


June 2006

FLN



DISPATCH

*Emerging Lessons From
The Fire Learning Network*

FIRE LEARNING NETWORK A cooperative project of The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, and the Dept. of the Interior, the network was created in 2002 to catalyze efforts to reduce hazardous fuels across the country. Part of the larger joint program *Restoring Fire-Adapted Ecosystems* that includes fire education and training components, the network operates at both local and national levels to overcome barriers to implementing ecologically appropriate fuels reduction and restoration projects.

<http://tncfire.org/usfln>

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FIRE INITIATIVE This 19-person team is working to assess, abate and prevent fire-related threats to biodiversity conservation around the world. In the U.S., the Initiative is working with a variety of partners to promote ecologically appropriate fire management, develop and implement science-based planning tools and monitoring techniques, and further fire education and training efforts.

<http://nature.org/fire>

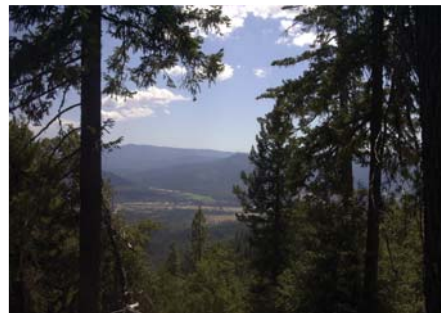


The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

A new regional network was launched this month, the Trinity Basin FLN in northern California. Unlike the other regional networks, which are coordinated by Nature Conservancy staff, the Trinity Basin FLN will be spearheaded by the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC).

WRTC is a community-based group founded in 1993 and based in Hayfork, California. Historically, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest served as the economic base for Hayfork and much of the rest of rural Trinity County. Local communities have been hit hard by the decline of the logging industry, and are also increasingly threatened by uncharacteristically large and severe wildfires.

Through the Trinity Basin FLN, WRTC and its partners will address both of these issues using tools such as stewardship contracting that have the potential to create jobs, reduce hazardous fuels and restore forest health, and contribute



Hayfork Valley serves as the anchor site for the Trinity Basin Fire Learning Network.

—Photo by Roger Jaegel

TRINITY BASIN FLN: PARTNERS ENGAGED TO-DATE

- Hayfork Municipal Water District
- Post Mountain Stewardship Collaborative
- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Forest Service
- Humboldt State University
- Trinity County Fire Safe Council
- Trinity County Resource Conservation District

For more information about the Trinity Basin FLN, contact Lynn Jungwirth at lynnj@hayfork.net or 530-628-4206.

to conserving the rich biodiversity of the area including native anadromous fish and their habitat.

Exploring the role of prescribed fire in restoring the ecological function and structure of the forests of this region is a key goal of the Trinity Basin FLN. “Fire is a very complex issue in the Trinity because we have spotted owl, coho... protected species everywhere,” said Lynn Jungwirth, executive director of the WRTC. “And what we haven’t figured out is what the role of fire is in protecting and enhancing the habitat for those protected species.”

The Trinity Basin FLN will engage five projects, one of which centers around the community of Post Mountain. Post Mountain residents have been working with WRTC and the US Forest Service to design a stewardship contracting project to implement their Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). (Legislation passed in 2003 authorizes federal agencies to use “stewardship contracts” to apply the value of timber or other forest products removed to offset the cost of services received.)

Over the past several years, the Post Mountain collaborative developed goals, objectives and ecological principles to guide fuel reduction, restoration and prescribed burning treatments. They also developed and began collecting baseline data for a monitoring plan. The Trinity Basin FLN will compile lessons learned about integrating fire use into community wildfire protection planning and stewardship contracting, and share those lessons across the Trinity Basin FLN and the greater U.S. Fire Learning Network.

Additional projects are related to watershed planning, wildlife burns, biomass utilization and riparian restoration.

GET INVOLVED!

If you’re interested in participating in a regional or national level meeting, or just learning more:

- Browse the FLN Web site
<http://tncfire.org/usfln>
- Join and contribute to the FLN listserv
http://tncfire.org/training_listservs
- Contact TNC or agency leads:
Lynn Decker, The Nature Conservancy Fire Initiative ldecker@tnc.org; 801-320-0524
Roy Johnson, Dept. of the Interior roy_johnson@nifc.blm.gov; 208-387-5163
Sarah Robertson, US Forest Service sarahrobertson@fs.fed.us; 208-387-5222