



CENTRAL OREGON ECOLOGICAL FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE (TRES)

Monday, April 25 – Friday, May 6, 2016
Deschutes National Forest – Bend, Oregon

Objective: To provide an opportunity to learn, practice, and share knowledge, skills, and experience in a unique, peer-to-peer training environment focused on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring, and operational dimensions of planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire for restoration goals.

Who should apply: You! The Central Oregon TRES is a relatively small program targeting participants from local, regional, and national fire, conservation and restoration agencies, organizations and universities.

Description: Curriculum will include classroom, field-based, and live-fire training covering the ecological, social, communications, monitoring, and operational dimensions of prescribed fire planning and implementation. During the live-fire component, participants will be organized into squads working with other fire practitioners and professional wildland firefighters to complete unit prep, live fire, and mop-up operations. For more background and details please read the rest of this packet and check out [this video](#) for a glimpse at the 2015 Central Oregon TRES!

Fee: The cost to participate in this training will be covered by FLN, a partnership between TNC, USFS, and the DOI. The Upper Deschutes Basin Fire Learning Network, The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, the Deschutes National Forest, and Central Oregon Fire Management Service are helping make this event possible. **Please note:** you and/or your employer are responsible for logistics regarding paid or vacation time, and any overtime you may accrue during TRES.

Requirements:

1. All participants must be current and qualified NWCG wildland firefighters (FFT2 minimum).
 - a. Please complete your annual refresher RT-130 and arduous pack test in advance of the TRES to ensure currency, as these will NOT be offered as part of the TRES event.
2. Non-federal participants must show proof of personal or employer provided medical insurance prior to the training.
3. Participants should come with all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including: fire pack, a Next Generation Fire Shelter, a hard hat, Nomex clothing, fireline-approved boots (all-leather work boots, 8 inches tall, with non-slip soles and no steel toe), all leather gloves, eye protection and canteens. If you are unable to provide some or all of your own PPE, please contact Pete Caligiuri ASAP to discuss options.

4. Each participant and their employer is responsible for logistics regarding paid or vacation time, and any overtime you may accrue during TREX.

Meals and lodging: Meals and lodging will be provided at [Rock Springs Ranch](#), including a breakfast, sack lunch, and dinner for all non-local participants once they arrive in Bend on April 25, 2016. Participants who wish to do so may bring a tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and pillow to camp out on the grounds of Rock Springs. **PLEASE NOTE:** Local participants from the Central Oregon area will be provided dinner with the TREX module each evening but are expected to stay at home and provide their own breakfast and lunch throughout the training.

Travel: Participants are encouraged to carpool to and from Bend as possible to defray travel costs. All participants should arrive no later than Monday, April 25 at 11:00AM and plan to depart Friday, May 6 around 2pm. Additional directions and instructions will be provided once participants have been selected. Travel assistance is available for those who qualify by demonstrating need; please contact Pete Caligiuri for more information.

Registration: Space is limited to 40 participants. If interested **submit your [training nomination form](#) NO LATER than February 19**. Selections will be announced by February 29.

Click [HERE](#) to complete a training nomination form for the
2016 Central Oregon TREX!



This training is hosted by The Nature Conservancy Oregon Chapter, the Upper Deschutes Basin Fire Learning Network, the Deschutes National Forest, and Central Oregon Fire Management Service.

The FLN is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, 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.



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BACKGROUND

There is widespread recognition within conservation, restoration, and land management agencies across the state of the need to increase the pace and scale of ecologically-based, landscape restoration. To do so will require the expanded use of prescribed fire to achieve complementary social, ecological, and economic desired outcomes.

Significant barriers exist to expanded application of fire to achieve restoration and stewardship benefits in fire-adapted ecosystems. Such challenges highlight the need for collaboration between local, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations to achieve our shared goal of increased application of prescribed fire for ecological, economic, and human benefits.

Complementary efforts like the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the Fire Learning Network, the Fire-Adapted Communities Network, Project Wildfire, and the nascent Oregon Prescribed Fire Council underscore the timeliness of innovative, cross-organizational cooperative efforts to develop new tools, partnerships, and strategies to increase the quality, pace, and scale of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration.

The Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange is a direct response to the growing need to demonstrate local leadership and innovative solutions towards our common goal of accelerating landscape-scale ecosystem restoration.

TREX is not a new concept. The TREX program is a component of the national Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together Cooperative Agreement between The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service and the agencies of the Department of Interior. Since 2008 more than 30 TREX events in a dozen states have contributed to more than 80,000 acres burned and 500+ fire practitioners acquiring new knowledge and skills. Similar training programs like the Prescribed Fire Training Center and Fire Use Training Academy deploy firefighters to planned events for training and evaluation opportunities. What is unique regarding the TREX program is the flexibility to tailor the training to local context and needs and the opportunity to harness regional knowledge, expertise, and resources.



WHAT WILL I GET FROM THE CENTRAL OREGON TREX?

ECOLOGY OF FIRE-ADAPTED ECOSYSTEMS

Increased knowledge of the ecological role of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration. Participants will learn, share, and apply their knowledge of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration in and around human communities through experiential training in the classroom, the field, and on the fire-line.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Improved understanding of the social dimensions of prescribed fire use in and around communities. Participants will practice the art of crafting and conveying articulate, compelling messages to internal and external audiences regarding the role of fire and the need for prescribed fire to restore resilient, fire-adapted forests and promote fire-adapted communities.

