



Uptown Wadesboro on January 18, 2018

Wildlife Commission Conducts Prescribed Burns to Improve Habitat

This is the time of year that North Carolina residents may start to see smoke in the vicinity of N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission game lands. What they're witnessing is actually one of the most beneficial and cost-effective methods of managing habitat for wildlife - a prescribed burn. A prescribed burn (or controlled burn) is an intentional burning of vegetation that the Commission employs to restore and maintain wildlife habitat on most of the 2 million acres of state game lands used by hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers throughout North Carolina.

The Commission's burn season typically runs January through March. Some burns, however, are conducted into spring and summer, as warm season burning provides for better control of young hardwoods in certain habitats. Optimal conditions for a prescribed burn occur on cool-weather days with moisture in the air and minimal wind.

Fire is a natural occurrence that animals have adapted to. But each year during burn season, the Commission receives calls from people who are concerned for the animals' ability to escape from the fire.

"The Commission utilizes burning techniques that ensure animals have time and room to escape," said Chris Jordan, the Commission's lands program coordinator. "Vegetation typically returns within a few weeks, and the animals will return shortly after. Quail and wild turkey, in particular, tend to return immediately after a burn to forage for mast that the fire uncovers."

Many of North Carolina's declining or rare wildlife species, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, are adapted to fire or found only in fire-dependent habitat. Commission staff typically conducts maintenance burns in multi-year cycles to open ground-cover for quail, grassland birds, deer and turkeys. Burning encourages production of native grasses and herbaceous vegetation, which provides valuable food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife species. Prescribed burns are also used to help reduce high levels of forest fuels (such as leaf litter and pine straw) that can cause deadly wildfires and to control disease and insects.

For more information on prescribed burns, view *No Cause for Alarm* on youtube and visit Prescribed Fire: What NC Citizens Need to Know at www.ncwildlife.org. For more information on the Commission's game lands program, including an interactive game land map, visit www.ncwildlife.org/gamelands.

Uwharrie Bank Names Brendan Duffey as Chief Executive Officer



Roger Dick, President and Chief Executive Officer of Uwharrie Capital Corp, the parent company of Uwharrie Bank, announced that Brendan Duffey has been named the bank's Chief Executive Officer in addition to his title of President of Uwharrie Bank. Duffey also serves as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Risk Officer of Uwharrie Capital Corp.

Duffey joined Uwharrie Capital Corp in 2004 as Chief Operating Officer overseeing the three banks the company owned (Bank of Stanly, Anson Bank & Trust, and Cabarrus Bank & Trust) and all support areas of the banks and holding company. In 2013, the three bank charters were consolidated under the one name of Uwharrie Bank, and Duffey was appointed President of the bank.

Prior to joining Uwharrie, Duffey was vice president and U.S. general manager of a multinational high tech company. His banking experience includes 10 years as the managing general partner of a U.S. bank consulting firm and 20 years in various executive banking roles in Florida and Texas.

Mr. Dick, who will continue in his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Uwharrie Capital Corp, recommended Duffey's Chief Executive Officer appointment to the Board of Directors at the December 2017 Board meeting. The recommendation was made in recognition of Mr. Duffey's efforts in successfully improving the bank's overall performance for the past 14 years.

As the company expands its operations through rapidly evolving technology and enters new markets, the new alignment and reporting structure allows the company to operate more efficiently.

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