

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges: Fall 2013 TREX Highlights

Experiential training with multiple objectives—treatment, training and outreach—is not the normal, comfortable status quo. All involved in TREX events work hard to maintain this balance, which is the key to their success. Professional fire practitioners gain experience, learn about conservation, and receive position task book evaluations. Less traditional training partners—private contractors, ranchers, and others—engage in events that meet NWCG safety standards, gaining skills to work more safely and effectively. And some participants have never burned before: biologists and air quality agency staff, for example, come to better understand how fire affects their work.

TREX events strengthen partnerships and coalitions in the fire community and diversify the workforce by exposing participants to practitioners from other places and diverse backgrounds. Each TREX starts with introductions to local ecosystems and land management practices, and to fellow crew members and equipment. Crews then implement a series of prescribed fires, burning on average for 5-10 days, and accomplishing from a few hundred to several thousand acres of treatments on priority landscapes and around communities at risk from wildfire—simultaneously building skills and fostering healthy natural and human communities.

Redwood National Park, Orleans & Somes Bar, Hayfork, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

October 21 - November 3

Hosted by the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council and the Fire Learning Network, this TREX involved 47 people who treated 450 acres with fire over a two-week period—in spite of incessant rains and a federal government shut-down in the weeks just before the event. The event brought together many threads: Participants burned for grassland restoration in Redwood National Park, and later within a few feet of houses to provide defensible space in communities. It supported Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency projects. With many local participants, this TREX helped build lasting capacity for more fire work in the region. And engagement with media provided the community with needed information, so that the work was well-received, even though the smoke came just a few weeks after the last wildfires in the area had been contained.

Hands down, it was the best training I have ever experienced, with an excellent balance of the science and application of Rx fire management, and a wonderful group of people to build working relationships with.

Fire Planner, US Forest Service

building capacity for collaborative approaches to integrated fire management



Santa Fe National Forest

September 16-28

The third Spanish-language TREX provided capacity support to the Santa Fe NF and the Jemez Mountains Collaborative Forest Restoration Program while adding an international element to the exchange of knowledge in the field. Participants in this event will be applying the TREX model to a training being offered in Spain in early 2014.

Black Lake / Angel Fire

September 30 - October 4

This TREX, hosted by the Forest Guild, worked to build local capacity and increase community acceptance of burning near homes. Following thinning treatments by a number of programs over the last few years, TREX crews successfully burned over 100 acres between two small communities, qualified several practitioners, and made a positive shift in media coverage.

TREX are supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning & Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more on TREX, contact Jeremy Bailey (jeremy_bailey@tnc.org).

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