

JUN 25 1996

VS/RR

RESOLUTION NO. 96-M-28

WHEREAS, prescribed burning is a critical resource management tool that when properly administered minimize deleterious impacts on air quality, protects public safety, and enriches property aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, much of the ecosystem in Orange County, including numerous endangered species, is fire-dependent for its vitality; and

WHEREAS, prescribed burning reduces accumulated fuels and consequently lessens the likelihood and severity of uncontrolled and damaging wild fires; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 590.026, Florida Statutes, that recognized the benefits of conducting prescribed burning; and

WHEREAS, the impacts upon surrounding land uses may be minimized through the availability of smoke management zones and the implementation of relevant building construction codes and adequate landscape buffers for those uses which are within or adjacent to fire-dependent communities; and

WHEREAS, rules governing open burning in Orange County require that prior to conducting prescribed burning proper authorization shall be obtained from the Orange County Fire Rescue Service Division and the Florida Division of Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

1. Orange County supports the use of prescribed burning as a management tool; and
2. Orange County encourages the establishment or expansion of environment and public education programs to assist in the general acceptance and understanding of prescribed fire's benefits and usefulness; and
3. Orange County recognizes the concept of smoke management zones, building construction codes and landscape buffers specifically designed for wildfire protections as enhancements to public safety and welfare.
4. Orange County deems the continued cooperative and coordinated management of

prescribed burning in Orange County is of great benefit to the protection of the environment and to the public safety and welfare of the citizens of Orange County and the State of Florida.

5. In unincorporated Orange County prior to conducting a prescribed burn proper authorization and coordination shall be obtained from the Orange County Fire and Rescue Services Division, and the Florida Division of Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

ADOPTED THIS 25th DAY OF June, 1996.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Jean C. [Signature]
County Chairman
DATE: July 8, 1996

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

BY: [Signature]
Asst. Deputy Clerk

