

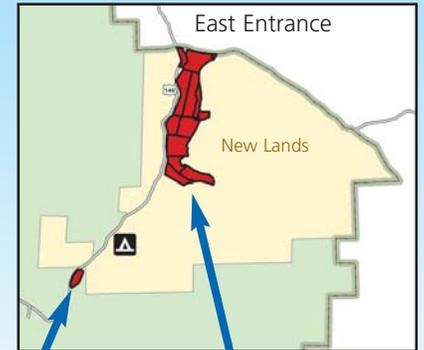


Prescribed Burns Planned for 2008

"These will be low complexity burns on flat ground. The fuel is light and will burn itself out quickly."

Roger Wong, Bay Area
Network Fire Management
Officer

Burning will take place on several days in June, only if weather conditions allow. Appropriate wind, temperature, relative humidity, and atmospheric pressure will ensure safe and effective prescribed fire operations with good smoke dispersion.



Bottomlands = 150 acres
Entrance Meadow = 10 acres



The Bottomlands
Prescribed Fire Project is made
up of 13 units ranging from
1 to 24 acres in size.

Using fire to prevent the spread of star- thistle

Yellow star-thistle is an invasive weed that is threatening the Monument and surrounding lands by rapidly displacing native species.

Why burn it?

The new lands recently added to the east side of Pinnacles National Monument include a large infestation of non - native yellow star- thistle. About 12 million acres in California are invaded with this aggressive weed.

Three consecutive years of burning, in combination with other integrated plant management techniques, can effectively control yellow star- thistle.

Prescribed fire can treat large areas quickly. Burning at the right time of year will greatly reduce the number of seeds the plants will be able to produce. Fire also recycles nutrients back into the soil, and burns off dead mulch which stimulates the growth of native plants such as lupine, California poppies and perennial grasses.

Prescribed burning is just one of the weed control techniques described in the "Integrated Tools to Address Degraded Lands Environmental Assessment" which will be released early this summer.

Burning it safely.

Safety is the foremost objective in all fire management activities.

Prescribed fire is only conducted when the windspeed is low and the air is not too dry.

Weather readings will be taken every hour or more during the burn. If an unforecasted weather event creates unfavorable conditions, the burn will be shut down. Small burn units increase the ability to quickly start and stop the project.

Extra firefighters and engines will also be on hand as an added precaution.

What about smoke?

Burning requires approval from the air quality district to prevent any major smoke impacts on the airshed.

Smoke particles may settle with cool air at night and create a trace of haze the morning after burning. If this happens, it will lift as the day warms.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pinnacles National Monument
Fire and Fuels Management
5000 Highway 146
Paicines, CA 95043-9762

Eric Brunnemann
Superintendent

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Fire management at Pinnacles is part of the National Park Service Bay Area Network Fire Program and includes many important partnerships. Thank you to the local, state, and federal agencies, and neighboring organizations, who help Pinnacles prevent wildfire and use fire safely as a resource management tool.



WORKING TOGETHER: National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Cal Fire, San Benito Fire Safe Council, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District

For More Information

Please call (831) 389-4486 x 222 if you have questions or comments about the Monument's prescribed fire program.

Contact: Denise Louie
Chief of Research and Resource Management

E-mail Updates

If you would like to receive e-mail updates when burn days have been confirmed, please send your e-mail address to: Denise_Louie@nps.gov

Pinnacles National Monument Fire Management Plan

The fire management plan and related information can be found in the management section of the Monument's website at:

www.nps.gov/pinn