Viewpoint

Rekindling fire: The resurgence and challenges of prescribed fire culture in Texas

By David Brooke, Charles A. "Butch" Taylor, and Morgan L. Treadwell

On the Ground

- Catastrophic wildfires in Texas, from the 2011 Bastrop Complex Fire to the 2024 Panhandle megafires, have accelerated a fundamental shift in public attitudes, demonstrating that proactive prescribed burning is not optional but essential for protecting communities, rural economies, and fire-adapted ecosystems.
- A growing network of Prescribed Burn Associations and the Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas is rebuilding fire culture through neighbor-to-neighbor training, equipment sharing, and legislative advocacy, but uneven geographic coverage, liability concerns, insurance gaps, and limited access to cost-share funding still prevent many landowners from burning as often or as broadly as ecological conditions warrant.
- Expanded educational pathways, including AgriLife Extension's online Prescribed Burn School, the Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager credentialing program, and new interagency coordinator positions, have substantially lowered the barriers to entry for aspiring practitioners, yet an aging practitioner workforce and a shrinking pipeline of new candidates for Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Managers represent the most consequential long-term threat to Texas's prescribed fire culture.
- Sustaining Texas's prescribed fire revival requires a deliberate next-generation strategy: structured mentorship programs, municipally embedded wildland fire coordinators modeled on Borger's success, expanded Texas Department of Transportation right-of-way burning partnerships, and continued federal farm bill advocacy, all that are concrete steps that will determine whether the gains of the past decade outlast the practitioners who achieved them.

Keywords: Fire culture, Fire policy, Prescribed burn associations, Prescribed fire, Rangeland management, Wildfire risk.

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Introduction

Texas stands at a crossroads in its relationship with prescribed fire. The practice has never enjoyed broader scientific validation, stronger institutional support, or deeper public acceptance, yet persistent structural barriers continue to limit its application precisely where it is most needed. This viewpoint argues that the current momentum in Texas prescribed fire culture must be matched by coordinated, intergenerational action if the gains of the past two decades are to be consolidated and extended. Without deliberate investment in the next generation of practitioners, without continued policy reform, and without an honest reckoning with the barriers that remain, the revival of prescribed fire culture in Texas will remain incomplete.

Prescribed fire is one of the most powerful and cost-effective tools available for maintaining the ecological integrity of Texas rangelands. It reduces hazardous fuel accumulations, promotes native grass vigor, controls encroaching brush species, and improves wildlife habitat quality. All benefits are documented extensively in peer-reviewed literature.[1] Despite this evidence, a generations-long suppression of fire culture across the state left many landowners, agencies, and communities without the knowledge, networks, or legal confidence to burn safely. The past decade has seen a remarkable reversal of that trajectory, driven by a convergence of grassroots organizing, institutional innovation, legislative progress, and a series of catastrophic wildfires that demonstrated, with devastating clarity, the consequences of fuel accumulation in fire-adapted landscapes.

In this viewpoint, we trace the arc of that reversal, from the early growth of prescribed burn associations (PBAs) in the southern Great Plains to the emergence of statewide infrastructure for training, financial assistance, and interagency coordination, while acknowledging the unfinished work ahead. Texas offers an instructive case study in how a prescribed fire culture can be rebuilt from the ground up and how fragile that rebuilding remains in the face of ongoing challenges.

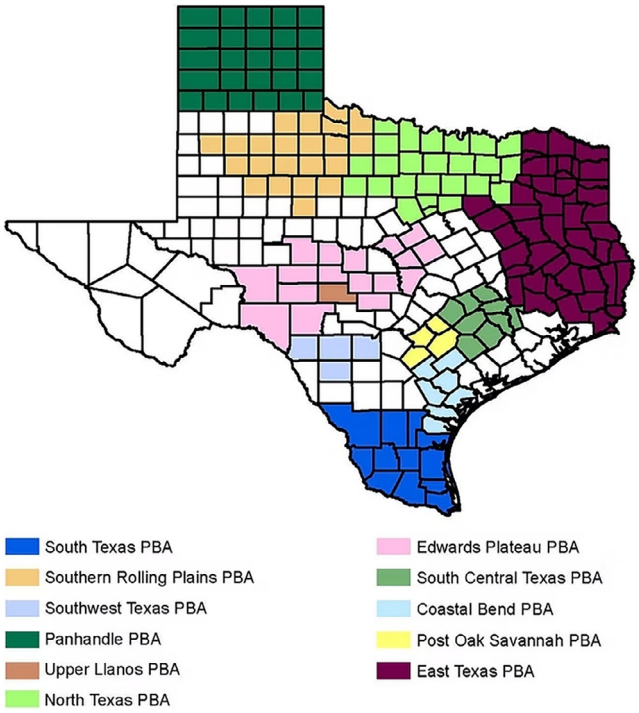


Figure 1. Texas counties represented by a Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas (PBAT) member Prescribed Burn Association (PBA).[3] Source: Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas (PBAT), 2024.

