



FIRE MANAGEMENT TEAM 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2024 was a safe, full and rewarding year for the Fire Management team at the Watershed Center. Nine dedicated team members continued to visit counties across California to host a multitude of training and burning events in support of community fire resilience, skills development, and resident engagement.



Photo credit: Chad Manley

BY THE NUMBERS

12 COUNTIES SERVED

Butte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama, and Trinity Counties received **in-person trainings** in California, with even more counties receiving remote support. Additional trainings took place in Josephine, OR and Jalisco, Mexico

67 BURNS

The team lead and mentored 42 broadcast burning and 25 pile burning projects, treating a total of **1,166 acres**

38 WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDERS

After identifying the need for medical qualifications in the PBA community, the team provided reimbursements to PBA members for Wilderness First Responder courses

233 TRAINING DAYS

33 NWCG certification courses, TREX and Cal-TREX events, burn planning workshops, live fire trainings, and more

3,861 TRAINEES AND PARTICIPANTS*

Fire practitioners made up of tribal members, PBA members, and landowners attended WRTC-led trainings and burns

46,988 PARTICIPANT* HOURS

The team trained and mentored participants in active fire operations and in outdoor classroom settings

**Participant numbers are the sum of the total number of participants in each training or burn—someone who attends multiple trainings or burns will be counted more than once.*

THE WATERSHED CENTER BELIEVES THAT
FIRE IS FOR EVERYONE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

thewatershedcenter.com/beneficial-fire-programs

Photo credit: Jade Elhardt



These accomplishments were made possible by a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity grant awarded by the California Department of Conservation, through support provided by the USDA Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, under the terms of the PERFECT IV Agreement #24-CA-11132543-080, by the March Conservation Fund, through Secure Rural Schools Resource Act Advisory Committee (RAC) with support from the U.S. Forest Service, through the Wildfire Strategies program of Resources Legacy Fund, through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program, and by the USDA US Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program.



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PEOPLE

The many individuals and networks that form the heart of the work

LOCAL



Photo credit: Chad Manley

TRINITY INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

In March, WRTC hosted a 74 person RT-130 Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher and a 22 person Basic 32 Wildland Firefighter training in Hayfork, California. These trainings keep our local workforce's NWCG qualifications current, which is an important part of the Trinity Integrated Fire Management Partnership - a cooperative burn group in Trinity County led by WRTC, including local community members, volunteer fire departments, Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and CAL FIRE. As a cooperative workforce, we are able to share resources to accomplish more burning in Trinity County. This year, we had 79 non-federal and non-state fire practitioners qualified at the NWCG FFT2 level or above.

NORTHERN SIERRAS



HANNAH HEPNER

Over the past few years, WRTC's Northern Sierra Beneficial Fire Training Coordinator, Hannah Hepner, has been working hard towards her goal of becoming a California State Certified Burn Boss (CARX). After putting together well-written burn plans, working through the permitting processes, and leading several prescribed burns of varying complexities, we want to recognize and congratulate Hannah for becoming a qualified CARX this year!

STATEWIDE



Photo credit: Chad Manley

COMMUNITY FIRE PRACTITIONERS ACROSS THE STATE

At WRTC, we believe investing in people is our most powerful tool to create long-term, sustainable, and local workforce capacity. Many non-federal/non-state organizations and community members do not have easy access to prescribed fire trainings. In 2024, WRTC hosted 33 NWCG trainings with over 800 participants and over 11,000 participant hours. We host these NWCG trainings using hands-on and facilitative instructor techniques in field-based classrooms. One of our primary goals during these trainings is training the trainers. In 2024, we mentored 200 instructors. We also hosted an additional 52 prescribed fire-focused trainings, workshops and TREX events, totaling 1,600 participants and instructors.



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PLACES Grounding the work in places people care about and call home

LOCAL



Photo credit: Chad Manley and Thena Tak

TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This year, WRTC hosted 23 prescribed fire-focused workshops and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) trainings with almost 800 participants in Trinity County. The WRTC also safely led 19 broadcast burns (320 acres) and 16 pile burns (276 acres) on private lands throughout the county. We burned yellow starthistle (YST) for the second year in a row on two private properties in Hayfork. Research shows that after 3 consecutive years of burning, YST can be reduced by over 90%. In 2025, we plan to host a YST TREX event in Trinity County to continue improving native habitat, restoring meadows, and giving other people outside the County the opportunity to share and learn together.

NORTHERN SIERRAS



Photo credit: Jade Elhardt

GREENVILLE, PLUMAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Greenville, a community that was deeply affected by the Dixie Fire in 2021, was the site location for the 5th annual 2024 Plumas County Cal-TREX event. In late April, 86 fire practitioners came together for an intensive training week focusing on making communities and ecosystems more resilient to wildfire. The full event, which lasted through June, implemented a total of 12 prescribed burns totaling 372 acres.

STATEWIDE



Photo credit: Evan-Marie Petit

LAKE AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

We are so grateful to be a part of the Lake County Eco-Cultural Cal-TREX, in partnership with our forward-thinking partners at the Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA), where they prioritize and compensate Indigenous fire practitioners through their Ecocultural Fire Crew. WRTC co-hosts NWCG trainings with TERA, where we work together to blend wildfire training curriculum with ecocultural knowledge and Tribal values. In 2024, we led 10 NWCG trainings (including work capacity tests) and mentored on 4 burns during the Lake Cal-TREX event.



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SYSTEMS Partnerships that form the foundation of Fire Management Team work

LOCAL



Photo credit: Erin Banwell, WRTC

COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST

In October, WRTC accomplished 56 acres of prescribed fire on private lands in the Weaver Basin. The Shasta-Trinity National Forest was able to provide support to WRTC during this beautiful burn window. WRTC also supported the Shasta-Trinity National Forest on six federal burns throughout the year, resulting in 130 acres of pile and broadcast burn implementation.

NORTHERN SIERRAS



Photo credit: Heather Murphy

ALL HANDS ALL LANDS BENEFICIAL FIRE AGREEMENT

The All Hands All Lands (AHAL) model of beneficial fire allows resource sharing and training across land ownerships and jurisdictions, leveraging the broadening base of non-agency fire practitioners. The WRTC is coordinating NGO partners in development of an MOU for AHAL resource sharing, as well as working with USFS on agreements for cross-boundary opportunities and financial support. These agreements acknowledge the partnership foundations established by TREX and take collaboration a step further to ensure that any resource can be used in any place at any time in order to take advantage of burn windows and support capacity building.

STATEWIDE



Photo credit: Chad Manley and Thena Tak

CALIFORNIA ALL HANDS ALL LANDS CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

WRTC is leading the effort to create a plan and deployment team to help partners across the state during critical incidents related to beneficial fire. In December, WRTC hosted a workshop with partners from across the state and throughout the nation to develop an "California All Hands All Lands Beneficial Fire Critical Incident Response Plan." We are excited to continue this work into 2025 and share what we have developed with our national Fire Learning Network partners.



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