

# FORESTRY *Leaflets*

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources

FM-18

PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR HAZARD REDUCTION PURPOSES  
-Recommended for Pine Stands-



Winter Fire In Longleaf Pine Stand to Reduce Ground Fuel

Prescribed burning in high value timber stands has become an important forestry practice in North Carolina. The purpose of these controlled burns is to reduce vegetative fuels that builds up in a stand and, thereby, help prevent the possibility of an uncontrolled and damaging wildfire.

The N. C. Division of Forest Resources has the men, equipment, and know-how to effectively burn these hazardous fuels with no appreciable mortality to high valued timber stands. This type burning has to be closely coordinated with desirable weather conditions.

Experience has taught us that it is much better to burn these potentially dangerous fuels in a "controlled situation" than to wait and gamble that the entire stand will escape destruction from wildfire. Burning is normally done during the late fall and winter months when the air temperatures are cool, the relative humidity high and when there is adequate soil moisture. Frequently, this type of burning is done at night.

This practice can also improve (1) wildlife habitat, (2) access, (3) appearance of the stand, (4) disease control and (5) hardwood control.

Remember - All burning should be done by qualified personnel. Contact the N.C. Division of Forest Resources for assistance.