

FLN Networker No. 311: February 10, 2021

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

New Mexico: In late January partners in the **Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition** landscape conducted **pile burns on private lands in the WUI**. The burns were covered, in the context of the regional drought, on two local TV stations ([KOB4](#) and [KRQU News 13](#)). One squad member who was interviewed discussed his arc from youth corps experience to being on the crew through a **capacity-building** effort the **Forest Stewards Guild**, but that segment did not make it into the final story. For more, contact **Eytan Krasilovsky** (eytan@forestguild.org).

Virginia: The article “Identifying Coarse- and Fine-Scale **Drivers of Avian Abundance Following Prescribed Fires**” will be published in the April issue of *Forest Ecology and Management* ([abstract](#)). Authors **Dana Morin**, **Laurel Schablein**, **Nikole Simmons**, **Jean Lorber** and **Marek Smith** based the article on the **avian and forest structure monitoring efforts** that have been conducted at the Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project in the **Heart of the Appalachians FLN** landscape since 2009. For more, contact **Nikole Simmons** (nikole.simmons@tnc.org).

Southern Blue Ridge: Hot off the virtual presses is “**The Fire Manager’s Guide to Blue Ridge Ecozones**” by FLN landscape lead **Adam Warwick** (awarwick@tnc.org). After an introduction to fire in the mountains, [the guide](#) covers ecozones that need fire to sustain their flora and fauna, with detail on several plant species in each. A print version will be available soon.

IPBN: “**Forever Forests: The Indigenous Peoples Burning Network in Action**” appeared in a recent [newsletter](#) from The Nature Conservancy.

Resources: Home Retrofitting / CWPPs / Smoke / State Plans / Erosion

Home Retrofitting: The **Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities** has released “**Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide: How to Harden Homes Against Wildfire**,” with sections on everything from defensible space to chimneys. In addition to the excellent [guide](#), the Tahoe Network has **recordings** of the three **virtual workshops**—one each for the [public](#), [building professionals](#) and [fire professionals and educators](#)—that it hosted last year.

CWPPs: The **FAC Net** [blog post](#) “Re-Visiting Community Wildfire Protection Plans” summarizes the **lessons learned**—and **resources** found useful—by a learning group of **FAC Net members** that met regularly over the course of 2020.

Smoke: The “**Smoke Management Guidebook** for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region” was created through a collaboration between the EPA, North Carolina State University, Southern Fire Exchange, Southern Regional Extension Forestry and the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. The [guidebook](#) provides a **good introduction** to smoke management for private (non-NWCG) burners, and a good **refresher for more experienced practitioners**.

State Plans: The **National Association of State Foresters** has an [index page](#) for **forest action plans** from all U.S. states and territories. It provides a brief **overview of each** state’s plan with links to the plans and supporting resources.

Erosion: The **Ecological Restoration Institute** and **Southwest Fire Science Exchange** have released a new [working paper](#), “**Mitigating Postfire Runoff and Erosion** in the Southwest using Hillslope and Channel Treatments.” The paper includes sections on **assessments** to inform treatments, **hillslope erosion** treatments and **channel erosion** treatments (with tables comparing various options).

Articles & Reports: Treatments & Drought / Carbon Sequestration / Rx Use / Future Estrangement

Treatments & Drought: The authors of the [article](#) “**Variable Thinning and Prescribed Fire Influence Tree Mortality and Growth** During and After a Severe Drought” explored the effects of these treatments on forests in the central and southern **Sierra Nevada**.

Carbon Sequestration: The [latest Science Findings](#) from the Pacific Northwest Research Station, “**Planting Trees** to Mitigate Climate Change: Policy Incentives Could Lead to **Increased Carbon Sequestration**,” shares the results of modeling several scenarios, including their **economic impacts**.

Rx Use: The [2020 edition](#) of the “**National Prescribed Fire Use Report**” has been released by the **National Association of State Foresters** and the **Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils**. This report is now being produced **annually**.

