

# FLN Networker No. 315: May 5, 2021

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*The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, agencies of the Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, information to share, and subscription requests to Liz Rank.*

For more about the FLN, visit [www.conservationgateway.org/fln](http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln).

## News from the Field

**California:** **Bill Tripp** ([btripp@karuk.us](mailto:btripp@karuk.us)) and **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** ([lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu](mailto:lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu)) are among those quoted in the *Sacramento Bee* [article](#) “California ‘Burn Bosses’ Set Controlled Forest Fires. Should They Be Safe From Lawsuits?” The article covers **proposed legislation** that would provide some **liability protection for state-certified burn bosses**. (For more from Lenya on liability, see the FAC Net [blog post](#) “In Our Element: Changing Liability Standards to Increase Use of Prescribed Fire.”)

The [article](#) “**Burn It on Our Terms**”: Using Flames to Curb Catastrophic Wildfire in Sonoma County” takes an in-depth look at prescribed fire in this county just north of San Francisco, including the work of **Fire Forward** under the leadership of **Sasha Berleman** ([sasha.berleman@egret.org](mailto:sasha.berleman@egret.org)).

**Colorado:** Partners in northern Colorado—**Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative**, **Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed**, **Big Thompson Watershed Coalition** and **The Ember Alliance**—are working together to increase capacity for pile burning and get rid of many vegetation management hand and mechanical piles that are out there on the landscape. They hosted an early April **pile burning workshop**, and continue to **mobilize partners to get piles burned** while the conditions are good. For more, contact **Daniel Godwin** ([daniel@emberalliance.org](mailto:daniel@emberalliance.org)).

**Iowa:** More than a **hundred fire practitioners** from 46 agencies across the state—and beyond—gathered last week for the annual **Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week**. Over the course of five days they implemented 1,755 acres of burns on 21 burn units. For more, including pictures and video, see the *Sioux City Journal* [article](#) or the [clip](#) on KTIV, or contact **Kody Wohlers** ([kwohlers@inhf.org](mailto:kwohlers@inhf.org)).

**Kentucky:** In spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic, **TNC’s Kentucky fire program** was directly involved this fiscal year in **12,559 acres of prescribed burning**, 22,060 feet of fireline preparation and three wildfires. Prescribed burning included assistance with 11,065 acres on the Daniel Boone NF, 410 acres on the Cherokee NF, 812 acres on three national parks (Great Smokey Mountains, Mammoth Cave and Big South Fork), and 272 acres on Conservancy lands in Kentucky and Tennessee. “Perhaps just as exciting is that we enabled the **Daniel Boone National Forest to break their annual prescribed burn record**, reaching 19,455 acres,” according to FLN landscape lead **Chris Minor** ([cminor@tnc.org](mailto:cminor@tnc.org)).

**New Mexico:** In the **Rio Grande Water Fund** landscape, the **All Hands All Lands Pile Burn Squad** has been a **successful pandemic adaptation** of the All Hands All Lands burn team. A new [storymap](#) describes how the squad was set up, and how it worked nimbly to keep good fire work on track in the landscape. For more about AHAL, see the **Forest Stewards Guild** [website](#), or contact **Sam Berry** ([sam@forestguild.org](mailto:sam@forestguild.org)).

**North Carolina:** The spring 2021 prescribed burning season was one of the busiest and most productive in many years. The **Southern Blue Ridge Fire Crew** **set records** in support of SBR FLN partners, with **55 burns covering 19,726 acres**. Beneficiaries of this assistance included five national forests and six state agencies in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, with the crew assisting as many as four partners in the same day. The crew is financially supported by **U.S. Forest Service**

**Region 8 Fire Management**, and **The Nature Conservancy** hires the 23 “as-needed” fire staff, coordinates with FMOs, and allocates crew for fireline prep and burning where support is needed most. For more, contact **Adam Warwick** ([awarwick@tnc.org](mailto:awarwick@tnc.org)).

