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Strategies for Resilient Landscapes, Communities and Fire Management

Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) is a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. The agreement supports the Fire Networks—the Fire Learning Network (since 2002), Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (2008), Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (2013), Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (2016)—and other efforts that bring people together to identify and meet our wildfire challenges.

Six broad strategies under PERFACT support the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. There is not a one-to-one correspondence between our strategies and the Cohesive Strategy goals—because the goals themselves are intertwined, and because each strategy may support progress in multiple ways.

Together the strategies increase the number and range of people and institutions involved in, and responsible for, various aspects of fire management. They help build equitable and effective partnerships that underlie effective and sustainable work together. And they develop resources that inform, support and connect this expanded fire management community.

A Expand the scope of ownership of, and responsibility for, fire management.

Work under this strategy is wide-ranging—from building public support for active fire management and tolerance for smoke and other risks of prescribed fire, to support for truly all-hands, all-lands implementation on the ground. This might be expressed as moving toward co-ownership: “These are our landscapes, our communities, our fires—our problems, our solutions.”

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ The partnership that has for many years led the Island Park Sustainable Fire Community dramatically expanded its footprint this year, with the founding of the **Greater Yellowstone Fire Action Network**. The network’s first workshop drew participants from fire adapted community groups, fire departments, a local county commission, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy.
- ▶ To foster **new and richer community connections**, the California Klamath-Siskiyou FLN nourished creative discourse between artists and fire practitioners, planting the seeds for the **Fire and Music Project**. The project has since received a grant to implement a year-long artist learning immersion program that will culminate in a public concert series.
- ▶ Even after **more than 15 years**, the Southern Blue Ridge FLN continues to draw in **new partner agencies and organizations** interested in working together to get more fire on the ground in the Appalachians. The partnership is strengthened by an annual workshop in May, along with collaborative developed burn prioritization and implementation.
- ▶ FireScope Mendocino has been **reaching out to the community** as it hosts a process to define **potential operational delineations (PODs)** for the landscape. A workshop last fall drew 60 people, with 40 taking part in a field tour. A map of the Mendocino National Forest and adjacent lands with draft POD boundaries is [posted](#) for community members to explore and comment on. “Our participation in the FLN allowed access to seasoned personnel, such as the Western Klamath FLN lead, in introducing PODs to the group. This was a critical component in laying out a foundational understanding of delineations prior to the collaborative work we asked of workshop attendees.”
- ▶ When the Loup River TREX was cancelled due to uncooperative weather, one of the organizers traveled instead to the Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week. During that week, he was able to sign multiple task books, including a final evaluation for a RXB2 trainee. “There’s a **bottleneck of qualified RXB2 positions**, so adding another to the roster is a huge accomplishment.”

B Support and maintain equitable partnerships.

Sharing ownership and responsibility requires partnerships that are robust, in which all stakeholders have a role and voice, and where power and responsibility are distributed equitably. Intentional investment in these relationships builds a foundation for working, innovating and learning together, and for the transmission of new methods and best practices.

C Increase local and individual capacity.

Shared ownership of fire demands more of people, communities and organizations in fire-prone landscapes. This requires investment in a wide range of leaders and resources—from community organizing and facilitation skills, to mitigation crews and emergency response capacity.

D Build and diversify a workforce for co-management of fire.

The scale of the wildfire challenge requires growing the workforce beyond what federal and state agencies alone can be expected to provide. The complexity of the challenge calls for bringing more diverse viewpoints, skills and life experiences to bear.

E Expand the enabling infrastructure and knowledge networks for a shared management system.

A broadened fire management system will require new ideas, new practices and new ways of communicating them among players. Agency structures and institutional knowledge will remain core to safe and effective response, but as other individuals and organizations assume their roles, innovations will be required. Similarly, as learning in the field becomes increasingly dispersed and local, new ways of capturing and sharing it will be needed.

F Shift the regulatory, policy and funding environments to support integrated fire management.

Hundreds of network members and partners across the country are identifying challenges and finding and refining ways to meet them. They are a valuable resource to inform the policy environment—at all levels—so that we can, collectively, more effectively meet our goal of living better and more safely with fire.

