

Semi-Annual Report

January – June 2017

Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT):
Collaborative Action and Co-ownership of Fire

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Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT)

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Overview & Contents

The Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) partnership works to restore our relationship with fire, helping us get to “right fire” through:

- the Fire Learning Network (FLN), fostering collaboration for restoration and fire management in landscapes across the country;
- the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net), which is doing the same for communities adapting to wildfire;
- Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) and cooperative burns, experiential training integrating a range of people, places and aspects of fire;
- intensive targeted action under Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER); and
- the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN), supporting traditional burning practices and cultural revitalization.

PERFACT efforts—the FLN and the FAC Net, TRES, SPER, IPBN work that it has inspired and incubated—are inter-connected and support each other. Our impacts are greater and results more durable where multiple overlapping and complementary efforts are directed. As our strategies are becoming more interwoven, they are becoming more powerful.

In addition to the ongoing work across the country that steadily builds on the 15-year history of the partnerships grown under this agreement, some of the highlights from this spring include:

- 138 local and regional workshops and learning exchanges at which members and partners shared, learned, planned and worked together;
- work across networks led to outcomes like post-fire resiliency planning through the “After the Fire” workshop in Washington and a FAC Net team from Colorado getting training in using water funds through an FLN-led workshop in New Mexico;
- eight TRES and cooperative burns that provided experience and training to 318 people and treated 14,437 acres with fire in support of landscape resiliency, community safety and cultural resources;
- four family-led burns in the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk landscape facilitated by the IPBN were an important step toward revitalizing the traditional practice of burning along family lines; and
- national workshops of FAC Net, FLN and new TRES Coaches Network leaders fostered co-learning and co-work, cemented relationships, and built capacity.

HIGHLIGHTS & LEARNING

Summaries focus on specific aspects of PERFACT, illustrated with examples from this reporting period. Of necessity, they cover but a small proportion of the work. These are suitable for use as handouts or information sheets.

PERFACT—four pages briefly introduce the main PERFACT strategies and how their work together leads on a range of critical fire strategy goals

Fire Learning Network—four pages briefly cover how the FLN works and includes highlights from across the network in the first part of 2017

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges—two pages cover the TRES and cooperative burns offered this spring, as well as the organizational launch of the TRES Coaches Network

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network—four pages cover how the network is working to nurture FAC practices and people, with highlights of recent member work

Infographics—highlights of the FAC Net affiliate membership program and feedback about the FAC self-assessment tool

Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency—two pages briefly summarizes recent work of the original “Right Fire Three in Three” projects and two supplementary ones

Indigenous Peoples Burning Network—two pages highlight the Healthy Country Planning, family-based burning and other IPBN work

APPENDIXES

A: Delivery on Actions from PERFACT Work Plan for FY 2017—work plan table with work delivered for the fiscal year

B: FLN Regional Network & Landscape Work Plan Progress Detail—work plan with work delivered for the fiscal year, and brief narrative highlights

C: Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges & Cooperative Burning—brief descriptions of each training, along with numerical summaries of participants and acres treated

D: FAC Learning Network Core Member Organization and State Network Work Plans—work delivered this reporting period, with brief narrative highlights

E: Work Plan Details for Projects under “Scaling-up to Enable the Social and Operational Capacity for ‘Right Fire’” (SPER III)—work plan with work delivered for the fiscal year, and brief narrative highlights

Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT)

A cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior



Fire ecology field tour during Central Oregon TREX © Ricard Baques

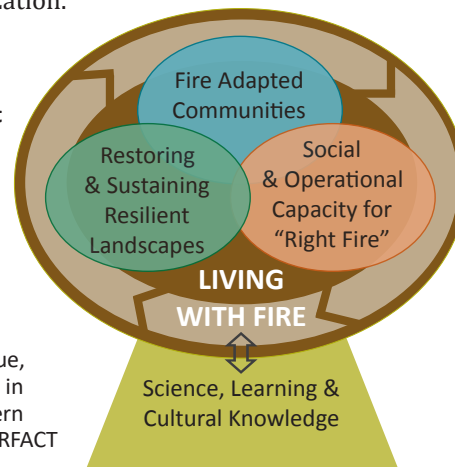
DELIVERING ON A VISION FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH FIRE

This partnership works to restore our relationship with fire by helping us get to “right fire”—where good fire can do its necessary work on the landscape, and both human and natural communities are better able to live with fire. We invest in the people who share our goals in implementing the Cohesive Strategy, helping them develop the resources and relationships they need to succeed. We work in key places with individual people, and also at regional and national scales, by making connections between scales. This work is accomplished through:

- the Fire Learning Network (FLN), fostering collaboration for restoration and integrated fire management in landscapes across the country;
- the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net), which is doing the same with communities adapting to wildfire;
- Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) and cooperative burns, providing experiential training opportunities that integrate a range of people, places and aspects of fire;
- targeted restoration action and capacity-building under Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER); and
- the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN), supporting traditional burning practices and cultural revitalization.

Overlapping PERFACT Efforts for Greater Impact

These efforts—the FLN and those that it has inspired and incubated—are interconnected and continue to support each other. We and our partners are starting to see that our impacts are greater and results more durable where multiple overlapping and complementary efforts are directed. And as the strategies are becoming more interwoven, they are becoming more powerful. This is perhaps most strikingly true, for example, in the places where we are working in southern Oregon, northern California and northern New Mexico. In all of these places, virtually all PERFACT strategies are being used in synergy.



Highlights from Each Strategy: January-June 2017

FIRE LEARNING NETWORK

The FLN continues to demonstrate what’s possible when you bring people together across boundaries, both geographic and institutional, and what’s possible when you invest in relationships over the long term. Among the goals of the FLN this year was the creation of intentional opportunities for further developing relationships, fostering team cohesion and facilitating co-learning between regional network leads. The effort was led by the new FLN Director, Marek Smith, who joined the FLN staff after eight years as a regional network co-lead.



The California Klamath-Siskiyou FLN co-hosted a VFD training—and, for some of the 24 participants, a first experience on a prescribed burn. Such training builds cohesion for future burns, and important leadership and firefighting skills that will aid in local and regional wildfire response. © WRTC (Piper McDaniel)

At the annual leaders’ workshop, 20 FLN peers validated their shared vision of the network and developed ideas for what they will collectively advance and how they will structure and maintain the network to remain nimble and resilient. They identified important areas of focus, including improving and innovating ways to share FLN successes and lessons, expanding and diversifying participation in peer exchanges among networks, developing succession plans for regional network leadership, developing ways for more local partners and landscape leaders to touch the national network directly, and continuing to cultivate and invest in leaders who build durable institutions that will continue to collaborate to solve our nation’s fire problems.



“I’ve been waiting over 20 years for that burn to happen. Seriously – it has been on my fire management bucket list forever, so yeah, I was more than a little happy to see it finally happen!” Before this 600-acre prescribed burn at Stone Mountain State Park in March, the largest controlled burn in the park had been about 70 acres—which was another Southern Blue Ridge FLN cooperative burn. © NC Div of Parks & Rec (Ed Farr)

“Our involvement with FAC Net has radically changed the way we connect with others outside of our county. FAC Net affiliation gives our program credibility and invitations to move on to other counties and states.”

“The difference our participation in FAC Net has made cannot be overstated; we are more efficient, more effective and better able to succeed.”

“Communication is an essential element of being a prescribed fire professional in the 21st century and am proud that we are offering holistic training and tools to help support the next generation of fire practitioners.”

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

FAC Net’s guiding principle is that the best way to spread effective fire adaptation strategies is to connect peer practitioners. This is being done intensively, including through in-person work, with core members, and is now being spread further through web-based interactions with a growing group of affiliate members. In both cases, FAC Net weaves these relationships, providing forums for exchange and innovation, and—like the FLN—demonstrating what’s possible through collaboration and connections through a robust network.

The annual FAC Net workshop centered on a unique approach to netweaving. To facilitate connections and deepen members’ understanding of their bodies of work, members were asked to rate a set of FAC practices in their own work before coming to the workshop; ratings were based on the importance of a practice in their fire adaptation strategy, their investment in it, and the level of engagement they have in each practice. Data were then compiled into visual representations of “portfolios” for each person. Activities during the workshop facilitated insights about personal and regional strengths and opportunities—and ideas for future co-work and co-learning. Network leaders are using the information gathered in this activity to inform overall FAC Net strategy.