**Oregon:** **Ashland Fire & Rescue** has secured a **\$3 million Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant** from FEMA to reduce the city’s wildfire risk. The grant will support the creation of **defensible space** around 1,100 homes and replacement of the remaining wood shake roofs in town. Wildfire Division Chief **Chris Chambers** ([chamberc@ashland.or.us](mailto:chamberc@ashland.or.us)) spoke with **KOBI-TV** about the work. See the FEMA [press release](#) for more.

**Tennessee:** Among the many highlights of this record-setting prescribed fire season in the Southern Blue Ridge was the addition of **Bryan Kerns** ([bkerns@k12k.com](mailto:bkerns@k12k.com)) to The Nature Conservancy’s **SBR fire crew**. Bryan has established a **one-of-a-kind wildland fire program** for **high school students** to introduce them to wildland fire and career opportunities in the field. For more, check out the program’s [video](#).

**Virginia:** The *Virginia Mercury* [article](#) “Fire Was Once the Forester’s Enemy. Now It’s a Tool for Regenerating Appalachia’s Forests” gives a good review of **regional fire history**—right up through **Sam Lindblom** ([slindblom@tnc.org](mailto:slindblom@tnc.org)) **prepping a drone** for use in ignitions on a prescribed burn.

**Washington:** The **Washington Prescribed Fire Council** is hosting a modified **Northeast Washington TREX** this spring. Running from April 19 through the end of May, **participants are on call** for live fire training opportunities as burn units become available; burns are expected to take place in Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens and Ferry counties. Burns so far have included an **80-acre burn on the Kalispel Reservation** and a **75-acre burn with the BLM** near the community of Orient. See the [council’s Facebook page](#) for updates and pictures.

## Nominations: Fired Up

**Fired Up:** The **International Association of Wildland Fire** is launching “Fired Up,” an initiative that will feature **people or groups who have made significant contributions** to wildfire/bushfire operations, mitigation/prevention, training and research in each issue of *Wildfire* magazine. Their contributions can be at any level, so long as they are noteworthy or innovative. See the [IAWF website](#) for details and a link for nominations.

## Resources: FAC Net / Safety Round-up / Electronic PTBs / Air Quality

**FAC Net:** The **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** has launched a **new newsletter**, [The FAC Circular](#). Each issue will focus on one of the aspects of fire adaptation laid out in their recently [updated fire adapted communities graphic](#). To get this newsletter (or the weekly blog posts) sent right to your inbox, visit <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/subscribe/>.

**Safety Round-up:** A [recent post](#) from the **Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center** notes that there have been **24 incidents** (including five fatalities) during **work capacity tests** in the last decade, and includes links to several learning documents from those incidents.

The Wildland Fire LLC [podcast episode](#) “Tree Felling Accidents...What The Numbers Say” covers a report that looked at 53 **tree felling accidents**.

After a **drip torch lock ring detached unexpectedly**, resulting in burns to the firefighter, the NWCG Equipment Technology Committee has released a [safety warning](#).

**Electronic PTBs:** In response to increased occurrence of virtual and remote incident assignments, NWCG has identified a **process for using electronically fillable evaluation record sheets** and the verification/certification page. See the [April 23 memo](#) for more.

**Air Quality:** According to the **EPA**, this is Air Quality Awareness Week. You can celebrate by checking out their [collection](#) of **air research projects**, or review their [comparison](#) of the **effectiveness of various cloth masks** and modifications to procedure masks (spoiler: tie and tuck!).

## Articles & Reports: Problem Solving / Forests & Carbon / Forest Index / Integrated Fire Management / Beetles & Snowpack / All Lands

**Problem Solving:** The authors of the *Nature* [article](#) “People Systematically Overlook Subtractive Changes” found that people’s default choice was often not the most efficient. (For highlights on this research, see the pieces in the [Perspective](#) (“We Instinctively Add on New Features and Fixes. Why Don’t We Subtract Instead?”) and [Business](#) (“**Humans Solve Problems by Adding Complexity**, Even When It’s Against Our Best Interests”) sections of the *Washington Post*.)

