

FLN Networker No. 342: November 23, 2022

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: FireScape Mendocino held a two-day **public workshop** last week, with 40 people taking part in a field tour and 60 people engaging in the workshop session. The [news story](#) “Two-Day Workshop Focuses on **Planning for Wildfire Resilience and Post-Fire Restoration**,” posted before the workshop, gives a good outline of the agenda and goals of the gathering, which included an introduction to potential operational delineations (**PODs**). The first [outcome of the workshop](#) was a **map** of the **Mendocino National Forest** and adjacent lands with draft POD boundaries and related information that interested parties can **explore and comment on**.

California: The **first Santa Barbara TRES** took place last week, bringing some “**good fire**” to **UC Santa Barbara’s Sedgewick Reserve**, according to [local news](#). The **46 participants** also completed a couple days of pile burning, which they turned to after substantial October rains caused some of the planned broadcast burn units to green up too much to burn.

California: The **Resource Conservation District of Butte County** hosted **three training weekends** in October as part of its [fall Cal-TRES](#), building squad communication skills, learning about cultural fire and fire ecology, and completing S-219 (Firing Operations). Participants will now engage in **on-call burning** through February.

California: The [article](#) “**Tribe and Partners Light up a Forest** to Restore Landscape in California” in *Mongabay* talks about the **Somes Bar Integrated Restoration Project** in the context of **ongoing challenges** faced by tribes wanting to use fire for cultural purposes. (The story is illustrated in part with photos from the recent **Karuk WTRES**.)

Maine: **Amanda Mahaffey** (amanda@forestguild.org) captured a **full day** as a member of the **Incident Management Team** on the first TRES in the Northeast in her [essay](#) “2022 ME-TRES: A Day of ‘Fire Vacation’ in Southern Maine.”

Maryland: Two weeks ago, in the **Potomac Headwaters FLN** landscape, TNC planned and led a **90-acre burn with public viewing** at Rocky Gap State Park. It was the **Maryland Park Service’s first burn**, and it was accomplished in partnership with the DNR Forest Service and DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service, National Park Service, Allegany College of Maryland and the Chesapeake Conservation Corps. A [press release](#) was published in the local paper the day before, and **Donnelle Keech** (dkeech@tnc.org) and the park manager **described the burn on Facebook Live** ([recording](#)). According to **Deborah Landau** (dlandau@tnc.org), “It wasn’t a big burn, but was an important first burn, and I think the viewing station really **helped folks understand the what and the why**.”

Tennessee: **Katherine Medlock** (kmedlock@tnc.org)—co-lead of the **Great Smoky and Unaka Mountains** and **Southern Cherokee** landscapes in the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN**—was [interviewed](#) in the latest newsletter from the **Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium**.

Spain: Folks at the **Andalusia TRES** earlier this month remembered to hashtag as they posted on social media; **check out** [#TRESAndalucía2022](#) on Twitter.

Funding: National Forest Foundation

National Forest Foundation: NFF is soliciting proposals for its **Matching Awards Program**; 501(c)(3) nonprofits, universities and federally-recognized Native American tribes are eligible. There is an informational webinar on **December 8**, and applications are due by **January 23**. For details, see the [announcement email](#).

Input Requested: Wildfire Commission / Virtual Tour

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. Starting December 1 you can currently **submit recommendations** [via a web form](#) to the group working on **post-fire issues**. (All topics, and when recommendations will be accepted for each, are also on that page.)

Virtual Tour: **Penn State University** and the **Pacific Southwest Research Station** recently created a virtual field tour to **help audiences visualize** what different types of **thinning and prescribed fire treatments** look like. Before releasing the tool, they are seeking feedback (through a brief survey); input from forest managers, fire managers or policy makers is particularly needed. For more, [see the email](#) from the Southern Rockies Fire Science Network.

Resources: Indigenous Lands / PODs / Women's PPE / Chipping Programs / LANDFIRE

Indigenous Lands: As November is Native American Heritage Month, it's a good time to explore on whose lands you work and live. The **global map** at [Native Land Digital](#) is a good place to start.

