

Prescribed Burns on Private Property

This document describes the process to request the TPE St. Croix Valley chapter to conduct a prescribed burn on your property.

Process Overview

1. Contact Evanne Hunt at 715-381-1291 or Evanne.hunt@gmail.com to be put on the list.
2. Deliver or mail a check for the mobilization fee of \$400 to Evanne.
3. You will receive a burn plan template and a Burn Contract Form.
4. Submit the completed burn plan and required form.
5. The burn boss schedules a site visit. They will review your burn plan with you while walking the site. They may require you to improve your fire breaks, remove hazards, etc., and update your burn plan.
6. You will be given a tentative date for the prescribed burn.

As the date of the burn approaches, the burn boss will monitor the weather to ensure it is within plan parameters.

You are required to obtain the burn permit from the relevant authorities and provide water and hoses to fill water tanks for the burn crew.

Final payment to be made within two weeks of completed burn.

Details

Priority

The native prairies and oak savannas our chapter maintains always get priority.

The burn season for native remnants begins when the snow melts in the spring and lasts until April 15; it begins again in late October and lasts through snowfall.

Eligibility

You must be an active TPE member. Active members are those who have a current paid membership in TPE.

You must complete a TPE prescribed burn plan. Do the best you can and in your own words. You may not know the answer to every question. The site visit will fill in the blanks.

Sign the Burn Contract Form. This must be submitted before any scheduling is done.

Scheduling

No burn is guaranteed. We will put you on the list, but all burns are weather dependent, subject to local burn bans, etc. All burns require final approval of a TPE-authorized burn boss – the day of the burn – who ensures the burn can be conducted as prescribed.

Cost

To be put on the burn list, the landowner must pay a \$400 mobilization/demobilization cost. This fee covers supplies, equipment preparation and upkeep.

This fee is non-refundable if you cancel less than 24 hours of the scheduled burn. If the burn is cancelled by TPE (due to weather, etc.), we will reschedule or you can request a refund and be removed the burn list.

In addition, the burn cost is \$100 per acre. The first one acre is included in the mobilization fee.

For example, a typical 10-acre burn would cost

$$\$400 + (\$100 \times 9) = \$1,300$$

Mitigating the Cost

You can reduce the cost of a burn by volunteering a minimum of 20 hours on a work party, seed collection, prescribed burn, or representing TPE at events in the previous 12 months. The \$400 mobilization fee is not eligible for mitigation.

Using the previous example, the cost can be reduced as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \$400 + (\$100 \times 9) &= \$1,300 - (20 \text{ volunteer hrs} \times \$30 \text{ per hr}) = \\ & \$1,300 - \$600 && = \$700 \end{aligned}$$

Volunteer time cannot be so large that TPE ends up owing you!

Federal Cost Sharing

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program are paid for prescribed burns by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). If you request reimbursement for a CRP burn, there is no discount for your volunteer hours for the prescribed burn.

Prepared by the SCV Prescribed Burn Committee