

# FLN Networker No. 283: June 26, 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](http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln) or contact Marek Smith.

## News from the Field

**Arizona:** The **Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project** has a new half-hour [documentary](#) exploring the project's history and ongoing work. Uniquely, the project is **funded by a voter-approved tax** that supports work on federal land, much of which lies outside the city boundary but is critical to **protect the community's water supply** and its natural surroundings.

**Georgia:** Participants from the Atlanta Botanical Society, Georgia Botanical Society, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Parks), Georgia Forestry Commission, The Nature Conservancy and the Forest Service, along with a staff member from U.S. Representative Doug Collins' office, took part in the **Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains** landscape's **annual summer field tour**. Visiting Tallulah Gorge State Park, they saw how the **cooperative burning** conducted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service is enhancing and restoring state- and federally-listed species and declining habitats such as Table Mountain pine stands. They also learned about the highly successful **collaborative communication and outreach process** being used for the prescribed burning. Discussions also brought up **new ideas concerning future burning** in the landscape. For more, contact **Mike Davis** ([mike.a.davis@usda.gov](mailto:mike.a.davis@usda.gov)).

**New Mexico: Fire Adapted New Mexico** is helping northern New Mexico residents cope with smoke from wildfire and prescribed fires alike by **helping people manage their own smoke exposure** by [sharing information](#) and piloting a **HEPA filter loan program**. As part of that pilot, the El Rito Ranger District of the Carson NF took on a few filters this spring, along with the responsibility for loaning them out as needed. The **Gurule Fire** now burning in the district is being managed to reduce fuel, improve rangeland and forest health, and protect watershed and cultural resources—and the [daily updates](#) invite people with respiratory issues to learn about the filter loan program. For more, contact **Sam Berry** ([sam@forestguild.org](mailto:sam@forestguild.org)).

**Oregon:** Check out the attached *Notes from the Field* for highlights from the **Ashland TREX** and its **connections to other work** in the area, including the **Ashland Forest Resiliency** Stewardship Project and ongoing **community engagement** efforts.

**South Carolina:** *Clemson World Magazine* has a great [profile](#) of **Helen Mohr** ([helen@cafms.org](mailto:helen@cafms.org)) and the university's **Fire Tigers program**. The program, which she founded and leads, is helping grow the **next generation of great fire leaders** through mentoring and opportunities for on-the-ground experience.

**Virginia / West Virginia:** The **Heart of the Appalachians Monitoring Working Group** hosted its seventh annual **Plant Identification and Forest Structure and Composition Protocol Refresher** workshop last week. More than **30 participants** from five agencies and organizations in the two states gathered to practice woody plant identification; this ongoing training and coordination ensures consistent data collection across the more than **500 monitoring plots**. See the [Central Appalachians Conservation Gateway](#) page for **newly updated data sheets and protocols**, along with recorded webinars about the decade-long monitoring efforts.

**Virginia:** The ninth season of **monitoring avian response** to long-term landscape-scale burning in the **Allegheny Highlands** wrapped up this month. Preliminary results show an **increase in species diversity** and an **increase in individuals associated with early successional habitat**. Further analysis will look into responses of individual species or guilds to management and the complementary forest structure and composition data.

**Washington:** **Reese Lolley** ([rlolley@tnc.org](mailto:rlolley@tnc.org)), **Frank Lake** ([flake@fs.fed.us](mailto:flake@fs.fed.us)) and footage from a **Cascadia TREX** burn near Roslyn **help tell the story** in an engaging [video](#) from [grist.org](http://grist.org) headlined, “We’ve spent 100 years growing a tinderbox across the West. Now it’s wildfire season.” In spite of the title, the video talks about some solutions, particularly the millennia-old Native American practice of **controlled burning**.

## Resources: Posters / Weather Meters / LANDFIRE

**Posters:** If you want your poster to stand out (and actually convey information), **less is more**. Check out the new format featured in the [NPR story](#) “To Save The Science Poster, Researchers Want To Kill It And Start Over.”

**Weather Meters:** The 2019 **NWCG Standards for Fire Weather Stations** ([PMS 426-3](#)) has standards for **electronic pocket weather meters** (like Kestrels), so these can now be used instead of belt weather kits on wildfires and prescribed burns—as long as your device meets the standards.

