Lessons Learned from the Fire Learning Network Model:

Restoring Forest Health Landscape by Landscape

Wildland Fire Leadership Council Meeting

June 2007

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TNC Fire Management

- First burn in 1961
- In-house Fire Program since 1986
- Fire-Qualified Field Staff
  - 42 Fire Managers
  - 100 Burn Bosses
  - 400 trained staff & volunteers
- Fire management on about 600 sites
  - 500 burns annually
  - 100,000+ acres/year burned on TNC lands

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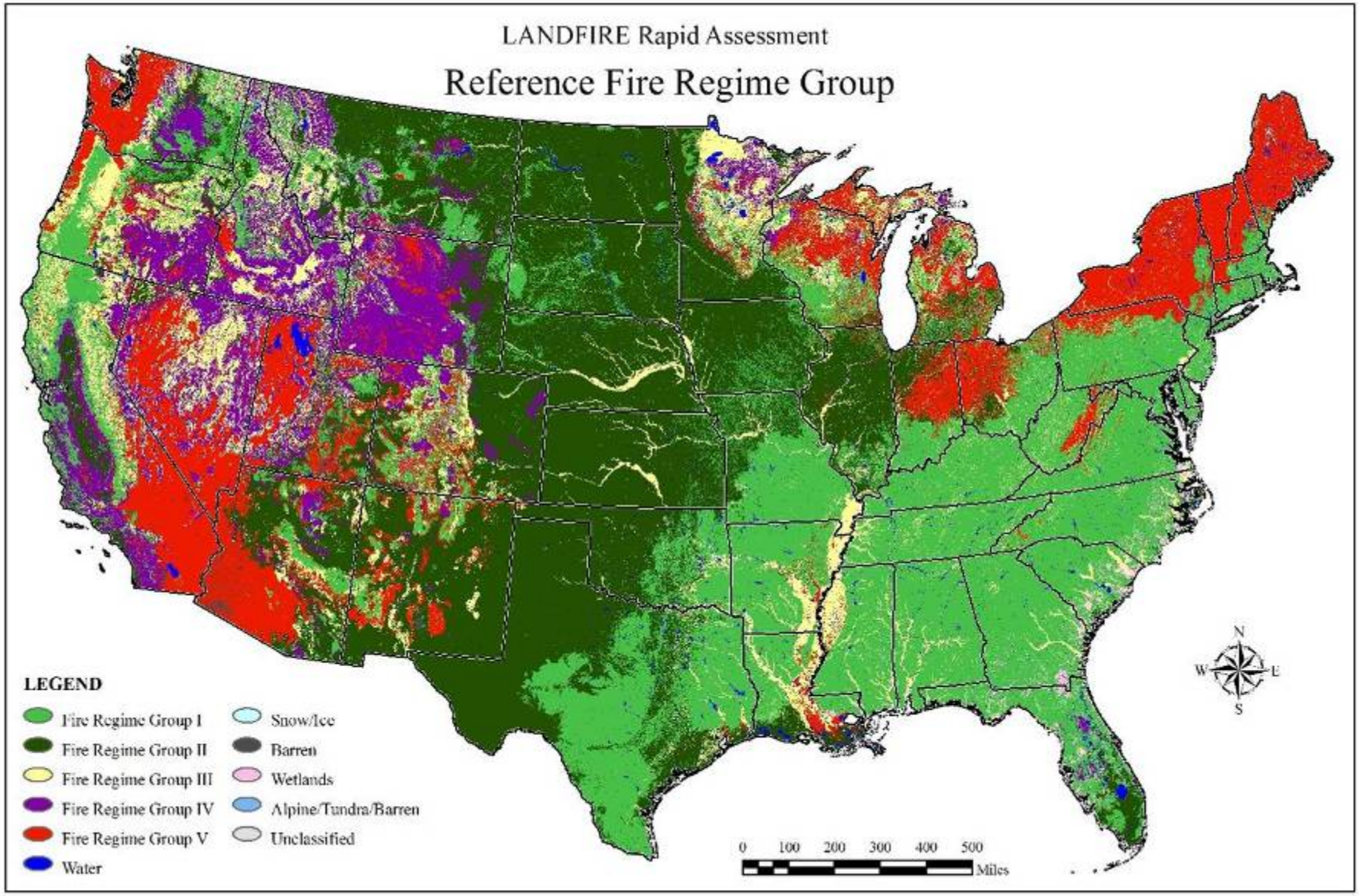
Reference Fire Regimes

