

FLN Networker No. 349: April 19, 2023

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: The PBS NOVA [documentary](#) “**Weathering the Future**” that aired last week visited the Klamath Mountains to hear from **Indigenous voices** and watch a **Karuk-led burn**.

Maryland: **Deborah Landau** (dlandau@tnc.org) talks fire—and WTREX—on a [recent episode](#) of the Good Together **podcast**, “Not All Wildfires Are Bad: How **Controlled Burns Can Be Medicine** for the Land.”

Minnesota: In the [FAC Net blog post](#) “Who’s Your Hero? **Finding Community Leaders** in Fire-Adapted Northeastern Minnesota,” **Gloria Erickson** (gloria@dovetailinc.org) and some of those community leaders write about **coming together to reduce wildfire risk** across four neighboring properties. In the end, they’re building more than fire resilience.

Missouri: The first **Southern Missouri Prescribed Fire Training Exchange** was a success, by any measure you choose. The **30 participants** served in **at least two positions each**; most had open task books and **received evaluations**, and several received a final evaluation, only awaiting agency certification. Together they assisted on **17 burns**—on lands owned by the Boy Scouts of America, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri DNR, The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Forest Service—totaling **15,868 acres**. Classroom and hands-on **training opportunities** ran the gamut from pump and roll techniques to emotional intelligence on the fireline, burn plan writing to chainsaw use. And organizers are already looking forward to their next **TREX** in spring 2024. For more, contact **Ryan Gauger** (rgauger@tnc.org).

North Carolina: With a **burn last week** in mixed pine oak heath and dry oak forest in the **Central Blue Ridge Escarpment** landscape of the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN**, the TNC-NC **Southern Blue Ridge Fire Crew** set a **new record** for acres burned in a season—**21,610 acres**, in support of seven state and federal agencies. The Steels Creek burn was conducted to reduce decades of accumulation of volatile shrubs and dead wood that put the Gingercake community at risk for wildfire, and to open the area to sunlight for pine and oak seedlings and a diverse plant community that will provide foraging habitat for pollinators and grassland songbirds. For more information, contact **Adam Warwick** (awarwick@tnc.org).

North Carolina/Tennessee: The **Forest Service** has [awarded](#) **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)** funding to the **Pisgah Restoration Initiative** to promote more resilient forests across 520,000 acres in the Pisgah National Forest in western North Carolina and 30,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest in eastern Tennessee. Key collaborators on this project—which builds on the success of the **Grandfather CFLRP** project—include the **North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**, **The Nature Conservancy** in North Carolina and the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy**. For more, contact **Megan Sutton** (msutton@tnc.org).

Funding & Support: Smoke Preparedness / National Forest Foundation / CWPP Assistance

Smoke Preparedness: The EPA's **Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings grant program** is open to states, tribes, public pre-schools, local educational agencies and non-profit organizations. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 13-18 grants, ranging from \$100,000 to \$2,000,000. [Details](#) are on the EPA website; applications are due by **May 9**.

National Forest Foundation: NFF has made **changes** to its flagship **Matching Awards Program**, and now “focuses primarily on **in-person community engagement** and completion of appropriate stewardship activities.” See details on nationalforests.org; key dates are an informational webinar on **April 25** and an application deadline of **June 7**.

CWPP Assistance: The **International Association of Fire Chiefs** is accepting applications from **fire departments** and partnering agencies in **high-risk communities** for its Community Wildfire Protection Plan Assistance Program. Six departments will be selected to receive **assistance from subject matter experts**, and may receive funding for a community engagement day. See the [program page](#) for details; applications are due by **April 30**.

Input Requested: Rx Training / TREX

Rx Training: The Ember Alliance—with support from the **FLN**—is conducting a **survey** about **prescribed fire training needs** across the **western U.S.** to help identify prescribed fire training needs, and inform recommendations on the training opportunities (both NWCG and non-NWCG) needed **build capacity** for getting more prescribed fire on the ground. All practitioners and stakeholders in the region are invited to [take the survey](#) by **April 28**.

TREX: If you have **taken part in one of the 130 TREX** held between 2008 and 2022 (including WTREX or the Loess Hills CBW), you **should have received a survey request** last week from **Jeremy Bailey**. However, a number of emails were rejected, so if you didn't get the survey, please contact **Liz Rank** (lrank@tnc.org) to have it re-sent. (And thank you to those who have responded—we really appreciate the feedback.)

Resources: Messaging / First Aid / RT-130

Messaging: Last fall members of the **Greater Yellowstone Fire Action Network** met to work on **creating consistent messaging** about fire for a **range of themes and audiences**. In last week's FAC Net [blog post](#), “Tips for Creating Consistent Messaging About Fire,” **Liz Davy** (lizdavy88@gmail.com) shares some of their learning.

First Aid: The “NWCG **Standards for Wildland Fire First Aid**” ([PMS 560](#)) are intended “to support first aid training appropriate for the **remote working environment** and first aid **skills specific to the occupational and operational needs** of wildland firefighters.”

