

FLN Networker No. 326: December 22, 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

Arizona: This fall the **Flagstaff Fire Department** hosted the **first TREX to take place in Arizona**. Aimed primarily at an audience of **municipal firefighters**, the crews accomplished 881 acres of prescribed fire on city and federal lands. For more, see the [Notes from the Field](#) by **Neil Chapman**.

California: Catch up on the **fall TREX** in the Klamath region. **Erica Terence**, the PIO on the **Klamath River TREX**, later wrote the *North Coast Journal* [article](#) “The **View on the Ground** at a Prescribed Burn,” full of great on-the-ground detail. And **Margo Robbins** captured highlights from the fall **Cultural Fire Management Council-Yurok TREX** in a [Notes from the Field](#).

California: The Santa Rosa *Press Democrat* called out **Sasha Berleman**, director of the **Fire Forward** program at Audubon Canyon Ranch, in the [article](#) “22 to watch in 2022: **Prescribed Fire Champion** Sasha Berleman Builds Bay Area Volunteer Corps, Wider Acceptance of ‘Good Fire.’”

Georgia: Partners in the **Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains landscape** met virtually for their **annual December workshop**. The agenda included a presentation on a unique habitat called the Brasstown Seeps, bog turtle habitat that supports numerous state-listed imperiled plant species; agency and partner prescribed fire plans for this coming spring; a fire adapted communities update; a Southern Blue Ridge FLN “big picture” presentation and a focal species presentation on the northern pine snake. Some **fifty people** representing various interests participated in this year’s session. For more, contact **Mike Davis** (michael.davis1@usda.gov).

New Mexico: **Gabe Kohler** (gabe@forestguild.org) summarizes the complementary approaches used by the Forest Stewards Guild to expand pile burning in the FAC Net [blog post](#) “**Pile Burning on Private Land** in New Mexico: A Multi-Faceted Approach.”

North Carolina: The **Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists** (CAFMS) hosted a **virtual field trip** at the recent **Association for Fire Ecology Congress**. In a 20-minute [video](#), “**Goodfire Through Collaboration** in Western North Carolina,” **Jen Bunty** (jen@cafms.org) hosts visits to two recent prescribed burns at Lake James State Park, including ignition from boats, implementing prescribed fire adjacent to a wildfire, and the importance of partnerships.

North Carolina: Also at the AFE Congress, long-time SBR FLN co-lead **Margit Bucher** was awarded the **Herbert Stoddard Lifetime Achievement Award** for her **exceptional contributions** to the science of fire ecology and the implementation of prescribed fire. You can watch the award ceremony at about the 1:21:00 mark in the [video](#) of the keynote presentations or read the [award announcement](#).

North Carolina: Six agencies—**Forest Stewards Guild, Mountain Valleys RC&D, North Carolina Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and USFS Job Corps, Ocala National Forest and Pisgah National Forest** (Grandfather District)—gathered for a **work day** at Camp Grier last week. They cleared brush and limbed trees to create **defensible space** around four camp structures, removing **130 cubic yards** of fuels. **Jen Haas** (jen.haas@mountainvalleysrccd.org) captured some fun **time-lapse video** of the work.

TREX: The **spring 2022 TREX season** is officially underway, with the release of the first event announcement. Applications are now being accepted for the spring **CFMC-Yurok TREX** through **January 12**.

Input Requested: COVID

COVID: Dr. Cathelijne Stoof (Wageningen University, the Netherlands) is leading a survey effort to provide **guidance to practitioners worldwide**. It will strive to answer questions like “What changes has COVID-19 brought to fire management, and what practices (if any) will you keep? How has the pandemic affected your work in fire management in terms of work-life balance and mental health?” The 15-minute [survey](#) will be open until **January 15**, and is available in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Resources: Tribal Forest Management / S-130 / Youth Outreach

Tribal Forest Management: Recent federal legislative directions present **new opportunities for federally recognized tribes** to manage their own forest resources and share forest management stewardship on adjacent federal lands. The new [white paper](#) “Implications for Tribal Forest Management Under New Federal Legislative Directions” examines these **new legislative actions** and their implications for tribal forest management. It details relevant federal and tribal forest management history and policies and explains how to **identify, plan for and implement cross-boundary restoration treatments** on tribal and federal agency lands.

S-130: Revised course materials are now available for the [S-130 Firefighter Training](#) course. With this revision, **Human Factors on the Fireline** is **no longer included** and is available as a separate instructor-led or self-study [L-180 course](#).

