

# FLN Networker No. 358: October 25, 2023

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*The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, agencies of the Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, information to share, and subscription requests to Liz Rank.*

For more about the FLN, visit [www.conservationgateway.org/fln](http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln).

## News from the Networks

**Arkansas:** This spring, **The Nature Conservancy** in Arkansas hosted its **10th International Fire Exchange**, drawing a dozen participants from Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala and Zambia. Read more about this long-term effort in a Fire Networks [blog post](#) by **Brigette Coleman-Williams** and **McRee Anderson** ([wanderson@tnc.org](mailto:wanderson@tnc.org)).

**California:** The **Six Rivers NF** [announced](#) the **Six Rivers Hazardous Fuels and Fire Management Project** authorizing vegetative hazardous fuels reduction and prescribed fire management treatments on the lands it manages. Partners in the **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** supported the drafting of the environmental assessment. They have also identified about **2,300 acres of manual treatments** along strategic control features defining prescribed and cultural fire burn units that will ultimately create a one-mile **ring of “good black” around the Orleans Valley** over the next two years, according to **Will Harling** ([will@mkwc.org](mailto:will@mkwc.org)).

**California:** Earlier this month, the **Sierra-Sequoia Burn Cooperative** conducted the **first prescribed burn** on **private land** in the **southern Sierra Nevada** with a **state-certified burn boss**. For more, see the [media release](#) and photos on the [Twitter feed](#) of SSBC co-lead **Jason Aldern**.

**New Jersey:** **Bill Brash** ([bill@njfiresafetycouncil.org](mailto:bill@njfiresafetycouncil.org)) and **Tom Gerber** share some history, and a look to the future, in the Fire Networks [blog post](#) “**Fire in the Bog: Cranberry Farming in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.**”

**South Carolina:** The FLN is part of the wide-ranging [nature.org story](#) “**To Protect the Water, They Start Fires.**” After a 2016 wake-up call from wildfires in the area, the **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** helped **Greenville Water introduce controlled burning** to the city’s watershed in 2019.

**Canada:** Last week’s **Canadian Prairies TREN** drew **45 participants**, including **14 who completed their first prescribed burn** ever and **7 burn bosses** gained experience over the four days of burning. For more, see the attached summary or contact **Dinyar Minocher** ([dminocher@meewasin.com](mailto:dminocher@meewasin.com)).

**PBAs:** In March the **Watershed Research and Training Center** hosted a learning exchange in northern California in support of **community-led prescribed fire**. In last week’s Fire Networks [blog post](#)—“Sharing Lessons and Knowledge at the **Prescribed Burn Association Learning Exchange**”—**Kara Karboski** ([kara@washingtonrccd.org](mailto:kara@washingtonrccd.org)) shares highlights of the exchange, along with a set of **key takeaways**.

**FLN:** The **Fire Learning Network** is now on **Facebook**—[check it out](#) for news from around the network and beyond.

**TREN:** And check out the [TREN Facebook page](#) for **updates on a busy autumn**, from the [Selkirk TREN](#) and [Columbia Gorge TREN](#) in Washington earlier this month to the **Santa Barbara TREN** scheduled to end November 18.

## Input Requested: Disturbance Data

**Disturbance Data:** LANDFIRE has issued its [2023 data call](#). Please submit information about events (**disturbance, treatment activities**) or **vegetation/fuel data** by **October 31** to have it included in the upcoming 2023 release, which is scheduled for 2024. And if you need a refresher on what LANDFIRE is and does, [check out the new LANDFIRE fact sheet](#).

## Resources: Community Navigators / NWCG Training / Ponderosa Seeds / Woody Encroachment / Indoor Air Quality

**Community Navigators: Coalitions & Collaboratives** ([COCO](#)), the **Watershed Research & Training Center** ([WRTC](#)), **FAC Net**, and the **Hispanic Access Foundation** ([website](#)) are collaborating to support the **USDA Forest Service Community Navigators Program** to empower community leaders to access **program support and funding opportunities** from the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** ([BIL](#)) and **Inflation Reduction Act** ([IRA](#)). This partnership is one of several in the broader network of community navigators across the country. You can sign up for updates, see a calendar of events, and learn more at <https://communitynavigators.net/>.

