News from the Field

**California:** There’s a good overview of the Orleans Community Restoration Project—“Klamath Communities Collaborate to Manage Forests and Work with Fire”—on YubaNet.com. The project is one of three pilot projects being undertaken by the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership. For more, contact Bill Tripp (btripp@karuk.us).

**California:** The Klamath landscape is also featured in an article in the October/November Nature Conservancy Magazine, which is focused on climate issues. “Carbon Cache” talks about how the Yurok are using income from carbon credits to help restore their socioecological system.

**Minnesota:** The 2016 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards have been announced, and congratulations are due to Gloria Erickson (gjerickson@frontiernet.net). She received honorable mention (in two categories) for her FAC work in the community of Ely.

**New Mexico:** In the first couple of days of the Spanish-language TREX, participants completed 20 acres of burning at the Cottonwood Gulch camp, benefitting the forest and helping protect the camp in the coming fire season. The burning there was led by the Forest Stewards Guild, who posted a few pictures on their Facebook page. The group then moved on to the Santa Fe National Forest, where they have been prepping and implementing prescribed fires on the Jemez and Coyote Ranger Districts, and visiting the sites of the Cerro Grande and Las Conchas fires. This TREX will wrap up at the end of the week.

**Oregon:** FLN and FAC Net partners are among those hosting a traveling multi-media presentation “Era of Megafires” by Paul Hessburg. In Ashland, 175 people attended the September 12 event; Chris Chambers (chamberc@ashland.or.us) was among those quoted in the article about it in the Ashland Daily Tidings, “Megafire Warning: Experts Issue a Call to Action at Ashland Meeting.” The paper also ran an opinion piece in support of “coexisting with fire,” which mentioned the work done in the municipal watershed. Other showings have or will be hosted by the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition (Leavenworth, WA), Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative (Yakima and Cle Elum, WA) and the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (Bend, OR) as part of their outreach strategies.

**Virginia:** FLN partners completed a sixth year of avian monitoring in the Allegheny Highlands this past season. The report on bird response to restoration in the Warm Springs Mountain Project is now available on the Conservation Gateway. For more, contact Laurel Schablein (lschablein@tnc.org).

**Washington:** The Forestry Resiliency Burning Pilot website (http://www.putfiretowork.org/) has a good overview of the project set forth this spring in House Bill 2928. It also has a list of the pilot partners and their stakeholders, among whom are numerous members of the FLN and FAC Net. Each of these sections has links to the burns planned or underway this fall.
Invitation: Western Water Funds Workshop

Western Water Funds Workshop: Water funds provide the means for downstream water users to invest in protecting and restoring watersheds. A spring workshop is being organized by The Nature Conservancy's Rio Grande Water Fund team, in collaboration with the Conservancy's Global Water Funds team and the FLN. The two-day workshop is for community watershed groups that are considering a water fund as a potential financial mechanism to meet their goals. Details—including a description of the workshop, opportunities for travel assistance and application guidance for interested collaborative groups—are in the attached flyer. Applications are due by October 28.

Nominations: Mitigation Awards

Mitigation Awards: Nominations for the Wildfire Mitigation Awards are being accepted through October 30 in three categories—National Wildfire Mitigation Award, National Mitigation Hero Award, and National Special Recognition Mitigation Award. The awards are jointly sponsored by the National Association of State Foresters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association and USDA Forest Service, and will be presented at the annual National Fire Protection Association WUI Conference in March.

Funding: JFSP

JFSP: The Joint Fire Sciences Program funding opportunity notices are now available. Focal areas of research include the effects of changing wildfire management strategies, post-fire recovery, and factors that affect the co-management of wildland fire risk, among others. Complete information is available at firescience.gov; applications are due by November 17.

Resources: FEIS / Strategic Landscapes / Working Together

FEIS: The Fire Effects Information System just published a couple of new sections in its database. The section “Fire Regimes of Northern Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Communities” includes a brief introduction, maps, extensive discussion, and a list of 180 references. The section “Centrocercus minimus, C. urophasianus” covers the fire ecology of the greater and Gunnison sage-grouse.

Strategic Landscapes: The Forest Service’s Cooperative Forestry Strategic Landscapes Map Viewer lets you view and create maps with more than two dozen datasets. Options include various administrative boundaries, as well as a range of projects and initiatives such as Joint Chiefs’ and CFLRP projects, National Wild Turkey Federation focal lands, TNC Restoring America’s Forests demonstration landscapes and FLN landscapes.

