



# Prescribed Fire Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2019



## Fire Alert In Effect

Summer is one of the busiest seasons for the Alabama Forestry Commission. This year, continued lack of rainfall, drought conditions, and high probability of fuel ignition create ideal conditions for wildland fires to ignite. These types of conditions lead to fires that are intense and difficult to contain, this includes prescribed fires. On September 25 Alabama State Forester Rick Oates issued a Fire Alert across the state due to high risk of wildfires. So what exactly does a fire alert mean?

While under a Fire Alert, permits for burning are restricted and issued on individual basis at the discretion of the State Forester. Anyone conducting outdoor burning such as burning a field, grassland or woodland without a burn permit is subject to committing a Class B misdemeanor. AFC wildland firefighters have already responded to over 472 wildland fires this year across Alabama. The fire alert will remain in effect until rescinded by the State Forester. Generally, drought like conditions have to reduce significantly before the alert is rescinded.

Alabama is a right to burn state, however, under drought conditions the State Forester holds the authority to restrict burn permits. To report a wildfire call the Alabama Forestry Commission or local Fire Department.

**Photo:**  
Covington County, AFC wildland firefighters work a 589 acre fire near Florala. Photo was taken by AFC pilot.



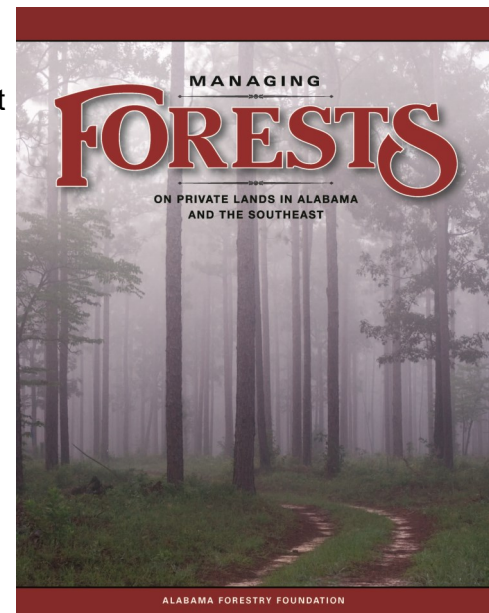
## Forest Management Plan

Healthy forests are the result of sound forestry management for both short and long term time frames. Forest are comprised of many resources such as water, wildlife, trees, and soil. In order to effectively manage all the resources you need a management plan.

Imagine building your dream house with no blue prints or plans. The same applies to forestry and wildlife management. Forest management plans are a road map to help landowners accomplish objectives for their property. A management plan should include property goals, management plans, map of property, and inventory of resources. Management plans are fluid and are not set in stone. They can be adjusted as property goals change.

Practices such as planting, thinning, prescribed fire, and herbicide treatments are just a few practices included into a management plan. A well thought out plan will account for proper timing of practices without significantly damaging the forest. If you would like a management plan contact a Forester or Wildlife Biologist depending on your desired management goals. Most management plans can be prepared at no cost to the landowner.

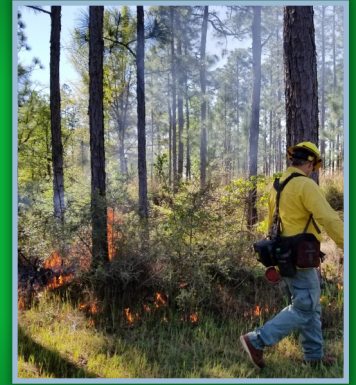
For more information on forest management plans see *Managing Forest on Private lands in Alabama and the Southeast*.





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## Upcoming Opportunities

- Monroe County Annual Fall Forestry Tour, October 17, 2019  
**Location:** PRT Nursery, Atmore, AL  
**Registration:** Monroe County NRCS office, office: 251-743-2587 ext. 3
- Alabama Natural Resources Council Landowner Conference, October 22-24, 2019  
**Location:** Prattville Marriott, Prattville, AL  
**Registration:** <https://www.alaforestry.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1262068&group=>
- AFOA Forestry Field Day Mobile County, October 24, 2019  
**Location:** Goldfingers, Saraland, AL  
**Registration:** contact Pat Richeson (205) 624-2225 or [pricheson@afoa.org](mailto:pricheson@afoa.org)
- Southwest Regional Forestry Career Day & Forestry Expo, November 9, 2019  
**Location:** Pennington Public Park, Choctaw County  
**Registration:** Contact Maggie Pope email: [mpope@alaforestry.org](mailto:mpope@alaforestry.org)

### For more information contact:

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