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# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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## Partner Agencies in Conservation and Fire Participate in Annual Prescribed Burn School

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** – Forty participants from fourteen conservation and fire partners across the state participated in the 2017 Arkansas Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool Workshop held September 25-29 at Camp Robinson. The workshop, commonly referred to as Prescribed Burn School, has been held since 1997 and is organized by the Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council.

The course is taught by instructors from participating agencies on the Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council and brings together a wealth of knowledge and experience for burn planning, forest management, firefighting, and conservation in one forum. Students are required to complete outdoor prescribed burns in wooded and grassy sites under supervision, and must pass a rigorous test at the end of the course covering specific details about prescribed burn plans, weather factors and influences, safety protocols, public engagement and liability, and more. Students are required to pass this course before qualifying to oversee prescribed burns in their respective agencies.

The class is open to private, state, and federal agencies, and forest industry personnel. The forty students in the 2017 Prescribed Burn School include participants from: Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, State Parks of Arkansas, Arkansas National Guard/Camp Robinson, Camp Robinson Fire Department, Central Arkansas Water, Chloeta, Green Bay Packaging, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Monticello School of Forestry and Natural Resources, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Prescribed fire is used for the following six primary management purposes: 1) Wildlife habitat improvement, 2) Reduction of hazardous, flammable fuels, 3) Disposal of logging debris, 4) Site preparation for new seedlings, 5) Management of competing vegetation, and 6) Forest insect and disease control. A fact sheet for the benefits of Prescribed Fire is available, here:

[http://www.aad.arkansas.gov/Websites/aad/files/Content/5950774/Benefits\\_of\\_Prescribed\\_Burning\\_Fact\\_Sheet,\\_2017.pdf](http://www.aad.arkansas.gov/Websites/aad/files/Content/5950774/Benefits_of_Prescribed_Burning_Fact_Sheet,_2017.pdf)

Agencies and departments on the Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council include, but are not limited to: Arkansas Forestry Commission/Arkansas Agriculture Department, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, The Nature Conservancy, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and the Arkansas Forestry Association.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission is an agency of the Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD). The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.

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*The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

