

# Upper Osage Prescribed Burn Association Winter/Spring 2022 Newsletter



## Membership

The Upper Osage PBA depends on active members to help burn habitat on each other's property to meet their habitat goals in a safe and effective manner. In addition to active participation in a minimum of 2 UOPBA prescribed burns, an active membership requires annual dues of \$25.00. Dues helps maintain the burn equipment, the burn trailer, insurance for the burn trailer and outreach materials.

Make sure to send in your payments to the Treasurer to keep your membership active. Dues can be sent to the PBA Treasurer: Bernie Henehan, 2202 N. Water, Clinton, MO 64735.

### Burning Technical Support

Our PBA spans 5 counties (St. Clair, Vernon, Henry, Bates and Cedar) and is supported by two knowledgeable and experienced Private Land Conservationists from MDC. Josh Cussimanio works with landowners in Vernon and Bates counties and Aimee Coy works with landowners in Henry and St. Clair counties. With over 20 years combined experience, both have helped landowners with planning as well as implementing fire as part of their habitat management.

Josh: [Josh.Cussimanio@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Josh.Cussimanio@mdc.mo.gov)

Aimee: [Aimee.Coy@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Aimee.Coy@mdc.mo.gov)

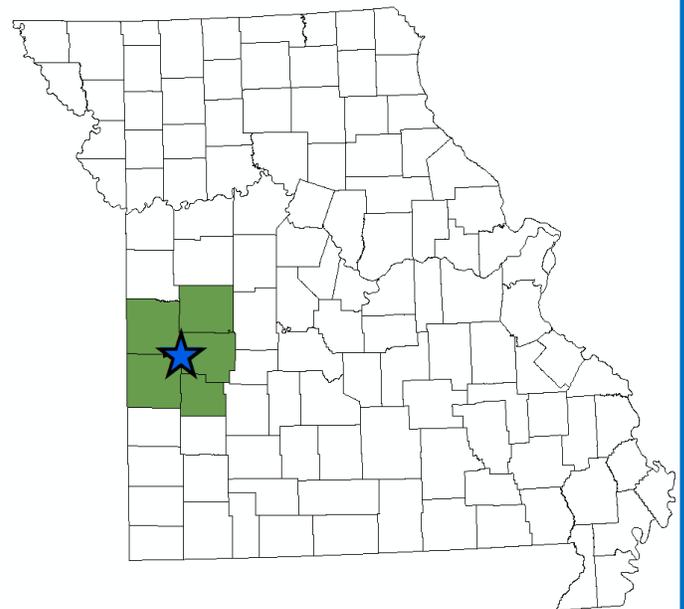
Additional local resources: Ryan Gauger, - TNC Fire and Stewardship Manager: [rgauger@tnc.org](mailto:rgauger@tnc.org)

Lindsey Reinartz, -Osage Plains Project Coordinator:  
[lreinartz@tnc.org](mailto:lreinartz@tnc.org)

Len Gilmore, UOPBA Member:  
[lenegilmore@gmail.com](mailto:lenegilmore@gmail.com), (417) 839-0635

Total Members: 22

Counties Served: St. Clair, Vernon,  
Cedar, Bates, Henry



# FIREBREAKS

Firebreaks are usually defined as a perimeter of a prescribed fire or controlled burn and help contain the fire. Generally speaking, they are areas that lack combustible fuel along the perimeter of a burn area. Firebreaks serve several purposes, but the most crucial is to contain the fire within the boundary of the burn unit. Well-constructed firebreaks make burning safer and can reduce the amount of labor required on a prescribed burn. There are different types of firebreaks; natural (think creeks, streams, and lakes), existing (roads, trails, cultivated fields, areas already burned), constructed (dozed, disked, hand lines) and mowed line (which is typically used in conjunction with a wet line). An example of a mowed line is in the photo below. Notice that the vegetation is clipped close to the ground. It is good to follow a mowing treatment up with a back pack blower, blowing the clippings away from your burn unit and reducing any vegetation that might be laying across your firebreak. All types of firebreaks come with pluses and minuses. But a good firebreak is key as poor firebreaks or lack thereof have been one of the leading causes for a prescribed fire escaping a burn unit. If you are interested in learning more about different firebreaks, please reach out to one of our technical advisors to learn more.



Additional Resource: <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/firebreaks-for-prescribed-burning.html>

## Check Out The UOPBA Burn Trailer!

The finishing touches are underway on our partnership burn trailer. With funding from a grant from the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council and in-kind match from our completed burns, we have been able to purchase the last pieces of equipment. Thanks to volunteers Len Gilmore and Dan Yoder for their continued work on getting the trailer up and running. If you are interested in utilizing any of the equipment or the entire trailer, please reach out to Len Gilmore at [lenegilmore@gmail.com](mailto:lenegilmore@gmail.com) or via cell (417) 839-0635.



## MDC Offers Prescribed Burning Courses

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has announced the Prescribed Burning for Missouri Land Managers course that satisfies the training to be recognized as a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager. It is a blended training with a self-paced, online course and exam followed by a mandatory field exercise. This training is not a requirement to conduct a prescribed burn, however, along with following a written burn plan, it does demonstrate further care when conducting a prescribed burn. Of special note, it is a recognized training by the new Missouri law to aid those in obtaining insurance for prescribed burning.

MDC has begun scheduling these training opportunities using the following procedure:

1. Find a field exercise on the [MDC Landowner Workshop Events page](#).
2. Register for the field exercise online (Missouri landowners will receive an access code for free admission to the online course and non-landowners will pay a \$25 fee to a 3rd party for housing the course).
3. Complete the online course and final exam at your own pace within 90 days of registration or prior to the field exercise, whichever comes first.
4. Attend and complete the scheduled field exercise.
5. Receive a certificate for completion of the Certified Prescribed Burn Manager training.
  - (a) No recertification necessary to maintain CPBM qualification.
  - (b) Make sure to file your certificate for future reference.

**Interested in attending a Prescribed Burn  
Workshop Field Day?**

**Visit MDC's website to find an upcoming event!**

**Register Now!** Go to [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov), click on Events and then go to Landowner Workshops.