

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 forest and land management objectives; and

WHEREAS, ecosystems throughout the Palmetto State evolved in an environment in which understory fires occurred naturally every few years; and

WHEREAS, prescribed burning is not only the most effective, economical protection against wildfires because it reduces accumulated fuels, it is also a key tool in managing and maintaining the ecological integrity of South Carolina's woodlands, grasslands, agricultural areas, and wildlife habitats; and

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

WHEREAS, the approximately 500,000 acres of South Carolina land that are prescribed-burned annually represent only half of the estimated one million acres that could benefit from its strategic application.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2016 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 cursive script, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA