

FIRE USE ASSISTANCE

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, E-L-L issued burning permits for 28,373 burning operations. Combined, this is a total of 30,387 acres which is a 20% increase from last year. The breakdown is as follows:

Manual Permits Issued (<i>from units</i>)	2,088
Online Permits Issued (<i>internet based</i>)	8,035
Automated Telephone Permits	18,250

Pre-suppression firebreaks are essential when performing prescribed burns and is also an invaluable tool to protect timber stands from the ongoing and ever increasing threat of wildfire. The GFC provides pre-suppression plowing to any landowner who requests such a service. The price for this is \$95.00 per hour which is billed in accordance with the hours that are placed on the tractor plow unit. The GFC also has a Stewardship harrow which is pulled behind the dozer units, used to "reclaim" old firebreaks and cut down on the risk of erosion. The harrow is also used to establish food-plots for wildlife; the fee for this service is \$115.00 per hour. Also, a fee of \$60 is applied to cover transportation expenses.

This past year, 344 miles of pre-suppression firebreaks were plowed for 66 different landowners. 299 miles of harrowing (reclaiming) old firebreaks was performed for 45 landowners. The harrowed and plowed firebreaks together total 643 miles for 111 landowners. E-L-L also assisted local landowners with 46 prescribed burns that totaled 5,812 acres, a 67% increase from the previous year.

AIR OPERATIONS

The GFC air patrol is an invaluable tool in the detection and suppression of wildfires. In addition to regular fire control flights, the GFC aircraft also fly insect surveys, twice each year, that obtain early detection on any infestations that may be detrimental to our forests.