



Prescribed Fire Newsletter

2018 3rd Quarter



Clarke County Landowner Learn and Burn

Ever wonder why it is called prescribed fire? Or maybe, how do you keep fire from spreading? Landowners had the opportunity to learn first hand the answers to these questions during a live prescribed fire demonstration held in Clarke County. Landowners got to learn about ignition and smoke management strategies, fire suppression techniques, and how to properly write a burn plan.

On a crisp May morning eight landowners gathered on four wheelers with torches and burn plans in hand. Our burn crew burned a tough 171 acres throughout the hills and hollows of Clarke County. Drip torches as well as power torches mounted on four wheelers were utilized to lay fire through the loblolly forest. Landowners were able to ignite both fine and heavy fuels and observe the differences in burning the two. Smoke management was demonstrated as our burn plan prescribed a southwest wind and the smoke moved as predicted.

In addition to hands on experience, participants were able to see the effects of older burns that had been carried out at different periods of the year on this property. The property demonstrated how fire can open the forest floor and provide for wildlife as numerous wildlife species were seen throughout the day.



Picture: Landowners gathered on their four-wheelers during the pre burn briefing awaiting instructions.



Picture: Participants watching pine needles and grass burn while seeing how smoke disperses.

Biodiversity in the Longleaf ecosystem

Longleaf Pine forest have long been know for species richness and diverseness within the longleaf ecosystem. Biodiversity describes the complete spectrum of plant and animal life a given area can support as well as the interactions between these inhabitants. The mature longleaf community historically dominated over 70 million acres of Southeastern United States. It was know as one of the most biodiverse communities in the world. Studies have shown 300-400 species occur in a small area. 70 million acres of any one forest type may be very rich in species diversity on a per acre basis, but the longleaf forest has these species present over the entire area. Todays forest management schemes create a diverse forest across the landscape. Although a small area maybe poor in species richness the Longleaf forest as a whole is very diverse.

One reason for the diverseness is the use of prescribe fire. Fire forces the environment to constantly be changing. This results in differing plants and animals to utilize various parts of the forest. If the forest remains in one state continuously, diversity can be lost.

More information can be found:
<http://www.aces.edu/natural-resources/wildlife/wildlifehabitat.php>





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Upcoming Opportunities

- Certified Burn Manager Certification Class, July 30- August 2, 2018
Location: 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn, AL ,Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Registration: Alabama Forestry Commission Website, Cost \$150
- Certified Burn Manager Certification class , August 20-24, 2018
Location: Stockton Civic Club, Stockton, AL
Registration: Alabama Forestry Commission Website, Cost \$150
- Alabama Forestry Association Annual meeting, September 9-11, 2018
Location: Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, AL
Registration: Alabama Forestry Association website, alaforestry.org

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