

MPFC members,

Over the last year the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council has been working on updating our strategic plan. For those of you who attended, in-person or virtually, the Burning Issue Workshop last February we kicked off this process with a facilitated process to gather input, ideas and thoughts of how the council can serve the membership and help move forward. We greatly appreciate all your input and new ideas.

Since that time a small steering committee of: Mark Sargent, Amy Frye, Michelle Richards, Stephaie Diep, Brian Hintz, Jack McGowen-Stinski, Dave Borneman and Jacob Grochowski have been meeting to review and develop a new proposed strategic plan for MPFC for the years 2024-2029. Updates on this planning process has been presented at MPFC Quarterly meetings in September and December.

Attached is the Draft Strategic Plan for your review and input. For your convenience and with a strong desire to gain your input we are asking for your feedback through a short electronic survey. This input and comments will then be used to develop a final MPFC Strategic Plan which will be presented at our February Burning Issue Workshop at Fort Custer Training Center.

Major changes to our Mission, Values, objectives, strategies and tactics have been highlighted in yellow to help focus your attention to changes. Please look at this information and give us your thoughts by Friday, January 12th.

Thanks as Always!

Amy Frye

MPFC Chairperson

Michigan Prescribed Fire Council

Strategic Plan **DRAFT**

December 17th, 2023

The Michigan Prescribed Fire Council (MPFC) is currently updating and revising its mission statement, adding a vision statement, and developing a strategic plan for the next 5+ years. An initial Strategic Planning session was held in February 2023, during the MPFC's annual Burning Issues workshop. MPFC members and partners were invited to attend and actively participated in guided breakout sessions, which were facilitated by an outside party. Participant input was collected and synthesized by MPFC. MPFC developed a Strategic Planning sub-committee; this committee has met virtually several times since February 2023 and has developed the following draft document. An unedited version of this draft document was shared with the MPFC leadership and members during Quarterly Steering Committee meetings held on 9/5/2023 and 12/5/2023.

MPFC Strategic Plan

Who we are:

The Michigan Prescribed Council (MPFC) was started in 1999 to protect, conserve and expand the safe use of prescribed fire on the Michigan landscape. MPFC is a voluntary collaboration of individuals interested in prescribed fire who discuss barriers and work towards solutions to increase the use of prescribed fire. The council has been a powerful tool to maintain a network of people who have consistently advocated for and maintained the relevancy of prescribed fire in Michigan's fire-adapted habitats.

Over the years the council has offered annual meetings to discuss techniques, safety practices, research, and state and federal legislation; created and executed crew boss academies, offered numerous introductory technical field-based training, public outreach efforts, and provided conservation groups with fire professional speakers.

Below is our Vision, Mission, Objectives, Values, Tactics, and Strategies for 2024-2029.

Vision

The MPFC strives to create a culture of prescribed fire in Michigan where prescribed fire practitioners have support to manage and protect natural and created landscapes with fire safely and efficiently to achieve land management and human safety objectives.

Mission

The mission of the MPFC is to protect, conserve and expand the safe use of prescribed fire on the Michigan landscape. The MPFC will support current and future prescribed fire practitioners by connecting agencies, organizations, and individuals for collaboration, education and resource sharing to meet land management needs safely and responsibly. MPFC will promote preventative prescribed fire to protect people, lands, and infrastructure from increasing risks of wildfire due to climate change.

Objectives

- Promote safe and effective use prescribed fire
- Share research, resources, and training opportunities to support prescribed fire practitioners' growth and experience in the field.

- Support networking groups between agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), universities, students, private landowners, volunteers, and all people interested in prescribed fire.
- Provide guidance for efficient public outreach to educate about the importance of prescribed fire in the landscape historically and today.

Values

- Safety is a priority.
- Prescribed fire is beneficial for long-term ecological needs and human safety.
- Collaboration across different groups is key to successful initiatives.
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential for collaboration and identifying solutions and success.
- Training the next generation is essential to the future and sustainability of prescribed fire practices.

5-10 year goals

- MPFC will be known as the go-to organization for resources on prescribed fire in Michigan by including members from the majority of private/public prescribed fire practitioners, organizations and individuals in the state of MI.
- MPFC will connect people by providing networking opportunities and funding when available for private/professional individuals to form prescribed fire associations in every region of Michigan.
- MPFC will grow the future of prescribed fire practitioners by offering resources, networking, discounts or financial support when possible, and working with partners to provide National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), non-NWCG and other relevant trainings to train the next generation of prescribed fire practitioners.
- MPFC will disseminate the latest research and highest standards of prescribed fire safety and implementation through website resources and social media campaigns supported by Michigan agencies and fire science professionals.
- MPFC will support diversity, equity, and inclusion within the organization by allowing open/non-bias participation and supporting membership regardless of race, gender, sexual identity, and income.

Tactics (short-term)

- MPFC merchandise will be sold at affordable prices and provide giveaways to promote the name and brand.
- MPFC will provide member organizations with MPFC brochures for distribution at request.

- MPFC will maintain annual meetings and quarterly meetings for collaboration.
- MPFC will provide letters of support and financial support, when possible, to like-minded groups to conserve, protect and implement prescribed fire.
- MPFC will share and support, when possible, new studies/legislation related to prescribed fire from with followers via email and social media.
- MPFC when possible, offer free/discounted training, memberships, annual meeting tickets, for students and by request for those in financial need.

Strategies (long-term)

- MPFC will partner with Michigan DNR Prescribed Fire Burn Manager Certification program.
- MPFC will advertise by sponsoring prescribed fire events/programs when financially possible.
- MPFC will support burn associations with shared equipment, training, and outreach.
- MPFC will form a sub-committee to compile latest safety practices/research.
- MPFC website will be kept up to date with annual reviews.
- MPFC to widen outreach to groups that have been missed.
- MPFC will build partnerships with prescribed fire groups of high diversity.
- MPFC will where possible raise funds via donors/grants to support training for individuals/youths with financial need.
- MIPFC will partake in policy governance, reviewing a portion of the bylaws at each quarterly meeting and revising as necessary.
- MIPFC will hire a coordinator with grant funding that can then support their work with continued grant writing. This will greatly expand the Council's capacity having a dedicated, paid administrator.