

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, prescribed burning is the skilled application of fire under planned weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific management objectives; and

WHEREAS, ecosystems throughout the Palmetto State evolved in an environment in which fires occurred as often as every one to five years in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont and every seven to ten years in the mountains; and

WHEREAS, as a key tool in the management of South Carolina's woodlands, grasslands, and wildlife, prescribed fire is the most effective and economical protection against wildfires through the reduction of fuels which have accumulated in the absence of fire and is critical to the ecological integrity of our natural lands; and

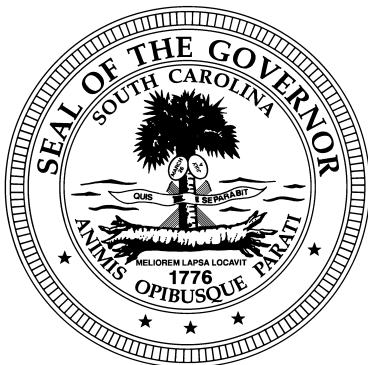
WHEREAS, many plants and animals require fire for their survival; and

WHEREAS, the approximate 500,000 acres of South Carolina land that is burned annually represents only half of the estimated one million acres that could benefit from prescribed fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2005 as

PRESCRIBED FIRE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about prescribed burning and the essential role fire plays in the stewardship of our natural resources and protection of our citizens.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA