

# News Release



J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
1 Wildlife Drive  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
239-472-1100, Fax 239-472-4061

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 11, 2018

CONTACT: Nate Caswell,  
239-472-1100

## Prescribed Burn of the Botanical Site

The J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, in cooperation with local partners, is planning to conduct prescribed burns of the Botanical Site on Sanibel Island. These burns will reduce the likelihood of uncontrolled wildfires and help achieved habitat management goals of the Botanical Site. **Based on current weather forecasts, the refuge and its partners are planning prescribed burns to take place AS SOON AS NEXT WEEK, JULY 16-20, 2018, if weather conditions are favorable.**

If prescribed weather conditions are met, and burns can take place within that window, residents and adjacent landowners will be notified prior to ignition. During the prescribed fire operations, residents and visitors are encouraged to close windows in their homes, cover their pools, and, if necessary, stay indoors to minimize the impacts from smoke.

On the days when a controlled burn will take place, portions of the refuge may be closed to public access. Please adhere to all signs, road closures, and instructions about closed areas provided by refuge, fire and law enforcement personnel. Access into the burn unit will be strictly prohibited during the prescribed fire operation. For more information about the benefits of this prescribed burn, or to speak with a Public Information Officer, an information booth will be located in the Sanibel Recreation Center parking area.

The Southern Florida and Caribbean Fire District of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting the prescribed burn with the assistance of the Florida Forest Service, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, the City of Sanibel, and the Sanibel Fire and Rescue District.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on the work of FWS and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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