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INITIATIVES

FLORIDA

FIRE TEAM | 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction



Since the Florida Chapter conducted the first prescribed fire at the Janet Butterfield Brooks Preserve (now an FWC managed land) on February 8, 1979, the Florida Chapter has burned over 1.5M acres of TNC and partner land. Although the current fire staff stand on the shoulders of many talented and inspiring individuals; this report is first and foremost a celebration of the accomplishments of the current Florida Fire Team (FFT). This dedicated, hardworking group of individuals sacrifice much personal time flexibility without complaint because they understand the critical need of this ecological tool and that Mother Nature’s wisdom regarding the right-time-to-burn pays no heed to weekends, holidays, or 7-hour workdays.

As this is the inaugural FFT Report, it contains introductory material that in later reports will be contained as appendices. The value in having it up front now is for all readers to have a basic knowledge of wildland fire qualifications and terminology, and thus have a deeper understanding of the fire staff’s experience, training, and body of work. Also included are metrics that will be updated each year. This year, fire trainings (both received and taught) are provided. In future reports, metrics on workforce diversity, fire related grant income, and Marketing engagements will also be provided. Page 15 is an infographic intended for external audiences.

Florida Fire Team Wildland Fire Activity

The 2022 report details the fire data collected the previous year. Information provided on fire leadership reflects current staffing. The 2021 totals represent a 2% decrease from the previous year in TNC acres burned and 11% decrease in partnership acres. Although this is a minor downtick, it is noteworthy that during the most disruptive pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, the FFT did not have a decrease in productivity as a whole. In fact, 2020 marked the second highest partner acre assist total ever, only topped by 2010 when the Florida Chapter housed four independent, fully staffed fire programs.

In 2021 the FFT applied prescribed fire to 12,911 acres of FL TNC preserves, assisted with the application of prescribed fire on 106,657 acres of partner land, and assisted with one partner wildfire suppression. Table 1 provides details regarding where and how often FFT responded. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the distribution of FFT effort across the calendar 2021 calendar year. Figures 3 and 4 show the same over the previous 5-year period.



Table 1. 2021 Florida Fire Team Wildland Fire Summary

LANDOWNER	NUMBER OF FIRES	CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF ACRES
PRESCRIBED FIRE		
FEDERAL		
USFS	13	63,440
FWS	6	7,389
DOD	2	2,014
Fed. total	21	72,843
STATE		
FDEP	25	29,969
FWC	1	201
FFS	4	2,022
SFWMD	5	615
NWFWMD	2	780
UCF	1	10
State total	38	33,596
Federal & State Partner total	59	106,439
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		
TNC	18	4,732
Prescribed Fire Total	77	119,598
WILDFIRE		
DOD	1	169
Wildfire Total	1	169

The **mission** of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Our **vision** is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.

