

National Fire Learning Network Workshop Agenda

March 7, 8 and 9 2007

Westward Look Resort, Tucson, AZ

This annual meeting of the USFLN will celebrate five years of accomplishments, synthesize lessons learned, and help USFLN members marshal resources for implementation of FLN landscape restoration actions.

Day 1 – Wednesday March 7

Objective: Understand FLN landscapes and funding opportunities.

- 7:30-8:30 Opening Breakfast (provided)
- 8:30-9:00 Welcome to the Workshop – Dave Christenson, Assistant Center Manager, Wildfire Lessons Learned Center, Tucson AZ
Overview and day’s objectives - Lynn Decker, Director Fire Learning Network
“Doling Out Dollars” (Jeannie)
- 9:00-9:20 McRee Anderson, Fire Ecologist, TNC, Arkansas, and John Andre, USFS, Bayou Ranger District.
The Boston Mountains/Bayou Ecosystem Restoration Project has been involved in the national Fire Learning Network since 2002, and is the lead landscape for the South Central FLN. This project, which is spearheaded by staff working on the Ozark and St. Francis National Forests in Arkansas, is also a LANDFIRE Application project.
- 9:20-9:40 Lynn Jungwirth, Executive Director, The Watershed Center, Hayfork, CA
Twelve years and nine million dollars: proven tactics for funding on-the-ground restoration.
The Watershed Research and Training Center joined the Fire Learning Network in 2005 as the Trinity Basin Fire Learning Network. The Center is a community-based, nonprofit organization that promotes healthy communities and sustainable forests through research, education, training, and economic development. Learn how they have developed long term sustainable funding sources for community-based integrated ecological restoration that will improve the long-term safety and economic stability of local communities.
- 9:40-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:45 “Let’s Get Funded” – Panel Presentations
- Fran Moskovitz, Assoc. Dir. of Philanthropy, The Nature Conservancy, Arizona
Fundraising 101 – Role of the conservation/fire practitioner in private fundraising
 - Craig Groves, Wildlife Conservation Society
Best Practices – Top 10 Do’s and Don’ts for getting noticed
 - Kim Blundy, The Nature Conservancy/NRCS Cost Share Position
Alphabet Soup – USDA Conservation Programs under the Farm Bill
 - Kate D’Ambrosio, Program Specialist, U.S. Forest Service
Sort It All Out –National Fire Plan and Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystems

- 11:45-noon Morning Wrap-up
- Noon-1:30 Lunch provided
Logistics of the afternoon workshops: concurrent sessions briefs, Landscape Walk, reporting back (Jeannie Patton, TNC-Global Fire Initiative Program Coordinator)
- 1:30-3:40 Afternoon Workgroups: three concurrent workshops are offered so you can work where you need to work. (Scheduled rotation at 2:30 pm if you want to participate in more than one session.)
- *Ask the Experts* – Facilitated forum to continue discussions from the morning panel on funding resources and group participation in participates questions (Craig Groves, Wildlife Conservation Society; Fran Moskovitz, TNC; Kim Blundy, TNC/NRCS; Peter Warren, TNC Government Relations; Linda Mazzu, US Dept of Interior; Kate D’Ambrosio, US Forest Service – McRee Anderson, Southcentral FLN present during first session; Lynn Jungwirth, Trinity Basin FLN present during second session)
 - *So Many Pieces, So Many Parts: A Government Grants Tune-Up* (Lynn McKenna, Heather Montanye, TNC). Give your grants' policies and procedures engine a recharge at a workshop designed to both review and introduce important rules and regulations as well as how to budget, purchase with, report on and match government funds.
 - *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night: Your Stories in Action* (Jeannie Patton). Reporting quantifiable results (e.g. acres burned) is straightforward, but often misses the larger picture of your work on the ground. Tell your whole story. This workshop offers specific guidance on how to report back on the less tangible successes and challenges in your work so that you can raise money, share lessons learned and prevent others from reinventing the wheel.
- 3:45-4:30 Reports back, wrap-up (Robin, Jeannie)
- 4:30-6:00 *Landscape Walk and Passport Contest*. Visit USFLN landscapes, dole out dollars, have your Passport stamped, record observations and contribute to strategic planning—all in one afternoon!
- 6:00-7:00 No-host Bar. Continuation of “Landscape Walk” interaction
- 7:00 5-year Birthday Celebration Dinner and Awards
Lynn Decker with Linda Mazzu, DOI, Kate D’Ambrosio, USFS

Day 2 – Thursday March 8

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast (provided)
- 8:30-9:00 Preview of today’s work
Review the results of the Landscape Walk Passport Contest
- 9:00-9:30 *State Wildlife Strategies and Action Plans: Integrating Conservation Priorities Across Institutions and Landscape*. Craig Groves, Senior Conservation Scientist Wildlife Conservation Society (North American Program)
- 9:30-9:45 Break