Future Estrangement: In the [article](#) “Future Estrangement: **Not Having a Place in the Emerging Future**,” David Bengston (Northern Research Station) notes that three large forces—technological change, economic globalization and climate change—are driving rapid change and, for many, “shaking our very belief in a viable future.” In response, “a key line of attack is to **strengthen individual and societal resilience**”—through a system that incorporates diversity, modularity and tight feedbacks among its parts.

In the News: Language Matters

Language Matters: The Colorado Public Radio [story](#) ([en español](#)) “After Years of Tough Lessons, **Spanish-Speaking Communities Rise to Get Wildfire Information** Fast and in Their Language” talks about how two rural counties have taken steps to better serve their large Spanish-speaking populations. A companion audio story (see “listen now” link) discusses **language justice, inclusion, power** and **representation**.

Jobs: Fire Effects Monitors / Fire Crew / Rx Manager / Field Manager / Program Manager / Mitigation Specialist / Fire Operations Manager

Fire Effects Monitors: The **National Park Service** is hiring **seasonal biological science technicians**. Locations include Shenandoah NP (select Luray, VA location) and Grand Canyon NP (select Grand Canyon, AZ; red card desired). Details are on USAjobs.gov ([control number 591072600](#)); for full consideration, apply by **February 16**.

Fire Crew: The **Flagstaff Fire Department** is filling **crew member** and **senior crew member** positions on its seasonal **wildland fire crew**. Details are in the [announcement](#) on the city’s careers page; applications are due by **February 19**.

Rx Manager: The **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife** is hiring a **prescribed fire unit manager** to plan, prioritize, coordinate and implement prescribed burn projects for fire-dependent dry forest ecosystems in north-central Washington. Details are on the state’s jobs page ([job number 2021-00458](#)); applications are due by **February 21**.

Field Manager: The **Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance** (Nice, CA) is seeking a field manager to **lead its hand crew**. Details are in the position [announcement](#); applications are due by **March 1**.

Program Manager: The [Tri County Fire Safe Working Group](#) is currently seeking qualified personnel to serve as the program manager for **FireSafe Helena**. Details are in the attached job announcement.

Mitigation Specialist: The **West Region Wildfire Council** (Montrose, CO) is seeking a **wildfire mitigation specialist** to deliver wildfire risk mitigation information, recommendations and programmatic resources to WUI homeowners, community members and partners. Details are in the [position announcement](#) on the council's [website](#).

Fire Operations Manager: The **Lomakatsi Restoration Project** (Ashland, OR) is seeking a fire professional to **further develop and implement** their **wildland fire and prescribed fire programs**, serving in a management role within the organization. Details are in a [job announcement](#) on the Lomakatsi website; applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Webinars

February 10
new listing

Bringing Fire and Postfire Response Into Alignment

1:30 Pacific / 2:30 Mountain / 3:30 Central / 4:30 Eastern

Anne Bradley is among the panelists on this webinar from the Southwest Fire Science Consortium. Register: <https://www.swfireconsortium.org/2021/01/22/february-10-2021-bringing-fire-and-postfire-response-into-alignment-addressing-the-double-emergency-of-fire-and-postfire-impacts-in-todays-fire-environment/>

February 11
new listing

COVID-19 Impacts on Southeast Prescribed Fire & Strategies for Keeping Fire on the Ground

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

Ben Poulter, Morgan Varner, Brett Williams, Sasha Ernst and Greg Titus will be the presenters on this webinar from the Southern Fire Exchange.

Register: https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p4_60m9pQA6Flzvhz0JKpg

February 11
new listing

Getting More out of Forest Service Agreements

1:30 Pacific / 2:30 Mountain / 3:30 Central / 4:30 Eastern (1.5 hours)

Laurel Baum, Don Boucher, Andy Lerch, Brian McCrory and Liz Peterson will be the panelists for the first in a series of webinars based on the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition's recently updated [guidebook](#), "From Ideas to Action: A Guide to Funding and Authorities for Collaborative Restoration."

