

U.S. Fire Learning Network (FLN) – Upper Deschutes Basin Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the FLN?

The purpose of the NW Fire Learning Network is to accelerate the restoration of fire-adapted systems by networking several multi-stakeholder landscape teams together through a series of facilitated workshops. While each landscape team works on collaborative approaches to local forest and fire management issues, these workshops provide the opportunity for peer review and the transfer of technology and innovative ideas among the participating landscapes.

2. Why does the FLN exist?

In the United States and many other parts of the world, fires are behaving differently now than they have throughout history, largely as a result of human actions. An estimated 53% of U.S. forests and rangelands have altered fire dynamics. The U.S. Fire Learning Network (USFLN) is engaging dozens of multi-agency, community-based projects in a process that accelerates the restoration of landscapes that depend on fire to sustain native plants and animals. Fire Learning Networks are funded through the Restoring Fire Adapted Ecosystems Cooperative Agreement between US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Department of Interior.

3. What/where is the Upper Deschutes Basin Landscape?

The Upper Deschutes Basin is approximately 2 million acres encompassing the Deschutes National Forest, Prineville BLM lands and private.

4. Who is involved in the Deschutes Basin FLN?

US Forest Service, Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management, Central Oregon Fire Management Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Natural Resource Council, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, The Nature Conservancy, Deschutes County Commissioners, Project Wildfire, Spatial Solutions, Interested community groups and non-profit conservation organizations.

5. What is the timeframe of the Deschutes Basin FLN?

Current cooperative agreement is funded through December 2006; currently proposed continuation of support for 2007 – 2009.

6. What current issues or values are being examined through FLN?

- *Hazardous Fuels*
- *Wildfire*
- *Wildland Urban Interface*
- *Forest and Fire Restoration*
- *Wildlife Habitat*
- *Small Diameter Utilization*
- *Watershed Function and Aquatic Resources*
- *Recreation*

7. What makes it different than other planning efforts?

The Upper Deschutes Basin team wants to develop a common vision or desired condition for the entire Deschutes Basin Landscape utilizing the best available science and incorporating values through collaborative partnerships.

8. Can we integrate existing work/process into this collaborative plan?

Yes; plans to incorporate:

Integrated Fuels Management Strategy- 1998

COFMS 5-year strategy

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Sisters; Bend; Sunriver; Upper Deschutes River Natural Resource Coalition; La Pine; Walker Range

Pacific Northwest Research Station Landscape Assessment projects

Central Oregon Landscape Assessment (COLA)

Interagency Mapping Assessment Project (IMAP)

LANDFIRE national mapping project

Small Diameter Utilization Projects and Industry

9. What will the FLN produce?

- a collaborative vision, or desired condition of forest by integrating existing planning efforts with multiple stakeholder values and research at PNW research station*
- a prioritized action map, with consensus from a large stakeholder group and show how existing and future projects fit into a larger landscape of desired conditions*
- monitoring plans to measure progress towards desired conditions*
- a communication plan for public and stakeholder education*
- on-the-ground demonstrations and implementation of desired conditions*
- increased money for implementation through collaborative grants*

10. How can the FLN influence land management?

The timing is right to integrate community planning efforts (CWPPs) with agency and government efforts to generate a collaborative vision for future land management. Our products are timed to feed Deschutes National Forest Plan revision efforts.