

Prescribed Fire Resources

The mission of the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) is to seize opportunities and solve problems in ways that provide mutual and multiple benefits to the partners, sustain the individual and collective missions of partner organizations, and secure the future for all the partners, the region, and the nation. SERPPAS has focused on projects such as “Sustaining the Land of the Longleaf Pine” to meet mutual objectives of member organizations. Certain ecosystems, such as longleaf pine, are fire-dependent. Managing them properly with prescribed fire not only helps restore the ecosystems, but also yields associated benefits such as reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, thereby protecting air quality, and improving wildlife habitat for game, at-risk, and endangered species. Such benefits enhance natural, economic, and human resources, as well as national security.

The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group assisted in developing the Comprehensive Strategy for Prescribed Fire to Restore Longleaf Pine in the Southeast United States: A Vision for 2025 (Prescribed Fire Strategy)¹. The Prescribed Fire Strategy represents a consensus among representatives of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector. The vision of the Prescribed Fire Strategy is to have region-wide application of prescribed fire at the scale and frequency needed to meet the goals of the Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine² on private lands by the year 2025, while supporting continued longleaf conservation on public lands. The Prescribed Fire Strategy emphasizes the importance of leveraging the numerous funding sources, organizations, and networks, as well as identifying existing prescribed fire tools and models, to maximize efficiency and success¹. The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group set the following four priorities for 2013-2014:

- Increase the number of trained, qualified, and experienced burners (both landowners and contractors) conducting prescribed burns on private and public lands;
- Minimize landowners’ risk of liability associated with the proper use of prescribed fire;
- Minimize local smoke impacts on air quality and public health and safety by maximizing coordination between air and fire communities; and
- Ensure sufficient, consistently available resources to promote and implement increased prescribed fire operations.

To increase the number of trained, qualified, and experienced burners conducting prescribed burns, it is important to understand the different agencies and organizations that are able to provide prescribed fire support. Landowners often know about financial incentives offered by state forestry and wildlife agencies and federal agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which may help with prescribed fire. However, landowners may not be as familiar with non-financially oriented programs that provide education, outreach, and research support for prescribed fire. The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group has developed a table of prescribed fire resources to meet this need. The table (although not comprehensive) provides prescribed fire resource entities, a description of services, and contact information. It is our hope that by providing landowners, contractors, and others with the necessary support, we will be able to improve the application of prescribed fire, ensuring longleaf pine restoration, improving wildlife habitat, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Prepared by Laurie Gharis, Ph.D., and Jennifer Evans
Regional Readiness Cooperative
North Carolina State University, July 2013

1. Burke, C., T. Steelman, and L. Gharis. 2012. *Comprehensive Strategy for Prescribed Fire to Restore Longleaf Pine in the Southeast United States: A vision for 2025*. Regional Readiness Cooperative. August. 35 pp.
2. America’s Longleaf. 2009. Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine. Retrieved (2 July 2013) from http://americaslongleaf.org/media/86/conservation_plan.pdf

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Entity	Description	Contact
America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative	Collaborative effort that actively supports range-wide efforts to restore and conserve longleaf pine ecosystems; effort includes on-the-ground implementation teams at the state and local level	Contact closest state or local implementation team http://www.americaslongleaf.org/implementation/implementation-teams/
Association for Fire Ecology	Improves the knowledge and use of fire in land management through science and education	http://fireecology.org/
eXtension	Interactive learning environment delivering prescribed fire researched knowledge from the best land grant university minds across America	http://www.extension.org/prescribed_fire
Jones Ecological Research Center	Seeks to understand, to demonstrate, and to promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation on the landscape of the SE coastal plain	http://www.jonesctr.org/conservation/prescribed_fire/prescribed_fire_management.html
National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center	Program blends field prescribed burning experience with curriculum of classroom instruction	http://www.fws.gov/fire/pftc/
National Wild Turkey Federation	Works to conserve upland wildlife habitat in North America	http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=12505
Prescribed Fire Councils	The Prescribed Fire Councils are organized at the state and local level and offer information-sharing and networking opportunities for individuals, agencies, and organizations through annual or biannual meetings open to all prescribed burners	Coalition: http://www.prescribedfire.net/ AL: http://www.alpfc.org/ FL: http://www.floridaforests-service.com/wildfire/rx_councils.html GA: http://www.garxfire.com/ MS: http://www.msfirecouncil.org/ NC: http://www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org/index.html SC: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/pfc/index.html TX: http://pbatexas.org/Resources.aspx VA: http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/vpfc.htm
Southern Fire Exchange	Regional program for fire science delivery in the SE. The site includes publications, models, and tools for prescribed fire in the SE	http://www.southernfireexchange.org/index.html
Southeast Prescribed Fire Update	Provides current training opportunities, press releases, event happenings, information, and education material for prescribed burning in the SE U.S.	http://cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/southeast-fire-update/
States	Certification classes provide training for conducting prescribed fire	AL: http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/PrescribedBurnCertification.aspx?bv=1&s=7 FL: http://www.floridaforests-service.com/wildfire/rx_training.html GA: http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/prescribed-fire/prescribed-fire-certification/ LA: http://www.ldaf.louisiana.gov/portal/Offices/Forestry/ForestProtection/CertifiedPrescribedBurnManager/tabid/249/Default.aspx MS: http://ce.msucare.com/prescribed_burn_short_course.php NC: http://www.montgomery.edu/nc-prescribed-fire-training-center.html SC: http://www.state.sc.us/forest/cpfm.htm TX: http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/PrescribedBurnProgram/CommercialCertifiedPrescribedBurnManager.aspx VA: http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/prescribed/index.htm
Tall Timbers	Fire Ecology Program improves management for conservation of natural ecosystems through scientific research and outreach regarding the role of fire in natural plant communities	http://talltimbers.org/fireecology.html
The Longleaf Alliance	Ensures a sustainable future for the longleaf pine ecosystem through partnerships, landowner assistance, and science-based education and outreach	http://www.longleafalliance.org/
The Nature Conservancy	Works to maintain fire's natural role in our landscapes	http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/habitats/forests/howwework/maintaining-fires-natural-role.xml