

FLN Networker No. 294: February 12, 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.

News from the Field

California: **Bill Tripp** and **Margo Robbins** and their approaches and experiences as members of the **Karuk** and **Yurok** tribes, respectively, are highlighted in the *New York Times* [article](#) “Native Solutions to Big Fires: **Cultural burning practices** are working to reduce wildfires in northern Australia. Can they work in California, too?”

California: The **California State Association of Counties**—which last year awarded the **Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association** one of its **Challenge Awards**—has produced a [video](#) highlighting the work of the PBA, the first in the West. (See also the [press release](#).) For more, contact **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** (lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu).

New Jersey: Last year, **Bill Brash** (Bill@NJFireSafetyCouncil.org) attended a meeting of the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council with **FAC Net** colleague **Frank Riley**, and was **inspired** by the close relationship between the council and the NRCS there. This inspiration from Georgia, combined with the increased prescribed burn opportunities on private lands available through New Jersey’s **recent prescribed burn legislation**, was the catalyst for a project put in action last month. The **New Jersey Forest Fire Service** and **New Jersey Fire Safety Council** hosted a **prescribed burning workshop for NRCS staff** (and others), to begin to **build capacity for private lands burning** in the state. In New Jersey*, NRCS can provide financial assistance for the preparation of burn plans and the implementation of fire breaks, fuel breaks, pre-burn mechanical thinning and even the burn itself on private lands. This workshop covered most of the 16-hour training requirement needed for staff to review burn plans. Demand was strong—instead of the 35 or 40 participants expected, 90 people signed up, including NRCS staff from New York and Pennsylvania. “We are gearing up to increase prescribed burn acreage in New Jersey on both private lands and non-traditional public lands and NRCS and their resources were a good place to start that effort,” according to Bill.

* See the [report](#) “How Can the NRCS Get More Prescribed Fire on the Ground?” for state-by-state information.

New Mexico: The **Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition** just published “Working Together to **Increase the Pace and Scale of Prescribed Fire**,” a [case study](#) focused on the **Forest Stewards Guild’s All Hands All Lands Burn Team**. It briefly highlights how “partners used a variety of mechanisms to align organizational goals, build trust across agencies and organizations, and combine resources and skills, which ultimately resulted in the trained personnel needed to work across all lands in New Mexico.” In less than a year, the AHAL Burn Team burned 6,236 acres across the **Rio Grande Water Fund**.

Virginia: More than **80 FLN partners** gathered in Virginia last week for the **Burning Big! workshop** to explore **large burn implementation** in the Central Appalachians. Over two days, participants attended seven small group interactive skill building sessions, networking exercises, presentations and a panel discussion that covered both the operational and partnership-building aspects of how to continue to scale up restoration in the Appalachians. For more, check out the [story](#) on WVTF radio.

Funding: Catalyst Fund

Catalyst Fund: The Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund will distribute approximately \$335,000 in funding this year through competitive grants to landscape conservation partnerships that are poised for catalytic growth as they **move from collective vision to collective action**. A portion of the Catalyst Fund is reserved specifically for **Indigenous-led partnerships** working to advance Indigenous landscape conservation priorities. Details are on the [Network for Landscape Conservation](#) website; pre-proposals are due by **March 13**.

Resources: Scaling Up / Smoke Outreach / Communications / Be Safe

Scaling Up: If you've ever thought about what it means to "scale up" solutions, ignore the geeky title and check out the [blog post](#) "Problematizing Scale in the Social Sector: **Expanding Conceptions**." Bottom line: there are **many ways to scale**, and one size does not fit all.

Smoke Outreach: A recent **FAC Net** [blog post](#) about the **Forest Stewards Guild's HEPA filter loan program** notes that "an unexpected success of the program is that it **opened new channels of communication** between the public and fire managers. The program provides an alternative way for people to voice their concerns about smoke while offering a partial solution. Every time we answer the phone to loan out a filter, we have an opportunity to talk about how we plan and implement prescribed fire and the ecological benefits of fire on the landscape. "

Communications: While the [article](#) "Entering Climate Change Communications **Through the Side Door**" from the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* is focused on climate change, the recommendations it lays out are probably applicable to other **polarizing issues** as well.

Be Safe: The **Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center** has a [quick summary](#) of numbers collected from **2019 incident reports** (including a couple surprising ones).

Articles & Reports: Restoration Economy / Forest Workforce / Biomass

Restoration Economy: The [study](#) "**Economic Effects of Wildfire Risk Reduction** and Source Water Protection Projects in the Rio Grande River Basin in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado" was recently published by the **USGS** in collaboration with **The Nature Conservancy**. The authors found that in 2018, the **Rio Grande Water Fund (RGWF)** **created 22 full-time equivalent jobs** in New Mexico and surrounding western states while adding nearly **\$2 million to the local economy**. These jobs are a direct result of the increased investment in forest restoration, supported by the RGWF and its funders. The RGWF is a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort to increase the scale of forest restoration to reduce wildfire risk and secure water for one million people in the state. For more, contact **Steve Bassett** (sbassett@tnc.org).

