

# Fire Learning Network



The FLN helps people work together to increase the capacity and social capital needed to build ecosystem and community resilience. FLN landscape collaboratives engage in a range of multi-agency, community-based projects to restore landscapes that depend on—or are susceptible to—fire. By sharing decision-making and responsibility among stakeholders, the ecological, economic and social values provided by healthy landscapes are maintained, and the negative consequences of wildfire can be reduced.

From its inception in 2002, the FLN has taken an integrated approach to fire management, drawing on a broad—and growing—range of stakeholders and disciplines. This approach is now encompassed in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, and the FLN supports the strategy's three intertwined goals: resilient landscapes, fire adapted human communities, and safe and effective wildfire response.

Some of the 31 landscape collaboratives now in the FLN—like those in Oregon—have been members from the beginning. Others—like the Sand Plain Pines—are just beginning their FLN journey. What they have in common is a commitment to an inclusive view of fire management, and to the idea that working collaboratively paves a path to sustainable success.



## FLN by the Numbers

FLNs are active in **20 states**—Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington & West Virginia — **31 landscape collaboratives**, most in one of **8 regional networks**, encompass **64.8 million acres** and engage **200+ partner groups**

## Fire Learning Network Strategies

Every FLN has its own specific challenges and opportunities. But the network's flexible strategies encourage innovation, relationship-building and knowledge transfer to help partners move their landscapes—and people—to a more resilient future:



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**Learning and leadership across local and regional scales** From regional workshops to share learning and set priorities together, to projects such as spatial fire management planning, FLN partners bring local knowledge to larger scales, cross-pollinate ideas, and improve both the practice and its scope of impact. With an explicit emphasis on mentoring, and offerings like training in facilitative leadership, the FLN is also building the next generation of leaders.



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**Adaptive management using cultural knowledge and science** Planning tools and protocols to prioritize, plan and monitor burning and other fuels treatments are developed and shared by FLN partners to improve collective outcomes. Other learning—like lessons from pilot efforts of the Burned Area Learning Network—is shared with agency and political leaders to help inform policy.



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**Building capacity through training, cooperative burning and risk management** Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges and other models of cooperative burning build relationships and capacity, and increase the effective size of the prescribed fire workforce. FLNs also embrace non-traditional burners, for example by facilitating the spread of prescribed burn associations, and address ordinances that unduly restrict burning.



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**Targeted community engagement and social learning** FLNs offer field tours and workshops that give community members and practitioners a chance to explore treatment areas together. As communities become more engaged, FLNs provide ways for them to have input on wildfire planning and management decisions.

**Leveraging efforts for greater outcomes through national network participation** Central to the FLN is a commitment to learn from and with others—through national workshops and peer exchanges, and through the web of relationships they support.

## Who We Are

The FLN is led by staff from The Nature Conservancy's North America Fire Initiative, who partner with the Watershed Research and Training Center to facilitate the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and other strategies. Design and co-management of our portfolio is supported by staff from University of California Cooperative Extension, the Conservancy's Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team and the USDA Forest Service's Landscapes and Partnerships Program.

Partners in landscape and community efforts span a full range of affiliations, from federal, state, local and tribal agencies; businesses; non-profit organizations and universities to private landowners and engaged residents. Interests are equally varied, and this diversity helps build strong, resilient networks.

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Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) is a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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