



NEWS RELEASE



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Controlled Burning Requires Temporary Closures at Columbia Refuge

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Over the next few weeks, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge will conduct several controlled burns south of Potholes Reservoir. The controlled burns will target areas along Crab Creek in need of invasive plant species reduction and wildlife habitat improvement. Burn areas will be posted and temporarily closed to public access to ensure human safety. While Morgan Lake Road will remain open, visitors are urged to use caution and should expect to encounter smoky conditions along the roadway at times throughout the burn period. With favorable weather conditions, the controlled burns will be completed by the end of March.

For current information on the temporary closures, people may call the Columbia Refuge Headquarters office at 509-488-2668. For additional information about the Refuge, visit the website: <http://www.fws.gov/columbiarefuge/home/>.

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