

FIRE IS ALL-NATURAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Native Pennsylvanians knew that prescribed burning is a valuable tool for improving habitat and hunting opportunity. Burned areas are a haven for wildlife and finding a burned area can lead to stellar hunting.

It's a great benefit to once again utilize this technique in Pennsylvania!

To learn more about prescribed fire visit the PA Prescribed Fire Council Facebook page and our website.

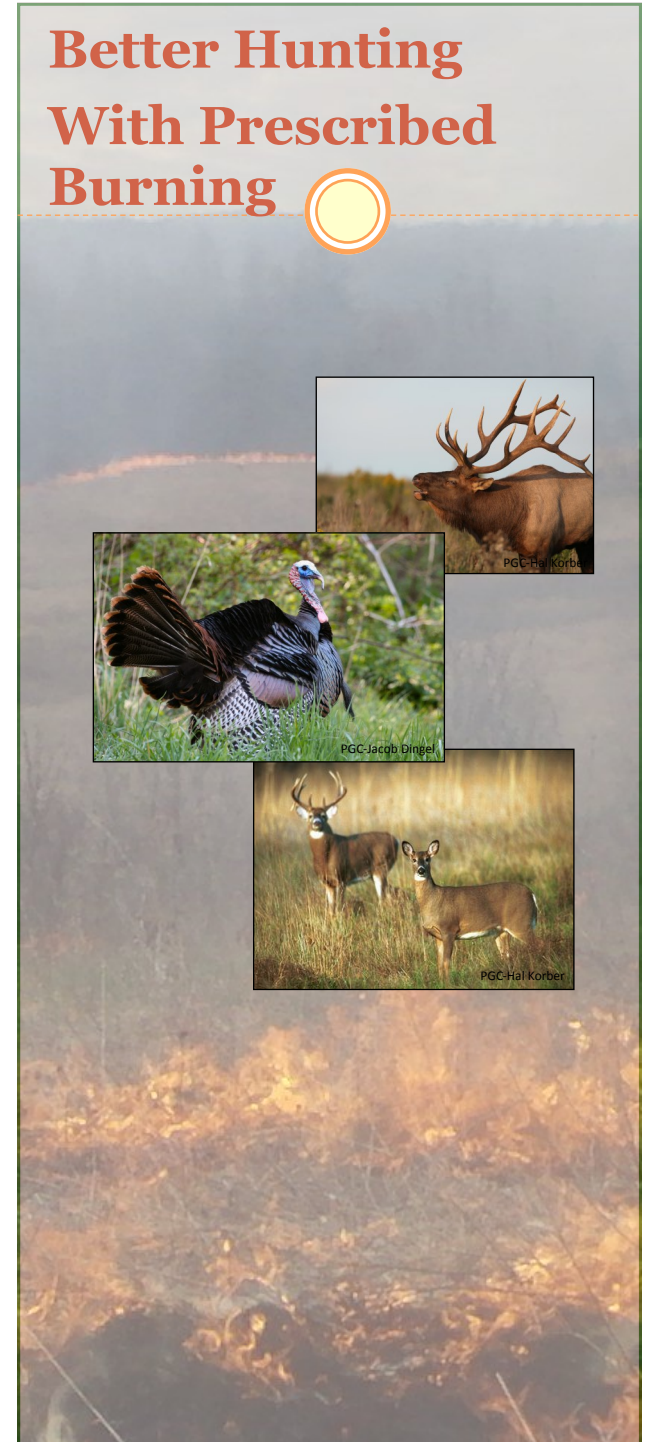
Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council

*Promoting public understanding
of the benefits and importance of
prescribed fire.*

www.paprescribedfire.org



Better Hunting With Prescribed Burning



HOW BURNING IMPROVES HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

The first prescribed burn managers in Pennsylvania were native tribes who burned to improve hunting grounds and game populations.

Prescribed burning improves wildlife habitat and hunting opportunity by:

- Promoting oak habitats and their vitally important acorns,
- Increasing berry crops in shrubs like blueberry, huckleberry, and blackberry,
- Promoting succulent browse plants preferred by deer and elk,
- Maintaining grasses and broadleaf plants sought by brooding turkeys and grouse,
- Reducing tick populations in burned areas.

A study on State Game Lands in central Pennsylvania showed a 400% increase in deer browse after prescribed burning.

Numerous studies have also shown that fire improves game bird habitat. While some ground nests may be disturbed by burns, many hens re-nest and broods will enjoy several years of improved habitat post-fire. Recently burned woods are also great spots to encounter a spring gobbler!



PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR WILDLIFE

Fire has shaped Pennsylvania's wildlife habitats for thousands of years with recurring fires that maintained oak forests, open woodlands, and grassy meadows – the perfect mix for turkeys, deer and other wildlife. But such habitats are actually *threatened* where fire is removed from the equation.

After 70 – 100 fire-free years, formerly open habitats are now clogged with rank vegetation and oak forests are being replaced by fire-intolerant birch and maple; all to wildlife's detriment. That's why prescribed burning is an essential habitat management tool that's being used to restore and maintain vibrant wildlife habitats.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prescribed burns are much different than the raging wildfires we see in the news. They're conducted under specific weather and "fuel" conditions ensuring fires are low to moderate intensity (fuel refers to the dried leaves, grasses, and brush that are consumed in the fire). Because prescribed burns are normally repeated every 3 – 10 years, fuels can't build to dangerous levels. In this way, prescribed burns reduce the risk of wild fire. Long before burn day, crews plan operations and prepare fire lines to ensure safety, both for themselves and the public.



Prescribed burns are done by well-equipped crews with hundreds of hours of training and experience.

WILDLIFE SAFETY

Using pre-planned ignition routes and burning during safe weather conditions means fire spread is slow and flame heights are low. From fawns to turtles, even the slowest wildlife can reach safety during a prescribed burn.

Before the smoke clears animals are often seen returning to burned areas. Burns occur on a relatively small percentage of the landscape in any given year. In that light, direct impacts are outweighed by long-term benefits of improved cover and food for wildlife.