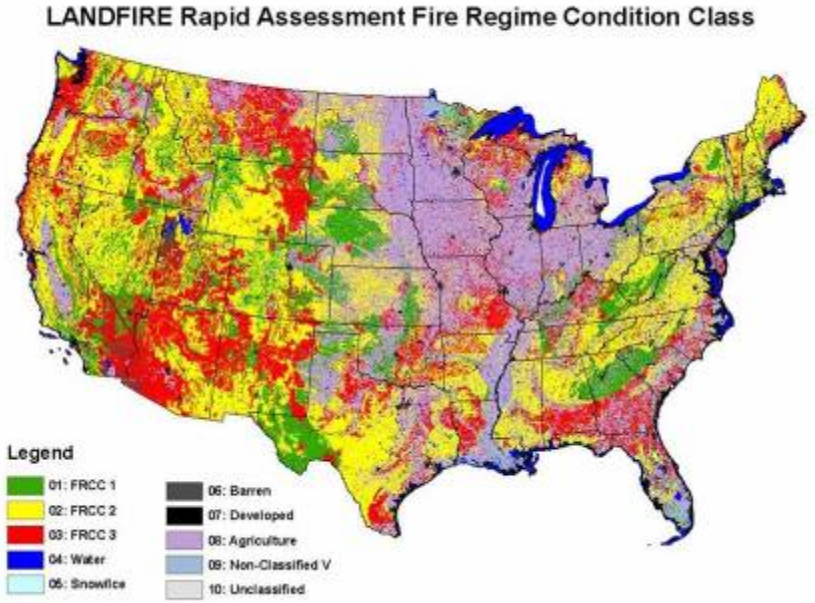


Leveraging Public-Private Funding: U.S. Partnerships

Fire, Landscapes and People: A Conservation Partnership

- Capacity-building
- Fire Training and Education
- Policy
- Fire Learning Networks
- Risk management
- On-the-ground conservation action

LANDFIRE



- Science
- Scientist-Manager Collaboration
- Adaptive Management
- Planning tools

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US Fire Learning Network

10 Regional Networks

80 Landscapes

> 76 Million acres

> 500 Partners

Leveraged more than $12 million to support restoration activities

Treated more than 450,000 acres to date

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Fire Learning Network Process

Workshop 1
Collaborative vision and goals landscape-scale ecological models

Workshop 2
Spatially-explicit desired conditions, restoration priorities and strategies

learning before,
learning during,
learning after

Workshop 3
Identify top barriers, collaborative priorities, responsibilities and schedules; make tangible progress in one or more priority actions

Workshop 4
Implementation capacity, monitoring, being adaptive

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FLN Products

1. **Conceptual ecological models**
2. **Landscape-scale fire management goals**
3. **Current and Desired Future Conditions across landscape**
4. **Monitoring and adaptive management plan**
5. Identification of community values to help choose desired future condition
6. Alternative fire regime and restoration strategies
7. Evaluation of ecological and social outcomes of alternative strategies
8. Short-term (2- to 3-year) priorities for taking action
9. Three-year implementation plan
10. Identification of primary barriers and solutions to short-term implementation

Uses of FLN Products

- Survey told us how landscapes use the products:
  - Prescribed burn plan (45%)
  - Fire management plan (37%)
  - Forest Plan or Resource Management Plan (27%)
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plan (12%)
  - Management plan for private forest/ranch (11%)
  - State plan (8%)
  - County or municipal plan (6%)

