



Restoring Our Forests,  
Reclaiming Our Heritage

The NC Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association was created to assist private landowners in restoring one of the most biologically diverse and culturally rich landscapes that once covered 90 million acres in the Southeastern U.S.

## WHO IS THE NC SANDHILLS PBA

The NC Sandhills PBA (SPBA) is a community of committed landowners who use, or are ready to use, prescribed fire (Rx fire). Led by citizens and structured through a steering committee, the SPBA was created to assist motivated private landowners and interested individuals with workshops, field days, mentorship, and potential funding to gain the skills to move from interest to action. The SPBA supports landowners to help each other increase their comfort, capacity, and confidence to use Rx fire.

## WHY USE Rx FIRE

The Longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the most threatened landscapes in the U.S. and is important for the economic, cultural, and environmental future of the Southeast. Private landowners own more than half of the potential Longleaf acreage in the U.S., and they represent both the greatest challenge and opportunity for restoring this valued landscape. The most effective and economical tool used to restore and manage the Longleaf pine ecosystem is Rx fire which:

- Reduces wildfire risk by eliminating accumulated fuel in woodlands
- Improves forest habitat for wildlife
- Controls ticks and chiggers
- Limits hardwood overgrowth and non-native plant species
- Releases nutrients back to the soil to improve soil quality

## BARRIERS TO USING Rx FIRE ON PRIVATE LANDS

Even though fire is the most effective land management tool, most landowners do not use Rx fire because of concerns such as:

- Potential liability
- Lack of training, experience, guidance, and funding
- Lack of a burn crew
- Limited equipment or tools
- Smoke management issues



*Restoring fire  
on private lands presents  
the greatest challenge...  
and opportunity*



## HOW THE SPBA CAN HELP PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

- Perform site visits and evaluate parcels
- Assist landowners with burn plans and potential funding
- Create or recommend safe fire breaks and fire lines
- Provide information, training, equipment, and tools
- Ensure appropriate preparations for burns are in place
- Connect with a network of peers to assist with burns
- Supervise their "Certification Burn"
- Provide region-wide updates and opportunities to attend workshops and burns
- Expand community support for the use Rx fire

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The SPBA is highly inclusive and welcomes all landowners and citizens who desire to learn more about the Longleaf pine ecosystem and how to manage land with Rx fire. This includes people who've been doing their own burns for years, landowners who are new to the Rx fire community, and people who may employ contractors to burn their land but want to be knowledgeable about the process. The SPBA is open to anyone who wants to be a part of restoring one of the most biologically diverse and culturally rich landscapes in the U.S.

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# HOW TO REACH THE SPBA

If you want to learn more about Rx fire and the Longleaf pine landscape restoration efforts, please contact:

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SandhillsPBA.org • NWF.org

## The SPBA is a program of the National Wildlife Federation.

The National Wildlife Federation's Southeast Forestry program supports a wide array of sustainable forestry practices, including prescribed fire in Longleaf pine and other fire-adapted ecosystems.

The strength of the organization has always been our ability to collaborate with diverse conservation interests and rally multiple voices toward solutions for wildlife.

NWF's work with private landowners and the SPBA reflects this strength.



### PARTNERS



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### PROJECT SUPPORTERS



**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

### PROJECT FUNDERS



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