News from the Field

California: Last week, the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council held its 12th major meeting since its formation in 2009. The group, which met just north of the San Francisco Bay Area, included many familiar faces as well as some new participants from NGOs in the North Bay. There was a refreshing focus on private lands issues—including local community-led prescribed fire efforts, cooperative fire trainings emerging across the state, the integration of the ranching community into the Council, and the potential formation of prescribed burn associations. The meeting also included talks by fire scientists, including Carl Skinner and Jeff Kane, and a field tour to Point Reyes National Seashore, where the group toured an area burned in the Vision Fire, enjoyed lunch on the beach, and explored a unit that's been repeatedly burned for invasive plant control. For more, contact Lenya Quinn-Davidson (lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu).

California: Bill Tripp and Will Harling (Western Klamath Restoration Partnership) and Margo Robbins (Cultural Fire Management Council) met with the CAL FIRE Director and staff yesterday to increase collaboration between that agency, WKRP and the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network. For more, see the WKRP Facebook page.

California: The article “Catching Fire” in Yes! magazine talks about the Karuk Tribe’s relationships with fire—past (including Frank Lake’s research), present (including the Klamath River TREX) and future (including a climate change assessment).

New Mexico: Ahead of the statewide WUI conference at the end of the month, Eytan Krasilovsky (eytan@forestguild.org) wrote the article “New Mexicans Need Fire-Adapted Communities.” It ran as the cover story in this month’s Green Fire Times magazine, giving some background on fire in New Mexico, a few actions for readers to take, and an invitation to the conference.

North Carolina: Earlier this month, The Nature Conservancy and NC Forest Service conducted a 386-acre first-entry burn on the Conservancy’s Silver Run Preserve, with assistance from the Great Smokies NP, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Jackson County EMS and the Cashiers-Glenville FD. It was the first aerially-ignited controlled burn in District 9—about 85 percent of the unit burned, which is exceptional and should result in significant top-kill of rhododendron. The team offered special acknowledgement to Tim Howell (NC Forest Service D9 Forester), Paul Pittman (Jackson County Ranger) and Benji Reece (D9 Ranger) for prioritizing this burn on a Southern Blue Ridge FLN demonstration site, and for making it a go on a weekend. In addition, the “resources brought out by the Cashiers-Glenville FD were more than we could have hoped for and that such a tremendous help, and thanks to NPS Smokies folks for coming over and doing the lion’s share of the lighting/crashing through some pretty tough brush.” For more, contact Adam Warwick (awarwick@tnc.org).

Washington: Washington FAC Learning Network member Bonnie Cobb of the Four Mound community received the “Washingtonian of the Day” award from Governor Inslee yesterday for her commitment to reducing fire risks. A story about the award, and FireWise efforts, aired on KREM in Spokane.
BALN: Key partners met last month to discuss Burned Area Learning Network progress to date and chart a course for its expansion. Participants included leads from burned landscapes in northern California (Nick Goulette), eastern Washington (Reese Lolley) and New Mexico (Anne Bradley), as well as Lynn Decker, Elizabeth Reinhardt (retired USFS Assistant Director for Fire and Aviation), Zander Evans (Forest Stewards Guild Research Director) and Marie Rodriguez (retired Natural Resources Coordinator, Valles Caldera National Preserve).

The BALN is focused on investigating pre-fire planning tools to improve post-fire response. In all three landscapes, quantitative wildfire risk assessment is being used to guide fire mitigation priorities at a large scale—at a multiple forest plan level in California, and at the collaborative landscape scale in New Mexico and Washington. These assessments can include post-fire flooding, debris flow and erosion risks as well. Evaluation of this post-fire assessment approach will continue this calendar year. Marie, Anne and Zander also met with the national interagency Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team and the USFS regional BAER coordinators to discuss using the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) as a potential platform for post-fire risk integration into fire planning. There was enthusiastic response, and the ideas have been field tested in the Santa Fe Fireashed landscape. For more about the BALN, contact Anne Bradley (abradley@tnc.org).

TREX: The spring Prescribed Fire Training Exchange season got underway this week in the Great Plains. You can follow along with posts and pictures on the TREX Facebook page.

WTREX: Last fall’s Women in Fire TREX is the topic of the second post in a three-part Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center series on “Learning at Work—Safe Spaces Required? The Wisdom and Irony of ‘Don’t F it up.” In the blog post, author Racheal Reimer described the WTREX as the “biggest experiment in creating a learning environment in wildland fire that I have ever been involved in.” Elsewhere, WTREX Incident Commander Amanda Stamper also reflected on the experience, in the context of her career as a woman in the fire management field. Her post “Fire Woman: Fighting Fire with Fire” appeared in the National Geographic Voices blog last week.

Articles: All Lands Typology / Pile Decomposition / Treatment Effectiveness

All Lands Typology: The article “All Lands Approaches to Fire Management in the Pacific West: A Typology” looks at 41 fire-focused all lands management projects in California, Oregon and Washington and places them in a five-category framework. The work of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership—including the Western Klamath Watershed Center—is cited as an example of one of the categories.

