Cooperators

- Florida Department of Environmental
- Florida Division of Forestry
- Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
- Florida water management districts
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Forest Industry
- Private landowners
- Tall Timbers Research Station
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Florida Association of Insurance Agents
- Florida Fire Chiefs Association



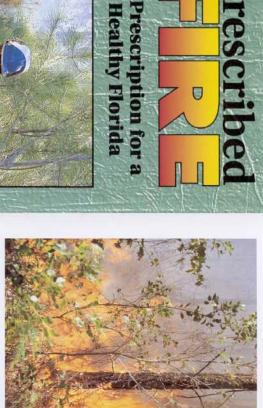
St. Johns River Water Management District

to inform the public about the benefits This brochure was produced by the

of prescribed fire.

Visit us on the Internet at http://sjr.state.fl.us.

Printed on recycled paper Published in March 1999



Healthy Florida

A scene from Florida's past

grassy pine woods The breeze fanned the fire, pushing it along A feeble fire flickered in the dry grass and pine deep gash before exploding into the ground. a lightning bolt sliced through the oppressive Soon, the fire had burned many acres of the needles. A cool breeze blew, but no rain came. Lightning spiraled down the trunk, leaving a air, shattering the bark of a longleaf pine tree sky. Florida on a summer afternoon. Suddenly, thunderheads piled up like cauliflower in the The cicadas buzzed incessantly as the It was sweltering — a day to blister paint

each spring and summer in Florida. The depend on fire for their very survival. accustomed to these frequent fires and This scene once repeated itself many times plants and animals of the pine woods are

Why we burn

gopher tortoises, scrub jays, red-cockaded animals unique to the original habitat these communities change; the plants and depend on fire. are just a few of the many species which maintained by fire are lost. Fox squirrels, scrub and marsh, to name a few. Without fire communities — sandhills, pine flatwoods, woodpeckers, wiregrass and longleaf pines Fire is a natural process in many plant

the variety of plant communities and their damaging wildfire. associated animal life, to approximate natural conditions and to reduce the chances of burning) is necessary for Florida to maintain The use of prescribed fire (or controlled

of habitats so necessary for our animal life of property damage from wildfires of lightning fires in maintaining the diversity natural areas, has drastically reduced the role and animals while also reducing the threat we have to meet the needs of many plants Periodic prescribed fires are the only means development and fragmenting of our state's as quickly as possible. This, as well as the control it by suppressing lightning-caused fire Human fear of fire had led us to attempt to

and to reduce the risk of wildfire. improve and protect the natural resources land where prescribed fires are necessary to andowners and public agencies manage Many private companies, individual

Excuse our smoke

Fire is a natural part of Florida's biological heritage. Periodic fires protect neighboring private property from destructive wildfires, but not without some temporary inconveniences. Smoke and ash travel with the wind and can occasionally find their way to your yard. Great care is taken to minimize this temporary inconvenience. Smoke is a sign that certain lands are being cared for properly. We welcome you to contact one of the cooperators listed on the back of this brochure to make an appointment to come see the results of our fire management program.



Benefits of prescribed fire management

Prescribed fire has many benefits in nature:

- Restoring and maintaining natural communities
- Reducing chances of destructive wildfires
- Perpetuating fire-adapted plants and animals
- Cycling nutrients
- Controlling tree diseases
- Opening scenic vistas







Other facts about prescribed fire

- In 1990, the Florida Legislature passed the Prescribed Fire Act to demonstrate the importance of prescribed fire and to provide liability protection.
- In 1997, Florida's governor and Cabinet designated the second week of March as Prescribed Fire Awareness Week.
- Since 1995, all 33 county commissions in north Florida have passed resolutions supporting the use of prescribed fire.



North Florida Prescribed Fire Council

Prescribed burns are used by such a variety of people that the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council was established in 1989 to promote education and understanding of the issue. This brochure is only one way we hope to better inform you about the benefits of prescribed fire. For more information, call one of the cooperators listed on the back of this brochure.

Our mission

The mission of the North Florida
Prescribed Fire Council is to protect the right,
to encourage the use of, and to promote
public understanding of prescribed fire.
The Council encourages the exchange of
information, techniques and experiences
among practitioners of prescribed fire in
north Florida.