

CBPBA Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

July 2010 Newsletter

2010 SUMMER BURN SCHOOL & DEMO BURN AUGUST 6 & 7

The Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association (CBPBA) will hold a Summer Prescribed Burn School and Demonstration Burn August 6 and 7, 2010. The Welder Wildlife Foundation on Hwy 77 near Sinton, Texas is hosting the school.

Friday the 6th will consist of classroom work starting at 8:30 AM, and the burn will follow on Saturday the 7th, weather permitting. The fee for the school is \$20 which covers materials, lunch and refreshments both days. CEU credits will be available for Certified Pesticide Applicator license holders and for Texas Certified Prescribed Burn Managers.

Reservations are recommended, as space is limited to 60 participants. Contact Larry at 361-362-0430 or by email at ljones@prescribedburn.org. The agenda follows below:

Friday, August 6, 2010

8:00-8:30 Registration

8:30-9:00 Grazing Management - Stan Reinke

9:00-9:30 Fire and Wildlife Management - Scott Mitchell

9:30-10:00 Integrated Brush Management - Dr. Wayne Hanselka

10:00-10:30 Break (Soft drinks and coffee provided)

10:30-11:30 Laws and Regulations - Dr. Lynn Drawe

11:00-12:00 Fire Suppression - Ray Guse

12:00-1:00 Lunch (included)

1:00-2:00 Fire Weather - Jason Runyen

2:00-2:30 Welder Foundation Fire Research - Dr. Terry Blankenship

2:30-2:45 Break (Soft drinks and coffee provided)

2:45-4:15 Burn Planning - Tim Reinke

4:15-4:30 Instructions for Burn Plans - Tim Reinke

Saturday, August 7, 2010

9:00 Demonstration Burn – Location (same general area but not on the Welder) will be announced August 6

Directions: The Welder Wildlife Foundation Gate is on HWY 77 about 20 miles South of Refugio, and about 7 miles North of Sinton. It is less than 1 mile South of the Aransas River. There are small Highway Department signs on both sides of the highway identifying the entrance, as well as a gate sign. We will have a portable orange prescribed burn sign there as well. The entrance is over the RR tracks on the East side of Hwy 77.

USING FIRE TO HELP CONTROL HUISACHE

By Clifford Carter – Advisor to the CBPBA Board

Huisache is fast becoming the most invasive woody species in South Texas. Huisache is a root sprouter which means if you cut the stem or trunk in some manner, buds on the root will sprout forming a new huisache plant with the massive root system from the old plant still intact. Root sprouting plants are almost immune to any mechanical treatment unless the root system is also removed with the treatment. The leaflets are very small and fragile. This makes

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VISIT US ON LINE@

<http://www.prescribedburn.org>

BURN EQUIPMENT

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

CBPBA has a fully equipped burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee. The Nature Conservancy also rents burn equipment. Visit our website or go directly to the Rental page here:

http://www.prescribedburn.org/prescribed_burning_resource/s/rent_burn_equipment.html

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foliar chemical treatment uncertain. If the chemical mix is too strong, the leaflets will fall off before the chemical can be absorbed into the plant. Huisache is a prolific seed producer and the seeds are eaten by birds, deer, cattle and hogs as well as by many other mammals. If the seeds pass through the digestive system of a bird or animal, germination increases. Once a pasture accumulates approximately 15 percent canopy cover of huisache, new seedlings will emerge each year.

Whenever a pasture gets over this 15 percent canopy cover threshold, landowners are in a life and death struggle just to maintain this level of invasion by huisache brush.

Prescribed burning is the most economical method of keeping huisache as well as other brush species in check. In the coastal bend area of Texas burning a pasture every 4 years kills most of the 1 and 2 year old seedlings. Most of the 3 year old seedlings and older plants have the tops killed but will resprout again the next year.

If you have over 15 percent huisache in your pasture, you should have a plan to treat the huisache to kill the existing plants. Once you get the canopy cover below 15 percent, fire every four years can then be used to kill seedlings and keep the huisache in check for an additional 5 or 6 years. After burning a couple of times some type of individual plant treatment will likely be needed to treat plants that emerged in year 3 after burning. Always treat sparse stands to minimize treatment expense.

