

MISSION

To protect the right, to encourage the use of, and to promote public understanding of prescribed fire.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Prescribed fires are used by such a variety of individuals, agencies, and organizations throughout the state that the Southwest Georgia Prescribed Fire Council was established in 2001 in a regional effort to encourage the exchange of information, techniques, and experience among practitioners. In January of 2007, the council expanded to become the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council, which provides a platform to address prescribed fire advocacy across the state.



LEARN MORE

For more information on how to participate in this fire council, visit our website at www.garxfire.com.



COOPERATORS

Albany Quail Project

Consulting Foresters

Georgia Conservancy

Georgia Forestry Commission

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Georgia Forestry Association

Georgia Wildlife Federation

Heritage and Wildlife Conservation Council

Ida Cason Callaway Foundation

Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center

National Park Service

The Nature Conservancy

Private Landowners/Managers

Quality Deer Management Association

Tall Timbers Research Station
and Land Conservancy

UGA, Warnell School of Forestry
and Natural Resources

U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

U.S. Forest Service



Prescribed Fire

A prescription for healthy forests and
reduced wildfire risks in Georgia

WHAT IS PRESCRIBED FIRE?

Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health, and reduce wildfire risk. Prescribed burning is carried out by experienced, trained, and certified fire managers on both public and private lands throughout Georgia. These professionals assess forest conditions, determine the type of fire needed, and then write a “prescription” for the application of fire. Prescribed burns are permitted by the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) depending upon predicted weather conditions and safety measures to be used. GFC also offers a Certified Burner Manager Program that serves to enhance the skills of land managers and acquaint burners with regulations and offer opportunities for more advanced training.

THE NATURAL ROLE OF FIRE

Forest lands constitute significant economic, biological, recreational, and aesthetic resources of statewide importance. Frequent fires, set by lightning strikes and Native Americans, have shaped Georgia’s ecosystems for thousands of years.



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Fire is as natural as sunshine, rain, and wind in many plant communities including upland pine, pine flatwoods, marshes, and wet prairies, where associated plants and animals are dependent upon frequent fire. Fire also benefits many rare species in our state that are declining. Some of these declines are caused almost totally by fire exclusion. Frequent fires prevent the build-up of flammable fuels in the forest that set the stage for destructive wildfires when ignition does occur.

EXCUSE OUR SMOKE



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Careful planning is taken by prescribed fire managers to minimize any potential smoke impacts on public health and safety. Prescribed fire activity is conducted when weather conditions are optimal for smoke dispersion. Wildfires, on the other hand, usually occur under extreme weather conditions that negatively impact firefighter and public safety. Well-timed prescribed fires reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and the resulting smoke impacts to air quality by removing the hazardous buildup of wildland fuels.



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BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED FIRE

- ◆ Maintains healthy forests
- ◆ Mitigates wildfire risks
- ◆ Maintains quality wildlife habitat of both game and nongame species
- ◆ Improves stand access and aesthetics
- ◆ Prepares sites for both natural and artificial reforestation
- ◆ Controls tree diseases
- ◆ Controls insects
- ◆ Effectively manages fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface
- ◆ Perpetuates fire dependent ecosystems and associated species