



Participants during a controlled burn at the Yurok TREX in Northern California in 2019. © Kiliiii Yuyan

We support the people who are creating change on the ground, across the United States.

2,100+

PARTNERS

34

STATES

75m

ACRES

in the Fire Learning Network

99

TREX EVENTS

for 3,600 prescribed fire practitioners

18

CORE MEMBERS

in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, plus 154 affiliate members

## Our planet was born of fire. For millions of years, fire has shaped the diversity of life.

Today, however, fire is out of balance. Wildfire disasters are becoming a common occurrence, and the material and human costs are staggering. And while some parts of the country suffer from too frequent and too severe fire, others suffer from a shortage or complete lack of fire.

Through our fire networks and strategies, we are bringing our natural areas back into balance with fire and helping people prepare for, manage and live with fire, rather than fighting it at every turn. We are working toward a future in which local agencies and organizations play a larger role in planning for and managing wildland fire. With support, communities can play a larger role in shaping their fire futures. Sharing risk and responsibility will lead to better wildfire outcomes.

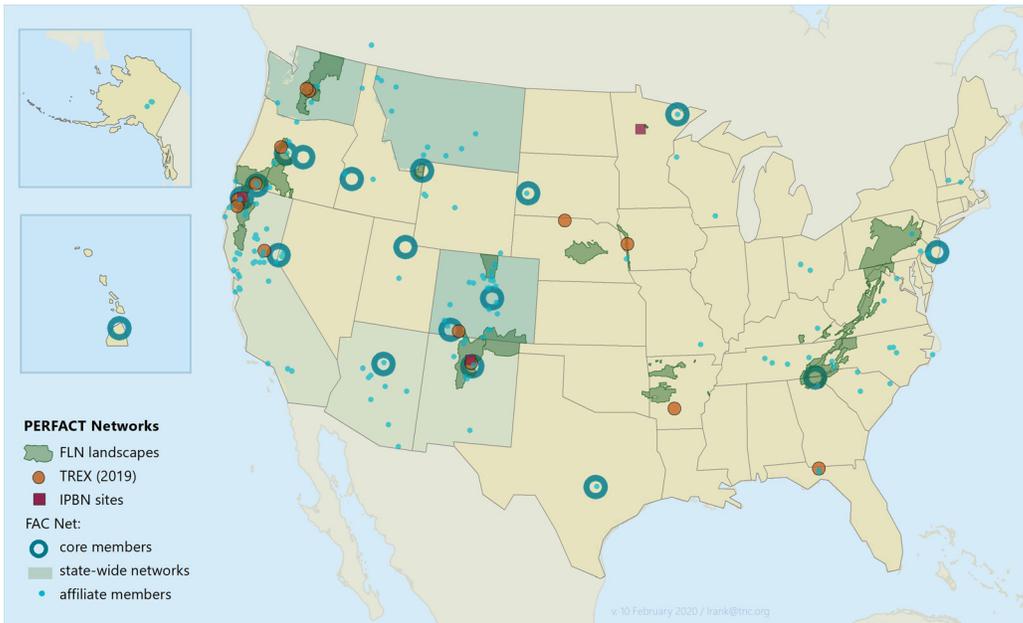
We approach our fire management work through three principles:

- > **Collaboration and Relationships:** As with other types of conservation work, we rely heavily on partners in virtually everything we do related to fire. In the U.S., we accomplish much of our work through landscape-scale, public-private collaboratives.
- > **Diverse Perspectives and Local Leadership:** Good solutions to our fire problems require diverse perspectives at all geographic scales. Usually, the best strategies are developed and implemented locally, and we believe in supporting communities.
- > **People and Nature:** Our work is aimed squarely at the needs of both ecosystems and communities, needs that must be addressed in an integrated fashion.

These approaches help agencies, organizations and residents build trust and understanding to work together and safely co-exist with fire.

Ushering in a new fire future—one in which the benefits of fire are more fully realized, in part because communities are prepared—will take time. But we see signs of continual progress. We're investing in the right people and places; we need to continue that and add to our portfolio.

Continued support from the Forest Service, agencies of the Department of the Interior and others is needed to deepen and expand our impact in places across the country as we continue to pursue the fire-related outcomes we share. Specifically, funding is needed to continue and expand upon the efforts supported under the Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) cooperative agreement.



Clockwise from top left: Map © TNC (Liz Rank); © Hannah Letinich; © Carlton Ward Jr.



## FIRE NETWORKS SUPPORT AND CONNECT PRACTITIONERS

Our investments in people and places build sustainable capacity, social capital and momentum. We’ve centered our work on diversity, equity and inclusion to broaden the range of perspectives that inform our collective work.

Through the PERFACT cooperative agreement, we’re cultivating four networks and a suite of strategies that embody collaboration, co-learning and adaptive management:

### Fire Learning Network (FLN) *Active since 2002*

The FLN supports diverse partnerships focused primarily on increasing prescribed burning for the benefit of nature and people. Local collaboratives work in an “all hands, all lands” way, developing and implementing plans to promote healthy ecosystems and minimize negative wildfire outcomes: [conservationgateway.org/fln](https://conservationgateway.org/fln)

### Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net) *Active since 2013*

FAC Net members are developing and spreading better ways of living with wildfire—ways that recognize the role of fire in our ecosystems, provide alternatives to costly fire suppression, and reduce risk for residents and firefighters. FAC Net supports efforts to increase the ability of communities to withstand and bounce back from wildfires: [fireadaptednetwork.org](https://fireadaptednetwork.org)

### Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN) *Active since 2015*

The IPBN brings together Native American people working to revitalize traditional fire cultures in a contemporary context. Their work includes connecting elders and youth to prepare the next generation of cultural fire practitioners, controlled burning to bring back native foods and fiber, and empowering agencies to embrace tribal perspectives: [nature.ly/IPBN](https://nature.ly/IPBN)

### Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) *Active since 2008*

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges and cooperative burns provide experiential training that builds robust local capacity for fire management and offers fire practitioners holistic perspectives—while implementing treatments that support communities and landscapes. The TREX Coaches Network expands the reach of this strategy by mentoring and linking those moving into leadership roles: [nature.ly/trainingexchanges](https://nature.ly/trainingexchanges)

## WHO WE ARE

Partners in landscape and community efforts span a full range of affiliations, from federal, state, local and tribal agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations and universities to private landowners and engaged residents. Interests are equally varied, and this diversity builds strong, resilient networks.

PERFACT is led by staff from The Nature Conservancy’s North America Fire program who partner with the Watershed Research and Training Center to facilitate the FAC Learning Network and other strategies. Design and co-management of our portfolio is supported by staff from University of California Cooperative Extension, the Conservancy’s Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team and the USDA Forest Service’s Landscapes and Partnerships program.

## CONTACT

**MAREK SMITH**  
The Nature Conservancy  
North America Fire Director  
[marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org)

**CECILIA CLAVET**  
The Nature Conservancy  
Senior Policy Advisor  
[cclavet@tnc.org](mailto:cclavet@tnc.org)

**TIM MELCHERT**  
USDA Forest Service  
Cooperative Fire Specialist  
[timothy.melchert@usda.gov](mailto:timothy.melchert@usda.gov)