

SUBJECT: Prescribed Fire use on State-owned lands

POLICY: The department may, under carefully planned and controlled conditions use prescribed fire as a tool to meet ecological or silvicultural management objectives on State owned lands. All use of prescribed burning on state-owned lands will follow Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Prescribed Fire Guidelines. This will include the burning of brush piles.

The Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division, or its designee, shall be responsible for conducting prescribed burns on state-owned lands under the control of the DNR. This shall include lands administered by Divisions or Bureaus other than Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division.

Department personnel involved in prescribed burning must meet the training and qualification standards set forth in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Wildland Fire Qualification Subsystem Guide, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources addendum to this standard.

All requests for prescribed burning will have been approved through the planning process of the administering Division or Bureau and submitted on a Forest Treatment Proposal (R4048). A Prescribed Burn Plan (R4266) will be prepared and approved before a burn is conducted.

Forest, Mineral, & Fire Management Division shall annually prioritize all prescribed burn proposals submitted following procedures given in the division's Prescribed Burn Guidelines. This prioritization process will be conducted in cooperation with designated personnel from other department divisions.

A Prescribed Burn Report (R4266-1) will be submitted once the burn has been conducted.

Prescribed burns on lands directly adjacent to private ownership shall not be conducted without consultation with the private landowner.

Requests from private land owners for prescribed burning on their lands shall be treated as a request for a blanket burning permit. Blanket burning permits for prescribed burns will be issued by the Resource Protection Manager, or their assigned representative.

Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management personnel may provide technical information for identifying objectives; for development of an appropriate prescription, and to assure that the landowner can meet safe burning requirements in accordance with Section 4 of the Forest Fire Law (Burning Permit Restrictions). These requests shall be approved by the Resource Protection Manager.

Requests for assistance from other State and Federal Agencies shall also be approved by the Resource Protection Manager, or their assigned representative.

Prescribed burns will not be conducted on or immediately adjacent to timber harvest operations without prior approval of the local Unit Manager of the Land Administering Division.

PURPOSE: Prescribed burning is accepted as an effective and inexpensive tool for use in ecological, silvicultural management practices. Fire may be used to control encroaching brush and trees, stimulate the sprouting of grasses, forbs, trees and shrubs. It is also used to reduce fuels that may create a fire hazard, for site preparation for regeneration, and to provide training opportunities for those involved in wild land fire management.

While it is an effective land management tool, prescribed burning also has some inherent risk associated with it. The risk of an escaped fire and/or smoke from a prescribed burn impacting surrounding landowners is always present. To protect the public and minimize the department's liability, a carefully designed burn plan is needed for all Department burning, regardless of size or complexity, to minimize these risks.

RELATED
POLICIES &

PROCEDURES: Department Procedure Number 4208.8 Issued March 19, 1979
 Department of Natural Resources Prescribed Fire Guidelines
 National Wildfire Coordinating Group Wildland Fire Qualifications System
 Department of Natural Resources Wildland Fire Qualifications System Addendum
 Department Policy # 2402
 Fire Prevention Act, MCL 324.51701