Burning has several major benefits to a pasture with a huisache problem. It kills the 2 and 3 year old huisache seedlings. If you have enough grass fuel volume to produce a hot fire, you will top kill older huisache shrubs and trees. When you top kill the plant, no seed will be produced for two years. The resprouting huisache will use only about 10 percent as much soil moisture as the old plant used. This increase in soil moisture availability grows a lot additional forage that can be used by both cattle and wildlife.

A burned pasture is like planting a food plot but it usually produces a much greater variety of plants and benefits both cattle and wildlife for at least two years. Burning huisache in the summer seems to be a little bit harder on the huisache than does burning huisache in the winter. Summer burns create a much hotter burn and most burned plants will not resprout until late spring following the burn. Anytime you burn huisache you get some benefit, so begin making your plans today.

GATE SIGNS AVAILABLE

Full color, heavy duty aluminum, 18" x 24" gate signs are available to members and CBPBA sponsors. The first sign is free to regular members, and to Corporate Member/Sponsors. Corporate Memberships are \$50 per year.



Signs are available at all CBPBA burn schools and events, at TNC offices in Victoria and Corpus Christi, and from Larry Jones in Beeville (362-362-0430).

HOW TO JOIN CBPBA

Join CBPBA now by sending your check for \$25 (annual dues) along with the completed application on the mailing label page of this newsletter to the address shown.

The following organizations are supporters of CBPBA:



TNC / FLN GRANT RECEIVED

The officers and CBPBA board extends their sincere thanks to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Fire Learning Network (FLN) for their recent donation of \$3,500. The funds were provided by FLN through TNC to reimburse CBPBA for specific expenses incurred providing educational and promotional programs promoting the use of prescribed burning in the Coastal Bend Of South Texas. TNC and FLN provide ongoing financial support to CBPBA.

The Nature Conservancy is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity. Their mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Nature Conservancy staff members work at hundreds of priority conservation sites across the globe where fire is a significant issue. TNC works to maintain fire's role where it benefits people and nature, and keep fire out of places where it is destructive. To restore and maintain healthy ecosystems, the Conservancy burns about 100,000 acres of their own land every year and assists in prescribed burning on over 150,000 acres each year on the lands of our partners.

The U.S. Fire Learning Network is part of the "Fire, Landscapes and People: A Conservation Partnership" agreement among The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service). FMI about FLN, visit www.tncfire.org/training_usf ln.htm.

CBPBA is a non-profit association of land owners and property managers in 12 counties of the Texas Coastal Bend. The Association promotes, trains, and assists members in the use of prescribed burning on their properties. Their goal is to enhance and protect the natural habitat of the Coastal Bend to benefit the wildlife, livestock, and the citizens of those counties. Member counties include Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Karnes, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria.

OTHER BUSINESS

FWS Grant – CBPBA has submitted a Grant Application to USF&W for matching funds focused on the implementation of more prescribed fire on private lands in the Coastal Bend.

Liability insurance – A CBPBA BOD sub-committee is working on a liability policy providing prescribed fire coverage to CBPBA, its officers and directors, and members. A recommendation is expected to be made to the full BOD in the next few weeks.

Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship Program – Plans are still underway to offer this program to area VFDs.

JUST FOR GRINS

These are headlines from real newspapers:

- Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
- Miners Refuse to Work After Death
- War Dims Hope for Peace
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
- If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly It may last a While
- New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- Deer Kill 17,00

Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association
P. O. Box 447
Beeville, TX 78104



Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

New Member Application

Please print carefully so we can read your information

Land owner's name: _____ Ranch name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone number: _____ EMAIL Address: _____

My property is located in _____ County(s)

ANNUAL DUES (per calendar year or part thereof) are \$25.

Corporate memberships are available for \$50 per year.

Make checks payable to CBPBA and mail to P. O. Box 447, Beeville, Texas, 78104

For more information call 361-362-0430 or visit our website at <http://www.prescribedburn.org>