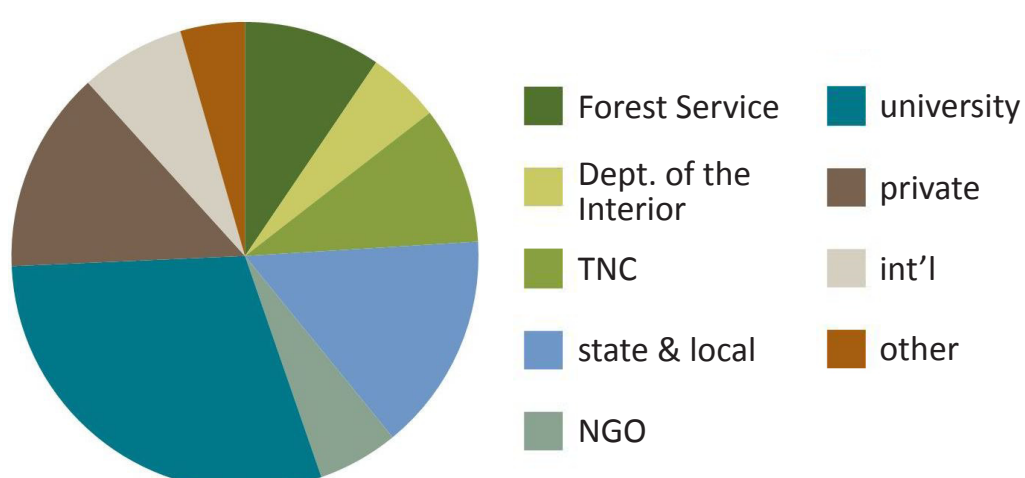


PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGES

Experiential training events with multiple objectives—**training, outreach and treatments**—are not part of the normal, comfortable status quo. But TREC provide precisely this, and all who are involved in the events work hard to maintain this balance.

Professional fire practitioners gain experience, learn about conservation, and receive position task book evaluations. Less traditional training partners—private contractors, ranchers, and others—engage in events that meet NWCG safety standards, gaining skills to work more safely and effectively. And TREC include some participants who have never burned before: biologists and air quality agency staff, for example, come to better understand how fire affects their work. TREC events **strengthen partnerships and coalitions** in the fire community and **diversify the workforce** by exposing participants to practitioners from other places and diverse backgrounds.

TREC PARTICIPANT AFFILIATIONS (SPRING 2014)



In their early days, TREC were attended mainly by staff from the partners in the cooperative agreement: the Forest Service, Department of the Interior agencies and The Nature Conservancy. This spring, only about a quarter of the participants were from those three sources, as TREC are meeting their goal of engaging a diverse set of participants. This brings together a wide range of experiences and viewpoints for a rich shared learning environment.

TREC events include training in crafting and delivering **key messages about the benefits of prescribed fire** and its use as a management tool, and designated days during each event for members of the media to experience the work at close range and talk with practitioners. This has proved to be an excellent strategy for giving reporters a good understanding of basic concepts in a way that they can effectively share with their audiences.

For more information, contact:

Jeremy Bailey jeremy_bailey@tnc.org (801) 599-1394
Guy Duffner gduffner@tnc.org (801) 320-0524

Partners work by accelerating the development of prototype **fire adapted communities** in a landscape context ... accelerating **integrated efforts** for restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes through multi-scalar collaboration, effective planning processes and **transformative learning** and networks ... building **social and operational capacity** for response to wildland fire in a changing world ... accelerating the adjustment of landscape-level strategies for a changing climate ... integrating science, **cultural knowledge** and adaptive learning to resolve key barriers to transformative resilience.



The Fire Learning Network and prescribed fire training exchanges are supported by a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.

An equal opportunity provider

Each TREC starts with introductions to **local ecosystems and land management** practices, and to fellow crew members and equipment. Crews then implement a series of prescribed fires, **burning on average for 5-10 days**, and accomplishing from a few hundred to several thousand acres of treatments on priority landscapes and around communities at risk from wildfire—simultaneously building skills and fostering healthy natural and human communities.