Tieton Forest Collaborative: Dry Forest Restoration in WA State

Tieton Forest Collaborative

Commissioner of Public Lands

Regional Forester

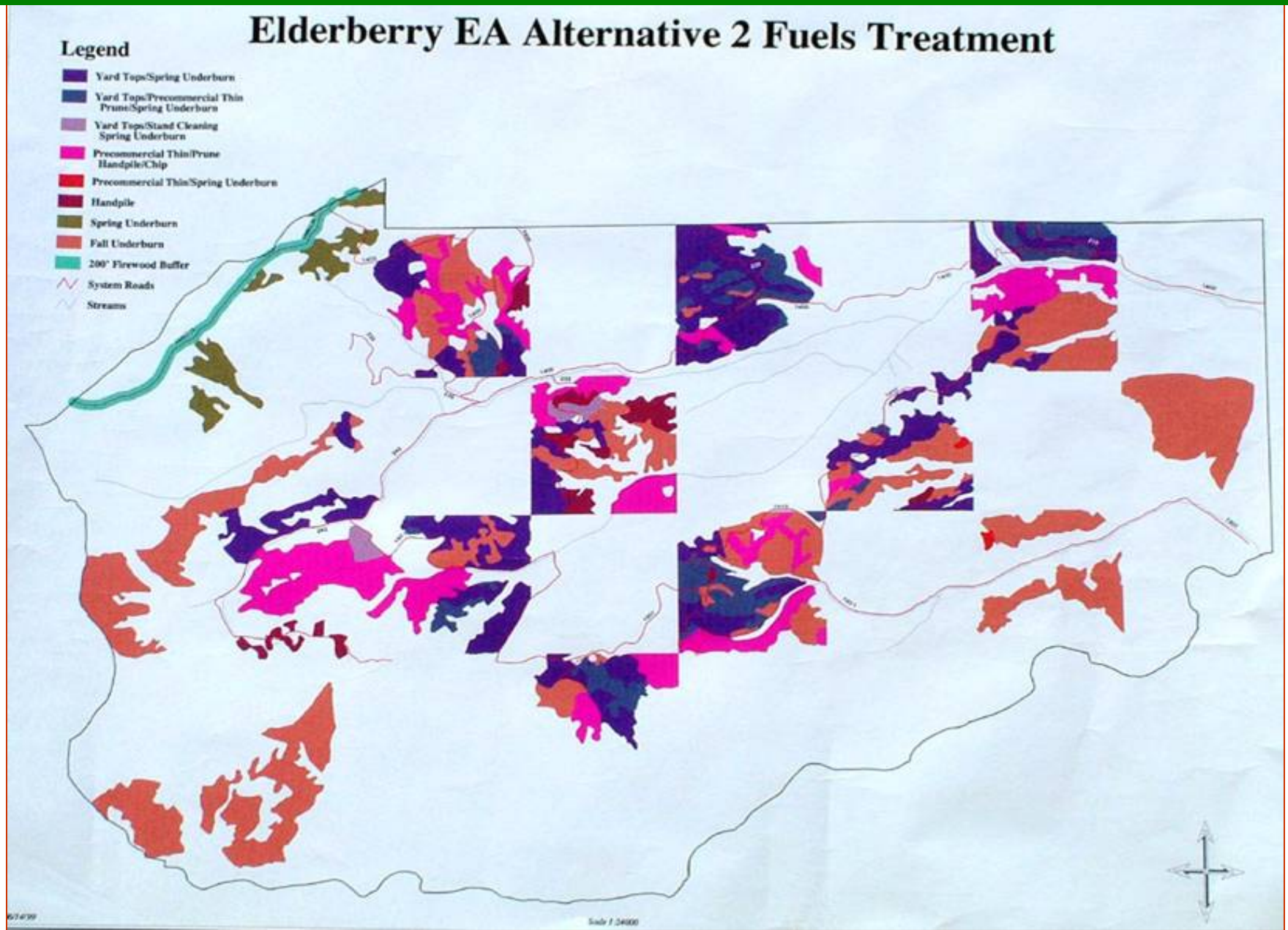
Forest Supervisor

DFW Director

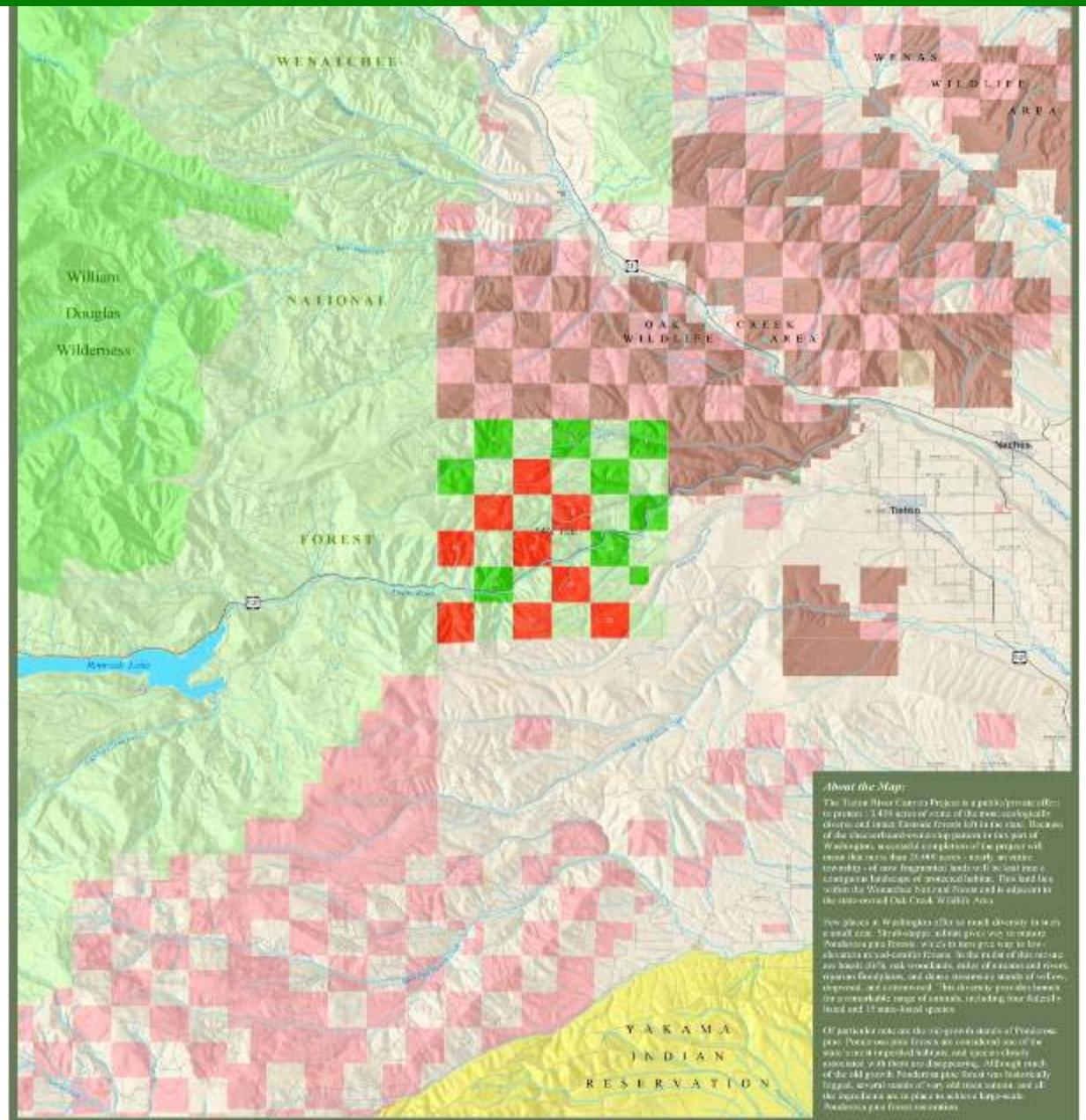
TNC State Director

MOU IS SIGNED

Tieton Forest Collaborative



Tieton Forest Collaborative



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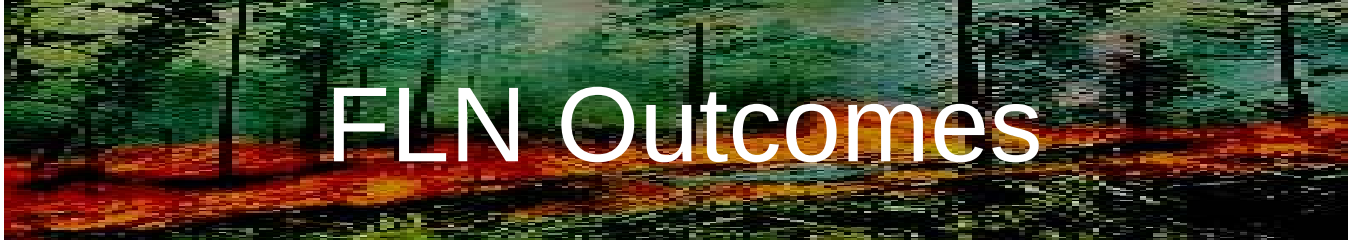

FLN Outcomes

FLN Survey Results:
What did the FLN do for you?

72% Improved group process/collaboration
59% MOUs/Agreements signed
52% Appropriate fire restored to landscape
48% Cost savings resulted
41% Public acceptance of fire and restoration improved
34% Fire management practices changed
14% Policy change resulted

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Lessons Learned

1. Builds Collaborative Relationships
2. Fewer Planning Conflicts
3. Speeds Up Implementation
4. More Restoration with Fewer Resources

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Findings

- Integration of resource activities across landscapes
- Peer learning is important to success
- Network of collaboratively developed, landscape-scale restoration

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For more Information:
The Nature Conservancy: *nature.org*
Global Fire Initiative: *tncfire.org*