

Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

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January 2012

Late Winter 2012 Prescribed Fire Seminar

Located In Jackson County Please respond to 361 935-3030 or
kfeuerbacher@tnc.org

The Hafernick Center at the Brackenridge Recreation Complex off of
Hwy 111E ,891 Brackenridge Pkwy, Edna, TX 77957

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2012 8:30 – 3:45

Agenda

8:00 - 8:30 – Registration \$25.00

8:30 – 9:15 - Laws and Regs of Fire in Texas. *Private consultant. Chair of State Prescribed Burn Board. Dr. Lynn Drawe*

9:15 – 10:00 - Weather impacts on prescribed fire and smoke management. *The Nature Conservancy. Ray Guse.*

10:00 – 10:15 - Break

10:15 – 11:00 - Benefits of Fire. Functionality in ecology, agricultural, and wildlife. *TPWD. Trent Tienert*

11:00 – 12:00 - Writing a burn plan and preparing the burn site.

Private consultant. Tim Rienke.

12:00 – 1:00 - Lunch. Provided.

1:00 – 1:45 – Personnel and Public safety with fire and smoke. *The Nature Conservancy. John DeLeon.*

1:45 – 2:30 – Fire Wise and fuels reduction. *Texas Forest Service. Lexi Maxwell.*

2:30 – 3:15 – Implementing prescribed fire. Go, No Go. Chronological steps. *TPWD. Josh Turner.*

3:15 – 3:45 - Wrap Up and Burn Trailer orientation.

The Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas Formed

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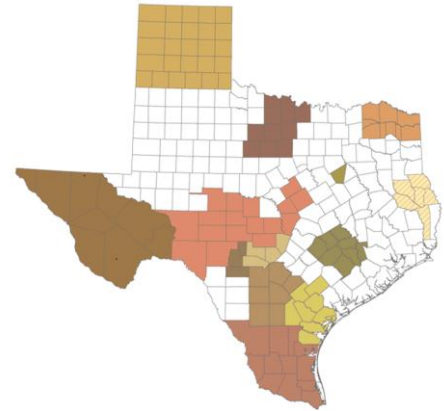
Texas ranchers and landowners have long recognized the need and value of prescribed burning on their land to enhance the productivity, thin out invasive species infestations and to reduce fuel loads. Texas ecology is a "fire dependent" one, meaning that it requires fire to maintain optimum functionality. Never was that more evident than this last summer when Texas experienced its driest summer in history. Overloaded with decades of neglect, millions of acres went up in flames, costing millions of dollars in suppression costs, burning thousands of home and putting tens of thousands of people at risk of losing their lives.

Texas in general has lost its "fire culture" though. A leading proponent on the use of prescribed fire, Dr. Butch Taylor with Edwards Plateau Burn Association, states that "since Texas does not have a fire culture, the overall perception of the general public, in particular those affected by fire, see all fires as bad. However, not all fires are bad but rather often misunderstood and feared." Given this fact, starting in 1997, Mr Taylor and others formed Prescribed Burn Associations (PBA) which were landowner/operator cooperatives to assist each other in burning operations, but also to educate and promote the use of fire across the landscape.

Jump 14 years later, there are now 11 PBAs in Texas with over 1000 members. As the number of PBAs increased, some of the challenges of greater communication, the need for common liability insurance, the dissemination of timely information, uniformity of training, and need for a single "voice" emerged. In recognition of these issues in Summer of 2011, leaders from every Texas' PBA and state and federal agencies came together in San Angelo to begin the process of forming a statewide Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas (PBAT). Today, PBAT has a elected officers, created its bylaws, and will seek funding and insurance. In the end, the purpose of the PBAT is to promote the safe and continued use of prescribed fire statewide and to use its numbers to influence positive policy.

For more information on PBAT, go to <http://pfire.tamu.edu>.

Counties in each Prescribed Burn Association



Posting Flaggers on Highways for Smoke?

