



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

March 2012

Prescribed Fire Training Event: Bassett, Nebraska

With the support of the local volunteer fire department and neighbors, participants in an FLN prescribed fire training event in early March conducted 2,455 acres of burning in four locations near Bassett, Nebraska. The crew of 36 people included students from University of Idaho, Colorado State University, and University of California Berkeley, along with participants from Firestorm (a private company), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Metro Fire Rescue, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. They came from California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota and Utah to participate.

All participants volunteered their equipment—and in many cases, their time—in exchange for the opportunity to train and to learn from

one another. Local land managers and owners also spent a lot of time and effort preparing to host this event. They mowed control lines and moved cut cedar trees away from the edges of units so they could be safely burned. They also provided the fire crews with meals, cold drinks, snacks—and with great information on local weather, fuels and topography.

With this cooperation and preparation, these burns were very successful in meeting their management, as well as training goals. “Overall, we succeeded in killing more than 75 percent of the cedars that were less than five feet tall, including many that were hard to find in the tall grass prior to burning. In addition, we damaged or killed some of the cedar trees greater than five feet tall—these are difficult to kill with fire,” according to Jeremy Bailey.

Similar FLN training events have been conducted in this area since 2008, and are continuing in other parts of Nebraska and in Iowa through April.

Participating Organizations

Colorado State University
Firestorm, Inc.
National Park Service
South Metro Fire Rescue (Denver)
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
University of California Berkeley
University of Idaho
USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service

For more information, contact:

Jeremy Bailey

jeremy_bailey@tnc.org

photos: © Sasha Clark/UC-Berkeley



The Fire Learning Network is a cooperative program of the Forest Service, Department of the Interior agencies—Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service—and The Nature Conservancy. It has a ten-year track record of helping to restore our nation's forests and grasslands and making communities safer from fire. For more information, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524. *An equal opportunity provider.*