PRESCRIBED FIRE MONITORING

Application of prescribed fire monitoring to evaluate treatment effectiveness. Participants will learn, practice, and apply pre-fire, fire-effects, and post-fire monitoring methods and reporting protocols, a critical tool for evaluating the ecological and cost-effectiveness of prescribed fire use for restoration objectives.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Unparalleled peer-to-peer, experience-based teaching and learning environment. Participants will train in the classroom, field, and on the fire-line emphasizing leadership and followership and the characteristics of high reliability organizations, with opportunities for position task book evaluation for FFT1, FEMO, SRB (CRWB, ENGB, FIRB), and RXB2.

ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Cross-organizational collaboration among diverse fire organizations, fire practitioners, land stewards, conservationists, and resource specialists. Participants will train with other prescribed fire practitioners who share a vested interest in landscape-scale restoration and the application of ecological fire, thereby reducing barriers to future cooperation and sharing of knowledge, skills, and resources.



THIS COULD BE YOU!

WHAT'S IT GOING TO LOOK LIKE?

The Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange is a twelve-day program from April 25 and May 6, 2016. Like other TREX nationally (see TREX infographic attached) and the 2015 Central Oregon TREX (watch our 2015 Central Oregon TREX video [HERE](#)) this program is an experiential learning opportunity in which participants are exposed to new concepts, innovations, and best practices shared by a diverse set of fire practitioners, land stewards, conservationists, and resource specialists from a wide array of organizations. In this way, TREX is a two-way training and learning program, in which everyone is participant, teacher, and student.

The Central Oregon Ecological Fire TREX curriculum will focus on four main themes during the twelve-day program:

1. Ecological and Social Landscape of Fire-adapted Ecosystems
2. Fire Effects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
3. Communications, Public Outreach & Media Relations
4. Prescribed Fire Planning and Operations

Participants will learn, share, and practice through a mix of classroom, field-based, and live-fire training with the help of experts from The Nature Conservancy, Deschutes National Forest, Central Oregon Fire Management Service, University of Idaho, Oregon State University, and other partners.

We are striving for approximately three days of classroom and field sessions with up to eight days of live-fire operations and a final day of post-fire monitoring training. The exact schedule and mix of activities will be contingent upon weather and fuel conditions that will dictate when, where, and how much can be burned during the TREX program. There will be multiple opportunities for position task book evaluation during the live-fire operation component.

Space is limited to approximately 40 participants so get your nomination forms in soon. If this program sounds like a fit for you and your organization, please read the training announcement and submit your training nomination form ASAP. If you have additional questions, please contact Pete Caligiuri (541-388-3020 x. 5 or pcaligiuri@tnc.org).

Training nomination forms (available [HERE](#)) for the 2016 Central Oregon TREX are DUE NO LATER than February 19!



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Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

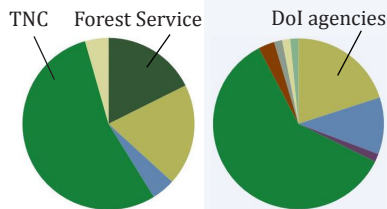
The number of TREN participants continues to grow. Capacity—both the number of events offered and the number of people each can accommodate—rather than lack of demand is what keeps growth from being even more rapid.

Diversity of background and level of experience creates a richer learning environment and fosters new kinds of professional networks. The mix of participants originally envisioned in 2008 is now seen on the ground.

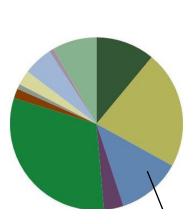
From a start in the grasslands and rangelands of the Great Plains, TREN have expanded to encompass a wide array of natural and human communities.



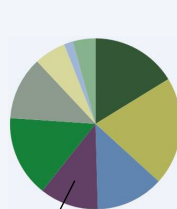
participant numbers



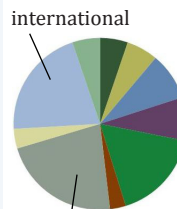
participant diversity



state agencies

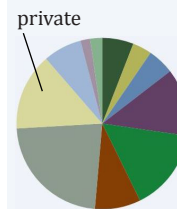


local governments



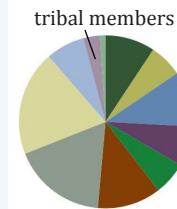
international

university students

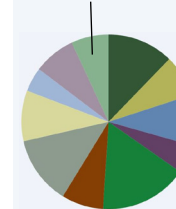


private

other NGOs

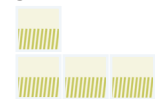


tribal members



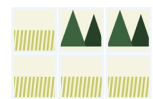
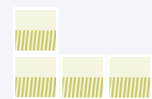
other—includes VFDs and DoD

grasslands



habitat diversity

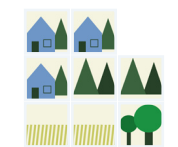
and western forests



and WUI



and eastern forests



geographic range

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015 (spring, plus fall estimates)