

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges



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By the Numbers 2023

17

PLACE-BASED EVENTS
FROM COAST TO COAST

8

STATES

1,185

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

25,346

ACRES
of prescribed fire treatments

6

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
in Canada, Mexico, Portugal
and South Africa also used the
TREX model

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) provide experiential training that builds robust local capacity for fire management and offers professional fire practitioners a holistic perspective—while implementing controlled burns that support community and landscape objectives. TRES events provide a cooperative burning model that services the needs of diverse entities—federal and state agencies, tribes, private landowners and contractors, academics and international partners—all while incorporating local knowledge and values to build the right kinds of capacity in the right places.

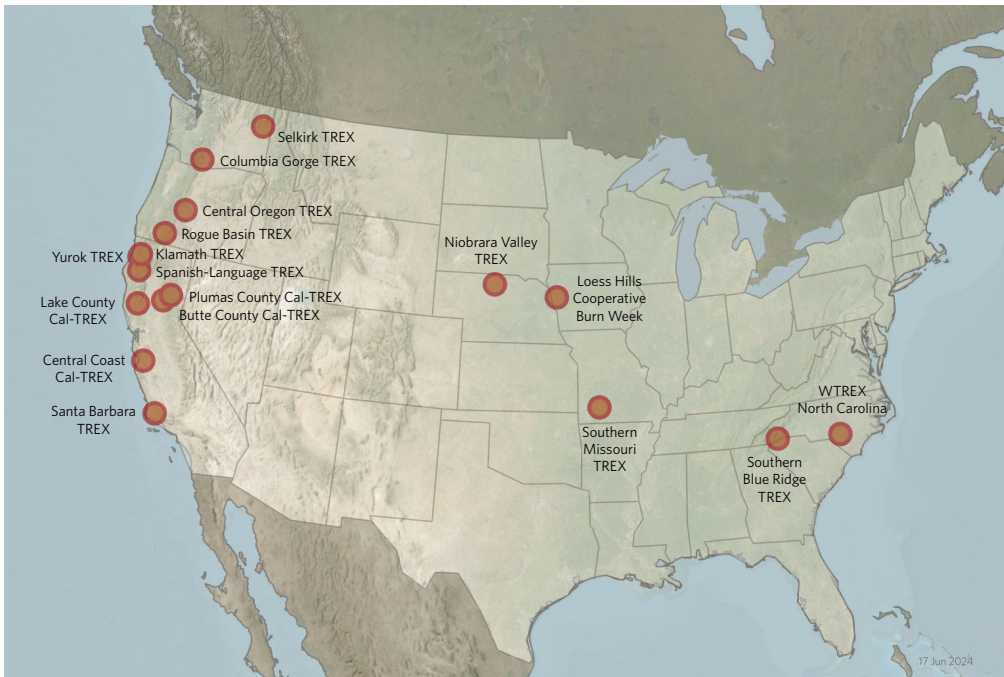
The key focus of TRES is promoting the spread of effective cooperative burning—helping a wide range of partners leverage skills, resources and staff in ways that maximize opportunities for training, community outreach and treatments. TRES works on this at the local level, but also supports nationwide coaching and professional development to advance prescribed fire capacity and training at a larger scale.

Growth and Diversity

Fifteen years ago, people who wanted to work with fire had almost no training options unless they worked for federal agencies. Now TRES events provide a wide range of practitioners with training to expand the number of people working with fire. TRES have grown and diversified since their start in 2008. Many explore and innovate in particular focus areas: Women-in-Fire TRES support women and other genders underrepresented in fire, Spanish-language TRES draw Spanish-speakers from the U.S. and abroad, and the Yurok and Klamath TRES emphasize tribal leadership. The Ashland and Central Oregon TRES focus on Forest Service lands, Niobrara and Loup River TRES engage primarily private landowners and burn on private land, and the Southern Blue Ridge TRES cultivates federal and state partnerships.

TRES incorporate a wide array of learning opportunities beyond fireline skills. They typically include presentations about local ecology and cultural aspects of fire, and opportunities for participants to practice media engagement and interview skills. Some TRES include training in technology, such as using drones in support of fire effects monitoring, and many include sessions on cultural competency and power dynamics.





Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges held in the U.S. in 2023

Map: frank@tnc.org



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Building Skills and Transforming Lives

The TREX model emerged in 2008 as partners in the Great Plains landscapes of the [Fire Learning Network](#), a practitioner network, sought to build prescribed fire capacity. The model has spread widely since then—and it’s grown more ambitious. Each TREX is different, tailored to its people and landscape. But collectively they deliver:

- > **Unique hands-on learning opportunities** for participants, with a focus on building both knowledge and formal credentials, accomplishing needed prescribed burns, helping reporters and photographers find stories about restoring good fire, and advancing fire-adapted community goals
- > **Integration and cross-training** of professional wildland firefighters, municipal firefighters, fire and conservation practitioners with nonprofit organizations, Indigenous burners, ranchers and other landowners, university faculty and students, scientists, regulators, local community volunteers, and more
- > **Introduction of advanced concepts** including fire effects monitoring, collaborative planning, cooperative agreements and smoke modeling
- > **Development of new capacity and networks** by building and training local burn teams that are largely independent of professional fire organizations, and that have ties to colleagues and mentors across the country and around the world



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WHO WE ARE

TREX is part of a suite of networks and programs— together known as the Fire Networks—connecting people working in wildland fire management and community wildfire resilience, and 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: firenetworks.org/TREX

TREX CONTACTS

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