

# TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

## Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (WTREX) Southeastern Virginia - March 30-April 10, 2020



When the US fire management system was conceived in the early 1900s, women's roles in the workforce were much different than they are now. Yet even today, women constitute a relatively small proportion of the workforce, filling roughly 10 percent of wildland fire positions and only 7 percent of fire leadership roles. In recent years, there has been an increased effort to recruit women into fire, yet social and cultural challenges remain. New recruits often find the dominant fire management system to be dismissive of female perspectives and strengths, even as its increasing complexity requires fresh approaches and insights. We believe that the groups who are generally under-represented in fire, including women, have unique talents and perspectives, and that they can play a critical role in advancing fire problem solving.

During the Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (WTREX), we invite participants of all genders and ethnic and racial backgrounds to explore the growing role of women in fire management, while conducting prescribed fire operations designed to advance their formal qualifications in wildland fire management and enhance their understanding of fire ecology and effects, communications and outreach, prescribed fire policy and planning, and more.

### Key things to know about WTREX:

- WTREX is an intensive 12-day training exchange that combines practical live-fire training with indoor learning and discussion to advance participants' qualifications and experience in wildland fire operations.
- This year, we will be staying at the Airfield Conference Center & Southeast 4-H Educational Center near Wakefield, VA and burning in the VA Southeastern Coastal Plain with the potential of also burning in the mountains of VA.
- WTREX will engage participants of all genders in building a support network for female fire practitioners working to advance their leadership in wildland fire management.
- WTREX participants will work together to accomplish much-needed prescribed burning in a variety of fire-adapted ecosystems.
- The WTREX serves as an opportunity to elevate diversity in perspective, background, and talent in order to create solutions for today's complex fire problems.
- The WTREX is an interagency event, bringing together fire managers and practitioners from various federal and private agencies.





## Join us for hands-on burning and learning in Southeastern Virginia!

**Target Group:** Prescribed fire and wildfire personnel and other natural resource managers involved in fire and ecosystem management, including federal, state, tribal, non-governmental, and private practitioners. Participants of **all genders** are invited to attend this event, though a higher proportion of female applicants will be selected.

**Description:** The training will be organized as an incident and will utilize the Incident Command System. Participants will serve in qualified and trainee firefighting positions on a burn team and will assist with preparing, scouting, briefing, igniting, holding, mop-up, and patrol on numerous controlled burns in the area. We will also complete pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment, practice fireline leadership skills, and learn about local fire ecology and fire management. The work will take place in diverse ecosystems, including on some lands managed by state and federal agencies and The Nature Conservancy. The training will include trips to prescribed fire and fuels treatment project sites, as well as presentations from local scientists, land managers, practitioners, and women who are leaders in various aspects of fire management. In addition, participants will have the chance to practice for media interviews.

**Childcare:** We recognize that childcare concerns can be a major barrier for people who work in fire. We are exploring opportunities to provide childcare during the WTREX for people who would not otherwise be able to attend. Please let us know on your application form if you are interested in learning more.

### Requirements:

- All participants' qualifications must be current. At a minimum, everyone must have completed NWCG courses **S-130 and S-190, as well as FEMA IS-700A and ICS-100**. Self-study materials for these courses will be offered to participants who need them.
- Participants must complete a **work capacity test** at the **arduous** level **before the start** of the event. Completion of a moderate level work capacity test is acceptable if coming as a TNC volunteer and serving in a RXCM (prescribed fire crewmember) position. A practice shelter deployment will be offered to those who need it.
- All participants must have **insurance** (e.g., workers' comp, health, or travel insurance) to cover any injury they may sustain during the training exchange.
- Participants should come with **all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**, including **fireline-approved boots** (all leather work boots, 8-inches tall, non-slip soles, no steel toe), a new generation fire shelter, headlamp, hard hat, Nomex clothing, leather gloves, eye protection, and canteens for drinking water. **If you do not have proper PPE, we can arrange for you to borrow some.** Please indicate your need on the application form.

**Cost:** Each participant is responsible for a \$300 non-refundable registration fee, due after participants have been selected and confirmed. There will not be a charge code for participants' wages during the training; wages and travel costs will be the responsibility of the home unit.

**Meals and Travel:** Meals and dormitory space **will be provided** during the training. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the WTREX. The Incident Management Team and burn boss trainees will be expected to arrive on Sunday, March 29, 2020 for a pre-event planning day. All other participants should arrive at the training site on Monday, March 30, 2020. Specific meeting times and locations will be announced after participants have been selected. The training concludes on Friday, April 10, 2020.

**Application:** Visit the application website at <https://goo.gl/forms/Dz9PBWofO6cBLT2F2> and submit your form by the end of the day on **December 13, 2019**. Email Lenya Quinn-Davidson with any questions at [lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu](mailto:lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu). Space is limited to approximately 25 trainees; selections will be made with diversity and inclusion goals in mind.

WTREX is supported by *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.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*