

FLORIDA CHAPTER  
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600  
May 9, 1991

Mr. Thomas M. Franklin  
Wildlife Policy Director  
The Wildlife Society  
5410 Grosvenor Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20814-2197

Dear Mr. <sup>Tom</sup> Franklin:

Attached for your information and the records of The Wildlife Society is a resolution on the use of prescribed fire adopted by vote of the membership of the Florida Chapter on April 25, 1991. I also have forwarded copies to Mr. Jim Miller, Southeastern Section Representative, and Mr. David Guynn, Southeastern Section President.

Congratulations on your appointment to Wildlife Policy Director.

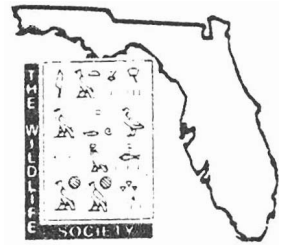
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim", written in dark ink.

Timothy E. O'Meara  
Past-President

cc: Mr. Bob Progulske, President

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## RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE

WHEREAS the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is an organization of professional wildlife biologists, managers, and administrators in the State of Florida;

WHEREAS many native plant communities in the State of Florida have historically been maintained by the natural periodic occurrence of fire in the ecosystem;

WHEREAS many plant communities in the State of Florida require recurring fire to maintain their biological integrity;

WHEREAS prescribed fire is a valid, necessary, cost-effective, and, when properly conducted, safe management tool used by the wildlife and other professions;

WHEREAS changes in the frequency, season, and intensity of prescribed fire can attain distinct management objectives;

WHEREAS increasing urbanization and other intensive land uses fragment fire-adapted plant communities;

WHEREAS fragmentation and fire suppression policies have adversely impacted natural fire ignition and fire's role in maintaining biological diversity;

WHEREAS many publics, particularly new residents, do not have an understanding of the importance of fire to this state's environs; and

WHEREAS the loss or restrictions of the use of prescribed fire as a management tool would have a devastating impact on many wildlife habitats and plant communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Chapter, The Wildlife Society:

Supports the judicious and professional use of prescribed fire as a management tool for wildlife habitat enhancement, forest and range management, and ecosystem restoration and maintenance;

Supports educational programs for prescribed fire practitioners on state-of-the-art fire management science; and

Supports educational efforts directed at Florida's political and public entities, including young Floridians, on the natural role of fire in Florida's plant communities and its use as a management tool to maintain natural fire-type plant communities and associated wildlife.