**Forests & Carbon:** The [article](#) “Forests of the Future: Climate Change Impacts and Implications for Carbon Storage in the **Pacific Northwest, USA**” synthesizes the **state of current research**. For more, contact lead author **Michael Case** ([michael.case@tnc.org](mailto:michael.case@tnc.org)).

**Forest Index:** The authors of the [article](#) “Over Half of **Western United States**’ Most Abundant Tree Species in Decline” developed “a **standardized forest demographic index** and use it to quantify **trends in tree population dynamics** over the last two decades.” Eight tree species—accounting for about 61 percent of all live trees in the region—were included in the analysis; five of these species showed declines.

**Integrated Fire Management:** In the [article](#) “**Resilient Landscapes** to Prevent Catastrophic Forest Fires: **Socioeconomic Insights** Towards a New Paradigm,” authors from Australia, Italy, Spain, South Africa and the United States make the case for integrated fire management to address the widespread trend toward more extreme wildfire.

**Beetles & Snowpack:** The [latest issue](#) of *RMRS Science You Can Use*, “Beetle Outbreaks in Subalpine Forests and What They Mean for Snowmelt,” summarizes research showing that the bare branches resulting from beetle-kill **reduce sublimation**, and thereby **increase snowpack**.

**All Lands:** The latest [Science Findings](#), “Taking an ‘All-Lands’ Approach to Managing Wildfire Across Diverse Forest Ownerships,” captures highlights from six **Joint Chiefs’ projects** in California and Oregon.

## Jobs: Indigenous Fire Postdoc / Project Manager / Program Associate / Project Coordinator / Training Specialist

**Indigenous Fire Postdoc:** The **University of California, Davis**, in collaboration with the USGS Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center ([SW CASC](#)), is inviting applications for a postdoctoral fellowship with a focus on **Indigenous-led applications of fire in the Southwest**. For details, see the announcement on the university’s recruitment site; applications will be accepted through **May 14**, unless filled sooner.

**Project Manager:** The **Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council** is seeking a **Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative and Washington Prescribed Fire Council coordinator**. Details are on the [Work With Us](#) page of the RC&D’s website; applications are due by **May 14**.

**Program Associate:** The Nature Conservancy is seeking an **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) rights and equity program associate**. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 49717](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

**Project Coordinator:** The **Ember Alliance** is seeking a **resilient communities and forests coordinator** with strong organizational skills, planning document generation experience, entrepreneurial attitude and aptitude, and a desire to support ecological forestry and fire practices in the Intermountain West. See the [position posting](#) for details.

**Training Specialist:** The **Ember Alliance** is seeking a **wildland fire practitioner training specialist** with strong experience in conducting wildland fire training events, extensive prescribed and wildland fire experience, strong communication skills, and a clear commitment to working with diverse populations. See the [position posting](#) for details.

## Webinars

**May 6**  
**new listing**

### **Fire Suppression and Mesophication of Upland Oak Landscapes**

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

Dr. Heather Alexander will present on this Southern Fire Exchange webinar.

Register: [https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ljDdqeoS9Conrh3sPPPNA](https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ljDdqeoS9Conrh3sPPPNA)

**May 6**  
**new listing**

### **Doing Work on the Land of Our Ancestors—Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Collaborations**

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

Greg Russell and Alan Hatch will be the presenters on this Southwest Fire Science Consortium webinar. (Read the [paper](#) on which it's based.)

Register: <https://www.swfireconsortium.org/2021/04/15/doing-work-on-the-land-of-our-ancestors-reserved-treaty-rights-lands-collaborations/>

**May 19**

### **Did Your Prescribed Burn Meet Your Goals and Objectives?**

7:00 Pacific / 8:00 Mountain / 9:00 Central / 10:00 Eastern

McRee Anderson, Beth Buchanan, Gabe De Jong and Virginia McDaniel will be the presenters on this webinar about how to develop a first order fire effects monitoring protocol.

