

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network



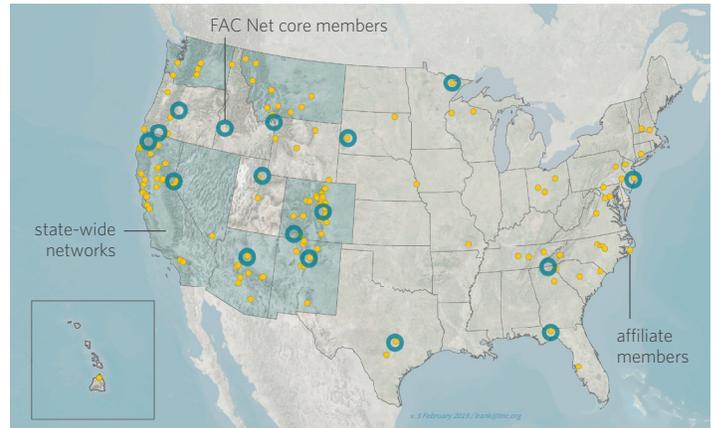
FAC Net engages and supports people and communities who are striving to live more safely with wildfire. Since its start in 2013, the network has grown to include well over 150 people in 30 states, who represent the full gamut of organizations and agencies engaged in wildfire resilience work.

Our members foster the relationships and connections that are the foundation of resilience in their communities. They take action to address fuels mitigation and home hardening, and go beyond basic fire preparedness practices to increase business resilience, coordinate community-wide resilience initiatives and manage post-fire recovery. As a network, members are transforming the policies and programs that dictate our land, fire and community management strategies locally, regionally and nationally.

Learning networks transmit ideas and give rise to new and novel ways to address wicked problems. Together, FAC Net members and partners are changing how we live with fire.

How We Work

FAC Net contributes to positive change by offering practitioner support, facilitating strategic partnerships, and investing in special projects and initiatives.



The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network demonstrates fire adaptation in a variety of contexts representative of the diversity of communities with wildfire risk in the U.S. ~ innovates and experiments with new practices to enhance fire adaptation before, during and after wildfires ~ shares and spreads knowledge and practice among network members, and ~ sparks and supports the fire adaptation efforts of practitioners beyond the core network.



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Fire adaptation practitioners are often isolated, daunted by the scope of the challenge, and may be dealing with burnout. We sustain these leaders with peer relationships, training, coaching and modest investments in projects.

Good practitioners are always building their skill sets. To do this work well, we need to understand fire—and people. FAC Net hosts events and workshops to build critical skills in areas like facilitation, leadership and fostering equity and diversity.



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In any long-term endeavor, people sometimes get stuck. We offer members coaching to enhance their strategies, connect them with peers working on similar issues, and offer resources and ideas.

Members' stories and perspectives are a great source of solutions and wisdom. We elevate member stories and voices to share ideas that work—and to connect learning from the ground with programs and policymakers that shape our context and opportunities ahead.



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Sometimes a little funding is all that is needed to get a new program or initiative off the ground. FAC Net makes modest investments in local projects like smoke outreach programs that emphasize giving residents timely information and practical resources for dealing with hazardous smoke, or CWPP revisions that incorporate post-fire considerations and community values.

States are recognizing the power of network approaches to address wildfire issues. FAC Net offers coaching for states that want to invest in practitioner networks. We are actively working with partners in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington on state network strategies.



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Living better with fire is a growing movement. Communities across the country need to act to manage their risk and increase their resilience. Our affiliate membership program makes the network accessible to all practitioners who are interested in joining the movement.

Who We Are

FAC Net is a strategy of the PERFECT cooperative agreement led by staff from The Nature Conservancy's North America Fire Initiative in partnership with the Watershed Research and Training Center, who facilitate FAC Net and other strategies. Design and co-management of our portfolio is supported by staff from University of California Cooperative Extension, the Conservancy's Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team and the USDA Forest Service's Landscapes and Partnerships Program.

Partners in landscape and community efforts span a full range of affiliations, from federal, state, local and tribal agencies; businesses; non-profit organizations and universities to private landowners and engaged residents. Interests are equally varied, and this diversity builds strong, resilient networks.

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Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) is a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

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