

Exploring the Efficacy of Using Prescribed Fire to Manage Utility Corridors -- Mike Tiller

Managing woody vegetation in utility corridors has long been a practice to mitigate power disruptions and wildfire ignitions. Though power disruptions are a more common concern in the Midwest, wildfires caused by power lines could become a concern as we face an uncertain climate future. On the other hand, a changing climate may present additional management opportunities using prescribed fire to maintain power line corridors and restore fire-adapted ecosystems. In addition to ecological restoration, prescribed fire may serve as a cost-effective alternative to mechanical and herbicide treatments.

Presenter Bio –

Michael Tiller is currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology at UW-Stevens Point (UWSP), where he advises the UWSP Interagency Fire Crew and heads the university's fire science program. He is also a Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council board member, where he chairs the private landowner prescribed fire training committee and is involved with developing a Wisconsin State Certified Burn Boss training program.