

Grading Guide
Prescribed Fire Practicum
Burn Plan Exercise

Presentation (100 points): (Target 30 minutes maximum for presentation, plus 15 minutes feedback.)

- Provides ecological and social (landowner) context for burn plan
- Summarizes burn plan, highlighting key elements
- Utilizes visuals that allow audience to understand burn unit characteristics
- Uses maps to convey location, burn unit slope and aspect, containment and secondary containment lines, water sources, etc.
- Presenter is articulate and well prepared
- Presenter invites audience feedback and responds positively to opportunities for plan improvement

Burn Plan (300 points):

- Updated based on feedback from presentation (provide list of what changes were made)
- Burn unit location accurately denoted (TRS, County, Lat/Long)
- Signatures and contact information complete
- Registrations/permits identified (may be mocked up for this exercise)
- Notification list identifies neighbors likely to be impacted by fire/smoke from burn. Agencies accurately identified. Contact information provided.
- Burn unit accurately described, including reasonable estimates of fuel loading. Description includes major plant types present, fuel type and/or fuel model, aspect, slope. Sufficient information provided to inform planning.
- Description of fuels and vegetation outside unit sufficient to support development of contingency planning.
- Primary control lines and other pre-burn site preparation requirements clearly articulated, and sufficient for holding function.
- Water sources identified and adequate for planned activities.
- Minimum personnel identified and appropriate for intended activities.
- Minimum resources (equipment) identified and appropriate for intended activities.
- Communication plan would reasonably allow communication among on-site resources and between burn boss and fire suppression agencies.
- Contingency action points clearly articulated and appropriate for intended burn.
- Secondary control lines and back-up water sources clearly identified and appropriate for intended burn.
- Criteria for wildfire declaration clearly articulated and appropriate for intended burn.
- Contingency resources identified and response time accurately denoted.
- Values at risk identified, both inside and outside burn unit.
- Smoke management criteria accurately researched and denoted.

- Smoke mitigation strategies make sense given anticipated smoke behavior.
- Test fire criteria clearly denoted and appropriate for burn unit and expected fire behavior.
- Ignition plan sufficiently detailed to guide ignition team – alternatives articulated to address anticipated range of fire behaviors.
- Holding and containment plan clearly articulated and appropriate for intended burn.
- Mop-up, patrol, and declaration criteria for “out” burn clearly articulated and appropriate for intended burn.
- Safety, medical, emergency plans include accessible medical facilities, mechanism for communicating need for medical assistance, safety issues and mitigations, appropriate location or locations for rallying personnel should the need arise.
- Resource management goals consistent with those stated by landowner, and internally consistent with each other.
- Prescribed fire objectives meet SMART format (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound) and consistent with stated goals.
- Prescription provides parameters that would reasonably allow burn to meet objectives and are reflective of goals, objectives, smoke management requirements, firing plan, and holding and containment plans.
- Prescription comments identify specific combinations of conditions that either facilitate successful burning, or alternatively would indicate conditions under which burning would be unsafe or unlikely to be productive.
- Weather monitoring plan appropriate for intended activities and burn unit location.
- Monitoring methods appropriate for unit, landowner, and objectives.
- Burn unit maps clearly denote unit location, staging, water sources, features significant to burn implementation. Drop points or other location designators indicated. Secondary control lines denoted.
- Go/No Go list included (per template)
- Relevant fire behavior and smoke behavior modeling runs and output attached and annotated to allow plan reviewers to readily identify how the modeling informed the plan.