▶ A prescribed burn association knowledge exchange hosted in Northern California, where the FLN introduced [PBAs](#) in 2016, helped partners who are interested in starting PBAs in Colorado, Oregon, New Mexico, Washington and Spain. Participants attended a Cal-TREX training weekend, had a day-long Q&A discussion, and then joined a “Good Fire and Tribal Engagement” workshop; the gathering closed with a review of lessons learned and future steps.

▶ It’s not all boots and drip torches: FLN and FAC Net staff offered a virtual Facilitative Leadership training for 24 Fire Networks members over the winter, giving participants tools to improve their **collaborative leadership skills**.

▶ In Minnesota, TNC facilitated a two-day gathering for 40 prescribed fire practitioners from Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, TNC, state agencies and other organizations. The highlight was a provocative and valuable discussion in the field led by tribal historic preservation officers from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe about **culturally significant sites and considerations for prescribed burning** on such sites. “We came away better equipped to identify land and water features indicative of burial mounds, village sites, and ceremonial sites and more aware of proper steps to take should one find artifacts or remains.”

▶ **WTREX saw unprecedented expansion** this year, with local partners hosting four events in three countries: the [Karuk Women’s TREX](#) in California in the fall, and [WTREX-North Carolina](#), WTREX-South Africa and WTREX-Canada in the spring.

▶ FAC Net hosts monthly calls for members to **share practices and build relationships** within the Pacific Northwest, Southwest, Central, Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and the Eastern U.S. regions. The calls have also led to follow-up support, like the ongoing **peer assists** between Ashland Fire & Rescue and the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization.

▶ Staff and partners in California provided input to help guide the state’s **Prescribed Fire Liability Claims Fund Pilot**, and helped design the standards and training for the CARX qualified burn bosses and cultural burning practitioners whose work is eligible for coverage.

▶ Four staff or Fire Networks members serve on the **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission**, representing NGOs, tribal governments, firefighters and municipal governments.

In a pilot project to provide surge capacity, TNC recruited and hired 64 employees, and deployed them—along with 43 volunteers and employees of partner organizations—on more than 50 priority prescribed fire projects across the country. © TNC



For more about PERFECT, contact Marek Smith (marek_smith@tnc.org).

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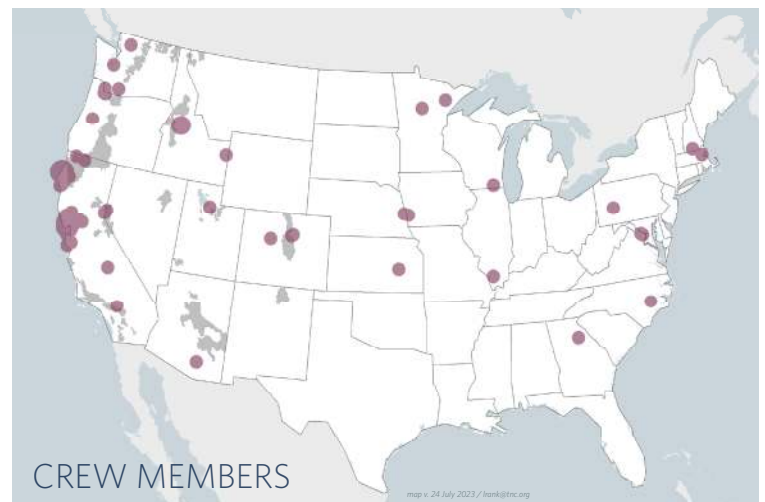
FOCUS ON BUILDING PRESCRIBED FIRE CAPACITY:

