

# FLN Networker No. 201: January 6, 2016

---

*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](http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln) or contact Lynn Decker.

## News from the Field

**California:** Members of the **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** core team will be participating in a session on partnerships at the annual Forest Service **Region 5 District Ranger conference** at the end of this month. The session is intended to help District Rangers in California explore **success factors for building collaboration** in planning and implementing multi-stakeholder projects.

**Colorado, Oregon:** Some places **combined holiday traditions and “thinning treatments”** last month. According to **Pam Wilson** ([swcoloradofirewise@gmail.com](mailto:swcoloradofirewise@gmail.com)), one of their Firewise communities in southwest Colorado had the state’s district forester come out and mark small white fir that needed to be thinned. Community members then paid a small fee to cut their own tree (and enjoy some hot cocoa and cider). **FireWise of Southwest Colorado** also partnered with a narrow gauge railroad and others on a **Christmas Tree Train** project to bring people out to cut white fir, a common ladder fuel in ponderosa forests; read more in the FAC Net [blog post](#).

In Oregon, the **Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project** posted a [blog](#) suggesting people throughout the area come cut their own trees—citing helping forest health as one of the benefits (admittedly, after “fun”); for more on that one, contact **Pete Caligiuri** ([pcaligiuri@tnc.org](mailto:pcaligiuri@tnc.org)).

**Nevada:** In a recent [FAC Net blog post](#), **Forest Schafer** ([fschafer@nltfpd.net](mailto:fschafer@nltfpd.net)) of the **Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team** introduced a brief **essay by local resident** and community **“spark plug” Ann Grant**. In it, she tells how, starting with \$200, but almost no wildfire knowledge, she helped her neighborhood transform itself, with **more than 90 percent** of properties now having defensible space. Grant received the **Community Wildfire Preparedness Pioneer award** at the 2015 IAFC WUI Conference.

**New Mexico/Colorado:** There’s a [story](#) in *High Country News* about work being done by the **Chama Peak Land Alliance**. The Alliance is a partner in the **Rio Grande Water Fund**, and the Chama area is the focus of one of the three current **Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency** projects. Members of the Alliance own about 250,000 acres in the upper part of the **watershed** that provides **much of New Mexico’s water supply**. “When we think about wild, we think about public lands,” says director Monique DiGiorgio in the article. “But these private landowners are managing some of the most intact, wild spaces we have left.”

**Oregon:** **Helicopter thinning** for **watershed restoration** is currently underway as part of the **Ashland Forest Resiliency Project**. There’s a good overview of the project in a mid-December [article](#) in the *Ashland Daily Tidings*, and updates on the project are on the [AFR Facebook page](#). For more on this project, contact **Chris Chambers** ([chris.chambers@ashland.or.us](mailto:chris.chambers@ashland.or.us)).

## Resources: Public Opinion / Writing

**Public Opinion:** **The Nature Conservancy** periodically has **polling** done on public opinion—and phrasing preferences—about various conservation-related issues. The [latest report](#) from the bipartisan polling team, “How to **Communicate Successfully** Regarding **Nature-Based Solutions**: Key Lessons from Research with American Voters and Elites,” is posted on the Conservation Gateway. It includes things like a suggestion to avoid the word “green”—it has a lot of undesirable baggage for many—and use “nature-based” instead.

**Writing:** Also on the topic of communication, check out the [brief article](#) “The **Secret to Sounding Smart?** Using **Simple Language.**” (Bonus: short words also let you get in more information per inch!)

## Articles & Reports: Conservation Goals / Self-Regulation / Wildlife

**Conservation Goals:** Using the historic range of variability (HRV) to define conservation goals becomes increasingly problematic under climate change. The *Forest Ecology and Management* [review and synthesis article](#) “**Achievable Future Conditions** as a Framework for Guiding Forest Conservation and Management” offers a discussion of an alternative. “In the context of using AFCs to guide conservation and management strategies, establishing current conditions, developing scenarios for the future, and assessing risk is a largely technical process; while **determining AFCs is a collaborative social process** between stakeholders and technical experts.”

