

Committee: Upland Wildlife
Author: Casey Bergthold
Intended Recipient: Missouri General Assembly

**Support Efforts That Would Increase the Responsible Use of Prescribed
Fire as a Habitat Management Tool**

WHEREAS, the majority of Missouri's natural communities are fire-adapted and developed under frequent fire return intervals; and

WHEREAS, fire serves to maintain healthy plant and animal communities; and

WHEREAS, the safe and responsible application of prescribed fire is a cost-effective and necessary tool for the restoration and maintenance of native plant communities; and

WHEREAS, the factors that commonly limit landowner ability to apply prescribed fire as a management tool are manpower, equipment, and expertise; and

WHEREAS, in Missouri, liability for damages that may result from prescribed fire activities is not clearly defined and this undefined liability appears to limit the availability of insurance coverage in the state of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the lack of insurance coverage has limited private landowners' ability to obtain insurance for prescribed fire activities and has also limited the ability of commercial contractors to offer prescribed fire services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 10th day of March, 2019, supports prescribed burning liability insurance legislation for prescribed fire contractors that supports the responsible application of prescribed fire as a habitat management tool and works to remove barriers that limit the ability of private landowners and habitat contractors to conduct prescribed fire activities.

Searchable Key Words: Prescribed Fire, wildlife, burn, insurance, natural community, landowner, habitat management

Expires: March 10th, 2024