

IOWA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2006 DRAFT

MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Iowa Prescribed Fire Council is:

- to promote the use of *safe* Prescribed Fire,
- to promote *ecologically effective* Prescribed Fire,
- to promote the *exchange of information, techniques, and experiences* among Iowa Prescribed Fire practitioners,
- to increase *public knowledge and appreciation* of the importance and benefits of Prescribed Fire,
- to *affect policy* thru advocacy as an organization, especially as it relates to protecting *the right to implement Prescribed Fire* on both public and private lands

GOALS

Goal 1. *Promote safety* as the highest priority

- Objective 1.1: *Establish minimum training & physical guidelines* for paid natural resource managers, including IRVM and private landowners
- Objective 1.2: *Advocate training* for all Prescribed Fire practitioners
- Objective 1.3: *Monitor different standards* being used in Iowa for conducting Prescribed Fire
- Objective 1.4: *Address smoke management* issues:
 - Incorporate smoke management as an essential component of Prescribed Fire
 - Participate in development of an *Iowa Smoke Management Program*
 - Assist in drafting air quality policy

Goal 2. *Increase the application of Prescribed Fire* on Iowa's public and private lands

- Objective 2.1: *Identify and eliminate the barriers that limit Prescribed Fire*
 - Excessive burn bans:
 - show how to mitigate risk under dry conditions
 - develop scientific method to enact burn bans
 - promote uniform guidelines for calling burn bans across all counties
 - Liability: Establish affordable insurance opportunities for practitioners and contractors
 - Landowner issues:

- Develop and coordinate localized associations that will support and promote Prescribed Fire
 - develop incentives to do Prescribed Fire on private land
 - environmental education
 - support for equipment purchase/loans
 - Urban rules and restrictions that prevent Prescribed Fire
 - Wildland Urban Interface – identify potential fire easements, legal issues
 - Local firefighters – provide education opportunities & additional resources
 - Identify conflicting responsibilities and rules between different agencies
 - Limited equipment & personnel: work to increase funding for both public and private Prescribed Fire implementation
 - Review new Prescribed Fire issues as they arise and suggest courses of action
- Objective 2.2: Coordinate different Prescribed Fire techniques with the *understanding that some private lands may be treated differently than public*
- Objective 2.3: *Encourage the sharing of Prescribed Fire expertise and resources* between agencies, organizations and contract burners
- to increase ability to participate in multi-agency burns
 - to encourage training opportunities
 - to seek consistent policies

Goal 3. Develop and provide a *framework for communications* about Prescribed Fire objectives, techniques and issues

- Objective 3.1: *Disseminate technical information* about Prescribed Fire
- Objective 3.2: Promote the development and utilization of Prescribed Fire practices commensurate with *desirable environmental resource management*
- Objective 3.3: *Educate the general public* about Prescribed Fire
 - Benefits to habitat
 - Fire hazard reduction

Goal 4. Maintain the Iowa Prescribed Fire Council organization

- Objective 4.1: *Support and fund* the Iowa Prescribed Fire Council
- Objective 4.2: Periodically *evaluate Council status* and *update the goals and objectives*
- Objective 4.3: Encourage *private landowners* to participate in the Iowa Prescribed Fire Council
- Objective 4.4: Ensure Council representation by *all groups promoting Prescribed Fire* in Iowa