



## RETURN OF THE TREX

The 2017 Klamath Prescribed Fire Training (TRES) is fast approaching and with it a host of opportunities for local folks to help support community safety and the restoration of good fire to Klamath landscapes. Treatments will occur around both Orleans and Happy Camp. The mid-Klamath has been involved in a variety of TRES programs since 2013, check out these photos of highlights from the ghosts of TRES past!



Burning Tishanik during the 2016 TRES



Burning at night during the 2014 TRES

## 2017 Klamath River TRES

October 2-15, 2017



Lighting West Simms

Photo by Will Harling

## The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP): Growing Up in the Year of Managed Wildfire

By Arielle Halpern

It has been a gigantic year for WKRP.

Relationships between partners continue to deepen as we move forward into the implementation phase of the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project (Somes Project). The Somes Project began the formal NEPA process this spring with the project scoping letter following an open comment period and public meeting in March. MKWC/WKRP forestry crews have been out flagging units within the Project focal areas even in the 100+ degree heat and smoke of the past few weeks in preparation for marking and treatment. Aerial imaging and pre-treatment monitoring continue through a series of research plots and stand exams to help the Partnership track changes before and after treatments and determine whether we were successful in achieving our goals.

The Partnership is poised to begin work in the Happy Camp Project area with a series of strategic fuel breaks and cross boundary treatments to the west of town in an area that has not seen fire in over a century. The 2014 Whites Fire to the south and west, and the 2014 Happy Camp Complex to the north have left footprints that have created the social license for Klamath National Forest to choose a resource objective focus rather than a full suppression effort to manage the Island Fire that has been burning in the Marble Mountain Wilderness since June 25.

The WKRP has continued its tradition of holding workshops three times a year but has shifted these to include more presentations from guest experts in areas into which the WKRP is expanding. We had visits from the Schatz Energy Resource Center on biomass technology suitable for rural communities to generate not only electricity but heat and, potentially, economic benefit. The added perk of this type of technology is that it uses brush and slash from fuels reduction projects (an abundant resource in the mid-Klamath) for power. Trinity River Lumber was with us in the field to look at areas where thinning and removal could be used to help achieve WKRP restoration goals. Carl Skinner joined us once again to discuss the possibilities for using managed wildfires in the Marble Mountain Wilderness area, and the unique role humans have played in creating fire regimes. In the coming year we will have guest speakers on risk assessment and socio-economic monitoring.

Last, and by no means least, was the success of the Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium which brought together the best of the best in the world of fire research, management, and practice to set their focus on Klamath forests and communities for three days of presentations, field trips, and fun. It was here that retired Forest Service Ecologist Carl Skinner who, to the delight of local fire enthusiasts, said that this was THE year for managed wildfire if ever there was one. So far, he has been right.

As we move forward into the second half of the year we are gearing up for the 2017 Klamath TRES, the implementation arm of the WKRP. This year promises to be another excellent year with 400-1,000 acres of controlled burns between Pecwan and Happy Camp,

and a wealth of training opportunities for local fire practitioners.

The WKRP is growing up: The grants that we apply for are getting bigger. The number of acres we are treating and proposing to treat are getting bigger. The number of people working on WKRP projects is getting bigger. Attitudes are shifting in the fire suppression world to include more local and collaborative input. We have a lot of work to do to keep our momentum, but it is also important to take a moment to appreciate how much has been done and how much positive change we have achieved in the last four year through WKRP. WKRP is an open group and welcomes folks to join us any time for our field trips and workshops. Come and let your voice be heard!



Forks of Salmon Elementary School students on a prescribed burn field trip during the 2015 TREX



Watching it go at the Creasy burn in 2013

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### Links to Related Publications, Presentations, and Information

[Managed Wildfire Effects of Forest Resilience and Water in the Sierra Nevada](#)

[Conceptualizing the Science-Practice Interface: Lessons from a Collaborative Network on the Front-Line of Climate Change](#)

[Predicting Lear Area Biomass of 1-6 year old Tanoak \(\*Lithocarpus densiflorus\*\) and Pacific Madrone \(\*Arbutus menziesii\*\) sprout clumps in southwestern Oregon](#)

[Growth Response of Tanoak Sprout Clumps to Thinning](#)

[Growth of Thinned and Unthinned Hardwood Stands on a Good Site in Northern California](#)

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