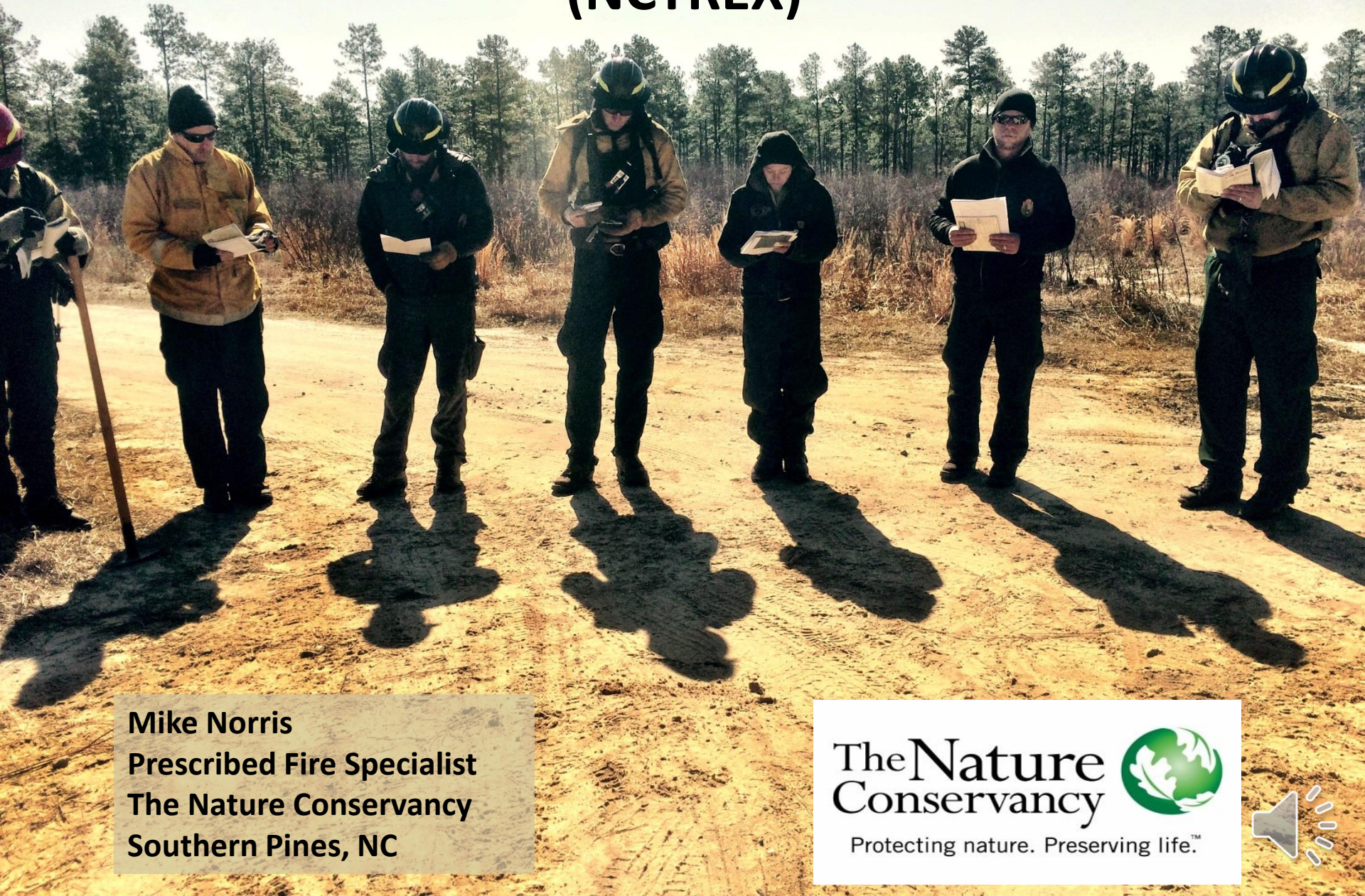


# North Carolina Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (NCTREX)



**Mike Norris**  
**Prescribed Fire Specialist**  
**The Nature Conservancy**  
**Southern Pines, NC**

**The Nature  
Conservancy**



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™





# What is TREX??

- Hands-on fire training
- Learning for all participants
- Controlled burns
- Curriculum focused on:
  - Fire safety
  - Local tactics
  - Management opportunities and challenges
  - Fire effects
  - Media training