**NWCG Training:** The **training catalog will be migrated** from the NWCG [website](#) to the **Wildland Fire Learning Portal** ([WFLP](#)) in **November** as part of a streamlining and process improvement effort. Training that is required for positions will migrate first, followed by recommended training.

**Ponderosa Seeds: The Nature Conservancy** and the **Colorado Forest Restoration Institute** have put out the [fact sheet](#) “Ponderosa Pine Cone and **Seed Collection: Frequently Asked Questions** and Answers for the Colorado Front Range,” which also includes lists of resources and references.

**Woody Encroachment:** The **Great Plains Grasslands Extension Partnership** recently released “Reducing Woody Encroachment in Grasslands: **A Pocket Guide** for Planning & Design.” The [guide](#) emphasizes the need for management action at all **three stages of woody encroachment**—seed dispersal, recruitment and state transition.

**Indoor Air Quality:** The [article](#) “Wildfire **Smoke Leaves Harmful Gases in Floors and Walls**—Air Purifiers Aren’t Enough, New Study Shows, But **You Can Clean It Up**” in *The Conversation* relates the results of work conducted last year after the Marshall Fire.

## Articles & Reports: Wildland Fire Policy / Treatment Effectiveness / Burn Windows / Spot-Fires / Mental Health

**Wildland Fire Policy:** **The Nature Conservancy** has released “**Building Wildfire Resilience Through Policy Action**,” a four-page [brief](#) of key wildfire policy recommendations. It is based on the aligned conclusions of the [Roadmap for Wildfire Resilience](#) developed by TNC and the **Aspen Institute** in March and the [report](#) released by the **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission** last month. Key insights fall into four categories: mitigating risk requires **all hands, all lands**; **beneficial fire** is underused; **communities need dedicated support**; and the work requires **predictable funding**. For more on the Wildfire Commission’s report, check out the **interview with Commission member Kelly Martin** on the [Life With Fire](#) podcast.

**Treatment Effectiveness:** The [September issue](#) of *Connected Science* from the **Northern Rockies Fire Science Network** and the **Rocky Mountain Research Station**—“**How Effective Are Landscape Scale Fuel Treatments?**”—briefly addresses the question, and links to a half dozen papers for further reading.

**Burn Windows:** The authors of the [article](#) “**Climate Change Is Narrowing and Shifting** Prescribed Fire Windows in Western United States” looked at trends and patterns based on about 2°C warming by 2060. A [blog post](#) by co-author **Ed Smith** ([esmith@tnc.org](mailto:esmith@tnc.org)) gives a good overview of the article.

**Spot-Fires:** The [article](#) “Spot-Fire **Distance Increases Disproportionately** for **Wildfires** Compared to Prescribed Fires as **Grasslands Transition** to *Juniperus* Woodlands” is based on BehavePlus modeling for the Loess Canyons landscape in Nebraska.

**Mental Health:** The [article](#) “The Case for Mental Health in Our Social Change Worlds” is the first in a series from the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. It argues that mental health is necessary for social change leaders to **maximize the potential of their organizations**—and that mental health should be **integrated in our work** and communities, rather than left solely to mental health practitioners. (Links to the later articles that are mentioned in this one: [violence and trauma](#), [climate](#), [gender](#), [workplace](#).)

## More: Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Published this summer, the book *Fire Weather: A True Story From a Hotter World* is on the [shortlist](#) for the **Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction**. From the vantage point of the 2016 fire that overran Fort McMurray, Alberta, the book “delves into the intertwined histories of the **oil industry and climate science**, the unprecedented devastation wrought by **modern wildfires**.”

## Jobs

**Burn Crew:** **The Nature Conservancy** is hiring a **fire management technician** (FFT2) for its **Chattahoochee Fall Line seasonal fire crew** in west-central **Georgia**. See the TNC careers page ([job ID 54022](#)) for details; current employees should use [PeopleSoft](#). Applications are due by **October 27**.

**Wildfire Mitigation:** The **City of Austin** is seeking a **wildfire mitigation specialist senior** to manage and coordinate all aspects of prescribed fire operations in coordination with the Austin Fire Department. Details are on the city’s jobs page ([position number 116938](#)); applications are due by **October 30**.

