

PRESCRIBED FIRE NEWSLETTER



upcoming events >>>

Baldwin County Learn and Burn
January 31– February 4, 2022

Wind Creek State Park Learn and Burn
February 14-18, 2022

Bullock County Learn and Burn
February 21-25, 2022

Escambia County Learn and Burn
February 28– March 4, 2022

Pickens County Learn and Burn
March 7-11, 2022

2022 AFA Brewton Regional Reception
March 17, 2022

Location: The Hourglass, Brewton, AL
Register: alaforestry.org/events

Mobile County Landowner Day
March 17, 2022

Staff / Contact



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Important Contact Information

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

For Fire Weather Resources visit:
www.forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/Burn_Weather.aspx

Prescribed Burn Insurance Application
https://www.alaforestry.org/resource/resmgr/Prescribed_Fire_PDF.pdf



Managing Native Deer Forage

One of the most important elements to white-tailed deer survival is nutrition. Nutrition aids individual survival through stressful developmental periods. Providing year round nutrition is vital for overall herd health. Bucks require this to achieve maximum antler growth, does for fawning and lactation, and fawns for growth and development.

Both warm season and cool season plants are required to ensure year round food availability. This can be achieved through food plot development, however this is a costly strategy. Active management of native vegetation is more cost-effective as well as the most beneficial option to maximize herd nutrition. Native vegetation also fosters development of effective cover for concealment and protection from predators and weather.

Deer are ruminants, having a four chambered stomach allowing them to digest a variety of vegetation such as leaves, twigs, stems and mushrooms to name a few. This allows them to have a broad diet making

survivability easier on the individual. Body fat is stored during winter and fall months through consumption of a variety of hard mast, such as acorns. Deer diets switch to leaves and grasses during spring and summer.

So, how do land managers promote native species? Desired species require disturbance in order to grow. In fire-dependent habitat, prescribed fire is a great tool to reduce exotic competition while encouraging native vegetation. In thick forest stands, thinning should be used to improve sunlight to the forest floor, thus promoting nutritious forbs to thrive. Light disking in fields promotes native grasses like ragweeds and briars to thrive. While these can be a nuisance to us, they produce high amounts of crude protein to wildlife.

Proper management allows individuals to utilize a variety of habitats from clearcuts, mature forests and cultivated fields. Therefore several habitat types should be readily available in order to ensure adequate nutrition twelve months of the year. 🌱



Burning Longleaf Seedlings

We can all agree longleaf pine requires fire in order to thrive. When restoring longleaf pine stands fire is an important tool to reduce competing vegetation while helping seedlings become established. However, many managers ask, what time is best to introduce fire and what parameters should be prescribed to effectively introduce prescribed fire into a young stand?

Research from University of Florida aimed to address these exact questions. Researchers set out to determine the timing and intensity effects on longleaf seedlings in north-west Florida. They used different intensity levels, high, medium, low and untreated, while monitoring various effects to individual seedlings. Seedlings were observed for six months post burning. During the summer burn, survival was lower than burns conducted in other season due to a higher intensity. Although other stands burned during summer with lower intensity levels did yield high survival rates.

Research efforts determined longleaf pine seedlings are highly resistant and resilient to fire intensity

in different seasons. Some seedlings were vulnerable during intense summer fires, adversely affecting seedling survival and growth. Summer burning is still an option when burning longleaf seedlings, just be aware of conditions. Practitioners should prescribe a burn yielding low to medium flame intensity.

This research supports the idea that practitioners can burn longleaf seedlings outside of the traditional January to February burning season window. Winter, fall, and spring burn survival and growth is not affected by fire intensity according to this research. Summer burning is a viable option, however be cautious to keep ground conditions in favor of less intense fires not to harm seedlings. 🌲

Research article can be found:

Daniel K. Brethauer, et al. Longleaf pine seedling growth and survival: Effects of season and intensity of simulated prescribed burning, *Forest Ecology and Management*, Volume 502, 2021, 119719, ISSN 0378-1127, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2021.119719>. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112721008100>).

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