RAY HINNANT - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Page 7, Chapter 111 states (3) Burning shall be commenced and conducted only when wind direction and other meteorological conditions are such that smoke and other pollutants will not cause adverse effects to any public road, landing strip, navigable water, or off-site structure containing sensitive receptor(s). (4) If at any time the burning causes or may tend to cause smoke to blow onto or across a road or highway, it is the responsibility of

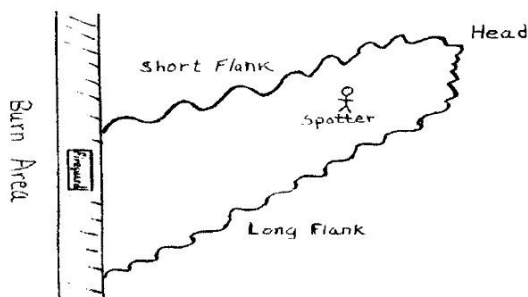


the person initiating the burn to post flag-persons on affected roads.” TXDOT’s response is: “As noted within the referenced TCEQ guidelines, it is the responsibility of the person initiating the burn to post flag persons on affected roads. While the guidelines indicate responsibility to ensure appropriate traffic control is initiated, only law enforcement, governmental entities with jurisdiction over a roadway, or a contractor of a governmental entity with jurisdiction over a roadway have the authority to control traffic on Texas roadways.”

At this writing I have not received word from TCEQ legal regarding this issue. It has been brought to the attention of the Prescribed Burning Board.

A smoke forecast and smoke management planning is critical for burn managers.

Do Your Best to Prevent Fire Escapes!



RAY HINNANT - There have been several instances of prescribed burns escaping the planned boundaries this year. Every one that escapes gets lots of press and the hundreds that are successfully put out rarely get mentioned. It behooves us all to be as careful and prudent as possible on all prescribed burns. Our insurance rates and our relationship with the county government will suffer if escapes become more

commonplace. Adequate crew size, experience, equipment, communication, and good weather forecasting are just some of the factors that we must consider on each and every prescribed burn.

As burners, we must set high standards of practice and do our best to prevent negligent or sloppy burn practices. Our future depends on it.

Local News:

Burn Bans and drought everywhere! Despite them, a little burning is going on around the CBPBA region. The CBPBA has burned enough acreage (10,000+) to qualify for the \$25,000 US Fish and Wildlife grant we applied for a year ago.

CBPBA has gotten its 501(c)(3) status. We are now certified as a non-profit organization.

CBPBA LOGO CAPS

NOW AVAILABLE for \$10

Supplies are limited



Only through the use of proper management tools and prescribed burning will we vastly reduce the number and intensity of violent wildfires occurring around our state.

Fire Weather



A conventional distinction between wildfire and prescribed fire is that that one is “good” while the other is “bad.” In relative terms, there is no difference between the two and their effects on the ecosystem and the physical process in wildfire and prescribed fire is the same. It burns. The difference comes from management. Our control over the parameters in which the fire is carried out is critical in making the fire perform in a satisfactory manner. While fire departments and county imposed burn bans seek to mitigate fire as being undesirable, this is impossible to achieve and also highly undesirable from an ecological standpoint. One of the most important tools we can use to manage our burns is the weather. Knowing what our weather is today, what it was yesterday, and knowing what it will be for several days from now are not only essential to planning a burn but also the law. The National Weather Service provides Fire Weather forecasts for burners to find out what their weather will be on any given day. You will need to know wind speed at ground level and at 20 feet, direction, relative humidity, how high the smoke will rise (mixing height), transport winds (the upper level winds that carry smoke away), days since the last rain, etc. There are prescribed burn standards and laws that dictate some minimum and maximum variables that is your responsibility to know and adhere to.

To get started on understanding your fire weather, go to <http://radar.srh.noaa.gov/fire/> or to <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/> and look here http://www.prescribedburn.org/prescribed_burning_resources/burn_checklist.html



BURN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

CBPBA has a fully equipped burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee. The Nature Conservancy also rents burn equipment. Talk to any CBPBA officer or visit us online at:

<http://www.prescribedburn.org/>



Gate signs are available free for individual members and a donation of \$50 is appreciated for corporate members.

Member Application

Please print carefully so we can read your information

Name: _____

Ranch name: _____

Do you carry ranch insurance that covers fire? Yes ___ **No** ___

If yes, how much coverage?

Address: _____ **City** _____

State ___ **Zip** _____

Telephone number: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

My property is located in _____ **County(s)**

ANNUAL DUES (per calendar year or part thereof) are \$35.

Corporate memberships are available for \$50 per year.

Make checks payable to CBPBA and mail to 3303 US Hwy 59N

Victoria, TX 77905

For more information call Kirk Feuerbacher at 361-572-8711 or 361-935-3030 (c) or visit our website at <http://www.prescribedburn.org>