



## Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

# Spanish-Language TRES: Ten Countries, One Common Goal

Northern New Mexico  
September 21-October 6, 2017

The seventh Spanish-Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange took place this fall, once again bringing together an international group of practitioners to share learning across fire cultures and continents. Led by a core team from the U.S., Canada and Spain, the TRES drew participants from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the U.S. It was made possible thanks to collaboration among the Santa Fe National Forest, Bandelier National Monument, Forest Stewards Guild, and the Michigan and New Mexico chapters of The Nature Conservancy, and support from the FLN.

The main objective of this international event is to further the integration and exchange of knowledge among Spanish-speaking wildland firefighters from around the world and in the U.S. This is accomplished by working together—sharing experiences in the field while performing controlled burns and analyzing effects of wildland fires. Participants bring with them diverse experience with their home countries' forest management and conservation efforts; this enriches the field learning, and is also shared and discussed through presentations in the evenings and on non-burn days.

As in previous years, the Spanish-Language TRES was held in northern New Mexico, taking advantage of the Spanish heritage in the region, which facilitates the communications between international participants and local hosts. The Santa Fe National Forest is also an ideal base, with both a great fire management vision and ongoing fire programs that use controlled and natural burns for ecosystem management and the prevention of catastrophic fires.



Monitoring the Ojitos Fire, burning on the Coyote Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest.

The TRES started with participants flying in to Albuquerque and getting the basics covered—adjusting to the altitude and steep terrain, and finishing NWCG training requirements such as pack tests and shelter deployment tests. They then launched into a wet, but busy, two weeks.

The group monitored sectors on active wildfires—the Palmer wildfire (on the Pecos/Las Vegas District) and Ojitos wildfire on the Coyote District.

And special attention was given to fire effects monitoring data collection and



A Fire Management Officer-Fuels from the Santa Fe National Forest demonstrates his process for drying sample vegetation.

### Participant Organizations

- Administración Parques Nacionales (Argentina)
- Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (Mexico)
- Comisión Nacional Forestal (Mexico)
- Cuerpo de Bomberos (Honduras)
- Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Envigado (Colombia)
- Instituto de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (Honduras)
- Instituto Nacional de Bosques (Guatemala)
- Pronatura (Mexico)
- Secretaría del Medio Ambiente Sector 4 (Mexico)
- Silvicultores Unidos de Balleza (Mexico)
- Terra Fuego—Gravitas Peak Wildland Fire Module
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tripán Guatemala S.A.
- Universidad Autónoma Agraria (Mexico)
- USDA Forest Service—Santa Fe NF (Cuba RD, Pecos/Las Vegas RD)



interpretation. On field trips, participants analyzed fire effects produced by controlled burns and wildfires (both full suppression fires and fires managed for resource benefit).

On other field days, they visited forest thinning projects across the Santa Fe National Forest.

In addition to these exercises, the TREX crew conducted fuel reduction work around their base camp at Camp Stoney. This was a pilot project for TREX, adding a defensible space demonstration project to promote the practice in the area where they are based.

As part of the training, everyone at the TREX also gave a short presentation about fire policies, resources, systems and constraints related to wildfires and controlled burns in their home country.

And, despite the abundant rain, the TREX crew took part in the Gallinas prescribed burn, on the Pecos Ranger District, completing 40 acres of burning in ponderosa pine forest.

**Camp Stoney Fuels Mitigation Demonstration Project**  
 Participants in this TREX trained in assessing wildfire hazards and risk in the wildland-urban interface, prepared a hazard assessment report, and conducted fuels reduction to mitigate key risks identified. Above: map of the project area, with mitigation zones outlines. Right: pre- and post-treatment photos behind the dining hall and around a propane tank on the property.

Map and photos from hazard assessment and project reports



Left: TREX participants shared information about fire and fire management in their home countries through formal presentations, as well as informal discussions in the field throughout the event.



**Gallinas Prescribed Burn—Santa Fe National Forest, Pecos Ranger District**  
 TREX participants construct line during a brush pile burn (left), and conduct ignitions for broadcast burning on the Gallinas burn (center).

**For more about TREX, visit:**

<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>

**or contact:**

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The Fire Learning Network is part of *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. For more information about PERFECT, contact Lynn Decker: [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524.

