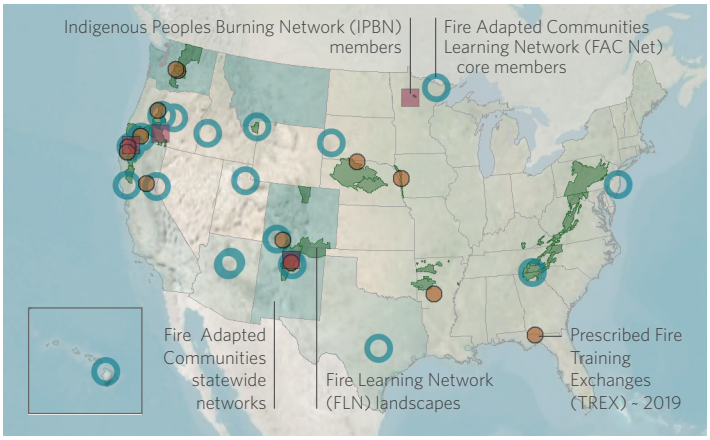
Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency and Fire Adapted Communities Together

For eighteen years, PERFACT partners have led the way in making progress on the three interconnected goals now embodied in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. From coast to coast, PERFACT supports communities and landscapes advancing the planning, implementation and adaptive management that moves people and places toward these goals.

Our approach helps agencies, organizations and residents build trust and understanding, and work together to safely co-exist with fire. Training and co-learning opportunities offered by PERFACT support collective action, helping people build the capacity and relationships needed to meet their shared goals.

PERFACT is addressing the country's wildfire problems head on by supporting the people who are creating change on the ground. Our work empowers local people to navigate their own pathway toward a better relationship with fire. We connect them with other people, and with programs, tools and ideas that they can adapt and use to help their communities live better with fire. We work with people over a period of several years, making small, sustained investments as they tackle their challenges. And we learn from their work—carrying their lessons to other people and other places to advance change at larger scales.



Since 2002 ▸▸▸ **166 FLN** landscapes in **40** states have engaged nearly **1,600** partners and leveraged more than **$84 million** toward effective restoration and maintenance of healthy forests & grasslands. ▸▸▸ **100 TREX** and cooperative burns have provided **3,600** training opportunities & treated **135,000** acres with good fire. ▸▸▸ **FAC Net** touches down in **30** states, with its **18** core members, **7** statewide networks and **154** affiliate members in communities from coast to coast. ▸▸▸ A growing **IPBN** engages tribal members in **4** states.

PERFACT Strategies

Under the PERFACT agreement, people work together to increase the capacity and social capital needed to make ecosystems and communities more resilient to wildfire. PERFACT supports effective learning networks, as well as training, capacity-building and targeted collaborative projects on the ground.

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The **Fire Learning Network** (FLN) engages dozens of multi-stakeholder partnerships in a process that accelerates the restoration of landscapes that depend on fire to sustain both natural and human communities. Through highly effective collaboration, the ecological and social values of the landscapes can be maintained, and the consequences of undesired wildfire can be reduced.

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The **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network** (FAC Net) has a similar role, but works from the human communities outward. Members 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 reduce risk for residents and firefighters. This includes embracing resiliency concepts and taking action before, during and after wildfires.

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The **Indigenous Peoples Burning Network** (IPBN) brings together Native American people working to revitalize traditional fire cultures in a contemporary context. Their work includes connecting elders and youth to prepare the next generation of cultural fire practitioners, controlled burning to bring back native foods and fiber, and empowering agencies to embrace tribal perspectives.

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Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) and cooperative burns provide experiential training that builds robust local capacity for fire management and offers professional fire practitioners a more holistic perspective—while implementing treatments that support community and landscape objectives. The TREX Coaches Network is dramatically expanding the reach of this strategy by mentoring and linking those moving into leadership roles.

Who We Are

PERFACT is led by staff from The Nature Conservancy's North America Fire Initiative, who partner with the Watershed Research and Training Center to facilitate the FAC Net and other strategies. Design and co-management of our portfolio is supported by staff from University of California Cooperative Extension, the Conservancy's Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team and the USDA Forest Service's Landscapes and Partnerships Program.

Partners in landscape and community efforts span a full range of affiliations, from federal, state, local and tribal agencies; businesses; non-profit organizations and universities to private landowners and engaged residents. Interests are equally varied, and this diversity helps build strong, resilient networks.

Contacts

The Nature Conservancy
Marek Smith marek_smith@tnc.org

USDA Forest Service
Tim Melchert tmelchert@fs.fed.us

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

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