps for the OPFC.

JUNE 1, 2021 | 10AM - 11:30AM

[Register in advance here.](#)

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