The grassroots foundation: rise of PBAs

The renewal of prescribed fire culture in Texas did not begin in Austin or College Station. It began in pastures and fence lines across the Edwards Plateau and Rolling Plains, where ranchers who had watched brush encroach unchecked for decades began turning to fire as a restoration tool. Late in the 1990s, informal networks of landowners began conducting burns together, sharing labor and equipment across property lines in a model of collaborative fire stewardship that came to be formalized as PBAs. The PBA model, developed and refined in Texas and Oklahoma and now recognized nationally as an effective mechanism for increasing prescribed fire use, addresses the three most common practical barriers facing private landowners: lack of trained personnel, insufficient equipment, and inadequate labor.[2]

The Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association was among the first to formalize this model in Texas, providing a template that was subsequently replicated across the state. Today, associations including the North Texas Prescribed Burn Association and the East Texas Prescribed Burn Association serve landowners in regions where prescribed fire was historically uncommon or culturally disfavored (Fig. 1). The Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas (PBAT) serves as the statewide coordinating body for these associations, providing a locator tool for landowners seeking local PBA membership and facilitating the sharing of resources, training opportunities, and burn planning materials across the network.[3]

The growth of PBAs in Texas has not been merely organizational; it has been transformational for fire culture. Research on social capital in prescribed burn networks demonstrates that membership in a PBA significantly reduces landowner risk perceptions and increases the likelihood of fire application by building trust, shared knowledge, and collective capacity among participants.[4] The collaborative structure of PBAs also creates the conditions for network-mediated diffusion of innovation: As early adopters within a community demonstrate successful burns, neighboring landowners observe outcomes firsthand and are more likely to adopt the practice themselves.[2] Understanding and deliberately cultivating this network structure, including the social capital that underlies it, is essential to sustaining prescribed fire adoption at the landscape scale. Research on adaptive capacity in organizations facing environmental change reinforces this point, showing that the relational architecture of a network shapes whether communities can respond effectively to emerging threats such as wildfire risk.[5]

Science versus stigma: the evidence base for prescribed fire

For much of the 20th century, the dominant cultural narrative around fire in the United States was one of suppression and danger. The Smokey Bear campaign, beginning in the 1940s, successfully instilled the message that fire was always an enemy and, for many decades, too successfully imparted that message. For prescribed fire practitioners in Texas, the practical consequence was a social environment in which burning, even when legal and ecologically sound, invited suspicion from neighbors, skepticism from local officials, and anxiety about liability. Overcoming that stigma has required sustained effort on multiple fronts: public education, demonstration burns, media engagement, and the accumulation of a robust scientific record demonstrating prescribed fire's ecological value.

The peer-reviewed literature now provides compelling evidence for prescribed fire's benefits across the full range of outcomes relevant to Texas land managers. Studies conducted across the southern Great Plains document significant reductions in fine fuel loads following prescribed burns, reducing the potential intensity of subsequent wildfires.[1] Rangeland health metrics, including native grass cover, species diversity, and soil surface stability, are consistently improved by periodic fire in systems adapted to its recurrence.[1] Wildlife habitat quality, particularly for the northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) and other grassland-dependent species, responds positively to prescribed fire through the creation of structural heterogeneity and the stimulation of forb production that is critical for invertebrate prey.[1] In brush-encroached systems, fire used in combination with other management tools can set back invasive woody plants and restore the grass-dominated matrix that defines productive Texas rangeland.

Smoke management has been one of the most contested dimensions of prescribed fire policy in Texas, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has historically required that burns meet specific meteorological conditions to minimize smoke impacts on populated areas.[6] The dual challenge of burning under conditions narrow enough to satisfy regulatory requirements while still achieving meaningful ecological outcomes has frustrated many practitioners. The two-part systematic review by Clark et al. [2,7] of barriers to prescribed fire use in the US Great Plains found that regulatory complexity and smoke-related liability concerns rank among the most consistently cited obstacles to burning, while also documenting that, where guidance is accessible and regulatory processes are clearly communicated, practitioners are able to navigate these constraints successfully.