**Self-Regulation:** A recent [article](#) in the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* provides some confirmation of what many have felt to be true: “Wildland **Fire Limits Subsequent Fire** Occurrence.”

**Wildlife:** Just published, the latest [working paper](#) from the Ecological Restoration Institute is “Wildlife and Fire: Impacts of Wildfire and Prescribed Fire on Wildlife and Habitats in Southwestern Coniferous Forests.”

## In the News: Record Year

**Record Year:** It’s official—**more than 10 million acres** burned across the U.S. in 2015. There’s a graph for the last 10 years on the National Interagency Fire Center [Facebook page](#) (posted January 4).

## Webinars

**January 7**  
**new listing**

### **Climate, Forests and Woodlands**

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

In this webinar hosted by Iowa State, Penny Morgan will highlight changing climate in the U.S. northern Rockies and implications for forest fire extent and severity. Drawing on recent research about the past, present and future, she’ll highlight some of the challenges of living with fire in a rapidly changing world. Join: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/woodlands> (log in as a guest; they recommend using Firefox or Internet Explorer as a browser, and not Chrome)

**January 13**

### **Effectiveness of Wildfire Mitigation in the WUI**

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

Zander Evans will present this Forest Stewards Guild webinar discussing the Guild’s recent [report](#), “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Wildfire Mitigation Activities in the Wildland-Urban Interface.”

Information: <http://www.forestguild.org/node/189>

**January 19**

### **Management Applications of the LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings Models in the California National Forests**

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

Hugh Safford will present this webinar co-hosted by LANDFIRE and the California Fire Science Consortium.

Register: <http://www.cafiresci.org/events-webinars-source/category/management-applications-of-the-landfire-bps-models-in-the-california-national-forests>

- January 20**      **BpS Review: What is it? How does it work? Why does it matter?**  
 11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern  
 Randy Swaty will present this webinar co-hosted by LANDFIRE and the Southwest Fire Science Network.  
 Information: will be posted on <http://swfireconsortium.org/events/> when available
- January 27**      **Smoke from a Distant Fire: Human-Wildfire Interactions in Prehistoric Forests of the Southwestern US**  
 11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern  
 In this [ArcBurn](#) webinar from the Forest Stewards Guild, Rachel Loehman (USGS) looks at two millennia of humans and wildfire in the southwest Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. Information: <http://www.forestguild.org/node/190>
- February 2**      **Demystifying LANDFIRE's Biophysical Settings Descriptions and Models**  
 noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern  
 Kori Blankenship will present this webinar co-hosted by LANDFIRE and the California Fire Science Consortium. Information: <http://www.cafiresci.org/events-webinars-source/category/demystifying-landfires-bps>

## FLN and FAC Net Workshops & Field Tours

- January 15-16**      **Yurok-Hupa-Karuk Cultural Burning Network / Orleans, CA**  
 In its third workshop, this group—which is working to develop a support network for restoring cultural burning within the ancestral territories of the three tribes—will discuss opportunities to advance cultural burning through the forest plan revision process. There will also be a work session on developing secondary school courses related to cultural burning.
- February 2-4**      **Facilitative Leadership Training: FireScape Mendocino / Willows, CA**  
**new listing**  
 This landscape's core team will take part in training to build their skills in facilitating collaborative work in the area.
- March 1-3**      **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership / Orleans, CA**  
 WKRP will continue its work implementing integrated fire management projects in three geographic areas, including advancing collaborative approaches to NEPA.
- April 25-29**      **National FLN-FAC Net Workshop / Jacksonville, FL**  
 Leads from the two networks, along with key national partners, will meet to exchange information, strengthen the ties between the networks and plan the coming year's work.
- May 17-19**      **Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Johnson City, TN**  
 Save the date for the 11<sup>th</sup> workshop of the SBR FLN, with “insightful programming, engaging discussions, and one of our famous field trips.”

## FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- March 14-26**      **Loup River Valley Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ord, NE**  
**deadline**  
 This TREX will integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners, including university students; municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters; other natural resource managers; scientists and researchers for training and burning on private properties in Valley County. Applications are due by **January 15**.  
 Information: [announcement and application](#) are on the Conservation Gateway

- March 19-27  
updated** **Niobrara Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ainsworth, NE**  
This Spring Break TREX will bring together university students, municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters, as well as other natural resource managers, scientists and researchers to burn and learn on the Niobrara Valley Preserve and surrounding grasslands. Applications are due by February 2.  
Information: [announcement and application](#) are on the Conservation Gateway
- April 3-8  
new listing** **Yurok TREX / Weitchpec, CA**  
Dates for this TREX have been set—further details will be available soon
- April 25-May 6  
updated** **Bend Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR**  
Dates for this TREX have been set—further details will be available soon
- May 9-21  
updated** **Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ashland, OR**  
Dates for this TREX have been set—further details will be available soon

## Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

- various dates** **Prescribed Fire Training Workshops / various locations, NE**  
Pheasants Forever and partners are offering a dozen prescribed fire workshops—basic and advanced topics—for landowners. The workshops are being offering in numerous locations across the state between **January 20** and **May 25**.  
Information: see flyer attached to [FLN Networker No. 198](#)
- February 16-17** **Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Conference / State College, PA**  
Speakers from across the country will discuss fire and forest bats; state fire history; public perceptions of prescribed fire; canopy tree mortality after burns; fire's role in snowshoe hare habitat; wildland fire GIS, mapping apps, and devices; statewide prescribed fire updates, lessons learned and more.  
Information: coming soon at <http://www.paprescribedfire.org/>
- February 23-25** **Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation: All Lands, All Hands / Salt Lake City, UT**  
This conference will share the latest information on the conservation, restoration and maintenance of resilient sagebrush ecosystems. An online streaming version of the conference will be available. The call for posters is open—submissions are due by January 25.  
Information: <http://www.sagebrushconference2016.org/>
- March 8-10** **IAFC Wildland Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV**  
Information: <http://www.iafc.org/micrositeWUI/homeWUI.cfm?ItemNumber=7987>
- March 14-16  
new listing** **9th Annual EPA Sponsored Smoke Management Meeting / Airway Heights, WA**  
This meeting will “bring together burners both public and private, air quality regulators, researchers and others to discuss smoke management and air quality protection in the Pacific Northwest.”  
Information: see the attached invitation
- March 16-17  
new listing** **5th Annual Washington Prescribed Fire Conference / Airway Heights, WA**  
Practitioners will discuss the year in prescribed fire, priorities moving forward, training exchanges, smoke management and more. Save the date; more information will be available soon.

- March 31-April 2**     **New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit / Silver City, NM**  
The theme of this year's statewide conference is "re-energize community fire response."  
Information: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1784598>
- April 11-15**     **5<sup>th</sup> International Fire Behavior + Fuels Conference / Portland, OR\***  
The theme of this IAWF conference is "Wicked Problems, New Solutions: Our Fire, Our Problem."  
\*The conference will be held concurrently in Portland and in Melbourne, Australia.  
Information: <http://www.firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com/>
- April 26-28**     **Collaborative Restoration Workshop: Working Toward Resilient Landscapes and Communities / Denver, CO**  
(FLN and FAC Net leads—note that this workshop coincides with the annual workshop FAC Net/FLN workshop.)  
Information: to take a pre-workshop survey and get on the contact list for this National Forest Foundation workshop, go to  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CollaborativeRestorationWorkshop>
- July 17-20**     **North American Prairie Conference—From Cemetery Prairies to National Tallgrass Prairies / Normal, IL**  
Illinois State University is hosting this conference, with presentations on prairie ecology, restoration, management and some innovative ideas on working lands.  
Information: <http://nap2016.illinoisstate.edu/>
- November 14-17**     **International Smoke Symposium / Long Beach, CA**  
The IAWF and the NWCG SmoC (smoke committee) will be hosting this in-person / virtual symposium.  
Information: <http://www.iawfonline.org/2016SmokeSymposium/>