Register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zv3EUeLPQcW0VmEIUhNEng

February 17

Dirt Goes Downhill: Are We Making Better Post-Wildfire Erosion Control Treatment Decisions?

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

Pete Robichaud will be the presenter on this webinar from the RMRS Science You Can Use series. Details: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/events/dirt-goes-downhill-are-we-making-better-post-wildfire-erosion-control-treatment>

February 17

Lessons Learned From 12 Years of SBR FLN Fire Response Monitoring

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

Peter Bates, Adam Coates and Don Hagan will be the presenters on this webinar hosted by the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN**. They will present lessons learned from 12 years of fire response monitoring and research. Monitoring studies are

useful for documenting changes in forest characteristics following burning, but are typically not designed to identify mechanisms responsible for those changes. In this webinar, the authors will present results from 10 burn units in the southern Appalachians that have undergone 2 prescribed burns in the past decade. They will also present research results from the same region that shed light on possible mechanisms for those changes, and will show how combining monitoring and research can better inform fire management.

Join meeting: <https://tnc.zoom.us/j/92419760724>

February 18

Timber Management and Prescribed Fire

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern (1.5 hours)

This is the final installment of the “Fueling Discussions” series of panel discussions hosted by the USFS Northern Research Station and members of the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network. There is an opportunity to submit questions for the panel on the registration form.

Details: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/fuelingcollaboration/fire-and-timber-management>

February 24
new listing

Tree Regeneration Following Wildfires in Ponderosa Pine Forests

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

Mike Battaglia, Paula Fornwalt, Jose Iniguez, Suzanne Owen and Carolyn Sieg will be the presenters on this webinar from the RMRS Science You Can Use series.

Details: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/events/tree-regeneration-following-wildfires-ponderosa-pine-forests>

March 3
new listing

Fire Severity: Mapping Past Fires and Predicting the Future

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

Gregory Dillon and Sean Parks will be the presenters on this webinar from the RMRS Science You Can Use series.

Details: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/events/fire-severity-mapping-past-fires-and-predicting-future>

March 3
new listing

Ecological Drought: Drought, Wildfire and Recovery

1:00 Pacific / 2:00 Mountain / 3:00 Central / 4:00 Eastern

Jeremy Littell and Bill Tripp will be the presenters on this webinar from NOAA and USGS.

Details: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7028902270906768655>

April 1
new listing

Building Effective Partnerships With Indigenous Communities

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

James Rattling Leaf, Sr. will be the presenter on this Conservation Biology Institute webinar.

Details: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Tzb0tQ5oTPKK00PVLGe4fA

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES)

March 21-April 3
new listing

Loup River TRES / Central Nebraska

The Loup River TRES returns, with COVID precautions in place. See the [announcement](#) for details; [applications](#) are due by **February 26**.

Oct. 25–Nov. 5

Southern Blue Ridge TRES / North Carolina, South Carolina

Save the date—details will be posted at <https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbtrtex>.

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

January–June

NWCG Trainings / North Coast region, CA

The Karuk Tribe is inviting tribes, interested members of the public, and non-governmental organizations in the North Coast region to participate in a variety of trainings as part of its Regional Forest & Fire Capacity demonstration project, “Burning Across Boundaries.” For details see the flyer attached to [issue #310](#).

February 24-25
updated

PODs Collaborative Fire Planning Workshop

The agenda is now available for this workshop hosted by Wildfire Risk Management Science team for fuels planners, FMOs, line officers, management planners, community collaboratives, scientists, state and local fire and fuel managers and consultants.

Information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/workshop2021>

March 10

Washington Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting / online

Save the date for this virtual meeting, which will begin at 1:00 pm. Visit <http://waprescribedfire.org/> and scroll down to subscribe to the council’s newsletter.

April (dates TBA)
new listing

RX310: Introduction to Fire Effects / online

This online course offered by the University of Idaho will include two virtual class meetings, self-study assignments and a final assessment.