At the national workshop, in addition to exercises to explore and leverage member “portfolios” (*top*) skill sessions focused on engaging with diversity (*below*) and the community asset mapping approach being used by the FireScope Mendocino FLN.

© Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey; TNC (L. Rank)



At a training this spring New Jersey’s FAC ambassadors worked in teams to build comprehensive wildfire preparedness plans. © NJ Fire Safety Council (Bill Brash)

PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGES & COOPERATIVE BURNING

This spring TRES leaders and coaches worked together during a three-day workshop to kick off a new network to build and support the cadre that will take TRES to its next level of growth. The workshop formalized this core group of TRES leaders as the TRES Coaches Network, making a structure that will enable these leaders to share best practices and learn from one another about the mechanics of coordinating and delivering a TRES. It will also support TRES leaders who are not already well connected to the FLN and FAC Net become better integrated with overall network goals—and connections and resources. This will increase consistency and maintain high quality as the number of events increases.

In fact, the growth of the TRES strategy is already well under way. This spring saw eight TRES and cooperative burns—up from five last spring—in Nebraska, Iowa, Oregon, New Mexico and California. All told, 318 people gained valuable experience, while conducting 14,437 acres of burning for forest and grassland health, watershed resiliency, community protection and management of cultural resources. Planning for the fall season was also active, with eight TRES currently on the schedule.



Delighted, engaged landowners—like this first-time burner at the Loup River TRES this spring—are a sign of TRES success.

© Pheasants Forever (Ben Wheeler)



The Yurok TRES provided training for 24 local participants, who completed strategic burns for community safety and cultural resources. They also had a chance to work side-by-side with 35 CAL FIRE firefighters, an important relationship-building opportunity for the community. © Elizabeth Azzuz



Key to SPER success is developing strategic relationships. Partners from the Mid Klamath met with the CAL FIRE Director and his executive staff to discuss how the agency can better work with tribes and other local and regional entities to increase cultural and prescribed burning in California. © MKWC

SCALING-UP TO PROMOTE ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCY

SPER “right fire” pilots are beginning to wrap up an aggressive three years of work on their strategies, with the last actions to be completed this fall. Even before the final numbers and effects have been tallied, it is clear that the working hypothesis is valid: concerted efforts at overcoming remaining social and diplomatic barriers (including smoke and legal issues), a pulse of targeted implementation funding and support, all directed to the right partners in a place that has laid a good foundation of enabling social and ecological work, can result in breakthroughs in getting “right fire” on the ground. Prescribed burning is becoming common in all of the SPER landscapes and the use of natural fire starts is in discussion at two of the pilots—in New Mexico, significant funding for additional implementation has recently been awarded—and in the Klamath, this summer is seeing something partners have long been working toward: a wildfire being managed for resource benefit.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BURNING NETWORK

The IPBN is continuing work—on both a planning process, and work on the ground—begun last year. The Healthy Country Planning training taken last winter was applied in a community workshop in the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk IPBN early in the year. As a result, “We are amazed. You come in here and facilitate two workshops, and now we have a plan that feels like our own.” Unlike typical conservation planning processes, which focus on natural and perhaps archaeological resources, the HCP process includes living culture as a valuable priority.

The goals of cultural perpetuation and fire use are also being advanced on the ground, through the Yurok TREX and through family-led burns that are facilitated by an IPBN equipment cache.

The network is also exploring areas for expansion, in places where PERFECT is already working. These include pueblos in the upper reaches of the Rio Grande watershed (where the New Mexico FLN, as well as TREX and SPER, are working) and tribes in Round Valley, a focal area of the FireScape Mendocino landscape.

“The networks are filled with dedicated, inspiring people working on similar issues through North America. The tools, ideas and conversation I have while at the workshops are invaluable to our continued success and work at home in our project area.”

Working Together to Amplify the Impact

By working on multiple strategies in the same place—or at several scales—the effect of each person, place and project is enhanced, and has opportunities to ripple outward and upward toward our collective larger goal and impact. The geographic overlap is strategically planned—as when holding the spring’s TREX in the Chama landscape to further SPER and FLN goals there. In some cases, the evolution is stepwise—as when the Washington Dry Forests FLN began adding fire adapted communities work to its portfolio to enable the landscape work they needed—until it begins to make little sense to distinguish between efforts there. Bridging strategies is key, and the work clearly benefits and accelerates as a result.

PERFACT networks also make sure people meet the right people, whether it’s a geographically distant peer or a key policy-maker or regulator. Again, this is planned—by who is invited to workshops, or through “you really need to talk to” introductions made by staff or network colleagues. Other connections are fortuitous (though still ultimately by design) as network members host workshops and other events that bring diverse practitioners and stakeholders together.

Much of the successful work this spring exemplified this kind of “stacking” and bridging of strategies.

In Ashland (OR), the FLN, FAC Net, SPER and TREX are all contributing to work



The Chama TREX completed burns identified as priorities by a SPER project—which in turn was working in a landscape selected as an important pilot in the Rio Grande Water Fund (in which the FLN is a leading partner). Work crossed the border into Colorado—where, on days not suitable for burning, the crews connected with FAC Net core member FireWise of Southwest Colorado and assisted in Wildfire Preparedness Days activities. “It helped us understand the value of assisting communities with efforts like felling trees, cutting shrubs and hauling slash—some communities with older residents can’t make fast progress on their own, but when there is additional capacity it increases the momentum for the effort.” © Chama Peak Land Alliance (E. Hohman)



“The work we’ve done with the FLN made it much easier for us to keep the momentum rolling in the aftermath of the 2016 wildfires. We never considered backing off in 2017.”

that is protecting the municipal watershed. The SPER pilot included work on dealing with using fire, including smoke issues—and perceptions—to enable more prescribed burning and more ownership of when, where and how to use fire, which was applied to a TRES this spring. “The TRES demands and enables us to amplify and clarify our communications about fire and smoke in the neighborhood in the most meaningful ways possible.” This year, several days of burning took place on the property of a landowner who is a FAC Net member, a partner in numerous forest restoration projects and an early adopter of the FLN approach in the area. “His positive experience will resonate in the community of the Rogue Basin in ways that an NGO voice cannot carry.” The TRES team hopes to accomplish something similar with a vocal landowner in the immediate Ashland area next year, and some possible candidates have been identified.

Washington FAC Net and FLN members jointly hosted an “After the Fire” workshop, expanding on work begun by the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition when their community experienced severe fire. By working together, they brought in a wider range of expertise—from business leaders to a member of the Southwest Burned Area Learning Network—than

either might have alone. Workshop participants articulated how important fire adaptation practices are in the “during” and “post” phases of wildfire, as well as the perception that this work belongs to disaster response or recovery “others.” By identifying them as critical competencies for community resilience and adaptation practitioners, the first step in meeting that need has been taken. This work is also a good example of concepts that can be built on and refined by the networks, then spread to the large practitioner community.

Work with the FireScope Mendocino FLN this spring has led to exploring the expansion of the IPBN to this landscape. A Community Asset Mapping project, led by community engagement expert Jana Carp, identified the Round Valley focal area as a good candidate for community-based fire planning; such planning would engage the six tribes



The use of sand table exercises to vividly engage residents in wildfire awareness and preparation is spreading like—well, wildfire—through the networks. © TNC (Marek Smith)

PERFACT Numbers in a Nutshell: January-June 2017

During this period PERFACT supported:

- 12 Fire Learning Networks encompassing 71.3 million acres
- 16 community-based Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network core member organizations in 15 states, and 3 state-wide networks (and mentoring another 2 state-wide efforts), while engaging about 90 individuals and organizations in 24 states as affiliate members
- 7 Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges and 1 week-long cooperative burn event that together provided training and experience for 318 people while treating 14,437 acres with fire
- national workshops for the FAC Net, FLN and TRES leaders, as well as 138 local and regional workshops and learning exchanges that enabled partners and stakeholders to learn, plan, implement, monitor and adapt together and to share knowledge among communities and landscapes

on the Round Valley Indian Reservation as well as private ranch lands and possibly portions of the Mendocino NF. The work here is another example of a method being applied and tested in one place that the networks may be able to leverage to other places and scales.

