



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Public Comment Period Begins for Draft Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announced today that the public comment period has begun for the draft Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve proposes to implement the 2016 Fire Management Plan (FMP) that includes descriptions and management objectives related to wildfire, prescribed fire, and non-fire fuels reduction. The new FMP coincides with changes in National Park Service management policies. It also addresses the need for an integrated fire management program that restores fire as a fundamental ecological process while protecting people, structures, and adjacent lands from fire.

The FMP Environmental Assessment described two alternatives related to fire management operations and analyzes impacts to natural and cultural resources associated with the alternatives.

The preserve invites you to review and comment on alternatives discussed in the draft Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment and to share your thoughts on prescribed fire at the preserve. A hard copy of the draft plan can be found in the visitor center at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve or downloaded via <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=63633>. The comment period runs from now through **March 9, 2016**. Please provide any written response to the superintendent at the above address or via email at tapr_superintendent@nps.gov by **March 9, 2016**.

In celebration of the National Park Service 2016 Centennial and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve's 20 Anniversary, the preserve invites you to discover the meaning of national parks, how your park inspires you – both in personal connections and memorable experiences. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a unique public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. For additional information on Tallgrass Prairie National preserve, please visit

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www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, call the preserve at (620) 273-8494, or visit the preserve's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie>. To learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, visit the Conservancy's website at www.nature.org/Kansas or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TNCKansas>.

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