PODs: A recent *Science Spotlights* [post](#) from the Rocky Mountain Research Station, "New Horizons for **Proactive, Risk-Informed** Strategic Land and Fire Management," highlights and links to several papers on **potential operational delineations**.

Women's PPE: A [recording](#) of the recent **webinar** "Female Firefighter Personal Protective Clothing: Investigation of **Design, Comfort and Mobility** Issues" is available.

Chipping Programs: If you're considering starting—or improving—a chipping program to help residents manage fuels, see last week's **FAC Net** [blog post](#), "A Chip Off the Old Block: Our **Guide to Starting a Chipping Program** in Your Community."

Public Health: The nonprofit **Americares** and public health entities at **Harvard** have collaborated on "The [Climate Resilience for Frontline Clinics Toolkit](#)." Resources are sorted by threat (**heat, wildfire or hurricanes and flooding**) and role (**provider, patient or administrator**).

LANDFIRE: If you want to **catch up on recent LANDFIRE updates**—and plans for what's next—check out "The New Age of LANDFIRE," a [Story Map](#) from the USGS.

Articles & Reports: Landscape-Scale Rx / Southern Apps Wildfires / Great Plains Rx / Marshall Fire FLA / Incidents & Accidents

Landscape-Scale Rx: The most recent Rocky Mountain Research Station *Science You Can Use* [bulletin](#) "Getting More Fire on the Ground: Landscape-Scale Prescribed Burning **Supported by Science**" is framed in light of the Forest Service's **Confronting the Wildfire Crisis** strategy. It summarizes—and shares further readings in—several subject areas, including social science, tribal perspectives, wildlife considerations, smoke and PODs.

Southern Apps Wildfires: The [article](#) “**Drivers and Ecological Impacts** of a Wildfire Outbreak in the Southern Appalachian Mountains After Decades of Fire Exclusion” looks at the **fall 2016 outbreak** of more than a dozen wildfires. For a quick overview, there’s a summary of the article in the latest [CAFMS newsletter](#).

Great Plains Rx: The [article](#) “Barriers to Prescribed Fire in the U.S. Great Plains, Part I: **Systematic Review** of Socio-Ecological Research” includes a good diagram summarizing “**barrier builders**” and “**barrier busters**,” including their relationship to membership in a prescribed burn association. [Part II](#) of the review covers **solutions**.

Public Participation: The [paper](#) “Pandemic-Era Participation in **Public Lands Governance: Lessons From the USDA Forest Service**” uses **Trinity of Voice theory** concepts—**access, standing and influence**—in discussing the results from two peer-to-peer learning sessions among Forest Service staff and a case from the National Forests in North Carolina.

Marshall Fire FLA: The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center has posted a **facilitated learning analysis** of the December 2021 Marshall Fire as an **expansive and detailed** [Story Map](#).

Incidents & Accidents: USDA Forest Service Research and Development has released an in-depth [metareview](#) covering a **ten-year period** (2007-2016). Available in **several formats** (pdfs, audio book or Story Maps), the review addresses **five major themes**—fatalities and injuries, fiscal incentives, society, ecological soundness, and communication/work environment. The first in a series of supporting [webinars](#) will be held December 8 (see below for details).

Good News: Butterflies / Encouraging Words

Butterflies: The *High Country News* [story](#) “How a **Rare Butterfly Returned**” looks at the Fender’s blue—once thought extinct, but now increasing—is a tiny flagship species for the **remnant prairies** of the Willamette Valley.

Encouraging Words: This also seems like a good place for this [thread](#) on Twitter: “**Reasons to keep working for change** even when you feel discouraged, a thread for climate leaders.”

Jobs

Module Lead: The **National Park Service** is filling three **wildland fire module leader** positions in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. Details are on usajobs.gov ([control number 687456900](#)); applications are due by **December 2**.

Research Biologist: The **U.S. Forest Service** is conducting outreach for a **research biological scientist** position with the Restoring and Managing **Longleaf Pine Ecosystems** Research Work Unit of the Southern Research Station. If interested, complete the outreach form in the attached flyer by **December 2**.

Firefighter: Colorado State University is advertising a **wildland firefighter** position based at **Avon Park Air Force Range** (FL) to serve on a nine-person module. The module averages 60-80 prescribed burn operations and 80-100 wildfires a year. See the CSU jobs site ([114782](#)) for details; applications are due by **December 5**.

Rx Crew: North Carolina State Parks is seeking a **prescribed fire crew technician** (FFT2) to be based at Lake Norman State Park. See the [conservationjobboard.com post](#) for details; applications are due by **December 9**.

Fire Faculty: Cal Poly Humboldt is filling a **tenure-track** position in **applied fire science and management** in its Department of Forestry, Fire, and Rangeland Management. For details, see the university's careers page ([job no. 520671](#)); applications are due by **December 16**, but early response is encouraged.

Fire Management: The Nature Conservancy is seeking an **Arkansas fire management specialist** (FFT1, to obtain RXB2 within three years). Details are on the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 52434](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).

Rx Crews: The Nature Conservancy is seeking **burn crew members** in **Alabama** ([job ID 52436](#)), **Arkansas** ([job ID 52423](#)), **Missouri** ([job ID 52503](#)) and **North Carolina** ([job ID 52060](#)); various deadlines. Current employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

Fire Management: The Suffolk County Water Authority (NY) is seeking a **fire management specialist** to perform key roles in managing the **comprehensive prescribed fire program** operated by the **Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission**. Details are on the [SCWA careers page](#).

Program Director; Instructor: The Ember Alliance currently has **two positions** posted: a **resilient communities and forests program director** and a **call-when-needed wildland fire training instructor**. Both are posted on [smartrecruiters.com](#).

Fuels Captain: The Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance ([TERA](#)) is seeking a **fuels captain**, and is particularly encouraging Indigenous, Black and other folks of color; immigrants; LGBTQIA+, transgender and gender non-conforming folks; and people with disabilities to apply. See the [job description](#) for details; [apply](#) as soon as possible—applications are currently being processed.

Conservation Corps: The **Southeast Conservation Corps**—which runs **adult, youth and veterans fire corps crews**—currently has several **crew lead** positions available, as well as openings for **crew members** in Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee. See the [SECC website](#) for details.

BLM: The **Bureau of Land Management** recently hosted a **webinar** ([recording](#)) that introduces [fire careers](#) at the agency. In addition to hearing people in **various fire careers** share information about their positions and career paths, there is information on **navigating the federal hiring process**.

Webinars

November 29

Management and Climate Variability Effects on the Understory Vegetation Productivity Along Forest-Savanna Continuum

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

Arjun Adhikari will be the presenter in the first of a series of webinars from the Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium.

Register: <https://oakfirescience.com/events/webinar-management-and-climate-variability-effects-on-the-understory-vegetation-productivity-along-forest-savanna-continuum/>

November 30
new listing

Wildfire Risk and Insurance

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

Carolyn Kousky, Mike Peterson, Nancy Watkins and Penny Liao will present on this webinar from Resources for the Future about homeowner insurance.

Register: <https://www.rff.org/events/rff-live/sparking-solutions-wildfire-risk-and-insurance/>

