

February 2016

BURNING IN WETLANDS AT THE EDWARD LOWE FOUNDATION

OVERVIEW OF OUR OPERATION

- ✘ 2,600 acres of diverse property
- ✘ About 600 acres of wetlands, various types
- ✘ We have had an active burn program for 12 years.
- ✘ We have our own in-house burn crew and equipment.
- ✘ We routinely burn prairies, wetlands and some woodlands.

MANAGEMENT GOALS OF OUR BURN PROGRAM

- ✘ Do it safely.
- ✘ Maintain our many diverse ecosystems.
- ✘ Control natural succession.
- ✘ Manage habitat for native inhabitants, with special emphasis on listed species.
- ✘ Minimize the negative impact on wildlife.



SPECIES OF HIGH CONCERN

- ✘ Massasaugas – Scheduled to be federally listed as threatened later this year.
- ✘ Kirtland's snakes – State listed as endangered, tend to be subterranean, so probably less impacted by fire.
- ✘ Box Turtles – Hibernates in wetlands and transitional zones, may hide in brush piles. Generally other turtle species are in or near water most of the time during the spring and fall burn seasons.
- ✘ Any other native fauna species.

BURN STRATEGY

- ✘ Pick the best days we can in late winter to early in the spring, RH in 40's or lower, decent wind 8-12 mph, high solar radiation/low cloud cover.
- ✘ I like frozen soil or ice under the cattail mats.
- ✘ We typically get our perimeters burned out and then ratchet up the intensity of the burn and try to get head fires to run into the transition zones when possible.
- ✘ We often include interior ignitions as part of the primary ignition sequence as long as they can be done safely and are well coordinated.

GENERAL NO-GO INDICATORS

- ✘ Soil temperature in wetland at 10" above 46°.
- ✘ Garter snakes have been active for over 2- 3 weeks.
- ✘ Box Turtles have been seen
- ✘ Massasaugas have emerged

WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW ABOUT EMR EMERGENCY – OUR EXPERIENCE

- ✘ They don't read calendars. Documented dates - March 17, 2012, April 15, 2013.
- ✘ They don't all emerge at the same time, it may be over a 3 to 4 week period.
- ✘ They seem to start emerging a couple weeks after eastern garters start to emerge, shortly after blue racers and about the same time as Box Turtles.
- ✘ They emerge slowly, may periscope for a week or two and stay close to their hibernacula for a while.

LARGEST CONSTRAINT TO BURNING WETLANDS IS THE NUMBER OF POSSIBLE BURN DAYS

- ✘ Most springs we may get up to 10 days where we are within general burn prescription parameters.
- ✘ We are further constrained by need for specific wind directions for smoke management.
- ✘ Occasionally we will get a few days in the fall, but with the shorter days, it really slows down the drying process.
- ✘ Generally we can get started mid-March and may be able to go to the first week in April.
- ✘ With prescription parameter limitations, we are lucky to get 2-3 wetland burns in per year.



SOME OF OUR BEST TOOLS ARE FREE

















THANKS !!!!