

# Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX)

## A Cooperative Burning and Collaborative Fire Training Program

**Jeremy Bailey**  
**Fire Learning Network**  
**The Nature Conservancy**

Bald Hills Controlled Burn, Redwood National Park (October 2013)



# The Nature Conservancy— a leader in prescribed fire

- Lead burns on TNC lands
- Lead burns on lands of others
- Hire others to lead our burns
- Develop, and assist others to develop,
  - burn plans
  - fire management plans
  - strategic conservation plans
- Study and document fire's role
- Lead multi-party monitoring
- Collaborate with partners and neighbors
- Scale-up and make greater impacts



Whiskeytown NRA 2013

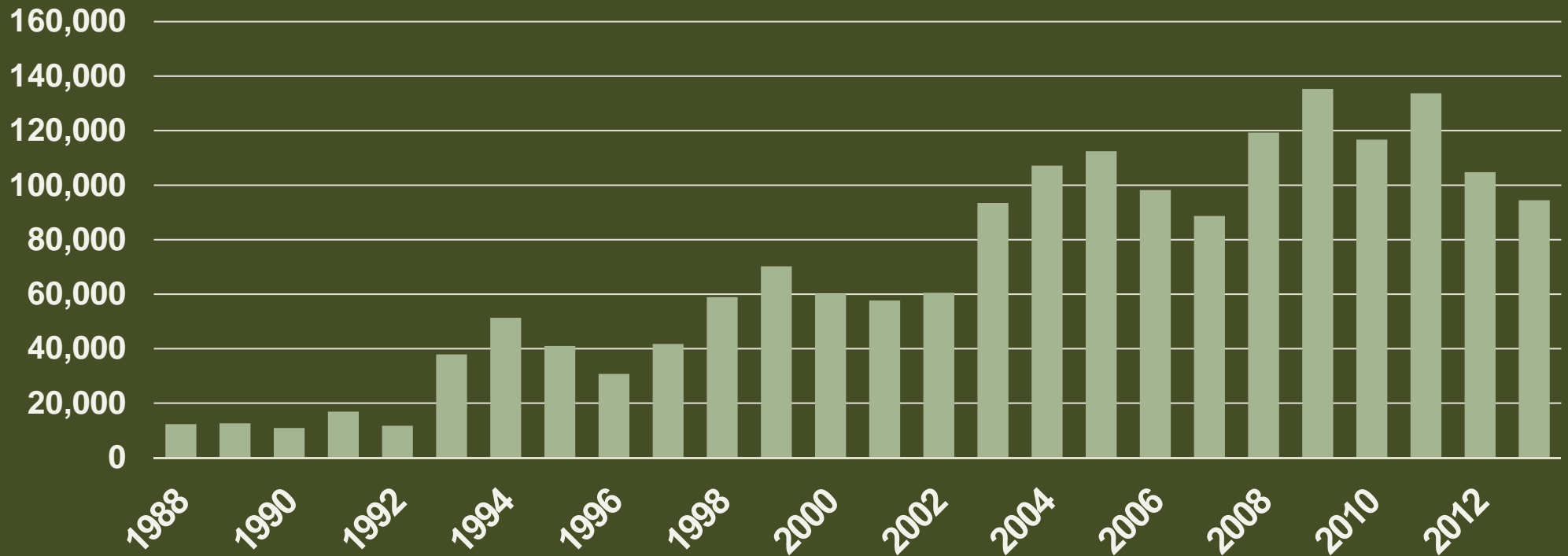


**In 2013:**

**80,000 acres** of prescribed fire on TNC lands  
helped neighbors burn an additional **150,000 acres**



## Prescribed Fire Acres Burned by TNC 1988-2013



# Outstanding support from partners and neighbors



The Nature Conservancy the Forest Service and Department of the Interior agencies have helped guide the **Fire Learning Network** and promote the collaborative process.



