

Prescribed Fire Opportunities for Forestry Consultants

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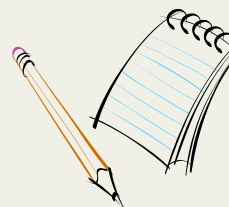
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NCSU

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STATE BIOLOGIST
USDA-NRCS

Outline

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- Need for Prescribed Fire
- Income Opportunities
- Education & Training
- Insurance Options
- Liability Protection
- Prescribed Fire Resources
- Questions???



Question for the Audience



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**Do you currently offer
prescribed burning
as a service option to your clients?**

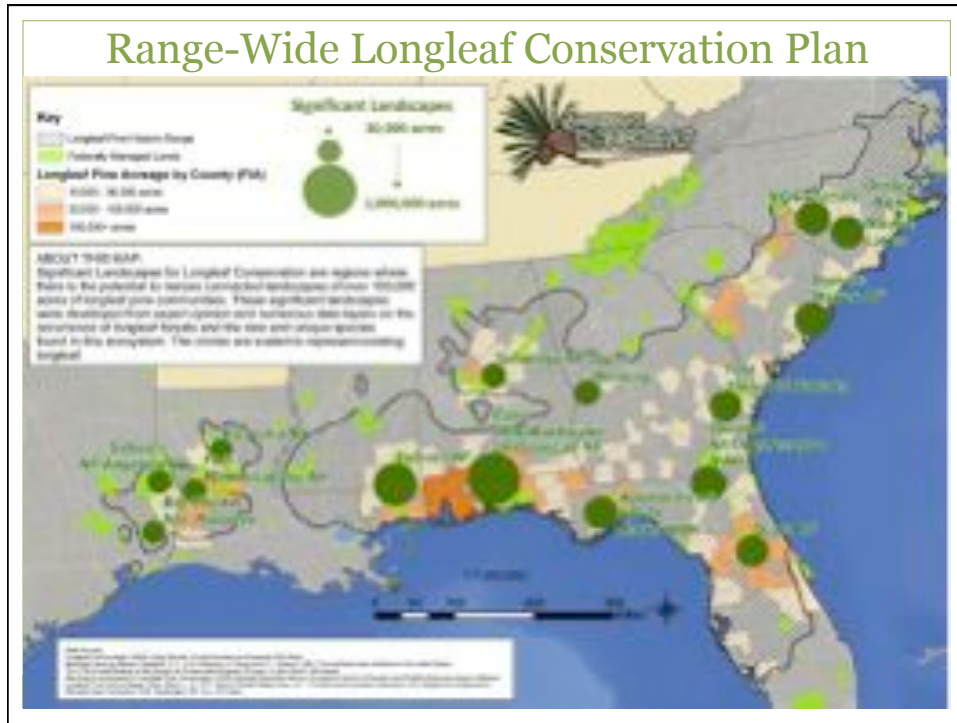
- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not currently, but am considering it
- d. Not applicable (I am not a Forestry Consultant)

Why is Prescribed Fire Important?

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- Fuel Reduction
- Site Preparation
- Insect and Disease Control
- Improve Wildlife Habitat
- Manage Competing Vegetation
- Aesthetic Enhancement
- Biological Community
Restoration and Maintenance





SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group

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- Agencies & organizations involved
- Multiple benefits for multiple agencies
- Priority Goals for 2013-2014



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Question for the Audience



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Are you interested in conducting additional burns and expanding your current client base?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Possibly
- d. Not applicable (not currently conducting burns and/or not a Forestry Consultant)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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- Est. in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS); name was changed to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1994
- NRCS provides assistance at the local level through a cooperative relationship with landowners and partners.
- Provide technical assistance to make science-based resource and land management decisions



Natural Resources Conservation Service

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- Our mission is to provide resources to farmers and landowners to aid them with the conservation of soil, water, energy, plant and wildlife resources & improve air quality on privately owned lands
- Through voluntary enrollment, NRCS works with landowners to qualify for and to utilize financial assistance to help implement land management decisions



All NRCS Activity Should Begin With A Plan

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To Keep Things On Track!

What is Involved?

- Site Evaluation
- Environmental Compliance Review
- Development of Alternatives
- The Landowner is the Decision Maker - the Plan is a Record of the DECISIONS they Have Made

NRCS Financial Assistance Programs

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Things they have in common.....

- Funding is Dependant Upon Ranking
- Participants Must Have an Approved Contract and are Reimbursed for Practices that are Completed According to NRCS Specifications
- Reimbursement is based on a Payment Rate from Regionally Developed Payment Schedules (not Cost Share)
- Contracts are with Individual Landowners (which can be an entity)
- Participants and Land must meet Eligibility Requirements (which can be considered complicated for some!!!)
- Contracts Support Implementation of the Conservation Plan (see previous slide!)

