

FLN Networker No. 320: August 18, 2021

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: **Margo Robbins** and **Frank Lake** are among those who contributed insights to the *PBS News Hour* [piece](#) “**Fire Is Medicine**’: How Indigenous Practices Could Help Curb Wildfires.” And a [video](#) from the *New York Times* invites you to “**Meet the People Burning California to Save It**”—including **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** and **Phil Dye**, for their work on training new burn bosses under a new state law.

Read more from Lenya in her [essay](#) “**The Fires California Grieves—And Needs.**”

Georgia: FAC Net’s **Frank Riley** (frank.ccrd@gmail.com) is quoted in the NPR [storymap](#) “United States of Wildfire,” and LANDFIRE’s **Randy Swaty** assisted with the maps. The piece focuses on **wildfire in the East**, noting that “wildfire isn’t unique to the West,” and that many people are unknowingly moving to wildfire-prone areas.

Oregon: An [article](#) in *The Guardian* has a good subhead: “Oregon’s **Bootleg fire** has offered new evidence that **Indigenous techniques** can change how megafires behave.” In it, **IPBN** and **FLN** members talk about the prescribed burning that helped **moderate fire behavior** at Sycan Marsh Preserve. And in an NBC [story](#), **Craig Bienz** is quoted up top: “The use of fire never should have been discontinued.”

National: The latest **annual report** for the **PERFACT agreement** that supports the Fire Networks is now available. The [report](#) covers the period July 2020 through June 2021, and includes sample work in support of the six PERFACT [strategies](#) and the areas of focus for the individual networks. Thanks and kudos to everyone in the networks for contributing to another successful year!

Funding: BRIC / JFSP

BRIC: **FEMA** issued a notice of funding opportunity for its **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities** program last week. The program supports “states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake **hazard mitigation projects**, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.” Details—including a series of webinars—are on the [program’s webpage](#). Applications will be accepted from **September 30 to January 28**. **The Nature Conservancy** has a [resource](#) for **nature-based solutions**, “The Guidebook for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants.”

JFSP: The **Joint Fire Science Program** has posted its [funding opportunities](#) for several programs, including for graduate students, social and ecological recovery, mapping products and regional science exchange and outreach. All are open through **October 14**.

Articles & Reports: Smoke & COVID / Elevation / Dry Forests / CFLRP / Wildfire Cost

Smoke & COVID: Increases in fine particulate air pollution—PM2.5 from **wildfire smoke**—have been **linked to excess COVID-19 cases and mortality** in a study from Harvard and ESRI. Read the [digest](#) at *ScienceDaily*, or the full *Science Advances* [article](#), “Excess of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths Due to Fine Particulate Matter Exposure During the 2020 Wildfires in the United States.”

Elevation: The authors of the [article](#) “Warming Enabled **Upslope Advance in Western U.S. Forest Fires**” found that “high-elevation fires advanced upslope with a median cumulative change of 252 m ... in 34 years across studied ecoregions.”

Dry Forests: The *Ecological Applications* article “**Evidence for Widespread Changes in the Structure, Composition, and Fire Regimes of Western North American Forests**” ([prepublication pdf](#)) extensively documents that evidence, and evaluates evidence of lack of change. The authors conclude that “there can be little doubt that the long-term deficit of abundant low- to moderate-severity fire has contributed to modification of seasonally dry forested landscapes across western North America.” See also the *ScienceDaily* [digest](#) of the article.

CFLRP: Researchers from the Public Lands Policy Group at Colorado State University have published “Characterizing the **Context and Demand** for the U.S. Forest Service’s Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program in 2020” in the *Journal of Forestry*. The [article](#) updates the status of the CFLRP (including an overview of the **broader context around collaborative forest management**) and **reviews the 23 proposals submitted** for consideration in the FY 2020 CFLRP application process. For more, contact **Chad Kooistra** (chadk@colostate.edu).

Wildfire Cost: The Ecological Restoration Institute conducted a full-cost accounting of the 2010 Schultz Fire in 2013 ([report](#)). This month they released the [report](#) “**Full-Cost Accounting Remeasurement of the 2010 Schultz Fire: Understanding the Long-term Socio-Economic Implications of High-Severity Wildfire and Post-Wildfire Flooding,**” and a summary [fact sheet](#). They conservatively estimated the total cost of the fire to be **\$95.8 to \$100.7 million** in 2021 dollars, including the fire and post-fire flooding response and mitigation, but excluding all losses and gains related to assessed property values.

In the News: Wildfire Funding / Post-Fire Restoration / Chief Moore

Wildfire Funding: **The Nature Conservancy** is [calling for](#) “bold, **transformative policy action** to reduce risks of these catastrophic wildfires,” and has released a [report](#) detailing the policy changes needed, “Wildfire Resilience Funding: Building Blocks for a Paradigm Shift.”

