

Final Paper Grading Guide

Prescribed Fire Practicum

Fall 2025

Assignment: 5-page paper (minimum), single-spaced, describing the ecological considerations and implications of the area you have chosen for your burn plan, or another area as approved by instructor. Describe plant species present within burn unit, their expected responses to prescribed fire, implications of burn timing (season) and burn conditions (fuel moisture, ambient temperature, wind characteristics), and potential interactions among species following the burn. Describe implications for post-burn soil conditions and recovery. Use tables, bulleted lists, figures, and/or photos to support your narrative - these do not count toward the 5-page text minimum, but can help you attain points for organization and style. Information that serves in supporting roles may be included as appendices.

Points will be awarded on a sliding scale within each of the categories described below, based on student's degree of accomplishment.

Focus: Purpose/subject is clearly articulated (40 points possible)

Content: Ideas are well-researched, clearly-presented, and conveyed with appropriate level of detail supported by evidence and facts. (50 points possible)

Organization: Paper is structured to support purpose/subject and convey information in a compelling manner. Paragraphs are of appropriate length and convey clear ideas, supported by examples and/or illustrations. Smooth transitions between paragraphs. Headings and subheadings add to clarity of intent. (40 points possible)

Citation: Sources are clearly referenced and cited. Quotations are identified. References are relevant to the paper's purpose/subject and reflect newly published data/concepts as well as the subject area's standard body of work. (40 points possible) (NOTE: any functional citation style is acceptable as long as I can follow your citations to their sources. If citing a book or other long manuscript, please include the specific page number(s). Journal articles need only cite the specific article.)

Grammar and vocabulary: Excellent grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation. (40 points possible)

Style: Paper holds reader's attention and conveys your interest in the subject matter. Sentences are clear and compelling. (40 points possible)