Financial Assistance - Specifics

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Herbaceous, In-Stand (forest) and Site Prep Burns are all Eligible
- 2-5 Year Contracts Typical
- All Applications with Prescribed Fire **MUST** have an Approved Burn Plan by a Certified Burner (eligibility)

Prescribed Burning




Financial Assistance - Specifics

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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Prescribed Burning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP Rewards Participants that are Good Stewards • Regular Prescribed Burning can Factor into the Base CSP Stewardship Payment for Forestland • Participant Should Answer CSP Questions Carefully if they Depend on USDA Programs to get Burns Accomplished • Getting Stewardship Credit for Prescribed Burning may Make Them Ineligible for FA Under Other USDA Programs • At Least One Enhancement Required (there are no burning enhancements specifically for forestland)

Financial Assistance - Specifics

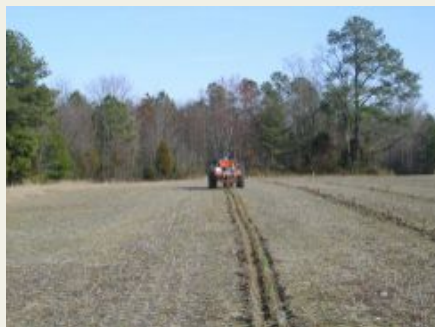
14

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	Prescribed Burning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically the Primary Program used for Prescribed Burning • Typically used When Habitat is Primary Objective • Currently Limited to High Elevation Habitat in Western NC 	

Financial Assistance - Specifics

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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



Prescribed Burning

- Farm Services Agency (FSA) is lead for CRP
- Land Must Have Cropping History
- NRCS and NCFS provide technical assistance for CRP
- 10-15 Year Contracts
- Annual Payment and Cost Share to Establish and Manage Cover
- Prescribed Fire is Utilized to Meet 'Management' Requirements within a Contract
- Site Prep and In-Stand Allowed
(no other programs can be utilized to do prescribed burning on active CRP!)

Technical Service Providers (TSP's)

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NRCS certifies TSP's to complete technical planning for prescribed burning.

Technical Assistance (limited funds, even without payment can be value added service for clients/participants)

- Prepare specifications for burn
- Certify that burns have been complete according to burn plan and NRCS standards.

Planning (funds available-FA)

- *NEW* for 2014 – Prescribed Burn Conservation Activity Plan



For More Information on TSP's; or, To Apply To become a Certified TSP

[Search the term – 'TECHREG'](#)

State of the Union

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- Financial Assistance for Longleaf Pine & Forestry Have Increased
- \$1.7 Million Allocated to Prescribed Burning and Firebreaks (2010-2012)
- Prescribed Burning has the Highest Rate of Modifications Compared to all Other Practices Offered
- Quickly Reaching Capacity – but Still Have Enormous Interest
- Be Aware: When you Have Clients with a Contract; Help Keep Them on Schedule
- Communicate!!! (remember that participant has ultimate responsibility to complete the work!)

Question for the audience

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What is the least amount of money you would need to make in order to consider expanding your prescribed burning services?

- \$1-1400
- \$1400-2800
- \$2800-5600
- >\$5600
- Not applicable (I do not wish to expand my client base at this time)



Next Steps

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What is necessary?

- Education
- Training
- Experience



North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council

Question for the audience



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**Are you currently a
Certified Prescribed Burner?**

- a. Yes
- b. No



Minimum Requirements to Become a NC Certified Burner

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Step 1:
**Attend the NC Certified Prescribed Burner
course & pass the test at the training**

2013 NC Certified Burner School

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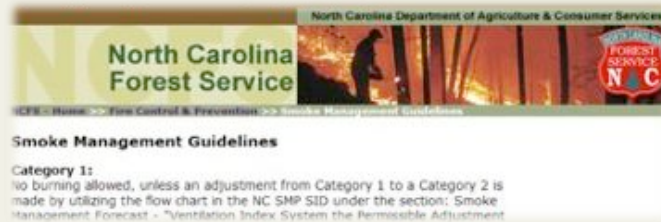
- **When?** October 15-16, 2013
- **Where?** Montgomery Community College (Troy, NC)
- **Costs?** \$25/person
- **To register, visit:**
[http://ncforestservice.gov/
Hot%20Topics/
certified_burner_registration.
asp](http://ncforestservice.gov/Hot%20Topics/certified_burner_registration.asp)
- Not in NC? Contact your state forest service office



Course Content

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- NC State Laws
- Smoke Mgmt Guidelines
- Fire Behavior
- Techniques
- Fire Weather
- Burn Plan
- Liability
- Field Portion



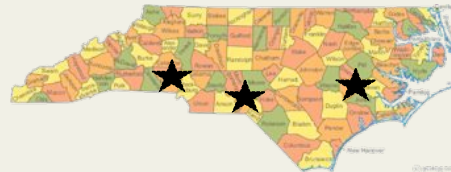
Question for the Audience



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Where would be the most convenient area to receive training?