Postfire monitoring data and feedback from landowners and managers across Texas indicate a sustained increase in public and professional support for prescribed burning over the past decade. This shift is attributable in part to high-profile wildfire events that demonstrated the consequences of fuel accumulation and, in part, to the sustained public education efforts of PBAs, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS). The Windy Deuce Fire of February 2024, which burned across more than 400,000 ha (approximately 1 million acres) in the Texas Panhandle, provided perhaps the most vivid evidence yet for the protective value of strategic prescribed burns, as will be discussed in the municipal model of Borger, Texas.

Building the infrastructure: training, certification, and financial support

A sustained prescribed fire culture requires more than willing landowners and favorable science. It requires an institutional infrastructure capable of producing trained practitioners, connecting landowners with resources, and sustaining engagement over time. Texas has made substantial progress in building this infrastructure, though significant gaps remain.

Certification and training

The Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM) program, administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture, establishes the credentialing framework for professionals authorized to conduct prescribed burns during burn bans. Candidates must document a minimum of three years of regional prescribed burning experience, complete 30 days of general prescribed fire experience, serve five days as a responsible burn leader, complete a TCEQ-approved training course, and maintain a minimum of $1 million per-occurrence liability insurance coverage with a $2 million aggregate policy limit.[1] This rigorous standard ensures that certified managers possess both the technical competence and the legal coverage necessary to protect themselves and their clients, but the demanding requirements also limit the pipeline of new credentialed practitioners, a concern addressed further in the discussion of workforce challenges.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has developed a comprehensive online training pathway through the AgriLife Learn platform, offering a Prescribed Burn School that introduces foundational fire science, burn planning, smoke management, and regulatory compliance to participants across the state.[8] The curriculum covers fire behavior principles, prescription development, ignition techniques, postfire monitoring, and the legal framework governing prescribed burning in Texas.[8] This self-paced format has substantially expanded access to foundational training for landowners, agency staff, and volunteer fire department members who cannot attend multiday in-person courses. Continuing fire training in Texas is delivered through a distributed network of providers including AgriLife Extension offices, PBAT member associations, TFS, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), ensuring that opportunities for both initial certification and ongoing professional development are available across the state's diverse regional ecosystems.

Financial assistance

The cost of prescribed burning, including equipment, personnel, burn plan preparation, and liability insurance, represents a significant barrier for many Texas landowners, particularly those operating smaller properties or those new to the practice. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provides cost-share funding for qualifying landowners to implement prescribed fire as part of an approved conservation plan.[9] In Texas, TFS administers a separate prescribed fire grant program that provides direct financial assistance for burn implementation and has been particularly valuable for landowners in high-priority landscapes including the post-oak savanna and the piney woods of East Texas, where fire exclusion has allowed extensive woody encroachment.[2]

The 89th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2563 and Senate Bill 2510, establishing a temporary prescribed burn manager self-insurance program designed to reduce the upfront cost of liability coverage for new and small-scale practitioners.[10] This legislation acknowledges that the insurance requirement, while essential for protecting landowners and the public, has functioned as a barrier to entry for aspiring practitioners who cannot yet access or afford commercial coverage. The self-insurance program creates a transitional pathway that allows practitioners to begin accumulating field experience while they build toward full commercial coverage and represents a meaningful response to one of the most persistently cited barriers in the literature.[10,11]

Interagency cooperation: a statewide network

The expansion of prescribed fire in Texas has been facilitated by an increasingly coordinated network of state and federal agencies, each contributing distinct institutional capacities to a shared mission. This network architecture, the pattern of relationships among organizations engaged in fire management, is not merely administrative background; research on environmental governance suggests that the structure and quality of interagency relationships significantly shape adaptive capacity in the face of changing wildfire risk.[5]

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Prescribed Fire Coordinator serves as a regional connector within this network, providing technical assistance to landowners on burn planning and execution, facilitating connections between landowners and local PBAs, coordinating with TFS and TPWD on landscape-scale fire management, delivering educational programming on fire ecology, and prescribed burn implementation. This position represents a significant institutional investment in the applied extension of fire science, and its effectiveness depends on sustained funding to support the breadth of work required across Texas's 254 counties.

