



NEWS RELEASE



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Controlled Burning Requires Temporary Closure of Peninsula Unit

The McNary National Wildlife Refuge is planning to conduct a 400-acre, controlled burn on its Peninsula Unit, located south of Burbank, Washington. If weather conditions are favorable, the project will take place September 24, 25, and 26. The burn area will be closed to public access during that time to ensure human safety.

The burn is being conducted to remove tall, dense accumulations of wheat grass and to stimulate new grass growth for goose foraging habitat. “Our long-term goals for this area are to improve the quality of goose forage and improve the condition and layout of the hunting blinds,” said Brian Allen, Refuge Manager.

Depending upon weather conditions, the timing of the controlled burn may change. People may call the Mid-Columbia NWR Headquarters office at 371-1801 for current information on the temporary closure.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.