# REPORTED BARRIERS to prescribed fire

**capacity**  
**weather**  
**resources**  
**permitting / legal concerns**

(Melvin 2012)

**narrow burn windows**  
**regulations**  
**lack of adequate personnel**  
**environmental laws**

(Quinn-Davidson, Varner 2011)

**capacity**  
**liability / insurance**  
**air quality / smoke**  
**Weather**

(Melvin 2012)

# **OTHER BARRIERS**

## **we hear and know about**

- **not enough qualified staff during appropriate burn windows**
- **lack of local community support**
- **local, state and federal regulatory and administrative procedures**
- **funding**
- **local partnerships not a priority**

# Cooperative Training Aligns with the Cohesive Strategy



Loup River, Nebraska, April 2011



Loup River, Nebraska, one month earlier





Loup River, Nebraska, April 2011



Loup River, Nebraska, April 2011



Niobrara River, Nebraska, March 2013

**Many landscapes that need fire lack local capacity to conduct burns efficiently.**

Hosting 10-45 people for a training exchange can be daunting, but by sharing the host's duties among neighbors, significant amounts of prescribed fire can be completed.



**integration of stakeholders**

**hands-on learning**

**learning goes both ways**

**preparation for complex fire environment**

**flexibility**



Lenya Quinn-Davidson









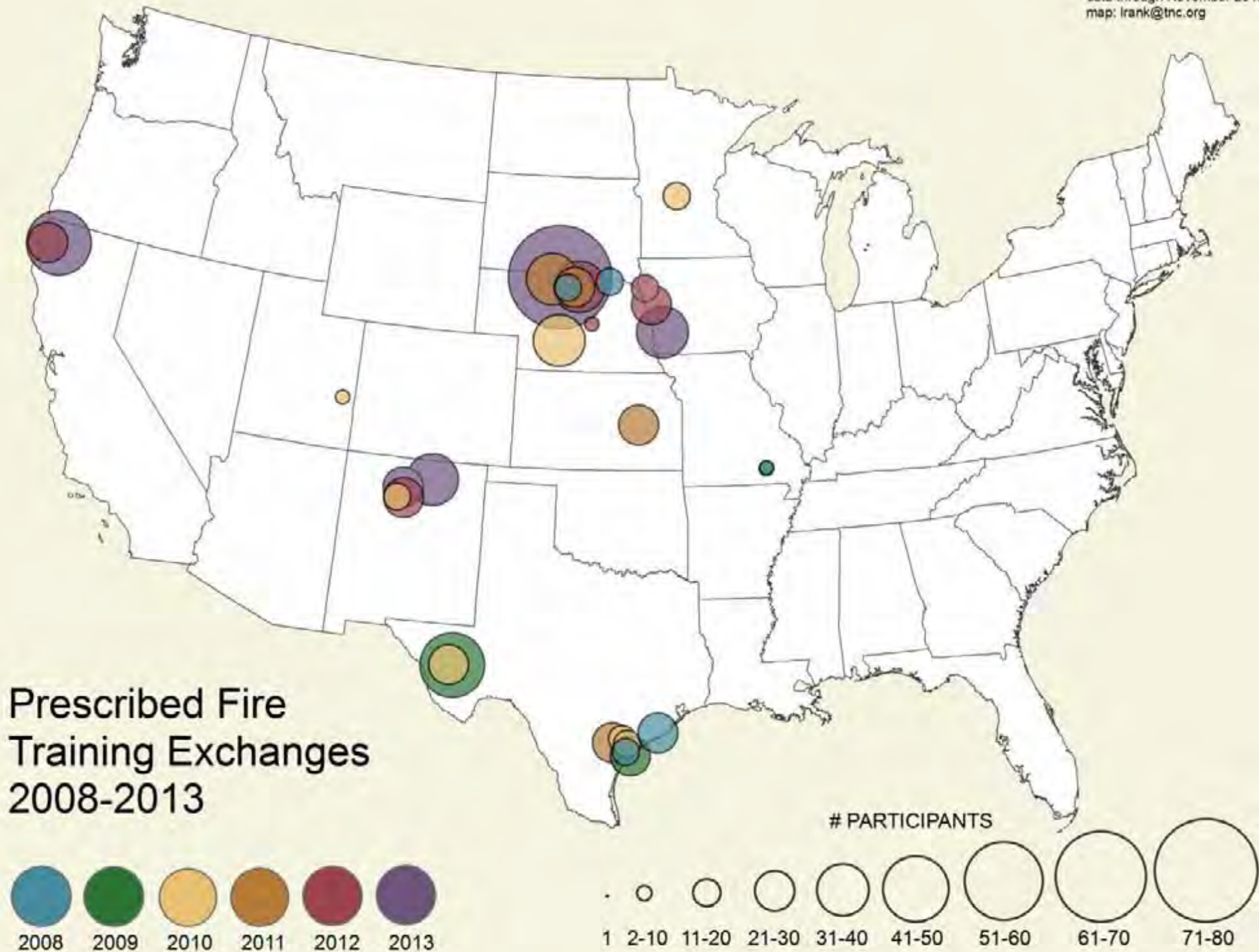


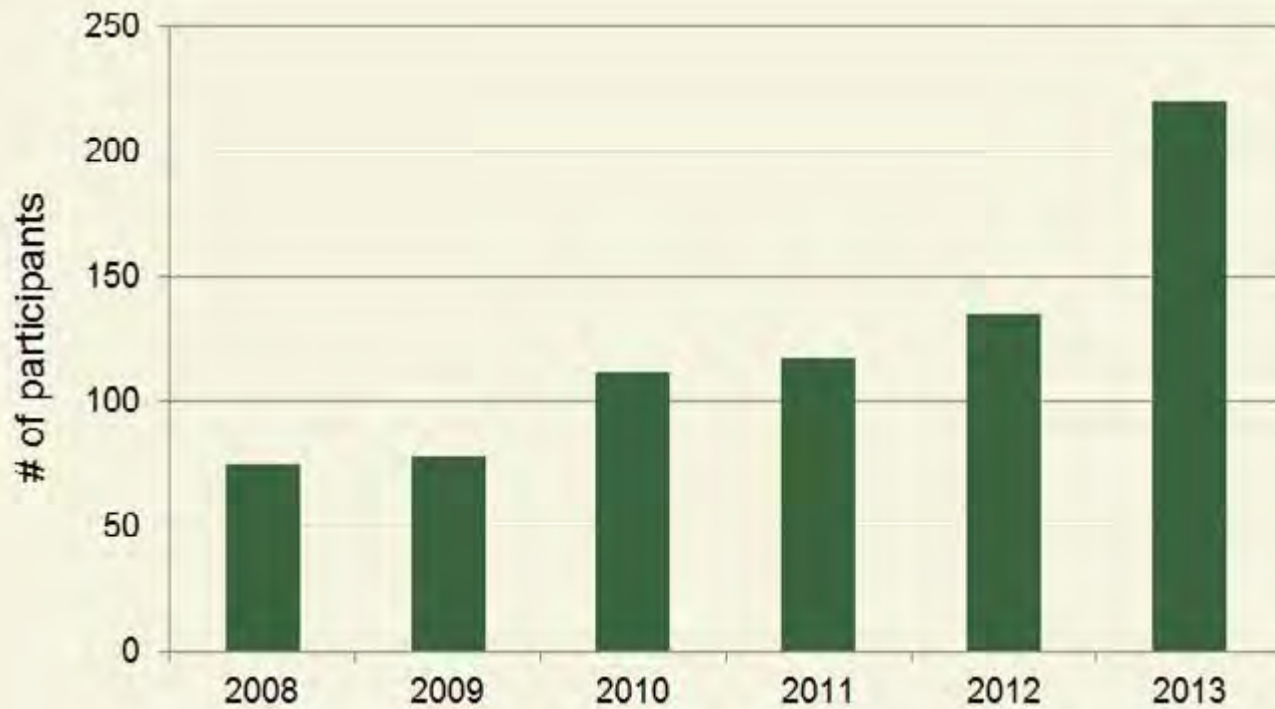
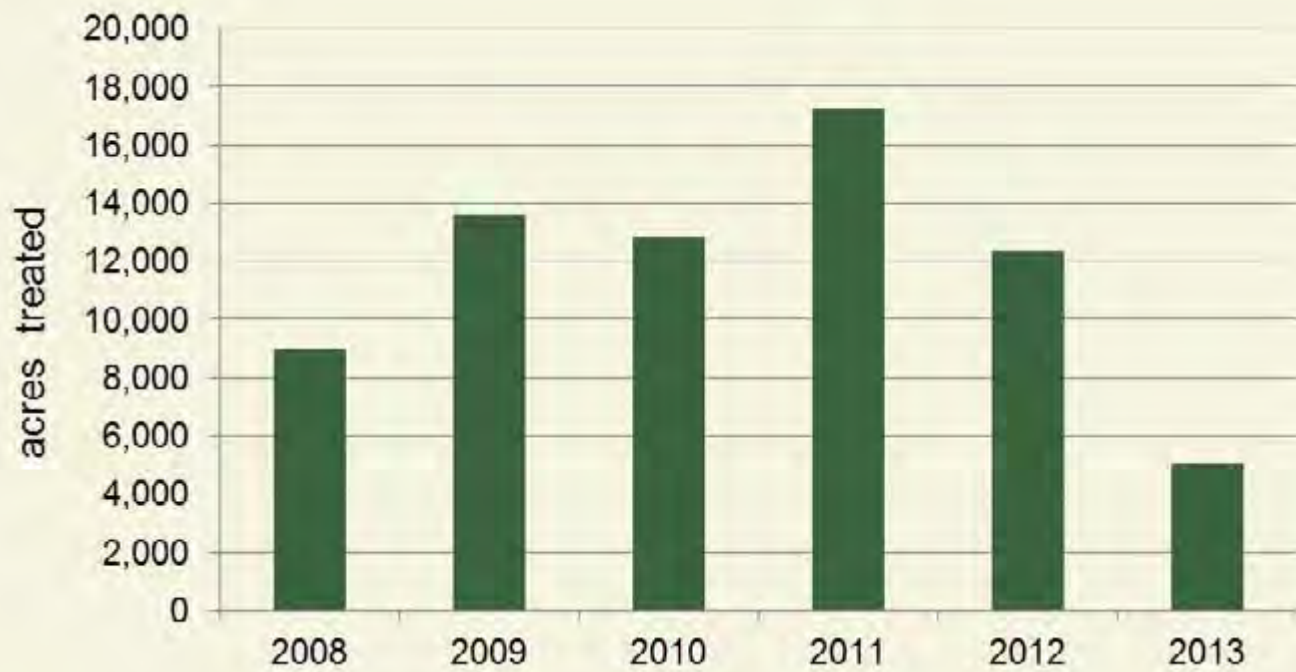
**Building a Network**  
Relationships made on the fireline build a more connected community, which leads to further opportunities for joint work.