A NIMBLE MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE FIRE CAREERS

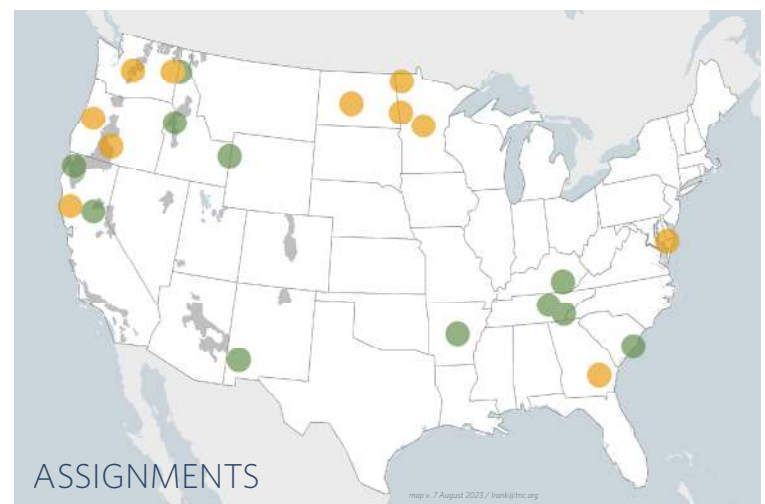
The U.S. wildland fire workforce is stretched thin—at both the institutional and personal levels. At the same time, the need to increase the use of prescribed fire has never been more acute. The challenges in staffing prescribed fire at the scale needed are numerous and varied, ranging from work schedules and conditions that place excessive demands on personnel and their families, to increasingly severe fire seasons that draw all hands from other work to support wildfire response.

A new approach is needed if we are to use prescribed fire at an adequate scale to ensure resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and safe and effective wildfire response. A dedicated prescribed fire workforce, with appropriate schedules and wages, can meet this need. Wages need to reflect the hazardous environment of the profession and the specialized skill sets required. Schedules need to be able to account for family and other personal responsibilities, as well as providing adequate time for physical and mental recovery. Such changes can make this work accessible to people of different cultures, career backgrounds, family and work responsibilities, enlarging the pool of potential practitioners. And they can create sustainable situations for firefighters and their families, thereby increasing retention of personnel who have built up the qualifications and experience needed to meet our fire future.

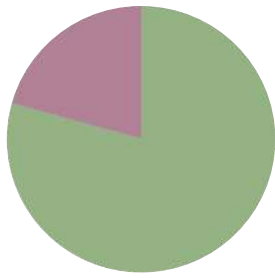
Over the last year, The Nature Conservancy's North America Fire program hired more than 60 people for various terms, and also managed a roster of contractors and volunteers. They were mobilized with attention to their scheduling and training needs in support of 50 prescribed fire projects and prescribed fire partners across the country.



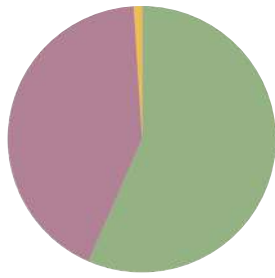
Each purple dot represents a crew member (home zip code) hired during the period of July 2022 through June 2023. (Larger dots represent two or three crew members with the same home zip code.) Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscapes in the West are in gray.



Crews supported projects based in 22 landscapes. Green dots indicate those that included work on USFS lands. Orange dots represent assignments on lands managed by The Nature Conservancy and other partners.



WILDLAND FIRE WORKFORCE



OUR CREWS

Gender: ■ Male ■ Female ■ Nonbinary

National workforce data from <https://www.zippia.com/wildland-fire-fighter-jobs/demographics/>

◀◀◀ WHO WE HIRED

A more diverse prescribed fire workforce will bring a wider range of ideas, skills and experience to the field, making it more resilient and sustainable.

Gender diversity (*left*) is one of the most apparent (and easily captured) facets of diversity. But we also work to bring in a wide range of others who have much to contribute but may not fit the typical agency firefighter mold, whether from family responsibilities, ethnicity, career background, or other social factors.

THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Our program fulfills personnel requests from programs across the country. Requests this year ranged from a single individual to a 10-person module, with a median crew size of four, and a median assignment duration of three weeks. The primary goal is to get crew members to priority places that need additional capacity to complete prescribed burns. But when weather or other factors preclude burning, crew members are either reassigned elsewhere, or engage in a wide range of actions that support the host unit's work, their own professional development, or both. ▶▶▶

When broadcast burning isn't possible, our crews—
 • construct and burn piles • install and refresh burn breaks
 • scout • snag • conduct ecological thinning for wildfire hazard reduction, invasive species removal or wildlife habitat improvement • assist with wildfire suppression or mop-up • conduct pre- or post-fire monitoring • map, using Collector or Avenza • maintain equipment, including engines, power tools, pumps, drip torches and radios • install and maintain infrastructure like trails, fences and bridges • train or complete NWCG coursework • mentor others.