Details: https://mcusercontent.com/cf44b367da9a45b27e51b8b3f/files/beeef994-e5b2-4387-926f-b937d69b1e37/RX310_Announcement_U_of_I.03.pdf

May 1

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / everywhere

Information: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>

May 24-27

16th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit & 6th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference / online

Information: <https://firesafety-humandimensions2021.com/>

June 3

new listing

North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / online

Save the date, and sign up to receive details as they become available.

Information: <http://www.garxfire.com/events.htm>

September 21-23

Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Resilient Colorado: Moving Forward in Evolving Wildfire Landscapes / Grand Junction, CO

Presentation proposals are being accepted through March 5 ([submission form](#)).

October 4-8

4th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / Asheville, NC

Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/4th-annual-national-cohesive-wildland-fire-management-strategy-workshop/>

Nov. 30-Dec. 4
new listing

9th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / online and Miramar Beach, FL

Organizers are trying to gauge participant preferences (e.g. likelihood of virtual vs. in-person attendance) for planning purposes; [take the survey](#) to help them.

Information: <http://afefirecongress.org/>

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Send News, Links & Comments

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is in the office.

Heather Montanye – hmontanye@tnc.org – Heather is out February 12.

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

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

Mary Huffman – mhuffman@tnc.org – Mary is in the office.

Wendy Fulks – wfulks@tnc.org – Wendy is out February 10-12.

Liz Rank (editor) – lrnk@tnc.org – Liz is out February 11, 18 and 25.

Note: February 15 is a Conservancy holiday.

Full Links

News from the Field—NM—KOB4: <https://www.kob.com/new-mexico-news/fire-prevention-efforts-underway-ahead-of-new-mexicos-wildfire-season/5992266/>

KRQE: <https://www.krqe.com/news/wildfires/dry-conditions-throughout-new-mexico-could-set-up-for-busy-fire-season/amp/>

News from the Field—VA—Abstract: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0378112721000293>

Monitoring efforts:

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

News from the Field—SBR: <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/mhrjd7y41gpy5c1xhqe164ss5ym5zdhy>

News from the Field—IPBN: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/membership-and-giving/donate-to-our-mission/gift-and-estate-planning/newsletter/forever-forests/>

Resources—Home retrofitting—Guide: https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LWF_RetrofitGuide_Accessible_for_Web.pdf

Public workshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX114wpPwmg&t=213s>

Building professionals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cclAlg6xONs&t=2s>

Fire professionals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOsdyVSPxnA>

Resources—CWPPs: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/re-visiting-community-wildfire-protection-plans/>

Resources—Smoke: https://www.warnell.uga.edu/sites/default/files/publications/WSFNR-20-91A_Campbell.pdf

Resources—Erosion: https://www.swfireconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/44_Working-Paper_Mitigating-Postfire-Erosion_WEB-2.pdf

Resources—State plans: <https://www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/>

Articles & Reports—Treatments & drought: https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/knapp/psw_2021_knapp001.pdf

Articles & Reports—Carbon sequestration: <https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sciencef/scifi236.pdf>

Articles & Reports—Rx use: <https://www.stateforesters.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-Prescribed-Fire-Use-Report.pdf>

Articles & Reports—Future estrangement: https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2020/nrs_2020_bengston_004.pdf

In the News—Language matters—English: <https://www.cpr.org/2021/01/28/after-years-of-tough-lessons-spanish-speaking-communities-rise-to-get-wildfire-information-fast-and-in-their-language/>

In Spanish: <https://www.cpr.org/2021/01/28/tras-anos-de-lecciones-dificiles-una-comunidad-de-habla-hispana-lucha-por-obtener-informacion-rapida-y-en-su-idioma/>

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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Job Opening: FireSafe Helena Program Manager

Tri County Fire Safe Working Group is currently seeking qualified personnel to serve as the program manager for FireSafe Helena. Please send resumes and letters of interest to exdir@tcfswg.org. Questions can also be sent to this email. Position open until filled.