Working Together: The Liberating Structures website has a number of exercises designed for “including and unleashing everyone” in thinking and working together.

Video: CFRP Burns

CFRP Burns: A video from the Collaborative Forest Restoration Project in Ruidoso, New Mexico highlights how they have successfully implemented a cooperative, locally-based prescribed burning effort on the Lincoln National Forest. Members of the CFRP planning and implementation team applied lessons learned and best practices from the 2013 Black Lake TREX in designing their proposal for this CFRP. The resulting project provided training opportunities to volunteer and municipal firefighters, which developed capacity and improved fire response across multiple agencies, and built support from the community. To date, this collaborative effort has conducted 16 prescribed burns, engaged
34 local firefighters, signed 10 task books, and returned fire to more than 1,500 acres. The team has been awarded another CFRP for 2017 that will replicate the project’s success in several other communities in New Mexico. The effort is also being expanded into communities in Colorado. For more, contact Mike Caggiano (michael.caggiano@colostate.edu).

Jobs: Burn Crew / LANDFIRE Coordinator

Burn Crew: The Nature Conservancy is seeking a Western North Carolina As-Needed Burn Crew Coordinator and 14 Crew Members for a six-month period beginning December 1. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page (job IDs 44646 and 44645, respectively); applications are due by October 12.

LANDFIRE Coordinator: The Northeast Regional Strategy Committee is hiring a Regional LANDFIRE Coordinator to integrate local knowledge and spatial data into the mapping process for a 20 state region; primary responsibilities will be outreach and communications (70%) and data management and organization (30%). Details are available on the NASF job board; applications are due by October 12.

Webinars

October 11 How Important is it to Mimic Natural Fire Regimes in the SE Coastal Plain?
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Reed Noss will be the presenter for this Southern Fire Exchange webinar. Information: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sfe-webinar-how-important-is-it-to-mimic-natural-fire-regimes-in-the-se-coastal-plain-tickets-26685994528

October 18 Regeneration Response to Repeated Prescribed Burning in Appalachian Hardwood Forests
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern
Tara Keyser will be the presenter for this Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium webinar. Info: http://www.oakfirescience.com/events-webinars-source/2016/7/1/regeneration-response-to-repeated-prescribed-burning-in-appalachian-hardwood-forests

November 10 Fire Adapted Cities: Prescribed Fire Use in Urban & Community Forest Management
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Justice Jones (Austin, TX) and Mike Wharton (Athens, GA) will be the presenters for this webinar hosted by the Southern Regional Extension Forestry and Southern Fire Exchange. Info: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sfe-webinar-fire-adapted-cities-prescribed-fire-use-in-urban-and-community-forest-management-tickets-27310086203

November 15 Finding the Best Science Available on Fire Ecology and Fire Regimes in Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Woodland Ecosystems
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern
December 13

**Insights from 17 Years of Fire Effects Data at Ozark National Scenic Riverways**

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

Dan Drees will be the presenter for this Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium webinar.


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**FLN and FAC Net Workshops & Field Tours**

**November 2-3**

**Central Appalachians FLN / Wintergreen Resort, VA**

“Bridging the Gap: Managing the Ecological Needs and Social Perceptions of Fire in the Central Appalachians”


**November 29**

**Georgia Blue Ridge FLN Annual Workshop / Blairsville, GA**

Information: Malcolm Hodges (mhodges@tnc.org)

**May 16-18, 2017**

**Southern Blue Ridge FLN Annual Workshop / TBD, GA**

The theme of the workshop will be “Nature-Based Solutions in the Southern Blue Ridge region”—enhancing resiliency in natural ecosystems and improving diverse wildlife habitats while also mitigating wildland fire risk to people and making wildfire is easier to live with. It will be hosted by the Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains landscape. Further information will be available near the start of the new year.

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**FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)**

**September 14-30**

**Spanish-language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Santa Fe, NM**

This TREX is taking place on and around the Santa Fe NF, with participants from numerous countries and U.S. states.

**Sept. 23 – Oct. 3**

**Yurok Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Weitchpec, CA**

This TREX will develop community capacity to safely and effectively reintroduce fire onto the local landscape. The application deadline has passed.

