**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*](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org)*.*

**FAQs for prospective participants**

**How much does it cost to register for a TREX?***There is standard registration fee of $100 for FLN-sponsored TREXs, but additional fees may be added by local coordinators to cover food, lodging, and other costs.*

**Do I need to be red carded?***Participants must meet NWCG standards in order to participate in TREX events. This means that they must have current qualifications at the Firefighter II (FFT2) level, including the following courses: S-130, S-190, FEMA-IS700A, and ICS-100. Participants must also pass a pack test (arduous preferred; moderate accepted in some cases) within the year leading up to the TREX.*

**If I don’t need these qualifications to burn on my own property, why should I have to take these basic courses to participate in TREX?***By conforming to national fire qualification standards, we ensure that our crews share a common foundation of knowledge and skill. This contributes to the overall safety and organizational structure of TREX events, and it gives organizers and burn hosts confidence in the TREX model because it meets standards that they recognize and understand. However, the TREX model does make space for alternative knowledge systems and experiences, and participants are encouraged to share skills and information specific to their backgrounds and experience.*

**I just need evaluation for a day or two—why should I attend for a full two weeks?***TREX offers more than just task book sign-offs; it also offers unique opportunities to work with diverse fire practitioners, to build skills outside of the fireline, and to participate in an exchange of knowledge and skill where each participant is both trainer and trainee. By participating in the full two week training, you have the opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise, and to gain new skills and networks from other participants. There is always more to learn!*

**Can I contribute equipment?**  
*Yes! The TREX model is made possible through donations of time and equipment by participants, burn hosts, and other sponsor organizations and agencies. Contributions from participants are a necessary component of successful TREX events, and are welcome on any scale, from PPE and shovels to engines and water tenders.*

**What can I do to help?***There are a number of ways that participants can help. Contributions of equipment are always appreciated, as are presentations and materials about participants’ home units. More generally, the TREX runs most smoothly when participants stay on schedule, help with cleaning and other miscellaneous duties around camp, and treat other participants and the Incident Command Team with respect.*

**Will I be a trainer as well as a trainee?**

*TREX events are exchanges, where each participant is both a trainee and a trainer. Please come prepared to show leadership in the areas where you have expertise, and be prepared to learn from others who have different experience and skills.*

**What is expected of me?***TREX events are run as an incident, which means they maintain a strict organizational structure. This means that participants are expected to demonstrate respect for others, maintain a learning and sharing attitude, jump in on cleaning and other tasks around camp, serve in both leadership and followship positions, establish and maintain communications, be prompt, and always be fire ready!*