



# Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

May 2011

## Washington Dry Forests FLN Sinlahekin Wildlife Area Field Tour

On May 27, Sinlahekin Wildlife Area Manager Dale Swedberg led a tour of the Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Project – Phase 1 (SERP-1). The 14,000-acre Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, in north central Washington, is part of the Fire Learning Network and participates in prescribed fire training exchanges. After briefly reviewing the history of the Wildlife Area and the current restoration project (more correctly called an “intervention” project), the group toured part of the 350 acres that were treated with prescribed fire earlier in the spring. The final stop on the tour looked at mechanical, hand-thinning and slash treatments and included a discussion about prescribed burning of the slash this fall. Other topics discussed by the group included participation in the Fire Learning Network, The Nature Conservancy’s partnership in SERP-1, burn permitting, smoke management and permitting, fire risk management, fire behavior, interagency coordination on prescribed burns, collaboration with private landowners on prescribed burns, the Washington State Prescribed Fire Council and the Council’s upcoming workshop, which will be held in early 2012.

### For more information, contact:

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*A tour stop on the Sinlahekin; photos were taken just before (left) and 12 days after (right) the area was treated with prescribed fire on April 14, 2011*  
Photos: Dale Swedberg

## Participants

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Washington State University – Okanogan County  
Jim Botdorff, Wildlife Biologist  
Washington Department of Natural Resources  
Emily Burt, Forester  
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Keith Guenther, Range Consultant  
Retired, USDA Forest Service  
Doug Kuehn, Forester  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Ralph Longanecker, Orchardist (Tonasket)  
with interest in fire dependent forest restoration  
Gero Mitschelen, Forester  
Retired, USDA Forest Service  
Terry Orton, Okanogan-Wenatchee Northern Transportation Zone Specialist, USDA Forest Service  
Andy Perleberg, Forester  
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The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524. *An equal opportunity provider.*