Forest Workforce: The [report](#) "**Fostering Your Forest Workforce: A Peer Learning Exchange** for Nonprofit Organizations" shares highlights from an event last November hosted by the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, Ecosystem Workforce Program and Lomakatsi Restoration Project. (The RVCC [website](#) also has a summary from a **shared stewardship** workshop and a six-state summary crosswalk of shared stewardship agreements.)

Biomass: The lack of markets for low-value woody biomass can be a barrier to accelerating the pace and scale of restoration treatments. A **pilot project** in Flagstaff tested the possibilities of **shipping wood chips long distances** to foreign markets. Highlights of the results (and a link to the full technical report) are in Ecological Restoration Institute [fact sheet](#) "Chip & Ship: Testing the Logistics of Supplying Wood Chips Over Long Distances Using Intermodal Railroad Transportation."

Blog: No More Barriers

No More Barriers: **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** argues that it's time to "freshen up the prescribed fire conversation" in her FAC Net [blog post](#) "No More Prescribed Fire Barriers: Lessons from Lamprey."

Jobs: Fire Ecologist / Spatial Scientist / Rx Operations Specialist / Rx Planning / Forest Policy Coordinator

Fire Ecologist: The **National Park Service** is seeking a fire ecologist for **Glacier National Park**. Details are on usajobs.gov ([control number 557856100](#)); the first **50 applications** will be accepted, through **February 14**.

Spatial Scientist: The **Nature Conservancy's** New Mexico chapter is seeking a **spatial scientist**; projects will include monitoring outcomes from forest restoration activities funded through the **Rio Grande Water Fund** and supporting the development of a statewide Natural Resources Assessment. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 48519](#)); applications are due by **February 19**. (Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Rx Operations Specialist: The **Forest Stewards Guild** is hiring a **seasonal prescribed fire operations specialist** for the **Gravitas Peak Fire Crew** based in Colorado. The work includes both field and office responsibilities, including project implementation, leadership roles on prescribed fires and wildfires, collaborative burn coordination, and young adult mentorship. See the [announcement](#) for details; apply by **February 28** for full consideration.

Rx Planning: The **Forest Stewards Guild** is hiring a **prescribed fire planning operations specialist** to be based in Colorado. The work includes both field and office responsibilities, including collaborative burn project planning and implementation, burn plan writing, fire management plan writing, and prescribed fire operations. See the [announcement](#) for details; apply by **February 28** for full consideration.

Forest Policy Coordinator: The **Nature Conservancy's** government relations team is seeking a **U.S. government relations coordinator** to work on forests and fire, including the policy and practice issues that intersect with climate change, among other land management issue areas. Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 48492](#)); applications are due by **March 6**. (Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

Webinars

February 13
new listing

ADA National Network Learning Session: Inclusive Emergency Planning

11:30 Pacific / 12:30 Mountain / 1:30 Central / 2:30 Eastern

This 90-minute webinar is part of the Pacific ADA Center's series on emergency management and preparedness—inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Register: <http://www.adapresentations.org/scheduleEM.php>

February 18
new listing

Learn a New Way to Sample Wildland Fuel Loadings: The Photoload Technique

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

Robert Keane is the presenter on this Northern Rockies Fire Science Network webinar.

Register: <https://www.nrfirescience.org/event/learn-new-way-sample-wildland-fuel-loadings-photoload-technique>

February 19
new listing

A Spatial Analysis of Factors Influencing Structure Loss and Survival Resulting from the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, California

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

Austin Troy is the presenter on this Southwest Fire Science Consortium webinar.

Register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/upYodu6uqTMOawomBf6g9H0kLXv4oBliaA>

February 25
new listing

Boundary-Spanning for Collective Action: Managing Wildfire Risk in the West

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

Emily Jane Davis, Tony Cheng and Darren McAvoy are the presenters on this “Lunch and Learn” webinar hosted by Utah State University Forestry Extension.

From an applied social science perspective, they will use case studies from Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Oregon and Idaho, and provide actionable examples of how boundaries may be spanned for more collective action. (Registration is capped at 500, but the webinar will also be available on the USU extension

[YouTube page](#).) Register:

https://extension.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lec_RMaDRcmo3-7dT9RyTA

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)

March 12-20

Alto Minho TRES / Viana do Castelo, Alto Minho, Portugal

Save the date—details will be posted on the [Upcoming TRES](#) page.

March 21-April 3

Niobrara Valley Preserve TRES / Johnstown, NE

The deadline for this TRES has passed.

March 22-April 4

Loup TRES / Central NE

The deadline for this TRES has passed.

March 30-April 10

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

The deadline for this TRES has passed.

April 27-May 8
deadline

Northeast Washington TRES / Chewelah, WA

Details and a link to the application are on the [Washington Prescribed Fire Council website](#); applications are due by March 2.

