

# FLN Networker No. 344: January 4, 2023

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*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).

## News from the Field

**California:** A reporter from *High Country News* visited the **Karuk Women-in-Fire TRES** last fall, and last week published the [article](#) “**What if Indigenous Women Ran Controlled Burns?**”

**Oregon/Spain:** **Chris Chambers** ([chris.chambers@ashland.or.us](mailto:chris.chambers@ashland.or.us)) recently visited Spain with **Chris Dunn** of Oregon State University and **Joel Iverson** of the University of Montana to explore **increasing wildfire size and intensity** now gaining a foothold in Spain, and shared his reflections in the FAC Net [blog post](#) “**Same Issues, Different Landscape: Sharing Fire Adaptation Strategies in Spain.**”

**TRES:** Preliminary data are in for 2022. Sixteen U.S.-based TRES provided **nearly 1,100 training opportunities last year**—a significant jump from previous years. Much of the growth came from Cal-TRES and other events that shifted to a **local, all-hands model**, offering key trainings and then bringing practitioners together to burn over the course of weeks or months. New TRES were also offered in **Maine** and near **Santa Barbara**, California, as well as the first **TRES centering Indigenous women**. Watch the [Upcoming TRES](#) page for spring TRES opportunities.

**National:** **Shefali Juneja Lakhina**, **Lenya Quinn-Davidson**, **Brandon Smith** and **Daniel Godwin** recently posted a [brief essay](#), “Care, Equity, and Justice: **Reimagining the Forestry and Fire Workforce**,” on the Natural Hazards Center site. The authors hosted a related [plenary session](#) at the “Changing Climates: Equity and Adaptation in a Warming World” workshop in July.

## Input Requested: Wildfire Commission / Global Fire Use

**Wildfire Commission:** The federal **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission** has held its first couple of meetings, and several workgroups have begun discussing several topics. Other workgroups will take up the remainder of the topics over the next few months. You can currently **submit recommendations via a web form** to the groups working on **post-fire** issues (through January 6) and **response coordination** (through January 24). All topics, and when recommendations will be accepted for each, are also on that page.

**Global Fire Use:** An international team led by Cathy Smith (Royal Holloway University of London) is conducting a **survey of landscape fire use** to contribute to the “first **global map** of twenty-first century fire use.” The call for participants—with links to further information and the survey itself—is attached.

## Resources: Downscaled Climate Data / Safety / CWPPs / Winter Work

**Downscaled Climate Data:** The [article](#) “A Comparison of Multiple **Statistically Downscaled Climate Change Datasets** for the Conterminous USA” looks at **five widely used datasets** of climate change projections and identifies **areas of agreement and outliers**. “Climate change assessment studies can use the maps to evaluate and select one or more downscaled datasets for their study area.”

**Safety:** **NWCG** has **over 100 resources** available in its **Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher** (WFSTAR) [catalog](#) that can be used in RT-130 courses (or for a personal refresher).

**CWPPs:** Magdalena Valderrama shares her **experiences and lessons** drawn from living—and organizing—in the footprint of the 2015 Valley Fire in the FAC Net [blog post](#) “**Putting Wildfire Plans to Use**: Dusting Off That CWPP.”

**Winter Work:** The **Fire Adapted New Mexico Learning Network** marked the start of winter with a newsletter [issue](#) titled “Winter Means **Preparing for Wildfire**,” which contains information and resources on creating—and maintaining—defensible space, home hardening, and related topics.

## Articles & Reports: Migration / Rx Smoke / Treatments & Mortality / Drought & Density

**Migration:** The authors of the [article](#) “Flocking to Fire: How **Climate and Natural Hazards Shape Human Migration** Across the United States” explored two questions: “(1) How do climate, landscape, and extreme weather shape net migration rates across the US? and (2) Are people moving toward or away from the dangers of extreme weather events?” They found that, overall, while people tend to move **away from** counties at higher risk from **hurricanes and heat waves**, they tend to move **toward** those at risk from **wildfire and hot summers**. For highlights, see the *ScienceDaily* [post](#) about this article.

**Rx Smoke:** The authors of the [article](#) “More Smoke Today for Less Smoke Tomorrow? We Need to Better Understand the **Public Health Benefits and Costs of Prescribed Fire**” use an **economics lens** to highlight areas where benefits are widely assumed, but not robustly supported by evidence. They note that filling this gap in understanding is particularly urgent, given current efforts to greatly increase prescribed burning.

