FY 2026 West Central Georgia Rx Fire Initiative

This cost share program is focused on promoting prescribed fire in the Chattahoochee Fall Line area of Georgia to provide ecological benefits and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. The program will be implemented by the Georgia Forestry Commission with funding and support from NFWF America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative Grant, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Bobwhite Quail Initiative, and other partners.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must be the legal landowner.
- Applicants must have a valid checking account to receive direct deposit/payment.
- Applicant must be a private landowner. No State or Federal lands are eligible.
- No duplicative funding for this practice.
- Prescribed burn conducted on forested land between January 1, 2026 and March 31, 2026. Prescribed burn must have been conducted legally by securing a burn permit and following any local ordinances in one of the following counties: Chattahoochee, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, or Webster.

Program Requirements

- Must have burned a minimum of 10 acres.
- Cost share for prescribed burning, ($10 - $25/acre; max $4500 per landowner); cost share rate depends on certain criteria:

Rate/acre	Rate Criteria
$5	Longleaf/thinned timber stand
$3	Gopher tortoise (burrows or Tier 1 Soils)
$3	Property located within the GA Sentinel Landscape
$1	Forest stewardship plan, wildlife resources plan, Tree Farm, or conservation easement
$1	Member of West Central Georgia Forest Landowner Association
$1	Certified prescribed burner conducted burn or attended learn & burn
$1	Adjacent landowners working together
$10	Basic Burning (forested land)

- Firebreaks cannot be considered for this funding. Forested land with existing or natural firebreaks will be prioritized. Minimal soil impact tactics including light disking or scraping to refresh existing firebreaks if needed are encouraged.
- Landowner must allow Georgia Forestry Commission employee(s) or their representative access to the burn unit to determine if the prescribed burn meets program requirements, to measure the burn acreage, and determine cost share rate.
- The deadline to complete the prescribed burn is March 31, 2026. Application should be submitted **after** the prescribed burn is completed. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until March 31, 2026 as long as funding is available.

Applications: Visit https://gatrees.org/fire-prevention-suppression/cflrxfirecoop/ to complete the online application **after** the prescribed burn has been completed. The **burn permit number** obtained for the prescribed burn will be required on the application.

If you have any questions, please contact RT Lumpkin 478-957-0307 rlumpkin@gfc.state.ga.us , Lisa Duncan 912-515-5005 lduncan@gfc.state.ga.us, or visit your local GFC County Unit.

Partners: