

ADDRESSING EASTERN REDCEDAR IN THE SANDHILLS

JUL-SEPT
2024

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEBRASKA FIRE TEAM UPDATES

This summer was busy with landowner visits and looking at future prescribed fire projects. These sites are located in Thomas, McPherson and Logan Counties. After a busy spring fire season we spent time repairing broken equipment, replacing lost tools, and completing general maintenance to get ready for the next fire season.



THIS WORK IS POSSIBLE DUE TO THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS:



Staff Update



There have been several changes to the Fire Team this past year. Ashley Yost and Amanda Hefner moved onto new positions with separate organizations. I miss having them on the Team but still get the chance to work with them in their new jobs. Joel Klammer took the role as Interim Preserve Manager for the Niobrara Valley Preserve. He is now back on the Team part-time as a Burn Plan Writer. This past winter we hired Ethan Osnes as a Prescribed Fire Specialist. Ethan has worked the past 7 years as a Wildland Firefighter with SD Wildland Fire, USFWS and the BLM Ruby Mountain Hotshots. Ethan has been on the frontlines of wildfires throughout the western U.S. and we're happy to put his experience to work in the Sandhills.

NE Environmental Trust Fund Award for Prescribed Fire Workshops



The Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund awarded TNC a grant to cover the costs of hosting Prescribed Fire Workshops. Each workshop will have classroom instruction covering the basics of wildland fire and a live-fire training prescribed burn. Each participant will work with a coach and get instruction on lighting a prescribed burn, holding, and patrol. These workshops will not be possible without the participation of our many partners throughout the Sandhills to work as a coach and classroom instructor. Hopefully the Sandhills will get some moisture this fall and we can begin planning for winter/early spring workshops.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Provides Payments for Equipment Used on Prescribed Burns



Through an award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture will be providing incentive payments to help defray the costs of providing equipment for prescribed burns on private lands. Individuals who provide the equipment will sign an agreement and provide a W-9 with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. The payment rate for various types of equipment are still being determined. Please contact Chad Bladow for more information.



Results from a June, 2024 Prescribed Burn

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