

FLN Networker No. 321: September 8, 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

Arkansas: In the [story](#) “U of A Collaborating to Restore and Enhance Oak Savanna Hillside,” **McRee Anderson** (wanderson@tnc.org) spoke with the University of Arkansas’ public radio station about a 10-acre **collaborative burn** on university property, and about the important **role of fire in the region**.

California, Georgia: NPR’s recent [story](#) on the state of prescribed fire in the U.S., “Why The **South Is Decades Ahead Of The West** In Wildfire Prevention,” includes input from **Frank Riley** (frank.ccrd@gmail.com) in the South and **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** (lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu) in the West.

Minnesota: **Dovetail Partners** and the **U.S. Forest Service** have created a really beautiful, engaging and thorough [storymap](#), “Living with Fire in Minnesota’s Arrowhead Region.” This [storymap](#) starts with basic **wildland fire concepts** and regional **fire history**, discusses **treatments**, and closes with a **call to action**. For more, contact **Gloria Erickson** (gloria@dovetailinc.org).

New Mexico: While the All Hands All Lands burn team fielded by the **Forest Stewards Guild** was slowed down in 2020, largely due to COVID, they refocused in early 2021 as a pile-burning squad. Read about their successful winter-spring season in the [storymap](#) “**All Hands All Lands Pile Burn Squad: A Transboundary Approach to Forest Restoration**.” For more, contact **Sam Berry** (sam@forestguild.org).

Oregon: “When I asked around to learn if there was an example of a place breaking through the deadlock and taking dramatic measures, I kept hearing about **Ashland**, Oregon.” So notes a weekly [newsletter](#) on wildfire from *Grist*, introducing last week’s [cover story](#), “How One Town **Put Politics Aside to Save Itself From Fire**,” which recounts the history of the **Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project**. For more about the work in Ashland, contact **Darren Borgias** (dborgias@tnc.org) or **Chris Chambers** (chamberc@ashland.or.us).

FAC Net: **Chris Chambers** and the fire adapted communities work spearheaded by **Ashland Fire & Rescue** and partners in Oregon is also featured in a [new page](#) on nature.org. “Local Communities Adapting to Fire” uses Ashland as a case study to **explain what FAC is about** and how FAC Net is supporting community leaders such as Chris (as well as Ashley Downing from Wildfire Adapted Partnership).

IPBN: Several members of the **IPBN** get the word out in the *yahoo!news* [article](#) “Fighting Fire With Fire: **Native American Burning Practices Spark Interest** in a Year of Historic Wildfires.”

Nominations: Wildfire Mitigation

Wildfire Mitigation: The **National Association of State Foresters**, **International Association of Fire Chiefs**, **National Fire Protection Association** and **USDA Forest Service** are accepting nominations for the **2022 Wildfire Mitigation Awards**. Several awards will be made to individuals, agencies or organizations that have made outstanding contributions that impact mitigation of wildfire risk to communities. See the [announcement](#) for details; nominations must be submitted by **November 12**.

Resources: TreeMap / Chainsaws

TreeMap: Rocky Mountain Research Station scientists have created a dataset that **models the forests of the U.S. at essentially a tree level**: “For any 30x30-meter [LANDFIRE] pixel, a TreeMap user can pull tree-level information from FIA that is expected to be representative of that area. Users can then produce maps of those attributes, like tree density, heights, and species.” Read more in the [August issue](#) of *Science You Can Use*, then access the [dataset](#).

Chainsaws: NWCG recently **updated** its “Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations” ([PMS 212](#)); the August 2021 version is now available.

Articles: Indigenous Fire / Red Pine Fire Regimes / Western Wildfires

Indigenous Fire: The authors of the [article](#) “**Conservation of Earth’s Biodiversity** Is Embedded in Indigenous Fire Stewardship” based their findings on an analysis of 53 articles published between 1994 and 2020.