TPWD Regional Prescribed Fire Coordinators complement the Extension network by focusing on fire's role in wildlife habitat management and conservation, providing technical expertise on the use of fire for grassland bird habitat enhancement, playa lake management, and quail habitat restoration across the state's diverse ecoregions. TFS provides an essential third dimension through its fire management expertise, equipment resources, and authority to assist with suppression when prescribed fires exceed planned parameters.[12] Together, these three agencies and NRCS form the backbone of Texas's interagency prescribed fire infrastructure. Nongovernmental organizations such as Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever are increasingly important partners as well, providing technical assistance, cost-share support, and operational labor for projects that integrate prescribed burning with native grass seeding, brush management, and other habitat practices that benefit upland game birds and a wide range of grassland-dependent wildlife.

Community-scale success: the Borger, Texas municipal model

The city of Borger, located approximately 80 km (50 miles) northeast of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle, has emerged as perhaps the most compelling example of what community-wide commitment to prescribed burning can achieve.[13] Borger's engagement with wildland fire management began in 2006, following a series of wildfire events that prompted the city council and fire chief to develop a comprehensive fire preparedness strategy. What followed was a two-decade process of institutional capacity-building, public engagement, and interagency partnership that transformed Borger into one of only three municipalities in the Texas Panhandle with a formal community wildfire protection plan.[13]

The institutional architecture supporting Borger's prescribed fire program is notable for its integration across municipal and private sectors. The Borger Fire Department employs a full-time Wildland Fire Coordinator who also holds CIPBM certification and maintains a team that includes both full- and part-time wildland fire personnel.[13] This staffing model is unique among Texas municipalities and reflects a deliberate investment in prescribed fire capacity as a core component of public safety. Critically, the program has become financially self-sustaining through contracts with private landowners and industrial partners, requiring no ongoing taxpayer subsidy, a model that other Texas communities could adopt with appropriate institutional support.[13]

The decisive test of Borger's prescribed fire investment came in November 2023, when the fire department, in collaboration with the Four Sixes Ranch and other local landowners, conducted a prescribed burn along an 11-km (7-mile), 76-m (250-foot)-wide corridor on the southwest edge of the city (Fig. 2).[13] The burn targeted dense grass and brush adjacent to residential neighborhoods in the Meadowlark, Country Club, and Bunavista areas. Using a strip ignition technique, teams maintained manageable flame lengths and effective smoke dispersal throughout the operation. The result was a blackline, a continuous strip of burned vegetation creating a natural firebreak, along the community's most exposed interface with the surrounding grassland.[13]

When the Windy Deuce Fire swept through the Panhandle in February 2024, Borger's blackline held. The prescribed burn area acted as a firewall, stopping the advancing wildfire before it reached residential structures. TFS wildfire prevention program coordinator Karen Stafford described Borger as having set the bar high in showing the effectiveness of prescribed burns and what they can do in community protection.[13] Borger has since extended its prescribed fire partnerships beyond the urban perimeter. Early in 2025, the Borger Fire Department collaborated with the Texas Department of Transportation on the first highway right-of-way prescribed burn of its kind in the state, treating a 13.7-km (8.5-mile) corridor along Highway 207.[13] Ongoing projects are scheduled to extend fuel reduction along additional Panhandle highways, creating a regional network of managed firebreaks that complements landowner-led burning in the surrounding countryside.[13]

The lessons of Borger's experience are replicable. Communities seeking to develop similar capacity should begin with a formal community wildfire protection plan developed in collaboration with emergency management staff, local fire departments, TFS, and community stakeholders. The key institutional elements, a CIPBM-certified coordinator on the municipal payroll, strong landowner partnerships, consistent public engagement, and a self-sustaining funding model, are neither exotic nor prohibitively expensive, but they require



Figure 2. Aerial view of the November 2023 prescribed burn conducted by the Borger Fire Department along an 11-km (7-mile) corridor on the southwest edge of Borger, Texas. The burn created a continuous blackline firebreak along the wildland-urban interface adjacent to the Meadowlark, Country Club, and Bunavista neighborhoods. This blackline successfully stopped the advancing Windy Deuce Fire in February 2024 before it reached residential structures.[13] Photo courtesy of City of Borger, Texas.

sustained political will and a long-term institutional commitment that extends beyond any single fire season.

