



# News Release

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## **GEORGIA FORESTS NEED HEALTHY FIRE**

The benefits of controlled fire in Georgia forests are being shared by Forestry professionals during Prescribed Fire Awareness Week, February 4-10, 2007. Governor Sonny Perdue annually declares the first full week in February as a time to recognize this valuable tool for improving the health of Georgia's forest land.

"Healthy forests insure clean air and water for all Georgians, and prescribed fire contributes to that good health," said Robert Farris, Georgia Forestry Commission Interim Director. "Prescribed fire helps protect the forest from devastating wildfires. It reduces hazardous tinder on the forest floor that can fuel wildfires and threaten homes and property." Prescribed burning also enhances reforestation, aesthetics and forest access. Wildlife habitats are impacted positively by prescribed fire, especially for species such as bobwhite quail, eastern wild turkey, white-tailed deer and many song birds.

Prescribed Fire Awareness Week was established in 2005 through the efforts of the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Southwest Georgia Prescribed Fire Council (SWGFPF).

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