

FLN Networker No. 356: September 13, 2023

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

New Jersey: A **200-foot fuel break** is visible in an aerial shot at the 2:30 mark of the [video](#) “Firescapes in the Mid-Atlantic: The Importance of **Community Involvement**.” That mitigation—along with other efforts, including the **FAC Ambassadors** also featured—helped the communities of Brighton and Pinewood give up their status as the state’s most at-risk community. For more on this accomplishment, contact **Bill Brash** (bill@njfiresafetycouncil.org).

New Mexico: In July, the **Forest Stewards Youth Corps** helped with a **post-fire restoration** project on the **Calf Canyon-Hermit’s Peak** burn scar, building structures to reduce erosion and flooding ([read more](#)). In August, the youth corps was featured in the Mountain West News Bureau [story](#) “**Indigenous Youth** Find a Way to **Preserve Ancestral Lands** Through Conservation Group.”

New Mexico: In the [article](#) “Fires Are Here to Stay, but a Small Nonprofit Can’t Clean the Air Alone,” **Eytan Krasilovsky** (eytan@forestguild.org) talks smoke—and a **filter loan program** run by the **Forest Stewards Guild**.

National: An **annual report** on the **Fire Networks** was completed last month. The [report](#) includes brief highlights from across the networks, as well as a closer look at a pilot project to build **prescribed fire capacity**, the **Indigenous Peoples Burning Network**, recent **DEIJ** efforts, and where to find **more online**.

TREX: The **fall season kicks off in about 10 days**. While the application deadlines for all 11 fall events have passed, the **first TREX of the spring crop**—March, in Missouri—has been [announced](#).

Funding: Forest Landowners / Ready, Set, Go!

Forest Landowners: The **Forest Service** recently posted the [press release](#) “USDA Invests \$150M to Connect **Underserved and Small Acreage Forest Landowners** to Emerging **Climate Markets** as Part of Investing in America Agenda.” Eligible entities include tribal governments and organizations, states, local governments, public and private non-profits, and for-profit entities.

Ready, Set, Go!: The **International Association of Fire Chiefs** is accepting proposals from **fire departments** for **fuels reduction projects**. See the [announcement](#) for details; applications are due by **September 30**.

Resources: Southern Rx / Southern WUI / Brush Management / Wildfire for Media / PSAs / Staff Rides

Southern Rx: The “**Guidebook for Prescribed Burning** in the Southern Region” is hot off the presses from Southern Regional Extension Forestry. Created for **burners of all experience levels**, the [guidebook](#) is filled with checklists, diagrams and photos. It is divided into two sections—the first section walks the user through the **steps to plan and conduct a burn**, while the second addresses **important concepts** in chapters covering weather, smoke management, fuel, and fire behavior.

Southern WUI: The **Southern Group of State Foresters** has created a [new webpage](#) of resources for **reducing wildfire risk**, tailored to the South. It includes sections on CWPPs; prescribed fire; Firewise USA®; fire adapted communities; Ready, Set, Go!; preparing for smoke; and more.

Brush Management: The **Great Plains Grasslands Extension Partnership** has produced the [fact sheet](#) “Remove, Reduce, or Manipulate? **Best Practices** for Brush Management Conservation Standards in **Great Plains Grasslands**,” which offers guidance based on three classes of woody species.

Wildfire for Media: The new [guide](#) from Oregon State University Extension, “Stories of Fire: Resources for Media Covering **Wildfire Events and Topics** in Oregon,” is certainly a **must-read for reporters in Oregon** covering fire. Much of the content—including information on personal protective gear, incident command structures, wildland fire terminology, story angles, and the context of wildfire—is also **widely applicable**.

PSAs: The **Central Oregon Wildfire Prevention Co-op** has released **public service announcements** on five wildfire topics, with **30-second videos** on [wildfire smoke and health](#), wildfire-safe [outdoor recreation](#), [landscape treatments](#) to mitigate wildfires, [evacuation](#), and [debris burning](#) tips.

