



PA Prescribed Fire Council

Council History

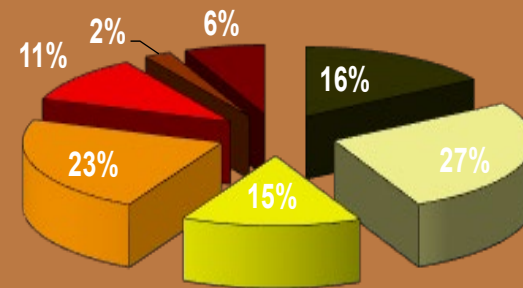
2005

PA Game Commission (PGC) hosted an initial exploratory meeting in Harrisburg

Small group agreed to conduct a Prescribed Fire Survey

Summary Survey Results

- 38 Agencies
- 30 Questions
- 117 Responses
- 43% Using fire



- A. Fuel/Hazard Reduction
- B. Grassland Management/Restoration
- C. Forest Management/Restoration
- D. Wildlife Habitat Management/Restoration
- E. Ecological Research
- F. Agricultural Production
- G. Others

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2007

PA Prescribed Fire Council formed, brought in speakers from MI and FL

Officers named, Mission and Goals established

Council Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council is to promote the exchange of information, techniques, and experiences of the Pennsylvania prescribed fire community, and to promote public understanding of the importance and benefits of prescribed fire.

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2008

First Annual Meeting in State College, PA

Prescribed Fire Conference

- Held in State College
- Over 300 attendees
- Grants and Revenue from the conference allowed the Council to begin hosting trainings and developing the website.
- Created momentum for the Prescribed Burning Practices Act.

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2009

**Prescribed Burning Practices Act Passed,
Training and Standards developed**

Prescribed Burning Practices Act

- August 2008 – Introduced as House Bill 2735 24 with bi-partisan support
- February 2009 - Re-submitted as House Bill 262,
- May 2009 Amended by Senate
- July 2009 - passed both houses *unanimously*, signed into law.
 - It took one year from introduction to passing

Purpose of the Act

“The purpose of this act is to encourage the continued use of prescribed burning for fuel reduction, ecological, forest, wildlife and grassland management purposes.”

Training and Standards

While the legislation was working its way through the congress, a small working group began the hard work of developing the training paths and standards for the state program.

These were finalized in December of 2009.

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- **2009 Prescribed Burning Practices Act Passed**

2014

PPFC Becomes a 501c(3)

Becoming a 501c(3)...

- Up until 2014, all executive roles were voluntary
- The bank account had become a concern, worries about theft and liability for our committee members
- Becoming a 501c(3) would give protections for our committee members
- But structure of council was changed to introduce a Board of Directors, which led to some struggles to find ways to maintain our Steering Committee

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- **2014 PPFC Becomes a 501c(3)**
- **2021?**

2021 PPFC By the Numbers

- **Just under 300 members**
- **9 elected Board members**
- **23 Steering Committee members**
- **4 Working Groups**
 - Annual Meeting Development
 - Training
 - Communications and Outreach
 - Private lands burning
- **Looking to learn more about social media**
- **Add new Working Groups**

Lessons Learned

- **Stay true to your Mission Statement, revisit it often, update as needed**
- **The more the merrier**
- **Understand the time commitment needed**
- **There will be ebbs and flows**
- **It generally is a small percentage of folks doing most of the work**