

FLN Networker No. 304: September 16, 2020

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.

To our colleagues in the western U.S. whose personal and professional lives have been significantly impacted by the recent wildfires, our thoughts are with you. And for those of you threatened by storms in the Southeast and Caribbean, stay safe.

News from the Field

California: **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** (lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu) is one of the experts interviewed in the *Christian Science Monitor* [article](#) "What Should Wildfire Prevention Look Like? **Three Experts Urge Action.**" (The headline notwithstanding, none of the experts speak of "preventing" all wildfire.)

Georgia: A **butterfly survey** was conducted at sites in the **Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains landscape** as part of an official national butterfly count sponsored by the **North American Butterfly Association**. Landscape co-lead **Phil Delestrez** (phil.delestrez@dnr.ga.gov) reported counting nine **Diana fritillaries**—a **rare and declining species** that he had only seen two individuals of in the previous 20 years of counts. He noted that the best butterfly spots "were certainly where **fire has opened up large tracts of land** on USFS/DNR-WMA land. Certainly the diversity of flowering plants (esp joe-pye weed) in the understory is very important. Habitat is spectacular up there!" (Check out the [photos](#).)

Oregon: Earlier this summer, staff from The Nature Conservancy completed the "**Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration** Supplement to the 2005 Scott and Burgan Standard **Fuel Model Photo Guide**" (Perchemlides, Metlen and Duwal). The [guide](#) is intended to provide a supplement to that earlier work, with **examples centered on the watershed for the City of Ashland**. In the spirit of learning networks, the guide has been shared with the California Klamath-Siskiyou and Klamath Mountains FLNs, who work in similar fuel models. For more about the Ashland landscape, contact **Darren Borgias** (dborgias@tnc.org); for more about the guide, contact **Kerry Metlen** (kmetlen@tnc.org).

IPBN: **Don Hankins**, a member of the IPBN leadership team, was interviewed for the [story](#) "California and Australia **Look to Indigenous Land Management for Fire Help**" on PRI's *The World*.

Input Requested: PPE Survey / LANDFIRE Data

PPE Survey: **Dr. Meredith McQuerry** (Florida State University) is conducting "a research study to collect feedback from **female firefighters** regarding the **design, fit, and mobility** of their personal protective clothing.... to obtain data on the end **user's experience and impact** from wearing their current turnout suit and wildland personal protective clothing, related to **improper fit**. Responses will be anonymously coded and synthesized to determine the overarching impacts and issues related to the current design and functionality of female firefighter personal protective clothing." Take the [survey](#).

LANDFIRE Data: The LANDFIRE project has put out a call for **four types of data**: disturbance or **treatment polygons**, **Lidar** data, **vegetation and fuel plot** data, and **invasive species** data. See their [reference data page](#) for full details.

Funding: Mitigation

Mitigation: **Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc.** has announced a new round of funding through its **Action, Implementation and Mitigation grant program**. The request for proposals and pre-application are available on the [COCO website](#); a [webinar](#) about the opportunity will take place on September 17.

Resources: Preparedness / COVID-19 Risk Assessment / Indoor Air Quality / 10 & 18 / LANDFIRE Remap / Mental Health

Preparedness: **Porfirio Chavarria** (pnchavarria@santafenm.gov) shared **six ways to get started** on wildfire preparedness on the NPR [podcast](#) “Life Kit.”

More Preparedness: The site www.ready.gov has links to **lots of preparedness information**, broken out into four **manageable steps** for National Preparedness Month—make a plan, build a kit, prepare for disasters, and teach youth about preparedness.

COVID-19 Risk Assessment: The **Rocky Mountain Research Station** has posted a COVID-19 Incident Risk Assessment Tool to help fire managers assess COVID-19 **risk in fire camp at the incident level**. An [overview](#) is in the RMRS tools library, and the tool can be accessed through the COVID Camp Assessment [Dashboard](#).

Indoor Air Quality: The **Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency** and **Washington Department of Health** have produced **three short videos** on managing air quality from wildfire smoke—an [overview](#), [reducing smoke particles](#) throughout the home, and setting up a [clean air room](#). The **Colville Tribes** Air Quality Program has a [video](#) on how to make an **indoor air filter** from a **box fan** if a HEPA device is not available. (Note: the DIY version should not be left to run unattended.) For a **map of smoke plumes** and air quality sensors, visit <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.

Mitigation: **FEMA** has a new [collection of guides](#), “Connecting Mitigation and—” a **variety of topics**, including equity, electric power, municipal financing, and transportation.