**Project Coordinator:** The **University of Wisconsin at Platteville** is hiring a **FIRE-PLAN research coordinator** to help guide its project, NSF FIRE-PLAN: Merging Diverse Knowledge Systems to Advance Restoration of Fire-Dependent Lands and Cultures in the Great Lakes Region. See the university’s careers page ([job no. 498509](#)) for details; applications are due by **October 31**.

**Rx Coordinator:** **Tall Timbers** is seeking a **Texas Pineywoods prescribed fire coordinator** to work with partners in the region to grow demand and implementation of prescribed fire activities on private lands. See the [job description](#) for details; applications are due by **October 31**.

**Burn Crew:** **The Nature Conservancy** in **Georgia** is seeking a **burn crew manager** (FFT1) and a **fire management technician** (FFT2) Details are on the TNC careers page (crew manager, [job ID 54137](#); technician, [job ID 54134](#)); current employees should apply through PeopleSoft. Applications are due by **November 2**.

**Prescribed Fire:** **Fire Forward**, a program of **Audubon Canyon Ranch**, is [hiring](#) **four prescribed fire practitioners** ([details](#)) and **five prescribed fire apprentices** ([details](#)). Reporting to the squad lead, the prescribed fire practitioners will work alongside the prescribed fire apprentices as a prescribed fire and ecosystem stewardship crew to prepare and conduct prescribed burns. Applications for both positions are due by **November 5**.

**Hotshot Program:** The **New Mexico Forestry Division** is looking for two passionate, qualified wildland firefighter supervisors for an opportunity to **build a new state Hotshot program** and develop a NWCG Type 1 crew from the ground up. Details are on the state's careers website—see [job ID 137173](#) for the **Pecos River Hotshot superintendent**, or [job ID 137166](#) for the **Eagle Peak Hotshot superintendent**. Applications are due by **November 12**. Current State of New Mexico employees should apply through their SHARE account.

**Policy Advisor:** The **Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **senior policy advisor, forests and fire** to work primarily with federal agencies and partners to develop, modify and advance strategies to shape forest and fire policy in the United States. Details are on the TNC careers page ([job ID 54181](#)); current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#). Applications are due by **November 13**.

**Rx Module:** The **Nature Conservancy** in **Oregon** is hiring a **prescribed fire module leader** and a **prescribed fire module assistant** for a new 10-person prescribed fire module. The positions will likely include 30-90 days of travel per year. Details are on the TNC careers page (leader [job ID 54209](#); assistant [job ID 54208](#)); current employees should apply through PeopleSoft. Applications for both positions are due by **November 20**.

**Postdoc:** The **University of North Texas** is seeking a **post-doctoral researcher** to coordinate **qualitative and geospatial data** collection and analysis activities for a research project on **wildfire recovery and risk reduction** in Northern California. See the [position description](#) for details. Review of applications began October 18 and will continue until the position is filled.

**Watershed Restoration:** The **Forest Stewards Guild** is hiring a **watershed restoration manager** to lead the execution of its **All-Lands Watershed Restoration Program**, which builds on the Rio Chama CFLRP project; the manager will also participate in the 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership. See the [position listing](#) for details.

**FAC Planner:** The **Elk Creek Fire Protection District** is hiring a **fire adapted communities project planner** for the production, preparation, delivery and maintenance of community mitigation plans, associated grants, and forestry projects in the 400-square-mile response area **southwest of Denver**. See the [position listing](#) for details.

**Burn Crew:** The **Nature Conservancy** in **Delaware/Pennsylvania** and in **Maryland/DC** are teaming up to fill crew manager (FFT1), crew member (FFT2) and on-call crew member (FFT2) positions for the **Delmarva Prescribed Fire and Fuels Crew**. Details are on the TNC careers page—**crew manager** ([job ID 54152](#)), **crew member** ([job ID 54151](#)), **on-call crew member** ([job ID 54150](#)); current employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

**Burn Crews:** The **Nature Conservancy** in **Kentucky** is filling 21 full- and part-time seasonal crew positions. See the TNC careers page for details on the three **burn crew manager** ([job ID 54096](#)), eight **burn crew member** ([job ID 54097](#)), five **as-needed prescribed fire specialist** ([job ID 54098](#)) and five **as-needed burn crew member** ([job ID 54100](#)) positions. Current employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

**Burn Crews:** The **Nature Conservancy** in **Tennessee** is filling three full-time and two part-time seasonal crew positions. See the TNC careers page for details on one **burn crew manager** ([job ID 54121](#)), two **burn crew member** ([job ID 54122](#)) and two **as-needed prescribed fire specialist** ([job ID 54123](#)) positions. Current employees should apply through PeopleSoft.