RT-130: For those planning a **Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher** course, **NWCG** has a [collection of resources](#) on a range of topics that can be used to **build an agenda**. Modules include details on estimated delivery time, intent, facilitator preparation, and discussion questions.

Articles & Reports: Managed Wildfire / Firewood Piles / Fuel Treatments

Managed Wildfire: “Managed Wildfire: A Research **Synthesis and Overview**” was released this month by the Forest Stewards Guild, Ecological Restoration Institute and Southwest Fire Science Consortium. The [report](#) covers history, effects, current state and future of **managing wildfire for resource benefit**.

Firewood Piles: The [technical report](#) “**Wind-Driven Fire Spread** to a Structure From Firewood Piles” supports the common **defensible space recommendation** to keep firewood stacks away from structures—and perhaps extends it: “In long range experiments, firebrands from a woodpile caused ignitions over 26 m (85 ft) downwind.”

Fuel Treatments: A [research team](#) at Colorado State University has released the [report](#) “Assessing **How Fuel Treatments Are Considered During Incident Response**.” The work is based on **interviews** with fire and fuel personnel and **case studies** of seven wildfires in the **western U.S.** where existing fuel treatments were considered in incident response. Key findings and recommendations are included in a two-page [research brief](#).

In the News: PM 2.5

PM 2.5: In the wake of the **proposed EPA rule change** for fine particulate matter, air quality and the **role of prescribed fire and wildfire** are in the news. KQED has a good overview in the [article](#) “Here's Why Wildfire Experts Are Worried About an EPA Plan for Cleaner Air.” And in a Twitter [thread](#), Michael Wara (Stanford) teases out some detail laid out by his team of students, legal fellows and postdocs.

Jobs

Pre-Disaster Mitigation: The **City of Ashland** (OR) is hiring a **wildfire risk reduction specialist** to manage a **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant** that will greatly reduce wildfire risk to the Ashland community. See the announcement on the Ashland careers page ([job number LDA 2023 FEMA](#)) for details; applications are due by **April 24**.

Wildfire Mitigation: Austin Energy—a city-owned utility—is seeking a **wildfire mitigation program manager** with expertise in developing and implementing wildfire mitigation programs for utilities with wildfire risks and regulatory obligations. For details, see the City of Austin jobs site ([position number 100494](#)); applications are due by **April 26**.

FAC Manager: The **Forest Stewards Guild** is hiring a **fire adapted communities manager** to support building fire adapted communities in the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed and other parts of New Mexico. See the [position description](#) for details; applications are due by **April 30**.

FAC: Tahoe Resource Conservation District is seeking a **fire adapted communities program director** to facilitate continued development and growth of the FAC program throughout the Lake Tahoe basin. See the [position description](#) for details; applications are due by **April 30**.

Ecological Monitoring: The **Forest Stewards Guild** is hiring an **ecological monitoring coordinator** to support field data collection, GIS operations, data management, statistical analysis and data reporting for the Guild’s Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects in New Mexico and southern Colorado. See the [position description](#) for details; applications are due by **May 5**.

Wildland Fire: The **City of Flagstaff** fire department is hiring a **wildland firefighter** ([details](#)) and a **wildland fire operations engineer** ([details](#)), both of which include wildfire suppression, prevention, training and mitigation efforts. The deadline to apply for either position is **May 5**.

Women in Fire: The Nature Conservancy in **Illinois** is seeking a **women in fire coordinator** (FFT1) to administer the Women in Fire Fellowship, supervising and guiding the development of two to four fellows each year. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 52726](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Stewardship: Mt. Adams Resource Stewards is seeking a **stewardship crew member** to complete a variety of fuels management and forestry health tasks. See the [position description](#) for details.

Rx Planner: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking a **prescribed fire operations planner** (FIRB; RXB2, or in progress). For details, see the state's careers page ([job number 2023-04914](#)).

Forestry: The Mid Klamath Watershed Center is hiring a **forestry program director** to support collaborative forest management with **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** organizations. See the [job announcement](#) for details.

Monitoring: The Mid Klamath Watershed Center is hiring a **monitoring coordinator**; this new position will play a key role in collaborative forest management with **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** organizations. See the [job announcement](#) for details.

Webinars

April 26

LANDFIRE Office Hours

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

Andrew Merschel will speak on "A New Understanding of Historical Fire Regimes in Seasonally Dry Temperate Rainforests," and LANDFIRE experts will be on hand to provide clarity and context to user questions ([register](#)).

April 27

Identifying Opportunity Hot Spots for Reducing Wildfire-Caused Carbon Loss in Western U.S. Conifer Forests

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

Jamie Peeler and Marcos Robles will be the presenters on this webinar from the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory ([details](#)).

May 5

new listing

Demand for Prescribed Fire on Private Lands in the Mid-Atlantic United States

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

Arun Regmi, Melissa Kreye and Jesse Kreye will present the results of a study of landowners in New York through Virginia in this webinar from the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange ([details](#)).