**Mixing people from numerous places and organizations brings diverse experiences and perspectives to the work at hand.**

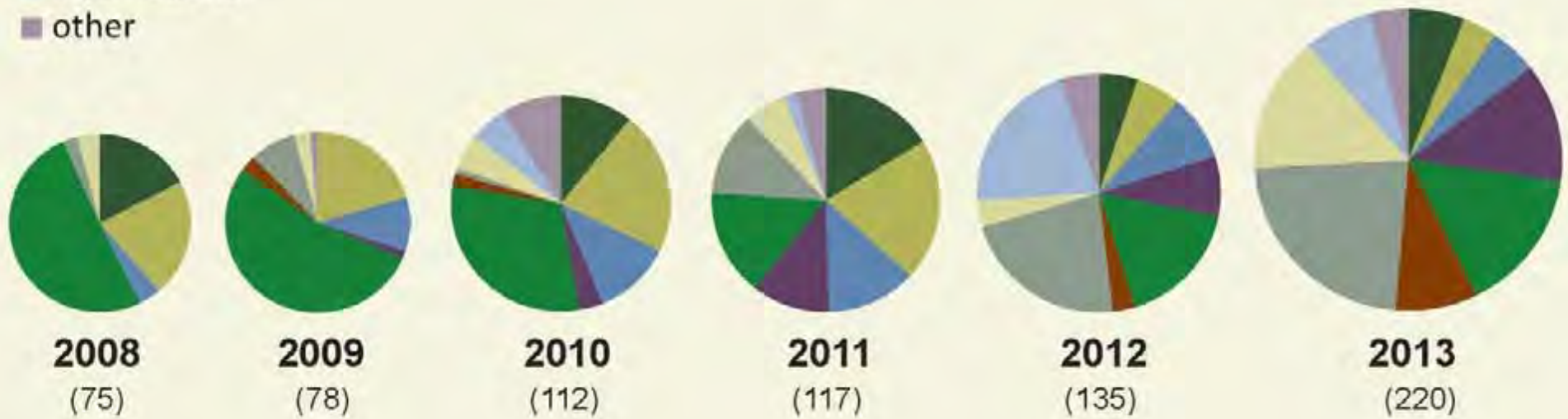
Those who come from afar are of course exposed to new landscapes and methods—but hosts and cadre also gain insights by discussing what is familiar to them with people from sometimes vastly different backgrounds, and fresh eyes.





