

FLN Networker No. 177: February 4, 2015

The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior (BIA, BLM, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service) and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, links and subscription requests to Liz Rank.

For more about the FLN, visit www.conservationgateway.org/fln or contact Lynn Decker.

News from the Field

Arkansas: Partners got about **300 acres** of Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (**SPER**) burning done in the **Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area** last week. (There are a couple [pictures](#) on the Arkansas Forestry Commission's Facebook—but it's a very active page, with lots of prescribed fires going on, so a long scroll down.)

California: KMUD radio aired an **hour-long interview** last week with **Will Harling**, **Nolan Colegrove**, **Josh Saxon** and **Kimberly Baker** about the effective collaborative work of the **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** and **Six Rivers National Forest**, including the **role of the FLN** in getting them where they are today. The program is in the [station's archives](#) (sort by show name; it's the January 27 episode of Environment Show; download may work better than play).

California: And from the same landscape, an [article](#) by **Will Harling** (will@mkwc.org), "Learning Together, Burning Together," is the **cover story** for the latest issue of *Wildfire Magazine*. The article nicely traces the **winding, years-long path** that led to last fall's **Klamath River TREX**.

Colorado: The **Pike's Peak FLN** met last week to finalize their **charter** and discuss potential **projects** for implementation. Among the outcomes of this workshop were:

- A commitment to **collaboratively support a broadcast burn** on the Sourdough Project near Woodland Park: This project, led by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, is very near the Forest Service's Highway 67 West project, so both the burn plan and communication and outreach plan will be developed with **both projects in mind**.
- Identification of a sub-group to develop a **communications and outreach strategy**: They will draft key messages for the larger FLN effort and recommendations for **engaging community members** and other critical partners in monitoring and field visits at the project site..

For more information, contact **Paige Lewis** (paige_lewis@tnc.org).

North Carolina: Optimal weather conditions—and **excellent preparation**—allowed **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** partners to take advantage of a somewhat **unexpected late January burn window**. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NC WRC) completed a 200-acre prescribed burn on the Needmore Game Land with help from TNC, as well as burns on both Thurmond-Chatham and South Mountains Game Lands, and on a US Forest Service Fire Surrogate Studies site at Green River Game Land. With assistance from The Nature Conservancy and the NC Forest Service, NC WRC and the US Forest Services also cooperatively burned the **1,950-acre** Lake James Unit as part of the **Grandfather Restoration Project** (CFLRP) to reduce fuels and restore fire-adapted vegetation. For more, see the attached *Notes from the Field* on this **collaborative burn**, and follow the [Grandfather project's blog](#).

National: The **semi-annual report** for our agreement was submitted last week, with more than 60 pages detailing the work of the FLN, FAC Learning Network, TREX and SPER. **Thank you to everyone** who did the work—and the paperwork—to make it all happen. **Some of the highlights** were selected and incorporated into a few pages of overview and illustrative examples. That part of the report, which includes a couple of stand-alone two-pagers about our work, is **posted** on [Conservation Gateway](#). For more information, contact **Liz Rank** (lrank@tnc.org).

Nominations: Innovative Suppression

Innovative Suppression: In an effort to recognize innovative **suppression methods** that **support the long-term viability of landscapes**, the **Southwest Fire Science Consortium** is seeking nominations for two awards—for the [incident strategy](#) of the year, and suppression tactics (individual or group). Nominations are due by **February 23** (the forms need to be downloaded before being filled in).

Resources: Quick Guides / Final Planning Directives / Networks Blog

FAC Quick Guides: The first of a series of “quick guides” to be produced by the **FAC Learning Network** is now available. The first subject to be addressed is **increasing watershed resilience**, based on the **experiences of FAC hubs** in Ashland (OR), Flagstaff (AZ), Santa Fe (NM) and the Upper South Platte watershed (CO). The guides will all be posted at <http://facnetwork.org/resources/network-quick-guides/>.

Final Planning Directives: The **Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule** is intended to provide “a collaborative and science-based framework for creating land management plans which will support ecological sustainability and contribute to rural economies.” After a process that included a great deal of public input, the final planning directives—the key set of **documents that guide implementation** of the rule—are [now available](#), effective January 30.

