

## BURNING FOR THE BIRDS

On October 24, 2017 partners\* from several agencies came together to conduct a prescribed burn on Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge staff works to provide healthy wetlands and plants for all wildlife. Old plants build up a thick layer of litter and let weeds get out of control. Using fire to remove that build up helps native plants get the upper hand. Along the trail and wildlife drive it's hard to miss where we burned. Next spring this area will warm up quickly providing plants, insects and places to rest for migrating birds like Sandhill Cranes and several species of ducks.



Suzanne Beauchaine/USFWS

\*INTERAGENCY PARTNERS: US Forest Service, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, NPS, BLM and Refuge Staff from the San Luis Valley NWR Complex, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Rainwater Wetland Management District and Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR



*Shorebirds feeding in the shallow water during the burn!*

Scott Miller/USFWS

The effort to plan and burn an area safely is intensive. The Refuge staff would like to thank all of our Partners who help improve our public lands for all of us to enjoy now and for future generations.



Scott Miller/USFWS