



Prescribed Fire Training Events: Increasing Local Capacity and Building a Workforce

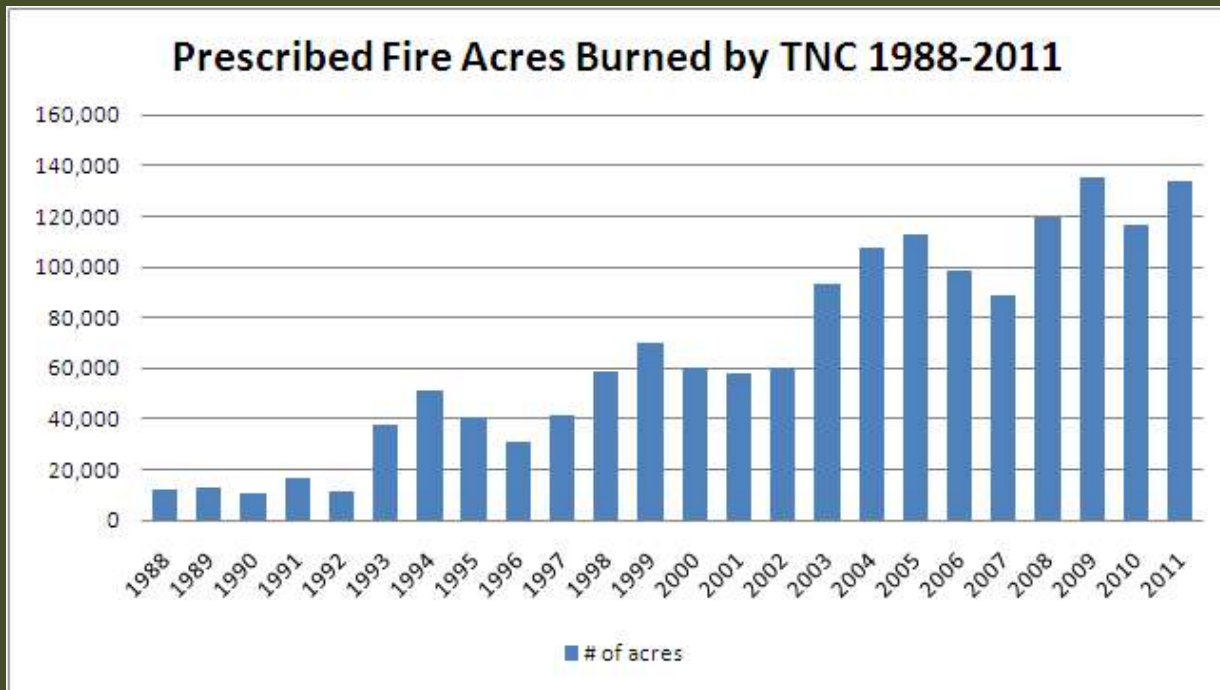
Association for Fire Ecology
March 1, 2012

