



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425



NEWS RELEASE

April 22, 2015

For Immediate Release

Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Prescribed Burning Program, Spring 2015

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with Eden Prairie Fire Department, plans to conduct a prescribed near Flying Cloud airport. This 95 acre burn will occur on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in an area of native Tallgrass Prairie. The Tallgrass Prairie ecosystem depends on fire to remain viable for the over 200 species of birds that use it for nesting.

If prescription weather parameters allow, this burn will occur April 23.

Prior to implementing a prescribed burn, a plan must be written and approved which details the resource management objectives of the burn, the weather conditions required for a successful burn, and an operational plan listing the number of personnel and equipment required. All burn personnel will have met National fire training standards prior to participating in any prescribed burning activities.

Prescribed burns are conducted to achieve a number of habitat related objectives such as reducing vegetative cover, exotic and woody species control, nutrient cycling, weed management, and native prairie restoration. Additionally, prescribed burns help to protect our neighbors in the event of a wildfire. Periodic prescribed burns reduce hazardous fuel loads and ultimately reduce the threat of wildfire to adjacent private lands.

The USFWS improves wildlife habitat through the careful use of prescribed burns on more than 400,000 acres of National Wildlife Refuge System lands each year. The mission of the USFWS is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The USFWS is both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for its scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on USFWS projects and the people who make them happen, visit www.fws.gov. If you have specific questions regarding any aspect of the prescribed burning program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, contact Fire Management Officer Dan Paulson at (515) 423-4303.