

## North Carolina: A Fire Dependent State

Some trees need fire for their seeds to drop, open, and germinate. In much the same way, many North Carolina ecosystems require periodic fire for maintenance, increased productivity, and good health. From the mountains to the coast, North Carolina's forests have been changed and sustained by fire for thousands of years.

Prescribed burning is the controlled application of fire to achieve specific objectives, and is a very economical management tool. Today, prescribed burning is used to maintain ecosystems in place of natural fires and to reduce fuel loads which decrease the likelihood and intensity of wildfire. Prescribed burning is used in forestry to reduce hardwood competition in commercial pine stands both prior to planting and throughout the growing rotation. Agricultural crop residue can be burned, reducing the need for expensive, soil disturbing tillage.



## What does this mean for you?

Because fire is so important to the state's natural resources and land management practices, keeping prescribed fire as an option for management is vital. There are several key issues that are affecting the use of prescribed burning.

- Air quality and smoke management
- Increasing prescribed burning for agriculture, wildlife and ecosystem health, and reducing wildfire intensity
- Science of fire effects not always well understood and/or information available and not shared
- Liability concerns
- Poorly informed public and media on benefits of prescribed burning
- Need for more trained prescribed fire professionals

You can play a key role in keeping prescribed fire as a management tool in our state by joining the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council.

## What is the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council?

The Council is a mix of natural resource professionals, land managers, and others who support the use of prescribed burning. Its goals are to bring people together to:

- Promote public education about the benefits of prescribed fire.
- Advocate for the ability to use prescribed fire as a land management tool now and in the future.
- Increase expertise in prescribed fire by sharing technical and biological information.
- Promote safety, training, and research in the art and science of prescribed fire.
- Review prescribed fire practices, regulations, and policies and suggest improvements.
- Promote best management practices that minimize smoke and air quality impacts from prescribed fires.

Current Council actions include an annual membership meeting and the development of outreach products that inform the public about prescribed burning. Council members are documenting the importance and use of prescribed fire as a resource management tool and informing policy makers about roles of prescribed fire and the science behind it. Members are also working to identify and resolve barriers to prescribed burning, such as liability insurance.

To join the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council fill out this form, tear it off, and mail it to the address below. You can also fax the form in or contact Mark by email.



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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you interested in participating on a Council subcommittee? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

### Participation:

Membership in the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council is open to any individual, organization or agency interested in utilizing or promoting the safe use of prescribed fire as a land management tool. Members are encouraged to attend the Council's annual meeting and participate in one of the various subcommittees.



### Current Members:

Current members include individuals, non-profits, and state and federal agencies.

- Private forest and wildlife management consultants
- NC Forestry Association
- Quail Unlimited
- The Nature Conservancy
- NC Woodlands
- Research Triangle Institute
- NC Division of Forest Resources
- NC Division of Air Quality
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- NC State Parks
- NC Natural Heritage Program
- US Department of Defense
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- NC State University – College of Natural Resources

# NORTH CAROLINA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

