



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
Fire and Fuels Management
1008 Crest Drive
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

Debbie Bird
Superintendent

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Above: Firefighters igniting the Kettle River Prescribed Fire with drip torches during the fall of 2009.

Thank you to the many partners who help the park improve fire safety and restore ecosystem health.

North Cascades National Park
Boise and North Cascades Smokejumpers,
Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests,
Northeast Interagency Communications Center,
Washington Department of Natural Resources,
Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

For More Information

If you have questions about the fire and fuels management program at Lake Roosevelt, contact:

Tonya Neider, Prescribed Fire Specialist
(509) 633-9441 ext. 1424 or Tonya_Neider@nps.gov

Ken Hyde, Chief of Integrated Resources
(509)-633-9441 ext. 128 or Ken_Hyde@nps.gov

Fire information on the internet:

www.firewise.org - National Fire Wise Program
www.dnr.org - WA Dept. of Natural Resources
www.inciweb.org - National Incident Information
www.nifc.gov - National Interagency Fire Center
www.nps.gov/fire - National Park Service Fire News

The Lake Roosevelt Fire Management Plan, is available on the park website:

www.nps.gov/laro

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Making progress – 60% less fuel after thinning and burning



Top: The vacation cabins in the recreation area are protected by active fuels management around these structures.

Middle: Hundreds of small diameter trees are cut, piled, and burned each year.

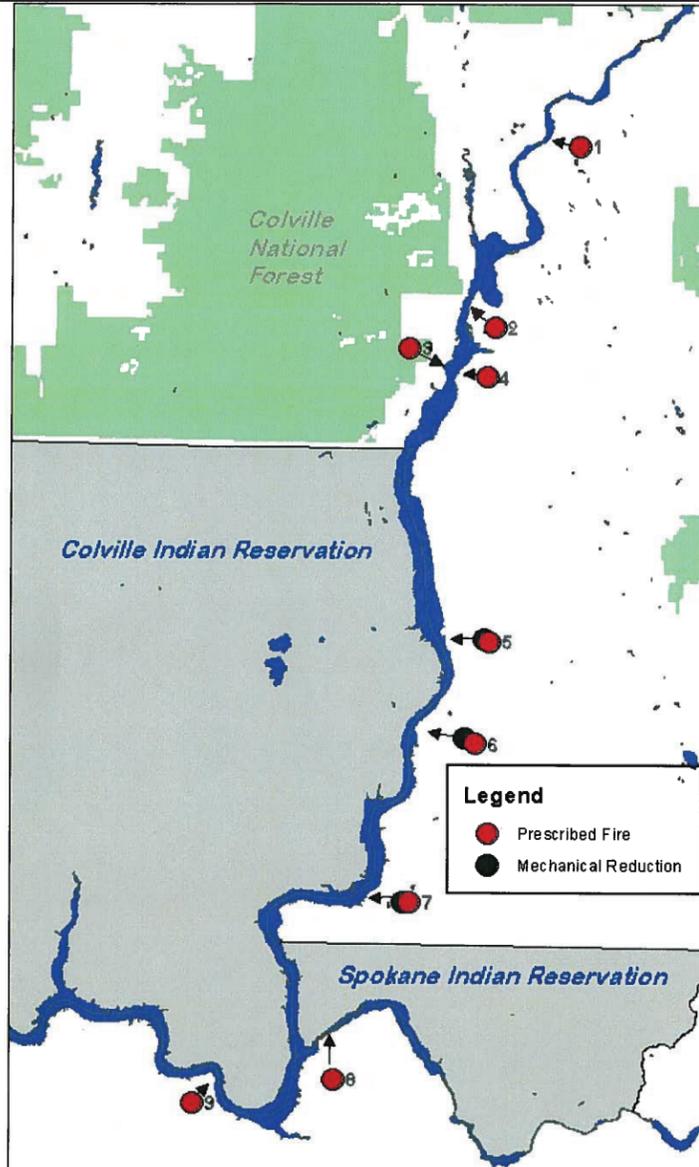
Below: Vegetation monitoring photo series.



The ponderosa pine ecosystems around Lake Roosevelt are adapted to survive fire, but most of the cabins and homes near the lake are not. The National Park Service has been actively thinning and burning vegetation to protect developed areas that are most at risk from wildfire. Usually, it takes about 4 treatments of thinning, piling, and burning to reduce fuel loads to a level where firefighters would be able to control an unplanned fire. Currently there are 33 burn units around the lake. Lake Roosevelt NRA management staff is currently working on a revised Fire Management Plan that may include up to 52 additional treatment areas within the park. These burn units will need to be treated again and again-- about once every 10 to 15 years. This type of fuel reduction does make a difference. The fires in the 2008 Doyle Complex along the Kettle River slowed down when they reached areas that had been previously treated.

Vegetation monitoring at Lake Roosevelt shows that after a series of mechanical and prescribed fire treatments, average fuel loads were reduced from 43.1 tons per acre in 2001 to 17.2 tons per acre in 2009.