The [article](#) “Comparing **Smoke Emissions and Impacts** Under **Alternative Forest Management Regimes**” attempts to fill that gap, using the Lake Tahoe basin as a case study.

**Treatments & Mortality:** The [article](#) “Tree Mortality Following Thinning and Prescribed Burning in Central Oregon, U.S.” is based on an inventory of 395,000 trees, in plots under five treatment scenarios. The authors conclude that “In this study, **most tree mortality was attributed to prescribed fire** (61%). Fuel reduction goals were met and initial **concerns regarding** high levels of **bark beetle**-caused tree mortality following spring burns (as reported in some studies) were **unfounded**.”

**Drought & Density:** The [article](#) “Tree Mortality Response to Drought-Density Interactions Suggests **Opportunities to Enhance Drought Resistance**” is based on measurements of nearly 29,000 **ponderosa pines** across the U.S. West and modeled estimates of soil moisture. The results suggest that **reduction in basal area** could reduce tree mortality, especially in areas of high current basal area that experience high temperatures and/or multiyear drought.

## Jobs

**Module Lead:** The **Nature Conservancy North America Fire Team** and **Audubon Canyon Ranch Fire Forward** are hiring a **prescribed fire module leader**, to be based at the Petaluma [Fire Forward](#) office, who will lead crews on burns in California and across the country. For details, see the TNC careers page ([job ID 52669](#)); applications are due by **January 11**. Current TNC employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

**Program Director:** The **Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **Western Dry Forests and Fire Initiative program director** to support the **regional initiative**. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 52602](#)); applications are due by **January 8**. Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

**Biological Technicians:** The **National Park Service** is hiring three seasonal **fire effects field botanists** for the **Ozark National Scenic Riverways**. For details, see the [announcement email](#) and the listing on [usajobs.gov](https://usajobs.gov); applications are due by **January 9**.

**Burn Crew:** The **Nature Conservancy North America Fire Team** is hiring **prescribed fire crew members** for a variety of 4-12 week assignments this spring. A minimum of FFT2 qualification is required, and those with FFT1, FAL2, FEMO or WFR qualifications are encouraged to apply. For details, see the TNC careers page ([job ID 52734](#)); applications are due by **January 10**. Current TNC employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

**Fire Technicians:** The **National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis** at the **University of Montana** is seeking two **part-time fire/fuel technicians** for the spring. For details, see the attached flyer; applicant review starts **January 10**.

**Rx Technician:** The **Nature Conservancy** in Nebraska is hiring two seasonal (March-December) **prescribed fire technicians** (FFT2) to be housed at the Niobrara Valley Preserve. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 52653](#)); applications are due by **January 17**. Current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

**Community Risk Reduction:** The **Flagstaff Fire Department** Wildland Fire Management Program is hiring a **wildland community risk reduction specialist** to manage the city's Firewise Program and provide PIO functions for the department's Community Risk Reduction Division. See the [job bulletin](#) for details; applications are due by **January 20**.

**Executive Director:** The **Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council** is hiring an executive director to **create and implement a sustainable structure** for the organization, which has seen extensive growth in the past year. Details are in a [position description](#) on the council's [website](#); applications are being accepted through **February 28**.

**Extension:** **Utah State University** is hiring a **wildland fire extension specialist** (assistant professor). See the [job announcement](#) for details; review of applications will begin **March 10**.

**Forester:** The **West Region Wildfire Council** is hiring a **Vegetation Management Program coordinator/lead forester** to manage and implement its flagship program in a six-county region in western Colorado. Details are on the WRWC [employment page](#).

**Preserve Management:** The **Nature Conservancy** in Iowa is seeking a seasonal **preserve management assistant & crew leader**. Based at the Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve, duties will include preserve operations and maintenance, invasive species control, easement monitoring, prescribed fire, leading a four-intern crew, and assisting with the bison herd. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 52688](#)); current employees, apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

**Crew Manager:** The **Nature Conservancy** in Minnesota is hiring a **Fire in the Forest crew manager** to oversee a squad in prescribed and wildland fire activities, as directed by a burn boss. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 52689](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

## Webinars

January 17

### Diversity Explodes With Another Boring Burn

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

Virginia McDaniel will be the presenter in this webinar from the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium ([register](#)).