Policy progress and the legislative landscape

The legislative environment for prescribed fire in Texas has improved substantially over the past decade, though important vulnerabilities remain. Texas Natural Resources Code §153.083, which established limited liability protections for CIPBM-conducted burns, provided the liability certainty that many practitioners had long identified as essential to expanding burning.[11] The statute shifts the legal standard applicable to CIPBM burns from simple to gross negligence, significantly reducing the financial risk borne by credentialed practitioners and making commercial liability insurance more accessible and more affordable.[11]

The 2025 legislative session produced two additional significant advances. House Bill 2563 and Senate Bill 2510 established the temporary self-insurance program for prescribed burn managers, directly addressing practitioner feedback that the commercial insurance requirement, while reasonable in principle, had functioned as a credential barrier for new entrants to the profession.[10] These bills passed with bipartisan support, reflecting the broad political consensus that has developed in Texas around prescribed fire's role in wildfire risk reduction following the catastrophic 2024 Panhandle fires.[10]

EQIP funding through NRCS continues to provide an essential financial backstop for landowner adoption, though demand for prescribed fire cost-share consistently exceeds available appropriations in Texas.[9] The mismatch between program demand and program capacity, itself a marker of the field's growth, represents an ongoing advocacy priority for PBAs and Extension programs working to expand access to federal conservation funding for fire practitioners.

Obstacles ahead: The unfinished work

Despite the genuine progress documented, significant barriers continue to limit prescribed fire use in Texas, and several are intensifying rather than receding. These persistent challenges can be organized into three broad categories: structural and logistical constraints, workforce and succession challenges, and the complex interplay of land tenure change and public perception.

Structural and logistical constraints

The liability framework, although improved, remains a source of anxiety and confusion for many potential burners. Even with Texas Natural Resources Code §153.083 protections in place, the requirement to obtain and maintain commercial liability insurance imposes ongoing costs that are prohibitive for some practitioners. The uncertainty created by variation in how county commissioners' courts interpret and apply burn bans, which can prohibit CIPBM burns under conditions that would otherwise be meteorologically ideal, adds another layer of unpredictability to burn planning at the landscape scale.[11]

Weather windows suitable for prescribed burning in many parts of Texas are narrow and episodic. The combination of

high wind speeds, low relative humidity, drought conditions, and TCEQ regulatory requirements means that days when all parameters align are relatively rare, particularly in West Texas and the Panhandle.[6] When suitable windows open, the ability to mobilize trained personnel, equipment, and landowner cooperation on short notice determines whether burning occurs. PBAs have addressed this constraint more successfully than any other institutional mechanism, but their coverage across the state remains uneven, and parts of East Texas and the Coastal Bend have relatively limited PBA infrastructure.[3]

Workforce and succession challenges

Conversations with PBA leaders and agency trainers suggest that the average age of CIPBMs in Texas is now nearing retirement age. This demographic reality represents perhaps the most consequential long-term threat to the sustainability of Texas's prescribed fire culture. The CIPBM certification pathway requires years of accumulated field experience that cannot be compressed or digitized, and the current pipeline of practitioners entering the credentialing process is insufficient to replace those who will retire over the next decade. The loss of experienced practitioners is not merely a numerical problem; it is a knowledge problem. Site-specific ecological knowledge, judgment about burn conditions, and the community relationships that make burns possible across property lines are competencies that develop through mentored practice and are transmitted most effectively through direct apprenticeship.

The workforce challenge is compounded by the fragmentation of the Texas land base. Texas has lost more than 400,000 ha (1 million acres) of working lands to subdivision and development since 1997, with tracts smaller than 40 ha (100 acres) now comprising the fastest-growing segment of rural land ownership.[14] The US beef cattle herd has contracted to its smallest size since 1961, reducing the economic returns that historically sustained range management investment and constraining the financial capacity of many landowners to invest in prescribed burning infrastructure.[15] Smaller tracts, new landowners with limited range management experience, and reduced economies of scale for burning all make the PBA cooperative model more essential and the succession problem more acute.

Land fragmentation and the new landowner challenge

Land fragmentation creates barriers to prescribed fire that operate at multiple scales simultaneously. At the property scale, smaller tracts are less suitable for landscape-scale burning and may lack the fuel continuity needed to carry fire effectively. At the community scale, fragmentation increases the number of landowners whose consent and cooperation must be obtained before burns can be conducted near property boundaries. At the social scale, the influx of new rural landowners, many of whom have no agricultural background and no prior experience with prescribed fire, introduces a population for whom the cultural familiarity with burning that characterized earlier generations of Texas ranch families is entirely absent.[14]

The wildland-urban interface (WUI), the zone where residential development meets fire-adapted vegetation, concentrates these challenges in the landscapes where the consequences of failed fuel management are most severe. As Texas communities grow outward into former ranchland, the population of residents who live adjacent to burnable fuels but have no experience with fire as a management tool is expanding rapidly. Public education efforts in WUI communities must go beyond the traditional rangeland manager audience to engage homeowners, local governments, and emergency management professionals who are increasingly stakeholders in prescribed fire decisions.

