

The Development of a Novel to Support Prescribed Burning

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While writing my literature review, the authors almost always presented complex scientific data. Ultimately, this information was not accessible to the layperson, and it would have been difficult for an untrained person to understand. For example, one discussed topic was prescribed burning, also known as prescribed or controlled fires. While prescribed burning is, on its own, a scientific concept, the topic has significant value for a modern audience as it is a very modern solution for wildfires and other catastrophic events. It is also relatively easy to understand if the author explores the topic in plain language without too much statistical usage. If I were to explore this topic further, I would choose to use the format of a novel due to its accessibility to a wide range of audiences and relatable format that the reader is more likely to be familiar with.

Prescribed burning is a method by which forests are burned intentionally to, in theory, reduce the number of wildfires in the area by supporting resilience and removing the buildup of material that is likely to cause fires. The novel is a fictional piece of writing that typically is somewhat long. The novel also seeks to explore the human experience by exploring events in the characters' lives in a compelling way (Burgess, n.d.). The novel has been used throughout time to explore the human experience and especially seems to focus heavily on current events, such as in *The Island of Missing Trees*, by Elif Shafak, where the focus of the novel is on the way that humans do not appreciate nature even when it is necessary for their survival (Shafak, 2022).

The novel's format provides an easy-to-use format for exploring the concept of prescribed burning. Furthermore, as prescribed burning is always caused by human interference, a novel would give an opportunity to show the reader the realism of the material. In other words, the reader will relate to the content as its basis is on real-world events. Also, novels are widely

consumed by many members of society, whereas a format such as scientific synthesis is not. Thus, the reader is more likely to read the information if it comes in the form of a novel, which can be viewed as more accessible and not limited to scientists and other professionals.

The novel's format will be effective for discussing information about prescribed burning. While prescribed burning can be attached to hard-to-understand, scientific material, it does not necessarily need to be for the audience to understand the purpose. Prescribed burning, on its own, is a relatively simple concept with relatively easy-to-understand results. These results can be easily translated into a novel without complex statistics or information required. Also, as humans cause prescribed burning for their benefit, prescribed burning lends itself to the format of a novel easily, as the novel surrounds the human experience. The reader can understand prescribed burning through this format while not being bored or disinterested in a format such as a scientific synthesis paper.

My aim in writing this novel is to educate the audience about prescribed burning's usage and its positive benefits. Regardless of the audience's feelings, prescribed burning is hugely popular in environmental science and is becoming widely used across the United States. As such, most readers will likely agree with the material, with no convincing needed. However, the novel will discuss the benefits of prescribed burning for readers who disagree with the concept of prescribed burning. Despite this, my intent will not be explicitly to change their minds but to present them with evidence supporting the usage of prescribed burning in forests. Then, once I finish presenting my material, I let my audience decide their beliefs.

In conclusion, although prescribed burning is often surrounded by scientific information and jargon that may be difficult for a layperson to understand, the concept of prescribed burning is simple and can be easily accessed through a novel format. By explaining the topic thoroughly

and eliminating the need for scientific jargon, the novel can make the concept of prescribed burning easy to access by a modern audience by increasing its accessibility to all members of society. Through such a novel, the idea of prescribed burning can be further established and supported by all members of society.

References

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