A wetter than expected first week of the Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) didn’t stop participants from getting good work done on the ground. In fact, the damp start afforded diverse participants a chance to focus more on training than in past years.

Between burning hundreds of piles of woody debris on private properties in preparation for future broadcast burns, participants paused to learn from veteran firefighters and local fire managers about how to wield a drip torch in different situations, using a variety of firing patterns to achieve intended burn effects. The slower pace also allowed for presentations on the Karuk Tribe’s cultural uses of burning ranging, from improved basket materials and elk habitat to healthier huckleberry patches and safer communities in the face of wildfire.

Drier weather during the second week of TREX put the group inside a safe “burn window” when temperatures, humidities and fuel moistures cooperated with prescribed burn efforts. This window provided trainers and trainees with critical firing and holding experience needed to get firefighting qualifications recognized by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

“I’m tired and smelly and sad to leave,” first-time firefighter trainee Sara Worl said at the end of TREX.

The deliberately blackened acreage and capacity building both move TREX organizers such as the Karuk Tribe, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, US Forest Service, and Nature Conservancy’s Fire Learning Network closer to reintroducing fire at a large scale in a place that historically burned at regular intervals. However, many parts of this rugged, remote

Klamath River TREX 2018 by the numbers:

- **96** people from more than **25** organizations and **7** states (plus Spain) took part this year
- **61** training assignments within a Type III Incident Management framework
- **279** acres burned in the wildland-urban interface around local towns and homes
- **104** documented contacts with locals about the need for prescribed fire
- **65** social media posts, with more than **2,000** engagements

© Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative (Stormy Staats)
The Fire Learning Network and Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) are part of Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

For more information about PERFACT, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

For more about the Klamath River TREX, contact:

Erica Terence  
erica@mkwc.org

David Medford Rubalcaba  
dmedfordrubalcaba@karuk.us

Will Harling  
will@mkwc.org

For more on the TREX strategy, visit:

http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges

Participant Organizations

Amah Mutsun Land Trust  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management  
CAL FIRE  
Capstone Fire Management  
Central Coast Prescribed Fire Council  
Chama Peak Land Alliance  
Cultural Fire Management council  
Deer Creek GIS  
Douglas County (Colorado)  
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians  
Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression  
Gestión Ambiental de Castilla-La Mancha (GEACAM)  
Humboldt State University  
Karuk Tribe  
Long Tom Watershed Council  
Mid Klamath Watershed Council  
National Park Service  
National Weather Service  
Orleans Volunteer Fire Department  
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
Stanford University  
Susanville Indian Rancheria  
The Nature Conservancy  
University of Oregon  
USDA Forest Service  
Whispering Pines Volunteer Fire Dept  
and individual volunteers

Participants came from California, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota and Spain.

The Fire Learning Network and Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) are part of Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about PERFACT, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

An equal opportunity provider