Photo: Gretchen Coll



# TREX History

- Started in 2008
- 80+ TREXs completed
- 7 TREXs planned for 2015
- Controlled burns completed in 10+ states
- More than 90,000 acres burned
- Over 1,000 trainees have participated
- Expanded fuel diversity and complexity: grasslands, western forests, WUI and eastern forests

Photo: Adam Warwick



# NC TREX Goals

- Provide prescribed fire training opportunities
- Safely complete controlled burns
- Integrate private landowners
- Promote knowledge transfer and networking





# Planning and Prep

- Initiated June 2014
- Core team identified
- Formalized budget
- Acquired funding
- Private lands identified
- Outreach materials created
- Participant recruitment
- Contracts established for meals and lodging
- Burn plans completed
- Participant selection
- Curriculum developed
- Burn units prepped
- Medical Plan
- Media Plan
- GIS/maps
- Finalized agreements
- Equipment assembled

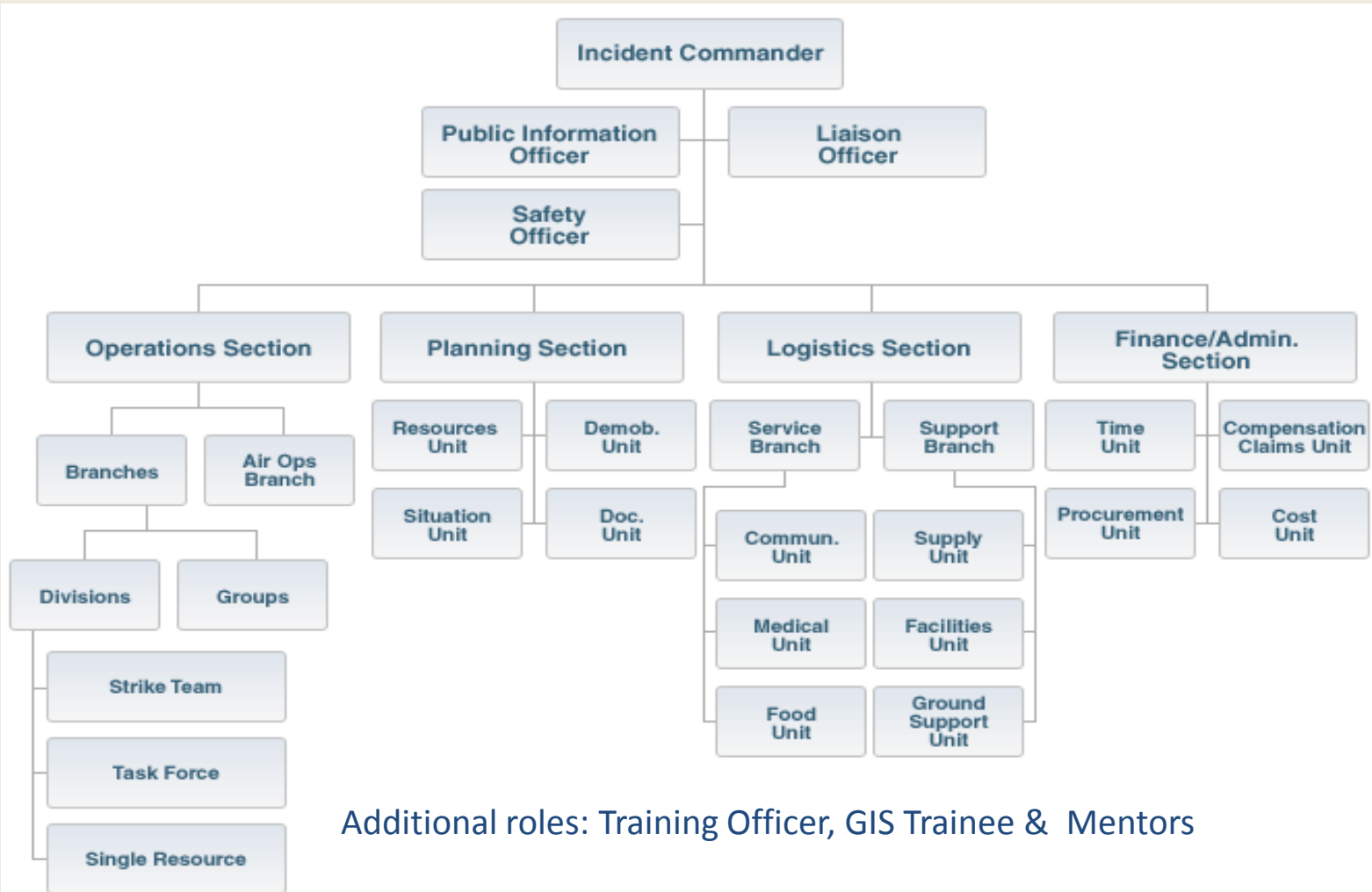


