

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

U.S. Department of the Interior
Intermountain Region



Prescribed Burn Planned for 2014



Schedule: Occurring in the fall as weather permits.

Size: Roughly 180 acres in total. Project will manage the burning in small units and small acreage over time.

Fuel Type: Primarily Ponderosa Pine and Grass

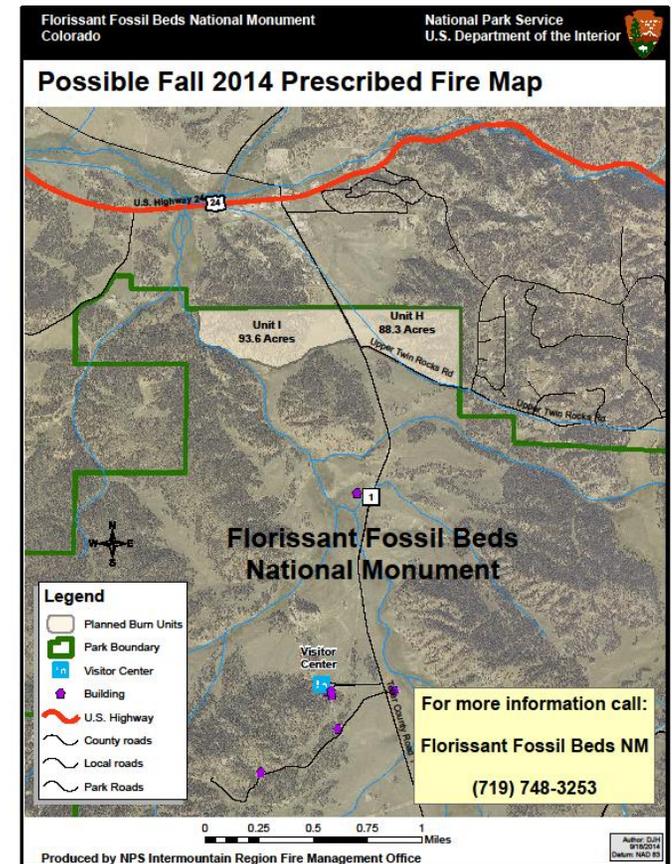
Burning allows managers to reduce fuels adjacent to the boundary with minimal smoke impact to the community. Further, this type of fuel reduction is most economic and most beneficial to the ecosystem.

Goals:

- Minimize the risk to local communities by reducing accumulated fuels.
- Reintroduce fire into the ecosystem to capture beneficial fire effects while reducing the potential for stand replacement wildfires.
- Lessen potential wildland fire smoke impacts by burning smaller areas under favorable weather conditions.

Project Details:

- Accumulated forest fuels greatly increase the chance of large, high-intensity fire impacting federal lands and surrounding community. Ponderosa pine and dead and down material have created pockets of fuel that could pose challenges for containment of future wildfires. This project will help create a buffer near the park boundary to protect adjacent communities, while keeping our visitors and employees safe during normal park operations.
- Burning will be limited to areas adjacent to Teller County Road 1 on the north end of the Monument. Units H and I will be the focus for the 2014 season.



Ignition:

- Firefighters typically use hand-held drip torches and flares to strategically ignite fuels on the downwind side and/or uphill portion of units. And gradually work the fire throughout the unit once the anchor is secure. Ignition only occurs when current and expected weather is desirable and congruent with favorable smoke dispersion and available personnel.