

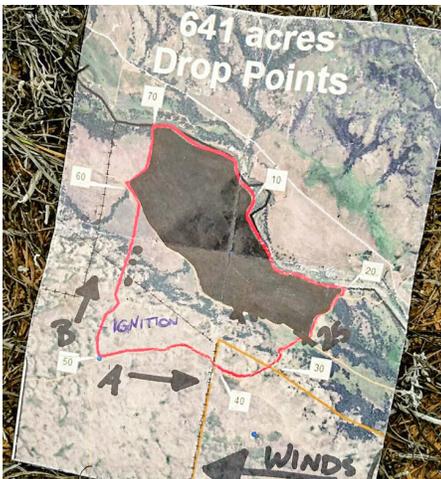


Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Niobrara Valley Preserve TRES

Northern Nebraska
March 17-April 2, 2017

Forty firefighters from California, Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Utah and British Columbia assembled in Nebraska for two weeks of burning and training in and around The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve. Together they put 2,848 acres of good fire on the ground to support a healthy sandhills prairie, built skills, and practiced working effectively in multi-organization teams.



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The Niobrara Valley Preserve has been an important base from which exchange programs have grown. Folks who have met and trained in Nebraska have replicated the event in South Africa and Spain.

Participant Organizations

- Ainsworth Volunteer Fire Department
- Bureau of Land Management
- Gering Fire Department
- Great Plains Fire Science Exchange
- National Park Service
- Nebraska Environmental Trust
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Wet weather was able to put a damper on firing activities but not crew morale. Participants took advantage of non-fire weather by setting up monitoring plots for an upcoming prescribed fire. Reducing invasion by eastern redcedar is a primary objective of the Niobrara TRES. Small redcedar trees occur throughout the grasslands and in the bur oak leaf litter understory. Niobrara TRES participants created photopoints and marked redcedar trees to document mortality rates from the planned prescribed fire.



For more on the NVP TRES:

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For more on other TRES:

<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>

The Fire Learning Network is part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about PERFACT, contact Lynn Decker: ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



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