

# PRESCRIBED FIRE NEWSLETTER



## upcoming events >>>

AFA Connect “How Forest Can Influence Climate”

Location: Virtual meeting  
December 15, 2022

Register: [alaforestry.org/events](http://alaforestry.org/events)

Tallapoosa County Learn and Burn

Location: Wind Creek State Park  
Date: February 6-10, 2023

Register: call Tallapoosa County Extension office  
(334) 825-1050

Bullock County Learn and Burn

February 13-17, 2022

Register: [alaforestry.org/events](http://alaforestry.org/events)

## Consulting Forester

An actively managed forest can increase the potential and the productivity of your land. From timber sales to improved wildlife habitat, a well managed forest can increase the dividends you enjoy as a landowner. The use of a consulting forester can help you achieve and maintain a forest legacy for your property for generations to come.

### Why use a consulting forester?

A consulting forester can represent the landowner in all forest management activities, including harvests, sales negotiation, planting, and prescribed fire- anything from planting seedlings to final harvest. They are experienced in local, state, and federal laws, as well as local contractors, markets, and resources, and can help you the landowner navigate the complex systems of each. Most importantly, a consulting forester will work for you, putting their years of experience, knowledge, and education to use to obtain your goals and objectives for your land.

In selecting a consulting forester, there are several factors to consider. In Alabama, any person who offers forest

management recommendations and works for hire on land that he/she does not own, must be registered by the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters. As you interview potential foresters, ask about their qualifications, including education, registration, and experience.

For many landowners activities such as a timber harvest can be a once in a lifetime activity. Proper management of a harvest is a critical step in managing your property, and a consulting forester can provide detailed recommendations to ensure that your residual forest conditions are in line with your objectives. Appropriate contract details are critical, and a consulting forester can assist you in both administration and execution of a contract.

For more information OR to start your search for a local consulting forester visit or click:

[Alabama Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters](#)

Alabama Forestry Commission [Service Providers database](#)

## Staff / Contact



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## Important Contact Information

To Obtain a Burn Permit:  
(800) 392-5679

For Fire Weather Resources:  
[Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

Prescribed Burn Insurance Application:  
[Alabama Forestry Association](#)



# PRESCRIBED FIRE NEWSLETTER— WINTER 2022



## Enhancing Whitetail Habitat


Prescribed fire is a great tool to enhance wildlife habitat, aiding in forage and cover maintenance. Browse and forbs are the primary food source for deer nutrition and prescribed fire plays an important role to increase available nutrition throughout Alabama's landscape. By reducing competing competition and maximizing sunlight to the ground, allows new highly nutritious vegetation to sprout offering a food source to wildlife.

Forbs or broad leaf plant production is highest when sunlight is not limited, during the early successional stage. Alabama provides high rain amounts and long growing seasons therefore early successional habitat is maintained by frequent fires, every 2-5 years. Exact return interval is determined by site location and objective. This return interval often can yield 2,000-6,000 pounds of dry forage per acre per growing season. Creating a complex diversity of native species that once established, is self maintained requiring minimum maintenance. This can significantly reduce cost in maintaining quality wildlife habitat compared to other methods.

Timing of burns can determine what species will return. Dormant season burns set back vegetation but will not change vegetative structure. Removing dead vegetation not woody species. Growing season burns reduce encroaching woody species while promoting desirable herbaceous cover. Previous fire history will determine which tactic is best for each site. However, regardless of when a burn is executed, re-sprouts are highly nutritious, more palatable and selected by wildlife over older matured vegetation.

While fire is a key component to maximize sunlight, thinning might be required to open the forest canopy. Open canopy stand can offer seven times the forage eaten by deer. Increasing carrying capacity while improving overall herd health.

To sum up the benefits, burning four acres of habitat typically provides as much forage as one acre of soybeans. Remaining true for three to five years versus annually planted food plots.

For more information click [here](#). 

## JOIN AFA TODAY!

Connect with over 7,000 other landowners, foresters, loggers, equipment dealers, realtors, manufacturers and more in Alabama's forest network!



### WHY JOIN?

- ★ Protect your values
- ★ Learn about the issues that are important to you
- ★ Educate the next generation
- ★ Promote sustainable forest management

### YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS THE ALABAMA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION:

Keep property taxes low / Fight regulatory abuse / Improve education / Reduce landowner liability/ Streamline state government / Improve roads and bridges

### YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Landowner / Hunting Club liability insurance group rates
- Prescribed burning insurance group rates
- Quarterly Alabama Forests magazine
- Annual Membership Directory
- Weekly newsletters with the latest news
- Member Alerts about issues impacting your landownership
- Member discounts on all online continuing education

## SPONSORS

