



Forest Service News Release

Public Affairs Officer: Christopher Leeser

(814) 728-6281

christopher.leeser@usda.gov

[Allegheny National Forest website](#)

Allegheny National Forest Spring Prescribed Fire Plan

Warren, PA, April 2, 2024 — The US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service plans to use prescribed fire as a forest management tool from early April until mid-May in the Allegheny National Forest. The exact dates are yet to be determined. Operations are weather-dependent, and prescribed fires will be implemented at the optimal times to achieve the best results. This spring, they plan to treat 400 acres spread across five project areas located in the Warren County portion of the Bradford Ranger District. Please refer to the [maps posted](#) on [InciWeb](#) for project locations.

Communities near the burn sites will be notified 24 to 48 hours before ignitions. For public safety, road signs will be posted, and road guards will be utilized if necessary. To keep community members informed, updates will be posted to the following social media channels; [@Allegheny NF / Twitter](#) and [AlleghenyNF / Facebook](#). For maps and additional information please visit [InciWeb Spring Prescribed Fire Plan 2024](#).

Prescribed fires are conducted with the safety of the public and firefighters as the highest priority. Fire is used as a tool only when the parameters of approved burn plans are met, including acceptable wind speed and direction, relative humidities, temperatures, fire danger, seasonal restrictions, and mitigation of potential smoke impacts.

Fire management staff, in collaboration with forest resource specialists, identified several ecological objectives for the planned burn activities. Objectives include hazardous wildfire fuels reduction, improving forest health with vegetation diversity, and enhancing important wildlife habitat.

Fires are a historic and natural process for some ecosystems in the Allegheny National Forest, grasslands and oak-hickory forests are two prime examples. Oak-hickory forests, which comprise approximately 16 percent of the Forest, require periodic fires to reduce competing undesirable vegetation, recycle soil nutrients, and stimulate the increased production of acorns, blueberries, blackberries, and other mast crops.

White-tailed deer, turkey, butterflies, songbirds, grouse, snakes, turtles, and other wildlife species utilize burned areas for feeding, nesting, warming, and a place to raise their young. Prescribed fires also reduce the amount of hazardous fuels that, when left unburned, can lead to uncontrolled wildfires that could threaten human life and property.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.