



Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Fire Training Exchanges Spread Like Wildfire

The Nature Conservancy

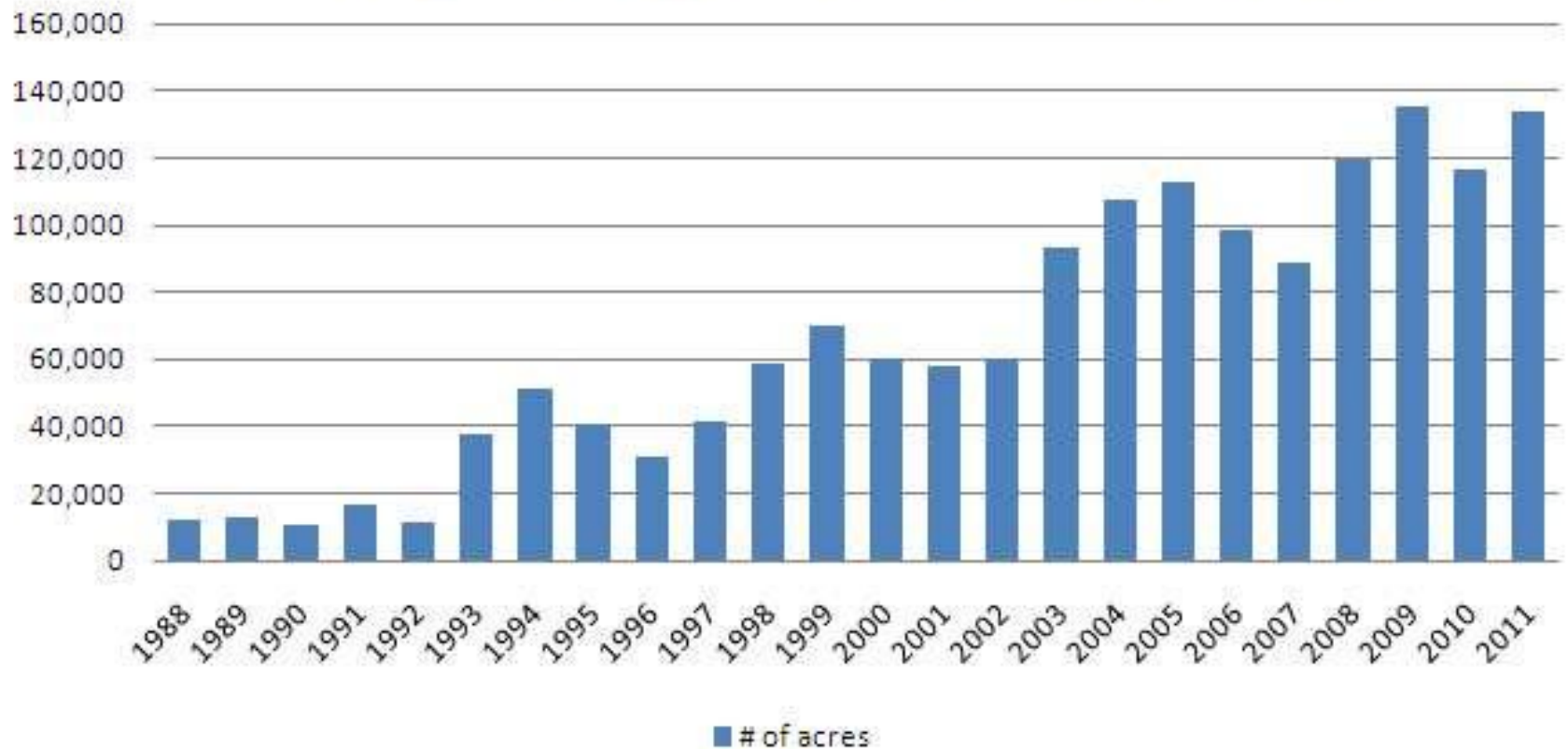


Background in Fire

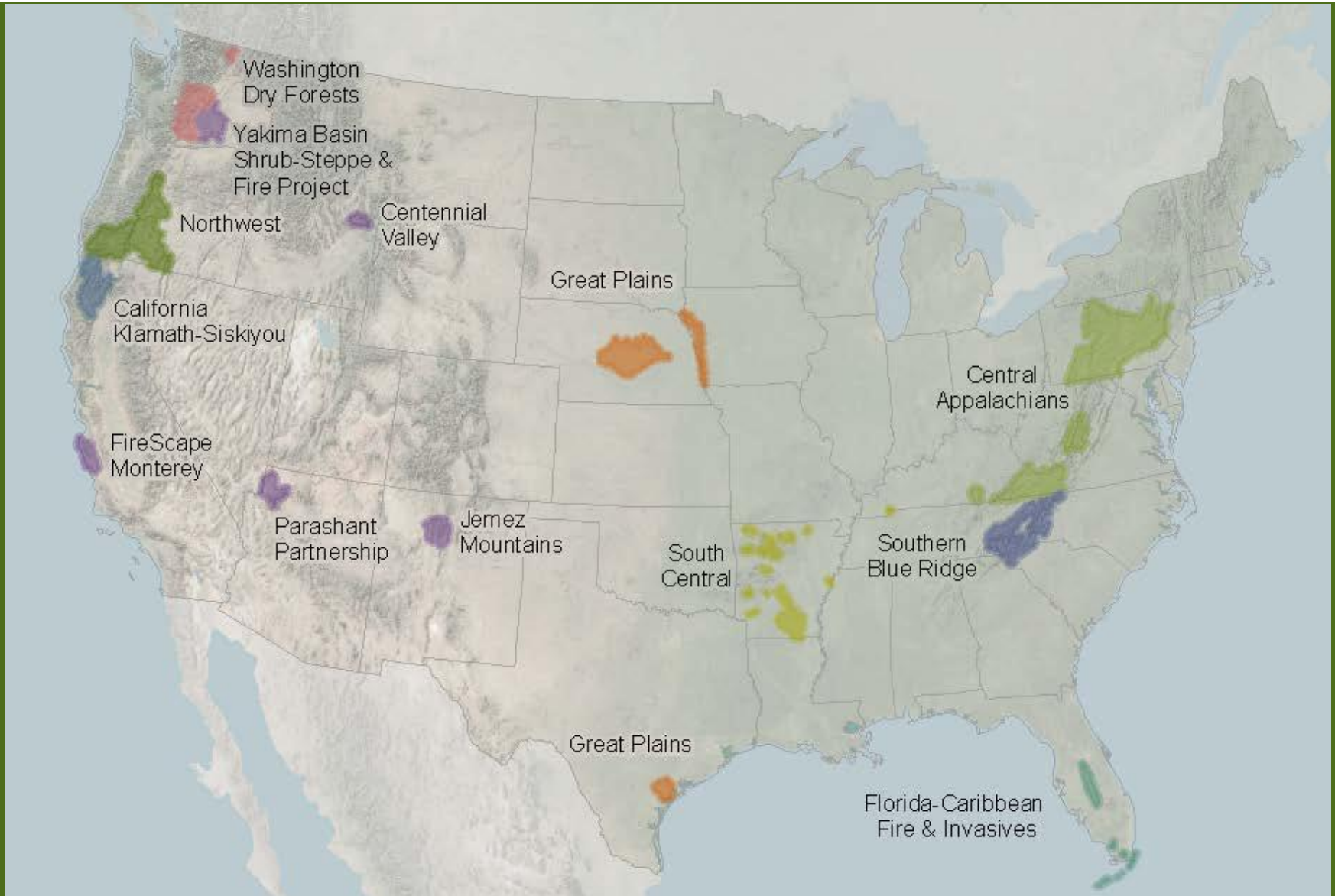
- Using Rx fire for 51 years
- Our fire programs are organized around state chapters
- Adopted the NWCQ standards in the early 2000's
- Partner with state and federal agencies, private industry, other NGOs and private land owners

The Nature Conservancy

Prescribed Fire Acres Burned by TNC 1988-2011



Fire Learning Network



Fire Learning Network

This program is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. *An equal opportunity provider*



Scaling up

To increase the acreage
treated with fire ...

