

MAR

2022

ADDRESSING EASTERN REDCEDAR IN THE SANDHILLS

TNC BURNING UPDATES



THIS WORK IS POSSIBLE DUE TO THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS:





TRAININGS

The team co-hosted a prescribed fire training with Turner Ranches at Fawn Lake ranch. There were 16 participants and 10 coaches. After a morning of presentations, the participants and coaches burned 30 acres. Many that attended were neighboring landowners. One landowner said he felt a lot more confident about burning after the coaching he received on the fire line.

Chad, Kate, Ashley, and Eric attended the Loup Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) hosted by Pheasants Forever. This year the training event planned several prescribed burns in the Sandhills of Wheeler County. Ongoing drought in the area created less than ideal conditions for safely completing the burns. The event refocused efforts in Valley County.

On March 17th, the Fire Team along with folks from NEGPC, Niobrara Valley PBA and Bassett Fire Department completed the annual physical fitness test (pack test). This test completing a 2-3-mile walk while carrying a 25-45 lb. pack under.

LANDOWNER VISITS

Chad and Bob Broweleit visited a landowner near Dunning to look at a prescribed burn project. After touring the site and talking about the options the landowner decided to spend a year cutting trees and resting the pasture to get ready for a Spring 2023 burn. Ashley checked on fire breaks completed by landowners and helped with some mowing for a project along Moon Lake Road in Brown County. We're all spending a lot of time on the phone coordinating burn plans and trying to find a window to get burns completed this spring.





PREScribed BURNS

After consulting the UNL Barta Brothers management team on burn writing earlier this year, we got to assist them on the first burn in over a decade at the ranch. The burn was around 150 acres. Agencies present included UNL Extension, UNL's Center for Resilience in Agricultural Working Landscapes (CRAWL), Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska Forest Service, Ainsworth VFD, UNL's West Central Research & Extension, and UNL's Panhandle Research & Extension Center. There were a total of 27 participants either on the burn line or as support staff. Eight of the participants had never been on a prescribed burn before so we had coaches assisting them on the line.

Some members of our team assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge with a 265 acre prescribed burn.

MEET THE NEW FIRE TECHNICIANS

Originally from Oregon, Kate Nootenboom fell in love with prairies and grasslands while attending college in Minnesota. She has spent the last year as a Hubbard Fellow with the Nature Conservancy and looks forward to spending more time in the Nebraska Sandhills and assisting landowners with prescribed fire.

Eric Behrens is originally from northwest Iowa and has previously worked with the Nature Conservancy in the Dakotas and Minnesota. He's worked as a conservation fellow, assistant land steward, and a grassland monitoring supervisor. He's looking forward to learning more about prescribed fire and improving his skills.

This month, the technicians have done a week of training specifically geared towards fire equipment and expectations on the fireline, as well as assisting with prescribed burns, workshops, and the Loup TREX.



THIS MONTH IN NUMBERS

BURNS
COMPLETED

3

PARTICIPANTS
TRAINED

24

TRAININGS

2

ACRES BURNED

445



UPCOMING EVENTS

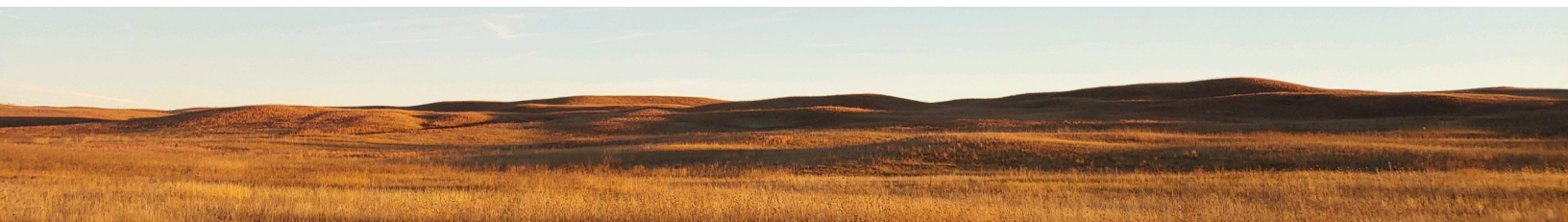
Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX):

Loup TREX: **March 20-April 2**

Niobrara Valley TREX: **September 25-October 9**
(Approximate dates)

Prescribed Fire Workshops:

Prescribed Fire Workshops: **June-September**
(Dates TBD, but likely one every month)



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