



## Earth, Water And Fire: The Future Of Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge In A Changing Climate

The impact of fire in the Great Dismal Swamp has noted to be ecologically important but also historically devastating. So how do we understand how fire impacts the environment AND how local organizations and communities perceive prescribed fire?

The research team used:

- Mitigation and Adaptation Research Institute Case Study format to create clear and effective solutions
- Photo assessment of fuel loading, how much plant matter may impact a future fire
- Public survey understanding how nearby communities understand prescribed fire and its use on the Refuge

Overall data collected:

- ➔ 3500 surveys sent out to surrounding communities; postcard pictured below!



Photo by Keigan Thornton, 2021



Photo by Keigan Thornton, 2021

- ➔ 30 Fuel assessment photos collected and shared with Fire Management Team, example above

Interested in more information? Contact: Keigan Thornton (703)398-0490, [kthor005@odu.edu](mailto:kthor005@odu.edu)

Please fill out this web survey at: [bit.ly/odufiresurvey](https://bit.ly/odufiresurvey)

Or by scanning this QR code with your cellphone:



**Public Perceptions Survey:**  
Prescribed Fire Management Associated with the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Resident,  
We want to hear from you! ODU researchers have partnered with the GDSNWR to research prescribed fire management.

Help us understand your perceptions of prescribed fire management at the refuge.

Only a select number of households have been sent this postcard, and your response is very important to us.

The results will be used to report on local residents perceptions of prescribed fire management, now and in the future.