## Webinars

October 25

### **LANDFIRE Office Hours**

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern

Robert Ziel and Jennifer Schmidt will speak on “Wildfire Exposure Assessment for Three Boreal Communities in Alaska,” and LANDFIRE experts will be on hand to provide clarity and context to user questions ([register](#)).

October 26  
new listing

### **Forest Health in the Ossipee and Waterboro Pine Barrens: Preparing for the Arrival of the Southern Pine Beetle**

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern

Sonya Kaufman will be the presenter in this offering from the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange Student Webinar Series ([register](#)).

November 1

### **Prescribed Fire for Forest Management: Oak and Fire in the Eastern U.S.**

6:30 Pacific / 7:30 Mountain / 8:30 Central / 9:30 Eastern (1.5 hr)

Charles Ruffner and Wayne Clatterbuck will be the presenters for the first webinar in this year-long series from the Wisconsin Forestry Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point ([register](#)).

November 1

### **SMOKE: State of the Science**

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern (1.5 hr)

The panel discussion on this Rocky Mountain Research Station webinar will be guided by questions from attendees ([register](#)).

November 1  
new listing

### **Pyrosketchology**

3:30 Pacific / 4:30 Mountain / 5:30 Central / 6:30 Eastern

Miriam Morrill will talk about her blending of observations, sketching and nature journaling in this webinar from the University of Idaho (see the [flyer on Facebook](#) or [join the webinar](#)).

December 6

### **Prescribed Fire for Forest Management: Fire in Northern Pine Systems**

6:30 Pacific / 7:30 Mountain / 8:30 Central / 9:30 Eastern for the fire (1.5 hr)

Brian Palik and Jed Meunier will be the presenters on this webinar in the year-long series from the Wisconsin Forestry Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point ([register](#)).

November 8  
new listing

### **Overview and Verification of LANDFIRE Fuels: 2022 Cooks Peak Fire (NM)**

11:00 Pacific / noon Mountain / 1:00 Central / 2:00 Eastern

This Southwest Fire Science Consortium webinar will offer a practitioner-oriented overview of LANDFIRE with a focus on fuels and how they react to modeling techniques. It will be technical and may offer insights for both beginner and advanced LANDFIRE users ([register](#)).

November 9  
new listing

### **Prioritizing Landscape Treatments**

noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern (1.5 hr)

Presenters on this Rocky Mountain Research Station webinar will share an overall framework, analysis considerations plus a case study from the Southwest Idaho Wildfire Crisis Landscape ([register](#)).

November 9  
new listing

### **CFLRP Peer Learning Session: Collaborative Dynamics**

noon Pacific / 1:00 Mountain / 2:00 Central / 3:00 Eastern (1.5 hr)

This webinar from the USFS and National Forest Foundation will provide practical tools, discuss common questions and challenges, and share experiences ([register](#)).

**November 15**  
**new listing**

### **Regional Prescribed Fire Council Coordinating Groups**

10:00 Pacific / 11:00 Mountain / noon Central / 1:00 Eastern (1.5 hr)  
The Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils is hosting this virtual networking forum to “identify priorities and needs that will expand the scope and scale of prescribed fire councils at the state and national levels.” ([details](#)).

## Network Workshops & Field Tours

**October 23-27**

### **Fire Learning Network Workshop / Blackfoot Valley, MT**

FLN leads from across the country are meeting at this annual workshop.

**November 2-4**

### **Indigenous Peoples Burning Network Workshop / Santa Fe, NM**

IPBN leads from across the country will meet for this annual workshop.

**January 23-24**

### **Central Appalachians FLN Workshop / TBD, WV**

Save the date for this workshop for Central Apps FLN members and partners.

## Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) & Cooperative Burning

**Oct. 30-Nov. 4**

### **Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Orleans, CA**

This TREX was originally scheduled for September 25-October 8, but postponed because of wildfires and smoke.

**Oct. 30-Nov. 10**

### **Southern Blue Ridge Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Pickens, SC**

The deadline for this TREX has passed.

**November 11-18**

### **Santa Barbara Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Santa Ynez Valley, CA**

The deadline for this TREX has passed.

