

CBPBA Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

August 2008 Newsletter

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You may submit items for inclusion in future newsletters by emailing them to ljones@hrbizmall.com

PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNING FORMS NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE

You can download the CBPBA Prescribed Burn Plan forms from the TOWMA (Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations) website http://www.towma.org/information.php?info_id=74

SUMMER PRESCRIBED BURN WORKSHOP & DEMO BURN

CBPBA will hold a Prescribed Burn Workshop on August 19 in Victoria, Texas. An actual burn will then be conducted either August 20 or 21, depending on weather conditions.

The August 19 school consists of classroom work and presentations at the Patty Dodson Center in Victoria. Topics include burn laws and regulations, fire weather, fire suppression, developing burn plans, and planning and conducting prescribed burns on private land.

Weather permitting, a demonstration burn will follow on either the 20th or 21st at the Garcitas Division of McFaddin Enterprises off Salom Road north of Victoria. Final details and a map will be furnished at the school on the 19th.

Lunch is included both days.

CEU credits will be available for pesticide applicator license holders on completion of the workshop. The number to be awarded is yet to be determined. Texas Prescribed Burn Board CEU's are also available.

The cost of the school and burn is \$25 per person to cover materials, drinks and meals. For more information or to register contact Larry Jones at (361) 362-0430. You may also register at the door the day of the workshop.

When: August 19, 2006, beginning at 9:00 AM

August 20 or 21, TBD, beginning at 9:00 AM

Where: Day 1- Patty Dodson Center, 2805 N. Navarro St., Victoria, TX

(This is at the intersection of Navarro and Airline streets)

Day 2- Garcitas Division of McFaddin Enterprises north of Victoria (a map will be provided at the school August 19)

Cost: \$25, make checks payable to CBPBA

This is the second and last CBPBA demo burn and school for 2008.

PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

By Macy Ledbetter, Spring Creek Outdoors (Reprinted with permission)

Wildfire and prescribed fire are similar to illegal drugs and prescription drugs. The first can destroy your home and possibly kill you while the second will improve your wildlife habitat and cure your ailments. Wildfires and illegal drugs carry heavy negative impacts while prescribed fire and prescription drugs carry positive and healing impacts.

Popular throughout the last century, Smokey the Bear had a major influence on many young lives. His overall message was well-meaning but often misinterpreted. Children grew up fearing fire of any kind because Smokey said fire was bad. In wildfire conditions, he was correct, but under controlled conditions, fire can be the best

CBPBA BROCHURE IS AVAILABLE ON LINE

A PDF copy of the CBPBA brochure is available for download here:

http://www.towma.org/information.php?info_id=74

BURN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

CBPBA has a fully equipped burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee. Virtually all the equipment needed to conduct a safe burn is included except for ATVs and other vehicles. The trailer and equipment will be on display at the August 19 burn school and will be used at the follow up burn.

tool used to help turn a property around -- to increase the overall herbaceous production, to add weight gain to the animals, to rejuvenate new growth, to remove thick layers of thatch that prevent forbs/weeds and new grasses from growing, to even encouraging new plant species to grow and prosper.

Prescribed fire is the answer to old, tired, rangeland that has become stale and stagnant and in need of a shot of production. Prescribed fire adds fertilizer—thru the combustion and restructuring of nutrients—back into the soil where it belongs and becomes usable again. Prescribed fire “opens up” the short herbaceous canopy, thins out invading brush and grass species, removes the young, old, and dead plants and improves sunlight, rain and nutrient penetration at ground level. Prescribed fire stimulates soil micro-organisms and begins the natural food chain from the earliest of stages and thereby creating a much more stable, vigorous and healthy habitat.

Prescribed burns generally occur during two times of the year--summer reclamation burns and fall cool season burns. A summer burn is considered a “hot” fire used to kill large trees (cedars, huisache, mesquite) primarily to reclaim overgrown pastures that need to be returned back into long-term production. A summer burn is very aggressive and destructive and extreme care must be used when using it. A winter burn is considered a “cool” fire and is used primarily to top-remove any debris, set back (not necessarily kill) invading brush species and encourage a quick regrowth response. The fire temperature is hot enough to do the job yet not so hot as to kill large trees or mature brush species -- targeting primarily the short brush and grass canopies. Cool season burns are best used to generate browse plant regrowth and forb/weed production—forages that wildlife highly prefer.

