



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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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Above: Firefighters responded to the Sunrise Fire on private land near Lake Roosevelt during the 2006 fire season.

Interagency cooperation is essential for effective fire management. Thank you to the many partners who help Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area reduce hazardous fuels and restore ecosystem health.

Marcus Fire Department, Boise Smokejumpers, Colville Interagency Dispatch, Idaho Falls BLM, North Cascades National Park

For More Information

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

Tod Johnson, Fire Management Officer
(360) -854- 7350 or Tod_Johnson@nps.gov

Jerald Weaver, Chief of Natural Resources
(509)-633-9441 ext. 128 or Jerald_Weaver@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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Fire management for community protection and ecosystem health



Hazardous fuel is reduced with prescribed fire and mechanical thinning. These techniques may be used separately or together at the same site.

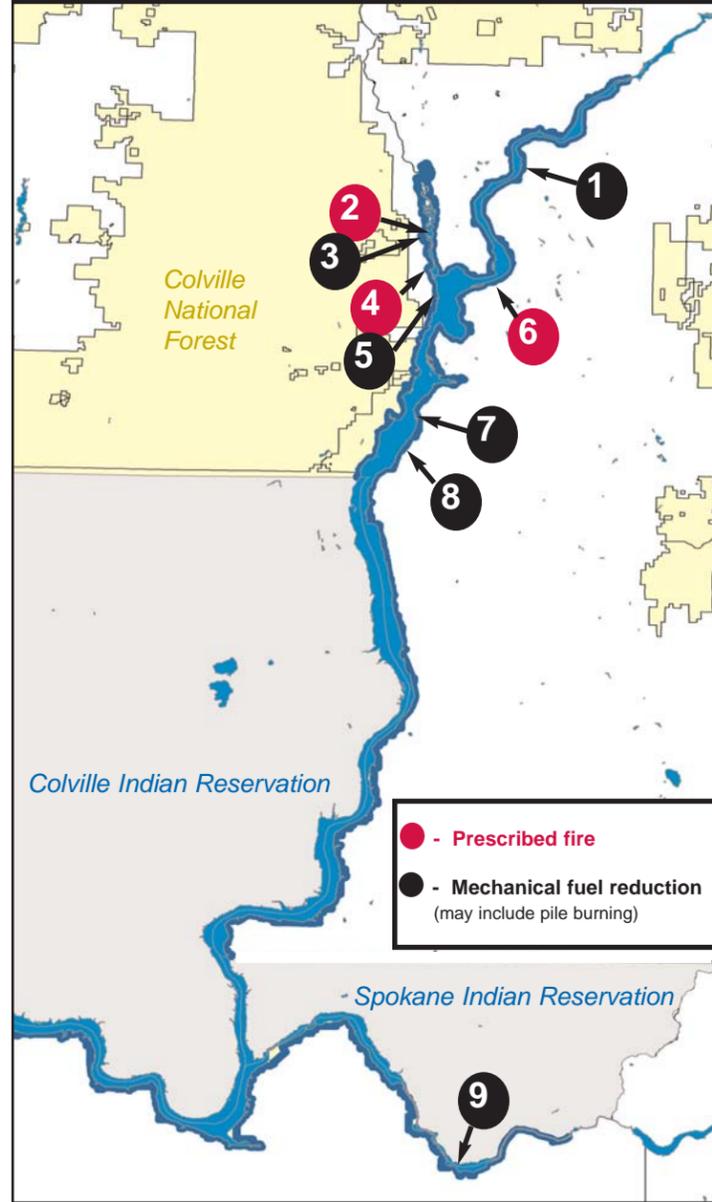
Top: Whispering Pines was burned in the fall of 2006. A second unit at Whispering Pines will be burned in the fall of 2007.

Below: Several tree thinning projects will also be done this year.

Frequent low intensity fires reduce the risk of extreme fire behavior in ponderosa pine ecosystems. The thick insulating bark of ponderosa pine enables it to survive low intensity fires. When fuel accumulates, fires become more intense than the pines can tolerate which leads to ecological damage. High intensity fires are difficult to control and can severely threaten human life and property.

Studies suggest that prior to European settlement, low intensity fires burned across Northeastern Washington every 1 to 30 years. Fire naturally thins the forest, recycles nutrients, stimulates new plant growth, and opens up meadows. Many plants and animals benefit from the diversity of habitats that are created by fire. Tree thinning and prescribed fire treatments create similar effects. The treatments currently being done at Lake Roosevelt are restoring the integrity of fire dependent ecosystems and reducing the threat of wildfire to communities near the park.

