

# PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE



THE FLORIDA CHAPTER  
OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
AND THE  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



COOPERATORS: Seminole Tribe of Florida, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Park Service, Trinity College, Archbold Biological Station, Tall Timbers Research Station, Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management, South Florida Water Management District, St. Johns River Water Management District, National Wild Turkey Federation, City of Gainesville, Alachua Conservation Trust

# PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE

April 25-28, 2023

FFA Leadership Training Center

5000 Firetower Road

Haines City, Florida 33844

## Sponsors:

**Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Your sponsors and cooperators are pleased to again host "PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE" April 25-28, 2023, at the FFA Leadership Training Center located on Lake Pierce near Haines City, Florida. Attendees are encouraged to stay onsite with meals and lodging provided through the duration of the course. The Florida Chapter has reserved several 'villas' that include single and double occupancy bedrooms and a spacious common area in each villa. If you require single occupancy, let us know and we will do our best to honor your request. This training is designed to provide land managers and wildlife stewards with basic information on wildlife habitat management practices associated with prescribed fires in Florida. It includes sections addressing how ignition plans can be developed and implemented to meet specific wildlife objectives while minimizing risk. This training combines classroom lectures, panel discussions, and field exercises covering a variety of wildlife and habitats. Classroom activities will be held at the Leadership Training Center. Field exercises will be held at nearby south Florida wildlands and will focus on how prescribed fire can improve and maintain valuable wildlife habitats.

The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society is handling registration and because class size is limited, **early registration is encouraged**. Basic Registration is \$425.00 and full registration with all meals and lodging is \$775.00. The Registration deadline is March 12, 2023. Register online via <http://fltws.org/shop> (state or federal pcards accepted).

For additional information contact: Jim Schortemeyer (239)455-5847 [Schortfire@aol.com](mailto:Schortfire@aol.com)

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 12 March 2023**

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

#### PRESCRIBED FIRE/WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT TECHNIQUES

1. Review and understand basic habitat management principles as they relate to fire.
2. Review standard habitat management and prescribed fire practices for selected wildlife species.
3. Prescribed fire recommendations for panther and bear in Florida.
4. Prescribed fire recommendations for quail and other small game.
5. Prescribed fire recommendations for turkey.
6. Prescribed fire recommendations for the bald eagle and red cockaded woodpecker.
7. Case studies of specific habitat management programs emphasizing prescribed fire in Florida.

#### IGNITION PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

1. Review and understand fire intensity and its relationship to wildlife impacts.
2. Explore methods to regulate intensity.
3. Discuss specific ignition techniques for a variety of habitats and fire return intervals.
4. Techniques and considerations for re-establishment of short return intervals in fire deprived habitats.
5. Review specific examples of problems and solutions associated with prescribed fires for wildlife in Florida.

**Rx Fire for Wildlife, April 25-28, 2023**  
**FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City, Florida**

**TUESDAY April 25**

- 12:00-13:00 Check in and Orientation
- 13:00-13:30 Introduction
- 13:30-14:00 Lake Wales Ridge Area : Opportunities and Challenges for Rx Fire
- 14:00-14:30 Planning and Implementation; Keys to Success
- 14:30-15:00 Basic Habitat Management Principles
- 15:00-17:30 Field Exercise: Incorporating Wildlife Benefits in Rx Fire Programs
- 17:30-19:00 Welcome to the FFA Leadership Training Center

**WEDNESDAY April 26**

- 08:00-08:30 Prescribed Fire for Wildlife on South Florida State Parks
- 08:30-09:30 Ecological Functions and the Fire Environment
- 09:30-10:00 Palm Beach County Natural Areas and Wildlife Stewardship
- 10:00-10:45 Using Prescribed Fire for Restoration and Management of Bobwhite Quail
- 10:45-11:15 FWC Programs Supporting Rx Fire
- 11:15-12:00 Prescribed Fire for Reptiles and Amphibians
- LUNCH (PROVIDED)*
- 13:00-13:45 Prescribed Fire Considerations for Panther and Bear
- 13:45-14:30 Prescribed Fire Recommendations for Turkey
- 14:30-15:30 Panel Discussion: Ignition Techniques for Wildlife and Student Topics
- 15:30-17:30+ Field Exercise: Incorporating Wildlife Benefits in Rx Fire Programs

**THURSDAY April 27**

- 08:00-08:30 Deer Management and Rx Fire
- 08:30-09:15 Rx Fire for Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers, Caracara and Bald Eagles
- 09:15-10:00 Fire in Wetlands
- 10:00-10:30 Fire Management on the Babcock\Webb WMA
- 10:30-11:00 Fire on Private Lands; Challenges and Opportunities
- 11:00-11:30 Integrating Prescribed Fire & Mechanical Treatments
- 11:30-12:00 Scrub Jay Management on Merritt Island NWR
- LUNCH (PROVIDED)*
- 13:00-13:30 Specific Techniques for Scrub Habitat and Wildlife
- 13:30-14:00 Dry Prairies and Grasshopper Sparrows
- 14:00-15:00 Panel Discussion: Evaluating Prescribed Fires & Wildlife Responses
- 15:00-18:00+ Field Exercise: (Continued)

**FRIDAY April 28**

- 08:00-08:30 Field Exercise: (Continued)
- 08:30-09:30 Panel Discussion: Topics Submitted by Participants
- 09:30-12:00 Student Presentations on Field Exercises and Final Exam