

CASCADIA PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE (TREX) PROGRAM

September 24, 2017 to October 6, 2017
Plain, Washington

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 Fire Learning Network, the Fire-Adapted Communities Network 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 Washington TREX Program is a direct response to the growing need to demonstrate local leadership and innovative solutions towards our common goal of increasing the quality, pace and scale of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration and creation of fire-adapted communities.

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.

Photos: U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee River Ranger District and The Nature Conservancy



WHAT WILL I GET FROM THE Cascadia TREX PROGRAMS?

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 We require all participants to complete a minimum training requirement per NCWCG 310-1, as well as annual refresher RT-130 and arduous work capacity test prior to TREX.

During Cascadia TREX, there will be opportunities for position task book evaluation for the following: RXM2, RXB2, FIRB, ENGB/CRWB, TFLD, FEMO/FOBS, FFT1, and FFT2.

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.



Photo: Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

WHAT'S DOES TREX LOOK LIKE?

The objective of the two-week TREX programs in Central Washington is to facilitate peer-to-peer, experiential learning for prescribed fire professionals and others interested in advancing their understanding of innovative tools to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. Like other TREX programs nationally (see TREX infographic attached and a 2015 Central Oregon TREX video [HERE](#)), participants will learn, practice, and share knowledge, skills, and experience in a unique, hands-on training environment. Participants will be exposed to new concepts, innovations, and best practices shared by a diverse set of fire practitioners, land stewards, and resource specialists. In this way, TREX is a two-way training and learning program, in which everyone is a participant, a teacher, and a student.

The Cascadia TREX curriculums will focus on five main themes:

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
5. Position Taskbook Training Opportunities

Participants will learn, share, and practice through a mix of classroom, field-based, and live-fire training with the help of experts from U.S. Forest Service, Washington Prescribed Fire Council, The Nature Conservancy, and other partners.

The programs consist of approximately 2-3 days of classroom and field sessions, up to 10 days of live-fire operations, and a final day of discussion and wrap-up. The exact schedule and mix of activities will be contingent upon weather and fuel conditions that will dictate when, where, and how training will take place. TREX cadre and operational staff will do their best to create as many position taskbook training and evaluation opportunities as safely possible. **However, no guarantee can be made regarding the number of trainee assignments that will be available or the completion of position taskbooks during TREX.**

Space is limited to approximately 20 participants so submit your [application](#) soon! If you have additional questions, please contact:

Kara Karboski, Washington Prescribed Fire Council
kara@washingtonrcd.org

Hilary Lundgren, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition
hilary@chumstickcoalition.org

Training application forms (available [HERE](#)) for the 2017 Cascadia TREX are DUE NO LATER than Friday, July 28, 2017!



The Fire Learning Network 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. This training is hosted by U.S. Forest Service, Washington Prescribed Fire Council, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, and the Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council.