Prescribed Fire Complexity Worksheet

Station: **Burn Unit Name:** **Holly 2 Prairie Bank**

Element	Sub Element	Rating Value (L-M-H)		Rationale
1. Potential for Escape	Risk	Preliminary	L	Little potential for escape. Spot fires would comprise of small areas that are readily detected, accessed and controlled by modest holding forces on the burn. No ladder fuels or concentrations near critical holding points. There is no residual fire expected beyond the day of ignition.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	An escape into the nearby buildings is not expected; a 15 ft mowed firebreak protects buildings to the north. An escape would cause few social concerns or monetary damage.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	The burn unit is easily accessible to the holding resources identified in the plan. A 15 ft mowed firebreak protects the building site.
		Final	L	No change.
2. Number & Dependency of Activities	Risk	Preliminary	L	Activities are generally independent or only loosely dependent on other activities.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Coordination problems do not threaten the completion of the project or the ability to meet project objectives.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Minimal difficulty on coordinating the required activities.
		Final	L	No change.
3. Off-Site Values	Risk	Preliminary	L	Burn unit is on a Prairie Bank easement. Much land adjacent to the burn unit is the same ownership as the easement. Would have to cross a 15ft mowed line to escape to the north, east, or west. Minimal risk to private or agency land.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	The vegetation affected has rapid recovery rate with minimal or no damage to off-site values.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Protection of the off-site values requires no special management , equipment or skills.
		Final	L	No change.
4. On-Site Values	Risk	Preliminary	L	The nearby building sites to the north and west will require special consideration. The risks are considered to be minimal since a mowed firebreak protects from escape. Within the burn unit there are no wooden power poles or utility boxes needing protection.

		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Implementation problems will not result in a reduction to on-site resource values.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	The nearby building sites are easily protected. A mowed firebreak currently exists to protect from escapes in the direction of building sites.
		Final	L	No change.
5. Fire Behavior	Risk	Preliminary	L	Fuels are uniform, fire behavior is predictable, and terrain is mostly flat to rolling. Fuels are characterized by using fuel model 3.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Fire behavior outside of the primary unit boundary would be primarily less than fire behavior within the unit. The majority of the habitat outside of the unit boundary is tilled cropland or heavily grazed pasture.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Standard fire safety precautions are adequate to ensure personnel safety. Spot fires would not require any additional suppression resources.
		Final	L	No change.
6.Management Organization	Risk	Preliminary	L	A singe person may fill several positions and a single level of supervision is all that is needed. Six qualified people are needed to implement the prescribed fire.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Problems related to supervision would be minimal due to the size of the burn (57 acres).
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Qualified contractors are required to be familiar with local factors affecting project implementation.
		Final	L	No change.
7.Public & Political Interest	Risk	Preliminary	L	The prescribed fire is in an isolated area and small in size (57 acres). Little or no public or political controversy related to the project.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Unexpected events would attract little public or media attention. Rural area. Low public use.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Qualified contractor required to inform landowners around the burn unit about the rxburn prior to ignition.
		Final	L	No change.
8. Fire Treatment	Risk	Preliminary	L	Objectives are to reduce fuel loading and to increase native prairie plant diversity. Stimulate native grass and forb species.

Objectives		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	A wide burn window exists to achieve the burn objectives. Failure to reach these objectives would have few adverse impacts on the natural resources.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	The measures used to reach the objectives are easy to complete and there are few restrictions on technique.
		Final	L	No change.
9. Constraints	Risk	Preliminary	L	No constraints related to access or fire lines exist for this burn. The State of Minnesota (MNDNR) having purchased administrative rights via an easement mitigates any private land issues.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	The project can be implemented whenever in prescription.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Constraints do not increase the difficulty of the project.
		Final	L	No change.
10. Safety	Risk	Preliminary	L	Potential hazards will be addressed in briefings. (adjacent fuels to the north, east, west; deep stream in unit). Fatigue and exposure to safety risks are limited. Activities are high frequency/low risk.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	The potential for serious accidents or injuries to the firefighters and the public is minimal. Few hazards.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Safety concerns will be addressed in the briefing. (adjacent fuels to the north, east, west; deep stream in unit).
		Final	L	No change.
11. Ignition Procedures Methods	Risk	Preliminary	L	The majority of the project area is visible to the burn boss.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Firing methods do not pose a safety concern to personnel.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Firing procedures are simple using one type of ignition device (drip torch). The ignition requires minimal supervision.
		Final	L	No change.
12.Interagency Coordination	Risk	Preliminary	M	Project involves other agencies/contractor, but concerns and interests are easily addressed.
		Final	M	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Project will be completed as planned.
		Final	L	No change.

	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	M	Project may require simple agreement(s) between agencies and contractor. Qualified contractor will implement Rx burn adhering to USFWS burn policies and prescriptions.
		Final	M	No change.
13. Project Logistics	Risk	Preliminary	L	The project duration is expected to be <1 day. No special equipment is needed.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Logistical problems will not affect the completion of the project or increase concerns of escape or safety.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	No logistical support issues. Contractor will be responsible for procuring supplies and personnel meeting NWCG standards.
		Final	L	No change.
14. Smoke Management	Risk	Preliminary	L	The smoke concerns are few and can be easily mitigated.
		Final	L	No change.
	Potential Consequences	Preliminary	L	Minor impacts to isolated residences or remote roads are expected. Personnel may be exposed to smoke for short periods.
		Final	L	No change.
	Technical Difficulty	Preliminary	L	Wind direction and speed are limitations within the plan.
		Final	L	No change.

SUMMARY COMPLEXITY RATING

RISK OVERALL RATING: **Moderate**

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OVERALL RATING: **LOW**

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY OVERALL RATING: **Moderate**

SUMMARY COMPLEXITY RATING: Moderate

RATIONALE: The Rx burn complexity rating is considered moderate due to the following reasons. The burn unit is located in a rural area away from communities. The community of Walnut Grove is located 3 miles to the northwest The chance of an escaped fire is minimal due to the fact that mowed firebreaks and tilled crop fields surround the burn. A crew of seven personnel is needed to complete the burn safely with no need for special equipment. The only areas of concern are the adjacent fuels to the north, east, and west. Nearby building sites will not be included in the burn unit and are protected by mowed firebreaks, heavily grazed pasture (fuel removed), and tilled fields. Within the burn unit there are not power poles that need to be protected. This burn is considered to be of medium burn unit size (57 acres). Smoke may impact County Road 22 to the south for a short period if unexpected climatic conditions occur. If smoke problems exist, ignition will cease, smoke sensitive area such as building sites and roads will be monitored and the appropriate actions will be taken. Traffic may be slowed at a minimum or stopped until conditions improve. All smoke dispersion categories of Fair or better may be used to safely conduct this Rx burn for fuel model 3. Moderate ratings where given to ‘interagency coordination’ because implementation will involve a contractor.