LASTING IMPACT ▶▶▶

In addition to meeting current capacity needs, building a workforce for the future is an important facet of this work. Assignments are made with an eye to opportunities for progressing qualifications, and promising early-career practitioners are provided with NWCG training that qualifies them for roles burn programs urgently need.

Our employee and volunteer crew members also successfully completed the requirements for numerous positions while on assignments—
 Engine Boss (ENGB) • Firing Boss (FIRB) • Firefighter Type One (FFT1) • Incident Commander Type Five (ICT5) • Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO) • Intermediate Faller (FAL2) • Basic Faller (FAL3)

UNEXPECTED BENEFITS ▶▶▶

The network of contacts built and maintained for placing our surge capacity crew members has yielded additional benefits, including being able to fill partners' wildfire response needs with prescribed fire practitioners in need of wildfire assignments to progress their careers.

Last August on the Idaho Panhandle NF, and this July on the Gila NF, we filled requests for 10-person wildland fire modules. Hired as Forest Service AD employees, our crews provided critical wildfire response capacity—while receiving wildfire training and evaluation opportunities that are difficult for non-agency fire personnel to access.



© Holly Tuckett

◀◀◀ Faller qualifications and chainsaw skills are extremely valuable to a practitioner—and are often desired or needed by the host units requesting surge capacity. Our program provided S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws as part of assignments in Idaho and New Mexico, as well as to four tribal forestry crews. In addition, the Fire Networks partially supported a women's chainsaw course hosted by the Southern Blue Ridge PBA ([read more](#)) and a women's Trailblazers Academy hosted by TNC in Iowa ([read more](#)).

This program is supported in part by 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. For more information, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

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A presentation (left) and preparing basketry materials (center) at the 2022 annual workshop. © Robert Gotchie; Burning longleaf pine (right) at the March 2023 Emerging Programs workshop © James Miller/TNC

FOCUS ON CULTURAL BURNING:

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BURNING NETWORK LIGHTS A PATH

The Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN) is a support network that brings together Native American communities committed to revitalizing their traditional fire cultures in a contemporary context. Led by Native American elders and practitioners, the IPBN focuses on Indigenous cultural burning to honor tribal fire sovereignty and restore balance with fire.

Coming Together: 2023 National Meeting in Hoopa

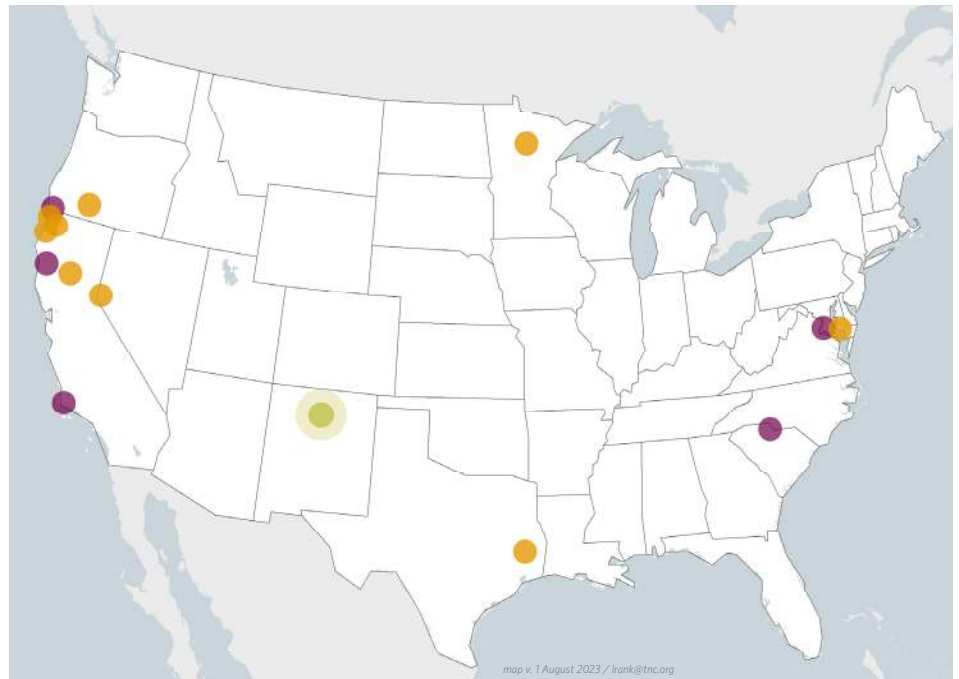
The IPBN held a national meeting hosted by the Hoopa Fire and Cultural Resources departments, where participants from various tribes and regions came together to share knowledge and experiences. Participants drafted recommendations to submit to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, gained a better understanding of Hoopa elders' perspectives on cultural burning, strengthened connections with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Reserved Treaty Rights Lands program, participated in pile burning for fuel reduction, and celebrated Hoopa elders' approval of a large project to reduce fuels on a sacred mountainside that encompasses a critical evacuation route.