# Organizational Affiliations of Training Exchange Participants

- Forest Service
- Dept of the Interior
- state government
- local governments
- TNC
- other NGOs
- educational inst
- private
- international
- other



**Day 0:** The day before the participants arrive, the burn bosses and burn boss trainees arrive for initial scouting and planning.



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**Day 1:** Scientists, managers and land owners give presentations on local ecology and socio-economic impacts of fire.



**Day 2:** An afternoon field trip introduces local fire effects.



**Day 2:** Briefings take place in the morning and evening.



## Day 2: Modules are formed.



**Day 2:** Modules are formed and crews practice on the new equipment.



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## Day 2: Scout the burn units.



**Day 2:** Briefings take place in the morning and evening.





**Meanwhile:** Manage other logistics, including meals and lodging.





... and build a team.

**Day 2 or 3:** Conduct a test fire.



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**Day 2 or 3:**

. . . and discuss the results.



**Day 3 and 4:** Begin burning larger more complex burn units.



**Day 4 through 14:** Spend the remaining time of the assignment burning ever more complex and larger units





**Meanwhile:** Ensure time for documentation.



Eamon Engber

**Know your  
agency  
guidelines and  
standards,**

and work with your  
attorneys and grants  
specialists.

Use volunteer  
waivers, MOUs and  
cooperative  
agreements.



# **TNC Documents that Support TREX**

- **Memo from October 13, 2009 Conflict and Private Benefit Issues for Prescribed Burns on Private Lands**
- **Disclaimer for training documents**
- **Fire Checklist**
- **Guidance on TNC Participation in Fire Trainings**
- **Fire Training Release Agreement**
- **Permission and Waivers to Burn on Private Land**
- **Conflicts Guidance for Volunteer & Paid Work by Fire Staff**
- **Release of liability for prescribed burn observer**
- **Release of liability for volunteer wildland firefighter**

