



Welcome to the 2018 FRPA Conference!

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the Importance of Prescribed Fire in Land Management but also Community Safety.
- Discuss Benefits of Fire for both native species as well as Stakeholders
- Identify the role of Fire in Florida's ecosystems



Land Management Responsibilities

Protect, Preserve and Restore

- Protect
 - Establish acceptable use guidelines, establish hours of operation as well as delineate “sensitive habitats”, erect fencing and gates, nurture relationships with additional agencies i.e. law enforcement
- Preserve
 - Draft ordinances which protect into perpetuity public lands, develop management plans and strategies to maintain ecological communities
- Restore
 - Dedicate staff time re-introducing natural processes on lands where they have been excluded or not managed for decades, prioritize spending on the treatment/management of exotic/invasive species controls



Land Management Ecology

Management activities consist of many different activities including:

- roller chopping
- Mulching
- hand tools applications
- FIRE. Ecologically, the implementation of fire is the most natural tool we can employ in the management of wildlands.



Pyrogenic Habitats

- By nature of geography Florida is the lightning capital of the US.
- The frequent and regular storm activity coupled with a long or even continuous growing season has shaped our natural environment.
- From serotinous cones of some pine species to the continual duff created by saw palmetto, **fire is a natural component within the Florida landscape.**
- As land managers we attempt to mimic the natural processes for the preservation and restoration of our Parks and Preserves.



Fire Suppression in the US

- The early founders of the US Forest Service view our wood lands as a resource to be harvested and utilized for expansions such as the railroads opening the West to the expansion of our nation.
- Pinchot and others viewed Fire as a destructive force to be fought
- Florida was more progressive in this regard.



Incidents of Wildfire

Top 10 Most Wildfire Prone States, 2017

By households			By percent of households		
Rank	State	Households at high or extreme risk from wildfires (1)	Rank	State	Percent of households at high or extreme risk from wildfires
1	California	2,044,800	1	Montana	28%
2	Texas	715,300	2	Idaho	26
3	Colorado	366,200	3	Colorado	17
4	Arizona	234,600	4	California	15
5	Idaho	171,200	5	New Mexico	14
6	Washington	154,900	6	Utah	14
7	Oklahoma	152,900	7	Wyoming	14
8	Oregon	148,800	8	Oklahoma	9
9	Utah	133,100	9	Oregon	9
10	Montana	133,000	10	Arizona	8

(1) Number of households is based on data from the 2010 U.S. Census.

Source: Verisk Insurance Solutions – Underwriting and Verisk Climate units of Verisk Analytics®.

- In 2017 there were 71,499 wildfires according to the Insurance Information Institute

- According to Verisk’s 2017 Wildfire Risk Analysis 4.5 million homes were identified at high or extreme risk of wildfire.



Responsibilities to the Community

As land managers we are tasked with ensuring the community has safe enjoyable recreational opportunities within these environmental areas and prioritize:

- Safety of our guests within our Parks(direct hazards)
- Public Safety is always a top responsibility
- Enjoyable Recreational Opportunity while respecting other guests



Responsibilities and Actions

- Responsibilities are what we should be doing both ecologically AND for the public.
- Action is the vehicle moving toward our goals.



- What should land managers do when those responsibilities don't align?

Prioritize!



Public Health and Safety

- The health and safety of the members of our Community will always be the higher priority.
- That doesn't mean burning is no longer an option. If we have learned anything fire suppression is not the long term solution within pyrogenic habitat types that have evolved with fire.
- The solution isn't as simple as burn it all either. So.....



What is the Solution?

- The simplest answer is that there is no single solution will work across the board.
- In Charlotte County Florida, we plan to reduce the overall fuel loads on our environmental lands and reduce the potential for stakeholder property damages or impacts to health by
 - Implementing a long process of vegetation reduction utilizing equipment
 - Incorporate very small burn units (1acre or less in some cases) or pile burns
- All while continuing an open dialogue with adjacent property owners and citizen to provide education about fire and the role of fire in the Florida landscape.
- The goal for us is safer environmental parks and preserves as well as ecologically healthy habitats. Better managed lands and safer parks and preserves enrich the lives of the citizens of Charlotte County.



Questions?





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For more information about the Florida Recreation and Park Association visit www.frpa.org.