- January 18**  
**new listing**      **2019 Museum Fire—Geomorphic Recovery and Post-Fire Flooding Implications**  
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern  
Rebecca Beers will be the presenter in this Southwest Fire Science Consortium webinar ([register](#)).
- January 19**      **Fueling Collaboration: Fire and Wildlife**  
8:00 Pacific / 9:00 Mountain / 10:00 Central / 11:00 Eastern (1.5 hr)  
The third panel discussion of season 3 of the “Fueling Collaboration” series from eastern JFSP Fire Science Exchanges and USFS Northern and Southern Research Stations will be moderated by Lauren Pile Knapp ([register](#)).
- February 7**      **How Is Fire Ecology Different Than Classical Ecology?**  
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern  
Brice Hanberry will be the presenter in this webinar from the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium ([register](#)).
- February 16**      **Fueling Collaboration: Prescribed Burning in the Eastern WUI**  
8:00 Pacific / 9:00 Mountain / 10:00 Central / 11:00 Eastern (1.5 hr)  
The third panel discussion of season 3 of the “Fueling Collaboration” series from eastern JFSP Fire Science Exchanges and USFS Northern and Southern Research Stations will be moderated by David Godwin ([register](#)).

## Network Workshops & Field Tours

- January 24**  
**updated**      **Potomac Headwaters Fire Learning Network Workshop / Cumberland, MD**  
Results of ecozone mapping and ecological departure analyses ([report](#), [map](#)) will be shared, and participants will provide input on prioritizing burns across the landscape. There will also be a look back on the successes of the past three years, discussion of new prescribed burning developments, and providing input on development of a Potomac Headwaters FLN Strategic Plan based on the Heart of the Appalachians landscape’s [plan](#). Participants should [register by January 19](#).

## Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) & Cooperative Burning

- Nov. 11-Jan. 15**      **North Bay Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bay Area, CA**  
This event is in progress.
- February 4-10 (est.)**  
**deadline**      **CFMC Cultural Burn Training Exchange / Weitchpec, CA**  
The target date for the spring Cultural Fire Management Council event has been set and applications are being accepted through **January 11**. Participants must be able to mobilize to Weitchpec with 72 hours’ notice. See the [announcement](#).
- Feb. 20-March 3**      **Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Southeastern NC**  
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- Feb. 27-Mar. 10**      **Southern Missouri Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Springfield, MO**  
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- March 20-31**      **Women in Fire TREX South Africa (WTREXSA) / Cape Town, SA**  
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- April 24-28**      **Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week / Pisgah, IA**  
Details will be available soon, with registration in March.

## Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

- January 26-27**      **Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council / State College, PA and online**  
See the council's website for the [agenda and registration](#) information.
- March 28-30**      **IAFC Wildland-Urban Interface Conference / Reno, NV**  
Visit the [conference website](#) for details.
- April 2-7**  
**deadline**      **Hands-On Fire Science Methods Workshop / Hatfield, MO**  
The Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium is hosting this workshop for graduate students and early-career professionals in research or management positions on TNC's Dunn Ranch Prairie Preserve. Apply by **January 17**. Visit the [workshop website](#) for details.
- April 12-13**  
**deadline**      **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Fort Collins, CO**  
The conference focus is "Accelerating Adaptation and Managing Expectations." There is also a wildfire mitigation pre-conference workshop April 10-11 and a field tour of the Poudre watershed April 14. Early bird [registration](#) is open through **January 15**; for more, see the [conference website](#).
- April 25-28**      **Prescribed Fire for Wildlife / Haines City, FL**  
Registrations for this course offered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are being accepted through March 12, or when filled ([course details](#)).
- May 2-4**      **Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop / Fort Collins, CO**  
Early bird registration for this workshop on "Adapting to a Climate-Altered West" runs through March 1. See the [workshop website](#) for details.
- May 16-18**      **Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference / Tyler, TX**  
See the [conference website](#) for details.
- December 4-8**      **10th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Monterey, CA**  
Save the date for this [conference](#) hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology.
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## Send News, Links & Comments

- Autumn Bjugstad** – [autumn.bjugstad@tnc.org](mailto:autumn.bjugstad@tnc.org) – Autumn is in the office.
- Emily Hohman** – [emily.hohman@tnc.org](mailto:emily.hohman@tnc.org) – Emily is out December 26-January 6; in NM January 11-13.
- James Miller** – [james.miller@tnc.org](mailto:james.miller@tnc.org) – James is in the office.
- Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in the office.
- Laurel Kays** – [laurel.kays@tnc.org](mailto:laurel.kays@tnc.org) – Laurel is in NM January 11-13.
- Lemaine Peo** – [lemaine.peo@tnc.org](mailto:lemaine.peo@tnc.org) – Lemaine is out January 4-5.
- Marek Smith** – [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org) – Marek is in a workshop January 25-26.
- Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in the office.
- Miranda Flora** – [miranda.flora@tnc.org](mailto:miranda.flora@tnc.org) – Miranda is in the office.
- Liz Rank** (editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is out Thursdays.

