

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (WTREX) Yosemite National Park, Oct. 9-21, 2017



When the US fire management system was conceived in the early 1900s, women's roles in the workforce were much different than they are now. However, even today, women constitute a relatively small proportion of the workforce, filling 10% of wildland fire positions and only 7 in 100 leadership roles. In recent years, there has been an increased effort to recruit women into fire, yet social and cultural challenges remain. Women often find the dominant fire management system to be dismissive of female perspectives and strengths, even as its increasing complexity requires fresh approaches and insights. We believe that women have unique talents and perspectives, and that they can play a critical role in advancing fire problem solving together with men. In the Women-in-Fire Training Exchange (WTREX), we invite both women and men to explore the growing role of women in fire management, while conducting prescribed fire operations designed to advance their formal qualifications in wildland fire management and enhance their understanding of fire ecology and effects, communications and outreach, prescribed fire policy and planning, and more.

Key things to know about WTREX:

- We held the first WTREX last year in northwestern California. This year, it will take place in and around Yosemite National Park.
- WTREX is an intensive 12-day training exchange that combines practical live-fire training with indoor learning and discussion to advance participants' qualifications and experience in wildland fire operations.
- WTREX will engage both women and men in building a support network for female fire practitioners working to advance their leadership in wildland fire management.
- WTREX participants will work together to accomplish much-needed prescribed burning in a variety of fire-adapted ecosystems in and around Yosemite National Park.
- Today's fire problems are so complex that we need to elevate diversity in intellect, talent, and perspective in order to solve them.
- Managers of federal, tribal, and private lands will serve as hosts, inviting teams of WTREX participants to burn on their lands.





Join us for hands-on burning and learning in and around Yosemite National Park!

Target Group: Prescribed fire and wildfire personnel and other natural resource managers involved in fire and ecosystem management, including federal, state, tribal, non-governmental, and private practitioners. Both women and men are invited to participate in this event, though a higher proportion of female applicants will be selected. This year, we are also hoping to fill five trainee positions with Native American applicants.

Description: 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 in the area. We will also complete pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment, practice fireline leadership skills, and learn about local fire ecology and fire management. The work will take place in diverse ecosystems in and around Yosemite National Park. The training will include field trips to areas burned in recent wildfires and to prescribed fire and fuels treatment project sites, as well as presentations from local scientists, land managers, and practitioners, and women who are leaders in various aspects of fire management. In addition, participants will practice preparing for media interviews.

Childcare: We recognize that childcare concerns can be a major barrier for people who work in fire. This year, we are exploring opportunities to provide childcare during WTREX for people who would not otherwise be able to attend. Please check that box on the application form if you are interested in learning more about that possibility.

Requirements:

- All participants' qualifications must be current. At a minimum, everyone must have completed NWCG courses **S-130 and S-190, as well as FEMA IS-700A and ICS-100**. Self-study materials for these courses will be offered to participants who need them.
- Participants must complete an **arduous pack test** before the start of the event. Completion of a moderate pack test is acceptable if coming as a TNC volunteer and serving in an RXCM (prescribed fire crewmember) position. A pack test and practice shelter deployment will be offered to those who need them.
- All participants must have **insurance** (e.g., workers' comp, health, or travel insurance) to cover any injury they may sustain during the training exchange.
- Participants should come with **all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**, including **fireline-approved boots** (all leather work boots, 8-inches tall, non-slip soles, and no steel toe), a New Generation Fire Shelter, headlamp, hard hat, Nomex clothing, all leather gloves, eye protection, and canteens for drinking water. **If you do not have proper PPE, we can arrange for you to borrow some.** Please indicate your need on the application form.

Cost: Each participant is responsible for a \$300 non-refundable registration fee, due September 8, 2017.

Meals & Travel: Meals and lodging will be provided during the training. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the WTREX. The Incident Management Team and burn boss trainees will be expected to arrive on the morning of October 8, 2017 for a pre-WTREX planning day. Other participants should arrive at the training on the morning of Monday, Oct. 9, 2017. Specific meeting locations will be announced after participants have been selected. The training concludes on Saturday, October 21, 2017.

Application: To apply, visit the application website at <https://goo.gl/forms/69q3XOiVyFRcNyLK2> and submit by the end of the day on **August 4, 2017**. Email Lenya Quinn-Davidson with any questions at lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu. Space is limited to approximately 25 trainees; selection will be made to ensure a diverse group.



This training is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, 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.