10 & 18: NWCG has **new graphics** for the 10 standard firefighting orders and the 18 watch out situations. From their [website](#), you can order a **36x24” poster**, or download **zip files with the individual panels**. Both poster and downloads are available in **English or Spanish**. (Also now [available in Spanish](#) are the **IRPG** and medical incident report form (**ICS 206 WF**).)

LANDFIRE Remap: This summer LANDFIRE released the **most significant upgrade** in its 15-year history, with a [Remap](#) for the conterminous U.S. This release includes new national **vegetation and fuels base maps**, based on conditions circa 2016 (updated from conditions circa 2001). The USGS website has a good [article](#) about the **improvements and benefits** of the Remap.

Mental Health: **NWCG** has shared a number of resources to mark **Suicide Prevention Month**, including the “Come Together for Suicide Prevention” [one-pager](#). Of particular importance is the reminder that you don’t have to be suicidal to call the lifeline (1-800-273-8255)—you can call before it’s gotten to a crisis point, or if you need some guidance for helping someone else who you think may be suicidal or in a crisis.

Articles & Reports: Hummingbirds / WUI / Water Yield

Hummingbirds: “While a number of studies have addressed avian responses to fire, fuel reduction, thinning, and other restoration practices ... virtually none have focused on hummingbirds.” The Rocky Mountain Research Station [general technical report](#) “**Effects of Fire and Restoration** on Habitats and Populations of Western Hummingbirds: A Literature Review” compiles available data, along with management implications, for **seven species** that rely on **habitats in the West**.

WUI: The methods described in the [piece](#) “**Reclassifying the Wildland–Urban Interface Using Fire Occurrences** for the United States” in the journal *Land* yield greater WUI acreage than the SILVIS WUI layers that are the standard for the coterminous U.S. “Implications of WUI reclassification include **more communities** identified with exposure to fire.”

Water Yield: The August [issue](#) of the Rocky Mountain Research Station's *Science You Can Use*, "Watering the Forests for the Trees: Water Yield and Changes in Forest Cover" **summarizes a synthesis** of research on the **effect of forest disturbance** on water yield. "Although some studies observed post-disturbance increases in water yield, as expected, in many cases water yield did not change or even decreased."

Podcasts: Living With Fire / Hot and Dry / World on Fire / Fire Ecology Chats

Living With Fire: The first two episodes of the excellent new [podcast](#) by **writer and wildland firefighter Amanda Monthei** feature **Jeremy Bailey** and **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** giving good overviews of **TREX** and **WTREX**, respectively. Stephen Pyne headlines her third episode.

Hot and Dry: This [podcast](#), hosted by **Cally Carswell** and **Collin Haffey** (collin.haffey@tnc.org), explores how **climate change is transforming the Southwest**. In the July 28 episode, "Watersheds and Water Funds," **Laura McCarthy** and **Bill Armstrong** talk about restoring the municipal watershed of Santa Fe and the founding of the **Rio Grande Water Fund**, and in the September 10 episode, **Jeremy Bailey** and **Pepe Iniguez** talk about how **prescribed fire** can create a pathway to living with fire.

World on Fire: This five-part [podcast](#) from CBC Edmonton goes to the front lines of fires in Canada, Australia and California, and "look at what it takes to find **hope in the midst of fear**."

Fire Ecology Chats: The first three episodes in this [podcast](#) from the **Association for Fire Ecology** cover **prescribed fire science**, the potential effects of **changing climate and fire regimes** on Pacific Northwest forests, **whitebark pine encroachment** into sagebrush grasslands in Montana, and **incorporating traditional knowledge** into fuels treatments.

Jobs: Burn Crews / Rx Fire Specialist / Fellowships

Burn Crews—North Carolina: **The Nature Conservancy** is filling positions on **two seasonal prescribed fire crews** in North Carolina. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page—for **Sandhills Burn Crew** (crew manager, [job ID 48959](#); assistant crew manager, [job ID 48960](#); crew member, [job ID 48961](#)), and the **Coastal Burn Crew** (crew manager, [job ID 48962](#); crew member, [job ID 48963](#)). Applications for all positions are due **September 18**. (Current employees should apply through PeopleSoft.)

