

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM11- Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat



Enhancement Description

Use prescribed burning with livestock grazing to create patches of different vegetation structure and species composition for the benefit of wildlife.

Land Use Applicability:

Pasture, rangeland and forestland

Benefits

Patch-burning is a grassland management activity for landowners interested in improving habitat for wildlife while still maintaining forage production for

livestock. This management activity helps create a mosaic of diverse vegetative structure and plant composition in the same pasture. Livestock also benefit as different plant species may be available, especially during mid-and late growing season vegetation slumps. Patches of different vegetation composition can extend and/or supplement livestock during the grazing season.

Criteria for Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat

1. Producers who want to conduct prescribed burning for other purposes on their forest land should consider enhancement PLT04.
2. Burn at least 10% and not more than 40% of the pasture in any year
3. Annual application by burning a different patch each year is acceptable and desirable for many wildlife species.
 - a. A minimum of two burn treatments should be applied during a 5 year period.
 - b. For vegetation types with a historic fire frequency greater than 10-15 years, minimum treatment should be two burns applied during a 10 year period.
4. Avoid burning during peak nesting season for targeted wildlife species.
5. A written grazing management plan that identifies:
 - a. Wildlife management objectives describing how patch burning will accomplish those objectives.
 - b. Percentage of area planned to be burned by year
 - c. Locations, total acres, planned year and season of burns
 - d. The desired frequency of burning (example: burn same area once every 4 years) should be stated and based on the desired plant community's adaptation and response to fire.
 - e. Stocking rates that will allow for proper forage utilization.
 - f. Monitoring and adaptive management considerations to address potential multiple years overuse of burned areas, especially for those pastures not receiving some amount of annual burning.

ALABAMA SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THIS ENHANCEMENT
ANM11 – Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat

PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

April 1 – July 15

Actual burning cycles should be variable based on specific site conditions and landowner objectives.
 Rule of thumb:

- a. higher natural fertility and moister soils during growing season – burn more frequently
- b. poorer and droughty soils – burn less frequently
- c. heavier grass areas – burn more frequently to maintain higher forbs population
- d. heavier forbs areas – burn less frequently to slow grass expansion

PRODUCER NAME:				DATE:		
TRACT NUMBER(S):				COUNTY:		
Field Number	Field Acres	Planned Burn Acres	Burn Field Percentage	Planned Burn Year	Planned burn frequency (no. yrs. between burns)	Date ‘Prescribed Burn Plan’ completed

NOTE: MINIMUM ANNUAL PATCH BURN FOR EACH PLANNED PASTURE OR WOODLAND – 10%
 MAXIMUM ANNUAL PATCH BURN FOR EACH PLANNED PASTURE OR WOODLAND – 40%

AT LEAST TWO PATCH BURNS REQUIRED WITHIN 5 YEAR CONTRACT (MINIMUM 20% OF FIELD OVER LIFE OF CONTRACT).

The submitted information accurately reflects the implementation of this enhancement.

SIGNATURE: _____ **Date:** _____