Red Pine Fire Regimes: The authors of the [article](#) “**Human Augmentation of Historical Red Pine Fire Regimes** in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness” report **new tree-ring records** of fire history and forest age structure and composition, documenting evidence of a frequent fire regime, and thus the need for planned fire in these forests. Co-author **Lane Johnson** noted that “the timing of publication is appropriate with Minnesota’s current drought, smoky haze overhead, and a notable number of forest fires popping up Tree-ring records remind us that **fire was once a ubiquitous part of Minnesota’s landscape**, and that **fire restoration is necessary** for the long-term perpetuation of our fire-dependent forest types, and the many benefits they provide.”

Western Wildfires: [Ecological Applications](#) has a three-article **invited feature on climate change and western wildfires**, including a case for intentional management; evidence for widespread changes in forest structure, composition and fire regime; and [ten common questions](#) about adapting forests to climate change and wildfires.

Reports: Resilience Funding / Home Insurance / Natural Climate Solutions

Resilience Funding: As the Biden administration [works](#) to improve wildfire management, a [new report](#) from **The Nature Conservancy**, “Wildfire Resilience Funding: **Building Blocks for a Paradigm Shift**,” outlines policy actions to reduce the risks of catastrophic wildfires. An **investment surge** of \$5 billion to \$6 billion per year over the next 10 years for the highest priority work will reduce wildfire risks and provide communities with much-needed resources for infrastructure and adaptation.

Home Insurance: TNC staff in California partnered with global insurance advisor **Willis Towers Watson** (WTW) to **incorporate fire behavior modeling** into an **industry risk model**—the first time an industry model has accounted for the benefits of ecological forestry. The results showed that ecological forestry at landscape scale can significantly **reduce expected residential home losses** from wildfires, and therefore **reduce insurance premiums**. These savings could then be captured to **support forest restoration** that further reduces wildfire risk, creating a **virtuous cycle**. TNC and WTW have structured a new insurance product, called wildfire resilience insurance, and plan to place this product in the market by finding one or more commercial or residential buyers. Read more in the [report](#) “**Wildfire Resilience Insurance: Quantifying the Risk Reduction of Ecological Forestry with Insurance**,” or its [summary](#).

Natural Climate Solutions: In 2020 Washington passed the **first U.S. law setting a net zero target** in line with the goals of the **Paris Climate Accord**. The bill specifically calls for the development of natural climate solutions (NCS) as part of the state's net emissions reduction portfolio. The [paper](#) "Leveraging the Potential of Nature to Meet Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Washington State" assesses the **means and scale of carbon reductions** possible through NCS, as well as their **geographic distribution** in the state.

Essays: Pyrocene / Multisolving

Pyrocene: "Welcome to the Pyrocene," **Stephen Pyne** writes in [Grist](#).

Multisolving: In the [essay](#) "Interconnected Problems Call for Interconnected Solutions," Beth Sawin sees reason for hope and talks about the **value of connection**.

Podcasts & More: Ologies / Reveal / Film Screening

Ologies: A couple of recent episodes of the **science podcast** Ologies are about fire. On August 10, USFS fire ecologist **Gavin Jones** discussed **fire ecology** ([wildfire](#)), and on August 17, Indigenous fire scientist **Amy Christianson** talked about **Indigenous fire ecology** ([good fire](#)).

Reveal: **Bill Tripp** speaks with host Elizabeth Shogren in the [episode](#) "America's Ring of Fire: **Fighting Fire With Fire**."

Film Screening: The **Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition** is hosting an **online** screening of the documentary "**The West Is Burning**" on Thursday, **September 16**, at 6:30 Mountain. See their [Facebook events page](#) for details.

In the News: Evacuation

Evacuation: The Wired [article](#) "Fleeing Disaster Is Hard. **Climate Change Is Making It Harder**" highlights parallels between **hurricanes and wildfires**, both fueled by heat.

