# The Fire Networks: Transforming Our Fire Future



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The Fire Networks support the people who are creating change on the ground.

2,500

**PARTNERS** 

40

U.S. STATES

164

MILLION ACRES

in the Fire Learning Network

4,300

FIRE PRACTITIONERS

have built skills at 150 Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

375

**COMMUNITY LEADERS** 

are connected in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

# A Movement Toward Better Fire Outcomes for People and Nature

For two decades, the Fire Networks partnership has invested in people and place-based efforts to change relationships with fire, helping us foster shared responsibility for fire management and viable fire cultures in landscapes and communities across the United States and beyond.

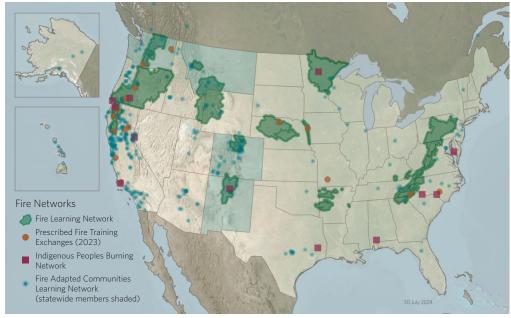
#### Timeline of the Fire Networks

- **2002 Fire Learning Network** (FLN) launched to support collaboratively led planning, learning and implementation in fire-adapted landscapes.
- **2008 Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges** (TREX) started facilitating experiential training events that build personal skills and networks and workforce capacity.
- **2013 Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** (FAC Net) brought together community leaders working on a full suite of fire issues—from the built environment to evacuation—before, during and after fires.
- **2015** Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN) began bringing together Indigenous people seeking to reinvigorate their traditional fire cultures.
- **2016 Women-in-Fire Training Exchanges** (WTREX) launched to support people underrepresented in the fire world.
- **2022 Prescribed Fire Modules** deployed to create workforce opportunities for diverse fire workers and add surge capacity to complete priority treatments.

### **Toward Fire Resilience**

Our success is due to the long-term, trust-based relationships we've nurtured with and among change-makers—leaders of fire departments and prescribed fire councils, Tribes, federal and state agencies, contractors, private landowners, nonprofits and community organizers. With recent federal investments, rising public concern about extreme wildfires, improving state and local policy, social and other conditions, and increasing awareness of the ecological role of fire, the movement we've helped build is taking off.







Map: Irank@tnc.org

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## **People Are the Solution to Our Fire Problems**

Our fire challenges—whether with extreme wildfires, insufficient community wildfire resilience, or unhealthy landscapes deprived of the fire they need—are rooted in broken relationships between people, fire and place. The Fire Networks center our work on healing and improving those relationships.

This means supporting cultural changes including:

- > Creating conditions where responsibility for fire is shared across all of society
- > Revitalizing Indigenous fire practices
- > Making training in wildfire resilience skills accessible to a fuller range of people
- > Building a workforce that welcomes practitioners from diverse backgrounds and offers jobs that support their well-being
- > Elevating the voices of place-based leaders to share their stories and influence decision-making

#### How We Work

- > **Support partnerships and collaborative approaches.** We facilitate local communities' involvement in wildfire preparedness and resilience planning and foster opportunities for cross-boundary actions.
- > **Build leadership capacity and expand roles and opportunities for practitioners.** We provide professional development and hands-on training to build a skilled, diverse workforce and work with local agencies, organizations and groups to create jobs for those workers.
- > Facilitate learning networks and collective action at multiple scales. We connect practitioners and maximize the impact of innovative, locally developed solutions for community wildfire resilience.
- > Inform the policy and the funding environment for an integrated approach to fire management that recognizes social and ecological contexts. We participate in coalitions and committees to transmit learning and help align strategies, investments and programs.

#### **WHO WE ARE**

The Fire Networks are a suite of networks and programs connecting people working in wildland fire management and community wildfire resilience. They are coordinated by staff from The Nature Conservancy, Watershed Research and Training Center, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources and USDA Forest Service.

The Fire Networks are supported in part by the Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

An equal opportunity provider. **Learn more:** <u>firenetworks.org</u>

## **CONTACTS**

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