Networks Blog: The blog “**Connecting to Change the World**,” by Peter Plastrik (author of the book of the same name, in which the FLN is a case study) has some interesting posts on networks for social change. (A [recent post](#), about learning together by reading together, has some familiar names and faces.)

Reports & Articles: CFLRP / Beargrass / Fuel Breaks for Grouse / Review Opportunities

CFLRP: A group of researchers from the University of Michigan produced the [report](#) “Restoring Forests and Communities: **Lessons from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program**.” The in-depth report includes project summaries of each of the 13 projects that started in 2012 (including key challenges and strengths), cross-case analyses, and **recommendations** (many of which can **apply to collaborative groups more generally**).

Beargrass: The [study](#) “Forest Site Classification for Cultural Plant Harvest by Tribal Weavers Can Inform Management” merges “**traditional ecological knowledge** with **scientific ecological knowledge** to understand how different knowledge systems can apply to forest management,” using beargrass as an example.

Fuel Breaks for Grouse: A Nature Conservancy team has completed the [report](#) “**Designing Regional Fuel Breaks** to Protect **Large Remnant Tracts of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat** in Parts of Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah” for the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. The team used **GIS modelling methods** to identify general locations where fuel breaks may help protect this species from uncharacteristically large or frequent wildfires.

Review Opportunities: The latest [white paper](#) from the [Ecological Restoration Institute](#) is “**Administrative and Legal Review Opportunities for Collaborative Groups**,” which provides information about the Forest Service’s administrative and judicial review process of CFLRP projects, and opportunities for participating as a collaborative group at both levels.

For Fun: Old Books

Old Books: If the PBS program on the Big Burn has you looking back, fondly or otherwise, check out “Fire Protection in District 1,” a **1915 Forest Service publication** available through [Google Books](#).

Jobs: Rio Grande Water Fund Program Associate / Burn Crew Manager

Program Associate: The Nature Conservancy’s New Mexico chapter is hiring a program associate. Within the Sangre de Cristo focal area of the **Rio Grande Water Fund**, the program associate will take responsibility for **developing a landscape restoration strategy**, and **building a broad coalition** of partners, collaborators, supporters and funders to address forest restoration needs for communities and sustainable water supplies. For more information, see the Conservancy’s [careers page](#) (job ID #42820); applications are due by **February 20**.

Burn Crew Manager: The Nature Conservancy’s **Pennsylvania** chapter is hiring a burn crew manager. For more information, see the Conservancy [careers page](#) (job ID #42823); applications are due **March 1**.

Webinars

- January 21**
recording available **Training Exchanges from the Ground Up**
The Great Plains Fire Science Exchange hosted this webinar with **Jeremy Bailey** and **Ben Wheeler** discussing the strategy behind TREX and how to create burn units across multiple landownerships in the Great Plains.
Recording: <http://acp2.missouristate.edu/p59zv2f6lqj/>
- February 10**
new listing **Critical Fire Weather Patterns—Eastern U.S., Canada, Australia**
noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern
Paul Werth, a fire weather meteorologist with Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC, will discuss of weather elements that promote extreme fire behavior, regional critical fire weather patterns, and forecast products that are useful in determining areas at risk for extreme fire behavior. The presentation will summarize knowledge of how weather affects extreme wildland fire behavior, define the concept of critical fire weather patterns, identify the significant weather elements associated with these patterns, and identify forecast products useful in determining areas at risk for extreme fire behavior.
Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5939728202392683777>
- February 11**
new listing **Critical Fire Weather Patterns—Western U.S.**
noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern
See listing above.
Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2656400664388473089>

FLN Workshops & Field Tours

- February 17-19**
new listing **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership / Orleans, CA**
This will be a field-based workshop as the group moves from its agreements in principle to agreements in practice—actual prescriptions on the ground.
Information: **Will Harling** (will@mkwc.org)
- May 12-14**
updated **Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Morganton, NC**
Registration is now open for the 10th annual regional workshop of the SBR FLN.
Information: <http://sbrfln2015.weebly.com/>

FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- February 15-23*** **Klamath River Communities TREX / Weitchpec, CA**
This TREX, hosted by the Yurok Tribe and FLN, will provide training opportunities to local and regional fire practitioners while completing local priority burns. (The application deadline has passed.)
* Dates are tentative. To accommodate weather contingencies, participants will be fire-ready and on-call starting February 1. If the TREX needs to be moved earlier, 48-hour notice will be given to participants to mobilize in Weitchpec.
- February 15-28** **North Carolina Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Ellerbe, NC**
The North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council, Southern Blue Ridge FLN and numerous other partners will host this TREX in the sandhills and piedmont region of the state. (The application deadline has passed.)
- March 14-29** **Niobrara River Valley TREX / Ainsworth, NE**
This “spring break TREX” will integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners, including university students; municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters; and other natural resource managers, scientists and researchers. It will provide experiential learning opportunities through a series of controlled burns on The Nature Conservancy’s Niobrara Valley Preserve and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fort Niobrara NWR. (The application deadline has passed.)
- March 16-27** **Lower Loup Valley TREX / Broken Bow, NE**
This TREX will focus on about 5,000 acres of privately-owned grassland that is used for livestock production. Prescribed fire is being used to manage eastern redcedar and promote habitat for grassland-dependent species such as the greater prairie chicken. The TREX is a partnership between Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, the Fire Learning Network, and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. A grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund has provided financial resources to allow participating landowners to rest the land from grazing in order to build up fuel that will increase the effectiveness of the burns. (The application deadline has passed.)
- March 20-22** **Firing Operations on Wildland Fires TREX / Johnstown, NE**
This brief TREX, aimed primarily at officers and firefighters from rural and municipal fire departments in the Great Plains states, will focus on ignition techniques, timing and sequence of ignition patterns, and planning and briefing firing operations. (The application deadline has passed.)
- April 27 – May 6** **East River TREX—Session I / eastern SD**
May 11-20 **East River TREX—Session II / eastern SD**
(names corrected) In these TREX supported by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, The Nature Conservancy and other partners, burns will be conducted near Aberdeen, Huron, Madison and Waubay to improve wildlife habitat and range conditions, reduce the possibility of damaging wildfires and provide training and learning opportunities for participants. Applications for both sessions are due **March 2**.
Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/USFWS-TREX-2015.aspx>

- May 14-21** **Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR**
 This TREX, aimed at prescribed fire partners in the state of Oregon, will focus on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring and operational dimensions of planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire for restoration goals.
- Conferences, Workshops, Etc.
- February 10-12** **Washington Prescribed Fire Council / Leavenworth, WA**
new listing
 This conference will focus on the council's Priority Action Area #2 (training, certification and expertise exchange). Several FLN and FAC LN partners will be among the presenters.
 Information: <http://www.waprescribedfire.org/Conferences.html>
- February 17-19** **Midwest Fire Conference: Keep Fire Working for the Land / Dubuque, IA**
 This Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium conference will focus on fire in the tallgrass prairie, savanna and oak woodland region of the Midwestern United States and adjacent regions of Canada. Register by February 10.
 Information: <http://www.tposfirescience.org/mwfire15-overview/>
- March 24-26** **Wildland-Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV**
deadline
 There will be a FAC track at this IAFC conference. Early registration ends February 6.
 Information: www.iafc.org/wui
- April 20-24** **Managing Fire, Understanding Ourselves: Human Dimensions in Safety and Wildland Fire / Boise, ID**
 13th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 4th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference. Early registration ends March 2.
 Information: <https://inawf.memberclicks.net/upcoming-conferences>
- May 2** **International Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**
updated
 Various events will be taking place. Entries for the Wildfire Community Preparedness Project Awards are now being accepted.
 Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day>.
- May 5-7** **11th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology / Minneapolis, MN**
 The American Meteorological Society is hosting this conference.
 Information: <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201511fireforest.html>
- May 27-29** **5th Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference / Tuscaloosa, AL**
new listing
 Information: <http://easternfire.as.ua.edu>
- October 22-24** **Backyards & Beyond: Wildland Fire Education Conference / Myrtle Beach, SC**
 Information: <http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond>
- November 16-20** **Fire Ecology & Management Congress / San Antonio, TX**
 The call for proposals (oral & poster presentations, special sessions, workshops & trainings, attached meetings) is now open; deadlines vary.
 Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

Send News, Links & Comments

Lynn Decker – ldecker@tnc.org – Lynn is in Orleans, CA February 16-19; Ashland, OR February 20-21.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Austin, TX February 2-4; North Carolina TREX February 13-22.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is in Austin, TX February 2-5; Oklahoma February 11-13.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Klamath Mountains, CA February 16-19.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is in the office.

