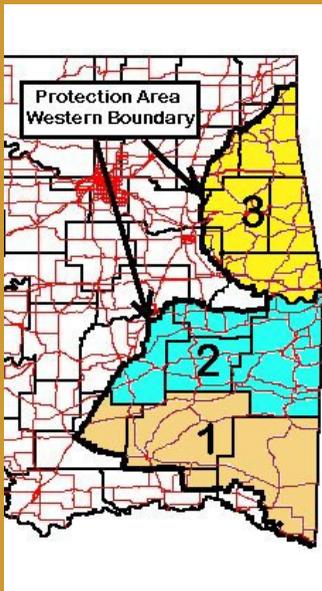


How do I know if I live in one of Forestry Services' Organized Protection Areas?

Oklahoma's Forest Protection Area covers 6.2 million acres and generally lies east of the following boundary: In Ottawa County, at the Jct. of Hwy. 60 and the Arkansas State Line, go west along US 60 then south along the east shoreline of Grand Lake, Lake Hudson and Fort Gibson Lake, to Jct. with Arkansas River at Muskogee. Go south and east along the river to the Haskell and LeFlore County line; south along county line to Hwy. 9; west along Hwy. 9 to Stigler; then northwest along the Missouri-Pacific railroad to the North Canadian River; then west along the river to Lake Eufaula. Go south along the east shoreline of Lake Eufaula to Hwy. 31; south along Hwy. 31 to the Jct. with Hwy. 69; and south along Hwy. 69 to Atoka. From Atoka, go east along Hwy. 3 to the Pushmataha County line; south along the county line to the Choctaw County line; east along the county line to Kiamichi River / Hugo Lake; south along the east shoreline of Hugo Lake to Hwy. 70; east along Hwy. 70 to Valliant. From Valliant, go northeast along old Hwy. 98 (now a county road) to Little River; southeast along the north shore of Little River to where the section line between Sections 19 and 20, Township 7 South - Range 24 East crosses Little River north of Idabel; south along this section line to the southwest corner of Section 20, Township 7 South - Range 24 East; follow section line one mile east and then south along section lines 12 miles to the Red River.



To Obtain A Burning Authorization

Call the Toll Free Number listed for your area.

- 1 Southeast Area
1-800-299-2468
- 2 East Central Area
1-800-375-2056
- 3 Northeast Area
1-800-299-3473

WHERE TO GET HELP

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

405-522-6158

<http://www.forestry.ok.gov>

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

<http://countyext.okstate.edu/>

Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/>

Local Conservation District Office

http://www.okcc.state.ok.us/Directory/directory_CD.htm

BURNING BAN INFORMATION

1-866-213-7485

<http://www.oda.state.ok.us/redflag/forred.html>

CAUTION

Fire is a powerful management tool, that takes training and experience to master. People using fire can incur significant liability for damages when the burn goes wrong. The Forestry Division strongly recommends that inexperienced burners obtain the services of a trained and experienced professional.

Forestry Division recommends you always contact your local fire department prior to burning. A simple phone call can save them an unnecessary run and save you money.



Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Division

P.O. Box 528804
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Phone: 405-522-6158
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8/1/04



Promoting, protecting and enhancing Oklahoma's Forests since 1925

To Burn or Not to Burn...



Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Division

<http://www.forestry.ok.gov>

'Good' Fire

Oklahoma's ecosystems are nearly all fire-dependent. Historical evidence suggests that native Americans used fire to manage game habitat, to make better range



Burning can reduce hazardous fuels.

for bison and to clear land for villages and fields.

Fire remains an excellent tool for controlling unwanted species in forest and rangeland.

Control of Eastern Red-cedar—Without maintenance, some Oklahoma landscapes begin to shift towards a cedar forest type. This forest type was historically restricted to north slopes,

canyons and rock outcrops where fire didn't burn regularly.

Control hardwood encroachment—Periodic burning also helps control hardwood encroachment onto old fields and into managed pine stands.

Reduce fuel accumulations—Periodic burning reduces the annual fuel accumulation in forests and grasslands reducing fire intensity.

Improve wildlife habitat—Periodic burning improves habitat for Oklahoma wildlife by modifying cover, and food quality and volume.

Increase biodiversity—Periodic burning induces environmental changes that result in plant and animal communities that are adapted to fire.

The Forestry Division promotes the responsible use of lawful, controlled or prescribed fire to manage wildlands.

Developing a Burn Program:

In developing a prescribed burn program consider both the benefits and responsibilities.

Before burning talk to Oklahoma Forestry Division, as well as Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Develop a prescribed burning plan for each area to be burned. Each plan should have specific objectives for a specific location.

Determine the average return frequency for prescribed fire to maintain the desired objectives for each burn area. (Fire Regime)

Identify any areas that need to be protected from fire.



Steps to a successful burn:

If this is your first time conducting a burn you should seek the help of an experienced burn boss.

1. Develop a Prescribed Burn Plan that includes:

- A. Objectives
- B. Weather parameters
- C. Map
- D. Ignition plan
- E. Smoke management plan
- F. Needed resources
- G. Escaped fire plan

2. Determine your Burn Day:

Utilize the fire weather forecast from the National Weather Service.

(<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/>)

3. Contact adjacent landowners and local fire department.

Note: Inside the Protection Area you are also required to obtain approval from the Oklahoma Forestry Division.

4. Gather resources and conduct a briefing, including safety precautions.

5. Conduct burn according to the Burn Plan.

6. Monitor firelines during the burn.

7. Mop-up and secure firelines prior to leaving the burn.

What about smoke?

Smoke and air quality are regulated by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality through Administrative Rules. The rule for open burning is located in Oklahoma's Administrative Code at Section 252:100-13.

According to Administrative Rule 252:100-13-7 (4):

- (4) **Land management and land clearing operations.**
Open burning is allowed for the following land management and land clearing operations.
 - (A) Fires purposely set to forest, crop or range lands for a specific reason in the management of forests, crops or game, in accordance with practices recommended by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture, and the United States Forest Service.
 - (B) Fires purposely set for land clearing operations if conducted at least 500 feet upwind of any occupied residence other than those located on the property on which the burning is conducted, except that such burning must be conducted in open-pit incinerators in counties or areas that are or have been designated non-attainment.

According to 252:100-13-9:

The open burning of refuse and other combustible material may be conducted only if the following conditions and requirements are met:

- (1) No public nuisance is or will be created.
- (2) The burning is controlled so that a visibility hazard is not created on any roadway, rail track or air field as a result of the air contaminants being emitted.
- (3) The burning is conducted so that the contaminants do not adversely affect the ambient air quality of a city or town.
- (4) The initial burning shall begin only between three hours after sunrise and three hours before sunset and additional fuel shall not be intentionally added to the fire at times outside these limits. This requirement does not apply to the open burning allowed under 252:100-13-7(2), (3), (4)(A) and (6)(B).

For more information on smoke management regulations contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality at: 1-800-869-1400, or view their rules on-line at: <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/rules/100.pdf>