

FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY  
OF  
TEXAS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Texas Conservation Alliance acknowledges fire as an essential ecological process for the maintenance and renewal of many of Texas' upland forests and grasslands and their related plant communities. Fire is also a key natural process for maintaining productive wildlife habitat for a wide range of both game and non-game species.

Prescribed burning is a management tool, used to replace natural fire for the purpose of influencing plant community composition, improving wildlife habitat, and reducing natural accumulations of fuels. The Alliance supports the use of prescribed burning as a modern surrogate for natural fire in order to maintain the ecological and management benefits of fire, while minimizing the risks to human safety and property.

Texas Conservation Alliance supports the use of prescribed fire for the ecological maintenance and renewal of specific fire dependent communities, for fuel reduction, for improvement of wildlife habitat, and for a range of silvicultural treatments. Prescribed fires should be ignited at higher landscape positions and allowed to spread naturally to lower areas in order to mimic natural fire dynamics. Prescribed fires should be applied at the recognized frequency and intensity for the specific forest or grassland community where fire is being used.

The Alliance also supports the conditional use of managed wildfire in Wilderness Areas and ecological preserves so long as burn conditions do not pose an unacceptable risk to human safety or adjacent private property.

Since around 2004 Texas Conservation Alliance has worked as a collaborative partner with the US Forest Service on project development to build consensus, assure that forest management activities are carried out promptly and promote the best interests of both the National Forests and the public. The Alliance has worked cooperatively on a number of large projects such as Fox Hunter Hill and Groveton that include activities such as timber harvests, controlled burning, wildlife habitat improvements, erosion control and stream habitat restoration. The Alliance regularly provides input on prescribed burning proposals in order to identify and protect sensitive resources as well as promote healthy forest ecosystems.