



## Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

# Allegheny Highlands FLN Hosts The Nature Conservancy Fire Managers & Burn Boss Meeting

Warm Springs, Virginia

November 2013

The Allegheny Highlands FLN hosted 70 staff from around the country at the Conservancy's annual Fire Managers and Burn Boss Workshop. For three days, participants engaged in discussions on a wide range of topics, including leadership skills, fire policy, the organization's history of fire management, and funding for fire management.

The FLN—locally and nationally—contributed much to the discussions on communications, collaboration and partnerships, and training opportunities. Wendy Fulks and Jeremy Bailey were part of a panel discussion on working with other fire networks, introducing the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network to the group, and talking

about the Fire Learning Network, prescribed fire training exchanges and prescribed fire councils. Many attendees expressed an intention of following up with them to see how they might incorporate the training, fire adapted communities, or both in their work.

Marek Smith gave an overview of the partnership work in the Allegheny Highlands, which served as an introduction to the field trip. The field tour of the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project, organized by Nikole Swaney, was described by several people as the best TNC field trip they'd been on. It included four working stops, covering an overview of the preserve, an introduction to fire in montane pine barrens and the FLN work

there, benefits and challenges to landscape-scale burning, a review of the Big Wilson Burn, and the Forest-wide monitoring program. Participants were also able to interact with a number of partners on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, and heard great support for the partnership's work from Forest Supervisor Tom Speaks. The outing closed with a social hour a short walk from the Mare Run burn unit, where participants could explore the effects of burns conducted in 2009 and 2013. A packet of maps and monitoring information provided excellent supporting information for this tour.



Sam Lindblom, who was the local lead in delivering this outstanding workshop, leads a discussion during a field tour of the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project.

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The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524.



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