2007 Fuel Reduction Projects at Lake Roosevelt



- North Gorge - 50 acres**
Thin pine, larch and Douglas-fir near North Gorge Campground to prepare site for future understory burn.
- Kettle River Arm - 20 acres**
Understory burn in pine adjacent to the town of Boyds. COMPLETED SPRING 2007
- Kettle River Arm Campground - 7 acres**
Thin and chip pine at campground near Boyds.
- Whispering Pines - 20 acres**
Understory burn in mixed pine, larch and Douglas-fir in an area bordering North Lake Roosevelt Resort. This year will treat the second phase of a 48 acre project area. Burning will take place this fall.
- Kamloops Campground - 21 acres**
Thin and chip pine. Project will begin this fall.
- Marcus - 40 acres**
Understory burn in pine near the town of Marcus. COMPLETED SPRING 2007.
- Rickey Point - 60 acres**
Thin and pile pine in the area bordering the Rickey Point settlement. Work will continue in 2008.
- Bradbury Beach - 24 acres**
Thin and pile pine and Douglas-fir adjacent to Bradbury Beach day use area. Piles will be burned this fall.
- Conrad - 2 acres**
Thin and pile pine near Harker canyon and surrounding homes to create defensible space; 7 additional acres in this unit will be thinned and chipped. Piles will be burned this fall. Work will continue in 2008.

Approximately 1,000 acres will be treated with prescribed fire or mechanical thinning over the next 5 years at Lake Roosevelt NRA.

Every prescribed fire has a burn plan that includes measurable objectives, and specific conditions under which burns can occur. Trained personnel will burn only when weather conditions are appropriate.



Pile burning is often used to get rid of the vegetation that is removed during mechanical thinning projects.



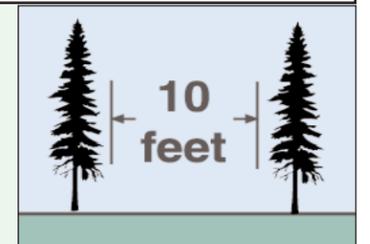
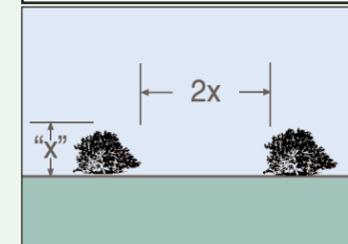
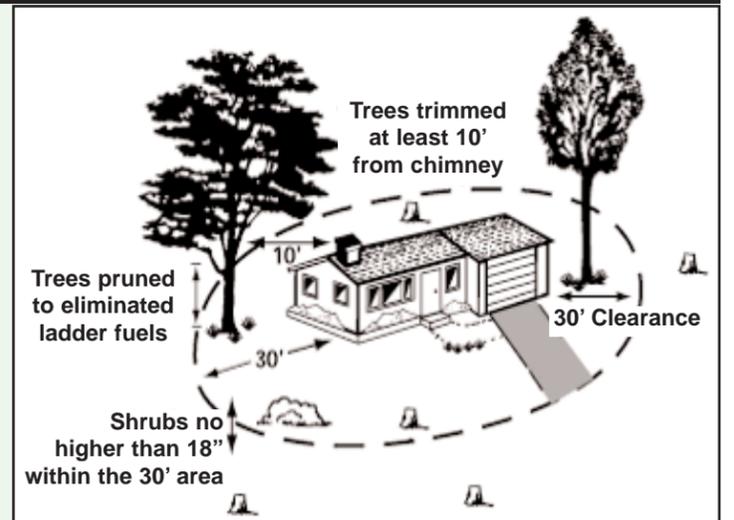
Defensible Space Around Your Home

To protect your home from wildfire, clear away flammable materials to create defensible space.

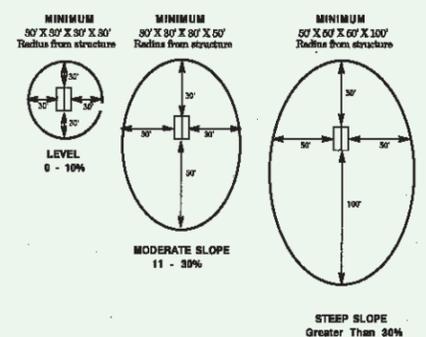
Defensible space is the space between a structure and the surrounding vegetation which makes it possible for firefighters to safely defend a structure. It can also allow a structure to survive on its own. FIRE WISE standards call for a minimum of 30 feet of defensible space.

These steps will greatly 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 debris.



With more slope, more defensible space will be needed. On moderate to steep slopes, 50 to 100 feet of defensible space is recommended.



Fire Safe Recreation



Make 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.

If you smoke, be sure to properly dispose of cigarettes and cigars. Never throw them out of a vehicle. Make sure they are completely extinguished.

Teach children how dangerous fire can be. Tell them not to play with matches or lighters.

Carry a fire extinguisher in your car, boat, or RV. Always use caution when operating portable cooking devices like camp stoves.