Need:

Increased prescribed fire training
and experience among practitioners

Increased availability of fire trained
staff

More opportunities to demonstrate
competencies on wildfire
assignments



Scaling up

Partners:

Private land owners
Conservation organizations
Federal land management agencies
State land management agencies
Volunteer fire departments
Universities
County conservation boards
Sheriff offices
Spanish foundations
Canadian wildfire IA crew
Contractors



Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges



- Mobilize taskforce
- Orient to state laws, ecology, equipment and local prescribed fire culture
- Develop crew cohesion
- Emphasis on trainees
- Complete burns—start small, increase complexity

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

- Schedule burns for every day
- Let trainees practice
- Prep, scout, burn, monitor, document, hold, mop-up, patrol, secure & extinguish



Simultaneously fill several needs



- Professional credentials
- Provide broad perspective
- Build private capacity
- Complete large, complex burns

Over the Last 5 years

Burning and learning together over the last 5 years has resulted in:

- 68,000 acres of prescribed fire
- 435 participants
- 45 burn boss trainees and 112 single-resource boss trainees from across the country gain experience and evaluations needed for professional advancement



Bring people into the fold



- Integrate private, county, state and federal fire practitioners
- Partner with universities
- Local participants develop skills and abilities they can use after we leave
- Basic fireline safety courses (S-130/190)

Lessons Learned



- Burning with your neighbors can multiply capacity
- Landscapes that need fire also need people who use fire
- No shortcuts: prescribed fire requires time and effort
- Qualified staff take years to develop—so share with others
- Show up, even if you have other priorities

Lessons Learned



- Use local/national agreements
- Empower non-traditional partners
- Use self-study, crosswalk tools
- Two-week duration works well

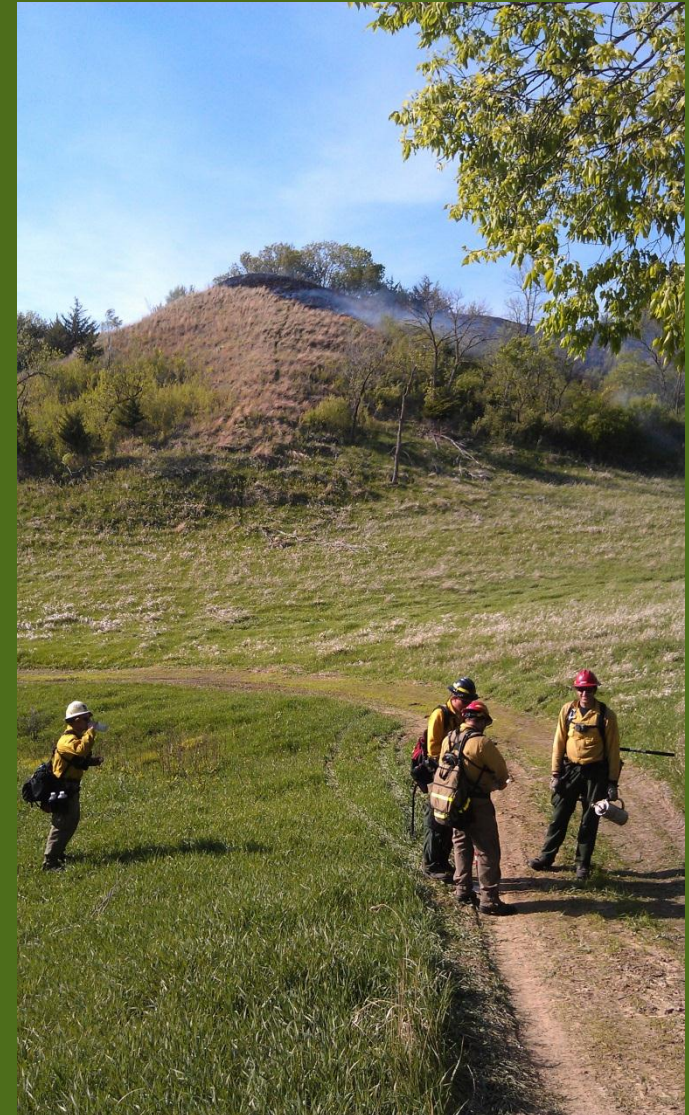


- Dedicate staff to fire duty during burn windows
- Focus on the training
- Keep at it



Different backgrounds, fresh eyes

- Numerous places and organizations bring diverse experiences and perspectives



Partnerships built during an exchange

- Partnerships built through prescribed fire training exchanges have enabled 25 Conservancy staff to serve as





2013 Training Exchanges

April 3-14th 2013:
Loess Hills, Western Iowa

September 2013
New Mexico



October 2013 : California



Find out more

https://www.conservationgateway.org/Announcements/Pages/Loess_Hills_TREX_2013.aspx

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tallgrass-Prairie-and-Oak-Savanna-Fire-Science-Consortium/352074871525492>

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