2021 Acres by Agency Type

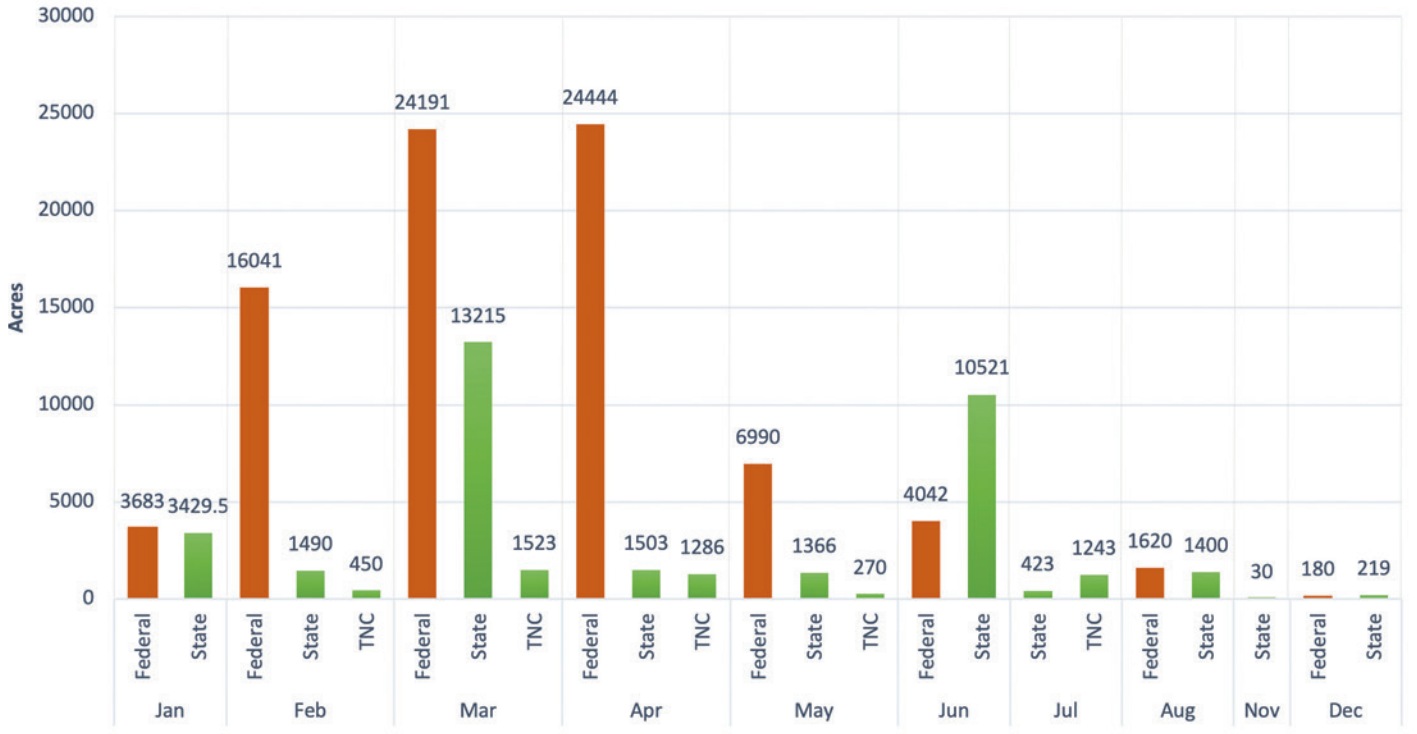


Figure 1. Distribution of burn acres across 2021 calendar year detailing acreage