Youth Outreach: The **Oregon Office of Emergency Management** and **Dark Horse Comics** have put out a **new comic book** in their “Without Warning!” disaster preparedness series for teens and young adults. The **wildfire prevention and preparedness** comic is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Articles & Reports: Wildfires & Management / Ponderosa Restoration / Water Quality / Risk Reduction / Benefit-Cost Analysis

Wildfires & Management: **Steve Kloetzel** recommends a collection of papers on **integrating wildfire into forest landscape management** from a JFSP-funded project. Included are “Previous Wildfires and Management Treatments Moderate Subsequent Fire Severity” ([link](#)), “**Postfire Treatments** Alter Forest Canopy Structure up to Three Decades After Fire” ([link](#)), “Post-Fire Landscape Evaluations in Eastern Washington, USA: **Assessing the Work of Contemporary Wildfires**” ([link](#)) and “Tamm Review: **Ecological Principles** to Guide Post-Fire Forest Landscape Management in the Inland Pacific and Northern Rocky Mountain Regions” ([link](#)).

Ponderosa Restoration: ERI has released the [fact sheet](#) “Natural **Regeneration Responses to Thinning and Burning Treatments** in Ponderosa Pine Forests and Implications for Restoration.” It summarizes a systematic review paper of the same name.

Water Quality: The [latest issue](#) of *RMRS Science You Can Use Bulletin*, “Forests, Fire, and Faucets: What We Are Learning About Lingering Water Quality Effects of **High-Severity Wildfires**,” looks at some of the **long-term effects** from wildfires in the watersheds of the Colorado Front Range.

Risk Reduction: The California chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** and the **risk management firm Marsh McLennan** partnered on the [report](#) “Quantifying Insurance Benefits of a Nature-Based Approach to Reducing Risk: Wildfire Risk Reduction Buffers.” Using the town of Paradise as a **case study**, they assessed how “**natural infrastructure**” projects, such as a **buffer with reduced fuel loads**, can **reduce community risk**, and may make **affordable insurance** possible. Highlights are in a [news release](#).

Benefit-Cost Analysis: The Headwaters Economics [article](#) “Improving Benefit-Cost Analyses for Rural Areas” lays out how **traditional benefit-costs analyses** used by FEMA and other agencies can **raise barriers** for rural and low-income communities, and foster **inequity**. It offers several suggestions for improvement.

In the News: New Commission / PBAs

New Commission: As part of the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior** and **FEMA** have announced the establishment of a **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission**. With representation from federal, state, tribal, county and municipal governments as well as NGOs and private industry, the “commission is tasked with **recommending federal policies and strategies** to more effectively prevent, mitigate, suppress and manage wildland fires, including rehabilitating land affected from wildland fires.” For more, see the FEMA [news release](#) (also [in Spanish](#)).

PBAs: One of the people interviewed in the *Discover* magazine [story](#) “Back From the Brink: Restoring Prairies With Fire” is **Scott Stout**. In 2016, he was one of a small group from the Great Plains who traveled to California in an **FLN-hosted exchange** to **introduce the prescribed burn association model** to the state. The California PBA [website](#) now lists more than a dozen PBAs and similar organizations.

For Fun: Archaeologist on Wildfire

Archaeologist on Wildfire: In an [interview](#) with an archaeologist, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reports “Utah Professor Discovers **Extinction of Ancient Herbivores Fueled Wildfires**. Here’s Why That Matters.”

Jobs: County Coordinators / Biologist / Stewardship Crew / Executive Director / Ops Manager / Crew Member / Fire Safe Council / Fire Management / GIS Analyst

County Coordinator: The **Plumas County Fire Safe Council** is seeking a **county coordinator** who will work closely with a range of stakeholders, including county agencies, private landowners, Firewise volunteers, and state and federal agencies. See the [job description](#) for details; applications are due by **December 22**.

County Coordinator: The **Modoc Fire Safe Council** is seeking a **county coordinator** “to educate, encourage, and develop county-wide collaboration and coordination among the public and wildfire mitigation groups.” See the [job description](#) for details.

Biologist: **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**—an important partner in the **Blackfoot Valley FLN**—is hiring a **wildlife biologist**. See the state’s [jobs website \(21143265\)](#) for details; applications are due by **December 30**.

Stewardship Crew: The Wisconsin chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **land stewardship crew member** to be part of a **mobile crew** that implements a range of stewardship actions, including some prescribed fire. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 50706](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#). Applications are due by **December 31**.

Executive Director: The **Grand County Wildfire Council** (Colorado) is seeking an executive director. See the [position description](#) for details; applications are due by **December 31**.

Ops Manager: The **Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition** is seeking an **operations and engagement manager** to help develop and maintain operational and partner engagement systems and protocols, and contribute to their programmatic work by helping to organize working groups and develop learning products. See the [RVCC employment page](#) for details; applications are due by **January 5**.

Crew Member: The Arkansas chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **fire management technicians** (FFT2). Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 50695](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#). Applications are due by **January 9**.

