

RESOLUTION 96 - 63

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGING THE BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED BURNING AS A LAND MANAGEMENT TOOL, SUPPORTING ITS APPLICATION, AND ENCOURAGING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE.

WHEREAS, prescribed burning is a critical resource management tool on both private and public lands that when properly administered minimizes deleterious impacts on air quality, protects public safety, and enriches property aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, fire is a natural and historical component of Florida's natural vegetative communities; and

WHEREAS, much of the ecosystem in St. Johns County, including numerous endangered species, is fire dependent for its vitality; and

WHEREAS, prescribed burning reduces accumulated fuels and consequently lessens the likelihood and severity of uncontrolled and damaging wild fires; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 590.026, Florida Statutes, that recognized the benefits of conducting prescribed burning; and

WHEREAS, rules governing open burning in St. Johns County require that proper authorization be obtained from the Florida Division of Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, prior to conducting prescribed burning in St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, the continued cooperative and coordinated management and public education regarding prescribed burning in St. Johns County is of great benefit to the protection of the environment and to the public safety and welfare of the citizens of St. Johns County and the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, in regular session and duly assembled, supports the use of prescribed burning as a management tool in St. Johns County and encourages the establishment or expansion of environmental and public education programs to assist in the general acceptance and understanding of prescribed fire's benefits and usefulness.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 9th day of April, 1996.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Donald Jordan
Its Chair - Donald Jordan

ATTEST: CARL "BUD" MARKEL, CLERK

By: Yvonne Carter
Deputy Clerk