2021 Number of Burns by Agency Type

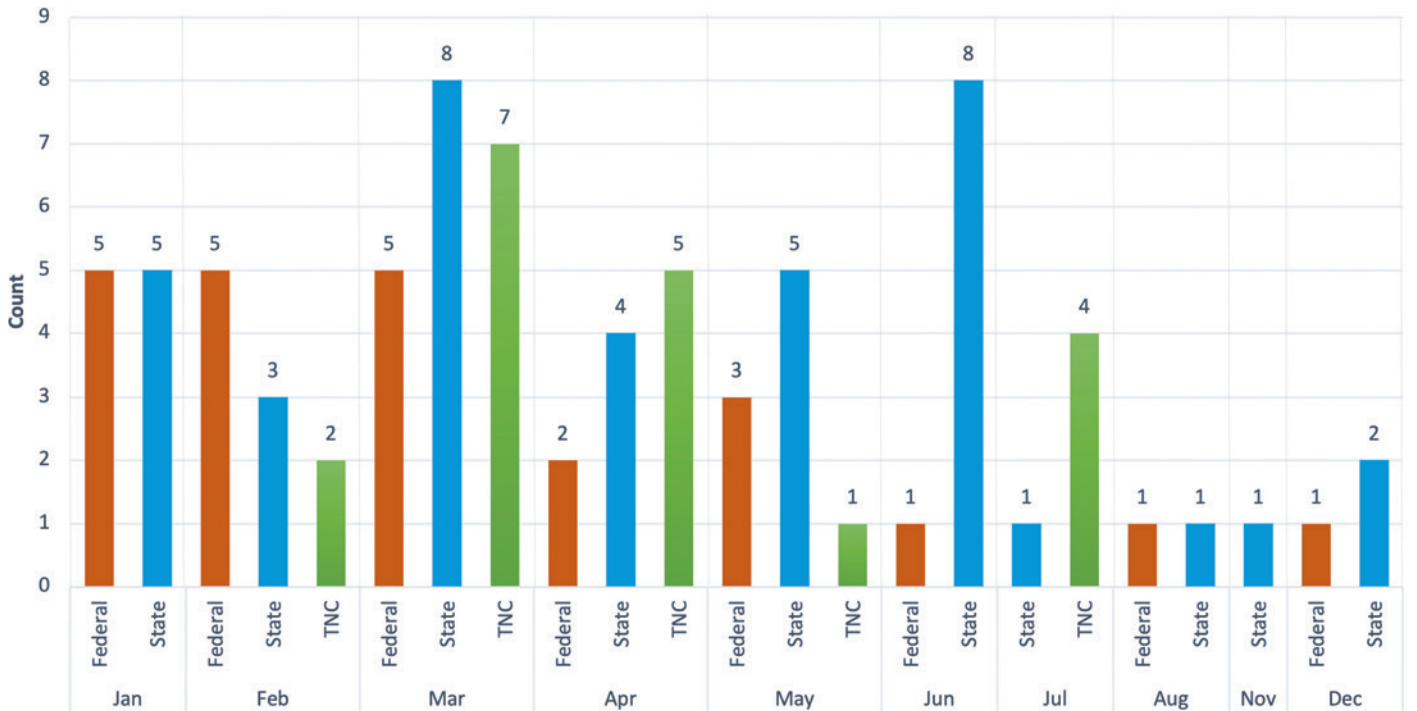


Figure 2. Distribution of burns across 2021 calendar year detailing number of burns

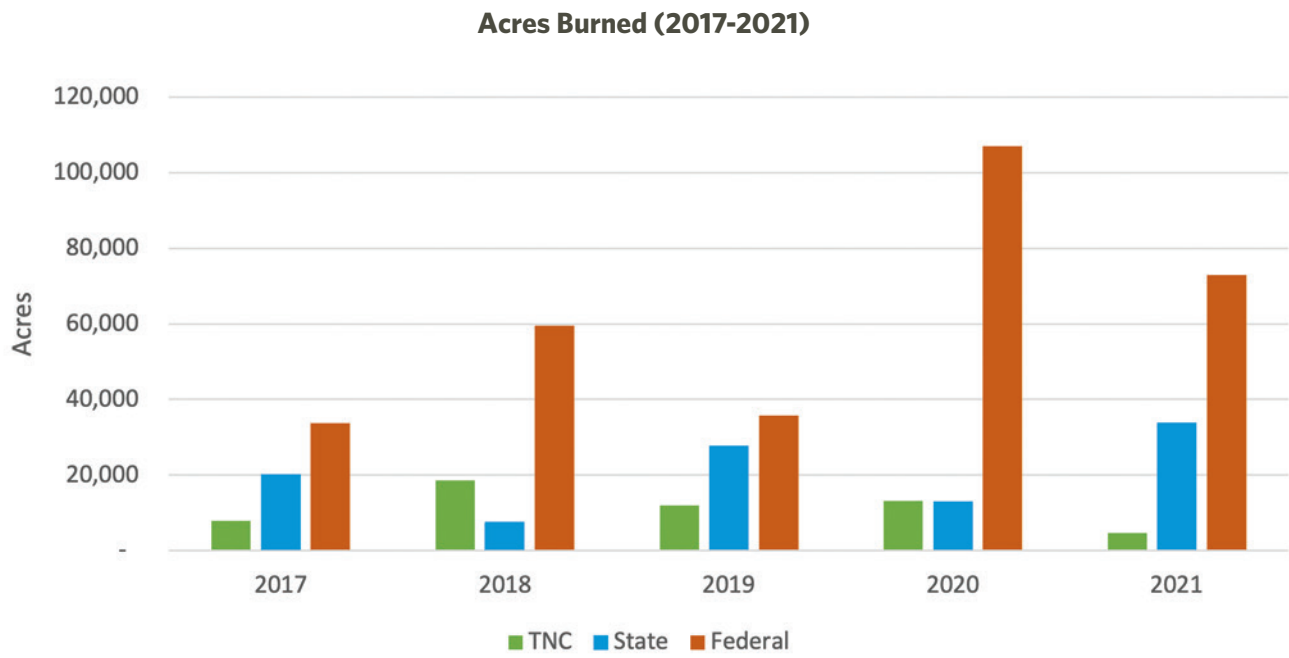


Figure 3. Distribution of burns across previous 5-year period detailing acreage

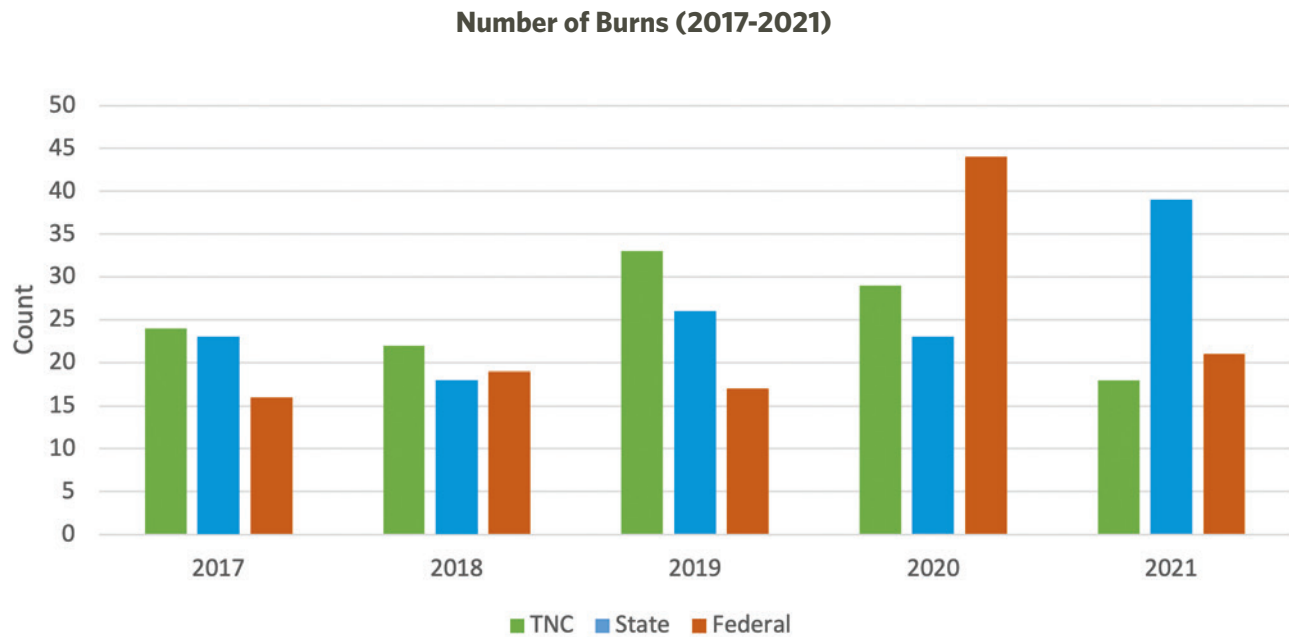


Figure 4. Distribution of burns across previous 5-year period detailing number of burns

FIRE QUALIFICATIONS 101

The Nature Conservancy follows the industry standard when qualifying fire crew members for wildland fire duty. The federal entity that sets this standard is the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). From NWCG, the formal guidance on fire professional training and proficiency is NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1. This document establishes minimum NWCG position qualification standards for training, experience, physical fitness, and currency (i.e. required training and experience to maintain qualifications) for participation in wildland fire (i.e. both wildfire and prescribed fire).



