

## Benefits of Burning

Prescribed fire can be a valuable tool in the maintenance and improvement of native grasslands.

Rangeland areas that have not had fire occurrence are often sites of problems involving invasive species. The invasive species, such as Eastern Red Cedar, can take away natural grassland acres necessary for grazing as well as for wildlife.

In addition, rangelands that are always grazed in the fall or winter with no spring treatment may become areas dominated by native and non-native cool season grasses and invasive weeds.

These areas offer a reduced food value to livestock and are of reduced value to native wildlife. When prescribed fire is used along with appropriate grazing practices, the results are increased economic output and wildlife benefits.



### CPNRD Contacts

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## Prescribed Fire Program



Central Platte  
Natural Resources District

(308) 385-6282  
[www.cpnrd.org](http://www.cpnrd.org)

# Rate Structure

Minimum charge for all burns 40 acres or less is \$2,000. Burns 41+ acres will be charged \$2,000 with additional charges per acre over 40 acres:

- **Burns 41 - 159 acres:**

\$2,000 + \$16/acre over 40 acres

- **Burns 160 - 319 acres:**

\$2,000 + \$8/acre over 40 acres

- **Burns over 320 acres:**

Determined on case-by-case basis

**50% Cost Share:** Landowners not enrolled in another program or contract.

CPNRD staff develops burn plans, assists with prescribed burns and with grants for Prescribed Burn Associations.

## Purpose of Rx Fire

- Control undesirable vegetation
- Prepare sites for harvesting, planting, seeding
- Control plant disease
- Reduce wildfire hazards
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve plant production quantity and/or plant quality
- Remove slash and debris
- Enhance seed and seedling production
- Facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals
- Restore and maintain ecological sites

## Requirements

- The prescribed burn must be planned by a person(s) qualified to carry out such work.
- The prescribed burn plan must be reviewed and approved by CPNRD staff before the prescribed burn can be accomplished.
- The prescribed burn must be carried out by a qualified team or private company approved by Central Platte NRD.
- Proof of adequate insurance and landowner liability agreement will be required before any activity may be conducted under this program.
- CPNRD accepts no liability through a Work Agreement for any prescribed burn activity associated with the application, application approval, prescribed burn approval, or the prescribed burn itself.



## Process of Prescribed Fire

There are three steps involved in successful use of prescribed fire:

**Planning-** An open burning permit and prescribed fire plan must be completed prior to each burn as mandated by state law. CPNRD staff will be available to assure the fire plan meets all state law requirements.

**Preparation-** Burn unit boundaries and internal features need to be prepared prior to the burn to help ensure safety. CPNRD will assist in recommendations for this type of preparation. Preparation can include mowing or disking the lines or anchor points, and brush or tree removal/piling. Reduced and deferred grazing may also be necessary to produce best burning conditions.

**Implementation-** Prescribed burns must be implemented by the NRD crew or a qualified/insured prescribed fire contractor.

