



Prescribed Fire Newsletter

First Quarter 2019



What is a Learn and Burn?

Do you have a burning desire to learn more about how to utilize prescribed fire? Or maybe you own forest land that needs a controlled burn properly executed. Ask yourself, have I attended a Learn and Burn to help resolve these questions? Most likely the answer is, no. Lets take this opportunity to discuss more about Learn and Burns.

Learn and Burn events are designed to increase the use and knowledge of prescribed fire through live fire mentoring. Participating landowners partner with Certified Burn Managers and learn by doing. We put individuals in the forest with a drip torch and teach them how to safely and responsibly execute prescribe fire. Attendees experience a day long "start to finish" prescribed burn. Participants are assigned to a crew which is supervised by an Alabama Certified Burn Manager. Participants have all day access to observe, ask questions, and experience ignition while burning forest land in a variety of fuel types, forest types, and stand conditions. Certified Burn Managers spend an entire day in the field educating landowners, on how to write burn plans as well as how to safely execute a burn in order to achieve desired objectives.

When is the next learn and burn in your area? Alabama Prescribe Fire Council is currently in the process of planning a Learn and Burn in northern Baldwin county. Flyers and emails will be sent out as soon as details are finalized. So be on the look out and get ready to Learn and Burn!

When do you introduce Prescribed Fire in Longleaf?

It is important to remember that prescribed fire is an objective driven process. The important question is "Why do you, as a landowner, want to burn?" Promoting native grasses, fuel reduction, or controlling disease are a few reasons. Once you have a clear objective, the "when" becomes more evident. Historically Longleaf is burned at a young age in order to reduce competition and fuels.

In a typical situation, planted Longleaf seedlings average less than 10% mortality after a burn. The amount of damage is influenced by environmental factors such as fuel load, season of burn, firing technique, and disease. Mortality rate may significantly increase or decrease depending on environmental factors. Seedling mortality will inevitably happen; however, land managers strive to keep mortality minimal. Mortality is compensated for at planting by planting higher rates of trees per acre.

Longleaf is commonly described as "A Fire Proof Tree." While being able to withstand intense fire, make no mistake, fire can kill Longleaf. Longleaf are better referred to as "Fire Resistant Trees." Longleaf is very forgiving with fire so when the fire does not go as prescribed, fire often times will still be beneficial. Landowners must weigh the predicted loss against the anticipated benefits when planning a prescribed burn.



Pictures: Landowners at Learn and burn held in Clarke and Bullock county .



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Upcoming Opportunities

- Estate Planning Program, January 14
Location: Fairhope, Baldwin County 6 PM
Registration: Ellen Huckabay (251) 937-7176 or ellen@auburn.edu
- Estate Planning Program, January 15
Location: Mobile County Extension Office 6 PM
Registration: Mobile County Extension (251) 574-8445
- 2019 AFA Butler Area Regional Reception, March 28
Location: Ezell's Fish Camp, Butler, AL
Registration: Alabama Forestry Association website, alaforestry.org
- Learn and Burn Baldwin County, Late March
Location: North Baldwin County
Registration: coming soon, flyer will be sent out

For more information contact:

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