In May, PERFACT leadership, including the agency point of contact, met for three days to review and refine leveraging strategies, based on critical review of the year and lessons learned. The even greater focus on synergy is reflected in the PERFACT work plan for the coming year and in individual FAC Net and FLN member work plans.

More Online

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln>
<http://FireAdaptedNetwork.org>
<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>



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

PERFACT is an equal opportunity provider.

Fire Learning Network

A cooperative program of the Forest Service, Department of the Interior agencies and The Nature Conservancy, the FLN has a 15-year track record of helping to restore our nation's forests and grasslands and to make communities safer from fire.



A new FLN Director, Marek Smith, took over guidance of the network this spring, and the transition has been virtually seamless: FLN partners continue to assess challenges and opportunities, push at boundaries, innovate new tools and methods, and learn and adapt as needed to lead and exemplify the integration of Cohesive Strategy goals: resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities, and safe and effective wildfire response. This spring, 12 regional networks and large landscapes advanced collaborative restoration and integrated fire management in 30 landscapes across the country. The FLN also continues to anchor and support the wide range of work under PERFACT, and beyond. For example, the California Klamath-Siskiyou FLN has been an active leader in a statewide fire MOU advancing policy, training and communications

goals across organizations and agencies. This included clarifying and expanding CAL FIRE's role on private burns, and engaging air regulators in collaboration on burn-day alignment and air quality monitoring to increase the windows of opportunities to burn. The Washington Dry Forests FLN developed an agreement between the Yakama Nation, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Forest Service to enable the Yakama Nation to lead burning on state lands. In the Southern Blue Ridge, Washington Dry Forests and Island Park Sustainable Fire Community FLNs, integration with FAC Net and application of FAC strategies are increasing. And many of the TREX this very busy spring season grew from (and were hosted by) FLNs in the Great Plains, New Mexico and Oregon.

Highlights from around the Network: January-June 2017

California Klamath-Siskiyou FLN



A local landowner enjoys her first experience on an ignitions crew during an 18-acre training burn at Hunt Ranch. The June burn was hosted by partners in Humboldt County for VFDs and community members.

© UC Extension (Lenya Quinn-Davidson)

Private-land burning in California is challenging, but connections to others in the national FLN are being used to address that. "Fire practitioners tend to be very place-based, and the successes of other states or regions can sometimes fall on deaf ears. It's not uncommon to hear people say, 'Well, they can do that there, but things are different here.' But through the FLN, we know that Nebraska fields very successful prescribed burn associations, a cooperative burning model generally absent from the West. After hosting fire practitioners from the Great Plains FLN last fall, California partners traveled to the Midwest this spring to reciprocate the learning exchange. Rather than seeing differences, participants saw in both places the need for prescribed fire to control woody species in rangelands, the resources inherent in these landowner communities, and the ways that people can organize and share their resources to build capacity."



In a June workshop, twenty leaders from regional FLNs across the country met to review accomplishments from the past 15 years, share lessons learned, strengthen ties within the network, and plan the network's future direction and coming year's work. Hosted by the Western Klamath Mountains FLN in northern California, there could not have been a better setting—among the people, in this place, with the deep integration of cultural and ecological history of fire—for FLN leads to gather for this work.

© TNC (Marek Smith)



In the Central Appalachians FLN, a small group session at the Potomac Headwaters landscape's first workshop provided hands-on exercises in spatial planning and burn unit design using maps of the Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area—an area participants saw in person during the field learning experience.

© TNC (Marek Smith)

“We burned all day then barbequed into the evening, just like they do in Nebraska, and we were reminded that the prescribed fire community is not just local or regional—it’s everywhere.”

“The most significant accomplishment in the Loess Hills was the mentoring that took place during the cooperative burn week. It was recognized that the current burn bosses and leaders in the Loess Hills fire community are not going to be here forever. A lot of interest was generated in mentoring the next round of burn bosses, ecological prescription of fire, formal NWCG training and experiential training, and documenting skill sets through position task books. This is a fundamental shift.”

Central Appalachians FLN

A January workshop kicked off the work of the Potomac Headwaters landscape in Maryland and West Virginia. It was more popular than expected—the organizers intended to cap participation at 50, but close to 60 people took part, including FLN colleagues from Pennsylvania and Virginia. Since then, staff from the Maryland chapter of TNC have met with state Wildlife and Forest Service staff and moved forward with planning cooperative burns. This new landscape serves as a key connector, stitching together the northern and southern portions of the regional network, which now spans nearly 19 million acres. It also leverages the regional network’s collaboration goals with new partnerships and expertise, only an hour or two drive from the nation’s capital.



FireScope Mendocino

Community engagement work guided by Jana Carp work revealed that within the scope of FireScope Mendocino there is good potential for increasing community engagement—for bringing existing assets to bear on community challenges—in the Covelo/Round Valley and Lake County focal areas. Following this asset-based approach, future work will emerge from community strengths that “create conditions for new, fiscally neutral, locally appropriate partnerships to realize their shared fire management goals. The asset-based approach revealed strengths that we probably would not have found through our workshops and field learning exchanges, like the Middletown Art Center that has served as a community hub for recovery from the Valley Fire.”

FireScope Mendocino held a compelling workshop exercise on fuels treatment and defensible space, featuring sand table landscapes with matchstick trees, rivers of blue paper, tiny houses, sticky note critical habitat areas—and real fire. Participants broke into three teams to study their landscapes and then implement a fuels treatment strategy—selectively removing “trees”—before a fire was lit and blown by wind from an electric fan.

© TNC (Marek Smith)

Great Plains FLN



Crew members keep an eye on the interior burn out during the Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week. © TNC (Emily Hohman)

With 57 participants from nine agencies and six volunteer fire departments getting more than 2,500 acres of good fire on the ground, the numbers alone tell a story of the remarkable traction the cooperative burn week has gained in the landscape. Also important was incorporation of NWCG course S-219 (Ignitions) into the burn week at the request of the fire partners. “This is a change for the Loess Hills fire culture, this embrace of formal training and then the willingness to implement the new techniques in the field. They are also beginning to use the task book system. This influences the training options of the Iowa Fire Training Working Team (which also hosted an S-390 course last winter). The Loess Hills Fire Partners are driving the fire program and skill set of Iowa’s fire practitioners.”

Island Park Sustainable Fire Community



“My home was just burned up!”

And the conversations rolled on from there at the Island Park sand table wildfire simulation. Although few Island Park residents might be expected to be thinking about wildfire in April—like most Idahoans, they are usually focused on snow melting and greening grass—about 40 took part in this eye-opening workshop. © TNC (Matthew Ward)

A sand table exercise in which wildfire swept through town was part of a workshop that kicked off a summer “Are You Prepared for Wildfire” series. Although early in the year, the workshop was successful—as planned, it increased community engagement and improved participation in monthly meetings, as well as spurring new interest in evacuation and fuels reduction plans for housing developments.

In the larger landscape, the nearby Teton Basin has shown interest in the work in Island Park, leading to multiple conversations. “We are hopeful that this will be the beginning of a much larger collaboration that creates a catalyst to jump to the next level of FLN, FAC and landscape resiliency in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.”

New Mexico FLN

The Burned Area Learning Network has identified support for the use of existing tools like WFDSS and CWPPs. “We think there is merit in finding ways to encourage forest planners and managers to keep post-fire impacts in mind. While there are places where debris, flooding and sediment models have been developed, they are not well integrated into forest and fire management. We want to continue work on WFDSS/burned area information integration. The concept has been enthusiastically received where we have shared it We plan to test the idea in the Santa Fe Fireshed landscape, and continue our discussions with national WFDSS and BAER managers.”

At the Western Water Funds Workshop in Santa Fe, a Colorado team works out the geographic and political boundaries of their proposed water fund landscape. The workshop, hosted by the Rio Grande Water Fund, provided teams from four watersheds with resources, training and mentorship based on the collective experience of others that have used the water fund model to support restoration.