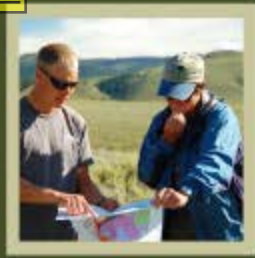
The Nature Conservancy



The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

The Nature Conservancy



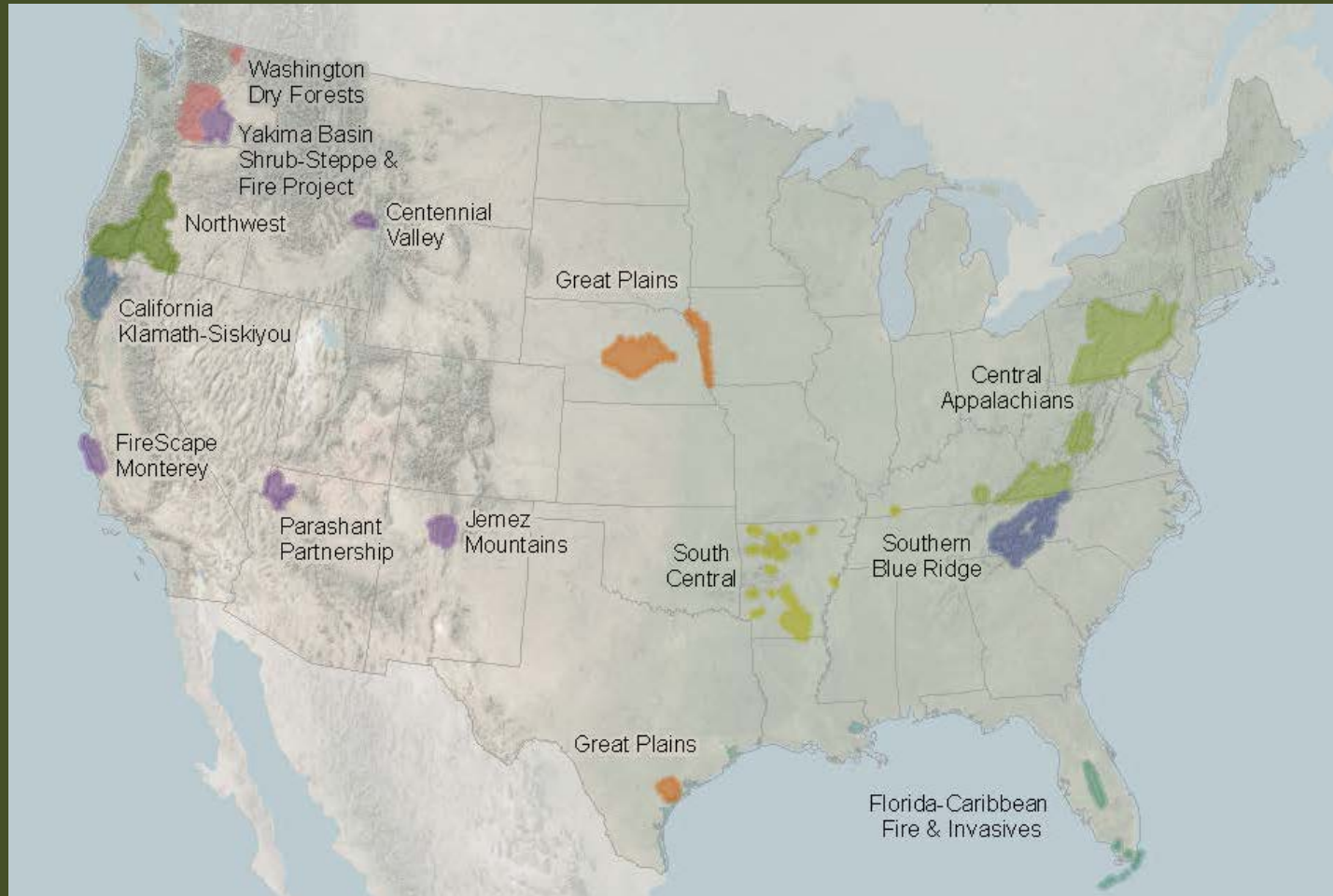


The Nature Conservancy

Integrated Fire Management

- Assessment and analysis of situation and issues
- Fire management goals and desired ecosystem condition
- Laws, policy and institutional framework
- Prevention and education
- Fire use
- Preparedness and response
- Restoration, recovery and maintenance
- Adaptive management, research and information transfer

Fire Learning Network





Great Plains FLN

To increase the acreage treated with fire ...

Need:

Increased prescribed fire training and experience among practitioners

Increased availability of fire trained staff and

More opportunities to demonstrate competencies on wildfire assignments





Great Plains FLN

Partners:

- Private land owners
- Conservation organizations
- Federal land management agencies
- State land management agencies
- Volunteer fire departments
- Universities
- County conservation boards
- Sheriff offices





Prescribed Fire Training Events



- Mobilize taskforce
- Orient to state laws, ecology, equipment and local prescribed fire culture
- Develop crew cohesion
- Complete burns—start small, increase complexity



Prescribed Fire Training Events



- Participants serve as trainees and trainers
- Participants pay their own way
- Participants bring equipment
- Everyone is a participant (even local staff)
- Everyone is committed for duration

Prescribed Fire Training Events



- Schedule burns for every day
- Let trainees practice
- Prep, scout, burn, monitor, document, hold, mop-up, patrol, secure & extinguish

Prescribed Fire Training Events

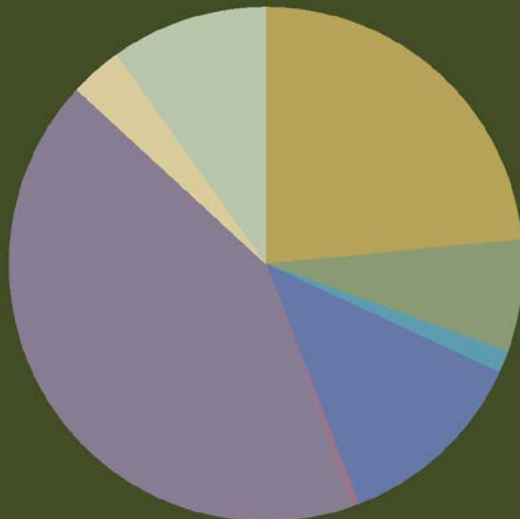
- Professional credentials
- Provide broad perspective
- Build private capacity
- Complete large, complex burns



Prescribed Fire Training Events

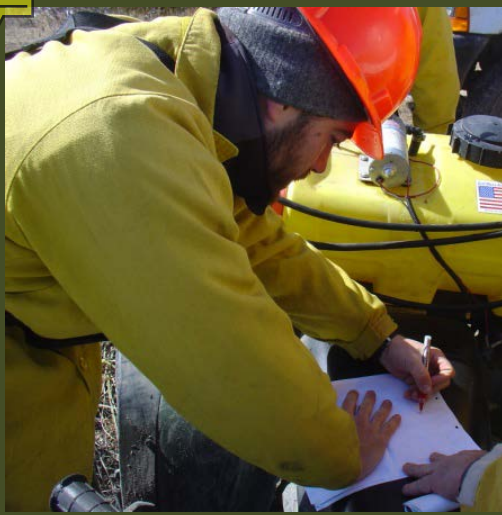
Accomplishments — 2008-2011

- 14 assignments
- FLN: \$30,000 and 1/4 FTE
- Estimated match: \$525,000
- 56,000 acres of prescribe fire
- 300 participants



Prescribed Fire Training Events

- 35 burn boss trainees
- Integrated private, state and federal fire practitioners
- Partnered with universities
- Local ranchers develop skills and abilities they can use after we leave
- Basic fireline safety courses (S-130/190)





Lessons Learned

- Burning with your neighbors can multiply capacity
- Landscapes that need fire also need people who use fire
- No shortcuts: prescribed fire requires time and effort
- Qualified staff take years to develop—so share with others
- Show up, even if you have other priorities



Lessons Learned

- Use local/national agreements
- Empower non-traditional partners
- Use self-study, crosswalk tools
- Two-weeks works well
- Dedicate staff to fire duties during burn windows
- Focus on the training
- Keep at it













The outcomes of these kinds of trainings
validate the idea and need of both a prescribed
fire militia drawn from a local qualified workforce
and mobile, professional prescribed fire crews
or...
Neighbors helping neighbors

Questions?



jeremy_bailey@tnc.org