

To join the Tennessee Prescribed Fire Council, fill out this form, tear it off, and mail to the address below. You also can contact Jeff by email.



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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you interested in participating on a Council committee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



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 Extension

# TENNESSEE PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL



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## What is the Tennessee Prescribed Fire Council?

The Tennessee Prescribed Fire Council (TNPFC) is a collection of natural resource professionals, land managers and other individuals who support the use of prescribed fire. Specifically, the TNPFC and its members strive to:

- Enhance the ability to use prescribed fire as a land management tool.
- Increase expertise in prescribed fire by sharing information.
- Promote safety, training and research in the art and science of prescribed fire.
- Review prescribed fire practices, regulations and policies and suggest improvement.
- Promote public education about the benefits of prescribed fire.
- Promote best management practices that minimize smoke and air quality impacts from prescribed fire.

## Why is the TNPFC needed?

Relatively few people realize the importance of fire in managing and maintaining many of our ecosystems in Tennessee. Fire plays a critical role influencing plant communities and the wildlife associated with them. Prescribed fire is an economical management tool used to manage forests and fields for forestry, wildlife and ecological objectives, while protecting lands



from wildfire. Informed people realize prescribed fire can be used to meet multiple land management objectives without undue fear. An organization that provides accurate and objective information on the use of prescribed fire in Tennessee is needed.

## Why should you care?

Healthy ecosystems are important for all Tennesseans, whether you use prescribed fire or not. Prescribed fire is economical and can be more effective and efficient than many mechanical (bulldozers, mowers) and chemical (herbicides) methods when managing forests and fields. Correct application of prescribed fire can recycle nutrients, limit particulate matter in the air, and avoid soil erosion.

## Who can be a member of the TNPFC?

Membership in the TNPFC is open to individuals and agencies that use or promote prescribed fire as a land management tool. Members are encouraged to attend the council's meetings and participate on one of the various committees.

## Why should you be involved?

Your effort is needed to make a positive difference in Tennessee, and involvement does not necessarily mean a lot of your time. Keeping an open mind and objectively considering the merits of using prescribed fire, while informing your coworkers, friends and neighbors of the TNPFC is a great step toward public awareness. Involvement on TNPFC committees will help conserve more acres and promote enhanced habitat for many wildlife species, some of which have declining populations as a direct result of fire suppression.

## What is the TNPFC doing?

Currently, the council is working to:

- Standardize prescribed fire training for natural resource agencies in Tennessee.
- Get legislation introduced that would provide

limited liability for trained prescribed fire practitioners.

- Spread the word about using prescribed fire through media, workshops, training events, field days, demonstration areas, websites and trade shows.

The council holds an annual membership meeting where the latest information on prescribed fire ecology and management is discussed and committee activities are developed and reported.

To find out more about the TNPFC, visit <http://www.tnpfc.org>.

## Who leads the TNPFC?

The TNPFC is led by an Executive Committee whose members are employed by the leading natural resource management agencies and organizations in Tennessee:

Tennessee Division of Forestry

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

University of Tennessee

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Parks Division and Air Quality Division

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

National Park Service

Department of Defense

Tennessee Wildlife Federation

The Nature Conservancy