

RESOLUTION 07-026

In Support of Prescribed Fire

WHEREAS, the Clay County Commission recognizes the use of prescribed fire provides multiple ecological and economic benefits to the public,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a land management/public safety tool in the prevention of wildfires, reduces the liability and loss of private property and saves lives while it acts as a preventive measure saving taxpayers the cost of local government public safety and fire fighting officials from responding to wild fires which consume valuable tax resources,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a priority in the implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan to improve wildlife habitat, it assists both public and private land managers in perpetuating fire-dependent ecosystems, its dependent game and non-game species and is a tool in managing endangered species,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a valuable tool used by land managers, timber growers and the Georgia Forestry Commission in reducing hazardous fuels, reducing the risk of destructive wildfires, preparing sites for both natural and artificial forest regeneration, improving access and controlling detrimental insects and silvicultural diseases,

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly passed the Right to Burn Act in 1992, defining prescribed fire as, "Prescribed burning means the controlled application of fire to existing vegetative fuels under specific environmental conditions and following appropriate precautionary measures, which causes the fire to be confined to a pre-determined area and accomplishes one or more planned land management objectives or to mitigate catastrophic wildfires."

WHEREAS, many rural economies are dependent on the use of prescribed fire to manage for game species such as Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkey and Bobwhite Quail, whose hunting economy is vital to the State of Georgia,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire helps keep Georgia's forest healthy and those forest, in return, provide clean air and clean water,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire practitioners contribute to the air quality of Georgia as healthy forest contribute vital ecological services as "air shed contributors",

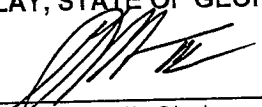
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Clay County Commission supports the appropriate and continued use of prescribed fire in Georgia,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Clay County Commission supports the Georgia Forestry Commission and Georgia Department of Natural Resources continue to provide educational and technical assistance to landowners in an effort to recognize the benefits listed above,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the County Commission urges Quality Regulators to work closely with all state agencies and landowners in a fair and balanced approach to smoke management,

This Resolution Adopted By the Clay County Board of Commissioners on its first and only reading in Clay County Georgia on this the 16th day of October 2007.

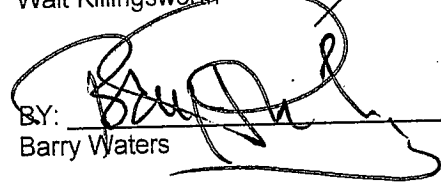
COUNTY OF CLAY, STATE OF GEORGIA

BY:  Yea Nay
Gerald Von Anderson III, Chairman

By: Willie McCoy Yea Nay
Willie McCoy, Vice Chairman

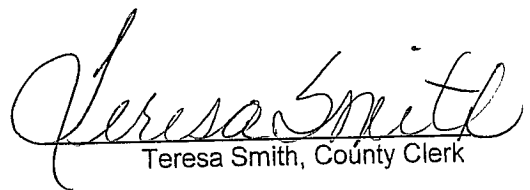
BY: _____ Yea Nay
David Shivers

BY: Walt Killingsworth Yea Nay
Walt Killingsworth

BY:  Yea Nay
Barry Waters

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Clay County, keeper of the records and seal thereof, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Clay County in public meeting assembled on October 16, 2007, the original of which resolution has been entered in the official records of said political subdivision under my supervision and is in my official possession, custody and control.


Teresa Smith, County Clerk

3) **Prescribed Fire-** ACCG strongly supports the continued use of prescribed fire throughout Georgia where its many benefits support public safety, public health, our vital forestry and recreational economies, promotes healthy forest providing clean air, clean water and sustaining dependent wildlife. Recognizing future growth in Georgia will demand healthy forest for their economic benefits and ecological services, conflict in public perception of prescribed fire management on forested land may occur. Towards ensuring public health and safety benefits are recognized by all Georgians through the continued use of prescribed fire, ACCG:

- Urges the Governor and the General Assembly to support the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) in order to upgrade its prescribed fire and fire fighting capabilities to levels appropriate in addressing increased population demands for education, information, technical assistance, BMP implementation, training, air quality management, fire prevention, and wildfire response.
- Encourages the GFC to secure the appropriate support tools to better predict weather conditions, for gathering additional accurate data and the permitting of prescribed fire activity in Georgia.
- Strongly urges prescribed fire practitioners to attend the GFC Certified Burner Manager Program in order to better understand safety, risk management, smoke management, acquaint themselves with regulations, and enhance personal skills of prescribed fire tools and techniques.
- Encourages the Department of Natural Resources to continue educating the public and promoting prescribed fire as a priority wildlife management tool to sustain biodiversity and support game and non-game species through the implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
- Urges local governments, state and federal agencies to use prescribed fire as a land management/public safety tool in the prevention of wildfires; reducing private property loss, saving lives and preventing unnecessary expenditure of tax dollars.