



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Spanish-Language TRES

Santa Fe, New Mexico

October 15-November 2, 2018

The eighth Spanish-Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES) was hosted by the Fire Learning Network (FLN), The Nature Conservancy and the Santa Fe National Forest this fall, with two dozen participants from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Spain and several U.S. states.

In addition to working on the Santa Fe National Forest, this year's TRES crew assisted on both pile and broadcast burns on Bureau of Land Management land near Taos. The event facilitated an opportunity to share and gain experience in fire management, prescribed burning, and the cultural use of fire across international borders, and to further a vision of forest management through the use of fire embedded in the premise of a changing forest with an eye to human and forest needs.

The goals of this annual TRES include integrating different experiences

related to the use of fire and prescribed burning techniques in different countries, as well as analyzing the effects of fire and other environmental issues related to management of forests and related ecosystems. Throughout these exchanges, both local and international firefighters and managers share their knowledge, and study the challenges as well as short- and long-term outcomes of fire in fire-dependent forests.

This TRES offers unique opportunities to learn from—and give feedback to—fellow practitioners with a wide range of backgrounds. Lectures by participants and local fire practitioners helped the group understand fire management in terms of a landscape that spans international borders.

As this year's crew settled into its routine, they took on a characteristic sooty color and grew used to the smell given off by the aromatic pines and piñon forests. Working shoulder to shoulder with BLM and Forest Service



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colleagues allowed the TRES team to engage directly in fire management as practiced in the U.S., to learn hands-on



"Fire at the Canastra Range National Park, Brazil" and "Integrated Fire Management in Brazil's Indigenous Territories" were among the presentations participants gave about aspects of fire management in their home countries.



The Spanish-Language TRES crew lines up for fire line construction on the national forest; they completed 1,200 feet of new firebreak. © TNC (Rodolfo Zúñiga)



New this year, the Spanish-Language TRES crew burned on BLM land, with the Montosa burn near Taos. © Angel Larriba Aldea: TNC (Rodolfo Zúñiga)

about ignition techniques and safety procedures, and to have seemingly endless hours of shared experiences.

Over the course of the TREX, the crew assisted on several broadcast burns at Cerro Montoso (a BLM unit near Taos), Joaquín Mesa (Jemez Ranger District) and Borrego Mesa (Española Ranger District). They also helped burn hundreds of brush piles scattered over 410 acres in several locations and built about 1,200 feet of new fire breaks.

In addition to the work in the field, the TREX team also learned about fire effects monitoring, participated in a state-of-the-art sand table simulation class, learned about the use of drones on the fire line, took part in a workshop on diversity and inclusiveness, shared their knowledge with forestry undergraduate students at New Mexico Highlands University, interacted with Santa Fe National Forest dispatch personnel, and visited several archeological sites. In what is becoming a tradition for some TREX, they also continued a fuels mitigation project begun last year around their base camp lodgings, removing fuels next to several campground buildings.

Participant Organizations

Argentina:

Servicio Nacional del Manejo del Fuego

Brazil:

Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade
Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis

Ecuador:

Ministerio del Ambiente

Honduras:

Mancomunidad MAPANCE-PROCELAQUE

Mexico:

Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR)
Pronatura Peninsula Yucatan A.C.

Spain:

Gestión Ambiental de Castilla-La Mancha (GEACAM)

USA:

Bureau of Land Management
Forest Stewards Guild
National Park Service—Bandelier National Monument
New Mexico Highlands University
The Nature Conservancy—Alabama, Arizona, Michigan
University of Washington
USDA Forest Service—Santa Fe National Forest

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The TREX crew assisted Forest Service staff with pile burning at Joaquin Mesa on the Jemez Ranger District (left) and with the Borrego Mesa burn on the Española District (right).



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For more about the Spanish-Language TREX, contact:

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For more on the TREX strategy, visit:
<http://nature.ly/trainingexchanges>

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) are part of *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.

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