Network Workshops & Field Tours

May 23-25

updated

Southern Blue Ridge FLN Workshop / Black Mountain, NC

Registration for this workshop is open through May 5 ([details](#)).

October 23-27

Fire Learning Network Workshop / Blackfoot Valley, MT

FLN leads from across the country will meet for this annual workshop.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) & Cooperative Burning

Feb. 24-on call

Plumas County Cal-TRES / Quincy, CA

After training weekends February 24-26 and March 24-26, participants will conduct burns on an on-call basis.

March 4-on call

Rogue Basin Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Jacksonville, OR

Organizers expect conditions in April and May to be conducive to burning.

April 9-22

Niobrara Valley Preserve Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Johnstown, NE

This TRES is in progress.

- April 24-28** **Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week / Pisgah, IA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- April 24-May 5** **Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bend, OR**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- May 1-12** **Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange Canada (WTREX) / Banff NP**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- May 7-12** **Manitoba Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Canada**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 2-13** **Selkirk Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Northeast WA**
Save the date for this TREX for participants who have at least firefighting qualifications equivalent to NWCG FFT2. Details and applications will be available in May ([sign up](#) for updates from the Washington Prescribed Fire Council).
- October 7-22** **Intercambio y Entrenamiento en Quemadas Prescritas en Español / Hayfork, CA**
The deadline for this TREX has passed.
- October 9-20** **Columbia Gorge Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Glenwood, WA**
Save the date for this TREX, which is open to those with or without NWCG qualifications. Details and applications will be available in May ([sign up](#) for updates from the Washington Prescribed Fire Council).
- Oct. 30-Nov. 10** **Southern Blue Ridge Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Pickens, SC**
Save the date and watch the website www.sbrtrex.com; registration will open in May.

Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

- April 10-June 16** **Interagency Wildland Fire Resource Advisor Course (N-9042) / online**
deadline
Hosted by the National Park Service, this course is online self-study, with one live webinar session required in May. See the [flyer attached to Networker #347](#) for details and registration information. Enroll by May 1.
- May 1** **Kick-Off: Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop/Fort Collins, CO**
new listing
The workshop will open with a talk by Stephen Pyne—free and open to the public—from 6:00-8:00 at the CSU Center for the Performing Arts.
- May 2-4** **Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop / Fort Collins, CO**
See the [workshop website](#) for details.
- May 6** **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / USA and Canada**
See the [events page](#) at nfpa.org for details, including a project planning toolkit and social media graphics.
- May 16-18** **Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference / Tyler, TX**
See the [conference website](#) for details.
- May 16-19** **8th International Wildland Fire Conference / Porto, Portugal**
new listing
See the [conference website](#) for details.
- May 18-19** **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / Baker City, OR**
Save the date—details coming soon.

- June 6-8**
new listing **Trailblazers Academy: Empowering Women in Fire / Westfield, IA**
Female firefighters are invited to join The Nature Conservancy in Iowa in this workshop to strengthen operational and leadership skills. See the [flyer on Facebook](#) for details; [apply](#) by April 30.
- June 22** **North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council Meeting / Jasper, GA**
Save the date—and watch the [GPFC website](#) for details.
- July 9-12** **Natural Hazards Workshop / Broomfield, CO**
See the [workshop website](#) for details.
- August 29-31** **Northeast–Midwest Regional Prescribed Fire Science and Management Workshop / Madison, WI**
This workshop sponsored by Northeast Regional Strategy Committee will draw wildland fire partners from a 20-state region. The agenda is under development, but will include topics ranging from applied research to prescribed fire program needs and opportunities to communication strategies. [Registration](#) is open for sponsors and exhibitors. See the [website](#) for more.
- September 6-7**
new listing **Patch Burn Grazing Meeting / Auburn, KS**
The call for papers is open; contact Lori Bammerlin (bammerlin@ksu.edu) with proposals.
- September 19-21**
new listing **Washington DNR Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Course / Centralia, WA**
See the [course flyer](#) for details; nominations are due by June 26.
- November 6-10**
new listing **6th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / Santa Fe, NM**
Save the date—and watch <http://cohesivestrategyworkshop.org/> for details.
- December 4-8** **10th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Monterey, CA**
The [call for proposals](#) is open for this Association for Fire Ecology conference; proposals for special sessions, workshops and fire circles are due May 10.

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Send News, Links & Comments

Liz Rank (editor) – lrank@tnc.org – Liz is out Thursdays.

Autumn Bjugstad – autumn.bjugstad@tnc.org – Autumn is in the office.

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is at Niobrara, NE and Loess Hills, IA April 16-26; in Fort Collins, CO May 2-4.

James Miller – james.miller@tnc.org – James is out April 26.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in the office.

Laurel Kays – laurel.kays@tnc.org – Laurel is in the office.

Lemaine Peo – lemaine.peo@tnc.org – Lemaine is in Arlington, VA April 17-21; out May 10.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is in the office.

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in Weitchpec April 25-28.

Miranda Flora – miranda.flora@tnc.org – Miranda is in the office.

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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