## Send News, Links & Comments

**Lynn Decker** – [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) – Lynn is in the office.

**Guy Duffner** – [gduffner@tnc.org](mailto:gduffner@tnc.org) – Guy is in DC January 9-14.

**Heather Montanye** – [hmontanye@tnc.org](mailto:hmontanye@tnc.org) – Heather is out January 14-15.

**Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in Orleans, CA January 14-17; Santa Fe, NM January 19-27.

**Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in Orleans, CA January 13-17.

**Wendy Fulks** – [wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org) – Wendy is out January 6-8.

**Liz Rank** (editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is in the office.

Note: January 18 is a Conservancy holiday.

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—Colorado: <http://facnetw.ork.org/2571-2/>

Oregon: <http://deschutescollaborativeforest.org/resources/cut-your-own-christmas-tree-deschutes-forest/>

News from the Field—Nevada: <http://facnetw.ork.org/homeowner-initiative-builds-community-partnerships/>

News from the Field—New Mexico/Colorado: <http://www.hcn.org/articles/were-private-land-meets-public-interest>

News from the Field—Oregon: <http://www.dailytidings.com/article/20151217/NEWS/151219841>

<https://www.facebook.com/AFR.Project>

Resources—Public opinion: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/Documents/TNC%20Nature-Based%20Solutions%20Communication%20Recommendations.pdf>

Resources—Writing: <http://www.fastcompany.com/3052242/how-to-be-a-success-at-everything/the-secret-to-sounding-smart-using-simple-language>

Articles & Reports—Conservation goals: [http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2016/ja\\_2016\\_martin\\_001.pdf](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2016/ja_2016_martin_001.pdf)

Articles & Reports--Self-regulation: [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs\\_journals/2015/rmrs\\_2015\\_parks\\_s003.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2015/rmrs_2015_parks_s003.pdf)

Articles & Reports—Wildlife: <http://library.eri.nau.edu/gsd/collect/erilibra/index/assoc/D2016001.dir/doc.pdf>

In the News—Record year: <https://www.facebook.com/BLMFire/?fref=ts>

TREX—Loup: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/2016-Loup-TREX.aspx>

TREX—Niobrara: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/2016-NV-P-TREX.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.

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.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual EPA Sponsored Smoke Management Meeting

Time and Dates: 1:00 pm Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> through noon, Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Location: Northern Quest Resort and Casino  
100 North Hayford Road  
Airway Heights, Washington 99001 (near Spokane Airport)

I would like to invite you to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual EPA Sponsored Smoke Management Meeting. So please mark your calendars and make your reservations.

As we have done in past meetings, we will bring together burners both public and private, air quality regulators, researchers and others to discuss smoke management and air quality protection in the Pacific Northwest. The devastating wildfire season our Region saw in 2015, the New Ozone Standard, and the new Exceptional Event Policy should make this year's meeting an interesting one. The planning team will begin meeting soon to put together this year's agenda. If you would like to participate on the planning team, if you would like to make a presentation, or if you have ideas for topics please let me know. It is my hope to get the final agenda to you by the end of January.

The Meeting will be held at the Northern Quest Casino and Resort near Spokane Washington. The Hotel is near the Spokane Airport and has free shuttle service. The hotel has set aside a block of 40 rooms at government rate so if you are planning on attending from out of town please make your reservation with the hotel as soon as possible. The deadline for reserving a government rate room at the hotel is **Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**.

The telephone number for the Northern Quest Hotel is: (509) 242-7000

If you are planning on attending, there is no cost or formal registration but an email confirmation to me would be greatly appreciated. Please share this meeting invite with others that may have an interest in the meeting. If you have any questions about the meeting or the planning process, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be providing updates on the meeting agenda as I have them. Enjoy the holidays and I look forward to seeing you in Spokane in March.

Mike McGown  
Idaho Operations Office  
EPA Region 10  
950 W. Bannock Street  
Boise, ID 83702  
(208) 378-5764

[McGown.Michael@epa.gov](mailto:McGown.Michael@epa.gov)