

Benefits of Prescribed Burning

A prescribed fire, or “good fire” is a strategically planned and carefully managed fire application used to accomplish specific conservation/land management objectives for healthy forests and grasslands. Prescribed burns are conducted in Arkansas by officials from an array of conservation and land management agencies, and by private landowners and companies.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Prescribed Fire makes a landscape more resistant to out-of-control wildfires by removing flammable debris and vegetation, and ladder fuels (branches and leaves that transfer flames upward). Prescribed Fire is one of the best and most economic tools for improving wildfire safety.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement

White-tailed deer, turkey, and quail populations are often the first to benefit from prescribed fire, because it opens forests to herbaceous plant species, used for food and cover. Prescribed burns also increase the quality and quantity of grasses and forbs on grasslands for grazing.

Planting & Regeneration

Prescribed Fire opens the seed bed of forests, grasslands, and prairies, making seedling regeneration and growth faster and more productive.

Vegetation Control

For many decades now, Arkansas has had overly dense forests, which are not healthy. Prescribed fire gives healthier trees a head-start on weeds and less hearty vegetation to produce a valuable, thriving and growing forest.

Ecosystem/Ecological Restoration

Various insects and diseases are more likely to attack overly dense forests, and unhealthy trees. Prescribed fire restores the balance of nutrients for trees by reducing competition for nutrients from an overabundance of trees.

Remember, a prescribed fire is strategically planned and carefully managed. Flames from a prescribed burn are slow moving, low to the ground, and planned to burn in a specific direction. The main goal of any prescribed burn is safety. Always check the weather before you burn.

**Report Prescribed Burns to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Dispatch Center: 1-800-830-8015**

Report Wildfires: 1-800-468-8834

