



Increasing Prescribed Fire Capacity: Seasonal Prescribed Fire Modules

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WRI's Georgia/South Carolina seasonal module conducts a January 2018 prescribed fire near a home in the Southern Blue Ridge Landscape.



Investment in pre-season training is critical to the success of a prescribed fire module.

OPPORTUNITY Seasonal prescribed fire crews are in demand in many places, particularly where prescribed fire programs are otherwise well situated to burn, but where local capacity shortfalls constrain implementation. Many programs would like to have dedicated fire and stewardship teams working year-round, or for long seasons, but funding constraints often limit them to seasonal teams, fielded only during the highest priority burn season.

SOLUTION There are change agents or catalyst figures at every level of the multi-agency relationships who can be tapped to help channel federal funds to support reliable seasonal modules. That is, someone who cares enough about expanding prescribed fire can get the funds properly assigned and distributed.

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

Costs involved in fielding a seasonal module include those associated with:

- ▶ preparing the proposal and contract; recruiting staff, ordering supplies, preparing vehicles, and securing housing for the season;
- ▶ preparing and delivering pre-season training;
- ▶ mobilizing modules from the training site to the seasonal base; covering all salaries and expenses incurred by the module throughout the time it is fielded;
- ▶ supervising the module, remotely and in person, and maintaining regular contact with the local agency or agencies using the module; and
- ▶ demobilizing the module, including conducting end-of-season AARs, identifying lessons learned to inform the next proposal and management of future modules, and preparing reports

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THIS SOLUTION? "While a fire manager at The Nature Conservancy, neighboring Conservancy burn bosses and I found seasonal modules to be indispensable for expanding burning."

KEY THINGS TO KNOW:

- ▶ Finding capable module leaders is challenging, but essential.
- ▶ Be prepared for module staff who have to leave before season's end to make it to their next seasonal position on time.
- ▶ Be sure that local partners have productive work lined up for the module during inclement weather, and seek flexibility in the weekly scheduling.
- ▶ Investment in high-quality pre-season training for the module is paramount.

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) are part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together* (PERFACT), a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

For more information about work under the PERFACT agreement, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org or (919) 794-4374. For more about TREX, contact Jeremy Bailey at jeremy_bailey@tnc.org or (801) 599-1394 .



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