PMS 310-1 defines wildland fire positions from entry level to seasoned professional. The NWCG qualification process uses a performance-based approach that focuses on verifying the proficiency of individuals to perform as required in the various fire-related positions. What this means is that trainees, in addition to required training (i.e. classroom instruction) and physical fitness level, must demonstrate proficiency through completion of specific tasks defined in the applicable NWCG Position Task Book (PTB). Training, fitness, PTB qualification requirements, and estimated time to achieve each position level is provided below for many of the FFT fire positions.

Fire Fighter Type 2 (Crew Member - FFT2)*

Required training:

- ICS-100, Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS) – 2 hrs.
- L-180, Human factors in the wildland fire service – 4 hrs.
- S-130, Firefighter training – 40 hrs.
- S-190, Introduction to wildland fire behavior – 8 hrs.
- IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS): An introduction – 4 hrs.

Required fitness level – Arduous (i.e. 3 mile walk carrying 45 lbs. completed in 45 minutes or less)

* There is no required position task book for FFT2; however, TNC standards require participation on one wildland fire as a trainee.

Approximate time investment – As there is no task book for FFT2, qualification is achieved following above classroom training and fitness test (i.e. ca. 1 week). Typically, an individual will perform at the FFT2 level for one season/one year before initiation of FFT1 task book.



Fire Fighter Type 1 (Squad Boss - FFT1) and Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5)

Required training:

- S-131, Firefighter Type 1 – 12 hrs.
- Basic First Aid and CPR – 5 hrs.

Required fitness level – Arduous

Required position task book – FFT1

Approximate time investment – 1 year

Engine Boss (ENGB)

Required training:

- ICS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents – 4 hrs.
- S-230, Crew Boss – 26 hrs.
- S-290, Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior – 37 hrs.
- Engine Academy (TNC FL requirement) – 56 hrs.

Required fitness level – Arduous

Required position task book – Single Resource Boss including the Engine (ENGB) section

Approximate time investment – 1 year

Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4)

Required training:

- S-200, Initial Attack Incident Commander – 19 hrs.

Required fitness level – Arduous

Required position task book – ICT4 and Firing Boss (FIRB) portion of the Single Resource position task book. FIRB is a TNC requirement.

Approximate time investment – 1 year

Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2)

Required training:

- RX-410, Smoke Management Techniques – 34 hrs.
- S-390, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations – 43 hrs.
- TNC specific training
 - Workshop on Ecological Burning (WEB) or, 80 hrs.
 - Both RX-301, Prescribed Fire Implementation and 26 hrs.
 - RX-341, Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation 34 hrs.

Required fitness level – Moderate (i.e. 2-mile walk with 25 lb. pack in 30 minutes or less)

Required position task book – RXB2

Approximate time investment – 1 year





Meet your Florida fire leadership



The Florida Fire Program is divided into three geographic regions: North, Central and South. Currently the northern and central teams are critical to the ongoing management of FL Chapter CCI Preserves and secondary preserves, and to supporting the Conserving Resilient Lands, Oceans and Waters strategy; thus, they are in the process of being fully fire staffed. The southern team is not currently responsible for fire management on preserves and is focused on education, outreach and partner prescribed fire assistance.

All three teams have Fire Management Officers (FMO). These individuals are responsible for all fire related activities occurring within their respective regions including preserve prescribed fire planning and execution, preserve wildfire and other incident management, partnership wildland fire, staff training and all aspects of fire related external outreach and training. Working under the direction of the FMOs are the Crew Bosses. The central FL team is split between two CCI campus preserves (i.e. Tiger Creek and Disney Wilderness); these two crews often work independently and therefore have independent Crew Bosses. This level of fire leadership is responsible for ensuring facility, fleet, and crew fire-readiness; providing leadership during wildland fire, training and outreach; as well other responsibilities delegated by the FMO. Table 2 provides qualification and experience details for each member of the FFT leadership. (*current 2023 staffing)

