



## North Carolina Forest Service Prescribed Burning Rates for Calendar Year 2026 (Released 12/31/25)

### **Site Preparation Burning**

The rate listed below is for all types of site preparation burning to prepare forestry sites for tree planting or natural regeneration:

**Cost/Acre = \$50\***

### **Non-Site Preparation Burning**

The rate listed below is for all types of non-site preparation burning (ex. understory; silvicultural; wildlife habitat; hazard-reduction):

**Cost/Acre = \$35\***

*\*Note - a \$350 minimum charge will apply for all burning types and contracts, including fireline installation-only contracts.*

*The flat per acre rate for prescribed burning includes the costs for equipment transport & equipment/material used during the burn. This includes costs associated with all types of fireline installation, if the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) has also been contracted to conduct the burn.*

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### **Equipment Rates for Fireline Construction Only (NCFS Not Contracted to Conduct Burn)**

All dozer/tractor tach hours for fireline construction-only contracts will be charged at the NCFS's current calendar year equipment rate. Actual tach hours will be charged according to the following rates:

| Dozer/Tractor Type | CY26 NCFS Equipment Rates |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Type 1             | \$143 per tach hour       |
| Type 2             | \$120 per tach hour       |
| Type 3             | \$103 per tach hour       |
| Type 4             | \$90 per tach hour        |

### **Burning Costs Associated with Threatened & Endangered Species**

When individual trees must be protected during prescribed burns (ex. protecting cavity trees for Red Cockaded Woodpeckers), an additional charge of **\$25 per tree** will be added to the total cost of burning.