Rx Fire Specialist: The **North Carolina** chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is also seeking a **Southern Blue Ridge prescribed fire specialist** on an **as-needed basis** to write and review burn plans, implement burn plans and serve as firing boss. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 48982](#)) applications are due by **September 26**. (Current employees, apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Fellowship: The **Illinois** chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** is offering a **Women in Fire Fellowship** through an interagency partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 48990](#)); applications are due by **September 29**. (Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Fellowship: A **Hubbard Fellowship** with **The Nature Conservancy's** Nebraska chapter is designed for **recent college graduates**, to bridge "the gap between school and career by providing a comprehensive range of experiences with a conservation organization." The wide range of duties includes prescribed fire. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 48970](#)); applications are due by **September 30**.

Burn Crew—Arkansas: The Nature Conservancy is filling **crew leader** and **fire management technician** positions in Arkansas. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page (crew leader, [job ID 48983](#); technician, [job ID 48985](#)). Applications for all positions are due **October 23**. (Current employees should apply through PeopleSoft ([crew lead](#); [technician](#)).)

Webinars

- September 17** **Insights for Resilient Forest Landscapes in the Rogue Basin of Southwestern Oregon**
noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern
Kerry Metlen will be the presenter for this webinar from the Forest Stewards Guild.
Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdOqprz8oH9QsBx9RsTGWspiBVHXqD80X>
- September 29**
new listing **Assessing Firesheds for Prioritization, Planning and Investment**
noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern
Alan Alger will be the presenter for this webinar in the Living with Wildland Fire Virtual Learning series from the Western Region of the Wildland Fire Learnership Council.
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uC2YzdJaS6-DOfj426O0-Q
- October 12** **Inclusivity in Cooperative Extension Programming, With an Emphasis on Natural Resources and Climate Change**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Matthew L. Richardson and Elgloria Harrison will be the presenters for this webinar sponsored by USDA NRCS Conservation Webinars.
Details: <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/inclusivity-in-cooperative-extension-programming-with-an-emphasis-on-natural-resources-and-climate-change/?sr=wp~upcoming>
- November 19**
new listing **Pairing Historical Fire Regimes with Silviculture**
9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern
This is the first in the “Fueling Discussions” series of panel discussions hosted by the USFS Northern Research Station and members of the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network. There is an opportunity to submit questions for the panel on the registration form.
Details: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/fuelingcollaboration>
- December 17**
new listing **Using Fire Seasonality to Open the Burn Window**
9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern
This is the second in the “Fueling Discussions” series of panel discussions hosted by the USFS Northern Research Station and members of the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network. Details: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/fuelingcollaboration>
- January 21, 2021**
new listing **Fire and Climate Change**
9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern
This is the third in the “Fueling Discussions” series of panel discussions hosted by the USFS Northern Research Station and members of the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network. Details: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/fuelingcollaboration>

February 18
new listing

Timber Management and Prescribed Fire

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern

This is the final installment of the “Fueling Discussions” series of panel discussions hosted by the USFS Northern Research Station and members of the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network. Details: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/fuelingcollaboration>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

October 3-11

Klamath River TREX / Northern CA

This TREX will be scaled down; participants are being recruited locally.

Oct. 19-Nov. 2

Flagstaff TREX / Flagstaff, AZ

This TREX will be scaled down; participants are being recruited locally.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

recording
new listing

Virtual Upland Hardwood Workshop

Recordings and session summaries from this four-day training hosted by the Southern Research Station in July are now available. If you're pressed for time, Central Blue Ridge Escarpment FLN landscape lead Adam Warwick (awarwick@tnc.org) particularly recommends the talks by Dan Dey, Craig Harper and Callie Schweitzer.

Information and links: <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/uplandhardwood/courses-and-webinars/virtual-workshop/#course>

September 14-17
new listing

National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference / online

Details: <https://sites.google.com/view/2020-nticc-itep/home>

September 30
new listing

Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / online

Save the date for the annual statewide meeting. Governor Brian Kemp and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue will be among the speakers.

Information: <https://gatrees.org/virtual-meeting-brings-together-prescribed-fire-proponents/>

Sept. 30-Oct.1

Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / online

Organizers have changed this conference to a virtual format. “Discover Your Role” through a variety of presentations. Networking events, exhibit/sponsor hubs, posters on FAC support around the state, and an interactive statewide strategy session on CWPPs will also be available.

Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>

October 2
updated

Florida Prescribed Fire Councils / online

See the agenda for the joint meeting of the North, Central and South Florida councils: <https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/93607/file/prescribed-fire-council-agenda-october-2020.pdf>

Register: https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CA8pBfjpTr6lQp0MKRMfDg

October 7

Glades, Quail and Prescribed Fire / online

This workshop is co-hosted by the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and The Nature Conservancy.

Register: <https://oakfirescience.com/events/glades-quail-and-prescribed-fire-workshop-in-arkansas/>

- October 13-16**
new listing **Natural Areas Conference / online**
The conference will explore “Sierra to Sagebrush: Integrating Management and Stewardship Across Landscapes.” Lenya Quinn-Davidson is among the plenary speakers.
Information: https://www.naturalareas.org/reno_2020.php
- October 20-21** **Fire Ecology Across Boundaries: Connecting Science and Management / online**
This two-day webinar series will serve as a prelude to the full conference, which has been postponed until 2021.
Information: <http://fireacrossboundaries.org/>
- October 20-23** **13th Biennial Longleaf Conference / online**
Information: <https://www.longleafconference.com/>
- October 28**
new listing **The Cohesive Strategy in 2020: Dynamic Adaptation in a Novel World / online**
The 4th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy workshop will be held online. Organizers are currently accepting suggestions for topics to be covered.
Register: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/4th-national-cohesive-wildland-fire-management-strategy-virtual-workshop/>
- November 2-6** **WUI 2020 / online**
Information: <https://www.iafc.org/events/wui/>

Send News, Links & Comments

- Emily Hohman** – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is out through September 25.
- Heather Montanye** – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out September 17-18.
- Jeremy Bailey** – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in the office.
- Marek Smith** – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is out September 21-25; in meetings September 28-30.
- Mary Huffman** – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is out September 18.
- Wendy Fulks** – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out September 16-28.
- Liz Rank** (editor) – lrank@tnc.org – Liz is out September 17, 24 and October 1.

Full Links

- News from the Field—CA: <https://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2020/0824/What-should-wildfire-prevention-look-like-Three-experts-urge-action>
- News from the Field—GA: https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNDIng94Ca7Ihjbv890RPHo9OuXLEKyNxayE5SoulOcf0t8wgK_iZi9xJaFpq_Ww?key=UHBObktEMUVWZS1yZUtweDRySWZNREIsbGRHUHJn
- News from the Field—OR: <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/a7f9a0klr9o9rk415k57ad18gd7skbv>
- News from the Field—IPBN: <https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-09-01/california-and-australia-look-indigenous-land-management-fire-help>
- Input Requested—PPE survey: https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9AXBnlbvRPPxsZD
- Input Requested—LANDFIRE data: https://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata.php
- Funding—Mitigation—COCO website: <https://co-co.org/get-involved/grants/aim-grant/>
Webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8759088268206345744>

Resources—COVID risk assessment—Overview: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/tools/covid-19-fire-incident-specific-risk-assessment-tool>
Dashboard: https://covid-camp-sim.shinyapps.io/covid_fire_dashboard/

Resources—Indoor air quality—Video 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNcx-YOoKog>
Video 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oMPjcyynhs
Video 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_zOAJi4_CM&feature=youtu.be
DIY air filter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukyF2xm8cws&feature=youtu.be>

Resources—Preparedness: <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/11/911887001/6-ways-to-get-ready-for-a-wildfire>

Resources—More preparedness: <https://www.ready.gov/september>

Resources—Mitigation: <https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-2/guides-expanding-mitigation>

Resources—10 & 18: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms110-18>
More in Spanish: <https://us15.campaign-archive.com/?u=f6ef65083afb95841916d1a7f&id=2dac40959a>

Resources—LANDFIRE Remap: https://www.landfire.gov/lf_remap.php
USGS article: https://www.usgs.gov/center-news/landfire-remap-marks-major-improvements-essential-resource-management-dataset?qt-news_science_products=1#qt-news_science_products

Resources—Mental health: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee/docs/mhsc-sa-suicide-prevention-2020.pdf>

Articles & Reports—Hummingbirds: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_series/rmrs/gtr/rmrs_gtr408.pdf

Articles & Reports—WUI: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2020/rmrs_2020_hanberry_b005.pdf

Articles & Reports—Water yield: https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/sycu_5_goeking_08062020.pdf

Podcasts—Living With Fire: <https://podcasts.apple.com/podcast/id1527843633>

Podcasts—Hot and Dry: <https://hot-and-dry-podcast.simplecast.com/>

Podcasts—World on Fire: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcasts/world-on-fire/index.html>

Podcasts—Fire Ecology Chats: <https://fireecology.org/feco-podcast/>

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>

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