

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges: Tactics to Context to Communities

TREX participants are immersed in demonstrations, discussions, required readings and experiential training to learn—and teach—about myriad aspects of prescribed fire. TREX deliver a foundation of key safety, operational and tactical skills, including:

- NWCG basic firefighter safety training for those who need it
- scouting, lighting, holding, mop-up and patrolling controlled burns
- communicating effectively by radio
- delivering & receiving briefings, conducting after action reviews, and documenting daily actions and activities
- using a variety of tactics and tools from different regions of the country (and world)



TREX are supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning & Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more on TREX, contact Jeremy Bailey (jeremy_bailey@tnc.org).
v. 29 January 2014



Large TREX are managed using the Incident Command System. A two-week TREX has been found to run smoothly when managed by a team comparable to a Type 3 Incident Management Team. © TNC/Jeremy Bailey

These are placed in a larger fire management context:

- the Incident Command System, use of daily planning cycles and planning documents
- planning, organizing and implementing controlled burns
- monitoring fire effects, writing reports and reporting to senior managers



Left: Participants who are not already NWCG qualified have opportunities to complete S-130 and S-190 courses early in the event. Above: Bringing media to the fireline in Black Lake helped bring a dramatic shift in the conversation about prescribed fire.

building capacity for collaborative approaches to integrated fire management



And, perhaps most important, TREX integrate prescribed fire strategies and tactics into a holistic ecological and social context, that includes:

- regional fire ecology and local socio-economic impacts of fire management
- work with groups like Prescribed Fire Councils and Landowner Associations
- fire adapted communities concepts

Participants also learn to craft key messages about wildfire and fire management, safely integrate media onto the fireline, and effectively deliver the messages in interviews.

Crews at the northern California TREX burned around communities and very near homes. By engaging locals in advance and keeping in touch through both traditional and social media during the event, the smoke produced by TREX was welcomed, even after a long summer of wildfires. © TNC/Mary Huffman

What impressed me most about this TREX was the efficiency and effectiveness of the program itself; it simultaneously provided excellent training, accomplished important on-the-ground work, developed relationships between diverse groups and individuals, and helped dispel public concern over the use of controlled burns.

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