



TREES and all that live among them in the forest are like people whom you know in your community. Their life is one of growth and struggle. They respond to care and protection. Injuries hold back their growth or kill them.

Fire is the most common and often the most needless cause of forest injury. It damages big trees, kills seedling trees, destroys plant food in the soil, and drives out game animals and birds. So long as fire is kept out of the woods the community of trees and plants and animals have a chance to take care of themselves.

To help protect the woods from fire the State Foresters and Forestry Associations of Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi are cooperating with The American Forestry Association in what is called The Southern Forestry Educational Project.

Help us protect trees. They are your best friends.

FIGHT ALL FIRES

WOODS FIRES EVERYMAN'S ENEMY

PREVENT
WOODS
FIRES
THEY DESTROY
TREES
AND
RANGE GRASSES

The American and Florida Forestry Associations

COOPERATING WITH THE

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

Tallahassee, Florida



Children and Trees Can Grow Up Together

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KEEP FIRE OUT OF THE WOODS

Fires Must Be Controlled

Fire is a wonderful servant that can do untold damage when it goes wild. Ordinary care will control most fires.

MAKE IT A RULE—never to throw away a lighted match, always put out your camp fire, burn brush carefully, help your neighbors fight wild fire, and

PROTECT—your own property by plowing two or more furrows around your land every year.



A Successful Fire Guard

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

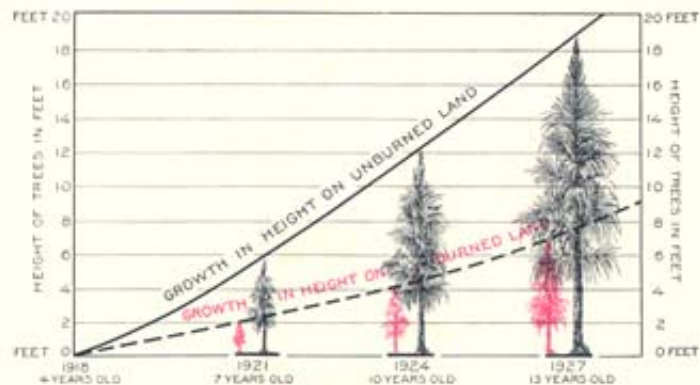
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The front cover is from the United States Forest Service, and the one on the back from the Texas Forest Service. Both were colored by Mrs. Nellie W. Brenizer of the United States Forest Service.



STOP FIRES

Fire Slows Down Tree Growth



Fire Checks Height Growth

For 10 years two similar tracts of young longleaf pine have been studied—one protected from fire and the other burned yearly. The trees on the protected tract average 19 feet in height; on the adjacent burned over land there are fewer trees and they average 7 feet in height. Burning killed many little trees and reduced the height growth of the others to about one-third that of the protected trees.



FIRE CHECKS DIAMETER GROWTH

These two trees grew on opposite sides of a road—one burned yearly and the other side protected and unburned. Both trees are about the same age, but the one on the burned land grew to be only 4 inches in diameter while the other tree with heavy leaf litter over the ground grew steadily to 12 inches in diameter.



IT PAYS TO PREVENT FIRE

Fire Runs Out Game



Mrs. Bob White at Home in the Rough

BE A FRIEND TO WILD LIFE

Fire destroys the natural breeding places of birds and animals, often burns up nests, eggs, and even the young. Game experts say that fires often kill more game than hunters.

Fire destroys low plants and shrubs whose seeds or fruits are the food of many birds. Until fire is kept out of the places where they live and care for their young, birds and animals will be fewer and fewer.



Protected Forests Furnish Breeding Grounds for Birds and Game Animals.

Fire and Erosion



Washing Away the Fertility of Centuries

Fertile soil is the accumulation for centuries of vegetable matter. Good forestry, like good farming, builds up the soil. But fire destroys trees and plants whose sheltering leaves and network of roots protect the soil and hold it together. The water holding leaf-mold is destroyed, the soil alternately washes and bakes, gullies form, and streams dry up.

