



## Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

# PERFACT Team Workshop

## Trinity County, CA

### February 8-10, 2016

Nimble fire monkeys  
Writing next PERFACT chapter  
More fun together

—welcoming haiku

The whole coast-to-coast PERFACT staff team met in person for the first time in early February. The objectives of the (all too brief) gathering were to:

- develop a common understanding of what the whole team is working toward and how team members and components fit into accomplishing our goals;
- have opportunities to help shape our direction and identify synergies and leveraging potential;
- feel more connected, and thus be able to work together better; and
- hone and document team priorities.

This was a tall order, but we got a good start—and discovered numerous additional ways, large and small, that the various parts of our work are interwoven.

The workshop was hosted by staff from the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) in Hayfork, and this location gave us an excellent opportunity to see multiple threads of PERFACT efforts at work together on the ground during a half-day field tour. Among the stops were a unit burned during last fall's Nor Cal TREX, and Ewing Reservoir, which is central to the Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) project in that landscape. Both the TREX and SPER have their roots in the Klamath-Siskiyou FLN.



Top: David Jaramillo (WRTC Forestry, Fuels and Fire Program Manager) and Josh Smith (Watershed and Fisheries) describe the wildlife habitat provided by a legacy Oregon white oak. This tree is located on a private ranch in Hayfork, in the middle of a controlled burn unit implemented by the NorCal TREX in the fall of 2015. The PERFACT team learned about the special care that TREX burners took—including removing fuel from around the tree and using a thoughtfully applied ignition pattern—to protect it during burn operations.

Bottom: The team next visited Hayfork's municipal water supply, where maps of recent wildfires highlighted the area's frequent fire regime and need for adaptive action. Protecting the community's water supply from the impacts of a high-severity fire became a top priority for the WRTC nearly ten years ago when an integrated watershed management planning process revealed the scale of the wildfire threat to the town's water source. At about that time the WRTC also joined the FLN and began to grow local and regional capacity for fire management along with a vision for living better with fire in their landscape. Now, a decade later, the WRTC and their partners have developed a burn plan for over 1,000 acres of public and private property immediately surrounding the reservoir, and have been implementing fuels treatments on burn units there with the support of the SPER program.

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*PERFACT—Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together—is the cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior that supports the Fire Learning Network, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges, Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency, the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network and related strategies. Staff from The Nature Conservancy and the Watershed Research and Training Center make up the team that leads these efforts.*

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## PERFACT Haiku— February 2016

A dozen people  
The late winter fog outside  
Stirring a good fire

Conspire to inspire  
Relish potential failure  
Say yes for success

Pyrolysis fumes  
Smoldering revolution  
Movement returns fire

Fire on the landscape  
Regeneration and life  
Earth in the balance

Wildfire heart  
A beating piece of nature  
Breath of Mother Earth



The WRTC recently acquired a 56-acre mill site in Hayfork. The site formerly housed a peeler mill, but had been vacant for nearly 20 years. A bundled firewood business (using logs from nearby private and public lands, including trees burned by wildfires) is the first in what the WRTC hopes will be a bustling integrated wood utilization campus. The long-term vision for the campus entails logs coming onto the site and being sent through various manufacturing channels to yield the most value from each log. For example, logs best suited to custom milling would be sent through a small mill, while other materials would be diverted for firewood, and the waste from sawing and splitting would be used to fire the kilns that ensure all materials leaving the site are pest-free. The mill site is the WRTC's latest effort to close the loop on integrated forest management—creating jobs, supporting responsible forest management and encouraging an ethic of land stewardship.

*All photos: TNC, WRTC*



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