

Tall Timbers Coordinated Prescribed Burn Associations



Private Lands Fire Tall Timbers, Inc.

1

Summary of Identified Barriers from Surveys.

Survey	Area(s) of Interest	Impediments/Limitations
Melvin, 2012	National/Southeast	Capacity Liability
AFWA, 2015	Southeast	Liability
Kobzar et al. 2013	Southeast	Liability WUI Budget Staffing
Wallace & Livingston, 2015	North Carolina	Smoke Management/Air Quality Amount of Burning Days
North Carolina State University, 2015	Texas	Lack of Knowledge Liability Concerns Lack of Resources New Landowners

Diaz et al. 2015

Commonly listed barriers:


- Liability
- Lack of burn days (Weather)
- Capacity/manpower
- Hands-on training

How can we address these barriers?

2

Prescribed Burn Associations

- Liability
 - State laws - (FL - gross negligence)
 - CPBM Certification
 - Other CPBM - many eyes
- Lack of burn days
 - Planning in advance
 - Take advantage of what you have
- Capacity/Manpower
 - Neighbor helping neighbor
 - Shared Equipment/burn trailers
- Hands-on training
 - Learn to Burns
 - Attend burns, gain experience
 - Workshops




465 members 217,104 acres

3

Fire is Inherently Dangerous!


A great management tool used to satisfy many management objectives including a) fuel reduction and b) system restoration.


- Fires can escape containment
- People can get hurt on the fire (or off)
- Smoke can impact roadways or exacerbate health issues




4

PRESCRIBED FIRE STATS 2019 | FLORIDA


87,932
BURN PERMITS GIVEN


2.43
MILLION ACRES TREATED

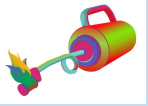

ESCAPES OF AUTHORIZED BURNS AMOUNTED TO 1677 ACRES OR <1% OF ALL ACRES TREATED



5

What is a Burner's "Insurance"

- Many States have liability laws on the books, e.g., simple or gross negligence standards.
- Increasingly standardized training for burn managers.
- Increasing availability of continuing education
- Increasing availability of 21st century tools
- Third party insurance company's (general liability, umbrella policies, etc.)

6

Burn Associations

PLFI Main Goal:
Utilize novel ways to increase prescribed
fire on private lands.

- Place-based fire outreach, training
- Checks and balances
- Insurance risk pools
- Shared capacity, resources
- Provide economy of scale



7

PBA keys to success

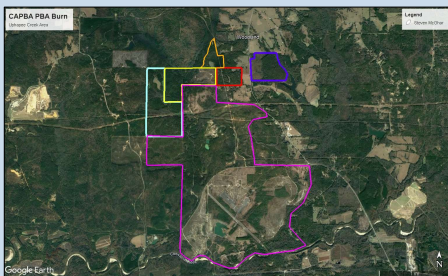
- Must have dedicated coordination
- Must have year round activity (burning or training or workshops)
- Must have active landowner participation
- Must have redundancy and oversight from parties
- Set up as an independent 501(c)3



Goal: To build self-sufficiency in the PBAs.

8

Economy of Scale



9

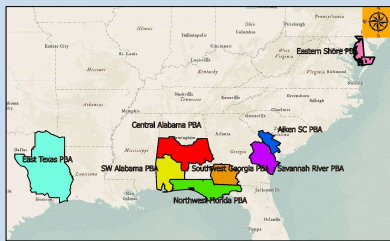
PBA Coordinator

- Acts as the spark plug
- Grows demand
- Facilitates training
- Provides mentorship
- Helps with planning burns
- Watches weather, prioritize
- Ensures burn goals met



10

Prescribed Burn Associations



East Texas
Prescribed Burn Association

As of 9/1/24
465 members 217,104 acres

11

Third Party Insurance


- General liability, umbrella policies, etc.
 - A limited number out there.
 - Seen changes in the past few years to have exclusions like urban interface, smoke, amount of acres treated, etc.
 - Some policies just for certified foresters.
 - May not write policies in certain states.
- Farm and Ranch Policies
 - Check exclusions – may or may not be covered.
- Per Occurrence
 - Policy just covering a private landowner for specific burn on specific year (only one company still does this).
- Risk Pools
 - Using landowner cooperatives or burn associations



12

Insurance


- Novel Group Risk Pool Pilot Project
- Phase 1
 - 2024 – CAPBA
 - \$1M/\$2M aggregate
 - Official PBA burns
 - Vetting process



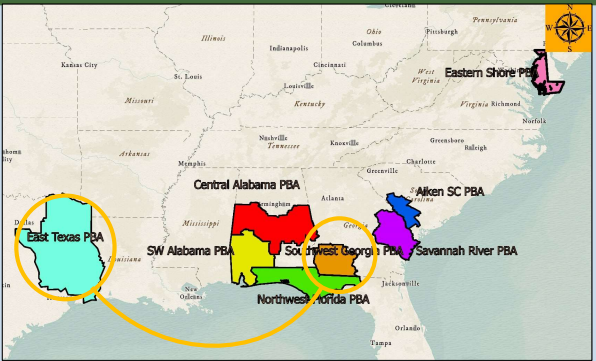
13

Insurance

- Phase 2
 - Nov./Dec. 2024
 - Georgia
 - Chattahoochee Fall Line Co-Op
 - ~ 1,500 landowners
- Currently working with other states



14



15



16



17

5

- ◆ Coordinator: Kyle Carrington
- ◆ BS - Forest Wildlife Management
- ◆ Forestry and Wildlife consultant
- ◆ Started with TT on 1/2/2024