Jobs: Burn Crews / Conservation Steward / Crew Manager / Training Coordinator / Fire Manager / Fire Program Director

Burn Crew: **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking an **as-needed burn crew members** with **FFT1, FFT2 and SRB** qualifications. The **North America Fire Team** will deploy teams to a variety of U.S. locations for 2-6 weeks at a time; possible 2021-2022 assignments include California, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota and North Carolina. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 50280](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#). Applications are due by **September 12**.

Conservation Steward: **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **Central Florida land conservation steward**. Details are available on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 50226](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#). Applications are due by **September 17**.

Crew Manager: **North Carolina Parks and Recreation** is seeking a **burn crew manager** for the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park. See the [job posting](#) for details; applications are due by **September 20**.

Burn Crews: The South Carolina chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a manager and members for its **South Carolina Prescribed Burn Crew** and **USFS-TNC Interagency Burn Crew**. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page (managers [job ID 50261](#), [job ID 50264](#); crewmembers [job ID 50265](#), [job ID 50267](#)); applications are due by **October 1**. (Current Conservancy employees should apply through PeopleSoft.)

Training Coordinator: The Florida chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **Center for Conservation Initiatives training and education coordinator**; training offered includes invasive species management, habitat restoration and monitoring, and NWCG courses. Details are available on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 50101](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Fire Manager: **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a fire manager to provide **overall fire management supervision and coordination** to promote, facilitate and implement prescribed fire for the **Texas chapter**. Details are available on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 50209](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Fire Program Director: **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **North Carolina fire program director**; the program accomplishes an average of 130 burns a year, and is part of the **Fire Learning Network**. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 49771](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Webinars

- September 15, 29** **Webinar Series: The Peshtigo Fire**
5:00 p.m. Pacific / 6:00 Mountain / 7:00 Central / 8:00 Eastern
The city of Peshtigo is hosting webinars as it marks 150 years since the catastrophic fire: "The Buildup and the Blowup" (Robert Ziel) and "Peshtigo Paradigm" (Steve Pyne).
Register: <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/fhaw-events/>
- September 16** **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
- September 21**
new listing **Reintroducing the Brown-Headed Nuthatch to the Missouri Ozarks**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern (2 hrs)
This webinar and panel discussion is hosted by the Oak Woodlands and Foresys Fire Consortium. Register: <https://oakfirescience.com/events/reintroducing-the-brown-headed-nuthatch-to-the-missouri-ozarks-webinar-and-panel-discussion/>
- September 23**
new listing **Moving to Hybrid Programs: A Discussion With Natural Resource Professionals**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Jenn Fawcett, Jen Bunty, Paul Dzialowy, Zach Prusak, Mikel Robinson and Renee Strnad will be the presenters in this webinar from NC State Extension Forestry, Southern Fire Exchange and SERPPAS.
Register: <https://forestrywebinars.net/webinars/moving-to-hybrid-programs-a-discussion-with-natural-resource-professionals>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) & Cooperative Burning

- September 20 on**
new listing **Cascadia TREX / Roslyn, WA**
The Washington Prescribed Fire Council and partners will be facilitating TREX training burns, mobilizing resources as units come into prescription—the target audience is practitioners in and near Kittitas County. There will also be classroom sessions and field workshops. Details: <https://waprescribedfire.org/trex>

- October (TBD)** **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 5-13** **Yurok TREX / Weitchpec**
new listing
These are target dates for this TREX hosted by the Cultural Fire Management Council and partners; participants must be able to mobilize to Weitchpec on 72-hour notice. [Applications](#) are due by **September 24**.
Details: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Documents/YurokTREX-2021-fall-announcement.pdf>
- October 18–29** **Klamath TREX / Somes Bar, Orleans, Happy Camp, Weitchpec and Forks of Salmon, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- 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.

