



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Dinosaur
National Monument

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Dinosaur News Release

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Prescribed Burn Planned at Monument

Superintendent Mary Risser announced today plans to conduct a prescribed burn in the monument this upcoming summer. An 1000-acre prescribed burn is planned for Slauch-Wall located along Harpers Corner Road. The boundaries for the burn area will be burned or “black-lined” in early April. Later this summer, once the vegetation and weather conditions are within the prescription (desired weather conditions) for the project, the main unit will be burned.

The prescribed burn project is targeted at maintaining an ideal environment for sagegrouse. A fast moving fire will be ignited under prescribed conditions to efficiently burn shrubs such as sagebrush, juniper trees, and invasive species such as cheat grass. The burn will provide a balance of shrubs and native grasses for sagegrouse habitat. The prescribed burn is a multi-agency effort involving the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and private land owners.

Fire is an important part of natural ecosystems. Since the West was settled, naturally ignited fires have often been suppressed. This lack of fire on the landscape has allowed a change in the vegetation which, in many areas, is not the ideal mix for wildlife species. Properly planned prescribed burns replicate natural fire cycles and help provide improved habitat diversity for wildlife.

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