- a. Western NC (Gastonia area)
- b. Central NC (Troy area)
- c. Eastern NC (Kinston area)



Online Basic Prescribed Fire Training

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<http://campus.extension.org/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the online campus of extension. At the top, it says "Brought to you by experts from the nation's largest and oldest network of universities." Below that is a welcome message and a search bar. The main content area features several category buttons: Agriculture & Animals, Art & Youth, Youth & Gockets, Community & Economics, Home & Family, Organizational Training, Energy & Environment, Pest Management, and Adult/Retired Adults. A callout box on the right lists "Sub-categories" with "Forestry" and "Rangelands" highlighted by a green arrow. Another callout box on the left shows a list of courses, with "Basic Prescribed Fire Training" highlighted by a green arrow.

Introduction to Prescribed Rangeland Burning
Teacher: ashwin virdi

Texas Rangeland Ecology and Management
Teacher: ashwin virdi

Basic Prescribed Fire Training
Teacher: John Vivar
Content Specialists: Dwayne Hunter

Sub-categories
Forestry
Rangelands

Minimum Requirements to Become a NC Certified Burner

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Step 1:
Attend the NC Certified Prescribed Burner course & pass the test at the training

Step 2:
Prepare a burn plan with the necessary information (name, map, objectives, etc.)

Burn Plan

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Burn Plan

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Who?

- Certified Prescribed Burners
- Technical Service Providers
- Agency Staff (NRCS, NCFS, etc.)



<https://fp.uburn.edu/fire/planning.htm>



What to Include?

- Follow NC Prescribed Burning Act

Resources:

- NC Forest Service
- Prescribed Fire Smoke Management Pocket Guide
 - http://www.southernfireexchange.org/etc/PFSM_PocketGuide.pdf
- Southern Fire Exchange (Plan your burn)
 - http://www.southernfireexchange.org/Plan_your_Burn.html
- USDA Forest Service (Intro to Prescribed Fire in S. Ecosystems-pg. 55)
 - <http://www.southernfireexchange.org/etc/ITPFISE.pdf>

Minimum Requirements to Become a NC Certified Burner

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Step 1:

Attend the NC Certified Prescribed Burner course & pass the test at the training

Step 2:

Prepare a burn plan with the necessary information (name, map, objectives, etc.)

**Step 3:
Obtain all necessary burn permits and
authorizations & notify nearby residents and
emergency response agencies about the
coming burn**

[http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/
burn_permits_main.htm](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm)

Minimum Requirements to Become a NC Certified Burner

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Step 1:

Attend the NC Certified Prescribed Burner course & pass the test at the training

Step 2:

Prepare a burn plan with the necessary information (name, map, objectives, etc.)

Step 3:

Obtain all necessary burn permits and authorizations & notify nearby residents and emergency response agencies about the coming burn

**Step 4:
Conduct the prescribed burn under NC Smoke
Management Guidelines following the plan
while observed by a certified burner on site**

[http://www.ncforestservice.gov/fire_control/
fc_smoke_management_guidelines.htm](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/fire_control/fc_smoke_management_guidelines.htm)

Minimum Requirements to Become a NC Certified Burner

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Step 1:

Attend the NC Certified Prescribed Burner course & pass the test at the training

Step 2:

Prepare a burn plan with the necessary information (name, map, objectives, etc.)

Step 3:

Obtain all necessary burn permits and authorizations & notify nearby residents and emergency response agencies about the coming burn

Step 4:

Conduct the prescribed burn under NC Smoke Management Guidelines following the plan while observed by a certified burner on site

Step 5:

Have the certified burner who observed the burn submit a recommendation of certification, burn plan, and a map of the burn to the NCFS

Question for the Audience



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**How many acres do you burn
(on average) each year?**

- a. Not applicable
- b. 1-50
- c. 50-100
- d. 100-500
- e. >500



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Insurance Options

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Insurance Agency/ Broker	Website
C.D. Rigdon & Associates, Ltd.	http://cdrigdon.com/
Davis-Garvin Insurance Agency	http://www.davisgarvin.com/index.php?page=consulting-foresters
Ledkins Insurance Agency LLC	http://ledkinsinsurance.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=86&Itemid=155
Lockton Affinity	http://www.locktonrisk.com/forestlandowners/
Outdoor Insurance Group	http://oigcorp.com/
Outdoor Underwriters, Inc.	http://www.outdoorunderwriters.com/prescribed_burning_liability.html
Sportsmans Insurance Agency, Inc.	www.siai.net

Insurance Costs

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- Prices vary widely between companies
 - Do your homework-which works best for you?
 - Member of ACF? SAF? Discounts apply!