© TNC (Jackie Hall)



This spring’s PSAs about prescribed fire and smoke supported both the Ashland and Central Oregon TREC, and ran widely on social media, TV, radio, newspapers and at theaters (as seen here). © TNC (P. Caligiuri)



“I believe that the relationships that we’ve made in the FLN have had enormous impacts on the scale and quality of our prescribed fire program in the mountain region. We are now burning units that were inconceivable only a few years ago, and this year is a record by leaps and bounds in terms of acreage, complexity and agency cooperation. The only way you’re ever going to get comfortable with complex prescribed fires is to do more of them, and our involvement in the FLN has definitely facilitated that learning curve.”

Oregon FLN

In both central Oregon and Ashland, FLN partners are seeing the importance and the power of having a multi-faceted strategy about smoke outreach to reach an ever-growing and diverse audience of locals and visitors who care deeply about the forest. “Our key messages continue to be refined to their core elements that describe the importance of prescribed fire—and tolerance for some smoke—to the things that Oregonians care about. We have also begun to communicate more clearly about the value of clean air and the imposition of smoke on sensitive populations, and dialogue with the health community appears to be increasing support more broadly for tolerating smoke—particularly when paired with proactive protection and mitigation strategies for sensitive populations and individuals.”

Pikes Peak FLN

This FLN has been coordinating with internal and external partners in Colorado and New Mexico to provide training opportunities, increase resource sharing, and build capacity to use fire. Findings from their fire attitudes project will also be used to build a collective understanding of people and fire.



Twenty-one people from 13 organizations took part in a Pikes Peak FLN workshop on effective prescribed fire communications. Designed for fire practitioners, PIOs and land managers along the Front Range, it focused on developing compelling messages for the public and media to be used during the fall prescribed fire season. © TNC (Jason Lawhon)

South Central FLN

One of the large-scale efforts guided in part by partners in this FLN is the Shortleaf Pine Initiative. A pressing issue for the Initiative is the need to develop demonstration areas throughout the range and on a variety of state, private and federal ownerships. Doing this will “require small working groups from each demo area that begin to develop a ten-year work plan for the restoration of large landscape-scale areas. Lack of expertise in this type of planning and implementation across the range complicates the problem.” Lessons from the long-term successful collaborations demonstrated across the FLN will undoubtedly be key.



Ozark and Ouachita Interior Highlands Restoration Collaborative members toured the Gulf Mountain WMA in January, visiting restoration areas with demonstrated successes (and challenges) related to prescribed fire, timber management, mid-story treatment methods, invasive species control, and monitoring.

© TNC (McRee Anderson)

Among the 100 or so participants in the Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium in May was CAL FIRE Director Ken Pimlott, who affirmed his agency's commitment to increasing the proportion of good fire in California's forests in the coming years.

© MKWC (Will Harling)



Southern Blue Ridge FLN

The FLN set a record attendance at its annual regional workshop in north Georgia, coordinated with the Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition. Workshop planning that had been underway was adapted to meet opportunities raised by increased public awareness in the aftermath of the fall wildfire season. Fittingly, the agenda had a strong FAC component. The “biggest gains have been in terms of public perception and acceptance of prescribed burning. Coordinating a response to the aftermath of the wildfires in a proactive, professional way, to engage the public, highlight issues surrounding fire and the need for prescribed fire, and show the benefits of ‘good fire’ has been a major achievement.”



The May workshop was an opportunity to reflect on and learn from the region's unprecedented wildfire season last fall, and to consider how the network might adapt its approach following such a significant event. Many discussions focused on human elements, and the need to better engage residents in building sustainable local wildfire adaptation capacity. But also highlighted were the potentially disastrous fires that were controlled due to effective response enabled by previous cross-boundary controlled burning and fire training that the FLN helped facilitate.

© TNC (Avery Lennard)

Washington Dry Forests FLN

Staff and other participants in the After the Fire workshop realized that in the cycle of “before, during, and after” fire, the “after” part—especially the forethought and planning needed before the fire to better address the after—is not well resourced. There are social and economic drivers to facilitate the pre-fire efforts—certainly in work on landscape resiliency, and to a degree in FAC mitigation efforts. Clearly, there are enormous resources applied during a fire. But the attention span and interest in the “after the fire” part is relatively short-lived. “From what we know about other areas of network formation and maintenance, having a “sparkplug” individual and adequate coordinating capacity are key.” Fortunately, those present at the workshop expressed overwhelming interest in staying connected to one another through future networking opportunities.

Western Klamath Mountains FLN

FLN support of the Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium (KFES) and workshops of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRK) this spring had important impacts on the ground. With favorable conditions on the ground this year, there was a concerted effort by fire ecologists, tribal members and NGOs at the KFES to support federal line officers in managing wildfires for resource benefits this fire season. Later, a map exercise at a WKRK workshop focused on a 40,000-acre section of the upper North Fork of the Salmon River that hadn't seen fire in over a century; through the exercise and discussion, everyone came to agree that,



The After the Fire workshop brought together people from over 20 organizations (including the Southwest Burned Area Learning Network) to break down the idea of post-wildfire recovery as something separate, and to consider a more holistic approach—landscape recovery and community recovery, short-term recovery and long-term recovery. © WA RC&D (K. Taggart)

with careful management, this would be a place to manage wildfire.

Lightning struck in that area late June. The science and speakers at KFES, the mapping exercise, the ongoing public outreach efforts—these provided the social license for the Klamath NF Forest Supervisor's decision to manage the Island Fire for resource objectives, an important step toward more “good fire” in this landscape.

FLN members now turn to another year of identifying and meeting challenges. Their focus will be on improving and innovating methods of sharing FLN successes, expanding and diversifying participation in cross-network peer exchanges, developing succession plans for regional network leadership, designing approaches for more local partners to “touch” the national network, and continuing to cultivate and invest in leaders who build durable institutions, collaborating to solve our nation's fire problems.

The FLN is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together* (PERFACT), a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

PERFACT is an equal opportunity provider.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges and Cooperative Burning

Experiential training events in support of landscape restoration and resiliency, fire adapted communities and workforce capacity-building

This spring, TRES teams mobilized for eight events that ran a total of 90 days. All told, 318 people built their skills and fire networks, and accomplished 14,437 acres of prescribed burns in six states—California, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico and Oregon. As usual, the burn teams worked around rainstorms and snow, dry spells and red flag days, finding the windows to get good fire done. They also talked about good fire—among themselves, with community members, and to reporters—laying the groundwork for acceptance of even more fire on the landscape to come.

Each TRES is organized as a Type 3 Incident under the National Incident Management System. Participants—from fire agencies, universities, volunteer fire departments and local

communities—serve side by side in qualified and trainee firefighting positions on the burn teams. Together they prepare, scout, brief, ignite, hold, mop up and patrol on numerous controlled burns. They also complete pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment, practice fire line leadership skills, and learn about local fire ecology and fire management.

After the spring prescribed fire season, the new TRES Coaches Network held its kick-off workshop. Thirty-three people—experienced TRES coaches and up-and-coming leaders—came from around the country and around the world, from NGOs, government agencies and private contracting. They met to build a network that will create deliberate connections among the numerous TRES leaders who year after year plan, coordinate and lead TRES events. When these leaders are better connected to each other, they can better support one another, and better serve their own communities and the larger fire community.

Woven throughout the spring as well was planning for the fall TRES season, which includes TRES in California (Klamath River, Women in Fire, NorCal), New Mexico (Rio Trampas Watershed), Oregon (Umpqua) and Washington (Cascadia).

Spring 2017 TRES

NEBRASKA

Loup River TRES

March 13-25

Niobrara Valley Preserve TRES

March 17-April 2

In the tall grass prairies of the Great Plains, the Niobrara Valley Preserve and Loup River TRES provided opportunities for professional firefighters, university students, tribal members and private practitioners to learn about large fires in open grasslands. Fast-moving fires in grass require thoughtful planning and timely execution; 85 participants gained important experience and knowledge in these grassland TRES, and took it back to home units and institutions across the country and around the world.



Left: A firefighter from Spain ignites a blackline at the Loup TRES, preparing to burn when conditions became suitable.