Tri County Fire Safe Working Group (TCFSWG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to wildland fire mitigation planning, population protection, outreach and education with respect to living with wildfire, and management of meaningful projects to sustain forest health and natural aesthetics in wildland/urban interface (WUI) settings of Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater counties near Helena, MT.

Title: FireSafe Helena Program Manager

Supervisor: TCFSWG Executive Director

General Job Description: FireSafe Helena (FSH) is a FEMA funded project managed by TCFSWG. The program is structured to motivate and support property owners in reducing their risks from wildfire around the home ignition zone. The program manager provides program administration, outreach & education and coordination and oversight of cost-share mitigation activities.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- **Program Administration:** Manage the FireSafe Helena program to meet goals and objectives as outlined in the work plan and in compliance with FEMA grant guidelines and reporting requirements.
 - Compile and maintain project records supporting eligible activities and costs.
 - Utilize management tools to implement and access program guidelines, criteria, and processes.
 - Develop program monitoring programs and evaluation tactics to adapt program as needed.
 - Plan and coordinate community mitigation events that enhance private property mitigation projects.
 - Supervise conservation intern and potential volunteers. ** see task list below.*
- **Assessments & Project Mitigation:** Utilize existing and emerging technologies to identify site specific risks and wildfire risk reduction recommendations to homeowners.
 - Develop project design criteria and specifications.
 - Coordinate home ignition zone assessments, cost-share applications, project agreements, and reimbursement as well as project implementation and post-project monitoring.
 - Perform or supervise project inspections and contractor compliance to ensure adherence to design criteria and specifications for final project checkoffs.
 - Coordinate community mitigation special events (ie Chipper Days).
- **Outreach & Education:** Engage with WUI community members and leaders to increase awareness and understanding related to wildfire risk and mitigation activities that can be taken to reduce/mitigate risk. Coordinate and complete targeted outreach via a variety of mechanisms.

Minor Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintain a complete understanding of all applicable FEMA policies, requirements, and evaluating protocols.
- Coordinate and help facilitate community, HOA and other related meetings and outreach opportunities to promote mitigation programs and strengthen program partnerships.
- Logistics and event planning.

Qualifications for the job:

- College degree in a related field and 1 year of experience in wildfire suppression or mitigation programs.
- Understanding and experience with a variety of topics/disciplines including:
 - Wildfire ecology in fire prone environments
 - Defensible space design, and mitigation best practices
 - Structural ignition vulnerability and mitigation measures

Essential functions and key competencies of the position include, but are not limited to:

- Independent and self-motivated with ability to work remotely with limited supervision.
- Understand and effectively speak to wildfire related issues to deliver consistent yet site specific, engaging and science-based information and training about wildfire risk and mitigation best practices in both the built and natural environments.
- Analyze structure ignition potential in the wildland/urban interface using a science-based approach.
- Identify appropriate construction materials, material ratings, and techniques for the wildland/urban interface.
- Ability to simultaneously manage multiple projects and activities.
- Conduct reporting efforts by tracking detailed programmatic information using spreadsheets, written reports, photographs, and GPS/GIS technologies.
- Strong proficiency with word processing, spreadsheets, database management, social media and webpage.
- Ability and willingness to use a personal vehicle for travel within work areas. Mileage will be reimbursed.

Environmental & Physical Factors

- Work is performed in an office, vehicle and/or outdoor setting in all possible weather conditions. While performing the duties of this job the contractor is required to stand, sit, walk, talk or hear for extended periods of time. Frequently walks over uneven-rough terrain, carries necessary job equipment. Frequently sits in one position while driving.

****Program Administration Task List***

1. As needed: meetings, communications, community mitigation events, project inspections, planning, budget oversight, project agreements, etc.
2. Weekly: Supervision of program intern, email communications, filing, application processing, assessment scheduling, social media posts, program updates to partners and TCFSWG board of directors.
3. Monthly: Timesheets, invoices, property owner reimbursement requests, etc.
4. Quarterly: FEMA grant reporting (project status and in-kind contributions) due on the 15th of the month (January, April, July, & October)