

Park Implements 1st Season of Prescribed Burning Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Kentucky National Fire Plan – Fuels Reduction

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (NHP) successfully initiated their prescribed fire program in spring 2005 with the completion of two prescribed burns:

- The 50-acre Wilderness Road burn located at the Wilderness Road Campground entrance along Hwy 58 in Virginia
- The 140-acre Dark Ridge burn located adjacent to the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky

The burns were conducted by the Cumberland Gap NHP Fire Use Module, with assistance from other Cumberland Gap NHP park personnel, the Great Smoky Mountain National Park Fire Use Module and Fire Effects Team, and fire personnel from Kings Mountain National Military Park.

In order to avoid direct effects on the Indiana Bat and Blackside Dace, two threatened and endangered species within the park, the prescribed burns were coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to accomplishing the park's objectives of reducing fuel loading near the National Park Service boundary and helping slow wildland fire spread and intensity, the prescribed burns will serve as a great interpretive opportunity because of their proximity to the Wilderness Road Campground and Highway 58.



*Wilderness Road Campground Prescribed Fire.
Photo by Charlie Chadwell.*



*Dark Ridge Prescribed Fire.
Photo by Charlie Chadwell.*

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