**Nov. 25-Dec. 9**

### **Mexico TREX (Intercambio de Experiencias y Entrenamiento en Quemadas Prescritas en México) / Ixtlán de Juárez, Oaxaca**

The deadline for this TREX has passed.

**March 4-15, 2024**  
**deadline**

### **Southern Missouri Prescribed Fire Training Exchange / Marshfield, MO**

Nominations for this TREX are being accepted through November 10. See the [announcement](#) for details and a nomination link.

## Trainings, Conferences, Workshops, Etc.

**November 6-10**

### **6th National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop / Santa Fe, NM**

Details are at <http://cohesivestrategyworkshop.org/>. [Pre-workshop trainings](#) in community wildfire mitigation best practices and leading a CWPP process are also being offered; these are free but require pre-registration.

**Nov. 20-Dec. 18**

### **RX-310—Introduction to Fire Effects / online**

This course is offered by the University of Idaho ([details](#)).

**Nov. 27-Dec. 1**

### **S-290—Intermediate Fire Behavior / online**

This course is offered by the University of Idaho ([details](#)).

**December 4-8**

### **10th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress / Monterey, CA**

Details are at <https://afefirecongress.org/>. Registration cost goes up October 29.

**January 22-26**  
**deadline**

### **M-580—Fire in Ecosystem Management / Tucson, AZ**

Nominations are being accepted for this National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) course through October 31 ([details](#)).



- January 22-26 deadline**      **RX-510—Advanced Fire Effects / Tucson, AZ**  
Nominations are being accepted for this National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) course through October 31 ([details](#)).
- Jan. 22-Feb. 21**      **RX-300—Prescribed Fire Burn Boss / online**  
This course is offered by the University of Idaho and Tall Timbers, with a combination of pre-course work, self-paced study and live virtual sessions ([details](#)).
- April 15-17**      **After the Flames / Estes Park, CO**  
Proposals for presentations are being accepted through December 15. See the [website](#) for details. [Registration](#) is open.
- April 15-19 new listing**      **7th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference / Boise, ID – Tralee, Ireland – Canberra, Australia**  
The call for presentations is open through October 31. See the [conference website](#).

## Send News, Links & Comments

**Liz Rank** (editor) – [lrank@tnc.org](mailto:lrank@tnc.org) – Liz is out Thursdays.

**Autumn Bjugstad** – [autumn.bjugstad@tnc.org](mailto:autumn.bjugstad@tnc.org) – Autumn is in Santa Fe, NM October 30-November 5.

**Emily Hohman** – [emily.hohman@tnc.org](mailto:emily.hohman@tnc.org) – Emily is in Blackfoot Valley, MT October 23-27; out November 6-10.

**James Miller** – [james.miller@tnc.org](mailto:james.miller@tnc.org) – James is in Blackfoot Valley, MT October 23-27.

**Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in the office.

**Laurel Kays** – [laurel.kays@tnc.org](mailto:laurel.kays@tnc.org) – Laurel is in Blackfoot Valley, MT October 23-27; out October 30-31, November 7-8.

**Lemaine Peo** – [lemaine.peo@tnc.org](mailto:lemaine.peo@tnc.org) – Lemaine is in the office.

**Marek Smith** – [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org) – Marek is in the office.

**Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in Santa Fe, NM October 31-November 5; in Genoa, NV November 12-15.

**Miranda Flora** – [miranda.flora@tnc.org](mailto:miranda.flora@tnc.org) – Miranda is in Blackfoot Valley, MT October 23-27.

Note: November 10 is a Conservancy holiday.

## Links

FLN Networker – an archive of back issues is kept at <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/FLNNetworker/Pages/fln-networker.aspx>

FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at: <http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/webinars.aspx>

Notes from the Field—an index to all Notes is at: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/Index-FLN-Notes-from-the-Field.aspx>

TREX—The latest application information for upcoming TREX is always listed at: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Upcoming-Training-Exchanges.aspx>

The Fire Networks and this publication are supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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## ***Canadian Prairies TREX 2023***

### ***Post-Event Summary***

Meewasin and the Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange held the 2nd Canadian Prairies TREX from October 16-20, 2023, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This event provided an opportunity for partners to gain skills and build capacity, while simultaneously achieving fire management and ecological goals within Saskatoon and the surrounding landscape. It was also an opportunity to build relationships with partners, share knowledge, and work within a more complex organizational structure utilizing an Incident Command System.

