

FLN Networker No. 182: April 15, 2015

The *FLN Networker* is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior (BIA, BLM, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service) and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, links and subscription requests to Liz Rank.

For more about the FLN, visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln or contact Lynn Decker.

News from the Field

California: Partners in the **newly-forming Cultural Burning Network** in the Klamath-Trinity region met last month to begin laying out a path to **restoring the cultural use of fire** in the landscape. Members of the **Hupa, Karuk and Yurok Tribes** from the **mid-Klamath and Trinity River watersheds** are taking part in this endeavor. For more, see the attached *Notes from the Field*.

Georgia: The [article](#) “Only WE Can Prevent Wildfires” appears in the spring issue of *Georgia County Government* magazine (see page 34). The article introduces the **concept of fire adapted communities**, highlights the **Towns County FAC Learning Network** site as a **case study**, and points readers to local and national FAC resources. Towns County is also on the Cohesive Strategy website for the Southern Region, with the [feature](#) “Towns County, Georgia Makes **Exceptional Strides** towards Becoming a Fire-Adapted Community.”

Idaho: The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security’s spring newsletter has a [story](#) (see page 11) by [Liz Davy](mailto:Liz.Davy@fs.fed.us) ([edavy@fs.fed.us](mailto:Liz.Davy@fs.fed.us)) about the **Island Park Sustainable Fire Community** (IPSCF), and its receipt of the Regional Foresters **Conserving Open Space Award** in January. The award recognized IPSCF for promoting community awareness of **living with wildfire**.

Nebraska: **Fifty people**—including **25 college students** and professors on spring break—spent that latter part of March completing **almost 3,700 acres** of burning at the **Niobrara Valley Training Exchange**. For more, see the attached *Notes from the Field*.

New Mexico: The [Pino Fire](#), which burned on the **Santa Fe National Forest**, was [named](#) as one of two **2014 Incidents of the Year** by the **Southwest Fire Science Consortium**. The lightning-ignited fire was **managed for multiple objectives**, including removing brush to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk to local communities.

North Carolina: There’s a story by [Jennifer Evans](#) about the recent **SBR FLN North Carolina TREX** in the most recent *Southern Fire Exchange* [newsletter](#).

Virginia: Staff from the **Forest Service**, **Virginia Departments of Game and Inland Fisheries** and of **Conservation and Recreation**, **The Nature Conservancy**, and **Wildland Restoration International** conducted a Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) **controlled burn** on the **Bear Loop** unit at Warm Springs Mountain Preserve in the **Allegheny Highlands** this week. Although small, this 150-acre unit has been one of the **landscape's best demonstration sites**, seeing multiple field trips each year; visitors have included the USFS Region 8 Regional Forester and the USDA Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources and the Environment, as well as participants in last year’s Central Appalachians FLN workshop. It is also important as one of the first two units, burned on consecutive days in May 2008, that **helped launch** the FLN partnership in the Allegheny Highlands focal area, and it is the first unit to receive its **third entry burn** in the **Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project**. For more information, contact **Marek Smith** (marek_smith@tnc.org), or see the [picture](#) on his Twitter feed.

Washington: The Spokane District BLM hosted four **booths** at the recent Inland Northwest Big Horn **Outdoor Adventure Show** in Spokane, including one on **fire adapted communities** and another for the **Washington Prescribed Fire Council**. According to **Reese Lolley** (rolley@tnc.org), they reached more than 500 people at the council's booth, and many others at the FAC and fire prevention booths. "Many people had no idea, **many were amazed** to hear stories about how the forest has changed and the role fire can play, and I heard from many land owners **wanting to know how they can responsibly use fire** on their property."

Resources: FAC Tweets / PBA Map / Go Kits

FAC Tweets: If you tweet—or follow others doing so—add the **FAC Learning Network** to your **Twitter** list. **@FACNetwork**. (<http://twitter.com/facnetwork>) will get you regular snippets of network news, links to blog entries as they're posted, and other FAC information.

Go Kits: Two hubs in the FAC Learning Network—the **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition** and **Firewise of Southwest Colorado**—are **facilitating community preparedness** by breaking down **assembly of emergency kits** into **manageable steps**. Starting with a bag to put everything in, people who follow **#MakeAKitMonday** on social media are prompted to add various components each week (and have a place to discuss options online). More about this project is in the latest [FACNetwork.org blog](#), by **Annie Schmidt** (director@chumstickcoalition.org).