April 27-May 8
deadline

Central Oregon TRES / Central OR

Details are in the [announcement](#)—submit [applications](#) by February 14.

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team is offering a limited number of \$500 scholarships to tribal members and indigenous peoples to attend this TRES; scholarship [applications](#) are also due February 14.

April 27-May 8
deadline

Ashland TRES / Southwestern OR

Details are in the [announcement](#)—submit [applications](#) by February 14.

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team is offering a limited number of \$500 scholarships to tribal members and indigenous peoples to attend this TRES; scholarship [applications](#) are also due February 14.

- May 4-17**
updated **Northwoods TREX / Minnesota**
See the [flyer](#) for details and the application form; applications are due by March 15.
- Sept. 28-Oct. 9**
new listing **Klamath River TREX / Northern CA**
Planning is underway—save the date.
- Oct. 25-Nov. 6** **Southern Blue Ridge TREX / Pickens, SC**
Save the date for the next SBR TREX. Organizers are planning both small- and large-scale burns on private, local, state and federal lands, some using aerial ignition. Application materials will be available in May.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

- February 27**
new listing **Washington Prescribed Fire Council Meeting / Spokane, WA**
This meeting will focus on the council's updated strategic plan, and include updates on recent prescribed fire and smoke management changes and work from council members. Council website: <http://waprescribedfire.org/>
- March 2-4** **Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop / Albuquerque, NM**
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/>
- March 3**
March 5
new listing **Idaho Prescribed Fire Council Workshop / Moscow, ID**
Idaho Prescribed Fire Council Workshop / Twin Falls, ID
Idaho is starting a prescribed fire council and organizers are reaching out to involve as many people as possible, including through these two workshops held in conjunction with the Idaho Burners group. Visit www.idahoprescribedfirecouncil.org for more information and to fill out a questionnaire to get added to an email list.
- March 12-14**
new listing **Rivercane Gathering / Welling, OK**
Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the IPBN, this symposium will focus on restoration, ecology and cultural significance of rivercane. Once common throughout the central and southeastern parts of the country, rivercane is a native species of bamboo. It was long used by many tribes for furniture, flutes, blowguns, basketry, etc., and eco-cultural revitalization is gaining momentum.
Information: <https://usfs.regfox.com/2020-river-cane-meeting>
- 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/>

May 2

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / Everytown, USA

Applications for project awards are due by February 28.

Information: www.wildfireprepdays.org

**September 22-24
new listing**

Great Plains Fire Summit / North Platte, NE

Information will be posted on nefirecouncil.org, or send an email to nefirecouncil@gmail.com to be added to the conference email list.

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Send News, Links & Comments

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is in Weaverville, CA February 18-23; in Vermejo Park March 2-6.

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

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in New Mexico February 10-14, March 1-5.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in Weaverville, CA February 18-21; out February 28.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Klamath Falls, OR February 25-28.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out February 28.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is in the office.

Note: February 17 is a Conservancy holiday.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA—Cultural burning: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/24/us/native-american-controlled-burns-california-wildfires.html>

News from the Field—CA—PBA—Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhkCFRVZ2NE&feature=youtu.be>

Press release: <https://www.counties.org/county-voice/first-west-humboldt-countys-prescribed-burn-association-teaches-value-fire>

News from the Field—NJ:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338716947_HOW_CAN_THE_NRCS_GET_MORE_ON_THE_GROUND

News from the Field—NM:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/562e839ee4b0332955e8143d/t/5e2f4d5bd2397103d31f17ad/1580158301559/NM+Case+Study-FINAL_01072020_web.pdf

News from the Field—VA: <https://www.wvtf.org/post/protecting-virginia-forests-wildfires#stream/0>

Funding—Catalyst Fund: <http://landscapeconservation.org/catalyst-fund/>

Resources—Scaling up: <https://inwithforward.com/2018/01/expanding-conceptions-scale-within-social-sector/>

Resources—Smoke outreach: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/the-forest-stewards-guilds-hepa-filter-loan-program/>

Resources—Communications:

https://ssir.org/articles/entry/entering_climate_change_communications_through_the_side_door

Resources—Be safe:

<https://www.wildfirelessons.net/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=1749e1dd-8ca4-eb9e-00bc-c4b386960cf0&forceDialog=0>

Articles & Reports—Restoration economy—Study: <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20191108>

RGWF: <https://riograndewaterfund.org/>

Articles & Reports—Forest workforce:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/562e839ee4b0332955e8143d/t/5e14ed2a59f8eb5218f1d24d/1578429739769/Fostering+your+forest+peer+learning_FINAL_web.pdf

RVCC site: <https://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org/learning-products>

Articles & Reports—Biomass: <https://cdm17192.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17192coll1/id/1025/rec/1>

Blog—No more barriers: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/no-more-prescribed-fire-barriers-lessons-from-lamprey/>

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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