

FLN Networker No. 185: May 27, 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: The **Monterey Fire Safe Council** and **Forest Service** hosted a **Wildfire Preparedness Day** in Cachagua, the first such event in Monterey County. The event was a success, with more than **150 people** attending, and **50 signing up** for involvement with the FSC or learning more about getting fuel reduction work done. For more information, visit www.firesafemonterey.org or contact **Jeff Kwasny** (jkwasny@fs.fed.us).

Georgia: After an 80-year hiatus, **peregrine falcons are back** at **Tallulah Gorge**, a **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** focal area. According to **Nathan Klaus**, “Getting this apex predator back is just one more step on the road to recovering a healthy ecosystem ... and is one of the dividends, large and small, that come with restoration. **I don’t think it is a coincidence that the birds showed up now, after we have been working there for almost ten years.** A number of birds were released there in the 1980s and 90s, prior to our restoration effort and none stayed, now that we’ve got a healthy landscape they found it themselves. We already know that burning around Tallulah Gorge has increased the bird population and opened up the habitat. Peregrines are almost exclusively bird eaters and they need open habitats to hunt.” With more than 90 visitors coming to see the falcons in just a week, it appears that healthy ecosystems are **good for ecotourism as well as for falcons**. Read more on the [Georgia DNR website](#), or see the bulletin with photos (may need to scroll).

Oregon: In spite of a rainy forecast, the **Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange** went ahead as planned. Participants were busy with a **full curriculum** of classroom and field learning, then took advantage of good burn windows to complete **191 acres of treatments and hands-on training**. For more, see the attached *Notes from the Field*.

While going through the town of Sisters in full fire gear, **checking for smoke impacts** from the TREX, Jeremy Bailey **was lectured several times** by community members. The **Northwest FLN** has a **long history** in this landscape, and people seem to have taken in the messages—he couldn’t get a word in edgewise as **people went on about the importance of prescribed fire**, and how they’d **rather have some smoke tonight than wildfire** smoke later.

Oregon: Elsewhere in the state, the **Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative**, **Bureau of Land Management** and **Applegate Fire District 9** helped some middle-school **students** get their school ready for fire season—and raised **wildfire preparedness awareness** in the community. Read more in the attached *FAC Notes from the Field*.

Washington: **NPR** ran a [story on Morning Edition](#) about what the **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition**, the state of **Washington** and the **Forest Service** are doing **together to reduce wildfire risk** in that community through adaptation to fire. **Annie Schmidt** did her usual wonderful job of laying out the challenge and the mitigation practices—and the story highlighted how the state, Forest Service and locally-based coalition folks are all on the same page talking about what they are doing together to address the issue.

Reports: Position Statement / Quadrennial Review / WUI Fire Spread

Position Statement: The **Association for Fire Ecology, International Association of Wildland Fire** and **The Nature Conservancy** have released the joint, rather bluntly-titled [position statement](#), “**Reduce Wildfire Risks, or We’ll Continue to Pay More** for Fire Disasters.” Much of the document is devoted to **defining the costs** of wildfires—which can be 2 to 30 times the official direct costs most widely reported, once the indirect and post-fire costs are included. **Suggested remedies** include more investment in preparedness, reducing barriers to fuels mitigation, increasing the use of prescribed and managed fire, and better tracking of economic losses to update risk rating systems.

Quadrennial Review: The [2014 Quadrennial Fire Review](#) was released earlier this month. The review is “a **strategic assessment process** conducted every four years to evaluate current wildland fire management community strategies and capabilities against best estimates of the future environment.” The assessments in this include both **recent trends** (including summaries of climate/fire trends) and a section on the **10-20 year outlook**.

WUI Fire Spread: With support from the National Fire Protection Association, The Fire Protection Research Foundation has produced the [report](#) “**Pathways for Building Fire Spread at the Wildland Urban Interface**.” The report’s contents include a literature review, case studies, mitigation strategies and risk assessment methodologies.

Article: Estimating HRV

Estimating HRV: The authors of the [article](#) “A State-and-Transition Simulation Modeling Approach for Estimating the Historical Range of Variability” developed a method for “**using LANDFIRE state-and-transition models to estimate the historic range of variability** around the mean reference condition for each model state in ecosystems by varying the fire probabilities.”

Jobs: Sagebrush Manager / JFSP Outreach Lead

Sagebrush Manager: The **Nevada** chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **sagebrush ecosystem program manager**; the immediate focus will be to support implementation of sage-grouse conservation planning projects with the mining industry, but will extend beyond these projects in time. For details, see the [Conservancy’s careers page](#) (job ID 43155); applications are due by **June 2**.