PBA Map: The latest [newsletter](#) of the **Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium** has a Kansas Forest Service [map](#) of **prescribed burn associations** from (roughly) Nebraska to Texas. (See the newsletter for a couple of stories about burning and **bats, as well.**)

Articles: Experiential Rx Education / Mechanical Treatment

Experiential Rx Education: The authors of the [article](#) "**Assessment of Experiential Education** in Prescribed Burning for Current and Future **Natural Resource Managers**" in the April issue of *Fire Ecology* **surveyed** current and former students in prescribed fire courses at Oklahoma State about their **perceptions and skills** regarding fire. The article concludes that "if we are to develop competent and effective wildland fire managers in an increasingly complex and hazardous wildland fire environment, **constraints to experiential learning** about prescribed fire **must be overcome.**"

Mechanical Treatment: The authors of the [article](#) "**Constraints on Mechanized Treatment** Significantly **Limit** Mechanical Fuels Reduction **Extent** in the Sierra Nevada" looked at various biological, legal and operational factors that limit the use of mechanical treatments. Their analysis "suggests that the current heavy reliance on mechanical fuels reduction is **unlikely to effectively** contain or suppress wildfire in many areas of the Sierra Nevada ...[but] significant increases in treatment pace and scale are possible if mechanical thinning is used to **facilitate larger prescribed burns** and enable **managed wildfire.**"

Video: Rim Fire

Rim Fire: "The Fire Next Time" is a 13-minute [video](#) that looks at the **2013 Rim Fire**—as an example of the **megafires** that are becoming more common, and as a place where people are beginning to **collaborate** to try to restore the landscape into something more resilient.

Just for Fun: Smoke

Smoke: [The Oatmeal](#) understands smoke dispersion.

Jobs: GIS Tech / Rx Crew / SBR FLN Assistant / Conservation Manager / Fire Planner / Forestry Techs

GIS Tech: The Okanogan-Wenatchee NF is conducting outreach for a **biological science technician (GIS)** position to be posted soon. Information is [available online](#); the **outreach form** should be completed by **April 20**, if interested.

Rx Crew: The Nature Conservancy's **North Carolina** chapter is seeking a **prescribed fire crew technician (FFT2)**. Details are available on the Conservancy's [careers page](#) (job ID 43036); applications are due by **April 23**. Current Conservancy employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

SBR FLN Assistant: The **Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network Intern** will develop an **auto tour** of Pisgah NF-Grandfather RD burn sites that highlights response of native vegetation to prescribed burns and wildfire (using interpretive signage and a mobile app) and will assist on **projects that help communities** in the district become more **fire adapted**. Details are available on the Conservancy's [careers page](#) (job ID 43056); applications are due by **April 27**. Current Conservancy employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

Conservation Manager: The Nature Conservancy's **Southern Black Hills Conservation Manager** will be responsible for the management (including invasive species, grazing and fire management) of the 4300-acre Whitney Preserve and other land holdings in western South Dakota. Details are available on the Conservancy's [careers page](#) (job ID 43042); applications are due by **April 29**. Current Conservancy employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

Fire Planner: The Appalachian-Piedmont FMZ (hosted at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and within the **Great Smokies/Unaka Mountains** landscape of the **SBR FLN**) will soon be advertising for a **fire management specialist (fire planner)** position. Information is in the attached flyer; the **outreach form** should be completed by **April 30**, if interested.

Fire Worker: Wildland Restoration International is seeking a new team member on its **Northeast Florida Ecosystem Restoration Team**. [Details](#) are on their website; applications are due by **May 4**.

Forestry Techs: The **Watershed Research and Training Center** (Hayfork, CA) is hiring two forestry technicians for the summer/fall. Information is on the [WRTC website](#); applications are due by **May 15**.

Webinars

April 15
new listing

Effects of Climate Variability and Accelerated Forest Thinning on Watershed-Scale Runoff on Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests

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

Marcos Robles, of The Nature Conservancy, will present this webinar hosted by the Southwest Fire Science Consortium.

Information: <https://climate-variability-thinning-runoff.eventbrite.com>

April 16

Easy-to-Use Smoke Tools

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

Trent Wickman, an air resource specialist with the Great Lakes National Forests, will present this webinar hosted by the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network.

