

Prescribed Burning

Enhancing the Landscape with the
“Perfect Prescribed Burn”




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Is there such a thing as the “Perfect Prescribed Burn”?

- Safety
- Ecological
- Cost Effectiveness
- Learning Aspect
- What else to consider?.....Hmmmm....?????????

How much time: Cost: Who ya’ going to use: I see green: What time of year: I wanted to herbicide: What equipment: Too hot: Too cold: Too humid: A burn failed 30 years ago so I don’t like fire: I got thirsty: You used too much drip torch fuel: Too early in the day: You made me walk too much lighting it: Too late in the day: Did you accumulate any overtime: The people you are using weren’t from my office: You should use my agency/division people: Too many people on the burn crew: Not enough people on the burn crew: You burned it and we didn’t get any rain for 6 months: You burned it and we got too much rain.....:





Let's take a look and spend
some time discussing a few
scenarios/prescribed burns
and see if it is truly possible to
say:


**“I pulled off a perfect
prescribed burn today”**









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- Elk Habitat: Forage – Long range
 - Reduction in woody stems - Long
 - Visible vs “Experience”–Short/Long
 - Sunday Burn
 - Lots of O.T.
 - Travel Distance
 - Awesome fire effects
 - Good learning experience
 - No equipment problems
 - No safety issues
 - Land manager happy , happy

How many “wrong” things makes a
Perfect Burn not Perfect? Tangible?












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- Good fuel removal
 - No control issues
 - No equipment issues
 - No safety issues
 - Relatively short duration burn
 - Physical not ecological
 - Smoke issues
 - Burn done in northern Michigan
 - Trencher operator happy (not rough)
 - Land manager happy, happy


This prescribed burn was conducted due to the failure of timber sale administrator to enforce rules to keep slash to a minimum to allow trencher to operate.









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- Blueberry burn
 - Designed for human consumption and wildlife
 - No safety issues
 - Difficult getting into
 - Good fire effects
 - No equipment issues
 - Land manager happy, happy

If a frost or drought would of occurred during vegetation flowering ,or fruiting, and no berries occurred, would the burn of been a failure?






Video







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- Perfect weather
 - Perfect fire effects
 - Perfect weather
 - Perfect safety record
 - Perfect weather
 - Perfect transportation to burn site
 - Perfect weather
 - Perfect smoke lift
 - Perfect weather
 - Perfect burn crew
 - Perfect weather
 - Perfectly happy, happy land manager
 - Not so happy landowners 25 miles away
 - Not so happy Agency (Political)



Was the burn a success? Was the burn “Perfect”?

Objective Driven



Education/Social Aspects/Political



Cost Effective



Resource Sensitive Operations

Fire vs Herbicide vs Mechanical




Safety of Personnel



Realistic Assessment





So, Lee, have you ever
had the perfect burn??

In my opinion, yes,
but.....it depends!!






Video









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- ✓ Received approval
 - ✓ Received resources I needed
 - ✓ Weather was awesome: for burn: for wildfire staffing
 - ✓ Cost per acre was good
 - ✓ Education: day after rain: low flame height: higher RH: technology used
 - ✓ Trainees present
 - ✓ Objectives were met: Original Treatment proposal was written wrong
 - ✓ Research plots: results are being documented: burn/herbicide/Untreated
 - ✓ Land manager was happy





Thank You!

Questions?

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