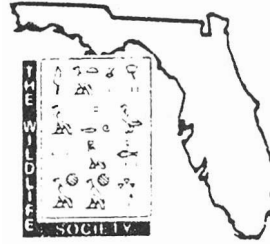


FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



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.