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# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## National Key Deer Refuge Burn Postponed

The planned burn at the National Key Deer Refuge has been postponed. Weather conditions are unlikely to meet the required burn parameters for winds and rainfall.

In addition to weather factors, availability of specialized wildland fire equipment and firefighters is a core consideration in the prescribed burn planning process. As fire activity in western states increases, availability of these resources may limit the number of possible burn days in the coming month. Refuge staff will continue to monitor conditions and will update area residents via newspapers, US 1 radio, and electronic sign postings when the burn is rescheduled.

Prescribed fire is the burning of vegetation based on a prescription that takes into consideration fuel type, fuel moisture, relative humidity, air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, and other atmospheric conditions. Each prescribed burn represents many hours of planning and preparation. Prescribed burns are designed to both create defensible space in the event of unwanted wildfires as well as for wildlife habitat management. Prescribed fires are an integral part of management of Pine Rockland habitat on the National Key Deer Refuge.

The objectives of the National Key Deer Refuge's Fire Management Program are 1) to provide protection to private property and human lives against uncontrolled wildfires that may result from un-managed fire-maintained plant communities through vegetative fuel reduction, 2) to provide protection to both natural and constructed resources on the Refuge from catastrophic wildfires through fuel reduction, 3) to maintain biological diversity in fire-maintained plant communities by prescribed fire and 4) to maintain habitat for endangered and threatened plant and animal species.

For more information on the fire program at National Key Deer Refuge, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/nationalkeydeer/firemanagement.html>

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