



United States Department of Agriculture

FACTSHEET

Wildlife Opening - Prescribed Fire

Date Issued: April 23, 2018

Anticipated Dates of Burn: A series of prescribed fires are planned from early spring until summer when vegetation greens up. Burning will again take place late fall when grasses have cured. General dates for the prescribed fire projects are this spring between April 5 and June 15 or in the fall between October 1 and November 15.

Location: Tofte and Gunflint Ranger Districts, Superior National Forest, northeast Minnesota. Multiple units and locations on the east side of the Forest. A series of vicinity maps indicate the location and size of each specific prescribed fire unit and are available on the Superior National Forest website: www.fs.usda.gov/superior.

Size: 7 units for a total of 85 acres are planned for burning.

Purpose: Forest managers will utilize prescribed fire to maintain openings that provide essential habitat for a diversity of wildlife species in the area. Periodic prescribed fire use simulates the role of historic re-occurring wildfire by discouraging encroaching brush and stimulating the growth of browse, grasses and forbs needed as a food source by their prey species. Numerous native wildlife benefit, including kestrel, woodcock, moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, meadow vole and many others.

The ecology of northeastern Minnesota evolved with periodic fires that maintained a patchwork of different types of habitat across the landscape. Wildfire created openings for sun-loving plants, recycled nutrients, and encouraged vegetation and wildlife diversity.

Closure Information: No closures of roads or public recreation areas are anticipated.

Contact Information: Questions about the project may be directed to Gunflint Ranger District at (218) 387-1750 or the Tofte Ranger District at (218) 663-8060.



Forest Service

Superior National Forest