© Pheasants Forever (Ben Wheeler)

Right: Crews prepare for monitoring on a wet day during the Niobrara TRES, creating photopoints and marking redcedar trees to track mortality from a planned prescribed fire.

photo via Facebook

Training, Treatments & Outreach

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges and cooperative burns provide:

- hands-on training and NWCG position task book opportunities
- prescribed fire treatments that meet local objectives
- outreach to community leaders, media outlets and land managers

Spring 2017 TRES & Cooperative Burning



© Elizabeth Azzuz

			people	acres
Loup River TRES	NE		45	3,000
Niobrara Valley Preserve TRES	NE		40	2,848
Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week	IA		57	2,516
Ashland TRES	OR		35	252
Central Oregon TRES	OR		49	2,030
Chama TRES	NM/CO		28	176
Yurok TRES	CA		24	31
Luera TRES	NM		40	6,100
TOTAL:			318	14,437

What Does a TRES Leader Do?

(What DOESN'T a TRES leader do?)

TRES leaders organize planning calls, take notes and follow up with other leaders. They apply for or review grant proposals, and coordinate with attorneys so they can execute a fire management agreement. They answer hundreds of questions from prospective hosts and participants, and recruit people for the Incident Management Team. They organize the participants and solicit for extra equipment like engines or PPE. TRES Coaches also ensure there are enough burn plans, prepped burn units, burn bosses, lodging and meals for everyone. They help develop talking points for firefighters, send out invitations to the media, and talk to reporters. TRES leaders send out final instructions to the participants and try to make sure that everyone has reasonable expectations. They organize the burn teams, and are on site, shaking hands and making introductions on the first day. ... and then the TRES gets started.

IOWA

Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week

March 20-28

Less than one tenth of one percent of Iowa's native prairies remain, mainly nested in the steep slopes and exposed ridges of the Loess Hills landform adjacent to the Missouri River in western Iowa. A cooperative burning week led by the Loess Hills Fire Partners is successfully increasing the number of acres treated in these fire-dependent grasslands, and increasing the capacity for a range of local landowners to continue expanding burning to maintain these rare systems.

OREGON

Ashland TRES April 30-May 13
Central Oregon TRES May 1-14

There were once again two TRES in Oregon this spring—the third annual Central Oregon TRES, near Bend, and the second annual Ashland TRES, in the southwestern part of the state. Both of these TRES generated great community outreach opportunities as the burn teams worked with local government officials to burn around the edges of the communities in support of local strategies.

NEW MEXICO / COLORADO

Chama TRES May 1-14
Luera TRES May 30-June 10

Working with state foresters and private landowners, the Chama and Luera TRES in New Mexico demonstrated the value of having burn teams organized and ready to seize burn opportunities. These rural TRES were targeted to improve forest health in important watersheds and support productive, healthy grasslands.

CALIFORNIA

Yurok TRES May 16-23

Many tribes in northern California continue to practice traditional uses of fire to maintain access to important plants and animals that provide food, materials for traditional practices like basketry, and ceremonial regalia, and to reduce the wildfire threat to remote mountain communities. Along the Klamath River, the Yurok TRES has become an important semi-annual event that is building the Yurok Tribe's ability to plan, lead and staff their own burn teams.



Top: Lighting along a ridge on the Murray Hill burn during the Loess Hills burn week. © Iowa DNR (Matt Dollison)



Bottom: All hands move a hose lay as the crew makes adjustments for an operational transition on the Yurok TRES. © Naomi Tora



Above: A Chama TRES crew uses a dot ignition pattern on a burn on the San Juan NF in southwest Colorado. © Nicholas Olson

Left: An Ashland TRES crew provides structure protection while burning around homes on a tract of private land in Applegate Valley. © TNC (Darren Borgias)

MORE ONLINE

TRES Coaches Network workshop—*Notes from the Field*—<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/Notes-TRES-CoachesWorkshop-2017.aspx>
Fighting Central Oregon Wildfire with Fire—*Bend Magazine*—<https://bendmagazine.com/fighting-central-oregon-wildfire-fire/>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges are supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together* (PERFACT), a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker at (ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524. PERFACT is an equal opportunity provider.

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

Our mission is to connect and support people and communities who are striving to live more safely with wildfire. The FAC Net is a catalyst for spreading best practices and innovations in fire adaptation nationwide.

People. Place. Fire.

Fire adaptation is about resilience. It's about enhancing adaptive capacity in communities and ecological systems. To better live with fire we must mitigate risks, prepare for impacts, weigh trade-offs and work together—before, during and after wildfires.

FAC Net's core principle is that the best way to spread effective fire adaptation strategies is to connect peer practitioners. FAC Net successfully weaves these relationships, providing forums for exchange and innovation, and demonstrating what's possible. With robust peer support, coaching and mentoring for emerging groups, FAC Net is helping communities around the country on their unique journeys to live more safely with wildfire.

Over the last six months, the network has grown to include well over 100 people in 28 states, who represent the full gamut of organizations and agencies engaged in wildfire resilience work. Together, our members and partners are creating the relationships and connections that are the foundation of resilience, and forging new ways of relating to one another and to the places they live.

Inspiring Practitioners to Take New Action: Netweaving People, Practice & Resources

FAC Net fosters a culture of learning and exchange that has sparked several members to adopt strategies from their fellow FAC Net partners. For example:

When the New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council needed a boost, our member from the Forest Stewards Guild used his FAC Net connections to figure out its next move. Their liaison—who also serves on the board of the National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils and as the Director of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council—was the perfect person to help them strategize. “She definitely inspired the New Mexico council to take on more.” Following her meeting with New Mexico leaders, they have set a date for a workshop and are determined to be bold in their prescribed fire mission.

Project Wildfire shared their organizational model with the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (a member of the state-wide network, WAFAC). The Project Wildfire business plan and structure are being used to “inform and inspire the formation” of both the Yakima effort,

and that of WAFAC members in Chelan County. Similarly, in Oregon, members in Ashland are considering adopting Project Wildfire's flagship “FireFree” model, which they discovered and have seen at work as a result of strong ties built through the FAC Net. Practitioners from central Washington were also helped with prescribed fire outreach strategies and advice about how to best leverage forest health collaboratives.

FAC Net members in Rapid City worked with colleagues in Santa Fe and western Colorado on a rapid assessment mapping strategy for their primary WUI hazard zone. They also helped members in Austin with code adoption by sharing Rapid City's best practices document and custom tailored WUI building materials and vegetation management ordinance draft.

In central Oregon, network members invited a resident from one of their Firewise communities to a long-term recovery learning exchange hosted by network members. The resident returned home and began working with his neighbors to expand their



The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

helps society live more safely with wildfire...

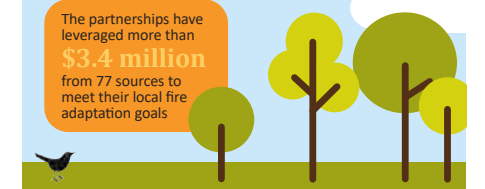
Network members are some of the most advanced community resilience practitioners in the country, and through the FAC Net, they are spreading better ways of living with wildfire—ways that recognize the role of fire in our ecosystems, provide alternatives to costly fire suppression, and protect the lives of citizens and firefighters.

21 FAC NET CORE MEMBERS & **89** AFFILIATE MEMBERS WORK IN COMMUNITIES IN **28** STATES

CORE MEMBERS ADDED **162** NEW PARTNERS (JANUARY-JUNE 2017)

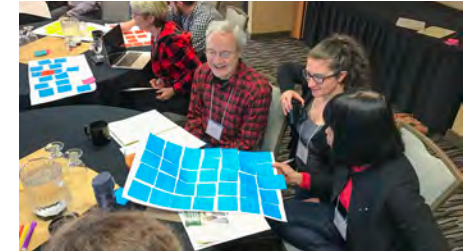
FAC Net works with **720** more than partners to advance community fire adaptation

The partnerships have leveraged more than **\$3.4 million** from 77 sources to meet their local fire adaptation goals



“Participation in FAC Net provides access to expertise not found elsewhere. It is an invaluable resource.”

Participants in the long-term recovery learning exchange co-hosted by the Chumstick and Project Wildfire in Hood River (OR) went home inspired to action. For example, the City of Ashland is partnering with the chamber of commerce on a business preparedness program, including offering a local version of the workshop. © WRTC (Emily Troisi)



focus from just mitigation in their neighborhood to community-wide efforts before, during and after fire. As a result of that same learning exchange, efforts to plan for business resiliency and long-term recovery are now a priority for the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, which is going through a business preparedness program certification and plans to host its own long-term recovery workshop next year.