Staff Rides: The NWCG **Wildland Fire Staff Ride Guide** ([PMS 470](#)) was published last month. It **establishes standards** for developing and carrying out staff rides, incorporating **best practices** learned through the development of multiple staff rides.

Articles & Reports: Wildfire & Carbon / Wildfire Crisis / Long COVID / Smoke & Public Health / Rx Fire Capacity / Assessment

Wildfire & Carbon: The [article](#) “Identifying **Opportunity Hot Spots** for Reducing the **Risk of Wildfire-Caused Carbon Loss** in Western U.S. Conifer Forests” highlights places where wildfire mitigation efforts to protect communities, critical infrastructure and forest resources can be optimized to include areas that are at the greatest risk of carbon loss from wildfire. For an overview, see the [story](#) (and map) in *The Conversation*.

Wildfire Crisis: The [article](#) “**Rethinking Risk and Responsibility** in the Western Wildfire Crisis” in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* offers good food for thought, especially regarding **non-forested lands** and the role of **residents and private landowners**.

Long COVID: The [article](#) “Long COVID: **A Smoldering Problem** in the Fire Service” is focused on structural firefighters, but many of the issues—such as **exertional fatigue** or **cognitive issues** with the potential to affect situational awareness—apply to wildland fire as well.

Smoke & Public Health: The [brief piece](#) “At the Intersection: Protecting Public Health from Smoke While Addressing the U.S. Wildfire Crisis” in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* highlights the need for **coordination** among the **healthcare, public health and land management sectors** to minimize harm to public health from the prescribed fires needed to manage for wildfires.

Rx Fire Capacity: Last fall, a multi-partner team conducted a **national online survey** to reach those **outside of state and federal agencies** that support, plan or implement prescribed fire in order to assess capacity and needs. A **policy brief** from this survey is now available on the **Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition** [website](#).

Assessment: The “**Future of America’s Forests and Rangelands**: Forest Service 2020 Resources Planning Act Assessment” [report](#) released this summer “summarizes findings about the **status, trends, and projected future** of U.S. forests and rangelands and the renewable resources that they provide.”

In the News: Tending a Landscape / Venus Flytraps

Tending a Landscape: The *Grist* [article](#) “**Learning How to Garden a Forest**” takes a deep dive into the history of fire on the western landscape, current management controversies, and how work in one place—Pepperwood Preserve—is being guided by a Native advisory council.

Venus Flytraps: **Debbie Crane** (dcrane@tnc.org) sings the praises of this carnivorous—and **fire-dependent**—plant in the [opinion piece](#) “This Rare Plant **Only Grows in the Carolinas**. How We Can Help Protect It” in *The News & Observer*.

Jobs

Squad Leads: **Audubon Canyon Ranch** is recruiting two **prescribed fire squad leads** for its **Fire Forward** program. Details are on the ACR website, egret.org; applications are due by **September 14**.

PBA Coordinator: **Tall Timbers** is hiring a **southeast Georgia prescribed burn association coordinator**. Details are on their [employment page](#); applications are due by **September 15**.

Outreach: The **University of California, Berkeley** is seeking a **fire science outreach specialist** to assist with the statewide coordination of the **California Fire Science Consortium**. For more, see the [position flyer](#) (on Twitter) and [position overview](#). Applications are due by **September 30**.

Burn Crews: The **Nature Conservancy** is seeking **managers and members** for its **South Carolina Coast Prescribed Burn Crew** and **South Carolina Mountains Burn Crew**. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page (managers [job ID 54010](#) and [job ID 54011](#); crewmembers [job ID 54008](#) and [job ID 54009](#)); applications are due by **October 7**. Current employees should apply through PeopleSoft using these job ID numbers.

FFT2: The **Nature Conservancy** in **Georgia** is hiring a **fire management technician** for work focused on the ecological management and restoration of **longleaf pine** sandhill ecosystems associated with the Chattahoochee Fall Line. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 54022](#)); applications are due by **October 27**. Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Burn Crew: **Pheasants Forever** and **Quail Forever** are seeking a **habitat specialist—burn crew member** for work in partnership with **Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**. See the [job announcement](#) for details.