**October 3-15**

**Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Happy Camp, CA**

This TREX will be based in Orleans, Salmon River and Happy Camp. The application deadline has passed.

**October 17-28**

**Women in Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / northern California**

This TREX, open to both women and men, will focus on women’s leadership. The application deadline has passed.

**March 13-25, 2017**

**Loup Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / central Nebraska**

Save the date for this annual spring TREX.

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**Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.**

**October 11**

**Fire, Wildlife, Timber & Cattle Field Tour / Pushmataha, OK**

Hosted by the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange and Pushmataha WMA

Information: [http://naturalareasconference.org/](http://naturalareasconference.org/)
October 18-21  Natural Areas Association Conference / Davis, CA  
“Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Areas Management: Turning Words to Action”  
Information: http://naturalareasconference.org/  
November 1-4  Longleaf Alliance Biennial Conference / Savannah, GA  
Info: http://www.longleafalliance.org/events/11th-biennial-longleaf-conference  
November 2-6  Society of American Foresters National Convention / Madison, WI  
Registration is open: http://www.xcdsystem.com/safconference/website/  
November 11-13  Society for Ecological Restoration: Linking Science & Practice / Livingston, TX  
Information: http://chapter.ser.org/texas/  
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. Info: http://www.iawfonline.org/2016SmokeSymposium/  
Nov. 28–Dec. 2  Southwest Fire Ecology Conference / Tucson, AZ  
“Beyond Hazardous Fuels: Managing Fire for Social, Economic and Ecological Benefits” is being hosted by AFE and the Southwest Fire Science Consortium.  
Information: http://swfireconference.org/  
December 7-9  Changing Fire Regimes / Manhattan, KS  
This workshop will address the safe use of prescribed fire to preserve prairies and reduce flammable fuel loads, how to start a PBA for landowners, and finding equipment and training to safely conduct prescribed fires. It will also start to build communication among stakeholders. Information: Paula Matile (pmatile@tnc.org)  
January 9-13, 2017  Rx510—Advanced Fire Effects / Tucson, AZ  
new listing  
Nominations for this course being offered at NAFRI are due October 21.  
Info: http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/schedule/detail/na_RX510_01-09-2017_6182  

Full Links  
News from the Field—CA — Yurok: http://www.nature.org/magazine/archives/carbon-cache.xml  
Funding—JFSP: http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_funding_announcements.cfm  
Resources—FEIS—Ponderosa: http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/fire_regimes/Northern_RM_ponderosa_pine/all.html  
Sage-grouse: http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/animals/bird/cent/all.html  
Resources—Map: http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=91032943e6da44d5b43fdef64493676a  
Job—LANDFIRE Coordinator: http://www.stateforesters.org/job-board/nasf-jobs/ne-rsc-northeast-region-landfire-coordinator  

The Fire Learning Network is supported by Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.  
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INVITATION
WESTERN WATER FUND WORKSHOP
SPRING 2017 -- SANTA FE, NM

Have you wondered what a “Water Fund” is?
Or whether a water fund could work in your community?

A WORKSHOP FOR START-UP WATER FUNDS

The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy) is hosting a targeted, technical workshop to support select Western communities explore whether the Water Fund model is a good fit for their local watershed protection and restoration ambitions. Guided by trainers and experienced mentors in a peer-learning environment, the workshop participants will work in collaborative teams, assembled before the workshop, to address the pre-feasibility and initial design steps to create a water fund.

Whether your goal is to protect water sources from an identified threat, improve fire management, or ensure instream flow, a water fund can be a useful tool to address many different social and conservation needs. The workshop is being organized by the Conservancy’s Rio Grande Water Fund (RGWF) team, in collaboration with the Conservancy’s Global Water Funds (GWF) team and the multi-agency Fire Learning Network (FLN). All of the organizers are conservation practitioners with experience starting water funds, developing tool kits for water funds, or running peer-learning exchanges.

Funding is available to cover all or part of participants’ travel expenses. Participant travel from Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico or Wyoming will be covered by a grant from the LOR Foundation; while participants whose conservation needs include fire management will have their travel expenses covered by the Fire Learning Network. Financial support to applicants who are not from those five states, or are not addressing fire management, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

WHAT TO EXPECT -- BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE WORKSHOP

- Participants will apply to attend the workshop in small teams of 2-4 partners, representing different organizations who are already working together in a collaborative group or setting. A simple application is required to be submitted by October 28, 2016 and participants will be notified by approximately December 10th.