In Minnesota, members in Ely used experience and insights from the network to support the development of a strategic communications plan. They also modeled their “Living with Fire” event, co-hosted by the state DNR, on curriculum from Oregon FAC Net members.



A community workshop in Island Park (ID) used a Simtable—a sand table with maps and other data projected onto it—to powerfully explore community risk. © Simtable

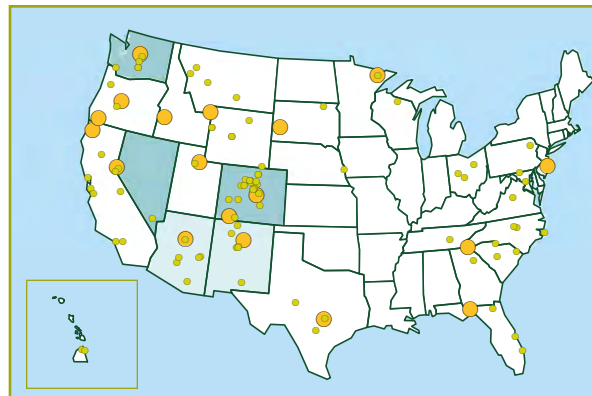
Coaching New and Emerging FAC Efforts

FAC Net was launched with members from relatively mature community fire adaptation approaches. We’ve since added several strategies that expand the network’s reach beyond these early adopters. With a flourishing affiliate member program, core members who are mentoring other communities, and partnerships to jumpstart local capacity, FAC Net is honing our coaching and mentoring skills.

At the local scale, we’re working with nearly 100 affiliate members, many of whom are just getting a start in their fire adaptation work. We’re also mentoring several communities as they grow more robust fire adaptation efforts. For example, in Idaho, members from Island Park credit the mentoring and support they’ve received through FAC Net for helping them achieve the excellent outcomes they are seeing: “In April we held our first virtual sand table exercise and we had approximately 40 participants, many of whom had never participated in our past events. We also tried a

spring slash pick up for the first time, and have 101 people signed up, greatly exceeding our expectations!”

FAC Net is also investing in coaching and mentoring organizations to launch their own state-level fire adaptation networks. According to WAFAC staff, FAC Net “has introduced WAFAC to network evaluation tools, workshop support structures, network resources such as publications, guides, webinars, and people that have helped us develop strategic thinking and implementation.” Colorado, Nevada and Washington have active state-wide networks, and partners in Arizona and New Mexico are in the scoping and design phases of launching them.



Hosting and Supporting Learning Events

FAC Net members led more than 90 local and regional workshops this spring. In-person gatherings strengthen relationships—which are at the very core of effective networks and collaboratives—and are also the best way to share knowledge and move initiatives forward.

In February, members from Oregon and Washington held a learning exchange focused on long-term recovery planning. Participants included leaders from the business sector, planning departments and non-profit social service organizations. Led by Washington State Emergency Management staff (managers for the private industry, long-term recovery, and limited English proficiency programs) and The Nature Conservancy’s Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager, “participants learned and participated in activities that set the foundation for pre-planning for long-term recovery by identifying existing conditions that would enhance or impede a community’s ability to recover, constraints and roles of organizations, and organization networks that would help support recovery efforts,” according to organizers.



“The FAC Network ... has without a doubt improved and accelerated the outcomes we have been able to achieve thus far.”

In April, Lake Tahoe members welcomed FAC Net members from across the country for the annual workshop. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team coordinated a valuable field exchange for participants that “strengthened inter-network connections, provoked new ideas, and benefitted [local] programs.” When not in the field, members learned more about one another’s fire adaptation practices, using a unique portfolio process to uncover strengths and identify opportunities for co-work and co-learning.

In June, the state-wide Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO) network held a learning exchange focused on home wildfire risk assessments and apps. Eighteen wildfire professionals from across the state came to share their approaches and tools for assessing wildfire hazards and tailoring mitigation actions to individual properties. The workshop was an important learning opportunity for some participants who were new to home assessments. It also daylighted some important nationally relevant issues, including the need for better standardization of comprehensive home assessment recommendations, and the tension between having standards and the need to consider

what a given homeowner is realistically likely to do, because assessors are trying to set the stage for an ongoing, productive relationship. This was the first exchange since FACO’s launch, and represents a key strategy for providing value to members when pass-through funding is not available.



At the close of the long-term recovery learning exchange that brought together partners from Oregon and Washington, participants talk through their next steps with facilitators.

© WRTC (Emily Troisi)

Demonstrating What’s Possible

Part of the rationale for starting FAC Net was that a network would help demonstrate a wide range of fire adaptation techniques and contexts, providing others with examples of what’s possible. That premise has proven true—and one of the most beneficial things the FAC Net does is



Participants in the Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO) learning exchange discuss potential issues with decks, as part of the larger conversations about assessing hazards and planning mitigation efforts.

© TNC (Wendy Fulks)

amplify successful models. Members achieved several milestones this spring, including significant on-the-ground hazard mitigation work:

- A record number of National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day events were held in southwest Colorado, with FireWise of Southwest Colorado partners hosting 14 events, logging 1,750 volunteer hours.
- The Ely neighborhood mitigation program is steadily growing from “a start of 25 properties in 2014,

to 254 properties in 2016. Once the summer 2017 field season is completed, we will be able to report on the anticipated continued growth. The amount of material removed increased by two-thirds and volunteer hours more than doubled.”

- Project Wildfire’s spring FireFree events “collected over 31,000 cubic yards of vegetation over the course of nine events in four counties. This is the second highest amount of yard debris collected over the life of FireFree, and 10 percent more than last year.”
- Tahoe has added 317 new individual members and is actively coordinating with volunteers in 12 neighborhoods. More than 500 acres of fuel reduction work has been accomplished, along with hundreds of defensible space inspections, chipping requests and community contacts.
- Participation in fuel reduction efforts were at an all-time high for the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition (CWSC) this spring. They coordinated and hosted five disposal days at the transfer station, and about 188 people brought in 95.9 tons (324 car/truck loads) of material. Where previous efforts

“The legitimacy that comes with a connection to a national network cannot be overstated.”

peaked at 32 loads in one day, these efforts yielded an average of 65 loads a day (19.1 tons). All told, CWSC assisted 232 community members who contributed \$84,936 of in-kind and cash contributions to complete 143.2 acres of fuel reduction.

Beyond hazardous fuel management, members are expanding programs, working with local Forest Service personnel to reach agreement for managed fire, and adding new partners. And they're thinking bigger. In Washington, the Chelan Pilot Project kicked off. It's an “accomplishment that would not have been possible without the FAC Net support of WAFAC.” This project will enable them to support additional communities in their state network, support a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) and fund NEPA development for large-scale treatment in the Upper Wenatchee River Watershed. And they're seeing welcome culture-shift beginning. Members in the mid-Klamath region of northern California had their “first successful influence on a managed wildfire decision,” and partners “applaud the efforts of the Klamath National Forest to make this decision, and progress us into a new era of wildland fire management.”

Renewing and Energizing the People Who Do This Work

“Our involvement with FAC Net has radically changed the way we connect with others outside of our county. FAC Net affiliation gives our program credibility and invitations to move on to other counties and states.”

“FAC Net has provided a set of peers, practitioners and friends to learn and bounce ideas off—FAC Net brings small organizations out of isolation. The network serves as our lifeline.”

“I feel like I am a part of a large movement that is working to change the current trajectory, and FAC Net has allowed me to continue our efforts on a larger scale.”

“The difference our participation in FAC Net has made cannot be overstated; we are more efficient, more effective and better able to succeed.”

“FAC Net has helped to transform preparedness efforts...from a part time ‘do it when I can’ sideline, to create an integral partner that can help train staff, coordinate and carry out needed activities. What we have accomplished in the past three years could not have been done without the technical and financial assistance of FAC Net.”

“I've learned a great deal from network staff and other participants, and the work has shaped my approach to wildfire preparation work. This has been in the form of exposure to social science, strong and well-justified opinions on mitigation work, and through a minimally hierarchal approach to sharing ideas and lessons learned.”

