



## Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, prescribed burning is the skilled application of fire under planned weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific management objectives; and*

*WHEREAS, prescribed burning is a property owner's right and a benefit to society; and*

*WHEREAS, ecosystems throughout Alabama have developed in an environment in which low intensity fires occurred on a frequent interval; and*

*WHEREAS, as a key tool in the management of Alabama's woodlands, grasslands and wildlife, prescribed fire is the most effective, natural and economical protection against wildfires through the reduction of fuels which have accumulated in the absence of fire and is critical to the ecological integrity of our natural resources; and*

*WHEREAS, many plants and animals are dependent on the application of prescribed fire for their survival; and*

*WHEREAS, the approximately one million acres of Alabama's range and woodlands that are burned annually represent only one-fourth of the estimated 3.6 million acres that could benefit from prescribed fire from the coastal plain to the mountains; and*

*WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a traditional land management tool and is part of Alabama's heritage and culture:*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2014 as*

## *Prescribed Fire Awareness Month*

*in the state of Alabama and encourage all Alabamians to learn more about prescribed burning and the essential role fire plays in the stewardship of our natural resources and protection of our citizens.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2014.*

*Robert Bentley*

*Robert Bentley, Governor*