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# DRIPTORCH DIGEST

*A Newsletter for the Southern Prescribed Fire Community*

No. 40

January 2020

## Happy New Year!



We would like to wish all of our SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Working Group partners and friends a safe, and happy 2020! We continually look forward to working with each of you, and growing the safe and effective use of prescribed fire together across the South.

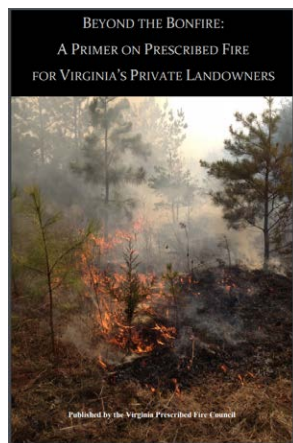
Thank you for all that you do!

From the coordination team,  
Jenn Fawcett & Laurel Kays

## Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability

### Upcoming Events

The SERPPAS Spring 2020 Steering Committee Meeting will be held March 4-5 in Atlanta, GA, while the 2020 Principals Meeting will be held May 12-13 in Beaufort, NC. SERPPAS will be celebrating 15 years of partnership in 2020! Logistics and more information can be found on the [SERPPAS website](#).



## Virginia Prescribed Fire Council Releases Prescribed Fire Primer

The Virginia PFC has released [Beyond the Bonfire: A Primer on Prescribed Fire for Virginia's Private Landowners](#). The primer includes information on Virginia prescribed burning laws, burn planning, fire weather, and much more.

## State Forestry by the Numbers

The latest statistics report on the nation's state forestry agencies is now available. The National Association of State Foresters [has released a report](#) on data and analysis from the

2018 NASF State Forestry Statistics Survey. The report covers a wide variety of forestry topics, including wildland fire management. According to the report, wildfire programs reported a slight increase in expenditures of \$42 million or 2% for 2018 vs. 2016. Acres under wildfire protection by state forestry agencies in 2018 totaled 1.59 billion acres. Of the 50 member states, 46 state forestry agencies managed nearly 12.5 million acres of prescribed fire in 2018.

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## Longleaf Creatures Story Map

Partners including USDA NRCS [have released a new story map](#) that allows users to discover some of the species that call the longleaf pine ecosystem home. Examples of species covered by the story map include the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, and gopher frog.



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## New Videos: Longleaf for the Long Run, WTREX, Presentation Recordings

New videos recently released that address topics relevant to the prescribed fire community include:

- [Longleaf for the Longrun](#)
- [WTREX: Igniting Inspiration for Women in Fire](#)
- [Selected Presentation Recordings from the Association for Fire Ecology 2019 Conference](#)
- [America's Forests in South Carolina](#)



## New Smoke Sense Data Visualization Tool

The EPA has released [a new data visualization tool](#) to accompany the [Smoke Sense app](#). Smoke Sense is a research project that enables citizen scientists to engage with a mobile app to explore current and forecast maps of air quality, learn about how to protect health from wildfire smoke, and record their smoke experiences, health symptoms, and behaviors taken to reduce their exposures to smoke.

The new data visualization tool displays data related to the impacts of wildfire smoke reported by citizen scientists, including the number of app users, where participants report smoke and health observations, and reported responses to smoke. Want to learn more? Watch [this video](#) to learn about Smoke Sense and why the study uses a mobile application.

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## Federal Government Publications: Managing Drought Effects, GAO Report on Wildland Fire

Two new government publications related to prescribed fire have been released. The first, [Effects of Drought on Forests and Rangelands in the United States: Translating Science into Management Responses](#), was published by the USDA Forest Service. Chapter Nine of the document, [Managing Effects of Drought in the Southeast United States](#), frequently addresses prescribed fire and wildfire management.

The second publication, [Wildland Fire: Federal Agencies' Efforts to Reduce Wildland Fuels and Lower Risk to Communities and Ecosystems](#), was released by the Government Accountability Office. The report includes methods federal agencies use to reduce fuels, information agencies considered in allocating fuel reduction funds, and factors affecting agency efforts to implement fuel reduction projects.