In addition to this opportunity for collaboration and exchange, participants used the meeting to formally launch working groups that address specific areas of ongoing interest and concern.

Indigenous fire practitioners are engaging with the IPBN in a variety of ways.

- A team of co-leads and advisors is composed of people from the Hoopa, Karuk, Yurok and Plains Miwok tribes, The Klamath Tribes, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians.
- Ten pueblos—the Cochiti, Jemez, Laguna, Nambé, Picuris, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Clara, Taos and Tesuque—are participating in the New Mexico Tribal Fire Working Group.
- The Emerging Programs Working Group has members from the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Coastal Band of Chumash Nation, Catawba Nation and Piscataway Conoy Tribe.

Early exploratory conversations are also taking place in at least eight landscapes across the country.



Working Groups for Learning and Action

The **Emerging Programs** working group supports participants in the early stages of developing cultural burning programs within their tribes or organizations. Coached by Margo Robbins (Yurok) and Gesse Bullock (Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas), members receive guidance on program design, fire equipment, fire-dependent cultural resources, and federal funding sources. Participants gathered at a March 2023 workshop hosted by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, an event that included hands-on experience conducting a controlled burn for culturally significant longleaf pine.

An **Intergenerational Learning and Training** working group is just getting started. It will focus on connecting elders and youth in Indigenous communities to support the transfer of cultural knowledge and prepare the next generation of cultural fire practitioners. The group will also connect participants with opportunities for federal fire training when requested.

Members of the **National Scope** working group share interests in working with federal and state agencies to elevate Indigenous cultural burning. Participants are often involved in federal fire initiatives in their homelands, such as the BIA Reserved Treaty Rights Lands program or USDA Forest Service Tribal Forest Protection Act projects. While neither the National Scope working group nor the IPBN conducts lobbying, participants exchange information about state and national committees on which they serve, interactions with upper-level government officials, ongoing policy discussions and government funding programs that could support Indigenous cultural burning.

The **Communications** working group assists Native American communities that want to share their stories about revitalizing their fire cultures with various media outlets. An important emphasis is working with reporters, photographers, documentarians and radio hosts to improve their understanding of Indigenous Peoples' intellectual property rights and the practice of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.



© Stormy Staats/Karuk Tribe

In the early autumn of 2022, the first Women-in-Fire TRENCH (WTRENCH) for Indigenous women was hosted in Karuk ancestral territory in what is now northern California.

Read more: A *High Country News* [article](#) asked “What if Indigenous Women Ran Controlled Burns?” and the *Washington Post* published a [video](#) “California Needs to Burn. Native Women Are Leading the Way.”

Non-Indigenous Partners for Indigenous Burning

The IPBN actively engages with non-Indigenous partners who seek to develop equitable fire partnerships with Native American tribal nations. The Beginners Working Group, initiated by TNC land managers and Mary Huffman, provides a platform for non-Indigenous participants to learn about US history, deepen their understanding of tribes, and build relationships. Through these efforts, 59 non-Indigenous participants from the Fire Networks and TNC have gained insights into tribal partnerships and federal funding programs relevant to tribes.