- Burn less than 200 acres?
 - Member of the NWTF or LLA? Discounts apply!
 - Per burn policies available



NC Prescribed Burning Act

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§ 106-968. Prescribed burning

- (a) Prior to conducting a prescribed burning, the landowner shall obtain a prescription for the prescribed burning prepared by a certified prescribed burner.... A copy of this prescription shall be in the possession of the responsible burner on site throughout the duration of the prescribed burning. The prescription shall include....
- (b)The certified prescribed burner shall be present on the site and shall be in charge of the burning throughout... A landowner may conduct a prescribed burning without being a certified prescribed burner if the landowner is burning a tract of forestland of **50 acres or less** owned by that landowner AND is following all conditions established in a prescription prepared by a certified prescribed burner
- (c) Prior to conducting a prescribed burning, the landowner or the landowner's agent shall obtain an open-burning permit....

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByArticle/Chapter_106/Article_80.html

Liability Protection: NC Prescribed Burning Act

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§ 106-967. Immunity from liability

- (a) Any prescribed burning conducted in compliance with G.S. 106-968 is in the public interest and does not constitute a public or private nuisance.
- (b) A landowner or the landowner's agent who conducts a prescribed burning in compliance with G.S. 106-968 shall not be liable in any civil action for any damage or injury caused by or resulting from smoke.
- (c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), this section does not apply when a nuisance or damage results from a negligently or improperly conducted prescribed burning.

Liability Protection: NC Prescribed Burning Act

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- Provides civil liability protection - due to smoke only
 - Must comply with all portions of PBA to qualify
- No law that provides civil or criminal liability protection for escaped fires in NC



NORTH CAROLINA STATUTES AND CODES

§ 113-60.40. Legislative findings.

Article 4E

North Carolina Prescribed Burning Act.

§ 113-60.40. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that prescribed burning of forestlands is an management tool that is beneficial to North Carolina's public safety, forestland wildlife resources, environment, and economy. The General Assembly finds that the following are benefits that result from prescribed burning of forestlands:

(1) Prescribed burning reduces the naturally occurring buildup of vegetative fuels on forestlands, thereby reducing the risk and severity of wildfires and lessening the loss of life and property.

(2) The State's ever-increasing population is resulting in further development directly adjacent to

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Burning Offenses

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§ 14-136. Setting fire to grass and brushlands and woodlands.

- Can be found guilty of misdemeanor & assessed a fine if:
 - No notice is provided to adjacent landowners;
 - A watchman does not guard the fire; or
 - The fire is not fully extinguished
- Liable for any offsite fire damage if negligent in conducting the burn



****Most tickets are given for allowing fire to escape due to:
insufficient burn resources or
insufficient monitoring of burn site****



Law Enforcement

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- Tickets
 - Warnings usually issued for 1st time occurrences
 - Usually only issued for repeated occurrences
- A waiver can be obtained in lieu of LE actions IF:
 - Burn plan was appropriate and adhered to AND
 - Sufficient attention was given prior, during & after the burn
- LE actions always evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- Very few civil cases resulting from escaped fires



Prescribed Fire Resources

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- America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative
- Association for Fire Ecology
- eXtension Prescribed Fire Community of Practice
- NC Forest Service
- NC Prescribed Fire Council
- Southern Fire Exchange
- Southeast Prescribed Fire Update
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Longleaf Alliance



[http://southernfireexchange.org/etc/SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Resource.pdf](http://southernfireexchange.org/etc/SERPPAS_Prescribed_Fire_Resource.pdf)

NC Prescribed Fire Council




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- **Mission:** to foster cooperation among all parties in NC with an interest or stake in prescribed fire
- **Membership benefits include:**
 - reduced meeting registration fees
 - quarterly newsletter
 - distribution list announcements (press releases, trainings, jobs)
 - increased awareness of issues related to prescribed fire
- **2013 Annual Meeting**
 - When? August 27-28, 2013
 - Where? Wilmington, NC

<http://www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org/>

Conclusion

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- Prescribed burning is becoming increasingly utilized
 - BUT.....More is necessary!
- Multiple benefits of prescribed fire
- Funding is available 
- More TSP's, forestry consultants, and/or Certified burners are needed!!





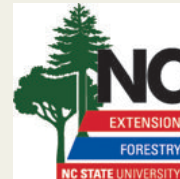
Questions & Discussion





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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



 @SE_RxFire

 Southeast Rx Fire

Blog: <http://cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/>

E-mail: jlevans3@ncsu.edu