- 9:45-noon Workshops/workgroups: concurrent sessions
- *He Said, She Said: Results of the FLN Policy Survey and Translation of Words to Action* (Laura McCarthy). The FLN Policy Survey conducted in December 2006 identified policy problems encountered across the networks as well as concerns that are specific to fire restoration in certain regions. After a presentation of the survey results and a summary of the current federal policymaking environment, participants will discuss and set priorities for actions to further the implementation of collaboratively developed fire restoration plans.
 - *How to Give a Cat a Bath: Achieving Safety and Effectiveness in a High Risk Environment* (Paula Seamon, TNC). Learn about common factors of success for individuals and organizations that operate in dangerous and/or high-risk environments. Participants will complete short self-assessments, engage in small group discussion, and collect practical tips for moving forward.
 - *Get Organized* – on your own in the self-organized session room
- Noon-1:30 Lunch (provided)
- 1:30-3:30 Workshops/workgroups: concurrent sessions
- *You Can Lead a Horse to Water, but Can You Make Him Drink?* (Susanne Hickey, TNC, and Tom Perry, Culebra Range Community Coalition). We can educate and train both public and private landowners on restoration. To make it work, however, buy-in is essential, and often requires a change in philosophy and culture to accept fire as a tool. Tom Buman of Agren, Inc., will talk about results of a prescribed fire liability insurance study; Tom Perry will review the lessons learned when one combines private and public interests to achieve common goals. Discussion will center on current strategies and approaches to private lands restoration.
 - *Biomass Issues and Opportunities: Figuring Out The Next Big Thing* (Nick Goulette, Lynn Jungwirth) Linking fine fuels to markets is challenging. What do we need to do to push this opportunity? Bring your overview on what has been done with biomass materials, and be ready to discuss what the USFLN landscapes can do to innovate and explore new solutions.
 - *Get Organized* – on your own in the self-organized session room
- 3:30-3:45 Break
- 3:45-4:15 Reports back with lessons learned and follow-up plan strategy (Jeannie facilitates)
- 4:15-4:30 *Dollars Doled Out: Who Got the Money and Why* (Curt Gervich, Virginia Tech)
- 4:30-5:00 Field Trip Overview – Brooke Gebow and partners (SE AZ Preserves Manager); Gita Bodner (Conservation Ecologist); Dave Gori (Senior Ecologist); Matt Killeen (SE AZ Preserves Asst Manager); Peter Warren (Senior Field Representative)

Day 3 – Friday March 9

Leaders (all TNC AZ staff):

Gita Bodner (Conservation Ecologist)
Brooke Gebow (SE AZ Preserves Manager)
Dave Gori (Senior Ecologist)
Matt Killeen (SE AZ Preserves Asst Manager)
Peter Warren (Senior Field Representative)

8:00 a.m. Leave Westward Look (drivers = Bodner, Gebow, Gori, Warren)
9:00 a.m. Arrive BLM Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (Empire Ranch HQ)

Bodner/Gori lead group to 3 sites on the 50,000-acre, public/private NCA (about 4000' elevation). They will explain/show us:

- General overview of geology, climate, soils, hydrology, flora, wildlife
- Quick history of the NCA
- Collaborative planning that helps guide NCA management
- Role of fire in desert grassland system
- Grazing history of the area
- Dynamics of mesquite invasion in desert-grassland system
- Dynamics of Lehmann lovegrass invasion
- Grassland condition monitoring conducted by TNC
- Adaptive management regime
- Effects of single-pass fire
- Maintenance of sacaton bottomlands
- BLM's mesquite removal project
- Proposed future fire projects

10:30 a.m. Sonoita Crossroads (restrooms)

11:00 a.m. Arrive at Canelo Pass (mile high). On the way we'll see encroaching sprawl, various ranching practices, effects of 2002 Ryan fire, the entrance to our beautiful Canelo preserve, effects of drought

Warren/Gebow will explain/show:

- Higher elevation grassland/Madrean oak savanna system (differences from previous site)
- Increase in oak density with fire suppression on the U.S. side
- Intact native grassland on the Mexican side
- Los Fresnos burn story
- Land uses and TNC protection of San Rafael Valley
- Huachuca Area Fire Partners (short) story
- International border issues and fire

12:15 p.m. Arrive at TNC Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve and LUNCH.
(Preserve HQ has restrooms.)

1:00 Guided walk through the preserve, stressing a theme of managing altered systems. We are interested in the ideas of the group about managing fuels in the riparian area.

Killeen/Gori will explain/show:

- History of TNC at PSCP
- Likely historical vegetation conditions (pre-town, pre-agriculture, pre-railroad)
- Sacaton grassland flood/fire needs
- Johnson grass invasion
- TNC sacaton restoration efforts including fire
- Cottonwood-willow riparian system basics
- Fire-hydrology story
- Fuel buildup in the riparian area
- PSCP cienega and fire

2:30

Depart PSCP

4:00

Arrive Westward Look