



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

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Ozark National Scenic Riverways News Release

For Immediate Release

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Ozark Riverways Plans to Conduct Prescribed Burns

Van Buren MO – Preparations are underway for Ozark National Scenic Riverways to accomplish several prescribed burns this spring. The burns will be carefully planned and monitored by the park's Fire Management staff and will be performed between early February and mid-April. The ignition and timing of these prescribed burns is dependent on the weather and vegetation meeting certain conditions. During the prescribed burns, park operations will continue as usual. However, for public safety reasons, foot and vehicle travel near these prescribed fire operations may be restricted.

Prescribed burning has a variety of purposes, including the reduction of fuel accumulations near developed areas, which helps reduce the threat of unplanned wildland fires in and around Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Prescribed fire benefits native species and habitats in a variety of ways. Native species are adapted to fire, and in many cases actually depend on fire in order to thrive. Managed fires help restore native habitats such as glades and savannas, which can suffer from the encroachment of woody species. Prescribed burning also improves the structure of forests and woodlands. Deer, turkeys, collared lizards and other species benefit from the use of fire to maintain or improve the habitat they depend on.

Several prescribed burn units are currently planned for treatment this spring. Alley Spring prescribed burn unit contains 826 acres and is located northwest of Alley Spring. The Devils Well prescribed burn unit contains 340 acres and is located near Devils Well in northern Shannon County. The Welch Lodge prescribed burn unit is 209 acres and is located near Welch Spring on the upper Current River. The Longbay prescribed burn unit encompasses 1,200 acres and is located south of Big Spring between State Highway Z and the Current River. The Peavine/Sweezie Hollow prescribed burn unit is 375 acres and is located north of Big Spring between Peavine Road and the Current River. The Stegall Mountain prescribed burn unit is 5,350 acres and encompasses portions of Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Peck Ranch, and Rocky Creek Conservation area, including Denning Hollow, Thorny Mountain, Mule Mountain, and Stegall Mountain near Rocky Falls.

For more information on the park's burn plans and policies, contact Fire Communication and Education Specialist Dena Matteson at (573) 323-8028.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways preserves the free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, the surrounding natural resources, and the unique cultural heritage of the Ozark people. For more information visit, www.nps.gov/ozar



Prescribed Burn on the Booming Shoals Burn Unit near Powder Mill, Spring 2010

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