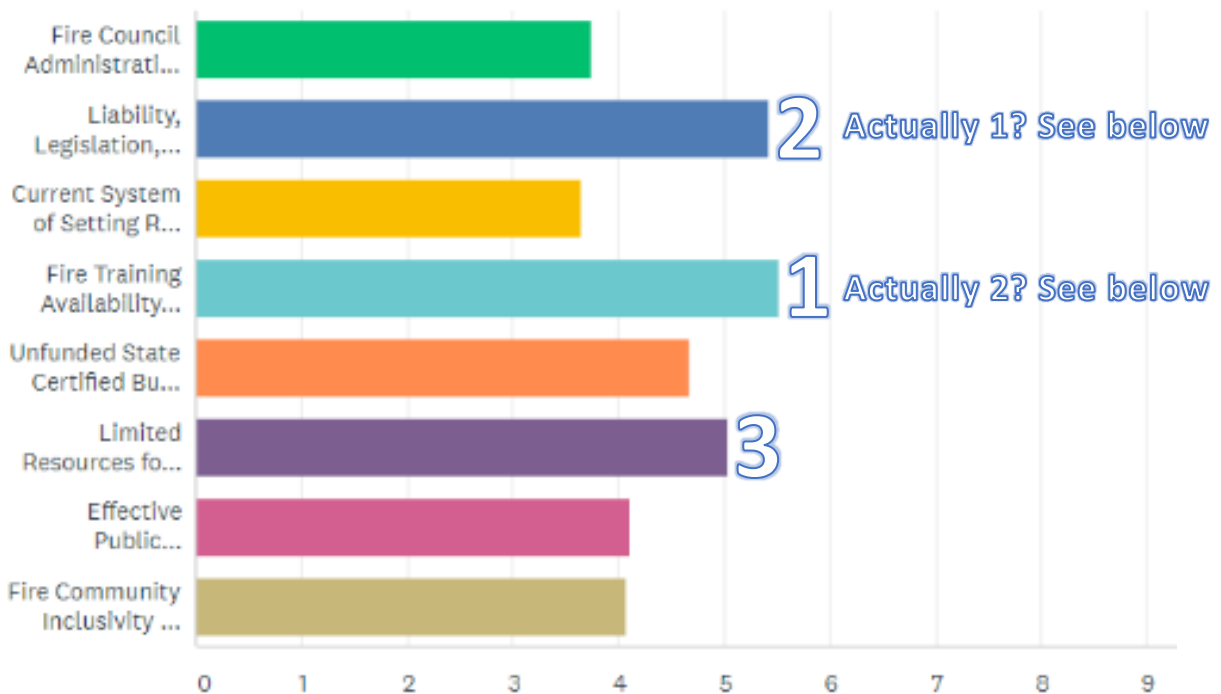


Please rank the following as impediments to protecting, conserving, and expanding the safe use of prescribed fire across Michigan’s landscape. In this ranking, use a “1” with your highest ranking impediment and an “8” with your lowest ranking impediment (1=highest ranking impediment; 8=lowest ranking impediment)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
	4.17%	8.33%	16.67%	4.17%	16.67%	20.83%	4.17%	25.00%		
Fire Council Administration and Funding	1	2	4	1	4	5	1	6	24	3.75
Liability, Legislation, & Risk Management	6	3	3	5	2	2	1	2	24	5.42
	4.35%	0.00%	4.35%	21.74%	21.74%	17.39%	26.09%	4.35%		
Current System of Setting RX Fire Priorities	1	0	1	5	5	4	6	1	23	3.65
	17.39%	17.39%	21.74%	17.39%	13.04%	0.00%	8.70%	4.35%		
Fire Training Availability and Qualification Standards	4	4	5	4	3	0	2	1	23	5.52
	4.17%	37.50%	4.17%	8.33%	12.50%	8.33%	4.17%	20.83%		
Unfunded State Certified Burn Manager Program	1	9	1	2	3	2	1	5	24	4.67
	16.00%	16.00%	12.00%	16.00%	12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	4.00%		
Limited Resources for Prescribed Fire	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	1	25	5.04
	12.00%	8.00%	16.00%	4.00%	12.00%	12.00%	24.00%	12.00%		
Effective Public Education and Outreach	3	2	4	1	3	3	6	3	25	4.12
	16.67%	4.17%	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	20.83%	12.50%	20.83%		
Fire Community Inclusivity – Non-Agency Participation Marginalized	4	1	3	3	0	5	3	5	24	4.08

NOTE, ABOVE: Categories had smooth peaks in ranks, except “Burn Manager Program” and “Inclusivity”



For the following “open-ended” questions, responses were captured in fewest words, repeated mentions noted parenthetically, and then sorted by topic & descending order of references by category.

