

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://tnc-ecomangement.org/fire>

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FIRE INITIATIVE This 15-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/initiatives/fire>



The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Initially designed in 2002 as a two-year program to develop a national-level community of site-based fire and conservation practitioners, the U.S. Fire Learning Network is entering a new phase that will emphasize six to 10 regional networks. The mission of the network—fostering innovation and developing ecologically sound fuels reduction and restoration strategies—has not changed.

During the successful initial phase, 25 multi-stakeholder teams from across the country worked to reduce hazardous fuels and restore fire-adapted ecosystems in and around their communities. Through a rigorous, step-wise process, the FLN helped these teams improve their collaboration skills, develop scientifically credible objectives, and draft adaptive fire management plans.

SELECTED FLN ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2002-2003

- Over \$3.5 million raised for fuels treatment and related restoration work
- More than 300 partner agencies, tribes, and private landowners engaged to advance ecological restoration on more than 60 million acres
- 2002 National Fire Plan Excellence in Implementation Award given to project that includes FLN
- Four national and 14 regional workshops conducted

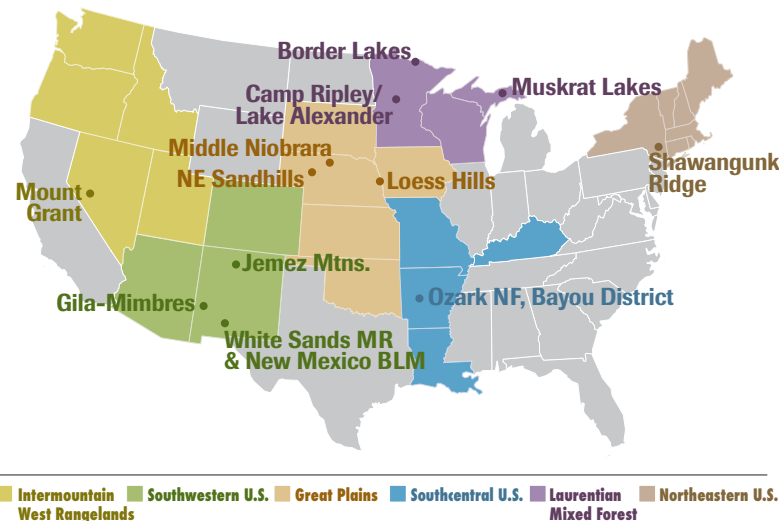
Each of the new regional networks—there are currently six—is made up of five to 13 project teams, including one or more site-based “anchor projects” responsible for setting objectives and scheduling the activities of the network (see map).

Each network will have a different emphasis, depending on the needs of the sites involved. The Intermountain West Rangelands FLN, for example, will develop remotely-sensed fire regime condition class maps, and incorporate relevant

findings into agency plan revisions. By contrast, one emphasis of the Great Plains FLN will be forming local fire-grazing partnerships.

Read more about the networks’ objectives at <http://tnc-ecomangement.org/fire/about/#Org>. Annual, national-level meetings will give representatives from all the regional networks an opportunity to showcase their work. FLN Dispatch will share highlights and lessons learned from both regional and national workshops.

ANCHOR PROJECTS FOR SIX REGIONAL FLNS



GET INVOLVED!

Regional workshops will begin as early as June. If you're interested in participating in a regional or national level meeting, representing your agency on the FLN advisory council, or just learning more:

- Browse the FLN Web site <http://tnc-ecomangement.org/fire>
- Join and contribute to the FLN listserv <http://tnc-ecomangement.org/fire/resources/#listserv>
- Contact TNC or agency leads:
Lynn Decker, The Nature Conservancy Fire Initiative ldecker@tnc.org; 801-973-0804
Anne Jefferey, Dept. of Interior anne_jefferey@nifc.blm.gov; 208-387-5458
Sarah Robertson, US Forest Service 208-387-5222