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## Southeast Fire Science News

Several news stories have been released recently covering exciting new fire science relevant to the Southeast. The include:

- [Florida State University researchers use mechanical engineering, scientific computing and forestry to better understand prescribed burns](#)
- [Rating fire danger from the ground up](#): soil moisture information could improve assessments of wildfire probabilities and fuel conditions, resulting in better fire danger ratings
- [Wildfire smoke, once considered sterile, teems with life](#)

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## Extension Connection

### Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals 2020 Conference Registration

The biennial ANREP conference will be held May 3-6, 2020 in Bend, Oregon. [Registration](#) is now open. Two special sessions and the post-conference field tour (held on May 7) will be focused on Extension's role in wildland fire management.

### Oregon Seeks Leaders for New Wildland Fire Extension Program

In 2019, Oregon State University Extension Service created [a new statewide program](#) to help address wildland fire issues across the state. OSU is seeking to fill the first two positions in the program; a [Fire Program Manager](#) and an [Extension Specialist in Wildland Fire Science & Management](#).

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## Tall Timbers

### Fall 2019 eNews

The Tall Timbers [Fall 2019 eNews is now available](#). Stories of interest to the prescribed fire community include:

- [Fire Effects on Coastal Marsh Bird Species](#)
- [New Study —What Plants Return When Fire is Re-introduced?](#)
- [Fire Science Co-production Workshop](#)
- [Scientifically Sowing the Seeds of the Sundial](#)



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## Southern Fire Exchange

### New Issue of Fire Lines Newsletter Released

Volume 9, Issue 5 of SFE's Fire Lines newsletter [is now available](#). The newsletter includes news, upcoming events, and newly released tools and technology relevant to the Southern fire science community.



### Webinar Schedule and Recent Recordings

All SFE webinars, including the recent Preparing for Wildfires with Firescaping - Master Gardener Training for the Southeast webinar held on October 17, are recorded and posted on the [SFE Youtube page](#). SFE currently has one upcoming webinar, which requires free registration:

[Air Quality 101: Essential Concepts and Tools for Prescribed Burners](#)

Presenters: Scott Davis (EPA R4), Heidi LeSane, (EPA R4), Rick Gillam (EPA R4), Jim Boylan (GA DNR EPD), Randy Strait (NC DEQ AQ), and Jenn Fawcett (SERPPAS/NCSU)

January 30, 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET



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## Prescribed Fire News Roundup

### How a tribal fire crew rescued the real Smokey Bear

December 31, 2019- [The USDA Forest Service](#) shares the story of Smokey's rescue by The Taos Pueblo Snowball crew from a wildfire in New Mexico in 1950.

### WTREX provides prescribed fire training for women

December 1, 2019- [Wildfire Today](#) covers the benefits of the Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (WTREX) program.

### Congresswoman urges Smokey Bear to 'modernize' pitch

December 30, 2019 - [The Minnesota Star Tribune](#) notes comments by a St. Paul Congresswoman urging for Smokey Bear's message to modernize and include recognition of the need for beneficial fire.

### Forest watchers question Chattahoochee forest project

December 31, 2019 - [The Athens Banner-Herald](#) addresses push-back on a large-scale project, including prescribed burning, planned for the Chattahoochee National Forest.

### Not everything needs to be a forest

December 4, 2019 - [Anthropocene Magazine](#) addresses how grasslands and savannas are too often viewed as degraded forests, including how fire suppression allows forest to encroach on these ecosystems.

### Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers firefighters indispensable during prescribed burns in North Carolina

December 13, 2019 - [A USDA Forest Service website article](#) gives an overview of how Job Corps firefighters contribute to prescribed burning in North Carolina.

### SC's Francis Marion forest is set aflame on purpose, but some worry about methods

November 22, 2019 - [The Post and Courier](#) covers contention over South Carolina's Francis Marion National Forest's prescribed burning methods.

### California, climate change and the trauma of the last decade

December 29, 2019 - [Phys.org](#) addresses how climate change has amplified wildfires, storms, and other events, particularly in California.

### 2019 has been especially bad for wildfires across the planet

December 27, 2019 - [Huffington Post](#) notes that 2019 was once again a notable year for wildfire activity, driven in large part by climate change impacts.

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## Funding Opportunities

### REPI Challenge Pre-Proposals

The 2020 REPI Challenge [Pre-Proposal Form is now available](#), with the Challenge open to all eligible partners at DoD installations. Pre-proposals are due on **Friday, January 24 by 8:00 PM EST**. Full information can be found on [the program website](#).



### Enviva Forest Conservation Fund

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment) [is seeking applications](#) for the 2020 Enviva Forest Conservation Fund. Projects may receive up to \$500,000, and applications are due **January 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST**.

### Sustainable Forestry Initiative Community Grants

SFI [is accepting proposals](#) for the Community Grants program, which promotes collaboration with the SFI Network to support local communities' understanding of the value and benefits of sustainably managed forests. Proposals are due by **Friday, January 31 by 11:50 PM EST**.

### National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Longleaf Stewardship Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has announced the release of the [2020 request for proposals](#) under the Longleaf Stewardship Fund. This request for proposals (RFP) expects to award up to \$5.5 million in federal and private sector funding in support of projects that restore, enhance and maintain longleaf pine on private and public lands to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. Full proposals are due **Thursday, February 6, 2020 by 11:59 PM EST**.

### National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has announced the release of the [2020 request for proposals](#) under the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund. Up to \$1.5 million is expected to be available this funding cycle for projects that will help accelerate the restoration and enhancement of critical forest and freshwater habitats and associated wildlife species in the region. Full proposals are due **Thursday, February 20, 2020 by 11:59 PM EST**.

### Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture is accepting applications from land-grant institutions and others for funding from the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. Forest landowners may be considered beginning farmers and landowners, and applications are due by **March 16**.

### Travel, Research, and Educational Experience (TREE) Grants

The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) will distribute Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) TREE grants. These are designed to help graduate students travel to present at conferences and workshops related to fire science and management. **Applications are due 60 days before the start of the event** the applicant would like to attend. Additional information and application link are available on the [AFE website](#).

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## Job Postings

**All jobs are open as of the Driptorch Digest send date, however application reviews may have begun.**

**Burn Crew Leader** - The Nature Conservancy is accepting applications for burn crew leaders for the Southern Blue Ridge Burn Crew and the crew operating on and around the Talladega National Forest. [Applications for the Southern Blue Ridge position are due by January 10. Applications for the Alabama position are due January 11.](#)

**Oregon Wildland Fire Extension Positions** - Oregon State University is hiring two positions for its newly formed Fire Extension Program - [a program manager](#) to manage day-to-day operations, and [an assistant or associate professor faculty position](#) to focus on program development and delivery. Applications will be accepted through January 30, but those interested should apply by January 17 for full consideration.

**Research Position** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development is seeking a candidate to engage in research projects aimed at assessing the environmental effects of wildfire and prescribed fire, and characterizing community risks and vulnerabilities. [Applications are due by February 6, 3:00 PM EST.](#)

**Assistant Professor of Forest Health and Fire Protection** - Alabama A&M University is hiring for a nine-month academic appointment with additional three-month summer employment available and expected. [Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.](#)

**Veterans Fire Corps** - The Student Conservation Association is accepting applications from post-9/11-era US military veterans for its Fire Corps internships. Additional information and the application portal can be found on the [program website](#).