**LANDFIRE:** Spring 2019 **MoD-FIS provisional products** for the Great Basin and Southwest regions of the U.S. have been released, and Remap products will be released by the end of June. For more on MoD-FIS, visit <https://landfire.gov/modfis.php>.

## Articles & Reports: Bees / Western US Rx / Post-Fire Forest Changes / 2018 Season

**Bees:** The [article](#) “Wild Bee **Diversity Increases With Local Fire Severity** in a Fire-Prone Landscape” is based on surveys completed three and four years post-fire in the perimeter of the Douglas Fire Complex in **southern Oregon**. The effects were not small.

**Western US Rx:** “We’re **Not Doing Enough Prescribed Fire** in the Western United States to Mitigate Wildfire Risk” isn’t exactly news, but the [article](#) has some **good data, charts and discussion**. (Spoiler: essentially all of the increase in prescribed burning in the U.S. over the last 20 years has been in the Southern GACC.)

**Post-Fire Forest Changes:** The **Ecological Restoration Institute** [fact sheet](#) “Changes in Forest Dynamics **15 Years After a Wildfire** in a Mountainous Ecotone, Arizona, USA” gives a brief summary of the changes following the 2001 Leroux Fire, which was followed by a period of **higher than average temperature and drought**.

**2018 Season:** The **Ecological Restoration Institute** and **Southwest Fire Science Consortium** have published their **sixth annual Southwest fire season overview**. The [document](#) describes each of the 13 largest fires in Arizona and New Mexico—all fires greater than 8,000 acres in the Southwest region—including fire management costs, previous burn footprints, vegetation types affected and burn severity, where available. These [overviews allow comparisons between fire seasons](#); for example, in the largest wildfires of 2018, far more acres of grassland and ponderosa pine burned than in those of 2017, while fewer acres of pinyon-juniper, conifer-oak, chaparral and scrub burned.

## Essay: What Is Good Fire?

**What Is Good Fire:** In her FAC Net [blog post](#) “Finding Good Fire,” **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** ([lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu](mailto:lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu)) talks about what makes “good fire”—the importance of **process and context**, rather than relying solely on measures like burn intensity or fire effects.

## Video: 360° Fire

**360° Fire:** The National Fire Research Laboratory used a **prototype camera system** to film a prescribed burn conducted by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service, U.S. Forest Service and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. While the [video](#) is running, you can **drag your cursor to “look around”** in all directions as the flame front approaches and passes over the camera.

## Jobs: AmeriCorps Rx Training / Assistant Director

**AmeriCorps Rx Training:** The **Nature Conservancy** is seeking an **AmeriCorps** member to serve with Fire Initiative staff over an 11-month period. The work will include participation in numerous **Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)** and time on a locally- or regionally-based prescribed fire crew. Details are on the Conservancy’s careers page ([job ID 47728](#)); applications are due by **July 3**. Current Conservancy employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

**Assistant Director:** The **West Region Wildfire Council** is seeking an assistant director to support its **wildfire adaptation, preparedness and mitigation education** mission across Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties in Colorado. Details are on the [cowildfire.org](http://cowildfire.org) [employment page](#); applications are due by **July 14**.

## Webinars

**August 1**  
**new listing**

### **Influences of Prescribed Fire on the Ecology of Wild Turkeys**

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

Michael Chamberlain is the presenter on this webinar from the University of Georgia, Southern Fire Exchange and University of Florida.

Register: [https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jANemOEeR7GkgF\\_KcwmG7g](https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jANemOEeR7GkgF_KcwmG7g)

## Network Workshops & Field Tours

**September 11-12** **Central Appalachians & Potomac Headwaters Workshop / McHenry, MD**

Save the date for the joint workshop of the Central Apps regional FLN and Potomac Headwaters landscape; they will meet at Garrett College.

**November 4-8** **Annual FLN Leaders-TREX Coaches-IPBN Workshop / Mountain View, AR**

FLN leads, TREX coaches and IPBN leads will meet at this joint national workshop.

## FLN Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

**September 10-24** **San Juan Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / southwestern CO**

**new listing**

See the [flyer](#) for details about this TREX; apply by August 1.

**October 7-18** **Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Orleans, CA**

**deadline**

See the [announcement](#) for details about this TREX; [apply online](#) by **July 12**.

**October 14-27**

**Intercambio y Entrenamiento en Quemadas Prescritas en Español / Santa Fe, NM**

The deadline for this TREX has passed.

## Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

**July 9-11**  
**new listing**

### **Wilderness Fire Management: Easier Now or Later? / Choteau, MT**

The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network and Rocky Mountain Ranger District are partnering to offer this workshop and field tour in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Register by July 5. Information: <https://www.nrfirescience.org/event/wilderness-fire-management-easier-now-or-later>

**July 23-25**

### **Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference / State College, PA**

"Laying out a Restoration Road Map" is the theme of this conference organized by the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium and Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council. Information: <https://web.cvent.com/event/657273e9-143b-48ba-bcaf-0f04177312d5/summary>

**August 21-23**

### **Transforming Approaches to Forests and Forestry through Traditional and Local Knowledges Conference / Vancouver, BC, Canada**

Information: <http://tek.forestry.ubc.ca/>

**October 1-3**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference / Van Buren, MO**

Information: <http://www.shortleafpine.net/shortleaf-pine-initiative/conferences>

**October 21-24**  
**deadline**

### **3rd Annual Cohesive Strategy Workshop / Plymouth, MA**

Submit proposals for workshop sessions and presentation proposals by July 1. Information: [https://www.iawfonline.org/event/2019\\_cohesive\\_strategy\\_workshop/](https://www.iawfonline.org/event/2019_cohesive_strategy_workshop/)

**October 21-Nov. 4**

### **Hart Prairie Preserve Workshop on Ecological Burning / Flagstaff, AZ**

Participants will gain knowledge and training required to develop and implement prescribed burn plans with a focus on setting ecological objectives, and enhance the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to use fire in wildland ecosystems in a safe, professional and responsible manner. Applications are due by August 30. Information: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Documents/WEB-2019-HartPrairie-Announce.pdf>

**November 18-22**

### **Cultivating Pyrodiversity: The 8th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Tucson, AZ**

An overview of the schedule is available, and plenary speakers (including Maria Estrada and Frank Lake) have been announced. Early registration closes August 1. Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

## Send News, Links & Comments

**Heather Montanye** – [hmontanye@tnc.org](mailto:hmontanye@tnc.org) – Heather is out July 12-21.

**Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is out July 1-5

**Marek Smith** – [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org) – Marek is out July 5; in Sundance, UT July 9-12; in Asheville, NC July 17-18.

**Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is out July 9-11.

**Wendy Fulks** – [wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org) – Wendy is out July 1-5, July 15-19.

**Liz Rank** (editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is out June 28, July 12.

Note: July 4 is a TNC holiday.

## Full Links

News from the Field—AZ: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSeFk3ptJu4&feature=youtu.be>

News from the Field—NM: <https://facnm.org/smoke>

News from the Field—SC: <https://clemons.world/firetigers/>

News from the Field—VA/WV:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/RegionalNetworks/Pages/CentralApps.aspx>

News from the Field—WA: <https://grist.org/article/weve-spent-100-years-growing-a-tinderbox-across-the-west-now-its-wildfire-season/>

Resources—Posters: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/06/11/729314248/to-save-the-science-poster-researchers-want-to-kill-it-and-start-over>

Resources—Weather meters: <https://www.nwccg.gov/publications/426-3>

Articles & Reports—Bees: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecs2.2668>

Articles & Reports—Western US Rx: <https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/2/2/30/htm>

Articles & Reports—Post-fire forest changes: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/952/rec/2>

Articles & Reports—2018 season: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/955/rec/6>

Essay—What is good fire: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/science-thursday-finding-good-fire/>

Video—360° fire: <https://www.nist.gov/featured-stories/eye-fire>

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.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To stop receiving the FLN Networker, please reply to this message and include your request in the body of the message.

# Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange

Ashland, Oregon  
May 13-24, 2019

The Ashland TRES brought together 55 people for two weeks of multifaceted prescribed fire training, in the classroom—and in the field, where they accomplished 263 acres of burning on federal and private lands. Participants and organizers together represented four countries—Canada, Mexico, Spain and the U.S.—and 31 federal, state, private, educational and non-profit organizations and entities. The TRES also provided valuable opportunities for engaging with the public through the media and a public event featuring a screening of a wildfire documentary followed by a panel discussion.

