

CHP Project Draft Proposal

Ryan Hicks

6/27/2025

Summary:

Currently, my County has a group of around 15-20 producers that meet at least three times during the winter months. For my project I would like to leverage this group and present a presentation that highlights fire as a historical management tool and discuss the relationship/benefits of fire in maintaining our grasslands and fighting woody encroachment. Additionally, I will also be teaching a Forage Foundations course with Stephanie in the fall, and there might be an opportunity to incorporate a presentation or field tour into that curriculum.

I would also like to partner with a member from our Prescribed burn associations and potentially deliver a short presentation (maybe a field tour) discussing how their associations work. I will list some topics that I would like to discuss with them below.

Presentation Outline:

1. Brief history of fire on the plains.
 - a. Native Americans' relationship with fire.
 - b. Estimated Fire Intervals for our region
2. Introduce Woody Encroachment
 - a. How it is occurring
 - b. Historical context
3. How fire helps our grasslands.
 - a. Cycling Nutrients
 - b. Encouraging plant diversity
 - c. Stopping Woody Encroachment
 - d. Fire's role in killing cedar trees
4. The impact of fire with Grazing.
 - a. Traditional burn & grazing interactions.
 - b. Patch burn grazing interactions.
 - c. Regulating pest/ insect loads.
5. Conclusion
 - a. Creation of habitat/ plant diversity for wildlife.

PBA Outline:

1. How to become a member
 - a. Benefits of membership
 - b. Association equipment
 - c. Assistance with burning personal land.
2. Creating a burn plan
 - a. Key weather indicators.
 - b. Review a general burn plan.
3. Discuss basic burn concepts
 - a. Review what a typical burn looks like.
 - b. The roles assigned to burn participants.
 - c. How the roles work together to accomplish the burn.