Fire Safe Council: The **Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council** is hiring. They are currently seeking a **program coordinator** to support its growing wildfire prevention and mitigation programs, focusing primarily on the new Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative. They are also hiring **three wildfire safety liaisons** who will focus on home hardening interventions, vegetation management, chipper days, education and outreach. Details for all positions are on the [council's career opportunities page](#); applications are due by **January 10**.

Fire Management: The **Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission** (New York) is seeking (through the Suffolk County Water Authority) a **fire management specialist** to perform key roles in managing the **Comprehensive Prescribed Fire Program** for the Central Pine Barrens region. See the [announcement](#) for more. The SCWA is also filling [squad boss](#) and [crew member](#) positions.

GIS Analyst: The **Boise Fire Department** has a job opening for a **fire insight analyst**. Details are on the city's careers page ([job number 05592](#)).

Webinars

January 19, 2022
new listing

Residents' Perspectives on Colorado's 2020 Cameron Peak Fire

9:30 Pacific / 10:30 Mountain / 11:30 Central / 12:30 Eastern (1.5 hrs)

Social science researchers at Colorado State University and the USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station, interviewed more than 50 people in communities directly impacted by the Cameron Peak Fire to understand their experiences.

Details & registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Dy76-hjrQlaoCFDjiLD9eQ

January 19
new listing

Postfire Landscape Management in Frequent-Fire Conifer Forests of the Southwestern U.S.

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

Jens T. Stevens will be the presenter for this webinar from the Southwest Fire Science Consortium. Details & registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsd-2rrT8sHdyQTqUdPkaUVFJCU1RfxSIN>

January 20

Fueling Collaboration: Smoke Is Not Just Smoke

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern (1.5 hrs)

This series of interactive panel discussions, hosted by six JFSP consortia and the Northern and Southern Research Stations, is designed to connect fire managers and researchers. Each discussion will be built on questions from the registered attendees. Details & registration: <https://www.fuelingcollab.com/>

February 17

Fueling Collaboration: Fire & the Wildland Urban Interface in the Eastern U.S.

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern (1.5 hrs)

Part of the series of interactive panel discussions.

Details & registration: <https://www.fuelingcollab.com/>

March 17

Fueling Collaboration: Thinking Beyond Fuel Reduction

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern (1.5 hrs)

This series of interactive panel discussions, hosted by six JFSP consortia and the Northern and Southern Research Stations, is designed to connect fire managers and researchers. Each discussion will be built on questions from the registered attendees.

Details & registration: <https://www.fuelingcollab.com/>

Network Workshops & Field Tours

May 24-27, 2022

new listing

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Dillard, GA

The SBR FLN and CAFMS will hold a joint workshop that looks back over the five years since the fires of 2016.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) & Cooperative Burning

Oct. 22–February

Butte County Cal-TREX / Chico, CA

After two training weekends, this TREX is acting as an on-call prescribed fire crew.

February 6-12, 2022

new listing

Cultural Fire Management Council-Yurok TREX / Weitchpec, CA

These are the target dates for the spring CFMC-Yurok TREX; if the window shifts, participants will need to be able to mobilize on 72-hours' notice. See the [announcement](#) for details; [applications](#) are due by January 12.

Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

RX-410 and RX-301/341: The **University of Idaho**, **Tall Timbers Research Station** and **The Ember Alliance** plan to offer these courses **this spring**. They will be online, with a combination of asynchronous and synchronous components (with dates TBD). If interested, please complete their [student interest form](#).

March 7-10

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 December 23-31.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out December 22-24; she is retiring January 1.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in the office.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is out December 23-24.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in the office.

Miranda Flora – miranda.flora@tnc.org – Miranda is out December 23-24.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out December 23-24.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out December 23-24 and January 6.

Note: In addition to those dates, December 24 and 31 are Conservancy holidays; TNC is closed December 30.

Full Links

News from the Field—AZ:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Documents/174-NotesFromTheField-FlagstaffTREX-2021.pdf>

News from the Field—CA—Klamath TREX: [https://www.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/the-view-on-the-ground-at-a-prescribed-burn/Content?oid=22153272&utm_campaign=Klamath%2BNews&utm_medium=web&utm_source=Klamath News 5](https://www.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/the-view-on-the-ground-at-a-prescribed-burn/Content?oid=22153272&utm_campaign=Klamath%2BNews&utm_medium=web&utm_source=Klamath%2BNews%205)
Yurok TREX:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Documents/173-NotesFromTheField-CFMC-TREX-2021.pdf>

News from the Field—CA—Sasha Berleman: <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/specialsections/22-to-watch-in-2022-prescribed-fire-champion-sasha-berleman-builds-bay-are/?artslide=6a>