Register:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FL3cqdbY8kySPmIXlv\\_dxFhnoO4e3kl7JradICLokMw](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FL3cqdbY8kySPmIXlv_dxFhnoO4e3kl7JradICLokMw)

## Network Workshops & Field Tours

**May 18 & 20**

### **Southern Blue Ridge FLN / online**

Save the date for the (virtual) meeting of this regional network (9:00-11:30 EST). Participants will learn about starting a burn program in a landscape, and about a road map to get more fire on the ground. Established burn programs will also share what has worked well (or not) and discuss firing techniques, smoke and fire effects.

## Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

**April 19-May 31**

**Northeast Washington TREX** (on call during this time as burn units are available)

This TREX is open to people located in northeast Washington who have a current red card or other proof of meeting minimum NWCG wildland firefighting standards.

Details: <https://waprescribedfire.org/trex>

**Oct. 18–Nov. 1**      **Flagstaff TREX / Flagstaff, AZ**  
See the [announcement](#) for details about this TREX hosted by the Flagstaff Fire Department and Summit Fire and Medical District; applications are due by July 16.

**Oct. 25–Nov. 5**      **Southern Blue Ridge TREX / North Carolina, South Carolina**  
Save the date—details will be posted at <https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbrtrex>.

## Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

**May 17-20**      **44th Annual National Intertribal Timber Symposium / online**  
Information: [https://www.itcnet.org/issues\\_projects/projects\\_2/symposium.html](https://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/projects_2/symposium.html)

**May 24-27**      **16th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 6th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference / online**  
Information: <https://firesafety-humandimensions2021.com/>

**May 24, June 1**      **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / online**  
Parts 3 and 4 will address smoke and legislative issues, respectively.  
Information: details are in the flyer attached at the end of [Networker #313](#).

**May 27**  
**updated**      **LANDFIRE Informal Office Hours: MoD-FIS / online**  
Office hours take place the last Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm Eastern. A brief presentation on [MoD-FIS](#) will be followed by at least 40 minutes for you to dig into your LANDFIRE-related questions. (You can also email [meg.dettenmaier@tnc.org](mailto:meg.dettenmaier@tnc.org) with suggestions for upcoming topics.) Register (same link every month): <https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtfuCuqjspHd3pQiLhcBd5292-mHV9cbA9>

**June 1-4**  
**new listing**      **Fire and Fuels Monitoring Workshop / online & field exercise**  
This workshop from the Lake States Fire Science Consortium will include three virtual sessions, with a day set aside for collecting field measurements on participants' home units. Space is limited; registration is required. Information: [http://lakestatesfiresci.net/Fire&FuelsMonitoringWorkshop2021\\_06\\_01\\_21.html](http://lakestatesfiresci.net/Fire&FuelsMonitoringWorkshop2021_06_01_21.html)

**June 3**      **North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / online**  
Save the date, and sign up to receive details as they become available.  
Information: <http://www.garxfire.com/events.htm>

**August 18-19**      **North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / Morganton, NC**  
Save the date for the meeting on August 18 and field tour on August 19.

**September 21-23**      **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Resilient Colorado—Moving Forward In Evolving Wildfire Landscapes / Grand Junction, CO**  
Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>

**September 21-23**      **Great Plains Fire Summit & Nebraska Prescribed Fire Conference / North Platte, NE**  
Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-plains-fire-summit9th-annual-nebraska-prescribed-fire-conference-registration-92767210223>

**October 4-8**      **4th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / Asheville, NC**  
Proposals for workshop sessions or interactive presentations are due by June 1.  
Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/4th-annual-national-cohesive-wildland-fire-management-strategy-workshop/>

- November 3-7**      **Society of American Foresters National Convention / Sacramento, CA**  
SAF is soliciting submissions for presentations, seminars, panels and workshops (deadline March 31) and for science flashes and posters (deadline August 31).  
Information: <https://eforester.org/safconvention/>
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4**      **9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / online and Miramar Beach, FL**  
A [call for proposals](#), for various formats, is open; proposals for special sessions and workshops, trainings and courses are due May 15.  
Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

## Send News, Links & Comments

- Emily Hohman** – [emily.hohman@tnc.org](mailto:emily.hohman@tnc.org) – Emily is in the office.  
**Heather Montanye** – [hmontanye@tnc.org](mailto:hmontanye@tnc.org) – Heather is in the office.  
**Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in the office.  
**Marek Smith** – [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org) – Marek is out April 21.  
**Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in the office.  
**Wendy Fulks** – [wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org) – Wendy is out May 17-21.  
**Liz Rank** (editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is out May 6, 13.

