

FLN Networker No. 292: December 31, 2019

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.

News from the Field

California: The [storymap](#) “Fire Management in the Klamath: The **National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy in Action** in Northwestern California” gives a brief history of fire management in the country, before taking a deep dive into how current policy is being applied in the Klamath Mountains, with the **Klamath TREX** as the centerpiece of those efforts.

Georgia: The **annual workshop** of the **Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains FLN** landscape drew **43 people** from the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (State Parks Division), Georgia Forest Watch, Georgia Forestry Commission, MountainTrue, The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Forest Service (Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest), as well as private landowners and residents of multiple Firewise USA™ sites. Presentation highlights included research by **Katie Harris** (North Carolina Forest Service) on the **effects of prescribed fire on box turtles**, and an **opportunity for partners to share plans** for prescribed burning in 2020.

Participants in an afternoon hike visited a site at the nearby **Smithgall Woods State Park** where **pitch pine and table mountain pine** have been discovered. Georgia DNR personnel are **considering a 40-acre burn** in this area to create better woodland habitat and to enhance the efforts to regenerate these pine species. According to co-lead **Mike Davis** (mike.a.davis@usda.gov), this is “a perfect example of **how the local FLN works**. Great learning and networking opportunities along with brainstorming and problem-solving discussions in the field took place during this workshop.” Participants pledged to work together with state park officials to help support this meaningful project.

Oregon: A win for **Bend and Deschutes County**, with the **first smoke management plan approved** under a new state rule that allows more latitude in air quality to accomplish much-needed prescribed burning. For more, see the *Bend Bulletin* [editorial](#) “Important Bend **Victory for Wildfire Protection**.” (For background, see the 2018 **FAC Net** [blog post](#) “How Do You Want Your Smoke? Why Oregon Is Exploring a New Smoke Management Plan” by Ed Keith).

FLN / FAC Net: A recent [article](#) in *Fire*, “Exposure Complexity and **Community Capacity to Manage Wildfire Risk**: A Coupled Biophysical and Social Analysis of 60 Communities in the Western United States” (Nielsen-Pincus, Evers and Ager), calls out **learning networks**—including the **FLN** and **FAC Net**—as “an **important strategy** for policymakers to increase local capacity.”

WTREX: There’s a [brief post](#) about **Women-in-Fire TREX** on *Wildfire Today*. (While the application deadline for the spring 2020 WTREX has passed, check out the **numerous other spring TREX** on the [Upcoming TREX page](#) on the Conservation Gateway.)

Resources: Values Mapping / PODs

Values Mapping: **IFTDSS** has added a [new interface](#) to help with **mapping highly valued resources or assets** (HVRAs). This mapping is a key part of completing an exposure analysis and risk assessment (currently under development).

PODs: The [report](#) “**Collaboratively Engaging Stakeholders to Develop Potential Operational Delineations**” from the **Colorado Forest Restoration Institute** gives a good introduction to this new wildfire management planning tool, including a section on **frequently asked questions** and **lessons learned**. “PODs are a strategic planning tool developed using a combination of **local expertise and advanced spatial analysis**. They identify the safest and most effective control lines used to contain a wildfire and can assist in integrating land management objectives and incident response.” For more information about this **FLN-supported** work, contact **Mike Caggiano** (michael.caggiano@colostate.edu).

Articles & Reports: Carbon Sequestration / Climate Vulnerability

Carbon Sequestration: The authors of the *Journal of Forestry* [article](#) “Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration and Climate Adaptation” lay out a **menu of adaptation strategies and approaches**. The tactics are not treated in depth, but the breadth of the list makes it a useful starting point.

Climate Vulnerability: The **Rocky Mountain Research Station** has released the [general technical report](#) “User Guide to the FireCLIME Vulnerability Assessment (VA) Tool: A Rapid and Flexible System for **Assessing Ecosystem Vulnerability to Climate-Fire Interactions**.” [FireCLIME VA](#) is designed to allow a flexible array of inputs to explore a range of scenarios and management strategies

Reflections: Photos / 2019 in Review

Photos: The **Association for Fire Ecology** has [posted](#) its 2019 **photo contest winners**. (Congratulations to TREX coach / Great Plains FLN co-lead **Ben Wheeler** for his “Prairie Fire” photo.)

2019 in Review: In the last **FAC Net** [blog post](#) of 2019, **Michelle Medley-Daniel** reflected on the year—and shared her **three touchstone questions**: How are we responding to opportunities, evolution and change? How are we reducing risk and increasing resilience? How are we sharing ownership and responsibility for fire?

Jobs: Wildland Fire Crew / Burn Crew Leaders / Fire Extension Program

Wildland Fire Crew: The **City of Flagstaff** is filling **up to 13 squad boss and crewmember positions** on a wildland fire crew; the work includes thinning, suppression and prescribed fire operations. A single announcement ([job ID 155-19](#)) on the city’s jobs page covers all the positions; apply by **January 3**.

Burn Crew Leader: The **Nature Conservancy’s North Carolina** chapter is seeking a leader for its **Southern Blue Ridge Burn Crew**. Two crew leaders work together to oversee logistics and coordination for a **20-person as-needed fire crew** on prescribed burns in support of **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** partners. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 48290](#)); applications are due by **January 10**. (As always, current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Burn Crew Leader: The **Nature Conservancy’s Alabama** chapter is seeking a leader for a crew that works almost entirely with the Forest Service on the Talladega NF, and is expected to work on 20,000 acres of prescribed fire this season. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 47928](#)); applications are due by **January 11**. (As always, current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Fire Extension Program: **Oregon State University** is seeking candidates to fill **two positions** in its new Fire Extension Program—a **program manager** to manage day-to-day operations, and an **assistant or associate professor** faculty position to focus on program development and delivery in wildland fire science and management. The positions will add capacity particularly for work on private lands exposed to wildfire risks, and will benefit all lands projects by integrating work in a cohesive strategy. For details, see the university’s jobs site (program manager [posting #P03454UF](#); faculty position [#P03443UF](#)). Applications will be accepted through January 30; apply by **January 17** for full consideration.