JFSP Outreach Lead: The new **Joint Fire Science Program communications and outreach program lead** will further the mission of JFSP by ensuring that the science needs of the wildland fire community are understood, and by promoting and exchanging the latest fire science with fire and fuels practitioners and managers. Open to **current federal employees or former federal employees** with competitive / reinstatement eligibility / CTAP & ICTAP eligibles within the local commuting area [Boise] / persons eligible under Special Hiring Authorities / VEOA eligible. Full information (fire technology transfer specialist, GS-0401-12/13FA Merit-2015-0038) is at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/404512200>.

Webinars

May 28

Fire Adapted Communities: Do You Have the Tools You Need?

8:00 Pacific / 9:00 Mountain / 10:00 Central / 11:00 Eastern

Caitlin McGuide, Mike Davis, Frank Riley and Chris Chambers will be the panelists on this Ready, Set, Go! program webinar.

Info: <http://iafc.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9NDc2NTM0NiZzdWJzY3JpYmVyaWQ9MTA1MDU5OTE4MQ==>

May 28

An Introduction to the AdaptWest Database for Climate Adaptation Conservation Planning

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern

This Conservation Biology Institute webinar will look at a newly released dataset that portrays (at 1 km resolution) velocity of climate change for North America under alternative future scenarios.

Information: <http://www.consbio.org/newsroom/events/webinar-introduction-adaptwest-database-climate-adaptation-conservation-planning>

FLN and FAC LN Workshops & Field Tours

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

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

FireScope 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 FireScope.

Information: see the announcement at <http://mendocinofirescape.blogspot.com/>

June 30

new listing

Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains Landscape / Chattahoochee NF

Landscape partners will visit one or two recently burned areas in the Forest, and will discuss effects of the fire and where restoration of these areas is headed. In the afternoon, Frank Riley will lead a tour of a FireWise community, to see what they're doing to make themselves more resilient to wildfires.

Information: Malcom Hodges (mhodges@tnc.org)

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

Sept. 15-Oct. 5

Spanish-Language TREX / northern NM (application deadline has passed)

This training exchange will be held in and around the Santa Fe National Forest.

Sept. 28-Oct. 10

save the date

Klamath River TREX / northern CA

Details coming soon; applications will be available in July.

Oct. 19-Nov. 1

save the date

Northern California TREX / northern CA

Details coming soon; applications will be available in July.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

June 25

new listing

Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Field Tour / Niobrara Valley Preserve, NE

Partners including the FLN, JFSP consortia and universities, are hosting this tour to discuss ecological effects and responses to fire on the ground. RSVP June 18.

Information: see the attached flyer

- July 6-12** **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.
 Information: scroll through the listings at <http://coloradopl.org/workshops/>
- July 28-29** **Best Practices for Communication and Delivery of Prescribed Fire Messaging / Tall Timbers Research Station, FL**
 This course is aimed at increasing the use of prescribed burning in fire maintained ecosystems on private lands through more effective, coordinated communications.
 Information: <http://www.ncsu-feop.org/RxFire/communications/>
- July 29-30** **Shortleaf Pine in the Appalachians—A Workshop to Discuss Threats, Barriers and Successes in the Restoration of Shortleaf Pine / Asheville, NC**
 The Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists and The Nature Conservancy will be hosting this workshop, which will include facilitated discussions and a field tour of the Sandymush Game Land.
 Information:
https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e2093863b4879c06a3bdd3e72/files/CAFMS_newsletter_vol_5_issue_1.pdf
- August 26-27** **Patch Burn Grazing Meeting / Pratt, KS**
 The call for abstracts for the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange meeting is open through July 10.
 Information: <http://blogs.missouristate.edu/gpfirescience/2015/04/28/call-for-abstracts-2015-patch-burn-grazing-meeting/>
- 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** **AFE Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX**
 The call for proposals (oral & poster presentations, attached meetings) is open.
 Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

- Lynn Decker** – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Santa Fe June 1-5.
Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in Santa Fe June 1-3; in Covelo, CA June 8-12.
Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out May 25-June 12.
Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out May 29; in Santa Fe June 1-5.
Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Covelo, CA June 8-12.
Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.
Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is in Santa Fe June 1-5.