4

3

2

1


What ETX PBA Looks Like



18

ETX PBA

- 5 Initial meeting January 5th, 2024
- 4 Roughly 40 landowners attended
- 4 Currently have 130 members
 - 47 counties
 - Carried out 8 prescribed burns
 - = 500 acres
 - 5 counties
- 3 Largest PBA in Texas




2

1

19

PBA Structure

- 5 PBA's function as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations
- 4 Ability to raise funds and accept tax-deductible donations
- 4 Landowner acts as the burn boss in regards to liability of the burn, but relies on guidance from experienced volunteers to help make decisions throughout the burn
- 3 Added liability protections for both PBA members and volunteers



3


2

1

20

Benefits of ETX PBA

- 5 Significant cost savings
 - Difficult for vendors to work on small acreage burns
- 4 Knowledge gained from hands-on experience as well as workshops and other training events
- 3 Decreased liability risk with the increase in volunteer assistance
- 3 Sharing of resources
- 2 Allows landowners to have a more hands-on approach to managing their habitat
- 1 Ability to choose better burn windows



4

3

2

1

21

Partner Assistance


- 5 Agency and NGO partners assist with:
 - 4 Initial site visits and logistics planning
 - 3 Acquisition of cost share assistance
 - 2 Firebreak layout
 - 1 Burn plan development
 - Outreach & education
 - Equipment & resources
 - Implementation of actual burn



22

Hands-on Training/Experience

- Workshops
- Certification courses
- Self-guided online programs
- Learn to Burns, demo sites
- Volunteering on prescribed burns
- Instill culture of burning (blue jean burning).



23

Learn to Burns Workshops

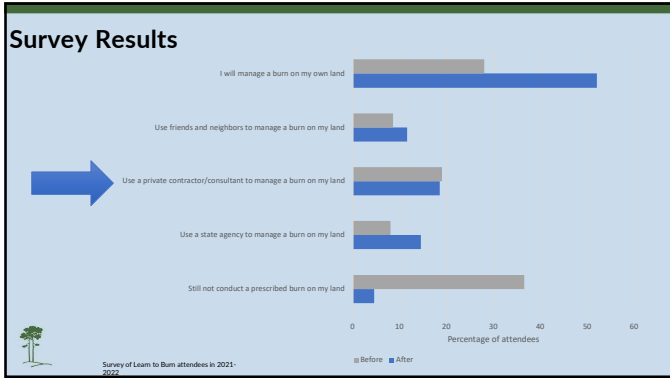
Hands-on Prescribed Fire Training Events.

Topics Covered:

- Safety
- Tools and Techniques
- Burn Plan*
- Crew Assignments and Expectations.
- Test Fire.
- BURN!
- After Action Review
- Evaluate



24



25

“My property has been unmanaged for over a decade. I want professionals with us the first time we burn but would be willing to burn independently with a little more experience. The program today was very informative and highly enjoyable. It has taken burning my property from a concept to a strategy that I will definitely employ. Thank you so much!!”

26

Burning, like all forms of restoration, is an economy of scale.

- Difficult to get contractors to conduct a burn on smaller acreages
- Cost increases per acre as size decreases

Acreage	Cost per acre
0	\$110
100	\$30
200	\$25
400	\$22
600	\$20
800	\$18
1000	\$15
1200	\$12

27

PBAs are social in nature (neighbor helping neighbor)...



...though the application of prescribed fire on private properties.

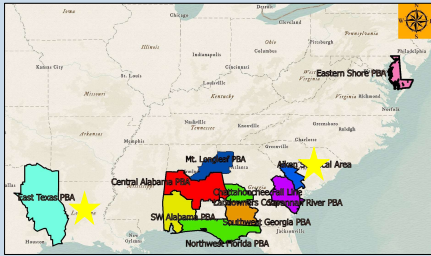


28

PBA Future Growth

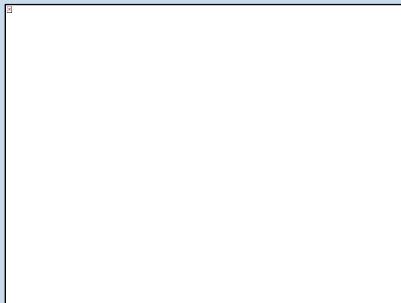
- In Development:**
- Southwest Alabama
 - Eastern Shore, MD
 - Mountain Longleaf
 - AL&GA

- Growth Likely in**
- Louisiana
 - South Carolina
 - Advising Kentucky
 - National presence*



29

Questions?



30

Business Model

Implementation

- Transfer the "art" of burning.
- Help targeted landowners get over "the hurdle" of first burn

Growing Demand

- Economics/Markets
- Liability; insurance and pooling risk
- Outreach and education

Growing Capacity

- Training and Workforce Development
- Pooling resources (Coops and Associations)

31

SWGA PBA Cost Structure

- Average cost per acre of a PBA burn w/ burn trailer is \$5/acre for 40 acres, \$10 for 20, and so on.
- SWGA PBA usually burns 5-50 acres per burn.
 - 50 acres contracted out would be \$1300-\$1500. The PBA landowner cost if they assist on the burn would be \$250.

32

SWGA PBA Successes

- 61 Burns
- 34 Unique properties
- 3,412 acres treated
- Average PBA burn size ~34 ac.

2024

Aid	8.2%
Advise	27.9%
Burn	63.9%

Outreach

- 10 Trainings/workshops for PBA - 284 attendees
- 19 meetings/conferences/festivals - 1,708 attendees

33