Note: January 16 is a Conservancy holiday.

## Links

FLN Networker—an archive of back issues is kept at:

<http://www.conservaiongateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/fln-networker.aspx>

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.conservaiongateway.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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## GLOBAL FIRE USE PROJECT

We would like to invite you to participate in a survey to contribute to the first global map of twenty-first century fire use. The survey only concerns landscape fire use, i.e., that which takes place outside of domestic settings. For a detailed description of the Global Fire Use Survey project [please click here](#).

Participants are asked to identify a region that they know well and then answer questions in the survey relating to that region. You can [view a map of the regions here](#). If people **do not** use fire in your region of expertise, we are still looking for your participation to confirm that (and in this case, completing the survey will only take you a couple of minutes!). If you feel qualified to answer for more than one region, please complete the survey separately for each region. If, after answering the questions, you feel that you could give exactly the same answers for another region or regions, you will be able to tell us this without completing the whole survey again.

The survey normally takes 20-40 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey, participants will have the option to enter a draw to receive a gift (a craftwork by an Indigenous craftsperson). Additionally, certain participants will be invited to a fully funded workshop at which we hope to analyse and build upon the survey results.

The survey is currently available in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. If you would struggle to complete it in one of these languages, please get in touch: we might be able to help you with translation.

Please use this link to complete the survey:

[Link to the Global Fire Use Survey](#)

Please contact [c.smith@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:c.smith@rhul.ac.uk) with any questions, and with recommendations of other experts we should invite to complete the survey.

Many thanks for taking part,

The Global Fire Use Survey core team:

**Cathy Smith** (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment, and Society / Royal Holloway University of London)

**Jay Mistry** (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment, and Society / Royal Holloway University of London)

**Rebecca Bird** (Pennsylvania State University)

**Amy Cardinal Christianson** (Parks Canada)

**Erle Ellis** (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

**Ludivine Eloy** (National Centre for Scientific Research, Montpellier, France)

**Jed Kaplan** (The University of Hong Kong)

**Paul Laris** (California State University, Long Beach)

The National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis (FireCenter) is looking for two part-time fire/fuel technicians for the spring of 2023, for 16-20 hours per week. Two full days per week preferred. Partial days possible, we will work with students around class schedules as needed. These positions could lead to full-time summer employment.

The FireCenter's Prescribed Fire Program has a goal of increasing the scale and pace of prescribed burning on both University and partner properties. These positions will be instrumental in achieving that goal, by providing support in the field and in the office. These are not supervisory positions. But working closely with landowners, foresters, faculty, staff and students is expected.

Duties include helping with:

- Burn plan preparation
- Burn unit preparation, including fire line construction, fuels modification
- Prescribed fire implementation; ignition, holding, mop up
- Collection of pre-, during-, and post-fire data
- Maintenance of hand tools, chain saws, UTV, Type 7 engine

And possibly:

- Operating UAS for data collection
- Processing UAS data

Required:

- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team
- Safely work in remote locations
- Work in an office setting
- Experience with wildland fire suppression and/or prescribed fire
- Experience operating a chainsaw
- Operate motor vehicles on and off highway (ability to use 4x4 and manual transmission preferred)
- Experience with common software packages: MS Office, ArcGIS

Preferred:

- NWCG Red Card
- Interest in research and data collection
- Part 107 UAS pilot certificate
- Remote sensing data processing experience (especially Agisoft)
- First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification

Potential work locations:

Lubrecht Experimental Forest, Bandy Ranch, Clearwater Game Range, Montana TNC properties, Blackfoot Challenge properties, University of Montana Mountain Campus in Missoula

Pay rate: \$15/hour

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Valentijn Hoff, Prescribed Fire Program Manager, National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis, [valentijn.hoff@firecenter.umt.edu](mailto:valentijn.hoff@firecenter.umt.edu) (applicant review starts 20230110)