Information: <http://nrfirescience.org/event/easy-use-smoke-tools>

April 29 new listing	Ten Years of Post-Fire Treatment Monitoring—Learning about Soil & Vegetation Recovery 10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern This Northern Rockies Fire Science Network webinar will feature the work of Penny Morgan, Peter Robichaud and Sarah Lewis following various mulch treatments after the 2005 School Fire. Information: http://nrfirescience.org/event/ten-years-post-fire-treatment-monitoring-learning-about-soil-and-vegetation-recovery
FLN and FAC LN Workshops & Field Tours	
April 16-17	Burned Area Learning Network / Santa Fe, NM “Planning for the Next Big One: Managing the Postfire Environment in a Time of Change.” Core partners will discuss the development of a new learning network at this workshop supported by the FLN, Southwest Fire Science Consortium and Southern Rockies Fire Science Network.
April 20	Pike’s Peak FLN / CO Information: Paige Lewis (paige_lewis@tnc.org)
May 12-14	Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Morganton, NC Registration for the 10 th annual regional workshop of the SBR FLN is at capacity, but a wait list has been started. Information: http://sbrfln2015.weebly.com/
June 1-4	National FLN Workshop / Santa Fe, NM Leaders will meet with their counterparts in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and help shape the FLN’s upcoming work. The FLN will meet from Monday evening through 5:00 Thursday.
June 1-5 date corrected	National FAC Learning Network Workshop / Santa Fe, NM Leaders will meet with their counterparts in the Fire Learning Network, share learning, and help plan the network’s upcoming structure and work. The FAC network will meet from Monday evening through Friday noon.
June 10-11 new listing	FireScape Mendocino Workshop 6 / Covelo, CA At this workshop, participants will hear from subgroups set up at the last workshop about progress made to date, build shared learning on a field tour, and continue to work on topics such as landscape-scale vegetation management, creating fire-ready communities, air quality issues and increasing tribal involvement in the FireScape. Information: see the attached flyer
FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges	
April 27 – May 6 cancelled	East River TREX—Session I / eastern SD This TREX has been cancelled due to the combination of current soil moisture conditions and burn bans in 38 of 43 counties in eastern South Dakota.
May 11-20	East River TREX—Session II / eastern SD This TREX is supported by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, SD Wildland Fire Division, TNC and other partners to improve wildlife habitat and range conditions, reduce the possibility of damaging wildfires and provide training and learning opportunities.(The application deadline has passed.)

May 14-21	Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR This Northwest FLN TREX , aimed at prescribed fire partners in the state, will focus on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring and operational dimensions of planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire for restoration goals. (The application deadline has passed.)
Sept. 15-Oct. 5	Spanish-Language TREX / northern NM This training exchange will be held in and around the Santa Fe National Forest, and will bring together participants from several countries and across the U.S. Applications are due by May 8. Information: flyer and application form are attached to FLN Networker No. 180
Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.	
April 20-24	Managing Fire, Understanding Ourselves: Human Dimensions in Safety and Wildland Fire / Boise, ID 13th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 4th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference. Information: https://inawf.memberclicks.net/upcoming-conferences
May 1-3	Colorado Certified Burner B - RXB3 Training / Larkspur, CO The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners are offering this course on planning, designing and implementing low complexity pile burns in Colorado. Information: see the flyer attached to FLN Networker No. 179
May 2	International Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Various events will be taking place.. Information: http://www.nfpa.org/wildfirepreparednessday
May 5-7	11th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology / Minneapolis, MN The American Meteorological Society is hosting this conference. Information: http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201511fireforest.html
May 15 new / deadline	Ethnobotany Field Day / Lawrence, KS The morning walk, hosted by the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, will explore traditional Native American uses of plants for food and medicine. Free, but you must register by April 15 . Information: http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=deaf74aa2fb05a110fa8c9b8&id=8f0cd40e08&e=cdf14df4b0
May 18-19	Intro to State-and-Transition Simulation Modeling of Landscape Vegetation Dynamics / Ft Collins, CO Information: http://wiki.syncrosim.com/index.php?title=Courses#Course_Descriptions
May 27-29	5th Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference / Tuscaloosa, AL Information: http://easternfire.as.ua.edu
June 7-12	Fire Ecology Institute for Educators / Durango, CO Information: see July workshop, below; the registration deadline is May 22

