

Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association

News



Summer 2020

Focusing on cedar tree control and grassland health

Welcome

to our summer edition

By Keith Hovorka,
MMRPBA Chairman

2020 has been quite a year for South Dakota, just when we thought weather conditions were going to be perfect for burning this spring, the COVID-19 pandemic hit us. Due to the challenging weather conditions in 2019, several of our scheduled burns were pushed to this year. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the MMRPBA was only able to complete one prescribed burn this spring. However, the good news is the burn completed was on the Whetstone Ranch (formerly Mulehead Ranch). This burn was 3 years in the making and there is great info in this issue about that burn. It was a historic burn to be sure and there is much to take away from it and apply to others in the future.

Depending on how the pandemic plays out for the rest of 2020, the MMRPBA may try to do some fall burning. Many of the 2019 and 2020 planned burns have now been pushed to the spring of 2021. The MMRPBA continues to receive a lot of interest not only from our four-county area, but also from around the state. We are pleased to report we have many new burn plans on the docket for next year.

Lastly, I would like to introduce our new board member Brad Pistulka. Brad is from the Bonesteel area and will be a great addition to our board of directors. Brad will replace Mark Green's position. Mark will be greatly missed on board, however, he does plan to stay active during our burn season and continue to help us out when he can.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, we are still evaluating whether or not to hold our annual association meeting this winter. Please continue to watch our Facebook page and website, www.midmissouririverpba.com, for the most up-to-date event happenings.



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One for the record books: *2020 Whetstone Ranch Prescribed Burn*

By Brad Christensen
MMRPBA Training Officer

From April 30, 2020 through May 5, 2020 the Whetstone Ranch, formerly called the Mulehead Ranch, conducted a large prescribed burn. The planning and preparations for the burn had been on-going for three years. Dave Steffen and Sean Kelly wrote the burn plan and prepared the maps with input from Tim Steil from the Whetstone Ranch. The Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association (MMRPBA) was ready to conduct the burn the last couple of years but the weather would not cooperate.

This year, Tim Steil and I along with Sean Kelly and Dave Steffen started looking for a good burn day already last February – and then the pandemic hit and shut everything down. Tim and I stayed in contact, looking for a window in the weather and a way to conduct the burn and keep everyone safe while following CDC guidelines. We knew a few of our members could not help because of the policies at their workplace and a few should not help because of health issues. After a lot of phone calls and texting the decision was made to limit the number of people on the burn to only those required to conduct the burn. We knew the ranch owners from Minnesota were coming from an area with active cases of COVID-19, and we did not want to chance exposing anyone.

About the Cover:

On the cover of this issue is a photo showing the fire line as it burns on the Whetstone Ranch.



Preparations for the prescribed burn at the Whetstone Ranch were three years in the making and took place this spring.

The Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) formed to control cedar tree infestation and improve grassland health by conducting prescribed fires. MMRPBA's efforts will focus on land in Brule, Charles Mix, Gregory and Lyman Counties, with the goal to conduct 2,000 acres of prescribed burns each year for the next three years.

Play-By-Play

The burn was conducted with a crew of 12: the five individuals from Minnesota, five neighbors from two families that rented pasture and farm ground on the ranch, a contractor that has done dirt work in preparation of the burn, and myself. Everyone that was to help with the burn was familiar with the area to be burned and knew the escape routes and safe zones.

We watched the forecast and knew the weather forecasted was going to be perfect from Thursday through the weekend. The burn plan was designed to put in the control lines on the east, south, and west on the first day and burn the interior when the weather cooperated. The Missouri River was the north border of the area to be burned.

Thursday, April 30, (the morning of the burn) started with a briefing. The wind was from the south-southeast blowing toward the river as forecasted. The burn boss, Tim Steil, went over the ignition plan with the crew. A couple of small changes were made to provide for the weather forecast and safety.

The ignition was started on the east end toward the river, the most difficult part of the burn because it was steep and the only part of the burn that didn't have a dozer line, a road, or a roto-tilled line to ignite off of. Everything went better than anticipated, and ignition on the control line went as planned.

