

# A Prescription for Healthy Habitats



**I**t may seem to go against common sense, but sometimes fire can be a good thing.

## Prescription burns

- Turn dried plants into ash, which allows nutrients inside to mix in with the soil more quickly.
- Knock back newly sprouted invasive and unwanted brush.
- Create large open areas of black soil and ash that absorb more heat from the sun, speeding up the growth of native plants.

## Vocabulary of a Prescription Burn

### Prescription

Plan developed by Forest Preserve District natural resource managers that dictates which units to burn and when

### Burn unit

Area being burned (There are several here at Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve.)

### Burn crew

Employees trained on how to work together safely during a prescription burn

### Crew leader

Determines the pace of lighting the fire and directs torch operators and line tenders



### Burn boss

Decides the morning of a burn if it's OK to proceed, directs the crew and communicates with fire departments



### Torch operator

Lights the fire along the edge of the burn unit and the interior if needed



### Firebreak

Low vegetation at the edge of a burn unit that keeps the fire from spreading



### Line tender

Puts fires out along the firebreak

## Click below to learn more about prescription burns

Born to Burn blog story  
<http://www.dupageforest.org/blog/born-to-burn>

Prescribed Burns video  
<http://www.dupageforest.org/news/photos-videos/prescribed-burns>