July 6-12 date corrected	Fire Ecology Institute for Educators / Florissant, CO This workshop for grade 3-12 educators has sponsors and presenters, including the Colorado State Forest Service, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Research Station and others. The registration deadline is June 19 (early bird tuition ends April 1). Information: scroll through the listings at http://coloradolpt.org/workshops/
July 13-17	RX-310: Introduction to Fire Effects / State College, PA This course, offered by the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council , will be geared specifically toward Pennsylvania ecosystems, but is open to both Pennsylvania burn practitioners and others. Nominations are due by April 30. Information: the announcement and nomination form are attached
September 24-26	Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Creating Fire Adapted Communities / Snowmass Village, CO The conference theme will be "Fire adapted communities—who owns the risk?" Information: http://www.wildfire-colorado.com/
October 22-24	Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC Information: http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond
November 16-20	Association for Fire Ecology Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX The call for proposals (oral & poster presentations, workshops, attached meetings) is now open; proposals for workshops are due May 1 . Information: http://afefirecongress.org/

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is out April 17.

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

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in the office.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Colorado Springs April 20, Klamath April 26-30.

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

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in the Klamath Mts April 27-30.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrank@tnc.org – Liz is in the office.

To stop receiving the FLN Networker, please reply to this message and include your request in the body of the message.

Full Links

- News from the Field—GA: <http://www.nxtbook.com/naylor/ACGQ/ACGQ0115/index.php>
<http://www.southernwildfire.net/models-for-action/towns-county-georgia-makes-exceptional-strides-towards-becoming-a-fire-adapted-community>
- News from the Field—ID: <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/PressRoom/Releases/IBHSnewsSPRING15-digital.pdf>
- News from the Field--Pino Fire: <http://swfireconsortium.org/2014-incident-of-the-year>
- News from the Field—NC TREP: <http://www.southernfireexchange.org/newsletters/v5-2.pdf>
- News from the Field—VA—Marek's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/maresmit/media>
- Resources—Go Kit: <http://facnetwork.org/makeakitmonday-facilitating-emergency-preparedness/>
- Resources—PBA map—newsletter: <http://oakfirescience.squarespace.com/storage/April%202015%20Newsletter.pdf>
Map: <http://oakfirescience.squarespace.com/storage/PBA%20National%20Map.pdf>

Articles--Experiential Rx education: <http://fireecologyjournal.org/docs/Journal/pdf/Volume11/Issue01/088.pdf>

Articles—Mechanical treatment: <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/47745>

Video--Rim Fire: <https://vimeo.com/122811230>

Jobs—GIS tech: <https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/?id=7FFDB3E12F364919AA82C9BE2291F289>

Jobs--TNC careers page: https://careers.nature.org/psc/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?SiteId=1

Jobs—WRI: <http://wildlandrestoration.org/job-announcement-team-member>

Jobs—WRTC: http://www.thewatershedcenter.com/?page_id=90

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.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Fire Learning Network

Notes from the Field

Participants offered some images of what the landscape would be like with cultural burning restored: When our work is successful, life will be thriving: deer, birds, mushrooms, open prairies, grasslands and clear creeks. There is laughing. Kids are playing all over. All of the brush is gone and we can see the river. The land all the way down the road has been burned. It is like the pre-contact landscape, and we are able to truly live off the land. We get that humble and respectful feeling. Our prayers with our ancestors are heard because our connection with the land is growing stronger and stronger.

Klamath-Trinity Cultural Burning Network

Weitchpec, California

Twenty-four community members from the Yurok, Karuk and Hupa Tribes, two staff members from the Six Rivers National Forest and two Fire Learning Network staff members met in mid-March to begin developing a new network in support of cultural burning practices. This network is focused on an area that includes the ancestral territories of the Yurok, Hupa and Karuk tribes, and is located in the mid-Klamath and Trinity watersheds. Tentatively called the Klamath-Trinity Cultural Burning Network (CBN), this landscape-level network is under the umbrella of a larger-scale CBN that is developing.