## Full Links

- News from the Field—CA—Liability article: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article250853609.html>  
 Blog post: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/in-our-element-changing-liability-standards/>  
 Sonoma County: <https://www.sonomamag.com/burn-it-on-our-terms-using-flames-to-curb-catastrophic-wildfire-in-sonoma-county/?gSlide=1>
- News from the Field—IA—Sioux City Journal: [https://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/more-than-100-firefighters-gather-in-loess-hills-to-burn-grasslands/article\\_2e49efcd-46e7-521e-b9e1-cec2e793b686.html](https://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/more-than-100-firefighters-gather-in-loess-hills-to-burn-grasslands/article_2e49efcd-46e7-521e-b9e1-cec2e793b686.html)  
 KTIV: <https://ktiv.com/2021/04/29/loess-hills-fire-partners-host-5th-annual-cooperative-burn-week/>
- News from the Field—NM—Storymap: <https://foreststewards.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html>  
 AHAL website: <https://facnm.org/all-hands-all-lands-burn-team>
- News from the Field—OR—TV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rerKAsxVuGs>  
 Press release: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210429/fema-awards-3-million-mitigate-wildfire-risk-ashland>
- News from the Field—TN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gN5TLIJPCY>
- News from the Field—VA: <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/05/04/fire-was-once-the-enemy-of-the-forester-now-its-a-tool-for-regenerating-appalachias-forests/>
- News from the Field—WA: <https://www.facebook.com/warxfirecouncil/>
- Nominations—Fired Up: <https://www.iawfonline.org/fired-up/>
- Resources—FAC Net—First issue: <https://mailchi.mp/2b3a7868ac2e/the-new-fac-circular-by-fac-net-april-2021>
- Resources—Safety round-up—Capacity test: <https://wildfirelessons.blog/2021/04/27/caution-the-pack-test-involves-risk/>  
 Felling accidents: <https://wildfirelessons.podbean.com/e/tree-felling-accidents-what-the-numbers-say/>  
 Drip torch: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee/docs/etc-sa-2021-01.pdf>
- Electronic PTBs: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/memos/eb-m-21-001.pdf>
- Resources—Air quality—Research: <https://www.epa.gov/air-research>  
 Mask comparisons: <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/epa-researchers-test-effectiveness-face-masks-disinfection-methods-against-covid-19>
- Articles—Problem solving—*Nature* article: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03380-y.epdf>  
 Perspective: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/04/15/psychology-innovation-subtraction-addition/>  
 Business: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/04/16/bias-problem-solving-nature/>

Articles—Forests & carbon:

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348277956> Forests of the future Climate change impacts and implications for carbon storage in the Pacific Northwest USA

Articles—Forest index: [https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2021/nrs\\_2021\\_finley\\_001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2021/nrs_2021_finley_001.pdf)

Articles—Integrated fire management: [https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs\\_journals/2021/rmrs\\_2021\\_wunder\\_s001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2021/rmrs_2021_wunder_s001.pdf)

Articles—Beetles & snowpack:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU\\_in5\\_BeetleOutbreaks\\_Sublimation\\_0.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU_in5_BeetleOutbreaks_Sublimation_0.pdf)

Articles—All lands: <https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sciencef/scifi237.pdf>

Jobs—Project coordinator: <https://jobs.smartrecruiters.com/TheEmberAlliance/743999742102456-resilient-communities-and-forests-coordinator>

Jobs—Training specialist: <https://www.smartrecruiters.com/TheEmberAlliance/1786234394>

FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/webinars.aspx>

TREX—The latest application information for upcoming TREX is always listed at:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Upcoming-Training-Exchanges.aspx>

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