- December 1** **Considering Equity in Wildfire Risk and Protection**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
Matthew R. Auer will be the presenter for the final webinar in the Equity and Environmental Justice in Wildfire series from the Northwest Fire Science Consortium and Oregon State University Extension Fire Program. Register: https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b_P3REUmRQGBZzhQ9PNgEq#/registration
- December 1** **South-Central Oregon Post-Fire Resilience Strategy**
noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern
Libby Pansing and Brian Morris will be the presenters on this webinar from the Forest Stewards Guild that focuses on Klamath and Lake counties, where about 660,000 acres have burned at high severity since 2008. Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcOqhjliEtD2upKXwTROE9g_5LRnb1W1
- December 6**
new listing **Increases in Large Wildfire Driven Nighttime Fire Activity Observed Across the Conterminous United States**
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern
This Southwest Fire Science Consortium webinar is based on the [paper](#) “Large Wildfire Driven Increases in Nighttime Fire Activity Observed Across CONUS From 2003–2020” (Patrick Freeborn et al.). Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tceqgrikpEtBILunriMxuiyigulto9iDn>
- December 7** **LANDFIRE: Informal Office Hours**
10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern
This month’s topic is how LANDFIRE’s [vegetation](#) and cover products are mapped. (Also check out the LANDFIRE [storymap](#) “The New Age of LANDFIRE.”) Register: <https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlocumupzMpEtN63X--Or1r6CJej683Bp5E>
- December 7**
new listing **Rising From the Ashes: Post-Fire Regeneration Management Strategies From Recent Front Range Fires**
noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern (1.5 hr)
Chuck Rhoades, Marin Chambers, Laura A. E. Marshall and Kyle Rodman will be the presenters on this [webinar](#) from the Southern Rockies Fire Science Network. Register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sc-mopjwoHt3BhhL3i6kllhaA3eej5bCf>
- December 8**
new listing **Wildland Fire Metareview Overview & Discussion**
11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern
See the “Incidents & Accidents” post under “Articles and Reports,” above, or the [Wildland Fire Metareview](#) for the context of this Forest Service webinar.
Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsceqgrz4vG_b6foxl9Tl9j139OjbxQ0
- December 15** **Fueling Collaboration: Fire and Water**
8:00 Pacific / 9:00 Mountain / 10:00 Central / 11:00 Eastern
The second 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 Stephanie Laseter.
Register: <https://www.fuelingcollab.com/>

Network Workshops & Field Tours

January 24
new listing **Potomac Headwaters Fire Learning Network Workshop / Cumberland, MD**
This workshop will focus on ecozone mapping and ecological departure analyses, to help set the focus of burn programs moving forward. Successes of the past three years and discuss new developments, including fire monitoring using remote imagery and advances in drone ignition technology, are also on the agenda. Details will follow in December.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) & Cooperative Burning

Nov. 11-Jan. 15 **North Bay Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Bay Area, CA**
This TRES is in progress.

Feb. 20-March 3 **Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Southeastern NC**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

Feb. 27-Mar. 10 **Southern Missouri Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Springfield, MO**
The deadline for this TRES has passed.

Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

December 7-8
new listing **Geo-Fencing Summit / online**
The Rocky Mountain Research Station is hosting this summit focusing on an alternative to traditional fencing, which is vulnerable to wildfires. Sessions run from 9:00-2:00 Mountain, both days. See the [email announcement](#) for details.
Join the meeting: <https://usfs.zoomgov.com/j/16104530612> (passcode USFS1905!)

January 7-13, 2023
deadline **Southern Area Engine Academy / Barberville, FL**
See the [announcement email](#) for details. Applications are due by December 15.

January 26-27, 2023 **Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council / State College, PA and online**
A group rate on rooms is being held until December 27.
Agenda & registration: <https://paprescribedfire.org/annual-meeting/>

April 11-14, 2023 **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Fort Collins, CO**
The conference focus is “Accelerating Adaptation and Managing Expectations.”
Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>

April 25-28, 2023 **Prescribed Fire for Wildlife / Haines City, FL**
[Save the date](#) for this course offered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
More information after December 1: <https://fltws.org/>

May 2-4, 2023 **Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop / Fort Collins, CO**
Registration is now open for this workshop on “Adapting to a Climate-Altered West.”
Information: <https://sweri.org/cross-boundary-landscape-restoration-workshop/>

December 4-8, 2023 **10th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Monterey, CA**
Save the date for this event hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology.
Information: <https://fireecology.org/calendar-entries/firecongress23>

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Send News, Links & Comments

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

Emily Hohman – emily.hohman@tnc.org – Emily is intermittently available November 28-December 1; in Haines City, FL December 12-16.

James Miller – james.miller@tnc.org – James is out November 23, December 5 and 7.

Jeremy Bailey – jeremy_bailey@tnc.org – Jeremy is in Haines City, FL December 12-16.

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

Lemaine Peo – lemaine.peo@tnc.org – Lemaine is out November 23.