LEARN MORE

Indigenous Peoples Burning Network:

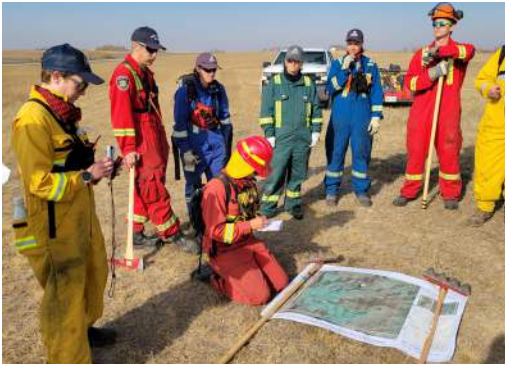
<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/Pages/IPBN.aspx>

Free, Prior and Informed Consent:

<https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/fpic/en/>

The Indigenous Peoples Burning Network is supported by 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, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

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FOCUS ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE:

MAKING SPACE FOR EVERYONE IN WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

Why DEI?

Diversity, equity, inclusion and justice are all big concepts on their own, let alone in combination. But the interest and vital need for exploring ideas, processes and the meaning of DEI in the wildfire resilience community has grown rapidly over the past several years. Living with fire requires partnership, trust and action. So the Fire Networks are centering DEI principles to address inequities and make space for all people in wildfire resilience work.

Reflecting the complexity of these topics, DEI projects look very different across our networks. Throughout the country, community leaders are tackling a huge variety of projects that empower and encourage all members of their communities to participate in fire adaptation. This looks like everything from developing evacuation plans tailored to aging populations to advocating for cultural fire, from translating preparedness materials into multiple languages to running cost share programs, and from supporting technology access for disabled agricultural workers to continue burning on their land to developing programs to reach the unhoused. The common thread among these projects is their support for whole community participation in fire adaptation—however different the composition of community is from place to place.

To support these local efforts, the Fire Networks seek to create safe spaces for practitioners to explore different conceptions of DEI in their work. This is driven by the understanding that being resilient to wildfire requires all of us. It is critical to expand and foster the whole spectrum of our human communities to engage safely and productively with fire as a partner.

The Fire Networks have been providing members with DEI offerings for years—through sessions at national

workshops and TRES events, online training courses, and learning groups such as the Beginners' Working Groups for those preparing to work with Indigenous partners. And in the past year FAC Net in particular has been able to leverage this, and with additional support from a private donor, expand and systematically improve our collective DEI work.

Internal Practices ...

To make efforts as impactful as possible in 2023, FAC Net staff approached this work from two angles. We have both offered additional member training and coaching, and participated in a network analysis and action plan to better incorporate DEI practices in FAC Net processes.

Training and Coaching

Members had asked for a foundational DEI series, as well as support in working with different types of communities. So in a series of virtual workshops, 28 Fire Networks members and partners explored their individual relationships to DEI work by co-creating definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice; discussing implicit biases; and building personalized DEI action plans. The participants came from nine states across the U.S. and worked for a variety of nonprofits, fire departments, local government agencies and conservation associations. Their work is already breaking down silos and translating DEI principles from individual to organizational levels. In their evaluations of this series, participants reflected that DEI is not a state of mind, or a journey, but a practice—one that requires both reflection and sustained action. And through these workshops, participants were able to deepen their practice by creating a safe space for each other and establishing a peer support network.

To support working with different types of communities, we also offered Fire Networks members a variety of skill-building opportunities for working with access and functional needs populations. These workshops addressed topics in equitable communication practices and inclusive disaster preparedness, and offered a variety of tools and materials that support disability rights during wildfires and other hazard events. These sessions were recorded and shared through the FAC Circular newsletter list of nearly 2,000 wildfire resilience practitioners, expanding their potential impact.