Obvious safe-guards need to be in place before any burn: suitable fireguards around the perimeter of the area to be burned, a low humidity/low wind day with a favorable wind direction in order to direct the fire and smoke as desired, and ample experienced help on hand to assist. Heavy equipment such as water spray rigs, dozers, or a tractor and disc are always wise. A game plan for the actual burn and a backup plan should something go awry is also needed, not to mention contacting local neighbors, sheriff office and fire departments to let them know your intentions.

Burning is not for the weak of heart. It requires much planning and coordination and weather forecasting, but the benefits of a successful burn outweigh all the trouble and stress involved. A burned area is the first to green up and animals will walk great distances to feed on the new lush growth. Fire removes the thorns and needles found on aggressive plants, so many animals enter the burn area even before the smoke clears in order to feed on such delicacies.

Tame pastures, rangelands and even brushy pastures can benefit from prescribed fire. Use fire as a tool just as you do with heavy equipment, responsible cattle grazing and selective harvest. It is one of the cheapest and quickest forms of habitat management available today and it will make a believer out of you once you give it a chance.

By Macy Ledbetter, www.SpringCreekOutdoors.com, all rights reserved

ABOUT US

The CBPBA is a cooperative of landowners and interested parties in 12 Coastal Bend Counties, including Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Karnes, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria. Additional counties may be added in the future. Members share manpower and resources to help each other burn on their properties. The Association has a burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee that includes most of the equipment needed to conduct safe burns, including radios, drip torches, and fire suppression equipment.

Prescribed burning is one of the most effective and economical methods of brush management and wildlife habitat enhancement available to landowners. Many plants in Texas are highly burn adapted and respond very positively to burning. Burning was nature’s way of maintaining a healthy and dynamic environment until man decided fire was bad. Reduced wild fires have produced uncontrolled brush expansion, degraded wildlife and livestock habitat, and reduced the quantity of useful forage available to

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wildlife and domestic animals.

Prescribed burning is a safe and economical habitat management tool when applied by knowledgeable people. CBPBA provides prescribed burn training opportunities and encourages the safe use of fire in the Texas Coastal Bend.

Join CBPBA by sending your check for \$25 (annual dues) along with the completed application on the mailing label page of this newsletter to CBPBA, P. O. Box 447, Beeville, TX 78104.

CBPBA GUIDELINES

Dues - \$25.00 per year. Income will purchase, repair, and maintain equipment and support activities such as meetings, newsletters and correspondence.

Fire Training Education - The Association shall conduct or sponsor one burn school each year. Members should attend a burn school to learn the basics of prescribed fire and receive training on how to operate equipment.

Fire Plans - Prescribed fires will have burn plans prepared by the rancher and reviewed by either the local NRCS office or the CBPBA prior to the burn.

Personnel - A critical number of trained personnel will be determined for each burn. The number will depend on the size and complexity of the prescribed burn as described in the prescribed burn plan.

Liability - Each rancher will be liable for fires on their property. Proof of insurance is required before CBPBA will assist in a burn and such proof should be submitted with the rancher's burn plan.

Fire Lines - Each landowner is responsible for preparing their own fire lines. Fire lines are subject to inspection before the initiation of the prescribed fire and should meet specifications outlined in the burn plan.

Equipment - Use of CBPBA equipment shall be available to all association members at the rate of \$50 for 24 hours or \$75 for 36 hours. A check out/check in form will be completed for each use to document the condition of the equipment and to determine the rate charged. Members are responsible for any damage to the trailer and equipment. Proof of liability insurance on the towing vehicle is required to check out equipment. The Trailer will be available for use by qualified persons who are not members on the CBPBA.

Fire Boss - Each rancher will be the fire boss on their own property unless other arrangements are made.

Participation - Members are encouraged to help on as many burns as possible. Participation provides members with fire-line experience, helps them become aquatinted with other members with the same goals and objectives, and builds an experienced team. Participation is recorded for each burn. Ranchers must assist in at least two burns for other members before CBPBA will assist them on their land. Exceptions are made for members not physically able to actively participate on burns. Participation sheets will be available at all burns and completed forms kept on file with CBPBA.

EVENTS

August 19, 2008 - CBPBA Burn Workshop & Demo Burn (see item above)

November 1, 2008 - Bee County Wildlife Management Association

"**Hunters Welcome**, 11:30 AM, Bee County Exposition Center – visit www.bee-county-wildlife.org for details

Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association
P. O. Box 447
Beeville, TX 78104



Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

Membership Application

Please print carefully so we can read your information

Land owner's name: _____ Ranch name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone number: _____ FAX number: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

My property is located in _____ County(s)

ANNUAL DUES (per calendar year) are \$25.

Make checks payable to CBPBA and mail to P. O. Box 447, Beeville, Texas, 78104

For more information call 361-362-0430