

Give your **BIG TREES** room to grow!

During your travels through Redwood National and State Parks, you may notice trees and landscapes (particularly prairies) that have been charred by fire. Some burns happened due to lightning strikes, some from American Indian-ignited fires of the past, and some from park management using prescribed fire.

The American Indian method of managing plant communities with fire contributed to ecosystem health by clearing brush and encouraging new growth. However, management practices by Euro-Americans brought a century of fire suppression and altered landscapes.

Today, park resource managers are returning to the practice of using fire to maintain landscape health. It is the long-term goal for RNSP to restore park lands to the state that existed just prior to Euro-American contact and influence. By using prescribed fire on a regular basis, park managers have set the following goals for prairies and redwood forests:



Objectives for Prairies and Oak Woodlands

- Control and eliminate exotic plant species
- Restrict the spread of an exotic oat grass
- Kill 80-90 percent of invading Douglas-fir less than six feet tall in prairies
- Kill 60 percent of Douglas-fir less than six feet tall in oak woodlands
- Restore native plant species diversity
- Improve native plant to exotic species plant ratio

Objectives for Old Growth

- Provide periodic disturbance to maintain an uneven-aged under story
- Reduce duff material and small dead and down material
- Limit old growth mortality to one percent or less
- Generate hardwood reproduction in the under story
- Reduce fire intolerant species
- Limit consumption of large dead and down material

Your big clients are like the big trees in our national parks. The Forestry Service routinely does “controlled burns” to protect the big trees. It gives them more room to grow and by clearing out the under growth, it minimizes the chances of catastrophic fires which could bring down the big trees. This is a very compelling argument for reassigning your smaller clients.

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