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—Georgia—Peregrine article: <http://www.gastateparks.org/info/227042>

Bulletin with photos: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/GADNR/bulletins/10514c2>

News from the Field—Washington: <http://www.npr.org/2015/05/21/405887766/spending-to-fight-wildfires-at-the-expense-of-preventing-them>

Reports—Wildfire position: <http://fireecologyjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/Reduce-Wildfire-Risk-16-April-2015-Final.pdf>

Reports--Quadrennial review: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/QFR/documents/2014QFRFinalReport.pdf>

Reports--WUI fire spread: http://www.nfpa.org/research/fire-protection-research-foundation/reports-and-proceedings/for-emergency-responders/fire-prevention-and-administration/pathways-for-building-fire-spread-at-the-wildland-urban-interface?order_src=C365

Article—Estimating HRV: http://www.aimspress.com/aimspress/ch/reader/view_abstract.aspx?doi=10.3934/environsci.2015.2.253

Job—Sagebrush manager:

https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=43155&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

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

Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange

Bend, Oregon
May 14-21, 2015

Thirty-five firefighters, conservation stewards and managers gathered to learn about the social and ecological challenges and opportunities for the use of prescribed fire in the forests, shrublands and grasslands of Oregon. Hosted by the Central Oregon Fire Management Service—a joint BLM-USFS program—and TNC, and with participation from the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council and the University of Idaho, this was the first prescribed fire training exchange in Oregon.

Despite a rainy start, the team remained patient and focused. Participants spent time in the classroom, as planned, and went on field trips. And in spite of the forecast, they were able to find weather windows and burn units where fire could be used to meet ecological and training objectives, as well as opportunities for local community engagement and outreach. A few days in, participants implemented a controlled burn on the Deschutes National Forest, and two more days of burning followed.



Maintenance fire in a restored ponderosa forest. By taking advantage of brief, unexpected burning windows, this TRES was able to complete 191 acres of needed treatments that would otherwise likely not have been done this year, as local crews had had to turn their focus to preparing for the wildfire season.



Participating Organizations

- Bureau of Land Management
- Central Oregon Fire Management Service
- Grayback Forestry
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Prescribed Fire Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Idaho
- USDA Forest Service

For more information about this training exchange, contact:

Pete Caligiuri
pcaligiuri@tnc.org

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

<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>



It wasn't all ponderosa: participants discussed the ecology of sage-steppe ecosystems on a field tour. Classroom and field learning, as well as burning, were key to the event's success.

Photos: TNC/Pete Caligiuri

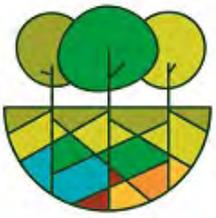
Over the course of the event, participants learned and practiced a variety of skills—including interviewing with the media, speaking with the public about beneficial fire and monitoring the effects of fire on vegetation, as well as implementing controlled burns. Diverse teams were tasked with igniting and holding prescribed fires, and monitoring and documenting fire effects. They also worked with local community members to promote the use of fire in and around communities—helping pave the way for safer communities and fire-adapted ecosystems restored to a healthier, more resilient condition.

The Fire Learning Network and Scaling-up to Promoted Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) 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



FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

Southern Oregon Middle-School Students Get Wise to Fire

April-May 2015

Notes from the Field

Students at Ruch School in Jacksonville, Oregon learned about becoming better adapted to fire and created a Firewise demonstration site at their school.

The Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative

(SOFRC), Bureau of Land Management, Applegate Fire District 9 and Ruch School middle-schoolers came together this spring to help get their community ready for fire season.

Students learned about fire science, fire behavior, fire adapted ecosystems and communities, and the three zones that make up a defensible space. Then they put what they learned into practice—they assessed their own school, then helped make it a Firewise demonstration site. The work included planting fire resistant plants and clearing fuels on the school grounds, as well as installing signs to explain defensible space. Students then went to their own homes to assess them for potential fire hazards.

Beyond the School

Students also nominated vulnerable members of the community to receive assistance from Oregon Department of Forestry crews to do fuel reduction work around their homes.

For more information about this project, contact:

Gwyn Myer

gwyn@sofrc.org

or visit: www.sofrc.org

For more about the FAC Learning Network, visit:

<http://facnetwork.org/>

The work was highlighted as part of May 2 National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day activities

A \$500 Firewise grant for community projects offered by the National Fire Protection Association sponsored by State Farm—one of just 65 awarded nationwide—provided funding for this project. Other support came from Plant Oregon and community members, who donated plants, and Advanced Landscape Services donated mulch.

Local media covered the students' work—one such story is at <http://www.mailtribune.com/article/20150421/NEWS/150429930/0/>.

The Applegate Fire District has since reported increased calls from the public for help with clean up around their homes—the students really helped to raise community awareness and spur action.

From top: Students cleared brush and ladder fuels from wooded areas of the school yard. They installed signs to explain landscaping choices in the three zones of defensible space. A sign near the school entrance gives an overview of its new landscape. *Photos: SOFRC*



The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network 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 through a subaward to the Watershed Research and Training Center.