Marek Smith – marek_smith@tnc.org – Marek is out November 23 and December 7; in Haines City, FL December 12-16.

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

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

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

Note: November 24 and 25 are Conservancy holidays.

Full Links

News from the Field—CA—FireScape Mendocino—News story: <https://www.lakeconews.com/news/74160-two-day-workshop-focuses-on-planning-for-wildfire-resilience-and-post-fire-restoration>
Outcome & map: <https://www.firescapemendocino.org/>

News from the Field—CA—SB TREX: <https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/prescribed-burn-training-to-take-place-at-ucsb-sedgwick-reserve>

News from the Field—CA—Butte Cal-TREX: <https://www.bcrd.org/trex>

News from the Field—CA—Tribal burning: <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/11/tribe-and-partners-light-up-a-forest-to-restore-landscape-in-california/>

News from the Field—ME: https://3a9241ad-de8f-4425-8dde-7ae618f25660.usfiles.com/ugd/3a9241_6cf3bea633a74c408ff536596a7e1e4a.pdf

News from the Field—MD—Press release: https://www.times-news.com/news/local_news/controlled-burn-planned-for-rocky-gap-state-park/article_86b75230-5d11-11ed-bfe3-d7e2857f618a.html
Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfRockyGapSP/videos/673327244135747>

News from the Field—TN: <https://oakfirescience.com/download/2022-newsletters/OFS-NL-10-2022.pdf#page=7>

News from the Field—Spain: https://twitter.com/search?q=%23TREXAndaluc%C3%ADa2022&src=typed_query

Input Requested—Wildfire commission: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster-resource-center/wildland-fire/commission/engagement>

Input Requested—Virtual tour: <https://mailchi.mp/colostate.edu/virtual-reality-forestry>

Resources—Indigenous lands: <https://native-land.ca/>

Resources—PODs: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/science-spotlights/new-horizons-proactive-risk-informed-strategic-land-and-fire-management>

Resources—Women's PPE: <https://players.brightcove.net/pages/v1/index.html?accountId=16405444031001&playerId=SyeAc8Oq3Z&videoId=6314737949112&autoplay=true>

Resources—Chipping programs: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/starting-a-chipping-program-in-your-community/>

Resources—Public health: <https://www.americares.org/what-we-do/community-health/climate-resilient-health-clinics/>

Resources—LANDFIRE: <https://geonarrative.usgs.gov/the-new-age-of-landfire/>

Articles & Reports—Landscape-scale Rx: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU-Bulletin-GettingMoreFireOnTheGround-November2022.pdf>

Articles & Reports—Southern Apps wildfires—Article: https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2022/ja_2022_norman_001.pdf
Summary: https://mcusercontent.com/e2093863b4879c06a3bdd3e72/files/6b52bb52-f63d-fc12-400c-3fbb2aac9b6f/CAFMS_newsletter_vol_12_issue_3.pdf

Articles & Reports—Great Plains Rx: https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs_journals/2022/rmrs_2022_clark_a001.pdf
Part II: https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs_journals/2022/rmrs_2022_clark_a002.pdf

Articles & Reports—Public participation: https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2022/nrs_2022_floress_002.pdf

Articles & Reports—Marshall Fire FLA: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/83af63bd549b4b8ea7d42661531de512>

Articles & Reports—Incidents & accidents: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/fire/response/metareview>

Good News—Butterflies: <https://www.hcn.org/issues/54.11/north-wildlife-how-a-rare-butterfly-returned>

Good News—Encouraging words: <https://twitter.com/bethsawin/status/1373989905433526279>

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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US Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Research Station



Position Outreach Notice

Research Biological Scientist, GS-0401-12

Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Research Work Unit

<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/longleaf/>

Duty Station: Auburn, AL

The Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Research Work Unit (RWU) of the Southern Research Station (SRS) plans to advertise a vacancy for a permanent, full-time, Research Biological Scientist position. The position will be filled at the GS-12 (currently, \$79,363/yr to \$103,176/yr) level, plus standard Federal benefits. The duty station is the G.W. Andrews Forestry Sciences Lab in Auburn, AL. In addition to the Longleaf Pine RWU (SRS-4158), the Auburn lab currently houses researchers and support personnel from several other units of the SRS, including the Forest Operations (SRS-4703) and the Utilization of Southern Forest Resources (SRS-4704) RWUs, Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS-4801); and staff from Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives.