Workshop participants identified the following steps needed to create a path to restoring cultural fire in this landscape. In order of neither priority nor chronology, these include:

- Continue community education about the need for and benefits of cultural burning. Include maps that show where burns have taken place.
- Build local capacity to do the burns.
- Get the land ready to be burned.
- Secure equipment to do landscape burns safely.
- Involve the Warrior Institute in developing the next generation of cultural burners.
- Work on private land or reservation land for intergenerational learning.
- Implement the “Roots to Shoots” project, and expand it to include private, tribal and all Forest Service land in the network area.
- Continue securing landowner permission and air quality permits in advance of burning.

March 2015

- Enable cultural practitioners and managers to conduct traditional burns in treated areas.
- Secure the ability to do landscape burns and smaller, family burns for gathering.
- Provide liability protection for cultural burn practitioners (insurance would cost about \$10K a year).



Our culture is completely dependent upon fire. Without fire, our culture will not survive. It's that simple.

Margo Robbins, Cultural Fire Management Council, Yurok Tribe

- Evaluate the effectiveness of burns through cultural perspectives. Were objectives, tangible and intangible, met?
- Clarify agency policies relating to cultural burning and explore avenues for collaboration. Agencies include the Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDA Forest Service, CAL FIRE and the California Air Quality Resources Board.
- Explore how agency funding can be used to accomplish cultural burning.

From top: Cultural burning among the Yurok, Hupa and Karuk territory will clean around tan oak trees, to reduce the pests that infest acorns, limiting the supply of this food staple.

Photo: Billie Sanderson

Basketweavers from the Karuk, Hupa and Yurok Tribes display hazel sticks collected after a controlled burn accomplished by a recent Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX). Basketweaving is deeply embedded in local culture, and hazel must be burned periodically in order to produce straight, usable shoots.

A Yurok basketweaver peels a hazel stem that sprouted after a TREX controlled burn (*left*) and then (*right*) shows the FLN director a basket-weaving technique. *Photos: TNC/Mary Huffman*



This work is part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT)*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information on PERFACT, contact Lynn Decker ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



An equal opportunity provider

v. 3 Apr 15/MH



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field



Photo: Jose Luis Duce

Niobrara River Valley TREX

Prescribed Fire Training Exchange March 14-29, 2015

Fifty fire people—firefighters and fire practitioners, college students and professors, and local farmers and ranchers—gathered at the Niobrara Valley Preserve in north-central Nebraska for two weeks of experiential learning opportunities. Over the course of the training exchange, they shared their knowledge—both formally, through presentations, and informally—and conducted a series of controlled burns on The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge.

On the first day, while high winds and low humidity led to Red Flag warnings, participants received really interesting introductions to grasslands ecosystems, the community of Valentine's Firewise program, the Fire Learning Network, fire-related smart-phone technology and the basics of black-lining, one of the most effective ways to create a safe control line in the local fuels.

As the weather became more conducive to burning, resources and equipment were ready to burn on day two. Incident Commander Chad Bladow led a team of six overhead plus two task forces (two modules of 10 people each, with some variations during the course of the incident). During 12 full operational periods, this solid team worked together to burn seven burn units (3,691 acres) in seven burn days. The burns met the expectations of preserve staff, who has planned and prepped these units in the months leading up to the TREX, facilitating the burning.

Over the weekend, volunteer firefighters from the Gering VFD took part in a special training embedded within the TREX. This two-day training, planned by Emily Hohman and delivered with assistance from Jeremy Bailey, Rodolfo Zúñiga and Steve Dyer, included both classroom and field segments on controlled burn firing operations, covering techniques, patterns, timing and safety.

Participating Agencies & Organizations

Center for Natural Lands Management
Colorado State University
Department of Defense—Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Fish and Wildlife Program
Doane College
Gering Volunteer Fire Department
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Los Angeles Fire Department
National Park Service
Nebraska Forest Service
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Northern Arizona University
Northern Prairies Land Trust
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
University of Idaho
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska at Lincoln
USDA Forest Service
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Wildland Restoration International



In 2008 the Niobrara Valley hosted one of the first TREX, and this year's event brings the landscape's total to seven. Grasslands, bison, local fire capacity and university students have all reaped the benefits. Photos: Jose Luis Duce

“Downtime” during red flag weather and other times when burning wasn’t possible was packed with classroom sessions, unit scouting and preparation, and mop-up and patrol assignments. A positive, flexible, professional and always-fire-ready attitude by the Incident Management Team and participants prevailed throughout the entire TREX. As a result of this—and a good dose of hard work—participants left with many new and valuable skills and a well-justified sense of great accomplishment.