An equal opportunity provider and employer.



NIOBRARA VALLEY PRESERVE

WILDFIRE AND PRESCRIBED FIRE TOUR



June 25, 2015

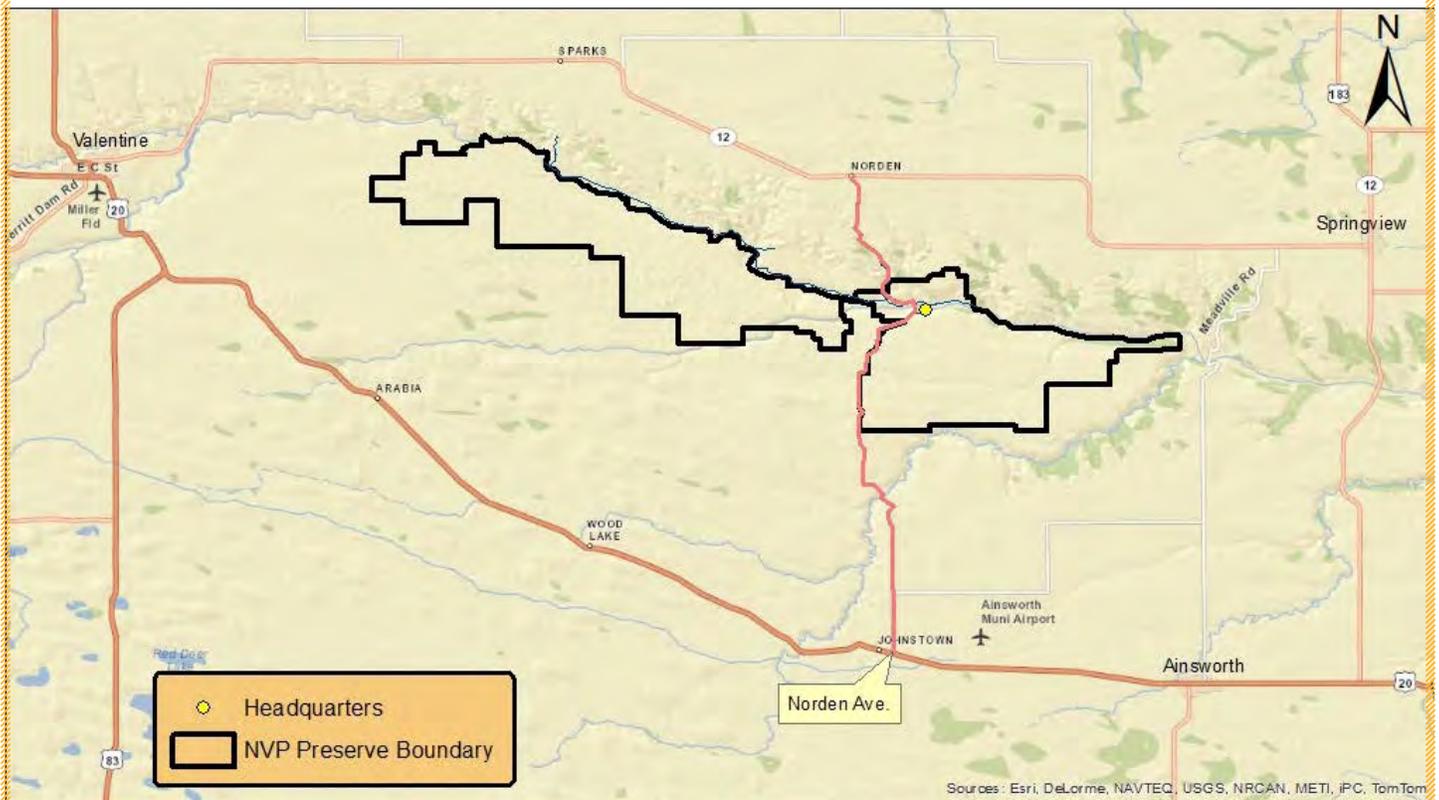
Registration 9:30 AM Start Time 10:00
RSVP by June 18, 2015: blocksom@ksu.edu



Achieving Ecological Objectives with Burning
Partnering for Prescribed Burning
Niobrara Grassland Response to 2012 Wildfire
Niobrara Valley Forest Response to 2012 Wildfire
Patch Burn Grazing
Grassland Response to Burning at Various Seasons



Fire Learning Network



From Ainsworth: West 9.5 miles on Highway 20 to Nordan Avenue; North 16 miles to kiosk.

From Valentine: East 29 miles on Highway 12 to Nordan Avenue; 8 miles south to kiosk.

From kiosk: East 0.25 miles on drive to headquarters.