**Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX)**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**General FAQs (all audiences)**

**What is a TREX?**
*A prescribed fire training exchange, or TREX, is a novel training event that brings together fire practitioners from diverse backgrounds to obtain hands-on fire experience, share knowledge and expertise, and better understand the art and science of fire management and ecology.*

**What is the Fire Learning Network?**
*The Fire Learning Network (FLN) engages dozens of multi-agency, community-based projects to accelerate the restoration of landscapes that depend on fire to sustain native plant and animal communities. By restoring this balance, the ecological, economic and social values of the landscapes can be maintained, and the threat of catastrophic wildfire can be reduced. Collaborative planning, implementation, adaptive management and the sharing of lessons learned are at the core of the FLN. Workshops, peer learning and innovative fire training are just a few of the mechanisms the network uses.*

**What is the difference between TREX and other available training?***The TREX model is rooted in a hands-on approach, so participants walk away with experiences that it could take years to accrue in other settings. Further, the TREX model relies on diverse participation, which enables a uniquely rich learning environment, and it offers a blend of fireline, ecology, and media and communications training that is unprecedented in typical training events.*

**Why not just burn? Why all the extra training?***Fire management is inherently complex, involving not only fire behavior experience and situational awareness, but also an understanding of local ecology and natural resource issues, incident management and media communications, regulations and permitting, and more. The TREX model engages all of these pieces, and participants finish the training with a well-rounded perspective on fire, in addition to new networks of colleagues from science, management, and other backgrounds.*

**Who should attend a TREX?***TREX events are intended for anyone interested in building their fire experience and engaging with fire practitioners from other organizations and agencies. TREX events are designed to include and meet the needs of a broad spectrum of fire practitioners, from new firefighters who have never held a drip torch to seasoned fire professionals working on burn boss qualifications, and everything in between.*

**Is this training compliant with NWCG standards?***Yes, all TREX trainees must meet NWCG standards in order to participate. Required coursework is provided to those who need it.*

**Who funds this?***TREX funding varies by location, and typically involves support and services from a wide range of sponsors. The FLN provides base support for TREX events in some FLN landscapes, but the trainings are ultimately made possible through the capacity of local partners and the contributions and support of participants, local contractors, burn hosts, and other interested parties.*

**Where can I learn more?***More information is available on the Conservation Gateway at* [*https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/fire-training-exchanges.aspx*](https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/fire-training-exchanges.aspx)*. You can also contact Jeremy Bailey with the FLN at* *jeremy\_bailey@tnc.org**.*

**FAQs for prospective burn hosts**

**What can I expect of TREX?** *The TREX will show up to a burn fire ready, and provide qualified crews and resources to accomplish burn objectives. In some cases, crews may be available to help with unit preparation before the burn, though this is not guaranteed.*

**What is expected of me as a host?***Hosts are expected to provide burn units that have been prepped and have approved burn plans in place. Hosts should supply a qualified burn boss, and they should maintain insurance for the burn. Burn hosts should expect that TREX participants will fill most or all trainee positions on the burn; accommodations should be made in advance if the host wishes to fill select trainee positions.*

**What agreements need to be in place for me to host?***It is your responsibility to understand and coordinate necessary agreements and MOUs in collaboration with TREX organizers. Check with Jeremy Bailey at* *jeremy\_bailey@tnc.org* *to find out if your agency or organization has existing agreements with The Nature Conservancy; these agreements may cover your region, or provide a useful template for your efforts.*

**What about liability?***For an FLN-sponsored TREX, liability for non-agency participants is covered by The Nature Conservancy through volunteer agreements. In most cases, liability for the individual burns is covered by the burn hosts.*

**How does it work to burn with non-agency folks?***Every TREX participant has basic NWCG qualifications, so burn hosts can rest assured that TREX crews conform to national standards for training and safety. Liability for non-agency trainees is covered by The Nature Conservancy.*

**Why should I participate in this event? I already have crews who can do the work.***TREX provides a unique training experience, not only for participants, but also for crews and leaders on host units. TREX crews are diverse, and include trainees from other parts of the country and the world who can share new experience and skills and create a rich and productive learning environment. Likewise, TREX crews include participants from tribal, academic, private landowner, environmental education, and federal and state agency perspectives, offering new ways to think about fire management and fire ecology. Furthermore, TREX brings highly qualified crews and resources to a burn, stretching local resources and increasing the overall capacity of the local fire management community. Be creative with us—split available resources to accomplish more objectives and burn more acres, and/or ask us to help with additional elements of your program, like fire effects monitoring, report writing, and cross-training; we can do it all!*

**Isn’t TREX just a bunch of students?** *No, TREX crews represent a wide range of expertise, including fire professionals with decades of experience. We build our crews to include every level of experience, from FFT2 to RXB2 and beyond. This is an essential part of the TREX model, which aims to meet training needs at every level of experience, and to provide a fully functional and qualified crew that can implement burns on its own if needed. TREX crews often include university students; these participants sometimes have existing fire qualifications, but even when they don’t, they bring important knowledge and skills around fire ecology, fire effects, fire communications, and more, and represent an essential component of the TREX team.*