What is the Greatest Impediment to Rx Fire in MI?

- Need for MI Certified Burner Program – funded, reduced liability legislation (4)
- Limited collaboration across boundaries based on liability concerns (2)
- Insurance availability
- General liability concerns

Liability and Legislation

- Limited availability of training or trained personnel (3)
- Accepting different fire trainings/qualifications (backgrounds?) = inclusivity
- Difficulties of NWCG certification – expanding to in-state RX programs (?)
- Gap between NWCG agencies and non-NWCG groups
- Underfunded training opportunities for volunteers
- Better management of volunteer resources

Training and Quals

- Funds or resources (4)
- Resources on private lands – few companies, not cheap
- Can't be everywhere at once burning when conditions right
- More money for private contractors to burn state lands

Funding and Resources

- Lack of public education (5)
- Politics

Public Outreach

- Lack of RX priority on state lands

Priority Setting

Missed Impediments in Q1 List Above?

- NWCG process to becoming RX boss unattainable for non-agency folk
- Unrealistic vigor of NWCG standards – especially on private lands
- Lack of advanced training – lower-level training easy. NWCG standards overkill for PF.
- LARGE gap btwn agency folks who live by NWCG and those that do not

NWCG Concerns

- Standardizing the permitting process in the southern lower
- Local fire departments in SLP – issue permits, uneducated?

Permitting

- Adverse weather
- Pandemic

God

- Lack of knowledge among supervisors/managers requesting fire management

(Already Represented in Provided List?)

- better allocate personnel, volunteering – helping and getting help
- Funding for private land burning

Funding and Resources

- RX fire is a low priority for federal and state agencies in MI

Priority Setting

- Cross-boundary work – liability/indemnity concerns, Right to burn

Legislation and Liability

Top Priority for MI PFC Over Next Year?

- Work with DNR to establish RX Certification Standards and **Certified Burn Manager Program** (5)
- **Increase training opportunities**, qualified personnel (4)
- White Paper on Available Trainings, NWCG History/Reasons/Difficulty (see LARGE paragraph)
- General **education and outreach** (3)
- Outreach to municipal officials and local fire dept on RX in populated areas
- More education and outreach to **private landowners** (2)
- Web-based volunteer and resource system for landowners
- Funding for burning on private lands
- Assistance to **non-agency personnel** to conduct burns (2)
- Outreach to non-agency RX practitioners (2)
- **Liability and insurance**
- Right to burn **legislation** for private landowners
- Uniform system for RX permitting
- Lobby **MI DNR** to make RX a priority on par with suppression
- Re-engineer the MI DNR's RX fire program
- Improve relationship between MI DNR and private consultants/contractors
- Get **funding** (for council?) (2)
- Remove personal views of council members and move prescribed burn effort forward

Top Priority for MI PFC Over Next 5 Years?

- More **education and training** (6) - **Certified Rx Burn Manager Program** (2)
- **Outreach** targeting private landowners – fire festivals, learn-to-burns, field trips, PBAs (4)
- **Volunteer force** assisting private landowners with Rx fire