The Longleaf Pine RWU's mission is to provide knowledge and strategies for restoring, managing, and sustaining longleaf pine ecosystems in the southeastern United States. The RWU operates as a part of the SRS's Center for Forest Restoration and Management under the broader science area of Resource Management and Use. SRS-4158's web page (<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/longleaf/>) provides more information about the RWU, including our [charter](#).

Duties

The scientist develops studies that support the mission of SRS-4158 across the range of longleaf pine, focusing on ecosystem goods and services related to the understory and its pine-dominated overstory. Geographically, this focuses the research on the longleaf pine-dominated ecosystems of the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains, Sandhills, Piedmont, and southern Appalachian Mountains. Potential avenues of fruitful research may include community assembly, invasion ecology, natural and anthropogenic disturbances, management impacts on restoration, fire and fire effects, carbon dynamics, nutrient cycling, vegetation-water relations, and modeling, amongst other possibilities. The work should address basic and applied questions concerning the complex relationships in longleaf pine-dominated systems between the under- and overstory, community dynamics, natural disturbances (especially fire), stand management practices, human communities and societal needs, and landscape dynamics.

More specifically, the scientist plans and conducts research on the biotic, abiotic, and socioeconomic factors influencing the many goods and services offered by the longleaf pine ecosystem. Longleaf pine-dominated open forests, with their substantial understory richness and complex community relationships, have become a public lands restoration priority range-wide. To better these restoration efforts and

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outcomes and broaden our knowledge of pine-dominated landscapes in general, the scientist will develop a research program focused on past land use of historical ecosystems and desired future conditions under a changing environment. In addition, the scientist will work with colleagues to study the impacts of management and restoration treatments on understory communities (and vice versa). It is expected that this work will also integrate spatial information from individual plants to populations to stands to landscape mosaics across multiple scales using observational and experimental research. These data may be used to create, parameterize, refine, and test models related to longleaf pine ecosystems, with fire as one of many variables to manipulate. Other fire-related research themes could include studies on local- to landscape-scale prescribed burning or research into fire behavior in unrestored and restored longleaf pine ecosystems. In general, the research by the scientist should also provide information on assessments of the costs and benefits of longleaf pine restoration, including the risks of restoration and alternatives, the value of non-traditional ecosystem goods and services, the potential influence of threatened and endangered species, and/or the impacts of fire (prescribed or otherwise).

This research program should fall within the scope of the unit's research mission and supports the goals of the SRS, Region 8 of the National Forest System, the Forest Service, and the USDA. For instance, studies of the scientist will support the agency's objectives for longleaf pine restoration, including Region 8 initiatives to increase the scope and pace of longleaf pine restoration. This research should also support the needs of a diverse assemblage of agency collaborators, from the timber industry and the Southern Group of State Foresters to university partners, NGOs, other state and local agencies, and support efforts such as America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. The full cycle of research, from concept development to securing support to implementing studies to publication and dissemination of the work, will be required. The scientist will determine key aspects of the experimental design and will serve as an expert in the study of ecosystem goods and services of longleaf pine for the SRS, the Forest Service, practicing foresters and land managers, and the scientific community in general. Additionally, the scientist will be an active liaison with the other federal researchers, university faculties, the National Forest System, other federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, forest industry and non-industrial private forest landowners involved in improving forest management practices, to disseminate research findings and obtain guidance concerning research that promotes scientific forestry.

The scientist may also exercise the full range of supervisory duties for a Research Support Team and provide additional administrative support; these responsibilities will constitute 10% or less of the scientist's time. In addition to helping the Research Support Team with the operations of the Escambia Experimental Forest, a public-private partnership located in Brewton, Alabama, the successful applicant will also be an active contributor to the Experimental Forest Network of the SRS, working with other Station scientists and staff to further develop this effort.

