

## TOOLS FOR THE TOOLBOX

# PRESCRIBED FIRE

## *Pine Stand Management*

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### PLANT MANAGEMENT

Prescribed fire, or controlled burning, are beneficial for pine stands for a multitude of reasons. Plant management is one of the most important uses of prescribed fire. Plant management could include removing the underbrush between trees, controlling invasive species growth, or promoting regrowth of desirable native species. Fire is also used as a hazard fuel reduction method which prevents out of control forest fires.



### HABITAT RESTORATION

Did you know fire is an essential tool for habitat building and restoration in forests? Burning promotes regrowth of young, tender plants which are then eaten by wildlife. Many native plants in forest ecosystems require burning for proper growth, and are supplemented by the nutrients from burned material.



## BACKING FIRE

A backing fire is an essential tool for prescribed burners. A backing fire is one which is intended to spread towards the direction of wind flow. This method produces a slow moving, low intensity fire as it works against the wind to spread. Backing fires can be beneficial when smoke management is an issue, when there is too much fuel available to light, or when weather conditions do not permit a heading fire.



## HEADING FIRE

Strip-heading is a method in which fires are lit in lines, or strips, upwind from a fire line. This method allows for faster burning of a plot but does not allow any one fire to gain too much intensity before meeting a fire line or other fire (burned material). Heading fires can create more smoke and do require optimal conditions.



Prescribed burning is an important tool for land managers everywhere. This tool is only one in the tool box for proper land management and should be used only with the supervision of a trained burner. Get more information on prescribed burning here:

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire/Prescribed-Fire>