Pile Decomposition: Authors of the article “Decomposition Rates for Hand-Piled Fuels” assessed “how the physical characteristics, particularly the fuel loading, of hand-piled fuels change over time.” The work, based on piles in eastern Washington and northern New Mexico, is intended to support better estimates of smoke emissions and carbon dynamics. For more, contact Zander Evans (zander@forestguild.org).

Treatment Effectiveness: The Ecological Restoration Institute has produced a fact sheet based on the 2016 review article “Are Fuel Treatments Effective at Achieving Ecological and Social Objectives?”

Jobs: Vets in Fire / Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist / Wildland Fire Crew / WUI Coordinators

Vets in Fire: The USFS Southern Region will hire up to 20 veterans to fill entry-level positions that include training in prescribed fire and suppression. Several of the possible duty locations are in Central Appalachians or Southern Blue Ridge FLN landscapes. Details are in the attached flyer; applications are due March 17.
Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist: The BLM Southwest Colorado Fire and Aviation Management Unit Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist will, in the course of their duties, work with both FAC Net member FireWise of Southwest Colorado and the West Region Wildfire Council. Details are on the USAjobs site (for those with (CO Merit-2017-0079) and without (CO-DEU-2017-0038) previous federal experience); applications are due by March 20.

Wildland Fire Crew: The city of Flagstaff Fire Department will be filling three positions—squad boss, senior crewmember and crewmember. Details are on the city’s job site; applications are due by March 24.

WUI Coordinators: The Utah Department of Natural Resources is filling two Area Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator positions. Details are on the state’s job site (Cache County, job #11627; Grand County, job #11585); applications are due by March 26.

Webinars

March 16
Living with Wildland fire: Lessons from Fort McMurray
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern
Mike Flannigan (University of Alberta) is the presenter for this webinar hosted by the California Fire Science Consortium.

March 21
Burn Prioritization Mapping: Getting Fire on the Ground in the Right Places
8:00 Pacific / 9:00 Mountain / 10:00 Central / 11:00 Eastern
Joe Lemeris (South Carolina State Parks) will discuss the use of ecozone data to create burn prioritization maps in this webinar hosted by the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers & Scientists and the Southern Blue Ridge FLN.
Information: https://connect.clemson.edu/ecozone/

March 29
Historical Fire and the Species that Coevolved with it in the South: What Should We Be Doing with Fire Now?
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Cecil Frost will be the presenter at this Southern Fire Exchange webinar.

Network Workshops & Field Tours

March 30-April 1
Indigenous Peoples Burning Network: Healthy Country Planning Workshop 2 / Weitchpec, CA
Members of the IPBN will continue the strategic planning process begun in June. HCP is a modification of the Open Standards conservation planning process that has a more robust focus on the cultural and spiritual values important to indigenous people in their home landscapes.
Information: Mary Huffman (mhuffman@tnc.org)

April 3-7
Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network / Tahoe, NV
Core FAC Net members and partners from across the country will share learning and discuss the coming year’s strategies at this annual workshop.
May 16-18  Southern Blue Ridge FLN Annual Workshop / TBD, GA
This workshop will explore lessons learned from the 2016 fires and next steps to
advance resilient landscapes and communities. It will be hosted by the Georgia
Blue Ridge Mountains landscape.
Information and registration: http://www.sbrfln.com/ws12.html

June 13-15  FLN Leads Annual National Workshop / TBD
Regional network leads and key national partners from across the country will
meet to share lessons learned, review accomplishments, strengthen ties within
the network and plan the coming year’s work. Details will follow soon.

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

College credit deadline
This spring the University of Idaho is offering an online, upper division forestry
course with TREX as the field component. Details are in the course flyer;
registration is due by March 24.

March 13-25  Loup Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / central Nebraska
This TREX is currently underway.

March 13-April 2  Niobrara River Valley Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ainsworth, NE
This TREX is currently underway.

April 30-May 13  Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ashland, OR
The application deadline for this TREX has passed

May 1-12  Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR
The application deadline for this TREX has passed

May 1-14  Chama Peak Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / northern NM-southern CO
This TREX will take place in the Rio Grande Water Fund landscape.
Information: a flyer and announcement are on the Conservation Gateway

May 15-30  Luera Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / south-central NM
Information: a flyer about this TREX is on the Conservation Gateway

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

March 27  A Century of Wildland Fire Research: Contributions to Long-Term
Approaches for Wildland Fire Management / Washington, DC or online
This live NAS workshop will be available by webcast (7:45 am to 12:30 pm EDT).
Wendy Fulks is one of about 40 people invited to a series of afternoon break-out
sessions related to research priorities and stakeholder engagement.
Information: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-century-of-wildland-fire-research-contributions-to-long-term-approaches-for-wildland-fire-registration-30899258514

March 30-April 1  New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit / Albuquerque, NM
Information: http://www.nmcounties.org/meetings/conferences/wildland-urban-interface-summit/

April 19-21  Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Fire Adapted Communities / Pueblo, CO
The conference theme is “Fire Adapted Communities: Moving from Awareness to
Action, Messaging to Mitigation, & Words to Work.” Registration is now open—
eyear registration ends March 17.
Information: http://www.wildfire-colorado.com/
April 25-27  National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop  
All Hands, All Lands: Implementation Rooted in Science / Reno, NV  
Information: http://www.iawfonline.org/CohesiveStrategyWorkshop/