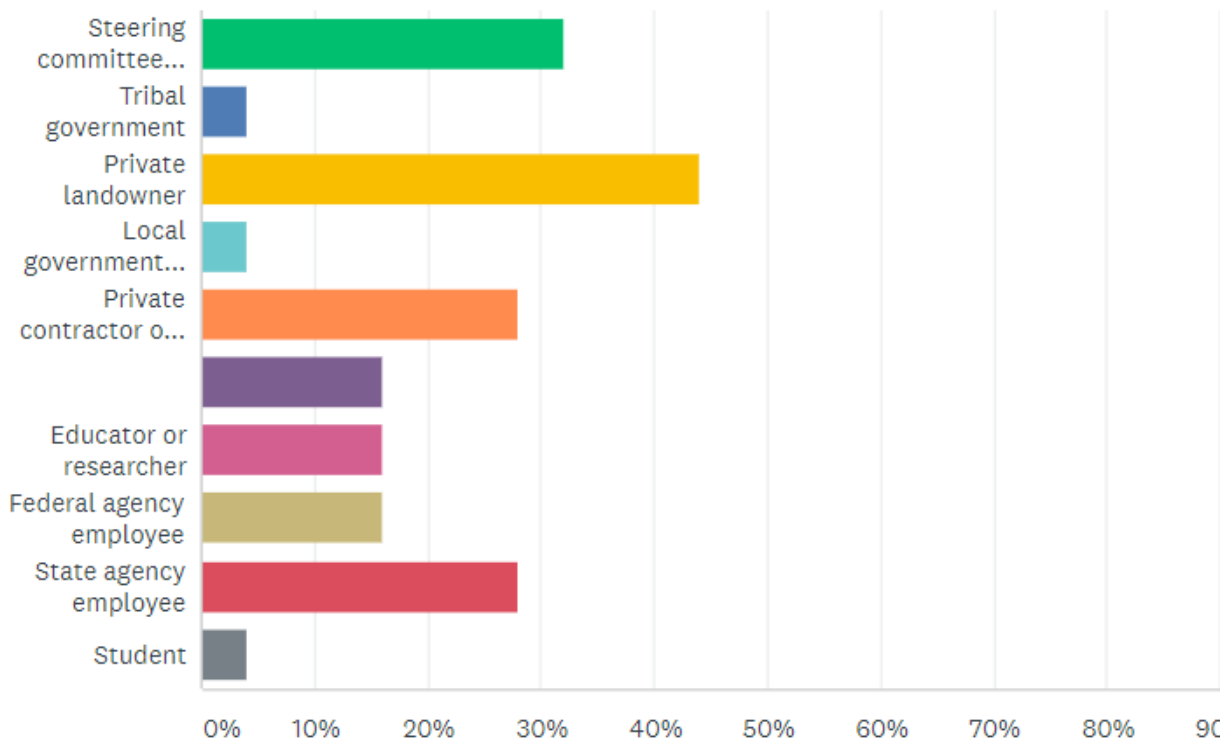
- Increase **funding** for Rx fire statewide (2)

- **Sustainable funding model** for council
- Sustainability in council function – resilient momentum not dependent on individuals
- Secure **consistent staffing** – website, email comms, council fund management
- **Activate more membership** to work tasks

- Honor JFSP partners
- Investigate Rx insurance rates
- Pressure DNR towards 30,000 acres / year in Rx fire for 5 years

Breakdown of Survey Respondents:

Steering committee member	32.00%	8
Tribal government	4.00%	1
Private landowner	44.00%	11
Local government (e.g., city, county)	4.00%	1
Private contractor or consultant (owner or employee)	28.00%	7
Non-governmental organization (NGO)	16.00%	4
Educator or researcher	16.00%	4
Federal agency employee	16.00%	4
State agency employee	28.00%	7
Student	4.00%	1



NE Regional PFC Coordinating Group – MI Response Summary

- Public acceptance – outreach – field tours and fire effect demonstrations (3)
- Failed inclusion/outreach/guidance to private landowners (2) – PFC positioned well for this
- Lack of private landowner interest
- High visibility burn projects on public property – Phragmites or restoration
- Messaging MNFI’s determined fire deficits across state
- Integrating the UP – agencies, NGOs, consultants, and public

Public Outreach

- Marginalization of non-agency fire personnel by USFS, MI DNR (2)
- Rx fire low priority within MI DNR?
- Disconnect between FRD and other divisions within DNR (e.g., WRD manager desires ignored?)
- Dedicated Rx team and Rx funding within MI DNR
- Competition in priority between wildfire response and Rx fire within the MI DNR
- Failure to explore growing-season fire (outside spring/fall) by MI DNR?
- Lack of MI DNR Rx fire program on private land – or assist partners (fed, ngo)

MI DNR’s Fire Program

- Permitting barriers in urban/suburban areas – lack of fire dept support (2)
- Permitting a desired high intensity/severity burn
- Rx fire legislation and liability
- Right to burn legislation
- Liability limits tied to training, burn plan requirements
- Insurance

Legislation/Liability

- Lack of time – dedicated staffing (3) – MI PFC entertain contributing to regional staffing
- Sustainable council funding
- Dependence on JFSP regional consortia staff

Council Ops

- Lack of certified burn manager program from MI-DNR, training for non-agency individuals (3)
- Increased valuation of training/quals decreasing the # of acres burned

Training/Quals

- Weather
- Travel to meetings – difficult
- Urbanization and related Rx concerns (e.g. – smoke management)
- EPA, EGLE air quality special accommodations for Rx fire