



## CENTRAL OREGON PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE (TREX) April 24 to May 5, 2023 – Bend, Oregon

### BACKGROUND

There is widespread recognition within conservation, restoration, and land management agencies across the state of the need to increase ecologically-based, landscape restoration. To do so will require the expanded use of prescribed fire to achieve a wide range of 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 social benefits.

Ongoing 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, and the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council underscore the timeliness of cross-organizational cooperative efforts to develop new tools, partnerships, resources, and strategies to increase the quality, pace, and scale of fire-adapted ecosystem restoration.

*The Central Oregon 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. Between 2008 and 2021, [118 TREX events](#) in more than a dozen states have contributed to over 144,520 acres burned and 4,555 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 PROGRAM?

### 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, PIO, SOFR, 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.



## WHAT IS THE CENTRAL OREGON TREX TRAINING LIKE?

The objective of the two-week Central Oregon TREX is to facilitate peer-to-peer, experiential learning for prescribed fire professionals and others interested in advancing their understanding of ecological burning to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. Like other TREX programs (see National TREX infographic [HERE](#) and a 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, 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 simultaneously a participant, a teacher, and a student.

The Central Oregon TREX curriculum 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 The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, university and research institutions, and other partners.

The programs consist of approximately three days of classroom and field sessions, up to eight days of live-fire operations, and a final day of post-fire monitoring discussion and wrap-up. The exact schedule and mix of activities may vary and 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.

**The cost to participate is \$300, due upon selection and acceptance to the Central Oregon TREX programs. If the participant fee poses a significant financial hardship, a limited number of scholarships are available thanks to the generous support of TNC. If you would like to be considered for a scholarship, please indicate so in the option provided in the application form. Participants and employers are responsible for all paid and/or vacation time, including overtime, accrued during TREX. It is the participant's responsibility to inform supervisors of the training schedule, hours (approx. 10-12 hours/day), and costs to participate in TREX and make all logistical/administrative arrangements prior to arrival.**

Space is limited to approximately 40 participants. If this program sounds like a fit for you and your organization, submit your application ASAP. If you have additional questions, please contact the Central Oregon TREX program lead, Thomas Stokely ([thomas.stokely@tnc.org](mailto:thomas.stokely@tnc.org) – 541-699-6651).

**Applications ([available online](#)) for the 2023 [Central Oregon TREX](#) are DUE NO LATER than February 15, 2023!**



This training is hosted by The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, the Oregon Fire Learning Network, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The FLN 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.