“The relationship with network participants provides a feedback and support loop, where we would not have otherwise had one. The nature of this work is complex and can feel overwhelming and daunting, but the work and the willingness of network participants to share is an endless source of inspiration to do better, to try more, to do different things, to take and adapt the best of what others have learned.”



From top: The annual national FAC Net workshop, hosted by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and their partners, included a skills session on diversity and inclusion, leadership exercises on the field day, and opportunities to learn—and plan future work—together. © Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey; TNC (L. Rank)

<http://fireadaptednetwork.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/FACNetwork>
<https://twitter.com/fireadaptednet>



The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together* (PERFACT), a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior, in partnership with the Watershed Research and Training Center. For more information about the FAC Net, contact Michelle Medley-Daniel at michelle@thewatershedcenter.com.

PERFACT is an equal opportunity provider.

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

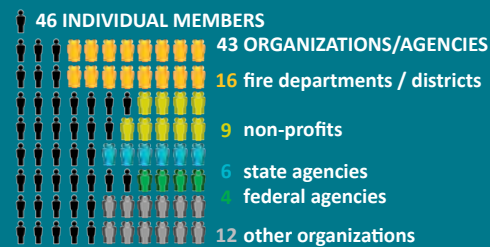
Infographics: How the Affiliate Membership and FAC Self Assessment Tool Are Working



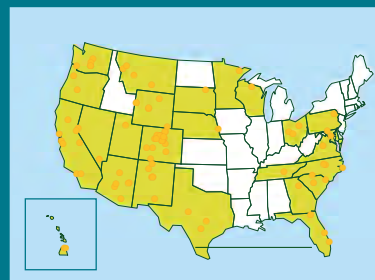
The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network AFFILIATE MEMBERS

As the value of FAC Net became obvious over its first few years, we looked for ways to plug more organizations and individuals into the network. Since January 2016 people and communities beyond the FAC Net core membership and state-wide networks have engaged as affiliate members, connecting with others online, through webinars, on calls and in person.

WHO ARE OUR AFFILIATE MEMBERS?

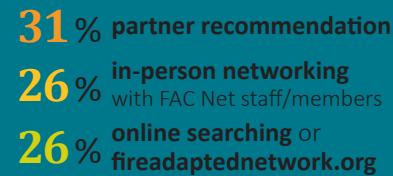


WHERE ARE OUR AFFILIATE MEMBERS?



89 INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS IN 24 STATES

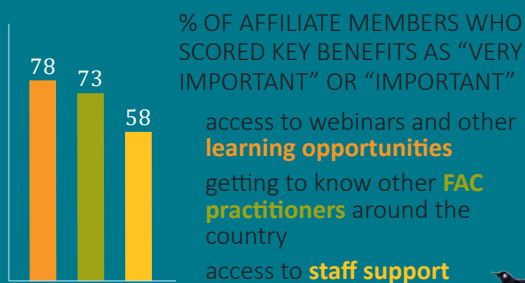
HOW DO PEOPLE FIND FAC NET?



take-away: an important part of FAC Net outreach for affiliate membership is in-person connections and relationships

take-away: highlights the importance of our website standing in search engine rankings, and continued connection to other partners' websites

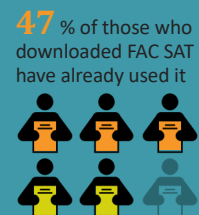
WHAT ARE THE NETWORK'S MOST IMPORTANT BENEFITS?



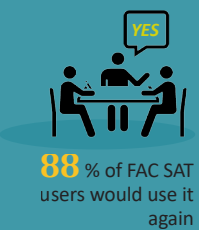
The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL

FAC SAT 2.0 has been downloaded 188 times since we made it available in January 2016. We asked people who downloaded it to evaluate its use in, and benefit to, their communities.



another 38% plan to use the FAC SAT



88% of FAC SAT users would use it again

Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience

Scaling-up to Enable the Social and Operational Capacity for “Right Fire”

January 2015 – December 2017

SPER supports landscapes working toward “right fire”—fire at the right time, right place and right size to move toward the goal of living better with fire. As SPER draws to a close, the landscapes are at different stages of wrapping up, so their work is briefly updated here before the final report in early 2018.

“Three in Three” Landscapes

Three pilots began work under SPER in the spring of 2015 with the goal of briskly moving these landscapes toward a healthy relationship with “right fire”—mitigating the damage from severe, uncharacteristic wildfire, while living safely with wildfire that the natural systems need to remain resilient. All three pilots have built on a foundation laid by long-term partnerships under the FLN, FAC Net and TREX.

California: Trinity Integrated Fire Management Partnership

The TIFMP completed essentially all its SPER work by the end of 2016, then put the finishing touches on the last piece—the Garden Gulch burn plan—early this year. This plan will leverage SPER work to a larger scale, as it has become the foundation of the Weaver Basin Community Protection burn plan. This plan covers about 1,600 acres spanning multiple landownerships, and—because of agreements and relationships seeded through SPER—will result in “all lands” burning conducted by multiple partners, including the Watershed Research and Training Center, USFS, Firestorm, local VFDs, Trinity County RCD and CAL FIRE. Some of the areas covered by the plan may be burned as early as this fall, possibly as part of the NorCal TREX.

New Mexico: Integrating Fire Adapted Communities, Resilient Landscapes and Response to Wildland Fire in the San Juan-Chama Headwaters of the Rio Grande Water Fund

The Chama project forged ahead with restoration treatments this spring, completing 30 acres of thinning and 156.25 acres of broadcast burning, as well as burning about 800 tons of piled woody material from treatments. Much of the work was done through the Chama TREX, which also provided opportunities for strengthening local capacity and engaging the community on issues surrounding fire. The project is also moving the needle for good fire through discussions to draft an MOU that would allow private lands and the San Juan and Rio Grande NFs to consider cross-boundary managed wildfire and completing a resilience strategy for the Navajo-Blanco Basins. SPER has also laid the foundation for extensive continuing work:

- SPER strategy and outreach helped TNC secure a five-year \$1 million agreement with the Albuquerque Bernalillo Water Utility Authority to conduct further treatments, the first time the Water Authority has invested in watershed restoration. This will allow the Chama Peak Land

Alliance (CPLA) to continue forest restoration work beyond the end of the SPER project.

- CPLA was also a lead partner on a successful \$3.2 million NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) proposal for a project that will ensure water security as well as wildfire protection. SPER support for a collaborative strategy and fire risk assessment in key watersheds for Albuquerque helped make a compelling case for the proposal.
- The SPER project area is the heart of a new cross-boundary collaborative locally known as the 2-3-2, which encompasses two states, three rivers (or forests) and two Forest Service regions. This collaborative is looking at ways to leverage planned and existing projects. A \$2.4 million agreement with the Forest Service for the Rio Grande Water Fund includes funds to treat lands in New Mexico within the 2-3-2 landscape.

Oregon: Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Project

Most of the SPER work on the AFAR project was completed by the end of 2016. Compiling, reporting, sharing and revising findings and lessons took place this spring. A January workshop



Rancho Lobo broadcast burn during the spring 2017 Chama TREX

© TNC (Jeremy Bailey)

for the Fire and Smoke advisory group generated several edits to the position paper that guides communications about fire and air quality. It also started the Ashland Forest Restoration (AFR) project working with a large health-care system to develop a co-branded advisory pamphlet (“When there’s smoke in the air, we care”). Another aspect of this SPER project—the series of cognitive mapping workshops—was discussed in the NW Fire Science Consortium webinar “Understanding Stakeholder Perceptions of Fire with Mental Modelling: A Case Study from Ashland, OR.”

The project lead believes that “our array of dialogues resonated with others to result in what I observed to be an increased willingness for both the federal land managers and the state forestry smoke regulators look for and take advantage of available flexibility in interpreting air quality expectations. The dialogues increased knowledge on the topic, and improved relationships among key decision makers and stakeholders.”



Productive meetings with key agencies and partners have advanced the enabling conditions for “good fire” in northern California.

© MKWC

Additional SPER Pilots

Two additional partnerships received a pulse of SPER support in the fall of 2016 to supplement existing cooperative work in each area as the communities and landscapes move toward right fire. As with the earlier SPER pilots, each has a strong footing in FLN and FAC Net as well as TREX experience.