Postdoc: **Portland State University** is seeking a **post-doctoral researcher** in geography, social-ecological systems science, quantitative sociology, math, physics, sustainability science, natural resource management, or environmental studies to work across several sites in the American West, researching **capacities and gaps in governance networks** to engage in **shared stewardship and collaborative wildfire management**. For details see the university’s jobs site ([position number D92741](#))

Program Manager: **Conservation Legacy** is hiring a **fire and forest management program manager** for its **Conservation Corps North Carolina** program, which empowers young adults through meaningful outdoor work. See the [position description](#) for details.

FFT1: The **Nature Conservancy** is hiring a **North Carolina sandhills burn crew manager and restoration technician** to oversee a squad of three in wildland fire activities. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 54004](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Crew Manager: The **Nature Conservancy** in **Nebraska** is seeking a **burn crew manager** (FFT1) for the **Niobrara Valley Preserve**. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 53890](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Rx Fire: The Nature Conservancy in **Oregon** is filling two fire-related positions: a **prescribed fire operations coordinator** and a **prescribed fire specialist**. The coordinator will provide administrative support to a growing fire management program (see [job ID 53920](#) for details). The specialist must have single resource boss qualifications, or be able to meet those NWCG requirements within a year (see [job ID 53917](#) for more). Current TNC employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

Webinars

- September 26** **Extreme Disturbances and Climate Change: Threats to the Southeast**
5:00 am Pacific / 6:00 Mountain / 7:00 Central / 8:00 Eastern (4 hrs)
The South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center and USFS will host this workshop for land managers, emergency response personnel, policy makers and practitioners ([register](#)).
- September 27** **LANDFIRE Office Hours**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Kim Ernstrom, Wendy Detwiler and Bre Schueller will speak on “A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words: How IFTDSS Is Changing the Look of Fuels Planning,” and LANDFIRE experts will be on hand to provide clarity and context to user questions ([register](#)).
- September 27**
new listing **The Intersection Between Bat Management and Fire in the Southeast**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Becky Harrison, Pete Pattavina and Lucas Cooksey will speak at this webinar hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange, SERPAS, USFWS and University of Florida ([register](#)).
- September 27** **Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Overview and Technical Discussion**
noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern
This webinar will provide an overview of the 2022 update to the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment ([CO-WRA](#)), and allow time for discussion ([register](#)).
- October 6**
new listing **Mid-21st Century Shifts in Fire Regimes of Pacific Northwest Westside Forests Due to Future Climate Change & Impacts to Communities**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
John Kim and Alex Dye will be the presenters on this webinar in the Forest Service’s First Friday All Climate Change Talks series ([register](#)).
- October 25** **LANDFIRE Office Hours**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Robert Ziel and Jennifer Schmidt will speak on “Wildfire Exposure Assessment for Three Boreal Communities in Alaska,” and LANDFIRE experts will be on hand to provide clarity and context to user questions ([register](#)).

Network Workshops & Field Tours

- October 23-27** **Fire Learning Network Workshop / Blackfoot Valley, MT**
FLN leads from across the country will meet for this annual workshop.
- November 2-4** **Indigenous Peoples Burning Network Workshop / Santa Fe, NM**
IPBN leads from across the country will meet for this annual workshop.
- January 23-24, 2024** **Central Appalachians FLN Workshop / TBD, WV**
Save the date for this workshop for Central Apps FLN members and partners.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) & Cooperative Burning

