

PRESCRIBED FIRE

... IS GOOD FIRE

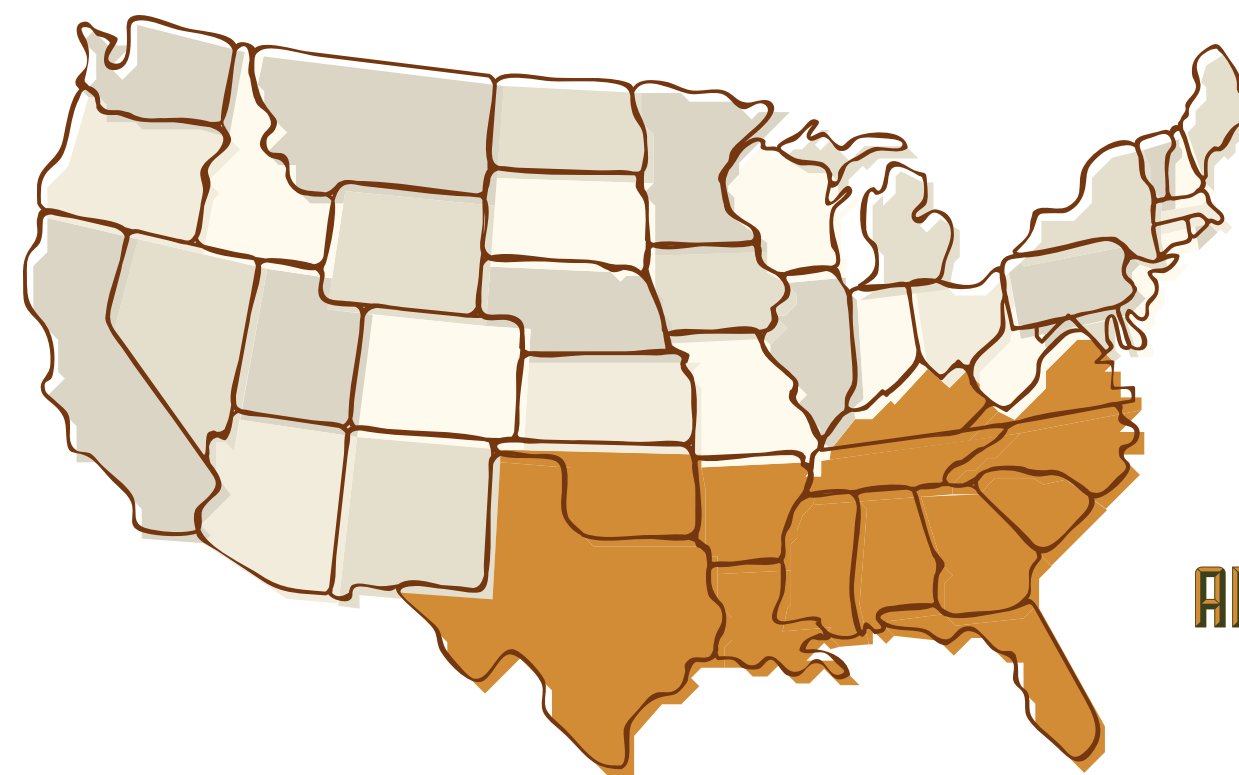


Like a doctor prepares a prescription for a patient for specific results, a **prescribed fire** has a science-based prescription prepared for it.



WHAT IS IT?

Prescribed fire is the use of fire to meet a specific objective, using a specific plan, to restore or maintain the health of a specific ecosystem. The prescription includes specific weather and fuel conditions required to carry out the fire.



DID YOU KNOW?

The South prescribe burns more acres annually than any other region:

ABOUT **6 MILLION**

In fact, several ecosystems of the South are dependent upon periodic fire to sustain healthy animal and plant communities.

50%

or more of the wildfires that occur in the US annually are in the South.

7 BENEFITS OF A BURN



1. Removing Hazardous Fuels

Prescribed fire reduces or removes fuel that can burn, which **lowers a potential wildfire's intensity**. This makes it easier and safer for firefighters to suppress a wildfire and acts as an insurance policy to **protect timber investment** from more catastrophic wildfires.

2. Forest Health

Fire returns nutrients to the soil creating healthy habitats while controlling some diseases, insects, and invasive plants that can affect tree health. Periodic fire can **improve water quality** by increasing aquifer absorption.

3. Economic Gain

Prescribed fire can **aid regeneration of Southern pines**, by creating seedbeds for proper germination. Prescribed fire also **helps establish seedlings** by controlling competing vegetation.

4. Community Risk Reduction

Well planned prescribed fires **help protect and reduce wildfire risks to communities** where wildfires pose the greatest threat to life and property.



5. Aesthetics

Prescribed fire increases the occurrence and visibility of wildflowers, which attract pollinators, and maintains open spaces and transparency that improves the scenic quality of a forest.



6. Farm, Range, and Brush Management

Periodic fire can replenish rangelands by improving the palatability, quality, and quantity of grazing forage while reducing needs for fertilization.

7. Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Prescribed fire can **attract wildlife and songbirds** by increasing plant diversity which also yields a variety of food. Fire **allows plants to capture sunlight and grow**.

Infographic Creative Parc



Publication provided by the Southern Group of State Foresters through a grant from the USDA Forest Service.

GoodFIRES

GoodFires.org