#### **Training Highlights**

- 14 Individuals Completed Their First Ever Prescribed Fire
- 15 Burn Units Completed
- 7 Different Burn Bosses
- 16 Different Line Leads

Operations were based out of Meewasin's operations compound in Saskatoon, with controlled burn sites within the city and surrounding areas. Saskatchewan has experienced a prolonged drought for several years, and although shifting winds, dry climate conditions, and cured fuels presented challenges for the week's event, an ideal weather window just when we needed it allowed participants to complete burn units on four out of five days of the TREX. Sufficient resources and personnel allowed for crews to be divided into two divisions, allowing for concurrent prescribed fires at multiple locations for multiple operational shifts, including some suppression exercises. With heavy winds in the forecast, the final day saw both divisions revisiting all sites to patrol for remaining hot spots and ensure all sites were well extinguished.

All in all, we had 45 personnel participate in the event, representing all three prairie provinces, and three instructors from the United States. Incorporating practitioners of all experience levels allowed



for the pairing of mentors and trainees to facilitate a one-on-one working environment for an exceptional training opportunity.

A total of 45 participants from 21 agencies/organizations- students, conservation staff, wildland fire personnel, consultants, educators, and fire departments- participated in the Canadian Prairies TREX, engaging in a diverse variety of training opportunities throughout the week. Trainees were able to work in their respective trainee roles during more than one operational shift with their mentor. Other training opportunities included learning new or different engine and UTV setups, portable pump set-ups, presentations from two grassland ecologists, ignition techniques and patterns, and working within a complex burn organization with multiple divisions organized under the Incident Command System (ICS).

See Appendix A for a more detailed breakdown regarding number of participants and acres treated. See Appendix B for pictures taken throughout the week.

Thirteen personnel from multiple agencies served on the Incident Management Team (IMT) in a variety of roles to assist with the planning of the event. The TREX also hosted a professional photographer to document the event, the result of which will serve to demonstrate the importance of our stewardship work in the region and support future presentations, gatherings, and events. These will be available to all participants and organizations once completed.

While events of this sort often focus on building capacity among less experienced participants, this event saw seven individual burn bosses gain experience and direct mentoring in their leadership roles. Within our landscape and organizations, the burn boss level continues to be the most crucial and critical for fire operations, although formal training opportunities remain few and far between. Firefighters at this level possess the local knowledge that aids in their ability to control both the holding and firing teams within their divisions, while also controlling the tempo for the day. Focusing additional time, knowledge, and experience towards this position level is a necessity to continue to build fire capacity, proficiency, and efficiency.

Funding for this event was provided by the Weston Family Foundation as part of the Prairie Grassland Initiative. These funders provided financial support for supplies, lunches, evening meals, IMT housing, equipment, and planning meeting support. Additional project support was provided by the participants and their agencies in the form of personnel and equipment time. Countless hours were donated to support fire unit prep, planning, and burn operations. Meewasin generously donated meeting and logistical space for the week, while also providing parking and storage space at their facilities throughout the event. A big thank you to our exceptional trainers from the United States, Kody Wohlers, Matt Shanklin and Trevor Long.

Participants have shared that the Canadian Prairies TREX was a positive experience and was successful in achieving multiple objectives; land management goals, fireline training and experience, leadership and personal development growth, and improving collaboration between partners across the Canadian provinces. The participation of 45 people (which was capped and had a waiting list) speaks to the high level of interest among partners to collaboratively address priority burn units and pursue training and networking opportunities within the region. The use of a Planning Team as well as a more focused Incident Command System provided additional organization and smoother operations on burn days, non-burn day preparations, and throughout the week.

We're already looking forward to next year's event.

