



Prescribed Fire Program

**Ohio
2006**

During most of the 1900's, the historical fire cycle was largely removed from Ohio's forests and grasslands. In the absence of fire, which once routinely cleansed and recycled dead trees and vegetation, many of Ohio's forests have accumulated large amounts of dead, woody materials. This buildup has the potential to fuel large, uncontrolled fires that may threaten homes, communities, and ecosystems. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry has begun to "fight fire with fire" by using controlled, or prescribed, burns to carefully return fire to its historical role and reduce dangerous forest fuel levels.

In an effort to restore the historical fire cycle, the Ohio DNR Division of Forestry uses prescribed burns that are carefully planned, watched, and tended. Trained fire managers burn parts of the forests every few years. These planned fires remove weedy plants that choke out native species and reduce



Ohio DNR Division of Forestry uses the terra-torch on a prescribed fire. Photo courtesy of Ohio DNR



Ohio DNR uses a trailer acquired through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program to carry burning equipment. The drip torches, terra-torch, and fuel container were purchased with NFP funding. Photo courtesy Ohio DNR

the leaf litter and woody debris on the forest floor, creating space for native vegetation to return.

Since 2001 the Ohio DNR Division of Forestry has been using National Fire Plan funding to implement and accelerate the prescribed fire program. In the last 5 years, the state has burn more than 14,000 acres of state owned or managed forest and grasslands. The purchase of a plastic sphere dispenser, a terra-torch, and other burning equipment has greatly enhanced the state's burning efforts.

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