

GO! Wild

Photos: Terry Wright/USFWS



**Visit - Rocky Mountain Arsenal
National Wildlife Refuge**
For information and hours call:
303 289-0930
Visit the web at:
<http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov>

ISSUE 5:

- 2 - Prescribed Fire
- 3 - Native Americans
- 4 - Fire Ecology
- 6 - Wildland Firefighters
- 8 - Maine Costal Islands



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
has land in ALL of the 50
states and even in every U.S.
Territory - totaling over
93 MILLION acres!





ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

part of the

National Wildlife Refuge System

Fire is a naturally occurring event in most ecosystems. It is neither "good" or "bad". Fire can start randomly through lightning strikes or be started on purpose by humans. We call fires started by trained wildland firefighters "prescribed burns" because they have strict guidelines that must be followed just like instructions on a medicine bottle. Here at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, we use prescribed burns to help us return our shortgrass prairie back to the way it was in prehistoric times!

GO!
wild

Did you know?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been conducting prescribed burns at the Refuge since 1997.

Many years ago Native Americans lived on the land that is now Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. They used the plants and animals that lived here for food, clothing and other things necessary to live. Even though fire came from natural causes such as lightning, Native Americans set fire to stimulate the grasslands to grow. Fire helped prairies become the best that they could be by improving the health and diversity of the ecosystem.

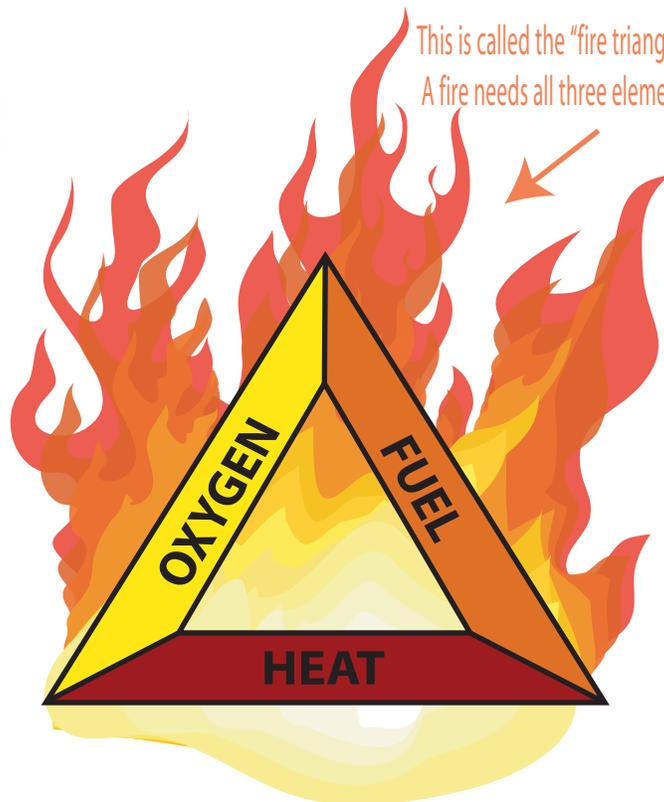


Research opportunity:

HELP! The symbols below don't know where they belong on the "fire triangle". Draw a line from the symbols to their correct location.



This is called the "fire triangle".
A fire needs all three elements of the triangle to burn.



Fire

We use fire to make grasslands healthy for native plants and animals!



can be an important tool. Much like when a doctor writes a prescription for medicine when you're sick, wildland firefighters prescribe fire to help improve the health of an ecosystem. Prescribed fires are good! In fact, the diversity of many plants and animals can depend on fire. What may first look like devastation soon becomes rich with new life. Fire burns up organic matter releasing nutrients into the soil providing an ideal habitat for new plants to grow quickly and in turn attracting animals to the area to feed on the new growth.

To survive fire, most animals will either flee the area or burrow further underground. Since plants are unable to fly, run, creep, or crawl what do you think they do to survive fire?