The next generation: cultivating practitioners and communities

Sustaining and extending the gains of the past decade requires deliberate investment in the next generation of prescribed fire practitioners and fire-adapted communities across Texas. This is not a generic call for outreach and training; it is a specific and urgent operational priority that demands concrete programmatic responses.

Several Texas programs are already demonstrating what intentional next-generation investment looks like in practice. AgriLife Extension's Prescribed Burn School on the AgriLife Learn platform provides a scalable entry point that has reached practitioners across all regions of the state, removing the geographic constraint that previously limited participation to those within driving distance of in-person training events.[8] PBAT's network of regional burn associations provides the mentored field experience that online instruction cannot replace, matching newer practitioners with experienced burn leaders who can guide them through the full arc of planning, implementing, and evaluating a prescribed burn.[3] TFS's partnerships with volunteer fire departments extend prescribed fire training into rural communities whose personnel are often the first responders to escaped fires and whose buy-in is essential to maintaining community support for burning.[12]

The municipal model of Borger, Texas, points toward a specific scalable innovation: municipal employment of CIPBM-certified fire personnel who serve simultaneously as community educators, interagency liaisons, and operational burn leaders. Although not every Texas municipality can or should replicate Borger's full-time wildland fire coordinator position, the concept of embedding fire expertise within local government structures, rather than relying entirely on private practitioners or state agency staff, merits serious consideration as a strategy for expanding institutional capacity in communities most exposed to WUI wildfire risk.[13]

Texas's network of ranching and commodity organizations, including the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the various county-level soil and water conservation districts, represents an underutilized pathway for reaching landowners who are not yet engaged with PBA networks but who manage fire-adapted landscapes that would benefit from periodic burning. Structured apprenticeship programs, in which aspiring CIPBM candidates are systematically paired with experienced practitioners for a defined series of burns across multiple seasons and weather conditions, would accelerate the development of field competency and help transmit the tacit knowledge that classroom training cannot convey. AgriLife Extension and PBAT are positioned to develop and administer such programs in partnership with TFS and TPWD.

Conclusions

Texas is experiencing a genuine and consequential revival of prescribed fire culture, and the evidence of progress is real: more associations, more trained practitioners, stronger legislation, better interagency coordination, and a public that has seen firsthand the protective value of strategic burning. But the revival remains incomplete, and several of the forces that shaped it—the cohort of experienced practitioners who built the PBA movement, the working ranch operations that provide the cultural context for burning, and the continuous tracts of landscape that make meaningful burns possible—are under pressure.

The path forward for Texas is not simply more of what has worked. It requires a next-generation strategy that explicitly addresses demographic succession among practitioners, expands the reach of PBA networks into underserved regions and new landowner populations, sustains the legislative momentum created by the 2025 session with continued advocacy for liability and insurance reform, and integrates fire-adapted community concepts into urban and suburban planning in the expanding WUI. The pending reauthorization of federal farm bill conservation programs, including EQIP, represents a specific near-term opportunity to advocate for prescribed fire funding at levels commensurate with the demand that Texas practitioners are already demonstrating.[9] Equally, the model established by Texas Department of Transportation's partnership with Borger for highway right-of-way burning could be formalized and expanded to other Panhandle and West Texas highway corridors, creating a statewide network of publicly managed fuel breaks that complements landowner-led burning on private land.[13]

The knowledge and culture of fire stewardship in Texas have been rebuilt through decades of patient work by ranchers, agency professionals, and extension educators. That work now carries the weight of demonstrated effectiveness and public trust. The task ahead is to institutionalize it deeply enough that it does not depend on the continued presence of any single generation of practitioners and to extend it broadly enough that it reaches every Texas landscape and community that needs it.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare no financial interests or personal relationships that may be considered as potential competing interests.

Supplementary materials

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CRediT authorship contribution statement

David Brooke: Writing – original draft, Visualization, Conceptualization. **Charles A. "Butch" Taylor:** Writing – review & editing, Formal analysis. **Morgan L. Treadwell:** Writing – review & editing, Visualization, Project administration, Funding acquisition.

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