May 1-12  East River Fire Training Exchange—Session 1 / various locations, SD  
This training exchange offered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy is an outgrowth of TREX held in Nebraska over the past several years. Applications are due by March 21.  
Information: https://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147598593

May 6  National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / locations nationwide  

May 10-12  Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium / Orleans, CA  
Every three years, land managers, scientists, tribes, conservationists and community members gather to discuss fire management, history and ecology in the Klamath Mountains and beyond. Nowhere else in the country are the social, cultural, and ecological realities of fire discussed with such candor and connection to place.  
Information: https://mkwc.z2systems.com/event.jsp?event=7&

May 15-26  East River Fire Training Exchange—Session 2 / various locations, SD  
This training exchange offered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy is an outgrowth of TREX held in Nebraska over the past several years. Applications are due by March 21.  
Information: https://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147598593

This summit will address the state of knowledge and research on fire regimes for forests and grasslands west of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington.  
Information: http://cpe.forestry.oregonstate.edu/wsidefiresummit

June 6-8  Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists Road Trip / Gatlinburg, TN – Asheville, NC – northern GA  
Save the date for this summer road trip—CAFMS is planning a bus tour to share lessons learned from the 2016 wildfire season.  

Nov. 28-Dec. 2  AFE International Fire Congress / Orlando, FL  
The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) and Southern Fire Exchange will be co-hosting “Fire Vision 20/20: A 20 Year Reflection and Look into the Future.” Various calls for proposals are open (check for topics and closing dates). Rx310 will also be offered concurrently with the conference (details); nominations are due by September 29.  
Information: http://afefirecongress.org/
Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in the office.
Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is in the office Wednesdays and Fridays (mid-day) and Thursdays (morning).
Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out March 24-27.
Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in the office.
Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in the office Monday-Thursday for FLN work; in Upper Lake, CA March 12-15, in Washington, DC March 27.
Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Upper Lake, CA March 12-17; in Weitchpec, CA March 29-April 2.
Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Reno, NV March 21-23; in Washington, DC March 27.
Liz Rank (editor) – lrank@tnc.org – Liz is in the office, but possible jury duty through April 30.

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—CA—WKRP: https://www.facebook.com/WesternKlamathRestorationPartnership/photos/a.1142268289157115.1073741828.1138295682955436/1480898181960789/?type=3
News from the Field—CA—Catching Fire: https://nategilles.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/catching-fire-yes.pdf
Stamper: http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2017/03/06/fire-woman-fighting-fire-with-fire/
Articles—All lands typology: https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/journals/pnw_2017_charnley001.pdf
Articles—Pile decomposition: https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_rm574.pdf
Jobs—Wildland fire crew: www.flagstaff.az.gov/Jobs.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.

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Duties of the position:
• Under close supervision, receive on-the-job training in prescribed fire, wildland fire suppression, and prevention
• Assist with fuel management and fire suppression such as fireline construction and backfiring
• Move dirt, chop brush, or fell small trees to build fireline using hand tools
• Patrol fireline to locate and extinguish sparks, flare-ups, and hot spot fire
• Perform other resource management activities as assigned

For more information contact:
Ginelle Heller, Fire & Aviation Management Workforce
Development Manager
Phone: 404-347-4814
Email: ginelleheller@fs.fed.us

How to apply:
Mail/email resume and DD-214 copy 4 (must provide copy 4 of DD-214)

Mail: USDA Forest Service
Attn: Ginelle Heller, Fire and Aviation Management
1720 Peachtree, Suite 746
Atlanta, GA 30309-2405
Email: ginelleheller@fs.fed.us

Resume/ DD-214 must be received by COB March 17th, 2017

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Region 8 Veterans in Fire Program
Duty Locations

Veterans in Fire Program Duty Locations
- Angeline Ranger District, National Forests & Grasslands in Texas (Yellowpine, TX)
- Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands, National Forests & Grasslands in Texas (Decatur, TX)
- Davy Crockett Ranger District, National Forests & Grasslands in Texas (Ratcliff, TX)
- Sabine Ranger District, National Forests & Grasslands in Texas (Hemphill, TX)
- Sam Houston Ranger District, National Forests & Grasslands in Texas (New Waverly, TX)
- Stearns Ranger District, Daniel Boone National Forest (Whitley City, KY) - housing available
- Daniel Boone National Forest Supervisor’s Office (Winchester, KY)
- Grandfather Ranger District, National Forests in NC (Nebo, NC)
- Croatan Ranger District, National Forests in NC (New Bern, NC)
- Apalachicola National Forest, National Forests in Florida (Tallahassee, FL)
- De Soto Ranger District, National Forests in Mississippi (Perkinston, MS)
- Glenwood & Pedlar Ranger Districts, GW Jefferson National Forests (Natural Bridge Station, VA)
- Clinch Ranger District, GW Jefferson National Forests (Norton, VA) - housing available
- Ocoee Ranger District, Cherokee National Forest (Benton, TN)