- 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>
- September 30** **LANDFIRE Informal Office Hours: Remap 2019 Limited / online**
Office hours take place the last Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm Eastern. This month a brief presentation on the public LANDFIRE reference database will be followed by time for you to dig into your LANDFIRE-related questions. (Email meg.dettenmaier@tnc.org with suggestions for upcoming topics.)
Register: <https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtfuCuqjSpHd3pQiLhcBd5292-mHV9cbA9>
- October 4-8** **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** **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** **Society of American Foresters National Convention / Sacramento, CA**
Information: <https://eforester.org/safconvention/>
- November 14-16** **Wildland Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV**
Information: <https://www.eventscribe.net/2021/WUI/>
- 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/1FAIpQLSfrTre00y0M0MI4Gk3fCLLAahCJWQLgN5qBFMSKXD7lopWDg/viewform>
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4 updated** **9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / online**
This congress will be fully virtual. The theme is “Life with Fire: Prescriptions for Resilience.” A [call for proposals](#), for various formats, is open; proposals for posters and virtual field tours are due September 15. Registration is open.
Information: <http://afirecongress.org/>
- March 7-10, 2022** **Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop / Ft. Collins, CO**
Information: <https://sweri.eri.nau.edu/cross-boundary-landscape-restoration-workshop/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is out September 9-10.

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

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out September 24-28.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is out September 6-10, September 23.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is 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 September 9, 16 and 23.

Full Links

News from the Field—AR: <https://www.kuaf.com/post/u-collaborating-restore-and-enhance-oak-savanna-hillside#stream/0>

News from the Field—MN: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d4b33ed3b81f466eb27bb97a9b8f4d48>

News from the Field—NM:

<https://foreststewards.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b00b1ba582e54845a815c6fd84868dcf>

News from the Field—OR—Newsletter: <https://go.grist.org/signup/burning-issues>

Cover story: <https://grist.org/extreme-weather/how-one-town-put-politics-aside-to-save-itself-from-fire-ashland-oregon/>

News from the Field—FAC Net: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/fire-adapted-communities-learning-network/>

News from the Field—IPBN: <https://news.yahoo.com/fighting-fire-with-fire-native-american-burning-practices-spark-interest-in-a-year-of-historic-wildfires-134010641.html>

Nominations—Wildfire mitigation: <https://www.stateforesters.org/mitigation/>

Resources—TreeMap: https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU_in5_SeeingTheForest_Treemap.pdf
Dataset: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rds/archive/Catalog/RDS-2019-0026>

Resources—Chainsaws: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/212>

Articles—Indigenous fire: <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/118/32/e2105073118.full.pdf>

Articles—Red pine fire regimes: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecs2.3673?af=R>

Articles—Western wildfires: [https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1939-5582.climate-change-and-westernwildfires](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1939-5582.climate-change-and-westernwildfires)

Reports—Resilience funding—Administration work: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/30/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-administration-acts-to-address-the-growing-wildfire-threat/>
TNC report: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/wildfire-resilience-funding-report/>

Reports—Home insurance—Report:
<https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/FINALwildfireresilienceinsurance6.27.21.pdf>
Summary:
<https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/FINALwildfireresilienceinsurancesummaryofinsights6.27.21PAGES.pdf>

Reports—Natural climate solutions: <https://peerj.com/articles/11802/>

Essays—Pyrocene: <https://grist.org/wildfires/welcome-to-the-pyrocene/>

Essays—Multisolving: <https://atmos.earth/interconnected-problems-call-for-interconnected-solutions-elizabeth-sawin-climate-interactive/>

Podcasts & More—Ologies—Wildfire: <https://www.alieward.com/ologies/fireecology>
Good fire: <https://www.alieward.com/ologies/goodfire>

Podcasts & More—Reveal: <https://revealnews.org/podcast/fighting-fire-with-fire/>

Podcasts & More—Film screening: <https://www.facebook.com/events/914834559121440/>

In the News—Evacuation: <https://www.wired.com/story/fleeing-disaster-is-hard-climate-change-is-making-it-harder/>

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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