# Partner Organizations



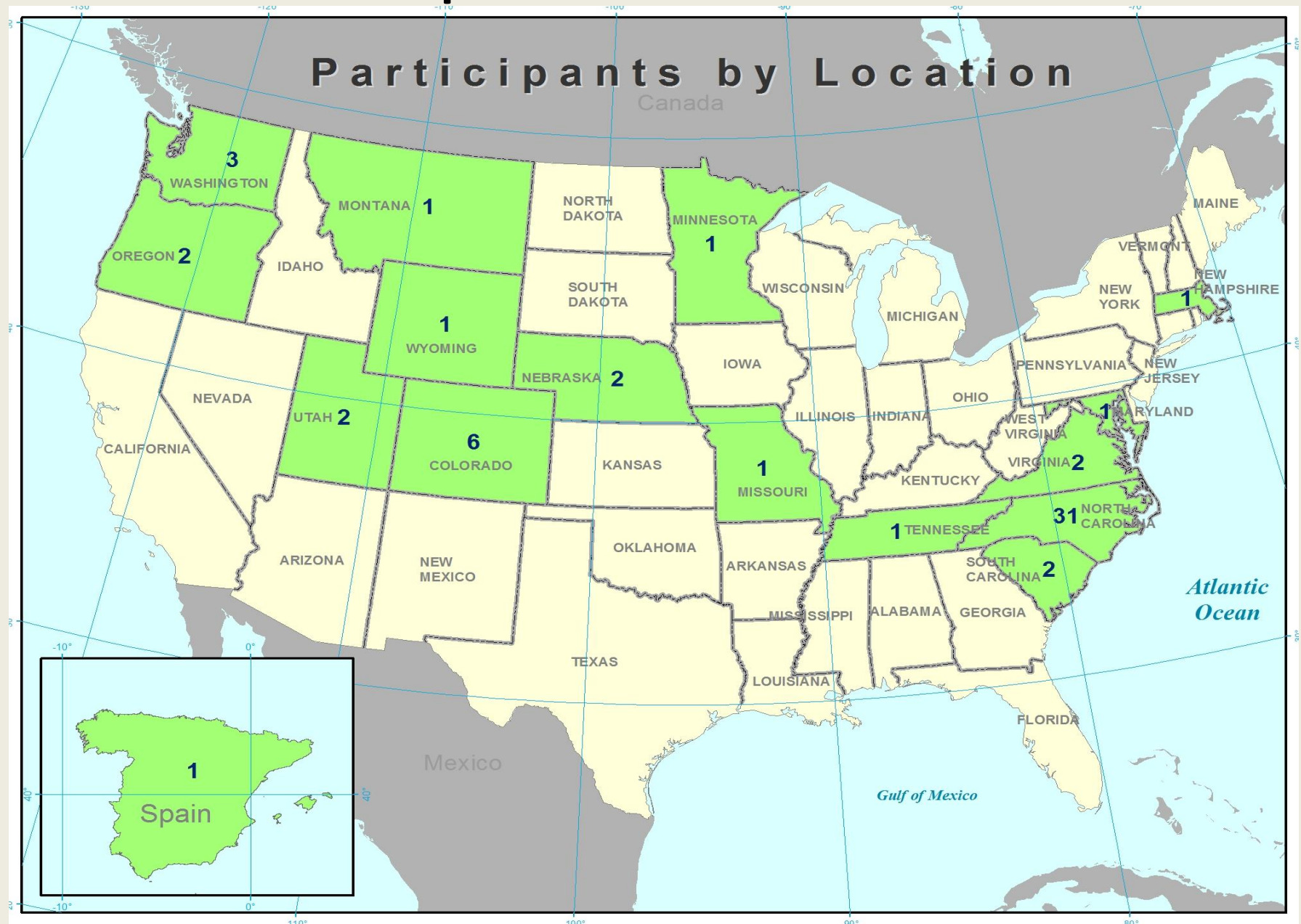


# Incident Management Team





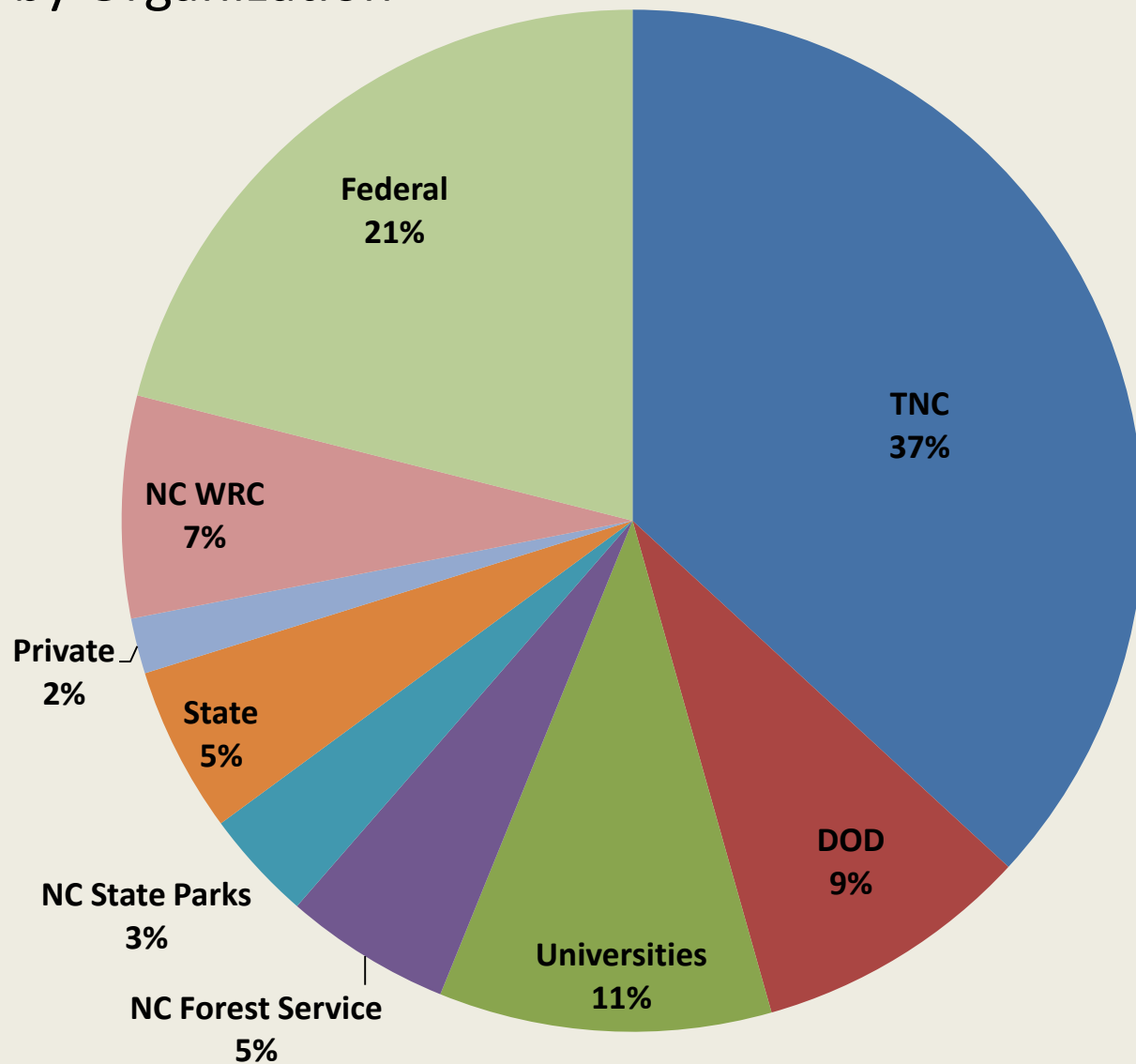
# TREX Participants





# TREX Participants

## Participants by Organization





# TREX Participants

- 4 modules
- NWCG Trainee positions:
  - Burn Boss (RXB2)
  - Incident Commander (ICT4/5)
  - Engine Boss (ENGB)
  - Firing Boss (FIRB)
  - Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO)
  - Firefighter (FFT1/2)

