

To Keep Big Meadow a Meadow Shenandoah National Park, Virginia National Fire Plan – Fuels Reduction

As part of an ongoing ecological maintenance project, portions of the Big Meadow were burned in spring 2005 in accordance with the Shenandoah National Park Big Meadows Management Plan. This year's burn included the 36-acre western unit and the sections of the perimeter where the 137 acre meadow meets woodland. The purpose of the burns is to reduce the amount woody shrubs. This will encourage sun-loving flowering plants, including many of the park's rare species, and help to maintain the historic open vista.

On April 11, National Park Service firefighters from Shenandoah, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Battlefields, Antietam, and Harpers Ferry were joined by forces from the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Additionally, park staff worked with local media to tell the story of prescribed fire in the meadow. Results included a front page story and a second story being picked up by the Associated Press for wider distribution.



*Burning in strips at Big Meadow.
Photo by Barb Stewart.*



Woody shrubs were reduced as a result of the prescribed fire. Photo by Barb Stewart.

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