Did you know?

Fire happens! Instead of suppressing fire, sometimes wildland firefighters will use fire to their advantage to help clear out dead and dying plant fuel.

How Many?

Over the past 3 years, wildland firefighters here at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge have burned approximately 2200 acres. There are 640 acres in a square mile.

How many square miles have been burned?

Unplanned wildfires are often bad! Unlike prescribed burns, wildfires can destroy wilderness, property and lives. Through lightning, discarded smoking products, powerlines, campfires and other careless habits, wildfires are often started. It's fires like these – unplanned, uncontrolled and unnecessary – that could be easily prevented.

Research opportunity:

Wildfire consumes on average over 4,083,347 acres in the U.S. alone and each year, fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined. Discover what you can do to help prevent wildfires.

- Write a **FIRE** poem.
- Share your poem with friends and family so they can be fire-wise too.

FIRE SAFETY FIRST
IGNITED PRAIRIE GRASSES BURN
REPORT FIRE QUICKLY
ENGINES ON THE WAY!



Photo: Fred Krampetz/USFWS

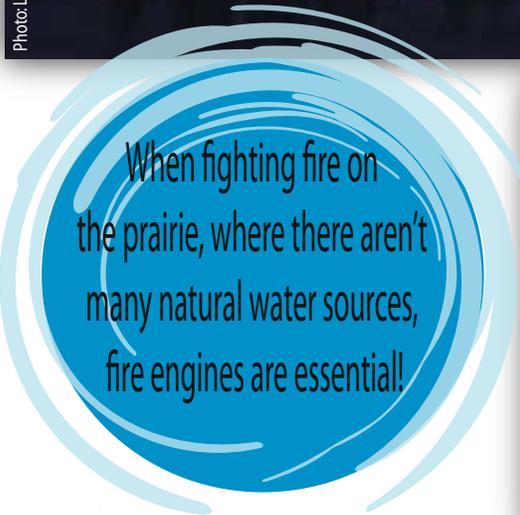
Fire helps speed up a natural process called succession - replacement of one plant or animal community by another over time.



Many thousands of brave women and men fight fire for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies and safety is their top priority! They are highly trained individuals who are dedicated to protecting our country's natural resources. They must be able to endure exhausting work, spending weeks at a time away from their family and friends!

It's important to be a team player when you're a wildland firefighter!

Photo: Lorenz Soliman/USFWS



When fighting fire on the prairie, where there aren't many natural water sources, fire engines are essential!



Photo: Fred Krampetz/USFWS

How Many?

This yellow fire engine can hold 500 gallons of water. If it pumps 12 gallons of water a minute, how many minutes would it take for the engine to run out of water?
How many seconds?

Did you know?

You can visit www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html for daily national fire news!

Fire crews are well-trained and well-equipped. They must be trained to put fires out as well as start them. For protection they wear hard hats, goggles, a mask and Nomex clothing which is a bright yellow fire-resistant material, so that team members are easily seen. A fire crew member's most vulnerable parts, feet and hands, are protected by fire-resistant gloves and boots.

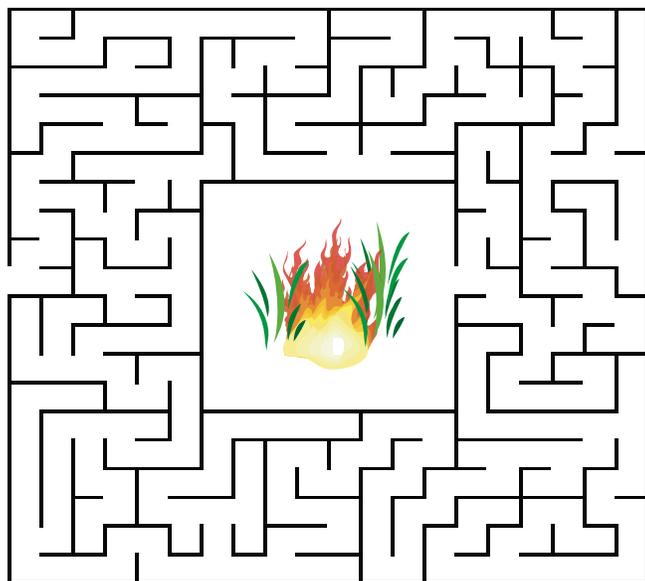


Photo: Lorenz Solimani/USFWS

Research opportunity:

