

I live and own 55 acres in NW Polk County and support this bill. I use prescribed fire during the fall and spring to manage native prairie and oak habitats. My experience with prescribed fire began with a lot of research mostly from out of state resource. There are very few training opportunities locally and I was lucky to find an experienced person willing to teach me privately. Navigating the legality and bureaucracy of permitting, insurance requirements, and liability took interacting with multiple state agencies that often conflicted with each other. Prescribed fire can be a powerful tool for controlling invasive plants and, when properly done, can be safe and effective. Getting to that point takes a fair amount of know-how and experience. I believe that if that knowledge were more easily accessible you would see more private owners using it and increasing the health of our lands. One of the best ways to get more private land owners involved and using this tool, is to clear the uncertainty and make the knowledge easy to access.