California: Scaling Up Right Fire in the Western Klamath Mountains

SPER work is successfully moving this landscape toward “right fire.” After supporting the Klamath River TREX last fall, this project continues to engage in a wide array of actions that support the enabling conditions for more good fire, especially in terms of relationships, permitting and social license.

In addition to meetings directly related to facilitating the spring Yurok TREX and the Klamath River TREX this coming fall, this included meeting with CAL FIRE executive staff to discuss shared liability, funding for prescribed burning, support for cultural burning, an MOU to allow collaborative burning and carbon management policies. Calls with the California Air Resources Board focused on permitting cultural burning and on the Forest Carbon Offsets program. SPER leads met with Klamath NF and Six Rivers NF staff to

facilitate tribal and local input to risk assessment models, and arranged for presentations at a Klamath watershed summit and the Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium. And they met with Klamath NF fire leadership to discuss managing wildfires for resource objectives.

Together with other ongoing PERFECT efforts, this work appears to be bearing fruit. The Island Fire, started by lightning on June 25, is burning deep in the Marble Mountain Wilderness on the Klamath NF. Conditions are good after a wet winter, it is surrounded by areas of recent fire on three sides—so this “good fire” is being allowed to do its work.

The “Three in Three” SPER pilots that began work in 2015 **proposed treating 965 acres** over the three-year period.

To date they have **completed 1,589 acres** of treatments—561 acres of thinning and 1,028 acres of prescribed burning.

The Cooperative Burning in New Mexico pilot **proposed 335 acres** of prescribed burning treatments, and **completed 520 acres**.

New Mexico: Cooperative Burning in New Mexico

Most of the work on this pilot was completed by end of 2016. Early this year, the project finished the remaining planning and groundwork that will ensure the work done under SPER leads to more good fire on the ground. This included a public field meeting on a controversial treatment parcel in the Santa Fe fireshed (which has since been treated by the City). The SPER lead also met with the Santa Fe County Wildland Chief and the WUI Coordinator about a permit for broadcast fire on private land—two landowners are interested, and with the county now on board, plans can be pursued. At meetings with two communities, several landowners were open to the idea of broadcast burns; a TREX or cooperative burn in 2018 is a possible mechanism that will be explored for this.

Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency is supported by the USDA Forest Service through the *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together* (PERFACT) cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker (ldecker@tnc.org).

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Indigenous Peoples Burning Network

The goal of the IPBN is to achieve fire-related cultural restoration—knowledge and practices—in large landscapes to perpetuate traditions and quality of the environment.

Native American people walk in two worlds: their ancestral tribal world and the contemporary world, which is led by other people. When we first started creating a network centered on fire management from an indigenous peoples' perspective, we laid out some principles for how this would be different from other fire-related partnerships. Some principles, like self-determination, are universal to indigenous peoples around the world; others, like preparing the next generation of cultural fire practitioners, are specific to the local landscape. For the IPBN, these principles mean operating our network from the indigenous perspective first, and designing connections with partners where there is synergy for reaching our vision.

Members of the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network are making important strides in advancing their priorities for revitalizing culturally-based fire management. Recent highlights include inter-generational learning, TRES, family-led burning, Healthy Country Planning, and exploration of new landscapes.

Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk Landscape

In the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk landscape—encompassing 1.85 million acres of ancestral territory—the IPBN is supporting local people's ability to reclaim fire. Controlled burns conducted this spring through the Yurok TRES and family-led burns are improving fire safety, the quality of wild foods and medicines, and the availability of plants needed for basket weaving. With unemployment rates of 19-32 percent, these improvements

in forest resources have a significant impact on people's lives. News that cultural revitalization is progressing is spreading fast, elevating the sense of wellbeing within each tribe as a whole.

The family-led burns this spring were important in building capacity for families to safely meet their sacred obligations. Caring for plants, animals and the balance of the universe through traditional fire practices is a powerful part of revitalizing local culture.

Family-led Burning

A primary goal in the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk Healthy Country Plan is to enable 40 families from the three tribes to conduct family-led controlled burns over the next three years. This year, participants in the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk landscape increased the number of participants and properties

involved in controlled burning. With support from the IPBN, a cache of tools and equipment has been assembled; items ranging from hand tools to a 2,500-gallon portable water tank and highway safety signs support safe controlled burning. Last fall, community members designed and delivered a one-day training class for families interested in burning their land. This spring, volunteers helped to prepare firebreaks on multiple properties. Four families completed controlled burns—an important step toward revitalizing the traditional practice of burning along family lines.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchange

A community-wide TRES in mid-May gave 24 participants opportunities to advance their formal fire management qualifications while accomplishing 31 acres of culturally-based burning and fuel reduction treatments. Participants in the week-long Yurok TRES learned from respected tribal

leaders and firefighting professionals about both traditional and mainstream fire practices. This prepares them for jobs in fire management as well as for cultural survival.



The Executive Director of Cultural Fire Management Council looks on approvingly at the spring TRES. In addition to 24 local participants, as many as 35 personnel from CAL FIRE took part in some of the burns, strengthening relationships among fire practitioners in the region. © Elizabeth Azzuz

The apparently idyllic landscape of Round Valley has a complicated land use history, but interviews and conversations over the last year have revealed a shared desire for more proactive fire management. © TNC (Mary Huffman)



Healthy Country Planning

The Healthy Country Planning methodology learned in Australia last fall was used this spring to develop the content for a strategic plan for the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk IPBN landscape. In Australia, both indigenous and non-indigenous people plan to sustain the living culture of Aboriginal people, while in the U.S., Native American culture is often viewed as something lost in the past. By using Healthy Country Planning, the IPBN is bringing this more holistic approach to the U.S.

The Conservancy's Director of Fire Management co-facilitated the workshop; combining his outstanding skills in working in cross-cultural settings with the Healthy Country Planning approach resulted in a process and plan uniquely suited to the place and people. Along with the mainstream



Healthy Country Planning team for the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk landscape

value of a “fire-maintained landscape,” the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk Healthy Country Plan is centered on the values of “traditional fire practitioners, cultural perpetuation, right to use fire and economic security (including food security).” Strategies in the plan emphasize intergenerational learning and family-led burning, as well as state-tribal and federal-tribal relationships. A core team is working to capture the plan in a document that will be completed later this year.

“We are amazed. You come in here and facilitate two workshops, and now we have a plan that feels like our own.”

Expanding the Network

To increase the ability of indigenous people to improve the well-being of their communities through traditional fire management, culturally specific efforts in two additional landscapes are being explored.

New Mexico— Rio Grande Water Fund

The first of these landscapes is in New Mexico, in the upper watershed of the Rio Grande River. Having worked in the

region for several years, particularly through the Rio Grande Water Fund project, The Nature Conservancy's New Mexico chapter has invited the IPBN to focus on the fire-related needs of multiple pueblos whose ancestral territories include large areas of fire-dependent ponderosa pine forests. Here as elsewhere indigenous people have much to contribute to region-wide problem-solving, starting with increasing culturally-based controlled burning on pueblo land and nearby national forests.

California—Round Valley

Round Valley is the ancestral territory of the Yuki people, which is now home to a confederation of six tribes forced onto the site during California settlement. Today, the area includes the Round Valley Indian Reservation, several private ranches and the Mendocino National Forest. As part of the FireScope Mendocino FLN's work, a community engagement expert has been working over the last year to ascertain the potential for communities surrounding the Mendocino National Forest to become better fire adapted. She has identified Round Valley as an area with high potential for community-

led fire management. A deeper dive in the coming months will further explore the opportunities here; if community interest remains high, the IPBN will assist local participants in beginning work on a community-based fire plan for Round Valley.

And Beyond

This year the IPBN connected with the Conservancy's Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities team, a global group that is focused on building partnerships around the world. Discussions on calls this spring highlighted at least nine collaborations in the U.S. in which the Conservancy and tribes are working together on fire-related restoration. Further coordination will provide opportunities for shared learning and problem-solving, and inform next steps in the growth of the IPBN.



The Indigenous Peoples Burning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together* (PERFACT), a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker (ldecker@tnc.org).

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