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TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: One permanent full-time position

DUTY STATION: Auburn, AL

TELEWORK ELIGIBILITY: Possible

WORK SCHEDULE: Full-time 40 hours per week

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Those who are interested must meet the qualification requirements for the 0401 series (or related series) for scientist positions. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook Manual is available at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/>. **Current U.S. Citizenship is required for employment in this position with the USDA Forest Service.**

Community Information

The city of Auburn is conveniently located in Lee County in eastern Alabama along the Interstate 85 corridor, less than 60 miles northeast of Alabama's capital city of Montgomery, about 30 miles northwest of Columbus, Georgia, and 100 miles southwest of Atlanta. Alabama's Gulf Shores can be reached in less than four hours. The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is 1.5 hours away. The population of Auburn is 66,259, the city of Opelika (pop. 30,908) is immediately to the east of Auburn, and when the surrounding area is included, the Auburn metro area population climbs to nearly 160,000.

Auburn is home to Auburn University, one of the largest in the South and a member of the Southeastern Conference. Auburn remains in the educational forefront with its traditional blend of arts and applied science, and the university offers a number of continuing education, professional development and community outreach courses. The university is also Auburn's largest employer. Nearby Opelika is home to Southern Union State Community College, and there are numerous other colleges and universities within a 50-mile radius. Auburn City Schools consists of eight elementary schools, one middle school, one junior high school and one high school. The system is recognized as a trailblazer among public schools, not only in Alabama, but in the US—several of the Auburn schools have received national recognition.

In 2019, Forbes listed Auburn in its top 20 best small places for businesses and careers, and in 2020 Auburn was listed among the top 100 places to live by livability.com. The Auburn area boasts unique dining, a variety of shopping choices, several golf courses, historic sites, museums, and parks. The area is known for both large and small game hunting, with spring turkey hunting opportunities attracting enthusiasts from across the U.S. There are opportunities for fishing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, and most other forms of outdoor recreation. Most religious denominations can be found locally. A variety of housing types and prices are available across the area. Industrial parks within Lee County include businesses such as large distribution centers, vitamin manufacturing, and automotive manufacturing. East Alabama Medical Center in Auburn serves as the principal source of primary and referral services for the residents of Lee County. This 340-bed hospital consistently receives awards of excellence and frequently ranks in the top 10 percent of hospitals when it comes to patient satisfaction. Fort Benning is in nearby Columbus, Georgia and offers additional educational, cultural, recreational, and shopping venues.

How to be Considered

The purpose of this outreach notification is to determine the potential applicant pool that may be interested in the position. Current Forest Service employees are encouraged to respond. If interested, please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and send it to Dr. Don Bragg, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 3516 UAM, Monticello, AR 71656 or email it to Don.C.Bragg@usda.gov by December 1, 2022. If you wish, please include a brief narrative, or resume, describing your experience

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and/or qualifications for the position. Those interested will be sent a copy of the announcement with duties, qualifications required, and application instructions. We anticipate officially announcing the position in the near future, with an anticipated (and negotiable) starting date in early 2023. For more information, contact Dr. Bragg at (870) 367-3465.

* * * * *

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Outreach Response Form

Research Biological Scientist, GS-0401-12

Duty Station: Auburn, AL

If you are interested in this position, complete this form and send it via email, by December 1, 2022, to Don.C.Bragg@usda.gov. If you are not a current Forest Service employee or do not have access to e-mail please complete this form and mail to: Dr. Don Bragg, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 3516 UAM, Monticello, AR 71656.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

EMPLOYMENT

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes No

If Yes:

Name of your Agency & Location: _____

Current title/series/grade: _____

Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary

If No:

Current Employer: _____

Current Position Title: _____

Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary

If you are not a current permanent federal (career or career conditional) employee, please indicate below if you are eligible for other appointments under any of the following special authorities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Peace Corps/Vista Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Employment Opp. Act of 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Readjustment Act |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Employment Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement Eligibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Thank you for your interest!

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