

Wildland Fire in the South

Traditional prescribed burn. ("Return to Tradition" video, National Interagency Fire Center)



Cherokee Nation Wildlife Fire Coordinator David Comingdeer lights a fire line near a river cane field in Oklahoma to help it grow better. (Will Chavez/Cherokee Phoenix)

Many plant communities in the South depend on fire to thrive and grow.

Land managers have worked to maintain fire-adapted ecosystems based on tribal use of fire.

Culture and Tradition: Honoring Shared Values



Left: Eastern Band of Cherokee artisans harvest river cane. (Land Trust for Little Tennessee) Right: Cherokee river cane basket. (USFS/S. Workman)



Tribes have a lifelong connection to, and understanding of, sustainable forests and watersheds with traditional values that honor forest health, restoration of cultural landscapes, and land stewardship.



The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas works to restore longleaf pine forests on their reservation. (Beverly Moseley, USDA NRCS TX)

River cane is an important raw material used by southeastern native people; besides the use of its seeds as food, it is used in making baskets, mats, spears, arrows, and as a material for building a variety of structures. (Ezra S F, Flickr)

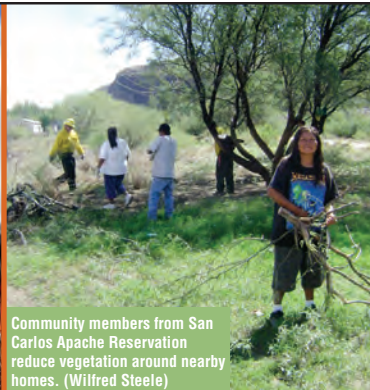


National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
Southeastern Regional Strategy Committee

www.southernwildfire.net



Prescribed fire behavior at ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge, SC. (USFWS/Rob Wood)



Community members from San Carlos Apache Reservation reduce vegetation around nearby homes. (Wilfred Steele)



Prescribed burn: Mississippi Band of Choctaw. (BIA Fire Management)



BIA Fuels Management Crew, Fort Apache Agency. (BIA Fire Management)

To promote Tribal traditions for use of fire in the South, you can:

- Identify and treat wildland fuels to create fuel breaks
- Implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) utilizing Firewise concepts to create communities adapted to fire
- Support efforts to increase prescribed burning for ecosystem restoration
- Control invasive species that alter fire regimes and ecosystem function
- Incorporate and encourage prescribed burning on tribal and private lands through federal incentive programs
- Stabilize and rehabilitate lands after severe fires
- Join forces to create ecosystem restoration teams



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For further information on how to engage, or for additional resources, please see www.southernwildfire.net

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