Are you fire-wise? See if you can discover the answers to the following:

- Some wildland fires in Colorado are allowed to burn naturally without any attempt to contain, extinguish, or diminish them. **T or F**
- Wildland fires kill all of the wildlife in the prairie. **T or F**
- Prescribed burns always start as larger, out of control fires. **T or F**
- Wildland fires are part of a healthy ecosystem. **T or F**

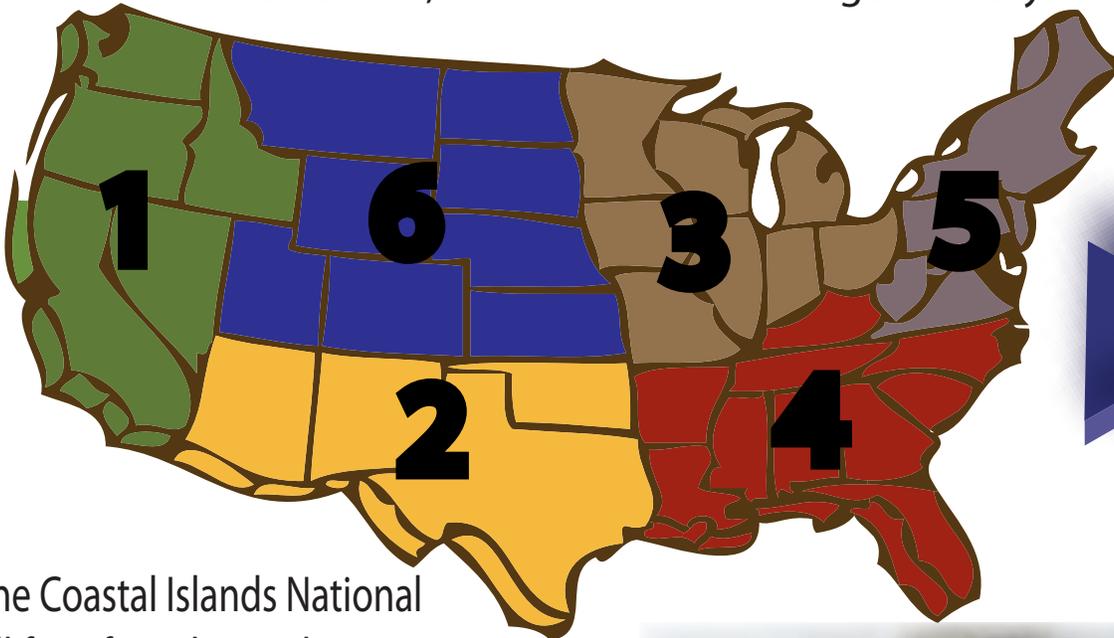


Wildland firefighters use a lot of tools, like the drip torch above, to help them accomplish their mission. Visit www.nps.gov/webrangers/easy/tour3/firetools to test your tool smarts!



Help the wildland firefighters find their way to the prairie fire.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has 6 different regions in the continental United States, with at least one refuge in every state!



Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, located in Region 5, spans more than 150 miles along the beautiful Maine coast. Refuge wildland firefighters use prescribed fire to manage nesting areas for the endangered roseate terns and threatened Atlantic puffins.



Do these birds nest in trees?
Visit - www.enature.com
and
DISCOVER
today!

Photos: USFWS