Guy Duffner – gduffner@tnc.org – Guy is at NC TREX February 12-March 1.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out February 5.

Note: February 16 is a Conservancy holiday.

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—KMUD archives: <http://kmud.org/programs-mainmenu-11/kmud-audio-archive.html>

News from the Field—CA—Wildfire Magazine: <http://wildfiremagazine.org/article/learning-together-burning-together/>

News from the Field—NC—Grandfather project blog: <https://grandfatherrestorationproject.wordpress.com/>

News from the Field—PERFACT report: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/PERFACT-Report-Jan-2015.aspx>

Nominations—Incident strategy:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/35f64585b7351c71937d858e9/files/SW_Innovative_Suppression_Incident_of_the_yr_FINAL.pdf

Group/individual tactics:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/35f64585b7351c71937d858e9/files/SW_Innovative_Suppression_Nomination_FINAL.pdf

Resources—Final planning directives: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule>

Resources--Networks blog: <http://connectingtochangetheworld.net/2015/01/going-together-page-by-page/>

Reports & Articles—CFLRP:

<http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/106559/CFLRP%20Masters%20Project%20Final.pdf?sequence=1>

Reports & Articles—Beargrass: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/saf/jof/2015/00000113/0000001/art00006?token=005110dd67232d45232b6d24736a4d574b66287a283568293c6c567e504f58762f46244523a4ad74c>

Reports & Articles—Fuel breaks for grouse:

<https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Pages/FuelBreakDesign-GSG-2015.aspx>

Reports & Articles--Review process: <http://library.eri.nau.edu/gsd/collect/erilibra/index/assoc/D2015006.dir/doc.pdf>

For Fun—Old books: <http://google.com/books?id=gbM1AAAAMAAJ>

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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Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field



Lake James Prescribed Burn

Grandfather Restoration Project (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program)
Central Escarpment Landscape, Southern Blue Ridge FLN January 2015

Lake James Rx Burn

Date: January 28-31, 2015

Size: 1,950 acres (about 1,720 acres USDA Forest Service; 230 acres North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission)

Location: north of Lake James Road, south of Dobson Knob

Purposes: fuel reduction, restoration of fire-adapted vegetation

Partners: North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service (Appalachian RD, Grandfather RD, Pisgah RD)

Treatment #: second entry with prescribed fire

With a window of dry weather in the last few days of January, partners on the Grandfather Restoration Project carried out a large burn at Lake James. This was a true collaborative burn, with the unit including both North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and U.S. Forest Service land, and the crew including The Nature Conservancy as well.

After a few unsuccessful tries at the end of last spring's burning season, when the weather failed to cooperate, partners hiked back up the mountain to try it again. The 1,950-acre Lake James burn was split into two sections, with an upper section of 850 acres and a lower one of 1,100 acres. There was great weather on the first day. Burning was delayed by an equipment malfunction that held up the helicopter, but another helicopter was available, allowing the completion of the upper 850-acre section. The next day, work began on the bottom portion; this was stalled shortly after noon by an unpredicted rain shower, allowing ignition on only about 50 acres. The following day had very high

winds, so the crew worked to monitor the burn, with no active firing. On the fourth day, the weather finally cleared up again for a great day of burning that allowed completion of the remaining acres.

FLN monitoring plots had been installed in this unit by Forest Stewards and Western Carolina University, who will also collect the post-burn data next year. Partners are particularly looking forward to seeing the results, since this was the second time the unit has been burned, and the effects of multiple burns within a single unit on the Grandfather District are of great interest.

Smoke monitoring is part of the Grandfather project's smoke management program, and on this burn mobile smoke monitoring stations were deployed for the first time. Grandfather District staff are assessing the information and will share through a blog post on <https://grandfatherrestorationproject.wordpress.com>.



Photos: TNC/Adam Warwick (above),
USFS/Lisa Jennings (top of page)

For more information, contact:

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The Fire Learning Network (FLN) is part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact [Lynn Decker ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:Lynn.Decker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524.



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