

# Prescribed Fire Summit 2016: Changing Fire Regimes

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*



December 7-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
**SUMMIT SUMMARY**  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2016

In December 2016, the summit, *Prescribed Fire Summit 2016: Changing Fire Regimes*, was hosted in Manhattan, Kansas. The summit was a collaboration of Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, South Central Climate Science Center, Joint Fire Science Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Oklahoma State Extension, Kansas State Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange.

The event included a plenary session, breakout sessions, and a tour of the Konza Prairie (Appendix A- *Summit Agenda*). With over 182 attendees and speakers, a total of 8 states were represented (California, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) at the summit.





# 8 Questions \_\_\_\_\_

## EVALUATION RESULTS

---

**94%** of attendees that participated in evaluation indicated the summit was a good use of their time.

### Suggestions for improvement?



#### Training:

- Conduct a pre and post conference training event related to conducting a prescribed burn

#### Breakout Session Topics:

- Discuss technical aspects of prescribed fire
- Include more research related to prescribed fire

#### Conference Materials:

- Provide presentations online prior to event
- Use of actual burn videos

# How might you share information acquired at this summit?

## SHARE INFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Verbal communication with neighbors

*Written communication with peers and constituents*

**PBA newsletter**



**Email fellow employees with summit highlight**

Biggest fire knowledge gap  
(research need) in the Great  
Plains?

**FIRE FREQUENCY**



**GROWING SEASON BURN EFFECTS ON  
PLANT COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE**



**EMISSIONS FROM GRASSLANDS FIRES**



# Biggest fire communication problem?



Break down between producers and neighbors in town



Getting the public to overcome the negative perception of fire and to recognize the difference between wildfires and prescribed burning



Convincing landowners that prescribed fire is a necessary and beneficial tool, to maintain healthy ecosystems



Agency cooperation

# Biggest fire policy issue in the Great Plains?



Smoke management



Burn bans and regulations



# What is the most challenging fire issue you deal with?



**BUILDING CAPACITY OF PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT**



**FUEL LOAD**

**LIABILITY**



**TRAINING**

# One thing you learned at the summit?

The influence fire frequency has on habitat, grazing, and wildlife

**How different prescribed burn associations function and operate**

The importance of prescribed fire as a management tool



---

# SUMMIT OUTCOMES

---

The *Prescribed Fire Summit 2016* successfully brought together various stakeholder groups to learn, share, and discuss current fire science and management. Research and extension specialists from four of the participating universities (Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Kansas State University, and University of Nebraska) collaborated to produce two publications following the summit:

## Prescribed Burn Equipment

### Cut and Stuff Practices for Enhanced Cedar Control with Prescribed Fires

Due to the positive response from summit participants, future summits are already in the works and will include important topics identified during break-out sessions and survey results. These topics include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Insurance and Liability Issues
- ❖ State Burn Bans – Getting certified to burn if required by your state
- ❖ How to Increase Youth Involvement
- ❖ Research –
  - Burn frequency
  - Emissions
  - Burn effects on plant and wildlife communities
- ❖ How to Inform National Policy
- ❖ Improving Cooperation –
  - Bridging the gap between state and federal agencies, landowners, and other private entities
  - Working in collaboration across state lines to pursue grant funding in support training and equipment needs
  - How to coordinate and execute emergency fire management effectively

# Appendix A. *Summit Agenda*

## Prescribed Fire Summit 2016: Changing Fire Regimes Agenda

December 7-9 2016  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Manhattan, KS

### Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Plenary Session

1:00-1:05 pm      **Welcome and Introductions**

Brian Hays, Texas A&M IRNR

1:05-1:45 pm      **Prescribed Fire Past, Present, and Future**

Mark Melvin, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research  
Center at Ithauway

1:45-2:30 pm      **Smoke Issues**

Amy Algoe-Eakin, EPA region 7

2:30-3:00 pm      Break

3:00-3:45 pm      **Future of Fire**

Dirac Twidwell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

3:45-4:30 pm      **Weather and Fire**

Mark Shafer, Southern Climate Impacts Planning  
Program, Oklahoma Climatological Survey

#### Mixer and Poster Session

5:30-9:00pm      Hors d'oeuvres provided

Flint Hills Discovery Center  
315 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Manhattan, KS  
[www.flinthillsdiscovery.org](http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org)

## Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Group Meeting      Moderator John Weir

8:00-8:25 am      **National Prescribed Fire Outlook and Policy Update**

Chuck Stanley, NRCS Fire Ecologist

8:25-8:50 am      **Building Partnerships and Leveraging Prescribed Fire Training**

Salvador Salinas, NRCS State Conservationist Texas

8:50-9:30 am      **State Prescribed Burn Association Reports**

Morgan Russell-TX, Jason Hartman-KS, Scott Stout-NE, John Weir-OK

9:30-9:45 am      Break

9:45-11:30am      Concurrent Session

### **PBA: How to form one**

Moderator Steven Smith, Noble Foundation

Jess Crockford, Regional Fire Coordinator KPFC

Ken Gee Regional Fire Coordinator OPBA

Pete Berthelsen, Pheasants Forever, NE

Scott Stout Rancher/President NPBA

### **Wildlife Habitat and Fire**

Moderator Jeff Goodwin, Noble Foundation

*Prescribed Fire impacts on Native Pollinators and Monarch Butterflies*

Dr. Shelly Wiggam, Kansas State University

*Prescribed Fire Impacts on Grassland Birds in the Southern Great Plains*

Dr. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University

*Building Landowner Partnerships to increase Prescribed Fire Impacts and Game Wildlife Species Habitat*

Jeff Pennington, ODWC

## **Thursday, December 8th continued**

9:45-11:30 am      Concurrent Session

### **Prescribed Fire Funding Sources**

Moderator Rob Cook, Noble Foundation

Brian Teeter, Pheasants Forever

David Kraft, USDA-NRCS, KS

Ken Gee, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture

Jarod McJunkin, NWTF

Mike Disney, USFWS Partners Program

11:30-1:00 pm      Lunch (provided on-site)

1:00-3:00 pm      Concurrent Session

### **Burn Planning**

Moderator Seth Coffey

Dusty Tacha, NRCS Kansas

Harry Fritzler, Regional Coordinator OPBA

Steven Smith, Noble Foundation

### **Fire Education/Training Sources**

Moderator Morgan Russell, TAMU AgriLife Extension

*NCSU Extension Prescribed Fire Training Programs*

Jennifer Evans-Fawcett

*Interstate Transmission Company-power lines considerations*

Jason Klenklen, Westar Energy

*Great Plains Fire Science Exchange*

Carol Blocksome

*Oak Woodlands and Forest Fire Consortium*

Joe Marschall

*Jenks High School Experience with Fire*

Bryan Yockers



## **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> continued**

3:30-3:45 pm      Break

3:45-5:00 pm      **Open Discussion on the Future and Direction of  
Fire in the Great Plains**

Moderators Brian Hays, TAMU IRNR and John Weir, Oklahoma State  
University

*Thoughts on the Anderson Creek Fire*

Jerry McNamar, Emergency Management Barber  
County, KS

Open Discussion

5:00-5:10 pm      **Agenda for Konza Prairie Tour**

Barth Crouch, Kansas Grazinglands Coalition

## **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Time: TBD      **Tour Konza Prairie**