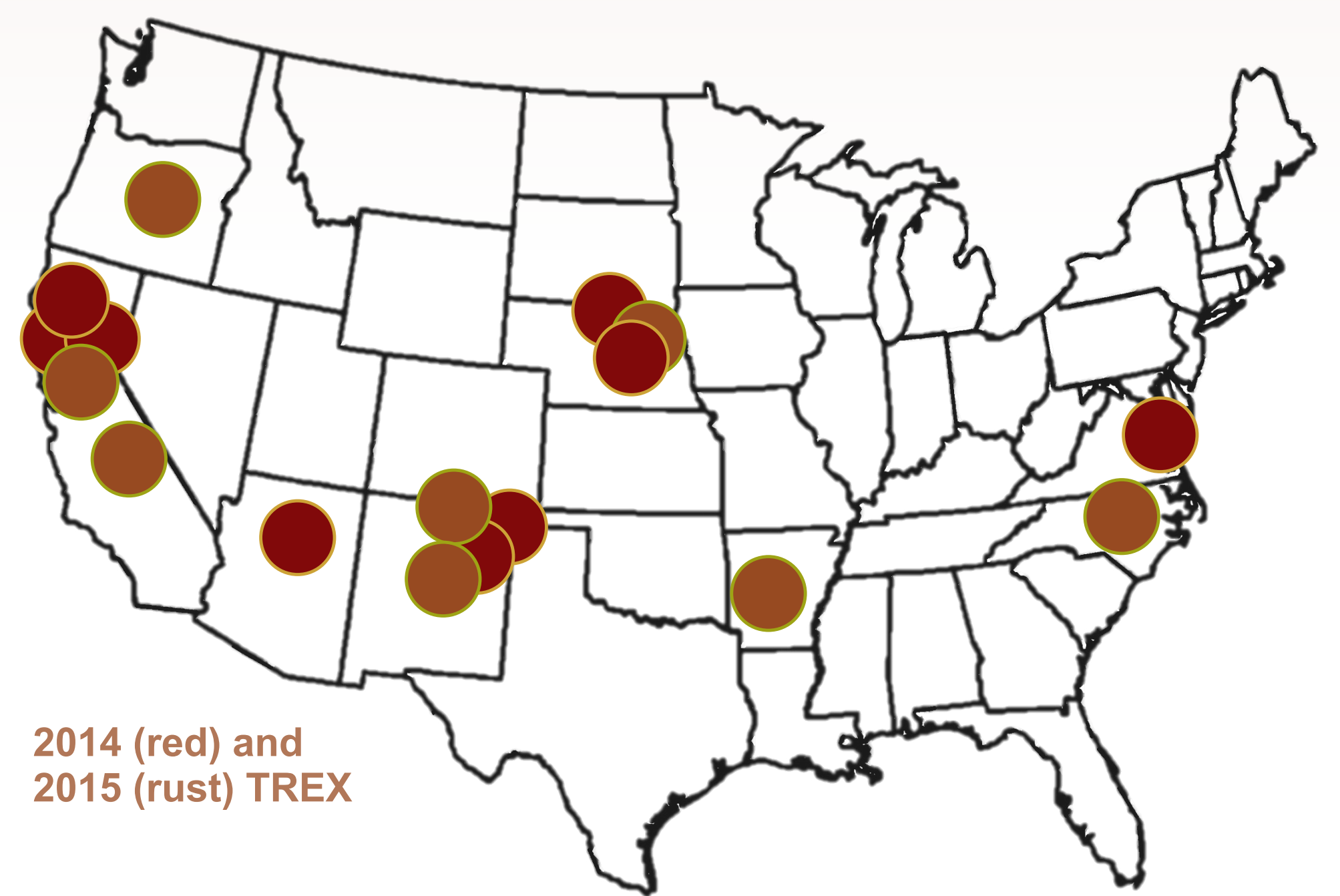
TREC participants are immersed in **demonstrations, discussions, readings and experiential training to learn—and teach**—about myriad aspects of prescribed fire. The training delivers a foundation of key safety, operational and tactical skills, including:

- NWCG basic firefighter safety training for those who need it;
- scouting, lighting, holding, mop-up and patrolling controlled burns;
- communicating effectively by radio;
- delivering & receiving briefings, conducting after action reviews, and documenting daily actions and activities; and
- using a variety of tactics and tools from different regions of the country (and world).

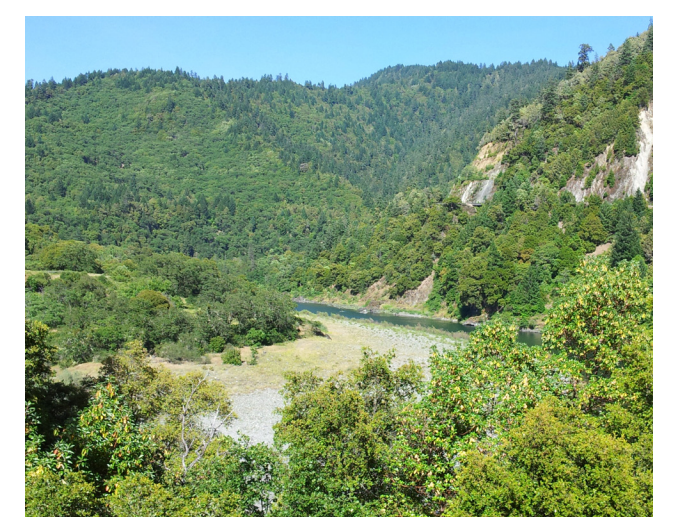
These are placed in a larger **fire management context**:

- the Incident Command System, use of daily planning cycles and planning documents;
 - planning, organizing and implementing controlled burns; and
 - monitoring fire effects, report writing and reporting to senior managers.
- And, perhaps most important, TREC integrate prescribed fire strategies and tactics into a holistic **ecological and social context**, that includes:
- regional fire ecology and local socio-economic impacts of fire management;
 - work with groups like prescribed fire councils and landowner associations; and
 - fire adapted communities concepts.

TREC are collaborative, hands-on training experiences that build capacity for integrated fire management



2014 (red) and 2015 (rust) TREC



TREC are conducted in a wide range of landscapes, with a variety of ecological and social goals. In Nebraska this spring, burns restored and maintained prairie and reduced woody encroachment on rangeland. On the coastal plain of Virginia, underburns were conducted to maintain longleaf pine habitat. In northern California mountains, burning reduced hazardous fuel loads and rejuvenated cultural resources.



All TREC incorporate a range of skill levels and professional backgrounds in the people taking part. However the events often have a focus on a particular group of practitioners being engaged. The Niobrara Valley TREC was timed to coincide with universities' spring breaks so that numerous students could attend, while the Virginia event included many state agency staff and the Yurok TREC had a strong tribal component.



In addition to focusing on local ecological and fire management issues, TREC explicitly embrace local fire culture. In northern California this spring, that included classroom presentations on traditional burning practices and the products they provide and, for example, the identification of basket-making materials in the field. In Nebraska, this might take the form of razor-straight blacklines on private units, in line with local practice.



One of the things that makes TREC successful is the "can do" attitude people bring: large groups gather, ready to work. They burn together when conditions are right—and take on other learning experiences when the weather doesn't cooperate. This brings on-the-ground progress—whether it's 37 acres in drought-struck California or a 1,000-acre day in Nebraska—as well as a better-skilled, and better connected, workforce.