NIOBRARA NUMBERS

3,691 ACRES of burning
on 7 units for 2 landowners

Participants in this TREX completed six burns at the Niobrara Valley Preserve (TNC) and one unit on the Ft. Niobrara NWR (US FWS).

30 fire professionals worked on their
NWCG TASK BOOKS

and all participants received an
Incident Personnel Performance
Rating (ICS form 225)

25 UNIVERSITY students and professors
took part during their spring breaks

For the fourth year in a row, students formed a large proportion of this training exchange, gaining valuable practical experience and connections, and bringing a fresh perspective to the work. This year six universities were represented in the crews.

geographically diverse
with participants from **12** states



Photos: Jose Luis Duce

Presentations by TREX Participants and Partners

- Annual Fire Management Numbers from The Nature Conservancy (Jeremy Bailey)
- Black-lining Operations (Wade Snyder)
- Fire Adapted Communities (Wendy Fulks)
- Firewise Program in Valentine Area (Jen Corman)
- Geographical Information Systems (T.C. Christensen)
- Mediterranean Ecosystems (José Luis Duce)
- My Phone is on Fire: Mobile Fire Applications (Sam Lindblom)
- National Wildlife Refuge System (Kathy McPeak)
- Prescribed Fire Management for Biodiversity in the Grasslands (Scott Moats)
- Six Minutes for Media (Chad Bladow)

For more information about this TREX, contact:

Rich Walters
rwalters@tnc.org

For more information about TREX being offered elsewhere across the country, visit:

<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>

TREX are part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT)*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information on PERFACT, contact Lynn Decker ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



An equal opportunity provider

v. 14 Apr15/Jose Luis Duce

Great Smoky Mountains Wildland Fire Management
Appalachian-Piedmont Fire Management Zone

Position Outreach

GS-0401-7/9/11 Fire Management Specialist (Fire Planner)

Please Respond by April 30th

The Appalachian-Piedmont Fire Management Zone hosted at Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be advertising a Fire Management Specialist (Fire Planner) position. Interested candidates should complete the reply form at the end of this outreach notice. The position will be announced on USAJobs in the near future.

About the Position- This position is based at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The primary responsibilities of this position are to serve in a fire planning capacity for a zone fire management organization. The incumbent will assist both host and customer parks with fire management planning, fuels project planning, fire documentation and reporting. The incumbent will serve as the primary point of contact for current and or future interagency fire planning efforts within one or more fire planning units and/or the fire management zone. Responsibilities include providing technical expertise, advice, training and support in strategic and local fire planning analysis systems, models, and decision support systems. The incumbent will also provide guidance in adaptation of policies, standards, methods, and guidelines to the fire management officer, resource management staffs, and customer park units throughout the fire management zone. Specialized software and modeling is utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of fire management strategies to meet resource management goals and objectives. The incumbent provides guidance to fire staff on data collection and evaluation of fire hazard risk, fuels, historic fire occurrence, climatology and weather; and provides assistance to ensure strategic fire planning analysis systems, models, and decision support systems are completed in required timeframes. The incumbent will be required to maintain a wildland fire red card and participate in wildland fire operations (both wildfire and prescribed fire) as incident qualifications allow. The incumbent would participate on Fire or All Hazard Type 3 Incident Management Teams as the Plans Section Chief or duties as assigned based on qualifications. The incumbent will oversee one or more employees tasked with Fire Environmental Monitoring (fire weather, fuels, fire behavior), Fire Situation and Fire GIS responsibilities.

This is an administrative position in an organization having a firefighting mission, and is clearly in an established career path. Prior firefighting experience, as gained by substantial service in a primary firefighter position or equivalent experience outside Federal government is a Mandatory Prerequisite for incumbents of this position.

Great Smoky Mountains Wildland Fire Management
Appalachian-Piedmont Fire Management Zone

About the Appalachian-Piedmont Fire Management Zone- The Appalachian-Piedmont Fire Management Zone is a newly established network of National Park Service units located within the NPS Southeast Region that encompasses all or parts of four states: East Tennessee, Northern Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Hosted at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, zone fire staff are tasked with providing fire management support to approximately 20 park units across a broad and diverse landscape. The incumbent in this position can expect to plan and execute fire management activities in environments from the mountains of the Southern Appalachians to the marshes and maritime forests of the outer banks of North Carolina. The incumbent in this position will be challenged with helping draft the future of fire management in the fire management zone as well as the Southeast Region.

