



Kansas Prescribed Fire Council

Our Mission: To promote greater understanding of the safe, legal, and responsible use of prescribed fire as a natural resource management tool.

The **Kansas Prescribed Fire Council (KS PFC)** was established in September 2008 to protect private landowner rights and public land manager options to responsibly use prescribed fire as a grassland natural resource management tool.

In a statewide effort the Council:

- encourages the exchange of information, techniques, and experience among fire practitioners;
- provides for broad-based education and outreach on the benefits of prescribed fire; and
- provides a platform to address prescribed fire advocacy across the state

The Council has over 60 member groups and about 40 individual ranchers participating in the Council. The Council operates from established by-laws and is governed by a steering committee.

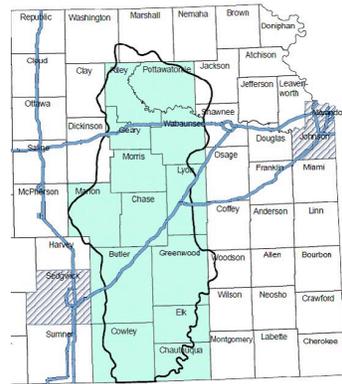
Steering Committee members:

Jason Hartman, KS Forest Service, chairman
Barth Crouch, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, vice-chairman
Tim Christian, KGLC, secretary / treasurer
Dr. Walt Fick, KSU
Randy Small, Wilson County rancher
Jeff Scott, prescribed fire contractor
Brian Alexander, Barber County rancher

Recent Accomplishments:

Smoke Management Plan

The Council worked with Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Bureau of Air Quality and other partners to develop the Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan to help Kansas meet EPA air quality goals and to allow ranchers to continue the use of prescribed fire as a management tool. KS PFC continues to work with KDHE and partners to educate Flint Hills ranchers and others about the Plan and they can help implement it.



The Flint Hills area covered by the Smoke Management Plan is shaded in light green with the boundaries of the physiographic area outlined. Counties in addition that are included in the April burning restriction are cross-hatched. For more information go to www.ks.fire.org or www.kdheks.gov/bar/air-monitor/flinthills.html

Training

KS PFC has assisted in completing numerous introductory prescribed fire training sessions for ranchers and land managers since 2009.

Intermediate-level training session involving more in-depth planning procedures including smoke management was initially completed in January 2011.

The Council plans to implement the intermediate training session

in additional venues during the Fall 2011, and to introduce an advanced training session in the next year or two that provides instruction in handling more complex burning situations.

Outreach and Education

To initiate rancher discussions on the development of a smoke management plan, KS PFC and its partner members held a series of three informational meetings during January 2010 in the Flint Hills. Over 80 people attended the sessions held at Howard, Madison, and Westmoreland. Input from attendees was recorded and provided to partners and to KDHE for consideration as the planning process began in the Spring 2010.

In January 2011, KS PFC provided leadership in developing the plenary session and concurrent sessions for the 2011 Kansas Natural Resources Conference entitled - *Through the Haze, The Role of Fire in the Prairie*.

Capacity Building

The Council secured \$20,000 to purchase fire equipment for newly forming local prescribed fire associations (PBA) during the Fall 2010. These funds came from the KS Grazing Lands Coalition (Playa Lakes Joint Venture capacity grant), Pheasants and Quail Forever, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners, and National Wild Turkey Federation. The funds purchased 300-gallon slide-in sprayers, 60-gallon UTV sprayers, drip torches and FM radios. Newly forming PBA's will be required to formally organize, and sign a contract with KS PFC that specifies equipment maintenance, repairs, and annual reporting that includes the number of acres burned in the year.

Prescribed fire is used by variety of individuals, local, state, and federal agencies, and

organizations throughout Kansas. Eastern Kansas as well as the Red Hills in south central Kansas have a long history of the use of fire as a sound management tool for grazing lands.

Grasslands constitute significant economic, biological, recreational, and aesthetic resources of statewide importance. *Kansas grassland acres amount to over 19 million acres or about 36 percent of the land in the state.* Fire is essential to the maintenance and improvement of a large percentage of these acres.

Frequent fires, set by lightning strikes and early Native Americans, have shaped Kansas' ecosystems for thousands of years. The plants and animals of the prairie are accustomed to frequent fires and many depend on these fires for their survival.

Some benefits of fire include:

- Maintaining healthy prairies,
- Controlling certain invasive woody species (Eastern Red Cedar for example) and other native and non-native invaders,
- Maintaining quality wildlife habitat of both game and non-game species,
- Improving grass and forb stands and aesthetics,
- Fire can help control diseases,
- Effectively managing fuels in the wild land/urban interface,
- Perpetuating fire dependent ecosystems and associated species, and
- Providing for responsible smoke management for safety, health, and air quality concerns

For more information on the Kansas Prescribed Fire Council contact us at 620-241-3636, or visit the KGLC web site, www.kglc.org under KS Prescribed Fire.