**Integrate local resources,**  
and provide  
required training.



**Include local  
land owners and  
neighbors.**



# Organize, lead and follow using the ICS.

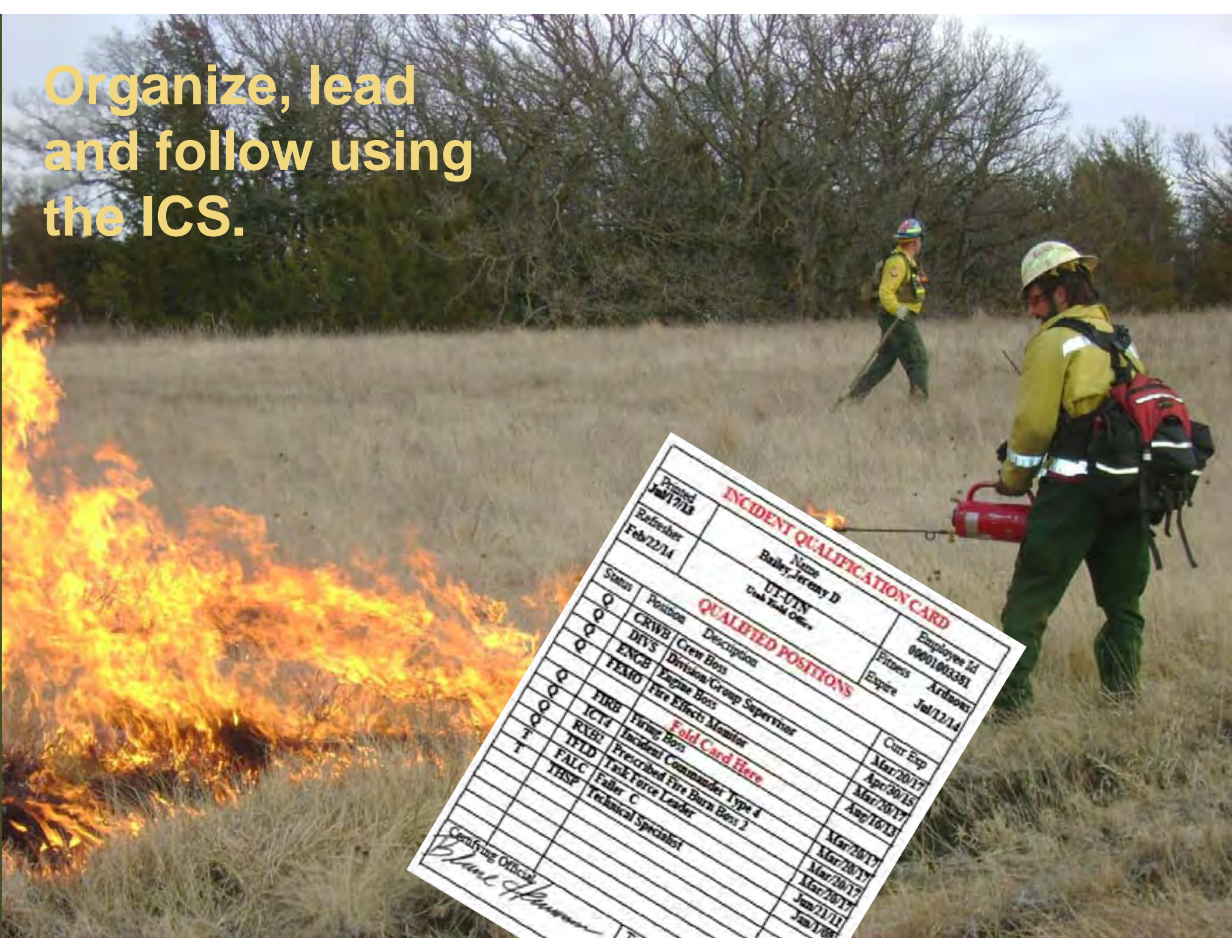
Use Plans Section Chiefs and Training Officers.

Develop an Incident Action Plan Daily.





Organize, lead and follow using the ICS.



INCIDENT QUALIFICATION CARD		
Printed Jan/17/18	Name Bailey, Jeremy D	Employee Id 0001003381
Refresher Feb/22/14	UT-UTN Club Field Office	Fitness Arduous
QUALIFIED POSITIONS		Expire Jul/12/14
Status	Position	Description
Q	CRWB	Crew Boss
Q	DIYS	Division Group Supervisor
Q	ENGB	Engine Boss
Q	FEAO	Fire Effects Monitor
Q	FRB	Firing Boss
Q	ICT4	Incident Commander Type 4
Q	RXB2	Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 2
T	IFLD	Trail Force Leader
T	FALC	Trailer C
T	THSP	Technical Specialist
Certifying Official <i>Blaine Harrison</i>		Curr Exp Mar/20/17 Apr/30/15 Mar/20/17 Aug/16/13 Mar/20/17 Mar/20/17 Mar/20/17 Mar/20/17 Jun/23/13 Jan/1/08



# Promote good fire.

Train with key messages and practice with your firefighters.



# Promote good fire.

Train with key messages and practice with your firefighters.



# Promote good fire.

Invite the media and show them a good time.



# Have a cache of equipment available

for participants  
who do not have  
their own.



**Weather happens.**

Have contingency plans.





# Aha! Moments

- Use **legal agreements**
- **Share** resources
- Have an **entire organization mobilized** every day ready to burn
- Use **T3 team** or similar
- Emphasize **learning**
- Engage with **media and VIPs**
- **Reach out** to neighbors and local communities



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The Nature Conservancy

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*An equal opportunity provider.*