Prospective candidates for this position should expect to provide leadership, policy guidance, and technical advice to zone fire staff, host and customer park unit resource managers and agency administrators. As this is a newly formed network of park units, some roles and responsibilities will evolve as lessons are learned and applied. Prospective candidates must be adept at interpreting and communicating policy and fire planning efforts to both peers and customers. Candidates should have experience in planning activities such as: prescribed fire implementation plans, fire management plans or reviews, managing fire for resource benefit, and / or national fire danger rating system. Professional, team oriented leaders with strong technical backgrounds working with fire management tools such as WFDSS, GIS, NFDRS, and Fire Planning Analysis or Fire Planning Data Systems are encouraged to apply.

Responding to the Outreach- If you are interested in helping to define the future of NPS Fire Management within the Appalachian-Piedmont FMZ, please complete and return the following response form NLT April 30th. Completed forms should be e-mailed to Dave Loveland at: dave_loveland@nps.gov. Interested candidates who have responded will be notified of the vacancy announcement opening date in USAJobs. Persons desiring additional information regarding this position may contact Dave Loveland at (865) 436-1247 or by e-mail at: dave_loveland@nps.gov.

Great Smoky Mountains Wildland Fire Management
Appalachian-Piedmont Fire Management Zone

Outreach for GS-0401-7/9/11 Fire Management Specialist (Fire Planner)

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Current Employment Status: () permanent () career seasonal () seasonal () term () other

Current Series and Grade (if applicable): _____

Current Position Title: _____

Do you have 90 days primary (or equivalent) wildland fire fighting experience? () Yes () No

Current Red Card Qualifications (highest relevant): _____

If you are not a current permanent (career or career seasonal / conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under one of the following special authorities?

() Person with Disabilities () Veterans Readjustment () Veterans Empl. Opp. Act 1998

() Disabled Veterans w/ 30% Compensable Disability () Former Peace Corps Volunteer

() Student Career Experience Program () Other _____

Thank You For Your Interest In Our Vacancy

e-mail completed form to: dave_loveland@nps.gov NLT April 30th.



FireScape Mendocino Workshop 6

We need people...

- ... With local community perspectives
- ... Who enjoy outdoor recreation (camping, hunting, hiking, OHV, etc.)
- ... With perspectives on living with wildfires
- ... Who manage land - whether it's a ranch, timberlands or their backyard
- ... With thoughts about community and landscape planning
- ... With enthusiasm and an interest in the future of our local landscapes

All meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to participate. If you know someone who might be interested in this, please pass along this invitation.

Location & Dates:

Wednesday, June 10th & Thursday, June 11th

Round Valley Airport
43505 S. Airport Road
Covelo, CA 95428
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm

Tackling Strategies

Please join us in Covelo for the sixth in a series of workshops for FireScape Mendocino **Wednesday, June 10th and Thursday, June 11th, 2015** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

FireScape is a voluntary collaborative effort to shape the future of our fire-prone landscape in and near the Mendocino National Forest. Working together, we will emphasize shared learning, problem solving and action on the ground. Taking the next step in this collaborative effort, our goals will be:

- Hear from each of the subgroups set up at the previous workshop (Landscape-scale vegetation management, Creating fire-ready communities, Air quality issues, Increasing tribal involvement in FireScape) on their progress and next steps
- Allow time for subgroups to continue their work
- Continue to build shared learning among participants

During this two-day event, participants will work in both small and large groups, indoors and outdoors. Guided by the best practices of the North America Fire Learning Network, our collaboration is designed to enable people with diverse perspectives to find zones of agreement where we can achieve tangible results in our communities and the surrounding landscape. For more information, check out our blog at mendocinofirescape.blogspot.com. Some other examples from around the country can be found at www.conervationgateway.org.

Lunch will be provided both days.

There will be a field trip on Wednesday, lasting much of the day and participants should be prepared for changing weather conditions in the field. The trip will be accessible, not leaving roads or trails.

In order to make sure we have food and materials for everyone, we ask that you register by Wednesday June 3rd. To register, or for more information, please contact Marilyn Perham at 530-897-6370 ext. 200 or by email at mperham@tnc.org

Thank you and we look forward to your participation in this collaborative effort.