**Fire Ecology Internships** - The Fire Ecology Program at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy in Tallahassee, FL seeks to provide field and laboratory experience for college students and recent graduates in the areas of plant ecology, ecosystem ecology, and fire ecology and science. Most internships last 12-16 weeks and are largely fieldwork based. Summer interns work from May-August and Fall interns work from October-December. [Get full details and application instructions here.](#)

#### Online Job Boards

- [The Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands](#)
- [Chloeta Careers](#)
- [The Corps Network](#)
- [The Longleaf Alliance](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#) (search "prescribed fire")
- [The Southern Fire Exchange](#)
- [USAJOBS](#)
- [WildfireX](#)

## Webinars, Video, and Other Media

### Upcoming Webinars

- **January 9** - 4:00 PM ET [Winter isn't Coming. Prepare for the Pyrocene!](#)
- **January 30** - 1:00 PM ET [Air Quality 101: Essential Concepts and Tools for Prescribed Burners](#)

### Recent Archived Webinars

- [Preparing for Wildfires with Firescaping - Master Gardener Training for the Southeast](#) (November 2019)
- [Recent Advances in Understanding Eastern US Litter Flammability](#) (September 2019)
- [Influences of Prescribed Fire on the Ecology of Wild Turkeys](#) (August 2019)

More recorded webinars on a variety of wildland fire-related topics can be found on the Southern Fire Exchange [webinar page](#), the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium [webinar page](#), and the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists [webinars and presentations page](#).

### Recent Videos

- [Longleaf for the Longrun](#) (December 2019)
- [WTREX: Igniting Inspiration for Women in Fire](#) (December 2019)
- [Select Presentation Recordings: Association for Fire Ecology 2019 Conference](#) (December 2019)
- [America's Forests in South Carolina](#) (December 2019)
- [The Return of Fire](#) (November 2019)
- [Eastern Indigo Snake Hatching at the NC Zoo](#) (October 2019)

Past videos and other resources can be found [here](#).

### Podcasts & Radio

#### Podcast Series

- [Good Fire Podcast](#) - Covers the indigenous use of "good fire" is used around the globe.
- [Learn, Baby, Burn](#) - Created by the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council, this podcast will cover a variety of prescribed fire topics.
- [The Fire Learning Trail](#) - Introduces listeners to the role of fire in the Southern Appalachians, wildland firefighting, and local history
- [On The Line](#) - Covers topics of interest to wildland firefighters, including mental health, the pack test, and health considerations.

- [Forest Voices](#) - Covers forest stewardship and management topics, including prescribed fire.

Past single podcasts and other resources can be found [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events, Training, and Networking

### Prescribed Fire Council Meetings

- **North Florida - March 24**, Marianna, FL. [More details](#) will be available soon, and registration will open approximately one month before the meeting.
- **Central Florida - October 2**, Kissimmee, FL. [More details](#) will be available soon, and registration will open approximately one month before the meeting.

### Prescribed Burner Certification Courses

- **Alabama** - Certification and re-certification courses are offered through the [Alabama Forestry Commission Certified Burn Manager Program](#). No courses are currently scheduled.
- **Florida** - Courses offered in person and online through the [Florida Forest Service Certified Burn Manager Training](#). Three courses are currently scheduled:
  - **January 21-23**, Fort Myers, FL
  - **January 27-30**, West Palm Beach, FL
  - **February 3-6**, Apopka, FL
- **Georgia** - Courses are offered by the [Georgia Forestry Commission](#), with no courses currently scheduled.
- **Kentucky** - Courses are offered periodically, with the [Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council](#) hosting one upcoming course:
  - **February 4-7, 2020** Clermont, KY
- **Louisiana** - Courses are offered through LSU Cooperative Extension Service. None are currently scheduled.
- **Mississippi** - The Mississippi Forestry Commission offers a [Prescribed Burning Short Course](#). No courses are currently scheduled.
- **North Carolina** - The [North Carolina Forest Service Certified Burner Training](#) is offered several times per year. None are currently scheduled.
- **South Carolina** - The [South Carolina Forestry Commission Certified Prescribed Fire Manager](#) offers courses, with no courses currently scheduled.
- **Texas** - The Texas Department of Agriculture offers courses [at various times and locations](#). No courses are currently scheduled.
- **Virginia** - The [Virginia Department of Forestry](#) and [Virginia Prescribed Fire Council](#) offer the materials for their prescribed fire and smoke management course online. No courses are currently scheduled.