News from the Field—NM: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/pile-burning-on-private-land/>

News from the Field—NC—Virtual field tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ-ABAARGa0>

News from the Field—NC—Margit Bucher—Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo5aukWIWws&t=4851s>

Announcement:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ea4a2778a22135afc733499/t/61c1f1174d43007de16f6d0b/1640100119862/Bucher_2021.pdf

News from the Field—NC—Work day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyaeELA28Ek>

Input Requested—COVID: https://wur.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dnkzDEYfcsCfueN

Resources—Tribal forest management: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/1111/rec/3>

Resources—S-130: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-130>

L-180: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/l-180/course-delivery>

Resources—Youth outreach—English: https://www.oregon.gov/oem/Documents/Without_Warning_Wildfire_EN.pdf

Spanish: https://www.oregon.gov/oem/Documents/Without_Warning_Wildfire_SP.pdf

Articles & Reports—Wildfires & mgmt—1: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112721008550?dgcid=coauthor>

2: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112721009634?dgcid=coauthor>

3: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112721008872?dgcid=author>

4: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112721007702>

Articles & Reports—Ponderosa restoration: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/1115/rec/2>

Articles & Reports—Water quality:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU_Bulletin_ForestsFireAndFaucets_WaterQuality_1.pdf

Articles & Reports—Risk reduction—Report:

https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC_ResilienceReport_ParadiseCA_Final.pdf

News release: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/reducing-insurance-premiums/>

Articles & Reports—Benefit-cost analysis: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/equity/improving-benefit-cost-analyses/>

In the News—New commission: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20211217/fema-usda-and-doi-jointly-establish-new-wildland-fire-mitigation-and>

In Spanish: <https://www.fema.gov/es/press-release/20211217/fema-usda-and-doi-jointly-establish-new-wildland-fire-mitigation-and>

In the News—PBAs: <https://www.discovermagazine.com/environment/back-from-the-brink-restoring-prairies-with-fire>

California PBAs: <https://calpba.org/connect-ca-pba>

For Fun—Archaeologist on wildfire: <https://www.sitrib.com/news/2021/12/18/utah-mammoths-died-off/>

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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Training Announcement

CFMC/Yurok Cultural Burn Training Exchange — Weitchpec, CA

TENTATIVE DATE—Participants must be able to mobilize to WEITCHPEC, CA with 72 hours' notice!

February 6–12, 2022

Objectives: Provide prescribed fire training opportunities to fire practitioners while supporting management of cultural resources. This training will incorporate knowledge from the native tribes of Northern California and develop understanding about traditional and contemporary use of prescribed fire.

Target Group: Prescribed fire and wildfire personnel, including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental agencies, private practitioners and university faculty and students

Registration Fee: The fee is \$300. The fee for university students is \$100. Waivers are available for participants who bring equipment (e.g. engines, UTVs, etc.).

Description: The training is organized as a Type III incident under the National Incident Management System. Participants will serve in NWCG qualified and trainee firefighting positions on a burn team and will assist with preparing, scouting, briefing, igniting, holding, mop-up and patrol on numerous controlled burns in the area. We will also complete pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment, practice fire line leadership skills, and learn about local fire ecology and fire management.

Requirements:

1. Participants must be vaccinated, or have proof of negative covid test results within 72 hours of the start of the event.
2. At a minimum, participants must be **current and qualified NWCG-FFT2**, or have **completed NWCG courses S130, S190, L180, ICS 100b, I700A**. Contact Elizabeth Azzuz, CFMC (707) 296-5291 for more information on these trainings.
3. Participants must have completed an **arduous pack test** within the past year. Completion of a moderate pack test is acceptable if attending as a TNC volunteer and serving in an RxCM (Rx crewmember) position.
4. Participants must have **health insurance** (e.g., workers' comp, health or travel insurance) that will cover any personal injury they may sustain during the training exchange.
5. Participants must bring **fire-approved boots** (all leather, 8-inches tall, Vibram soles, with no steel toe). Participants should come with **all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**, including: a Next Generation Fire Shelter, a hard hat, Nomex clothing, all-leather gloves, eye protection, and canteens for up to 1 gallon of drinking water. If you do not have proper PPE, please let us know by indicating your needs on the application.
6. All participants are expected to attend the Training Exchange for the full duration (i.e. February 6 – 12).

Meals & Lodging: Meals will be provided. Participants are required to bring their own tents, pads and sleeping bags. Bathrooms, showers and indoor meeting space with internet will be available.

Registration: To apply, complete the registration form & submit to Margo Robbins (margo@culturalfire.org).

Deadline to apply is January 21, 2021



The Cultural Fire Management Council is supported by Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. An equal opportunity provider.