Webinar

January 30
new listing

Air Quality 101: Essential Concepts and Tools for Prescribed Burners

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

This webinar hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange will feature presenters from the EPA and state agencies in the Southeast.

Registration: https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fkXVk0orTXOQK7loXirVww
(Recordings of previous SFE webinars can be found on their [YouTube channel](#).)

Network Workshops & Field Tours

May 19-21

Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Dillard, GA

Save the date for this regional FLN workshop hosted by the Balsam-Nantahala landscape.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES)

February 8-15*
new listing

Yurok TRES / Weitchpec, CA

See the [announcement](#) for details; [applications](#) are due by January 24.

* target dates—may need to be adjusted, depending on the weather

March 12-20
updated

Alto Minho TRES / Porto, Portugal

Save the date—details will be available in mid-January.

March 21-April 3

Niobrara Valley Preserve TRES / Johnstown, NE

See the [announcement](#) for details; applications are due by January 30.

March 22-April 4

Loup TRES / Central NE

See the [announcement](#) for details; [applications](#) are due by February 7.

March 30-April 10

Women-in-Fire TRES (WTRES) / Southeastern VA

The deadline for this TRES has passed.

April 27-May 8

Central Oregon TRES / Central OR

[Save the date](#), and watch for details and application materials in January.

April 27-May 8

Ashland TRES / Southwestern OR

[Save the date](#), and watch for details and application materials in January.

May 4-17
updated

Northwoods TRES / Minnesota

[Save the date](#), and watch for details and application materials about February 1.

Oct. 26-Nov. 6
new listing

Southern Blue Ridge TRES / Pickens, SC

Save the date for the next SBR TRES; application materials will be available in May.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

February 4-5

Burning Big! Large Burn Implementation in the Central Appalachians / Staunton, VA

The **Heart of the Appalachians FLN** landscape is hosting this multidisciplinary workshop, with lively discussion, skill-building and sim table exercises.

Register: <https://forms.gle/riGjvwk5DBBzEYEN6>

- February 25-26** **Mitigation Best Practices / Boise, ID**
February 27-28 **Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) / Boise, ID**
 Coalitions & Collaboratives (COCO) and the U.S. Forest Service are co-hosting this Wildfire Mitigation Academy at the National Interagency Fire Center. The first session is for current or future mitigation specialists, and the CMAT session is intended for potential CMAT trainees and team members. Register by January 24. Information: <https://co-co.org/get-involved/events/>
- March 2-4** **Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop / Albuquerque, NM**
new listing The Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERI) is hosting this workshop to advance all-lands forestry in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and surrounding states.
 Information: <https://sweri.eri.nau.edu/cross-boundary-landscape-restoration-workshop/>
- April 6-8** **After the Flames / Tahoe, CA**
 This conference has two tracks—one for property owners, community leaders, and agencies responding to fire, and another providing technical information for scientists, engineers, trainers and consultants.
 Information: <https://aftertheflames.com/>
- April 15-16** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Grand Junction, CO**
 Fire Adapted Colorado is presenting this conference focused on “Discover Your Role: Reducing Wildland Fire Risk.”
 Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>
- April 20-24** **3rd International Smoke Symposium / Raleigh, NC and Davis, CA**
 Presented by International Association of Wildland Fire in partnership with NWCG Smoke Committee and the UC-Davis Air Quality Research Center, the symposium will have based in Raleigh, with a [satellite location at UC-Davis](#).
 Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/3rd-international-smoke-symposium/>

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Send News, Links & Comments

- Emily Hohman** – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is in the office.
Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out December 23-January 3.
Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is out January 3-10.
Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in New York January 13-16.
Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Denver January 22-23.
Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out December 23-January 3.
Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out January 2 and January 10.

Note: January 1 and January 20 are Conservancy holidays.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA:

<http://ucanr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=c18495a3a2894a8a9686ca65a7b1447c>

News from the Field—OR—Editorial: https://www.bendbulletin.com/opinion/editorial-important-bend-victory-for-wildfire-protection/article_86834dc4-1b73-11ea-881e-63c8d354ae50.html

Blog post: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/why-oregon-is-changing-how-it-manages-smoke/>

News from the Field—FLN / FAC Net: <https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/2/4/59/htm>

News from the Field—WTREX: https://wildfiretoday.com/2019/12/18/wtrex-provides-prescribed-fire-training-for-women/?fbclid=IwAR3jq_R5fgkRau052Qd9Rjt060frmj4pcbS9vcYt45v9HFSCOopfX95bbjw

Resources—PODs: <https://cfri.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/08/PODs-Collaborative-Engagement-White-Paper-FINAL.pdf>

Resources—Values mapping: https://iftdss.firenet.gov/landing_page/

Articles & Reports—Carbon sequestration: https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2019/nrs_2019_ontl_001.pdf

Articles & Reports—Climate vulnerability—User guide: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_series/rmrs/gtr/rmrs_gtr395.pdf
FireCLIME VA: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/documents-and-media/fireclime-tool>

Reflections—Photos: <https://fireecology.org/resources/Documents/2019%20Photo%20Contest%20Winners.pdf>

Reflections—2019: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/2019-year-in-review/>

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>

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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