

Governor Nathan Deal designated by official proclamation the first week in February be observed annually as Prescribed Fire Awareness Week for Georgia in recognition of land managers who protect and maintain the state's forest resources. On February 7, 2011, Susan Gibson, Director OREGA-S, joined members of the [Georgia Prescribed Fire Council \(GAPFC\)](#) and Gov. Deal for his signing of the 2011 Fire Proclamation.

The GAPFC works with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and other cooperators to encourage exchange of information, techniques and experience among Georgia prescribed burning practitioners. GAPFC advocates prescribed burning as one of the most environmentally and economically feasible methods for managing the state's valuable forest resources. As a land management tool, prescribed fire is essential for managing wildlife species such as bobwhite quail, eastern wild turkey, white-tailed deer, gopher tortoise, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and many other fire-dependent species.

OREGA-S has continued to foster communication among prescribed fire practitioners concerning the [Georgia Basic Smoke Management Plan](#), which could have unduly burdened installations' prescribed burns. OREGA-S involvement resulted in various installations' avoidance of permitting and administrative requirements.

