## Women in Fire Training Exchange

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The Women in Fire Training Exchange (WTREX) strives to conquer challenges that women face in the world of wildland firefighting, natural resources management, and conservation. The WTREX is a two-week prescribed fire training event that will support female fire practitioners to work boldly in leadership roles. During this event, women will be challenged to display courage, tenacity, integrity, and resilience while functioning proficiently in a variety of roles. WTREX will provide a safe and supportive learning environment for women to strengthen their operational and leadership skills.



conservation.

shared learning.

According to the USDA Forest Service, only 10% of wildland firefighters are women. As a consequence of these limited numbers, only 7 in 100 supervisory positions in wildland fire are filled by female leaders. The chance you will work for a female Division Supervisor is 1 in 30. In response to these numbers, Ms. Bequi Livingston of the USDA Forest Service's Regional Office in Albuquerque, NM developed the "Women in Fire Boot Camp" to increase the number of women working in wildfire. (Story, Tom. "Grass Roots Efforts Begin to Increase the Number of Women in Fire". Wildfire Today. 20 Sept. 2014). With the recruitment initiative underway, there is a recognized need to develop a program that bolsters and invests in women's leadership in the fields of wildland fire, natural resource management, and

The Fire Learning Network (FLN), a partnership between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and Department of Interior supports experiential training through prescribed fire training exchanges (TREX); since 2008, 44 training exchanges have provided nearly 1,500 training opportunities and treated more than 78,000 acres with ecological fire across the U.S. and internationally. While attending a TREX in spring of 2015, female fire practitioners began exploring the idea of utilizing a prescribed fire training event as a venue to develop operational and leadership skills of women in fire. A women's TREX (WTREX) will offer a rare opportunity to bring together a wide range of female fire practitioners for two weeks of hands-on prescribed fire implementation, leadership training and

The training will build capacity on multiple levels. TREX supports local efforts to implement prescribed fire and improve practitioner preparedness to meet the challenges of a complex fire environment, while improving forest health, enhancing wildlife habitat and protecting communities and watersheds. WTREX will build new regional and national networks of female fire practitioners, enabling further collaboration. WTREX will also provide participants with opportunities to build fire qualifications, establish new personal and working relationships with other women in fire, and identify and pursue leadership and other critical positions in the wildland fire

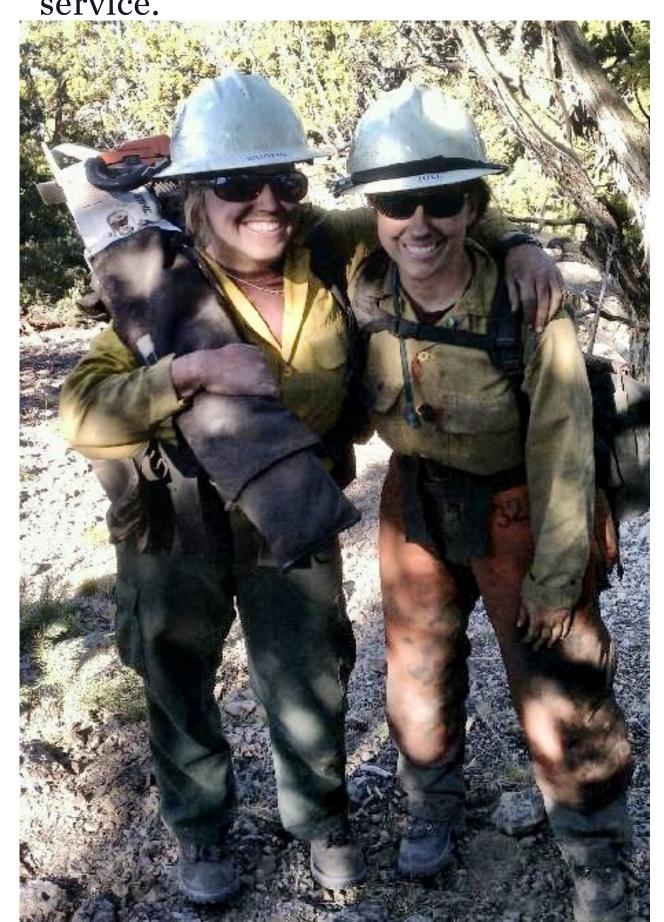


Photo Courtesy of Lindsey Curtin, USFS



Photo Courtesy of Will Harling, Mid-Klamath Watershed Council



Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Wilson, VA DCR



Photo Courtesy of Lenya Quinn-Davidson, NorCal Prescribed Fire Council



Photo Courtesy of Scott Greenberg, TNC



Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Wilson, VA DCR



interested public.

Objective

in northwestern California.

A diverse group of international and domestic fire practitioners will work together to share and build their

experience in prescribed fire practices, fire effects, and

other conservation efforts affecting forests and grasslands

The Northern California Prescribed Fire Council has

successfully conducted three Prescribed Fire Training

Exchanges over several years and has agreed to host the first

Women in Fire Training Exchange. The training exchange

will likely take place on private, tribal, USFS and BLM lands

in northwestern California in locations such as the Klamath

River basin, Hayfork, Weaverville and Whiskeytown. The

training will be organized as an incident, using the Incident

Command System. Participants will serve in qualified and

trainee firefighting positions on a burn team and will assist

with preparing, scouting, briefing, igniting, holding, mop-up

and patrol on numerous controlled burns dispersed through-

out the area. Participants will also complete pre-and post-

burn monitoring, train with equipment, practice leadership

skills and learn about local fire ecology and management.

The work will take place in diverse ecosystems in north-

western California, including prairies, oak woodlands,

mixed-conifer forests and chaparral. The training will

include field trips to areas recently burned in wildfires and to

prescribed fire and fuels treatment project sites. Participants

will interact and work with local scientists, land managers

and fire practitioners. In addition, participants will practice

preparing for and conducting interviews with the media and



WTREX empowers women wildland fire fighters to be bold leaders by providing a training environment that supports leadership development and relationship building in addition to experience in prescribed fire practices.













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