“I really appreciated the definition of psychological safety as ‘permission for candor’ and have brought that concept forward in a few different spaces. A broader takeaway was the idea of DEI as a practice rather than a journey, which helps to mitigate the idea that any person is more advanced or further behind than someone else.”

Network Processes

Through the evaluation of our network structure, we are identifying ways to holistically expand DEI capacity, action and impact. A diverse visioning committee of network members and DEI experts completed a DEI Action Plan for more inclusive network operations; identified 14 organizations that can serve as partners to further DEI work at FAC Net; reviewed the FAC Net website to evaluate ease of use and disability and language access; and described 23 grant opportunities that could support FAC Net and its members in further advancing their DEI work. The committee’s work built a solid foundation that will continue to support and expand the incorporation of DEI principles throughout the network.

... That Transform External Process

Our efforts to support members’ DEI work and also explore internal structural change to our network have highlighted many gaps that exist between wildfire adaptation and DEI principles. Though challenging, member projects and network commitments are spanning critical divides between these two areas, which will support necessary systems change. Working from individual to network scales, we are both seeding and modeling ways to functionally increase the depth of DEI programming and implementation within the wildfire space. Practitioners are gaining critical skills to stand up as DEI allies, and to incorporate principles of equity throughout their work.

We are striving to serve as a model to members and partners by fostering a more inclusive and accessible

network culture and creating a learning environment for staff, members and partners to continue diversifying our network and network impacts. DEI efforts are helping us build resilience across the entire spectrum of our communities, partnerships and networks. This work pushes us to not only support new opportunities for our members, but also to see equity as a powerful tool for building new coalitions, creating innovative projects, and promoting not only deeper forms of landscape stewardship, but also deepening our community and stewardship of relations with one another.

AROUND THE FIRE NETWORKS

In addition to the work highlighted here, staff and members across the Fire Networks have been bringing DEI concerns to the fore in a variety of ways, including:

- ▶ The staff member who facilitates the work of the Indigenous Peoples’ Burning Network also leads several cohorts of Beginners’ Working Groups aimed at guiding non-Indigenous practitioners preparing to equitably work with tribes in their landscapes.
- ▶ This spring the Fire Networks staff as a whole began a process to codify and commit to acting more intentionally in ways that incorporate DEI values. Now with a shared vision, staff will commit to specific actions and accountability processes by summer’s end.
- ▶ Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges continue to strive to serve a body of practitioners that is more diverse than the field as a whole. In 2022, for example, about 35% of TRES participants were women, compared to about 15% in the federal fire workforce. TRES participants are also exposed to practices such as active bystander training.

The Fire Networks are supported by the Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together (PERFACT) cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

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Click on photos to see the blog posts (from left): "Farming Through Wildfire Season: The Key Role of Farmers in Building Wildfire Resilience," "Ground Truth: The Limits of Scale" and "Common Ground, Neighborhood Networks, and How Preparing for Wildfire Brings Us Together."

FOCUS ON ONLINE RESOURCES:

SHARING IDEAS, CONNECTING PEOPLE

The Fire Networks recognize the importance of communicating about our work so that others can have access to the resources, success stories, lessons learned, and inspirational ideas that come out of the projects we support. We engage with audiences through a portfolio of online platforms—some of which have a long history, others that are new and emerging.

New: FAC Pathways Tool

Over the last decade, staff and members of the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network have identified, developed, refined and shared numerous tools to help communities work toward living better with fire. In recent years, efforts also have turned to new ways to conceptualize what it means to be fire adapted, and how various tools fit into that. For example, the [FAC Graphic](#) was originally published in 2019, highlighting eight thematic areas, and updated to ten areas in 2021. This—along with the research work of Travis Paveglio on community "archetypes"—formed the foundation of the Fire Adapted Communities Pathways Tool launched in 2022.