## Appendix A: Participants, Agencies, and Acres Treated

### Participating Agencies/Organizations:

Meewasin  
Canadian Wildlife Services  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
University of Saskatchewan  
City of Saskatoon  
Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport  
Skinner Native Seeds  
Wanuskewin Heritage Park  
Doane University (Nebraska, USA)  
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (Iowa, USA)  
Canada North Environmental Services  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Lakeland College  
Salix Resource Management  
Willner Elbow Grazing Corp  
WSP Canada Inc  
Saskatoon Public School Division  
Aberdeen Municipal Pasture  
Tannas Conservation Services  
Salix Resource Management

Fire Departments      Onawa Volunteer Fire Department

<b># of Participating Agencies/Orgs</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total # of Participants:</b>	<b>45 (57% female)</b>
<b>Personnel-Hours:</b>	<b>2914 Hours</b>
<b>Equipment Utilized:</b>	<b>6 Engine Trucks &amp; Tenders 6 UTVs 2 Fire Cache Trailer Countless Agency Vehicles &amp; Handtools</b>

## **Burn Unit Completion Summary**

2023 Canadian Prairie TREX Burns					
Date	Agency	Site	Unit	Area (acres)	Burn Boss
16-Oct-23	Meewasin	NE Swale	Central Storm Pond	5.8	Eric Lamb
16-Oct-23	Meewasin	NE Swale	Pinned Rock Hill	10.5	Dale Gross
16-Oct-23	Meewasin	NE Swale	Salamander Slough North	14.2	Dale Gross
16-Oct-23	Meewasin	NE Swale	Trail Loop	11.1	Eric Lamb
17-Oct-23	Wanuskewin	Wanuskewin	Maintenance Prairie	2.83	Ian Hnatowich
17-Oct-23	Wanuskewin	Wanuskewin	Harmony Prairie	8.9	Ian Hnatowich
17-Oct-23	Wanuskewin	Wanuskewin	Pow-Wow Grounds	4.5	Ian Hnatowich
17-Oct-23	Meewasin	Northeast Swale	Short-Eared Owl Prairie	41.3	Kerry Hecker
18-Oct-23	City of Saskatoon	Hyde Park	North Pond	8.5	Moira Moser
18-Oct-23	City of Saskatoon	Donna Berkmire Park	Phase 1	0.1	Moira Moser
18-Oct-23	NCC	Dundurn	Sandy Dunes	17.1	Julie Pelc
19-Oct-23	Meewasin	Beaver Creek Conservation Area	Restoration Field - West	23.2	Dale Gross
19-Oct-23	Meewasin	Beaver Creek Conservation Area	Restoration Field - East	15.4	Eric Lamb
19-Oct-23	Meewasin	Beaver Creek Conservation Area	Sand Dune Complex A	32.1	Eric Lamb
19-Oct-23	Meewasin	Beaver Creek Conservation Area	Lodge Triangle	3	Kody Wohlers

198.53

**TOTAL      15 Burn Units  
198.53 acres**

## Appendix B: Pictures



Crews practicing suppression in a live fire scenario, to ensure preparedness for if a prescribed fire ever left the intended area.



Throughout the week, participants learned several ignition techniques and reasons for their application.





Each morning began with a briefing for the day's assignments. The Incident Management Team would cover review expectations, roles and responsibilities, safety protocol, expected weather and plans. When the weather allowed, we also had a few presentations showing the value of prescribed fire.



And then, of course, we got to practice the learned ignition techniques. Area spot ignition, as seen here, is great for habitat creation and creating a diverse landscape.





Working on a fireline is a marathon, not a sprint. Every step of the way we need to work smarter, not harder, and lend a helping hand when we can.



When the fire goes out, the real work begins. Mop up is the process of securing the perimeter and making sure all hiding hotspots are exposed and cooled down. This process takes the most patience and effort, but it lets us walk away confidently at the end of the day.



Conducting prescribed fires on the urban-wildland interface has its own challenges, including smoke management. Finding a way to preserve open landscapes around residential areas is a great way to strike a balance between nature and cities.



That is going to be some green grass next season! The black area will also retain more sunlight and heat than the surrounding areas, assisting with snow melt and seed germination.





With the right techniques, it doesn't take very many resources to protect the perimeter of a prescribed fire. Holding teams and ignition teams work in tandem to apply fire safely and effectively to the landscape.



And again, not enough can be said about the importance of mop up. While it can be monotonous, it's also a great chance to catch up with your crew in a less stressful environment.



Night operations make for great light shows. The higher humidity and lower temperatures also make it easier to control the fire, making it a great time of day to burn any areas with heavy fuel buildup or to practice suppression.



Grass isn't the only fuel we're burning out there. A big thanks to Postal Pizza and Cafe del Rey in Saskatoon for making sure crews stayed well fed on the fireline.

