

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi is richly blessed with over 19 million acres of forests that contribute greatly to the economy of Mississippi and enhance the beauty and aesthetic quality of our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, forest resources provide Mississippi with jobs and income, tax revenue, wood products, energy, fuel, cleaner air, recreational opportunities, and ideal habitat for many species of wildlife, while slowing the loss of soil due to erosion and ensuring a good storehouse of clean water; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our responsibility as concerned citizens to protect these increasingly valuable forest resources for our present use and enjoyment, as well as for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, March has historically been one of the state's highest wildfire occurrence months, when thousands of acres of valuable timberland are damaged or lost and the lives and property of many citizens are endangered, all due to the destructive force of wildfire:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim March 2003, as

**WILDFIRE PREVENTION MONTH**

in the State of Mississippi and urge all citizens to join in helping to reduce the uncontrolled, unlawful, wasteful burning of Mississippi's forests, our most valuable, renewable resource.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused  
the Great Seal of the State of  
Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson,  
March 4, 2003, in the two hundred  
and twenty-sixth year of the United  
States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR