



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Fire and Land Management

The BLM manages about 245 million acres of public lands and fire is a natural part of many of those landscapes. When managed carefully, fire helps ecosystems stay healthy.

To protect landscapes from destructive wildfires, sometimes the BLM removes vegetation from the landscape. One way to do this is with prescribed fire. With lots of careful planning, fire crews light fires on purpose, called prescribed fires, to clear overgrown plants and shrubs. Prescribed fire can help prevent big, dangerous wildfires because fires that happen afterwards are usually easier to control. These actions help keep nearby communities safer.



FIRE ON THE LAND – BEFORE AND AFTER A PRESCRIBED BURN

Read each description below. Then, decide if it describes the land before or after a prescribed burn. **Label B for Before or A for After.**

_____ New green plants are starting to grow.

_____ Dead leaves, dry brush, and downed trees cover the ground.

_____ There's more space for animals to move around.

_____ The forest floor is crowded and hard to walk through.

_____ Sunlight can reach the ground more easily.

_____ Animals are returning to explore the area.

REFLECTION

How might prescribed fire, set and managed by professionals, be different from an unplanned wildfire in the same place?

How does prescribed fire help protect people, animals, and the environment?

FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Wildfire is a natural part of many landscapes, and it behaves differently depending on the plants, weather, and land in your area. In some places, fire moves quickly through dry grasslands; in others, it may smolder slowly in thick forests. The BLM works with communities to learn how fire behaves in each area and uses that knowledge to protect people, wildlife, and the land we all share.

CIRCLE THE LAND WHERE YOU LIVE:

Forest Desert Grassland City Farm Mountain _____

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF A WILDFIRE NEAR YOUR HOME?

Yes No Not Sure

WHAT DO YOU THINK FIRE MIGHT DO IN THE LAND NEAR YOU?

Example: "It might spread fast in dry grass."

CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Just like firefighters use prescribed fire to clear excess plants and vegetation, we can help defend our homes from fire by clearing flammable objects like dead leaves, sticks, and firewood away from buildings. This is called creating "defensible space" because there are less things that might catch fire, and there is more room for firefighters to protect our homes.