## Prescribed Fire Training

To set the stage and provide a well-rounded experience, several days were put to good use in a classroom setting. The first day of the TRES was committed to establishing crew cohesion and gearing up with equipment needs. The second day then focused on project orientation and education. TRES leaders and partners spoke about regional and project ecology, and the importance of social engagement and partnerships in controlled burning. There was training on sexual harassment prevention. And

an elder of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians offered words of wisdom from her Takelma Tribal view. On day three, the modules mobilized with engines to practice basic wildland fire skills such as pump and hose operations, hand tool and firing device use, and hand-held radio use. Modules also gained experience in unit reconnaissance, unit preparation including cutting fire lines, and gathering pre-burn fire effects monitoring data. Unusually wet weather prevented broadcast burning, but leaders and partners had four units of piles ready to burn on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and on a private tract; this included 48 acres in the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR), a multi-partner project working to protect the City of Ashland and its municipal watershed.

Ignitions followed, with four days burning hand piles and providing opportunities for incident commander trainees to work through fire size-up scenarios. Mop up afterward added to constructive field days.

Despite unfavorable weather for ecological broadcast burning, the TRES was deemed a great success for



The crew prepares for controlled burning of piles in the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project Eastview units. © TNC (Darren Borgias)



Early in the TRES, Aggie Baker Pilgrim, Takelma Elder of the Confederate Tribes of the Siletz Indians shared some of her knowledge of burning for safety and sustenance, and the importance of clean water. © TNC (Darren Borgias)

the diverse training opportunities it provided. Participants also appreciated the exceptional team cohesion, and the completion of tasks needed to advance their fire qualifications.

## Engaging the Community

To facilitate conversations with the community, TRES organizers partnered with the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project partners and the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center to host an evening event with a screening of the documentary *Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests, and the Future* and



Because unusually wet weather precluded broadcast burning, the TRES crew focused on pile burns in four units. These included from piles from roadside hazard tree removal on the Klondike Fire of 2018 (left) and work in the Eastview units of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project (right).

© Amanda Schachtschneider, Heather Heward

several short videos provided by the partners. This was followed by a panel discussion with Merv George (Forest Supervisor), Katie Sauerbrey (TRES Incident Commander), Christopher Orr (National Park Service), Rick O'Rourke (Yurok Tribe, Cultural Fire Management Council) and Joseph Vaile (KSWild Executive Director). More than 130 people attended

this event to learn more about their forests, their fires, and the choices they face. Local media were also invited to visit the TRES, and several outlets took advantage of this, highlighting the purpose of TRES, its drawing an international crew to learn together, and the importance of prescribed burning for community safety.

### More Online

#### Media Coverage

KOB15 (Facebook livestream)

<https://www.facebook.com/kobitv/videos/2178816505535731/>

"TRES Event Brings in Firefighters From Across the Country" <https://kobi5.com/news/trex-event-brings-in-firefighters-from-across-the-country-102099/>

"Prescribed burn training under way in Ashland"

<https://www.kdrv.com/content/video/509991812.html>

"Firefighters Across the World are Learning About Prescribed Burning in Ashland"

<https://www.kdrv.com/content/video/509991682.html>

#### Documentary

*Wilder than Wild*: <https://www.wilderthanwildfilm.org/>

### Participating Organizations

- Aerie Backcountry Medicine
- Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council
- Ashland Fire & Rescue
- Bratcher Services LLC
- British Columbia Wildfire Service
- Bureau of Land Management—National Operations Center
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Cultural Fire Management Council
- GFP Enterprises
- Heroico Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Guanajuato A.C. (Mexico)
- Incident Support
- JD Forestry, LLC
- Key Peninsula Fire Department
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Long Tom Watershed Council
- Miller Timber Services, Inc.
- National Park Service—North Cascades National Park
- Nevada Division of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State University
- Oregon Woods Inc.
- Servei de Bombers Forestals—Generalitat Valenciana (Spain)
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University of California Davis
- University of Idaho
- University of Oregon
- USDA Forest Service—Klamath NF, Mount Hood NF, Rogue River-Siskiyou NF



For more about the Ashland TRES:

Katie Sauerbrey  
katie.sauerbrey@tnc.org

Darren Borgias  
dborgias@tnc.org

For more about the TRES model:

Jeremy Bailey  
jeremy\_bailey@tnc.org

<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges are 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 about PERFACT, contact Marek Smith at [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org).

*An equal opportunity provider*