A single fire may allow tons of plant food to wash away, soil and gravel to clog the streams, and fertile fields to be ruined.

FIRE AND EROSION ARE THIEVES WHO ARE HARD TO CATCH

Everybody Loses When Timber Burns

"Dad, your trees will soon be cut. I'll need timber when I grow up—won't you stop burnin' the woods and let the little trees grow?"



FIRE KILLS the little trees, damages the large trees, destroys the best forage plants, runs out game, and burns up valuable plant food that has collected in the soil.

Saplings of today will be trees of tomorrow.

Fire slows down the growth of trees and makes defects that scar the lumber.

One unburned acre covered with carpet grass and lespedeza has more good cattle feed than 10 to 30 acres of broom sedge or wire grass.

Game birds, animals, and fish thrive in regions of unburned forest growth.

Burning the woods-litter and old leaves robs the soil of nature's fertilizer, and favors floods and droughts by hastening soil washing and erosion. Land that is eroding is worse than idle. It ruins good land lower down stream.

STOP BURNING THE WOODS

Fire Destroys the Best Forage Plants

For a few weeks in the spring cattle often gain faster when grazing on "burns" than on "roughs," but careful tests over year-long periods show that they thrive better and are heavier on rough unburned range.

Fires rob the soil of nature's fertilizer and kill the more palatable wild legumes and grasses, such as lespedeza, beggar lice, Bermuda grass, and carpet grass. Broom sedge and wire grass then take the range because they are able to withstand fire.



Scrub Steer—the Product of the Burned Woods



Cattle that graze on unburned range covered with carpet grass and lespedeza are heavier and go through the winter better than those that feed on broom-sedge or wire grass such as grow on burned range. Farmers who protect their range from fire do not have to buy winter feed.



Fat Cattle Come from Unburned Woods

From the Carolinas to Texas many progressive cattlemen are more successful because they keep their range unburned. Recently a South Georgia cattleman said: "My cattle do much better on 'roughs' than on 'burns'."

BURNED RANGE MEANS POOR CATTLE

When Trees Burn



Look first on the left, where the owner kept fires off his land by plowing two furrows around it and burning between to make a fire break. He can begin turpentine whenever he wishes, and in a few more years he can begin cutting timber. The returns will average the owner \$3 to \$5 an acre yearly.



On the right side, the land is practically idle, for the owner has made no effort to keep fire out. Charred stumps and ashes mean desolation and poverty. At best the owner gets only coarse grasses to feed scrub stock.

IDLE ACRES PAY NO TAXES

Timber is the most profitable crop on large acres of land in the southern states. No fertilizer and small labor costs—trees grow while you sleep!



TIMBER IS A PAYING CROP

Fire Damages Big Trees



Beneath the bark and surrounding the wood of every tree is a thin layer of growing tissue. The bark is like a heavy overcoat which protects this tissue from ordinary heat and cold. But fires may burn through the bark and cook these tender growing tissues.



Sometimes only one side of a tree is burned. The tissue is killed, the bark becomes loose over the burn. Later, decay may creep into the wood. These "cat-faces" on the sides of the tree show up as pitch streaks or worse when the logs are sawed into lumber. Often the crown of the tree keeps green, but the rate of growth is less and the quality of wood gets poorer and poorer.



KEEP FIRE OUT OF THE WOODS



A Rail Fence Points the Way

Many other farmers are like the man in Arkansas with thirty acres of pine timber. About 12 acres of these woods were within a rail fence which he had worked hard to make. For 15 years the farmer burned the woods every winter to keep down the brush and "green-up" the grass. But he always took care to protect the rail fence, because he remembered the hard work that he had put into it. As a result, the twelve acres within the fence were never burned.

One day a young man who knew timber came down the road and asked why the trees beyond the fence were so tall and so much closer together than the others. When the farmer told about the burning the young man asked if he might measure the trees on each side of the rail fence. He found the unburned timber worth \$60.00 an acre, while the burned timber was worth only \$30.00 an acre.

Every year that he burned the woods the fires had cheated him out of \$2.00 an acre.

DON'T BURN THE WOODS