2012 Fuel Reduction Projects at Lake Roosevelt



1. **North Gorge Burn – 50 acres**
Understory burn, treating a previously thinned forest stand, north of the campground.
2. **Kettle Falls Admin Burn – 17 acres**
Understory burn, treating a previously thinned forest stand, north of the administration building.
3. **Haag Cove Burn – 55 acres**
Understory burn, treating a previously thinned forest stand, northeast of the campground.
4. **Rickey Point Burn – 60 acres**
Understory burn, treating a previously thinned forest stand in the Rickey Point area.
5. **Gifford Ferry – Thin & Handpile – 14 acres**
Thinning of small diameter trees on the slopes above Highway 25. Slash will be handpiled. Handpiles will be burned in fall of 2013.
6. **Clark Lake 3 Thin & Handpile – 15 acres**
Clark Lake 1 Pile Burn – 40 acres
Thinning of small diameter trees on the slopes above Highway 25. Majority of slash will be handpiled. Burn handpiles that were completed last year.
7. **Enterprise Thinning – 40 acres**
Enterprise Burn – 20 acres
Thinning between maintenance road and NPS boundary. Burning between campground and maintenance road treating a previously thinned forest stand.
8. **Fort Spokane Burn – 45 acres**
Understory burn, treating a previously thinned forest stand, east and northeast of campground.
9. **Sterling Valley Pile Burn – 20 acres**
Pile burn adjacent to Sterling Point Campground.

Fire maintains open meadows and many other kinds of habitat which promotes diversity in both plant and animal communities. Lupine is one of the wildflowers that often covers an area soon after it burns.



Silky lupine, *Lupinus serisenus*, is one of several lupine species found in eastern Washington. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria associated with lupine roots enriches the soil after a fire.



Spring 2012

Fire Safety Around Your Home - Be Prepared for Wildfire

FREE: Home Fire Risk Assessments

Ask for help to determine what is most important.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers free Home Risk Assessments to evaluate whether your home has a chance of surviving a wildfire. The inspection will provide suggestions about how to improve your safety by removing fuel. Call the DNR Northeast Region office at 509-684-7474 to schedule an appointment. If your home is within 200 feet of National Park Service land, you can also contact the Lake Roosevelt Fire Management Program for assistance.

Grants for Fuel Reduction Around Homes

Apply for funding to help pay for the cost.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has several grants to assist landowners with reducing the risk of wildfire around homes and improving forest health. These grants can be used for thinning, pruning and clean up of slash. Proper vegetation management will protect your property from wildfire and also increase the health of your trees and shrubs. Better health will also help your forest fight off bark beetle and disease attacks. If you have property in Eastern Washington you may qualify for these grants. Funding for these grants is provided by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. For more information, call the DNR at (509) 684-7474.

Debris Burning Guidelines

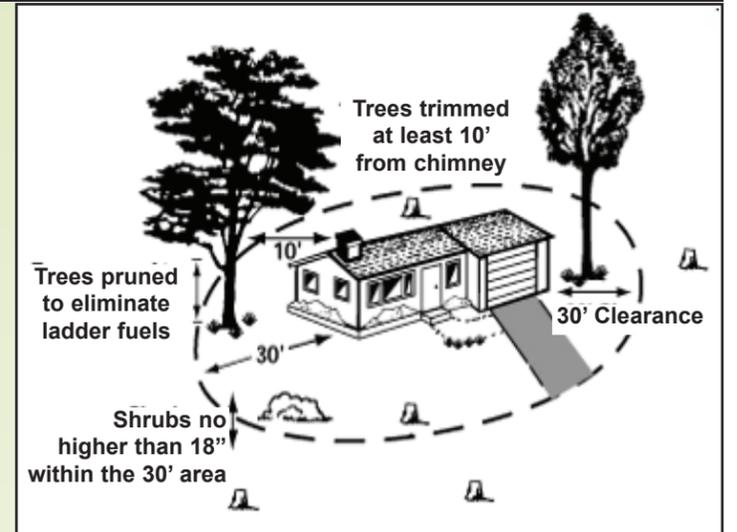
Be sure it is a burn day before burning your piles.

- 1) Call 1-800-323-BURN to make sure it is a burn day
- 2) To see if you need a permit, call (509) 685-6900.
- 3) Put a fire break around the debris pile.
- 4) Keep water and equipment nearby.
- 5) Do not leave your debris pile unattended.
- 6) Check the fire to make sure it is completely out.

Campfire Safety

Be sure campfires are allowed before you make one.

Use an established fire ring. Keep water and a shovel nearby to extinguish the fire. Keep all burning materials inside the fire ring. Keep all unused firewood at least 10 feet away from the fire ring. Never leave a fire unattended. Be sure your campfire is dead out before leaving -- use water, stir, and make sure all coals are cold.



Get Ready for Fire Season

Take steps to improve your wildfire protection.

- 1) Keep grass mowed to 3 inches or less.
- 2) Remove all dead vegetation material.
- 3) Keep shrubs low and separated by twice their height.
- 4) Separate tree crowns by 10 feet or more.
- 5) Limb trees up by keeping lower branches 10 feet off the ground or clearing to 1/3 the height of the tree.
- 6) Keep garden plants moist and conserve water by using drought resistant garden plants which retain moisture.
- 7) Make sure your roof is rated Class A, and keep it clean of pine needles and other debris.

Learn from Past Fires

Many structures survived during the 2008 Doyle Complex.



Doyle Complex fire suppression operations along the Kettle River

A small number of structures were lost, actions taken before these fires helped prevent large scale damage from occurring. Fuel reduction near structures in wildland areas, fuel reduction done by homeowners, and fire safe building construction all made a difference in the outcome.

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