WHO	DOES WHAT
Site Examiner	1. Recommends that a site be considered for Prescribed Fire treatment, including land management objectives that the treatment is expected to achieve. The site examiner may be a representative of Local Administrating Manager, or of the co-managing Division or Bureau.
Local Administrating Manager	2. The site is then considered for inter-divisional approval in the appropriate format, Compartment Review and Open House, or in the Southern Lower Peninsula an Informational Meeting open to the Public. Written approval shall be in the form of a Forest Treatment Proposal (FTP) (R4048), initiated by administrating Division or Bureau and approved by all the effected Divisions and or Bureaus. If any of the involved field personnel have reason to believe the burn should not be carried out, their comments should be listed in the comments section on the FTP. In cases where agreement can not be reached the proposal shall be forwarded to the Field Coordinators for resolution.
Local Administrating Manager	3. Forwards the approved FTP to the Forest Fire Officer Supervisor responsible for the area where the prescribed burn is to be conducted.
FMFM, WLD, & PRR Divisions	4. Cooperatively generate a department-wide list of prescribed burns, organized by priority (see Prescribed Burn Priority Guide – Attachment #2).
FMFM Division	5. Schedules a site review with the concerned Divisional representatives; this may include but would not be limited to, Forest Unit Manager, Habitat Biologist, Park Manager, Stewardship Program Coordinator, or their representative. The site visit should include a discussion of the objectives; lay out of the burn unit, smoke management, and fuel modeling.
Prescribed Fire Plan Writer	6. Develops a Prescribed Burn Plan (R-4266) to meet the objectives of the site. To ensure that the effort put in the planning and completion of a prescribed burn is to the best advantage, a prescription will be developed using the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Prescribed Burn Guidelines (Attachment #1). In cases where a site has been identified for periodic fire treatment the timing should be addressed in the FTP and reaffirmed in the original Prescribed Burn Plan. A Prescribed Burn Plan shall be completed and approved for each subsequent prescribed burn. Forwards the completed plan to the Forest Fire Officer Supervisor.
Forest Fire Officer Supervisor	7. Reviews and after approval forwards to the Local Administrating Manager.
Local Administering Manager	8. Reviews and after approval forwards to the Fire Management Specialist.
Fire Management Specialist	9. Reviews and after approval forwards to the Resource Protection Manager.
Resource Protection Manager	10. Reviews and after approval returns copies of the approved Prescribed Burn Plan to the Administrating Unit Manager, and the Forest Fire Officer Supervisor responsible for the area where the prescribed burn is to be conducted. The original Prescribed Burn Plan is forwarded to the Division Office for review and filing.

<p>Prescribed Burn Boss</p>	<p>The Resource Protection Manager shall also provide for review, by request all Prescribed Burn Plans to the Regional Deputy Director.</p> <p>11. Contacts the Duty Officer in the respective Incident Coordination Center, the day before the prescribed burn is to be implemented. Requests necessary forecast information for the burn unit. At this time, any resources from outside a Unit or local coverage area would be requested.</p> <p>12. Obtains necessary weather forecast information. Makes arrangements to meet the resource needs from outside the Unit or local coverage area. Ensures that resources requested for the burn meet the complexity requirement of the Prescribed Burn Plan.</p> <p>13. Contacts the Duty Officer to complete the Prescribed Burn Go/No Go Process (Attachment #3).</p>
<p>Duty Officer/ Fire Management Specialist</p>	<p>14. Authorizes that the burn be conducted, or cancels the burn for the day, after completing the Prescribed Burn Go/No Go Process, and documenting it on the Go/No Go Checklist(Attachment #4). Ensures that resources are dispatched to the burn, or canceled if that is the burn day decision.</p>
<p>Prescribed Burn Boss</p>	<p>15. Prepares resources to complete the prescribed burn. This shall include a complete on site briefing following the format in the Prescribed Burn Plan (R-4266). Any deviation from the plan shall be approved by the Duty Officer. This may be done during the go, no-go process or after the burn is implemented. As firing is implemented the Burn Boss shall contact the Incident Coordination Center and advise that firing is beginning. When firing is complete the Incident Coordination Center will be advised.</p>
<p>Prescribed Burn Boss/ Local Fire Supervisor</p>	<p>16. Any escapes beyond short range or convective spotting shall be reported to the Incident Coordination Center. If a significant escape occurs, 5 acres on Public owned lands or anything on to adjacent private lands will require an Administrative Fire Analyses. The Resource Protection Manager shall determine if an On-the-ground or Individual Fire Analyses is required (Policy # 513).</p>
<p>Prescribed Burn Boss/ Local Fire Supervisor</p>	<p>17. After a prescribed burn is declared out, the Burn Boss is charged with completing a Burn Unit Report within 10 working days. The Burn Unit Report shall be submitted to the respective Fire Management Specialist for review. A final copy of the Burn Unit Report shall be submitted to the Division Office within 20 working days, with copies to the Forest Management Unit, and District Wildlife Supervisor or Parks Stewardship Coordinator.</p>

Policy/Procedure Approved:

FOREST, MINERAL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT CHIEF

Date