

Prescribed Burning Checklist

Prescribed burning is a highly effective, low-cost tool for managing longleaf pine ecosystems. However, it is not to be used haphazardly. In addition to other considerations, here is a checklist of things to make sure you have, or have planned, before burning your longleaf:

- Burn Plan
- Burn Manager
- Smoke Permit



The image at left shows prescribed burning being used to maintain an open grass understory, which will in turn provide quality habitat for wildlife as well as help ensure the health of this stand.

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Resources and Contacts

- Jones County Junior College Forestry Technology:
www.jjc.edu/depts/forestry
- Mississippi State University Extension Service:
<http://msucares.com/>
- Longleaf Alliance:
longleaf@auburn.edu
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
<http://www.fws.gov/>
- U.S. Forest Service:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/>



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BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED BURNING LONGLEAF PINE



**Caring for the Trees and Forests
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Using Prescribed Burning to Manage Longleaf Pine

What is Prescribed Burning?

Prescribed burning is defined as fire applied in a knowledgeable manner to forest fuels on a specific land area under selected weather conditions to accomplish predetermined, well-defined management objectives.

Early American settlers found Native Americans using fire in pine stands and adopted the practice themselves to provide better access, improve hunting, and get rid of brush and timber so they could farm. Annual burning became a custom.



The above image shows a longleaf pine stand that was recently burned. Notice the openness of the understory and how native grasses are already beginning to carpet the forest floor. Longleaf are well-insulated with thick bark protecting them from damage from the fire. In fact, fire helps cleanse longleaf ecosystems and reduce excessive fuels that can build up over time, thus promoting their long term health.

Reasons for Burning Longleaf Pine

Prescribed burning can be applied to a longleaf pine forests to accomplish a number of objectives, which are not limited to, but include the following:

- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Prepare sites for seeding and planting
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Manage competing vegetation
- Control insects and disease
- Improve forage for grazing
- Enhance appearance
- Improve access



Brown spot needle blight can affect longleaf pine seedlings in the grass stage and can eventually kill them after repeated defoliations. The images above show how fire can cleanse a seedling of brown spot needle blight by burning off the affected foliage.

Reasons for Considering Longleaf Pine

- **Native species:** Well-managed longleaf pine forests provide quality habitat for a variety of desirable plant and animal species.
- **Reduced risk of loss to natural causes:** Longleaf pine is highly resistant to pine beetles and fusiform rust, tolerant of wildfire and ice, and generally firm against wind.
- **Biodiversity:** A longleaf pine stand maintained by fire is among the most biologically diverse ecotypes in North America.
- **Aesthetics:** For visual effect, few forests can compare with longleaf pine forests.
- **Cultural:** For those whose roots go far back into the history of the southeastern U.S., chances are that longleaf pine forests played a role in the livelihood of their ancestors. Longleaf was literally the tree that built the South.
- **Products:** In today's market, the products derived from longleaf pine can be much more valuable than those of other southern pines.
- **Investment security:** As an investment, longleaf provides a real measure of security. It guards against catastrophic loss better than other southern pines.