

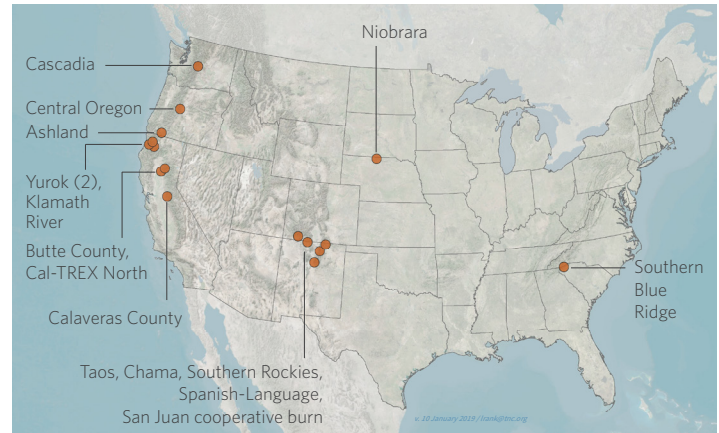
Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges



Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) 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 TRES strategy does what no one else is doing: it provides a cooperative burning model that services the needs of diverse entities, including federal and state agencies, private landowners and contractors, tribes, academics and international partners—while incorporating local values and issues to build the right kinds of capacity in the right places.

The key focus of TRES is promoting the spread of effective cooperative burning—helping diverse partners leverage skills, resources and staff in ways that maximize opportunities for outreach, treatment and training. TRES works on this at the local level, but also supports nationwide coaching and training to advance prescribed fire capacity and training at a larger scale through the TRES Coaches Network, which coalesced in 2016 around a core of committed TRES organizers and leaders. This network is dramatically expanding the reach of the TRES strategy by mentoring and linking practitioners who are in—and moving into—leadership roles.



2018 TRES by the Numbers

- 16 TRES and cooperative burns—new in 2018: Southern Rockies TRES, Southern Blue Ridge TRES, and two CalTRES (supported by CAL FIRE)
- 569 participants
- 13,946 acres of prescribed fire
- 8 states—California, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington (and coaches assisted in Portugal)

The results can be seen in the growth of TRES, from two or three events a year a decade ago, to 15 or more now. Many of these are repeated from year to year, exploring and innovating in particular focus areas—the Women in Fire TRES, Spanish-Language TRES (hosted on bilingual national forests), Yurok and Klamath TRES (with an emphasis on tribal participation), Ashland and Central Oregon TRES (Forest Service lands), Niobrara and Loup River TRES (private lands) and Southern Blue Ridge TRES (federal and state partnerships).

In addition to fireline skills, TRES incorporate a wide and growing array of other learning opportunities. Presentations about local ecology and cultural aspects of fire have been present from the start, and training in effective media engagement almost as long. More recent additions include sessions on diversity, equity and inclusion, and a workshop on using unmanned aerial systems in support of fire effects monitoring.

Core TRES Outcomes



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- Integrating and cross-training professional wildland firefighters, municipal firefighters, university faculty and students, scientists, regulators, conservation organizations, ranchers and other landowners;
- Delivering unique experiential learning opportunities to all participants through a shared focus on accomplishing prescribed burns, evaluating participant position task books, and integrating media to share stories about restoring fire to the landscape and advancing fire adapted community goals;
- Introducing advanced concepts—including fire effects monitoring, media training, collaborative planning, cooperative agreements and smoke modeling—to fire practitioners;
- Developing new capacity and networks by building and training local burn teams that are largely independent of professional fire organizations.

Who We Are

TRES is a strategy of the PERFECT cooperative agreement, and is led by staff from The Nature Conservancy's North America Fire Initiative. They work closely with staff from the Watershed Research and Training Center (who facilitate the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and other strategies) and from University of California Cooperative Extension, the Conservancy's Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team, and the Forest Service 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.

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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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