

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 1, 2009
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REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS

Fall Prescribed Fire Activities Announced

National Park Service Superintendent Steve Chaney announced today that Redwood National and State Parks will conduct a series of prescribed burns this fall in the prairies and oak woodlands in the Bald Hills east of Orick.

The prescribed fire season in the parks will begin in late September or early October as weather conditions permit. This year fire will be used as a management tool in seven potential burn units in four primary locations: Elk Camp Prairie, Counts Hill Prairie, Williams Ridge and Coyote Creek. Specific burn units include: Upper and Lower Elk Camp Prairie, Lower Airstrip Prairie, Upper and lower Counts Hill Prairie, Williams Ridge, Eastside Prairie and Coyote Creek.

The parks' 2005 Fire Management Plan provides for the use of fire to restore natural and cultural processes, manage exotic plants and conifers encroaching into prairie and oak woodland plant communities, and to interpret and educate the public about the role of fire in the parks. The parks have successfully used prescribed fires to achieve these objectives since the early 1980's.

If you are in the parks over the next couple of months, there will likely be additional activity and equipment on and near Bald Hills Road. Smoke may linger on the roadways and traffic control may be in place. Please be cautious for your safety as well as those working on the prescribed burns.

For further information, please contact Jim Wheeler at (707) 465-7764.

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