### Conferences, Workshops, Festivals and Other Events

- **January 13-17** - [Rx510 Advanced Fire Effects & M580 Fire in Ecosystem Management](#), Tucson, AZ
- **January 16** - [Bladen Lakes Area Prescribed Burn Association Meet, Greet, and Eat!](#), Clinton, NC
- **January 22** - [Learn & Burn Workshop](#), Chipley, FL
- **January 23** - [Longleaf Pine Forest Restoration and Management Workshop](#), Silver Springs, FL
- **January 25** - [Red Hills Fire Fest](#), Tallahassee, FL

- **January 30** - [Bobwhites in Pine Savanna Workshop](#), Marianna, FL
- **February 4-5** - [Large Burn Implementation in the Central Appalachians Workshop](#), Staunton, VA
- **February 6** - [Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System Workshop](#), Kalamazoo, MI
- **February 18** - [Learn & Burn Workshop](#), Baker, FL
- **February 23-25** - [SE Society of American Foresters Symposium: Recovering from the Storm](#), Panama City Beach, FL
- **March 10-11** - Forest Economic Contributions Summit, New Orleans, LA
- **March 12-20** - Alto Minho TREX, Porto, Portugal
- **March 21-April 3** - [Niobrara Valley Prescribed Fire Training Exchange \(TREX\)](#), Johnstown, NE
- **March 22-April 4** - [Loup TREX](#), Central Nebraska
- **April 27-May 8** - [Central Oregon TREX](#), Central Oregon
- **April 27-May 8** - [Ashland TREX](#), Southwestern Oregon
- **March 30-April 10** - Women-in-Fire TREX (WTREX), Southeastern VA
- **April 6-8** - [After the Flames](#), Tahoe, CA
- **April 18**, - [Party for the Pines Festival](#), Southern Pines, NC
- **April 20-24** - 3rd [International Smoke Symposium](#), Raleigh, NC
- **May 4-17** - [Northwoods TREX](#), Minnesota
- **May 3-70** - [Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals Conference and Post-Conference Tour](#), Bend, OR
- **May 19-21** - Southern Blue Ridge FLN, Dillard, GA
- **October 13-16** - [Natural Areas Conference](#), Reno, NV
- **October 20-23, 2020** - [The Biennial Longleaf Conference](#), Wilmington, NC
- **October 26-30, 2020** - 4th Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop, Asheville, NC
- **October 26-November 6** - Southern Blue Ridge TREX, Pickens, SC
- **Ongoing** - [Fire in the Field](#), This intermediate firefighter training program (equivalent to NWCG S-131, S-133, and S-231 courses, as well as the G-131 course) is designed to prepare the Firefighter 2 (FFT2) to move to the Firefighter 1 (FFT1) position.

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## Partner Newsletters

### Find more fire-related information from our friends & partners!

Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers & Scientists Newsletter ( [current edition](#) )  
Department of Defense Natural Selections Newsletter ( [current edition](#) )  
Fire Learning Network *Networker* ( [current edition](#) )  
Forest Stewards Guild After Wildfire: News & Networking ( [current edition](#) and [subscription link](#) )  
Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks LCC Newsletter ( [current edition](#) )  
Joint Fire Science Program *Fire Science Digest* ( [current and archived editions](#) )  
LANDFIRE Bulletin & Post Card ( [current edition and subscription form](#) )  
Partners for Conservation News ( [current news and subscription form](#) )  
REPI Program Newsletter ( [current edition and subscription form](#) )  
SERPPAS Circular ( [current edition](#) )



South Atlantic LCC Newsletter ( [current edition](#) )  
Southeast Region Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy ( [current edition](#) )  
Southern Fire Exchange *Firelines* Newsletter ( [current edition and subscription link](#) )  
Tall Timbers [eNews](#) and [eJournal](#)  
Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center Two More Chains ( [current edition](#) )



**Contact us to share your prescribed fire information, stories, or events!**

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Additional content and resources can also be found by visiting our [website](#) and by following us on:

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Twitter [@SE\\_RxFire](#)

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