



***** TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT *****

**Prescribed Fire Training Exchange
Loup River Valley Nebraska, March 16-27, 2015**

Objectives: To conduct a series of controlled burns on private land near Broken Bow, Nebraska and to provide experiential learning opportunities to participants. Organized as an incident and using the Incident Command System, participants will serve in qualified and trainee firefighting positions on a prescribed fire team. Participants will assist with preparing, scouting, igniting, holding, mop-up and patrol on numerous prescribed fires in the region. We will also complete pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment and practice fireline leadership skills.

Description: The 2015 Loup River Training Exchange will be focusing on approximately 5,000 acres of grassland. All of the land is privately owned and used for livestock production. This is an area of rolling hills and steep draws where eastern red cedar trees are abundant. Prescribed fire is being used to reduce existing and the encroachment of new eastern red cedar and to promote habitat for grassland dependent species such as the greater prairie chicken. This Training Exchange is a partnership between Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, the Fire Learning Network, and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. A recent grant through the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund has provided financial resources to assist participating landowners in resting their grasslands from grazing in order to build up fuel that will increase the effectiveness of the burns.

Target Group: This training is designed to integrate a diverse group of fire practitioners, including: university students, municipal, state, federal and contract firefighters, as well as other natural resource managers, scientists and researchers.

Fee: There is no fee to participate.

Requirements:

1. All participants must be current and qualified NWCG wildland firefighters (FFT2 minimum).
 - If you need an annual refresher RT-130 or need to complete the suite of introductory firefighter training (NWCG courses I-100, S-130, S-190 and FEMA IS-700a), these courses will be offered.
2. Participants must have completed an arduous pack test within the past year. Pack tests must be completed prior to arriving at the training. Use of the moderate pack test is acceptable if coming as a TNC volunteer and serving in a prescribed fire crew member (RXCM) position only.
3. Participants must have personal or employer provided medical insurance.
4. Participants should come with all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment including: a Next Generation Fire Shelter, a hard hat, Nomex clothing, all leather gloves, eye protection and canteens. If you are unable to provide your own PPE, we will provide you with a complete set (excluding boots) for a \$50 fee.
5. Participants must bring fireline-approved boots (all-leather work boots, 8 inches tall, with non-slip soles and no steel toe).

Meals & lodging: Each participant is expected to pay for their meals and lodging. Group rates for lodging will be organized by host agency Pheasants Forever. The estimated daily expense for meals and lodging is \$65.

Arrival and departure: Participants should plan to arrive in Broken Bow, Nebraska on Sunday, March 15, and depart on Saturday, March 28, 2015. A one-week minimum commitment is required to attend. Please indicate your dates of availability on your application.

Registration: Complete registration form and submit to Ben Wheeler ben.wheeler@nebraska.gov by February 2, 2015.



This training is hosted by the Fire Learning Network and The Pheasants Forever

The FLN is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, 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.