Prescribed Fire Records for NC, 1966-2015

In 2016 the NCPFC Implementation Committee collated GIS based prescribed fire records solicited from primary and secondary sources. The resulting dataset includes over 22,000 point records of burns from 1966-2015. Just over 6,000 of those records include a polygon outline of the burn unit. Each record includes at a minimum: ignition date, coordinates, acreage, and lead burner/agency.

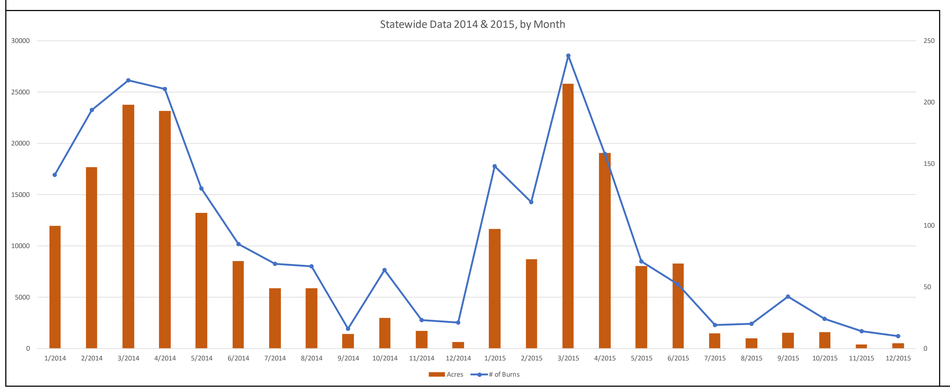
The dataset, though useful, is noticeably incomplete especially regarding burns completed by private contractors and landowners. Reporting standards have traditionally been relaxed for burning, especially in the private sector.

In 2014 the NC Forest Service began using an updated Smoke Management Database, improving the timely collection of burn records in a central database. However, this system has faced challenges and offers an also noticeably incomplete record.

Improved prescribed fire data is a top priority for many in the prescribed fire community. Records that are accurate, timely, and available will not only help us see what we have done, but will help plan for both the immediate and long-term future. The ability to practice prescribed fire in the long run depends on planning efforts that would put that data to work, from daily air quality forecasts to climate impact assessments.

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Reported Prescribed Fires in NC, 2014 & 2015



Matthew Harrell, NCPFC Implementation Committee, 9/1/2017

County	# of Burns	Acres
Alamance	0	0
Alexander	3	74
Alleghany	3	103
Anson	58	1,532
Ashe	2	101
Avery	1	23
Beaufort	17	2,250
Bertie	9	677
Bladen	85	4,254
Brunswick	107	16,340
Buncombe	12	439
Burke	28	1,580
Cabarrus	3	127
Caldwell	4	43
Camden	2	21
Carteret	2	4,916
Caswell	23	1,754
Catawba	2	63
Chatham	29	2,882
Cherokee	6	3,503
Chowan	5	193
Clay	1	6
Cleveland	9	132
Columbus	20	744
Craven	26	2,081
Cumberland	118	8,916
Currituck	0	0
Dare	30	14,344
Davidson	4	147
Davie	5	274
Duplin	5	128
Durham	23	540
Edgecombe	8	501
Forsyth	2	18
Franklin	4	808
Gaston	1	5
Gates	2	62
Graham	8	1,219
Granville	7	147
Greene	1	6
Guilford	1	9
Halifax	27	1,708
Harnett	42	3,888
Haywood	20	1,657
Henderson	7	183
Hertford	5	434
Hoke	309	28,675
Hyde	34	973
Iredell	0	0
Jackson	1	243
Johnston	4	223
Jones	3	258
Lee	0	0
Lenoir	2	45
Lincoln	5	141
Macon	6	388
Madison	1	33
Martin	4	140
McDowell	8	2,381
Mecklenburg	21	937
Mitchell	1	6
Montgomery	72	4,761
Moore	115	9,306
Nash	0	0
New Hanover	4	234
Northampton	6	305
Onslow	29	3,028
Orange	8	89
Pamlico	3	108
Pasquotank	3	68
Pender	101	12,552
Perquimans	2	85
Person	1	50
Pitt	4	469
Polk	14	926
Randolph	15	1,209
Richmond	222	26,431
Robeson	11	552
Rockingham	0	0
Rowan	35	2,476
Rutherford	48	4,353
Sampson	29	1,891
Scotland	125	17,691
Stanly	31	3,767
Stokes	2	510
Surry	29	1,305
Swain	10	757
Transylvania	3	78
Tyrrell	9	1,027
Union	6	339
Vance	1	75
Wake	10	308
Warren	10	1,029
Washington	8	208
Watauga	0	0
Wayne	11	249
Wilkes	9	64
Wilson	1	39
Yadkin	1	30
Yancey	1	4