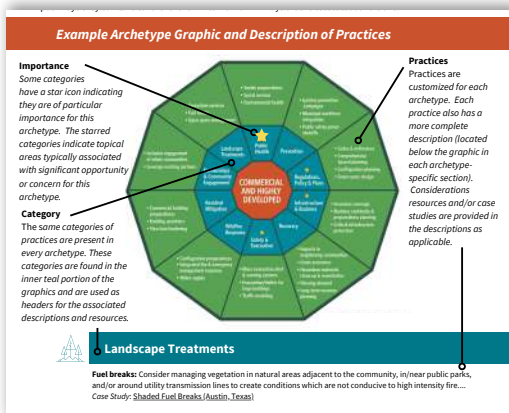
The [FAC Pathways Tool](#) helps community-based wildfire resilience practitioners articulate action plans and priorities to advance their community's wildfire resilience. Users identify their community's unique archetype (for example, "High Resource, High Amenity" or "Rural Lifestyle"), and are then guided to select from the array of possible FAC tools and actions depending on the needs and makeup of the area.



people have downloaded the **FAC Pathways Tool** to explore wildfire preparedness in their communities this year.

What Are the Fire Networks?

Four networks—Fire Learning Network (FLN, since 2002), Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES, 2008), Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net, 2013), Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN, 2016)—and a body of related work bring people together to collectively identify and meet our wildfire challenges. Together they are supported by 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.



◀ The FAC Pathways Tool guides users through a five-step process, from identifying their community and determining its archetype through setting out action steps. Download the tool at <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/resources/fac-pathways-tool/>

2,900

readers receive the **FAC Net blog** in their inbox each week. Numerous others access the blog on the website or through a forwarded link.

16,000

followers get Fire Networks updates and information on one of our many Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter **social media** channels.

1,460

subscribers receive the **Networker** every three weeks.

2,100

subscribers receive the **FAC Circular** every month.

Websites

The Fire Networks are currently designing a new website that will serve as the online gateway to the four networks—FLN, FAC Net, IPBN and TRES—which currently have materials in several places, to highlight the close relationships among them. FireNetworks.org will include an introduction to each network, as well as shared pages for resources, news and events. The site will be visually compatible with FAC Net’s current [FireAdaptedNetwork.org](https://www.fireadaptednetwork.org), and will link to it. The new website will launch in the fall.

FAC Net staff also relaunched [FireAdapted.org](https://www.fireadapted.org) in 2022, a site previously managed by the FAC Coalition, as a resource hub for fire practitioners and community members. This website is intended to be an ever-growing asset for fire adaptation materials from a wide range of practitioners and sources.

Blog

FAC Net has stewarded the [FAC Net Blog](https://www.fireadapted.org/blog), a weekly publication featuring stories from fire practitioners, since 2014. With the launch of the new FireNetworks.org in fall 2023, the blog will transition to being the Fire Networks Blog. While authors from all of the Fire Networks have had a place on the blog since the beginning, in this new iteration, the full breadth of voices from across all of the Fire Networks will be heard from as we aim to embrace the importance of storytelling as a core value of the Fire Networks.

Over the past year, blog authors from around the country and world have contributed stories that inspire readers to act, reflect, reconsider and adapt—from Eric O’Connor (FAC Net member) “[Burn Small, Burn Often: Introducing Practical Prescribed Fire Into Your Community](#)” to Gloria Erickson (FAC Net member, FLN and IPBN partner) “[Who’s Your Hero? Finding Community Leaders in Fire-Adapted Northeastern Minnesota](#)” to Liz Davy (FAC Net and FLN member) “[Tips for Creating Consistent Messaging About Fire.](#)”

Social Media

The Fire Networks use several social media channels to share content, connect with partner accounts, and engage with audiences. Informally, [TRES](#) and [WTRES](#) (Women-in-Fire TRES) have a Facebook presence to announce events and share updates and photos, as do some individual TRES, such as the [Karuk Women’s TRES](#). FAC Net maintains accounts with [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#) to notify followers about new content from the weekly blog or monthly newsletter, as part of a broader communications strategy.

Newsletters

For those who prefer news and resources delivered to their inboxes, the Fire Networks offer two newsletters. The *FAC Circular* offers a monthly set of stories and resources on a particular FAC theme ([subscribe](#)). The *Networker* provides a selection of news, resources, articles, events and job postings for network members and practitioners across a wide range of fire-related disciplines every three weeks ([subscribe](#)).

These resources are supported by the Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Marek Smith at marek_smith@tnc.org.

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