- In the months before the workshop, participants will be provided with the Water Fund Tool Kit that includes background information about water funds, descriptions of the steps to create a water fund, and case studies selected from the dozens of water funds the Conservancy has started in Latin America, North America, Africa and China.
- Participants will write a 2-page “rapid assessment” about the conservation problem they hope to solve by securing funding through a Water Fund to introduce themselves to the other workshop participants; and prepare 5 slides of photos or maps for the icebreaker activity.

- The workshop will take place over two full days - April 4-5, 2017, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Participants are expected to travel the day before and after (no early departures).

- During the workshop participants will fully explore the first step in water fund project development cycle (see graphic and cycle steps here on the toolbox beta site): the prefeasibility assessment. Mentors from communities that have water funds will share their experiences, assessment products, and outcomes from this critical phase; and participants will work in their small teams to frame the questions, materials and studies they will need to complete their pre-feasibility analysis. The workshop will also look ahead to the design stage, providing participants with an overview of the process so they can easily get started if they determine a water fund is the right tool.

- Follow up after the workshop will include conference calls in May, July and October for participants to share how they have applied what they learned at the workshop, and to provide feedback to help the organizers of future events.

- At the end of the 6-month follow up period, attendees will be asked to write an evaluation that assess the workshop impact, lessons learned and outcomes achieved.

- Summary of what to expect from the workshop:
  1. Advance notice of workshop preparation activities with an online portal set up for participants
  2. Tool kit for full process of creating and managing a water fund
  3. Full- or partial-travel costs to Santa Fe, New Mexico
  4. Networking with peers who are also starting water funds, and with global and local experts
  5. Follow up support for at least 6 months with mentors and online tools

**WHO SHOULD APPLY**

This is a targeted workshop for in-depth learning about water funds. Space will be limited to small teams from up to four communities. Applicants should meet the following criteria to make sure that attending this workshop will be a good use of time:

1. Collaborative in place (minimum 6-month longevity, with clear goals and objectives)
2. Landowners and water agencies are engaged in or with the collaborative, whether private landowners or a federal, state, tribal or local agency or irrigation district
3. Track record of leadership in the community -- whether by agencies, local elected officials, NGOs, or group of partners
4. Clear downstream beneficiaries and potential for downstream users to make payments for upstream restoration
5. Conservation planning has taken place -- whether through a landscape restoration strategy, watershed management plan, or other plan – so there is a guide for placement of water fund investments.
Applications should consist of answers to the following 10 questions in 3-6 pages, including one page for a map.

Section I: Background

1. Describe the mission or purpose of your collaborative and goals and objectives.
2. Provide a brief history of your collaborative group (whether structured or loosely formed), including your top three accomplishments and the timeframe of completion.
3. List your partners, and describe their roles and/or expertise, and how the collaborative is structured and functions.
4. Provide a clearly labelled map that includes your upstream area and downstream beneficiaries.

Section II: Water Fund Planning

5. Describe the type of work you would propose to accomplish with a Water Fund.
6. List the downstream beneficiaries and describe the benefits they would receive (e.g. list the ecosystem services that would be provided).
7. Please share your initial thoughts about funding sources and mechanism: for example, where would funding come from; are there existing funds: what is the leverage potential; do you have evidence of people’s willingness to pay?

Section III: Workshop Team

8. Who do you propose to attend the workshop and why?
9. What kind of analyses or planning have you already done? This could include a landscape restoration strategy, watershed plan, stakeholder network analysis, or other work that could help guide investments.
10. How does your team anticipate using the workshop results when you return home?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Questions about the workshop and application may be directed to our team with “Western Water Fund Workshop Questions” in the subject line. The subject line is important for quick response from workshop organizers.

Following are suggested sources for information:

Laura McCarthy, TNC, workshop co-lead, lmccarthy@tnc.org
Anne Bradley, TNC, workshop co-lead, abradley@tnc.org
Cory Zyla, TNC, Global Water Fund team and water fund toolkit developer, czyla@tnc.org, for specific questions about the toolbox.

Applications are due on October 28, 2016 and should be submitted to lmccarthy@tnc.org with “Western Water Fund Workshop Application” in the subject line.

This workshop is partially funded through 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.

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