

**PRESCRIBED FIRE AWARENESS WEEK PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, prescribed burning is the skilled application of fire under planned weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific management objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, many of Chatham County's natural ecosystems are fire-dependent and require periodic fires occurring as often as every one to five years in our Piedmont forests and prairies for their perpetuation, restoration and management; and

**WHEREAS**, many plants, game, nongame and endangered wildlife species also require fire for their survival and to enhance their habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, as a tool in the management of Chatham County's woodlands, grasslands and wildlife, prescribed fire is the most effective and economical protection against the risk and severity of wildfires through the reduction of fuels which have accumulated in the absence of fire and is therefore critical to the ecological integrity of our natural lands and lessening the loss of life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, the 284,400 acres of forestlands of Chatham County represent economic, biological and aesthetic resources of extraordinary significance; and

**WHEREAS**, prescribed burning of nearly 600 acres per year of these forestlands helps to prepare sites for replanting and natural seeding, to control insects and diseases, increase productivity and decrease the risk of catastrophic wildfires; and


**WHEREAS**, prescribed fire is one of the basic tools to achieve a myriad of management objectives in fire dependent ecosystems that evolved with recurring fire and therefore are dependent of recurring fire for maintenance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners proclaims February 7-13, 2010, as **PRESCRIBED FIRE AWARENESS WEEK** in Chatham County and calls upon our citizens to learn more about prescribed burning and the essential role fire plays in the stewardship of the County's natural resources.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2010.

  
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Sally Kost, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners