

# Prescribed Burn and Land Management Field Days

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## Addressing a Need

Using fire as a tool for land management has been around for thousands of years. In the past, fire was sometimes used incorrectly and resulted in wildfires and loss of burn resistant vegetation in ecosystems. Over time, research has shown that when used correctly, regular and periodically applied prescribed fire is a great tool to help improve land. The act of controlled burns or "prescribed fire/burns" helps restore ecosystems and provides several benefits to landowners that implement this strategy. Prescribed burning is defined as the intentional and strategic application of fire on the landscape in order to achieve specific management objectives. Benefits landowners could gain from prescribed burns include enhancing wildlife habitats, invasive weed suppression, regeneration of native tree seedlings, and reducing the threat of hazardous wildfires. Taking into account the value of forestry products in the counties of Effingham (~\$22 million) and Screven (~\$31 million), and that the Georgia Forestry Commission reported there are 1.4 million acres per year burned across the state, educating land owners on "Why Burn?", "How to Burn?", and "Resources to Help Burn" is a high priority.

## Objectives For Program

- 🔥 Provide a background of prescribed burning, explain what prescribed burns are, and show the benefits of prescribed burns
- 🔥 Teach how prescribed burns in combination with proper weed control practices can lead to more profitable stands of marketable timber
- 🔥 Teach proper pesticide safety procedures to ensure that land owners are prepared and safe when using chemicals for weed control
- 🔥 Share resources through various organizations and agencies that can assist in helping landowners not only preform prescribed burns but become better stewards of their land as well

## Program Details

Effingham and Screven County Extension partnered to address the needs of our community by offering two Prescribed Burning and Land Management Field Days with one being in each respective county. The first field day was held on May 25th in Screven County at a recently burned mature loblolly pine stand and the second was held in Effingham County at the Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center. Qualtrics was utilized to do online preregistration. Inviting speakers from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Longleaf Alliance, the Central Savannah River RC&D, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the field days delivered timely and relevant information that matched the program's objectives. Each attendee was given a packet with the information the speakers covered to take home with them. The conclusion of the field days included a hot meal and an opportunity to ask the speakers more questions regarding topics they presented.

## Speakers & Topics Covered

**Dr. David Clabo**  
*Assistant Professor of Silviculture Outreach*

**Jason Mallard**  
*UGA Extension Screven County ANR*

**Dr. David Dickens**  
*Professor of Forest Productivity*

**Blake Carter**  
*UGA Extension Effingham County ANR*

**Daniel Westcott**  
*District Conservationist Screven/Effingham Counties*

**Susan French**  
*GA Sentinel Landscape Pilot Project Coordinator*

**Jay Foskey**  
*Management Forester*

**Benji Anderson**  
*Ranger 3*

**Rahn Milligan**  
*Central Savannah River RC&D Executive Director*

Benefits of Burning

Prescribed Burn and Deer Management

Woody Release in Burnt Stands

Pesticide Safety

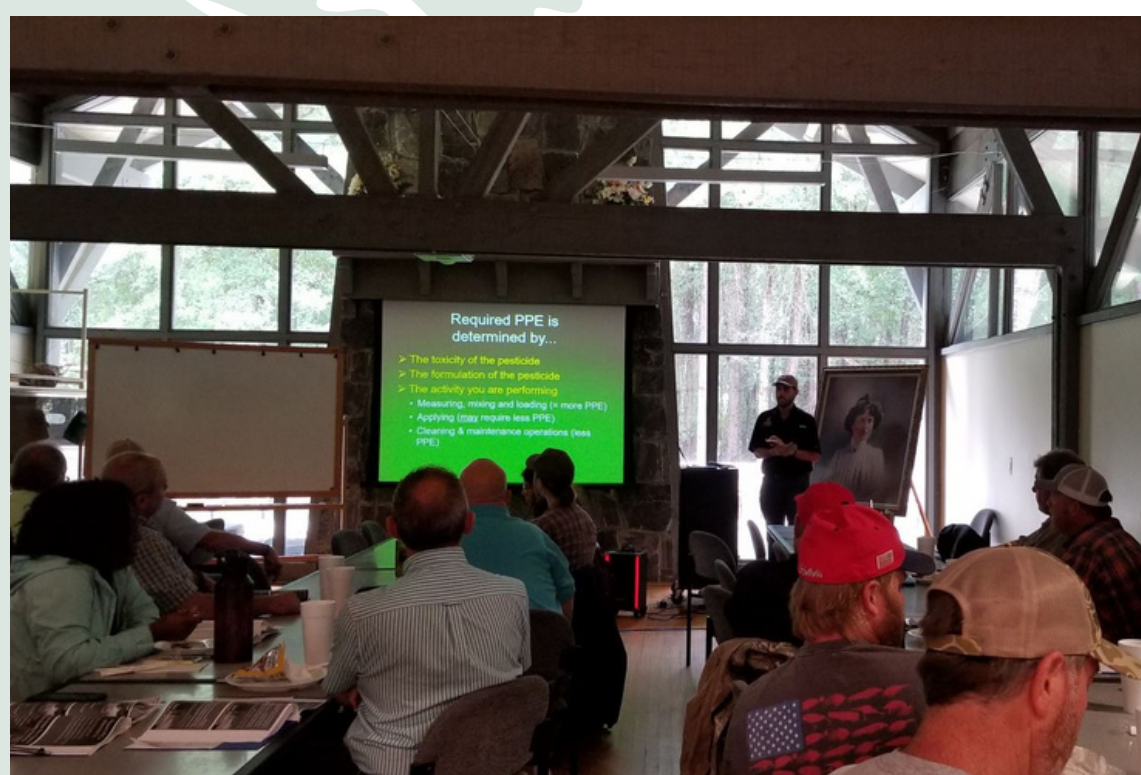
NRCS Programs

Assistance Through the Longleaf Alliance

Mechanics of a Good Forestry Burn

Georgia Forestry Commission County Programs

RC&D Update



Speakers talking to the attendees at the two locations



Everyone's favorite part... the food!

## Outcome

- 🔥 The field days boasted a combined 83 attendees, with some coming from other states such as Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida.
- 🔥 Attendees included 14 timber farmers, 50 business/industry representatives, and 11 landowners.
- 🔥 39 attendees were given 5.5 Hours of Category 1 Continuing Forestry Education (CFE), 5 Hours of Georgia Master Timber Harvester Continuing Logger Education (CLE) Category B, 1 hour of Private Pesticide and 1 hour of Commercial Category 24 credits.
- 🔥 Funds raised from the field day totaled \$5,500\* which were used to cover expenses for the meetings and surplus funds were split between the Effingham and Screven County ANR Programs.
- 🔥 100% of attendees learned what a QR code is and how to use one.

\*Total reflects funds donated by Central Savannah RC&D and the Longleaf Alliance, and funds collected from the attendees

## Impact

A post field day survey was given to the attendees after each program:

100% of respondents said that the meetings expanded their knowledge of prescribed burns

70% of respondents that said they had never done prescribed burns, plan to implement one in the future after attending these field days

100% of respondents also reported that they would like to see more programming done for foresters and landowners and would attend more programs in the future.

"Though I already do burns on my property, the great information shared through this field day showed me the different programs that can assist me as I plan to increase the frequency of burns on my land. That alone can help save me thousands down the line."

-Quote from an attendee regarding the impact the field days had

## Partners & Sponsors: