



NEWS RELEASE



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SERVICE PLANS PRESCRIBED BURNS FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will conduct a series of controlled burns on the McNary National Wildlife Refuge from September 22 to mid-October. Targeted areas are within the Burbank Slough and Peninsula Units, located south of Burbank, Washington. To ensure the safety of the public and Service work crews, the Peninsula Unit burn area will be closed to public access during burn operations.

The burns are being conducted to remove tall, dense accumulations of wheat grass and to stimulate new grass growth for goose foraging habitat. “Our long-term goal for these areas is to provide high quality short-grass forage for geese,” said Brian Allen, Refuge Manager.

Depending upon weather conditions, the timing of the controlled burns may change. People may call the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex headquarters office at 546-8300 for up-to-date information on the temporary closure.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.