Table 2. 2021 Florida Fire Team leadership

NAME/FIRE PROGRAM	FIRE LEADERSHIP POSITION	HIGHEST QUALIFICATION	NO. OF YEARS WITH TNC	NO. OF YEARS IN WILDLAND FIRE	NO. OF RX FIRES	NO. OF FIRES LED	NO. OF WILDFIRES
CENTRAL FLORIDA							
Adam Peterson	Fire Mgmt. Officer	RXB2	27	27	586	285	46
Chelsea MacKenzie	Crew Boss	ICT4	5	10	252	0	14
Gillan Junglas	Crew Boss	FFT1	2	2	65	0	2
NORTH FLORIDA							
Charles Oliver	Fire Mgmt. Officer	RXB2	9	12	306	11	9
Bradley Keegan	Crew Boss	FFT1	4	4	114	0	3
SOUTH FLORIDA							
Sarah Kittredge	Fire Mgmt. Officer	FFT2	9	15	42	0	0
FLORIDA							
David Printiss	Fire Mgmt. Director	RXB2	30	24	417	180	16

FLORIDA FIRE TEAM BY THE NUMBERS



94 YEARS
years fire
experience

24 YEARS
cumulative years
of training

1,740
career prescribed
fire operations



2021 Florida Fire Training



The FFT has been providing both informal and formal fire training since the '90s. Hundreds of individuals have started their fire careers in Florida and gone on to fire leadership positions in other BUs and for other entities. A good example is Jon White, the Assistant FMO on the Caribou/Targhee National Forest in Idaho. David Printiss, FL Fire Program Director/ NA Fire Specialist, works with Jon to organize and plan the fires on TNC's Flat Ranch Preserve. Jon started as a fire intern under Adam Peterson at Tiger Creek. As of 2022, Florida TNC fire training courses and experiential learning opportunities are coordinated through CCI. These work force development activities are managed by David Printiss and Amanda Thompson, the CCI Training and Education Coordinator. Amanda is also expanding CCI fire training to include state of the art virtual platforms for online learning.

Each year, depending on internal staff need and grant funding/grant deliverables, the FFT leads several formal Suppression or "S" classes, as well as less formal fire workshops. Details of 2021 class offerings are described in Table 3.

Table 3. 2021 Trainings taught by Florida Fire Team

COURSE	CADRE	# OF STUDENTS	HOST
S-131 Firefighter Type 1	Zach Prusak	40	Natural Areas Training Academy
Basic Wildland Firefighter (S-130/S-190/L-180)	Zach Prusak	40	Ember Alliance
RT-130 Fire Refresher	Zach Prusak	85	TNC
RT-130 Fire Refresher	Zach Prusak	5	Ordway-Swisher Biological Station
Basic Wildland Firefighter (S-130/S-190/L-180) Hybrid	Zach Prusak, Chelsea MacKenzie, Dan Cole, Adam Peterson, Charles Oliver, Cody-Marie Miller, Jared Hinken	50	Natural Areas Training Academy
S-130 Field Day	Charles Oliver, Bradley Keegan, David Printiss, Cody-Marie Miller	39	Natural Areas Training Academy
S-130 Field Day	Zach Prusak, Chelsea MacKenzie	20	University of Central Florida
S-130 Field Day	Adam Peterson, Chelsea MacKenzie, Cody-Marie Miller, Dan Cole, Jared Hinken, Zach Prusak	24	Natural Areas Training Academy
S-130 Field Day	Chelsea MacKenzie, Adam Peterson, Cody-Marie Miller, Gil Junglas, Sarah Kittredge	13	Natural Areas Training Academy and Tall Timbers Research Station
S-130 Field Day	Chelsea MacKenzie	11	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
RT-130 Fire Refresher	Chelsea, Adam Peterson, Cody-Marie Miller, Gil Junglas	19	U.S. Air Force Wildland Fire Branch, Avon Park Air Force Range
S-130 Field Day	Bradley Keegan, Charles Oliver, Lydia Engh, Ronald Henderson		Natural Areas Training Academy

Due to regular staff turnover and the need to ensure staff career progression, all FFT members are consistently working on task books and attending fire trainings as needed for career progression. Details on trainings received and task books completed by FFT leadership is below in tables 4 and 5.