Photo: Jennifer Fill



# Week 1



Photo: Gretchen Coll



Photo: Nancy Adamson



Photo: Jeff Marcus



Photo: Margit Bucher





# Week 1 – Icy weather arrives

Photo: Nancy Adamson

Photo: Nancy Adamson

Photo: Nancy Adamson

Photo: Jennifer Fill





Photo: Adam Warwick



# End of Week 1

Photo: Todd Zuchowski



Photo: Mo Whitener



Photo: Gretchen Coll







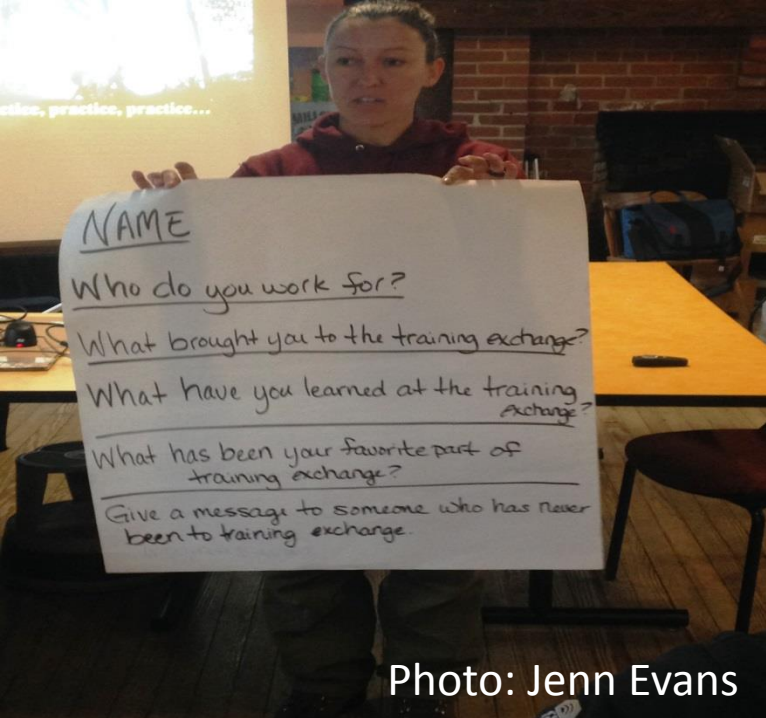


Photo: Jenn Evans



## WEEK 2

Photo: Jenn Evans



Photo: Mo Whitener



Photo: Mo Whitener



# 2015 NORTH CAROLINA TREX INCIDENT ACTION PLAN



Photo: IMT looking at the weather!





Photo: Margaret Fields



# Last Day of TRES



Photos: Veronica Quintanilla







# Accomplishments

- 525 acres burned
- 9 controlled burns
- 2 private lands burned
- Private landowner outreach
- 140 hours of classroom training
- 35 participants worked on NWCG trainee positions
- Completed RXB2 and FEMO task books
- Knowledge exchange across diverse range of expertise, experience & fire cultures



# Lessons Learned

- Gather detailed information on training needs from participants
- Targeted participant recruitment to key partners specifically in longleaf
- Design training track for participants with non NWCG qualified organizations
- Good balance of trainee and trainer positions
- Participants observe controlled burn
- Acquire additional funding to provide for scholarships



# What's Next?

## Women in Fire TRENCH 2016



## NC TRENCH May 2017



Photo: Adam Warwick





THANKS!



# Questions??

## 2015 NORTH CAROLINA TREX

### INCIDENT ACTION PLAN



**RESPECT THE GROUNDHOG**

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DAY 12