- September 24-30** **Yurok-CFMC Cultural Burn Training Exchange (Session 1) / Weitchpec, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- Sept. 25-Oct. 8** **Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Orleans, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 2-8** **Yurok-CFMC Cultural Burn Training Exchange (Session 2) / Weitchpec, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 2-13** **Selkirk Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Loon Lake, WA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 7-22** **Intercambio y Entrenamiento en Quemadas Prescritas en Español / Hayfork, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 8-14** **Karuk Indigenous Women+ Training / Karuk ancestral territory (CA)**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 9-20** **Columbia Gorge Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Glenwood, WA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 16-20** **Canadian Prairies TREX / Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- Oct. 30-Nov. 10** **Southern Blue Ridge Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Pickens, SC**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- November 11-18** **Santa Barbara Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Santa Ynez Valley, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- Nov. 25-Dec. 9** **Mexico TREX (Intercambio de Experiencias y Entrenamiento en Quemadas Prescritas en México) / Ixtlán de Juárez, Oaxaca**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- March 4-15, 2024** **Southern Missouri Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Marshfield, MO**
new listing
Nominations for this TREX are being accepted through November 10. See the [announcement](#) for details and a nomination link.

Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

- September 19-21** **SyncroSim 2023 / Fort Collins, CO**
See the [website](#) for details.
- September 25-27** **Forest Carbon Management in Central Appalachia / Morgantown, WV**
Details are at <https://forestcarbon.wvu.edu/home>.
- Oct. 18-Nov. 17** **Hybrid S130 - S190 - L180 / online + field day at four locations in FL**
new listing
This training offered by the University of Florida's Natural Areas Training Academy includes 33 hours of online coursework, plus a field day the week of November 13 in Tallahassee, Melrose, Venus or Melbourne, FL ([details](#)).
- October 24-26** **California Wildfire Conference / Simi Valley, CA**
Registration is open for this event for a diverse community of wildfire practitioners to focus on understanding, preventing and recovering from wildfires ([details](#)).

- October 25-28** **Society of American Foresters National Convention / Sacramento, CA**
 Details are at <https://eforester.org/safconvention2023>.
- November 1-3** **Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition Annual Meeting / South Lake**
new listing **Tahoe, CA**
 This year’s meeting will explore the emerging vision for rural western communities rooted in the stewardship economy ([details](#)).
- November 6-10** **6th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop /**
updated **Santa Fe, NM**
 Registration is open, as is a call for “Not Your Typical ‘Poster’ Presentations.” See <http://cohesivestrategyworkshop.org/> for details.
- Nov. 20-Dec. 18** **RX-310—Introduction to Fire Effects / online**
 This course is offered by the University of Idaho as a combination of self-paced study and live virtual sessions ([details](#)).
- Nov. 27-Dec. 1** **S-290—Intermediate Fire Behavior / online**
 This course is offered by the University of Idaho as a combination of self-paced study and live virtual sessions ([details](#)).
- December 4-8** **10th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Monterey, CA**
 A [draft program](#) is now available; see the [website](#) for other details.
- January-May 2024** **National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (NIPFTC) 20-Day**
Sessions / Tallahassee, FL
 PFTC Mixed Module and Fire Leadership for Women 20-day sessions are accepting applications through October 15. See the [website](#) for details.
- January 22-26** **M-580—Fire in Ecosystem Management / Tucson, AZ**
new listing Nominations are being accepted for this National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) course through October 31 ([details](#)).
- January 22-26** **RX-510—Advanced Fire Effects / Tucson, AZ**
new listing Nominations are being accepted for this National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) course through October 31 ([details](#)).
- Jan. 22-Feb. 21** **RX-300—Prescribed Fire Burn Boss / online**
 This course is offered by the University of Idaho and Tall Timbers, with a combination of pre-course work, self-paced study and live virtual sessions ([details](#)).
- April 15-17** **After the Flames / Estes Park, CO**
 Proposals for presentations are being accepted through December 15. See the [website](#) for details.

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Send News, Links & Comments

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Laurel Kays – laurel.kays@tnc.org – Laurel is in Wilmington, NC September 19-21; out September 22.

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Links

FLN Networker—an archive of back issues is kept at:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/fln-networker.aspx>

FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/webinars.aspx>

Notes from the Field—an index to all Notes is at:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/Index-FLN-Notes-from-the-Field.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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