Table 4. 2021 Trainings received by Florida Fire Team leadership

NAME/LOCATION	TRAINING RECEIVED
Chelsea MacKenzie / Central Florida	Rx-310 - Intro to Fire Effects
Charles Oliver / North Florida	Rx-390 - Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations Rx-410 - Smoke Management Techniques

Table 5. 2021 Task books completed by Florida Fire Team leadership

NAME/LOCATION	TRAINING RECEIVED
Chelsea MacKenzie/Central Florida	Engine Boss (ENGB)
Charles Oliver/North Florida	Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RxB2)



Fire History Summary

Lastly, to provide perspective on FFT activity over the years, below are two graphs that illustrate the team's effort from 1979-2021.

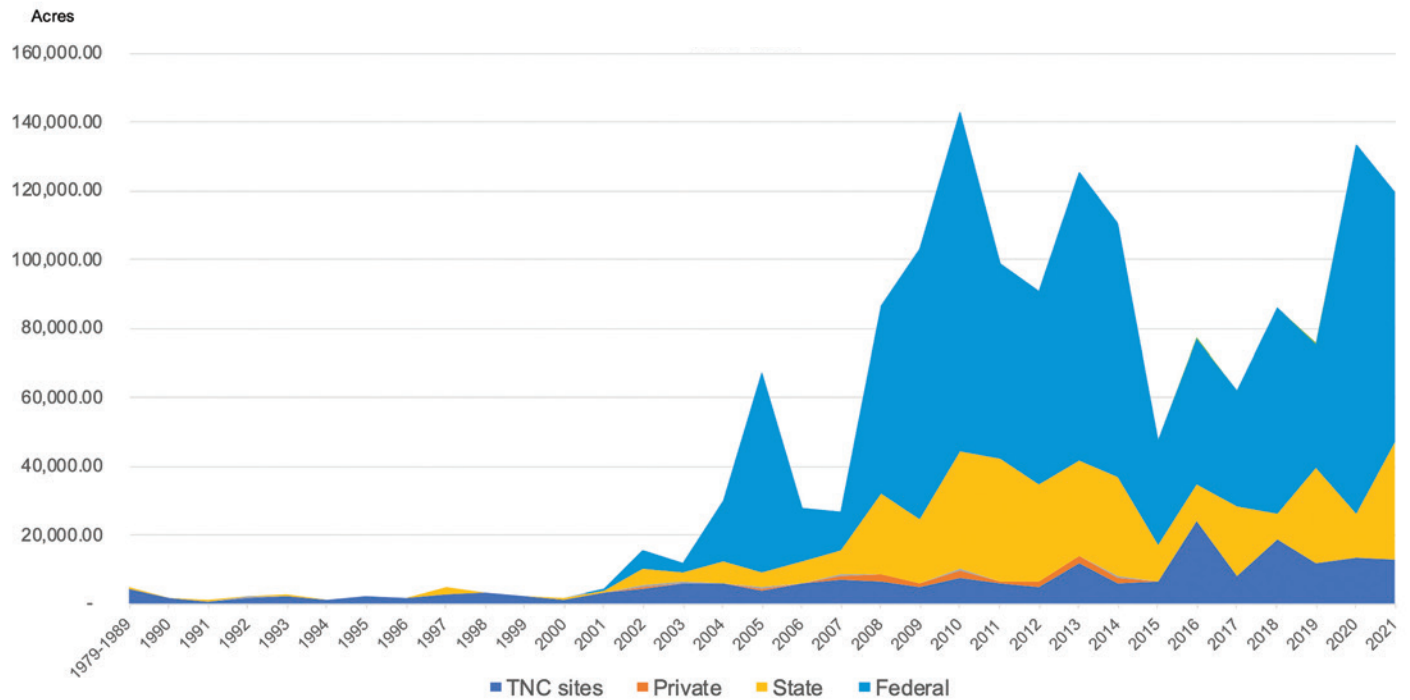