Post-Fire Restoration: The *Scientific American* [article](#) “Tree by Tree, Scientists Try to Resurrect a Fire-Scarred Forest” talks about restoration work in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. It highlights work—part of a **collaborative effort** between the U. S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Nature Conservancy, state universities, area pueblos and others—to grow **drought-conditioned seedlings** to replant the burn scar of the **Las Conchas Fire**.

Chief Moore: In a [message](#) to Forest Service staff, **Chief Randy Moore** addressed two major challenges facing the agency—the extreme fire conditions, and the pandemic. While noting that fires are not being managed for resource benefits at this time, and prescribed burning is limited, he added, “Let me be clear: **we are not returning to the 10 a.m. policy**. When western fire activity abates, we will resume using all the tools in our toolbox, including wildfire and prescribed fire, in the right places and at the right times.”

Jobs: Rx Crews / Risk Reduction / Program Associate / Research Ecologists / Assistant FMO / Environmental Program / Institute Director

Rx Crew: The **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife** is filling **six career seasonal** positions (natural resource technician 2) in its prescribed fire program. Details are on the state’s careers site ([job number 2021-08224](#)); applications are due by **August 18**.

Risk Reduction: The **City of Ashland Fire & Rescue** is seeking a **wildfire risk reduction specialist** to manage a **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant** that will greatly reduce wildfire risk to the community. For details, see the position description on the city's jobs page ([job number LDA 2021 FEMA](#)); applications are due by **August 19**.

Rx Crew: The **Ember Alliance** is seeking **four seasonal members** for its **Southeastern Idaho Prescribed Fire Module**. See the [job posting](#) on smartrecruiters.com for details; applications are due by **August 23**.

Program Associate: The **Washington RC&D Council** is hiring for a program associate to support the **Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC)** program. See the [position announcement](#) for details; applications are due by **August 30**.

Research Ecologists: The **U.S. Forest Service** is filling a **research ecologist/research forester** position based in Texas (usajobs.gov control number [610541700](#)) and a **research ecologist/research botanist** position in Alabama ([610539900](#)). Applications for both are due by **September 1**.

Outreach Program: The **Northwest Fire Science Consortium** is hiring for a full-time **outreach program coordinator** to support its work. Details are on the Oregon State University jobs site ([posting 105124](#)); applications are due by **September 3**.

Assistant FMO: The **Ember Alliance** is seeking an **assistant fire management officer** to oversee its prescribed fire and fuels management activities based in Loveland, Colorado. See the [job posting](#) on smartrecruiters.com for details.

Environmental Program: The **Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California** is seeking a **program director** ([job details](#)) and a **program coordinator** ([job details](#)) for their environmental program. Hiring preference is provided to members of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California followed by members of other federally recognized tribes.

Institute Director: **New Mexico Highlands University** is seeking a **director of the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute**. Details are on the university's jobs site ([posting 6743](#)).

Webinars

September 1, 15, 29 **Webinar Series: The Peshtigo Fire** **new listing**

5:00 p.m. Pacific / 6:00 Mountain / 7:00 Central / 8:00 Eastern

The city of Peshtigo will be hosting three webinars as it marks 150 years since the catastrophic fire: "Fire Weather/Fire Danger Conditions Which Led to the Historic Peshtigo Wildfire of 1871" (Steve Marien), "The Buildup and the Blowup" (Robert Ziel) and "Peshtigo Paradigm" (Steve Pyne).

Register: <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/fhaw-events/>

September 16 **new listing**

Putting LANDFIRE Data (and Models) to Work in the Scientific Community

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

LANDFIRE delivers more than 20 vegetation and fire datasets, and a state-and-transition model for every ecosystem in the U.S. Join this webinar to learn how others in the scientific community use these products.

Register: https://esa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_myutzc8ZQqePQQENwptINA

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) & Cooperative Burning

- October (TBD)**
new listing **Zuni Mountains Collaborative Burn / NM**
The Forest Stewards Guild, Mt. Taylor Ranger District of the Cibola NF and other partners will lead a collaborative burn that will provide opportunities for local practitioners to build experience and contribute to the ecological resilience of these fire-adapted forests.
Details: <http://www.zunimountainscollaborative.org/collaborative-burn-october-2021>
- October 18–29**
new listing **Klamath TREX / Somes Bar, Orleans, Happy Camp, Weitchpec and Forks of Salmon, CA**
In addition to the TREX, there will be all-hands, all-lands opportunities for local burners from October 1 through spring 2022. Applications are due by **August 31**.
Details:
<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Documents/KlamathTREX-2021-Announce.pdf>
- Oct. 18–Nov. 1** **Flagstaff TREX / Flagstaff, AZ**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- Oct. 25–Nov. 5** **Southern Blue Ridge TREX / North Carolina, South Carolina**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.

Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

- August 18**
updated to virtual **North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / online**
Register: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/ncpfc>
- Sept. 13–Nov. 14** **Mitigation Best Practices Training / online**
This training from Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service is designed for current or future mitigation specialists, wildfire program leads, and others who work with residents and communities to reduce wildfire risk.
Information: <https://co-co.org/programs/mitigation-best-practices-training/>
- September 21–23** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Resilient Colorado—Moving Forward in Evolving Wildfire Landscapes / Grand Junction, CO**
Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>
- September 21–23** **Great Plains Fire Summit & Nebraska Prescribed Fire Conference / North Platte, NE**
Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-plains-fire-summit9th-annual-nebraska-prescribed-fire-conference-registration-92767210223>
- October 4–7**
updated to virtual **4th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / online**
Organizers have announced that this workshop will be entirely virtual.
Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/4th-annual-national-cohesive-wildland-fire-management-strategy-workshop/>
- October 19**
new listing **2021 Natural Areas Conference / online**
The theme of this virtual event will be “Life from the Ashes: Exploring the Impact of Prescribed & Natural Fire on Insects and Other Invertebrates.”
Information: https://www.naturalareas.org/2021_natural_areas_conference.php

- October 28-29** **New Mexico Wildland Urban Fire Summit / online**
Save the date.
- November 3-7 deadline** **Society of American Foresters National Convention / Sacramento, CA**
SAF is soliciting submissions for science flashes and posters (deadline August 31).
Information: <https://eforester.org/safconvention/>
- Nov. 29-Dec. 2** **Southern Area Interagency Prescribed Fire Training for Burn Bosses and Agency Administrators / Chattanooga, TN**
Agency requirements for certification normally included at RT-300 will be covered, along with a curriculum for agency administrators and others; practitioners from federal and state agencies, tribes, NGOs and academia are welcome. Organized conference-style, participants will pre-register for a subset of sessions.
Register: https://whova.com/portal/registration/rt_202011/
Sign up for a poster or informational table:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrTre00y0M0MI4Gk3fCLLAahCJWQLgN5qBFMSKXD7lopWdQ/viewform>
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4 updated** **9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / online and Miramar Beach, FL**
The theme for this year's AFE congress is "Life with Fire: Prescriptions for Resilience." A [call for proposals](#), for various formats, is open; proposals for oral presentations and fire circles are due August 30 and proposals for posters, virtual field trips and attached meetings are due September 15. Registration is open.
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>
→ AFE is conducting a [survey](#) for input about in-person and virtual options; **reply by August 18**
- March 7-10, 2022 new listing** **Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop / Ft. Collins, CO**
Information: <https://sweri.eri.nau.edu/cross-boundary-landscape-restoration-workshop/>

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Send News, Links & Comments

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is out August 18; in a workshop August 23-25.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out September 2-6.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in a workshop August 23-25.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is out September 6-10.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Asheville, NC August 11-18; in Santa Ynez, CA September 6-10.

Miranda Flora – miranda.flora@tnc.org – Miranda is in the office.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out September 3-17.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out August 19 and 26, September 2.

Note: September 6 is a Conservancy holiday.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA—Fire is medicine: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/fire-is-medicine-how-indigenous-practices-could-help-curb-wildfires>
Meet the people: <https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/10000007770906/california-wildfires-prescribed-fire.html>
Essay: <https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2021/07/19/california-fires-fire-advisor-wildfires/ideas/essay/>

News from the Field—GA: <https://apps.npr.org/us-wildfires-impact-environment-climate-change/>

News from the Field—OR—The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/12/the-fire-moved-around-it-success-story-in-oregon-fuels-calls-for-prescribed-burns>
NBC: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/oregon-wildfire-turns-preserve-living-lab-testing-years-forest-management-n1276269>

News from the Field—National—Report:
<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Documents/PERFACT-Aug2021.pdf>
Six strategies:
<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Documents/PERFACT-2019-StrategyOverview.pdf>

Funding—BRIC—Announcement: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>
TNC guidebook: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/nature-based-fema-hazard-mitigation-guidebook/>

Funding—JFSP: https://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_funding_announcements.cfm

Articles & Reports—Smoke & COVID—ScienceDaily: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/08/210813183858.htm>
Original article: <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/33/eabi8789>

Articles & Reports—Elevation: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2021/rmrs_2021_alizadeh_m001.pdf

Articles & Reports—Dry forests—Article: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/eap.2431>
Science News: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/08/210804210122.htm>

Articles & Reports—CFLRP: <https://academic.oup.com/jof/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/jofore/fvab044/6346533>

Articles & Reports—Wildfire cost—2013 report:
<https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/276/rec/1>
2021 report: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/1099/rec/4>
Fact sheet: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/1098/rec/1>

In the News—Wildfire funding—Media release: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/wildfire-resilience-funding-report/>
Report: https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/WildfireResilienceFunding_TNC_6-30-21.pdf

In the News—Post-fire restoration: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/tree-by-tree-scientists-try-to-resurrect-a-fire-scarred-forest/>

In the News—Chief Moore: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/leadership/chiefs-desk-fire-and-covid-updates>

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>

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