

Prescribed fire in your area

A prescribed fire is planned for your area. This project is part of the *Evan-Thomas 10-year Vegetation Management Strategy*

Where?

The prescribed fire will be conducted in the Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area near Kananaskis Village (see map opposite). The area is comprised of grassland meadows and open aspen forest.

When?

Burning will be done over several afternoons in the spring and autumn of 2017 and only on weekdays to minimize smoke impacts on recreation or business.

Why?

Prescribed fires will restore habitat quality for grizzly bears and other large mammals, and reduce the threat of wildfire to people and communities by decreasing the chances of more severe and larger wildfires.

The last major wildfire in the Evan-Thomas areas was in 1936 when most of the area burned in a single afternoon.



How can I find out more about prescribed fires?

Information on prescribed fires and other fire management projects in Kananaskis Country is available on the Alberta Parks website:

www.albertaparks.ca/kananaskis-country/

You can also visit any of our visitor information centres or call the Kananaskis Information Line:

403-678-0760

Frequently Asked Questions

What do we mean by “prescribed” fire?

A prescribed fire is an intentional fire that is planned and managed by fire specialists. A “prescription” describes the conditions and procedures necessary to burn safely and effectively to achieve a desired outcome.

Why use prescribed fire?

Fire is an essential part of nature and fire suppression over the past 100 years has altered many natural areas that depend on fire. Carefully planned prescribed fires safely restore and maintain grassland and forest and reduce the chances of more severe, larger wildfires.

What about smoke?

A paramount consideration of the plan is to minimize the impact of prescribed fire activities including smoke on recreation, tourism, and residents. The prescribed fires will mainly be low-intensity surface fires that are relatively small, of short duration, and smoke impacts will be minimal. Most fires will be undertaken in the spring and autumn outside of the busy tourist season. We can't eliminate smoke but great efforts are taken to reduce smoke impacts. While prescribed fire permits some control over smoke, unpredicted changes in weather can affect how well smoke disperses. However, prescribed fires provide insurance against future larger wildfires and the smoke they produce.

What will the area look like after the fire?

Grassland meadows and open forests will be burned with low-intensity surface fire so that aspen mortality is low and grass regenerates quickly during the spring. By summer the effects of fire will not be visible to most visitors. Needles on burned pine and spruce will turn brown and fall off within two years.

Will there be impacts to park users?

During burning operations there may be speed reductions along nearby roads because of smoke. Local trails and facilities could have short-term closures in place for safety reasons, however, there are many other recreation opportunities nearby. The duration of any required closures will be kept to a minimum.