Figure 5. Florida Chapter Wildland Fire - Acres 1979-2021

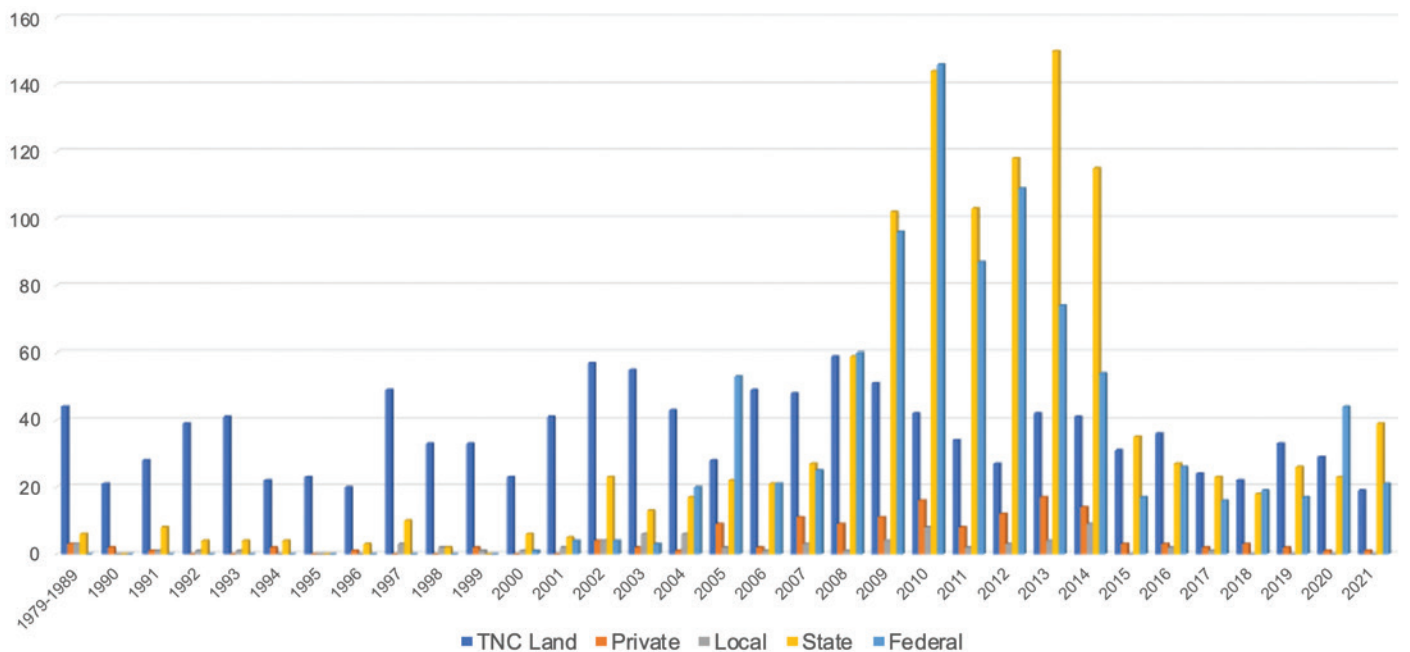


Figure 6. Florida Chapter Wildland Fire Number of Burns by Agency Type 1979-2021



The next report



As mentioned in the introduction, future iterations of this report will include the following sections.

- Fire and DEI - gender and race of FFT
- Wildland fire related grant funding
- FFT Marketing touches

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



346
Fire
Students
TRAINED

77
NUMBER OF BURNS:
21 Federal
State 38
18 TNC



119,598
prescribed
fire ACRES:
72,843 Federal
State 33,596
4,732 TNC



1.5 MILLION
ACRES BURNED
SINCE
1979



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