The goal was to have at least a 450 foot wide black line and for all the critical areas where a slop-over could be disastrous, the control line was many times wider than planned.



Weather conditions were perfect for the Whetstone burn. There is much to consider regarding weather when planning a burn.

On Friday, the wind was off the river with upslope winds that allowed for safe ignition against the control lines. The ranch crew burned several areas inside the control line. They said they were very happy with the amount of cedar trees burned.

Perspective

Even though it took three years to complete due to the excessive moisture and working around the seeps and springs that are everywhere in the river hills, it was a successful burn.



The goal was to have at least a 450-foot wide black line and for all the critical areas where a slop-over could be disastrous.



The Missouri River was the north border of the area to be burned.



The burn was conducted with a crew of 12.



The burn plan was designed to put in the control lines on the east, south, and west on the first day and burn the interior when the weather cooperated.

More burns are being planned using the same control lines. It took a lot of work and preparation to get ready for this burn, but that work will pay off with less work to conduct the burns that already are being planned for next year.

I personally would like to thank all the participants that helped prepare and conduct this burn. This was a large burn. It was safe and it was fun. The ranch had done their homework and preparations. Dave and Sean prepared

good maps and a burn plan with a workable prescription. The National Weather Service provided an accurate multiday forecast. The burn crew was the best anyone could ask for; the crew worked well together with everyone communicating. Everyone knew where the rest of the crew was and what they were doing at all times.

Thanks everyone for a safe and successful burn. May all our burns be this good!

Marking a milestone with the Whetstone Ranch burn

By Sean Kelly
SDSU Liaison Officer

The Whetstone Ranch (formerly Mulehead Ranch) prescribed burn and burn plan marked an important milestone. This event was three years in the making, and it was this burn plan that brought several state and federal agencies together with the Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association to create a memorandum of agreement (MOA). This MOA has allowed the MMRPBA to incorporate agency land along the Missouri River into a private landowner's prescribed burn plan and utilize the Missouri River as a fire break.

This MOA will be utilized in many prescribed burn plans along the Missouri River in the future and help forge positive working relationships with state and federal agencies moving forward.



More burns are being planned using the same control lines.



A large amount of cedar trees were eradicated in the fire.



Seeps and springs in the river hills made the burn harder to plan but it was a successful burn.

Ranger 6X6 Joins MMRPBA Crew



By Brad Christensen
MMRPBA Training Officer

The Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association (MMRPBA) has a new crew member – a Ranger 6X6.

At the MMRPBA annual meeting, members voted to borrow money to purchase a 2016 Polaris Ranger 6X6 complete with cab, a 100 gallon F/S Manufacturing sprayer with 18 foot booms, and a snowplow. The sprayer has an Ace centrifugal pump that put out a maximum of 22.5 gallon per minute and a maximum pressure of 45 psi. The sprayer is modified to use during prescribed burning to put down a wet line.

It has been asked why the MMRPBA was looking to purchase a Ranger 6X6 when there are so many ATV's and UTV's available already. Why not just build a couple of slide-in units for the UTV's most rancher already own? To answer this question, I need to provide some background information.

I am a member of the Gregory Volunteer Fire Department. The Gregory VFD applied for and received a 2008 Polaris Ranger 6X6 from US Tabacco. They had a corporate program that gave away 70 to 90 Polaris Ranger 6X6's per year to first responders through a competitive grant. Unfortunately, US Tabacco

was sold and the program is no longer available. Gregory VFD's Ranger 6X6 has proven to be a good UTV to use in the river hills, where a lot of burns to control eastern red cedar trees take place. When a 6X6 version of a Ranger came up for sale in Mitchell, the Board decided it was too good of a deal to pass up – even if we had to borrow part of the funds to cover the purchase price.

Part of the discussion to buy the Ranger was how we would haul it. Our goal was to use the enclosed equipment trailer if the Ranger would fit. With the cab, the Ranger was too tall to fit in our trailer, so the cab was removed. The spray boom was also removed and some



It is a narrow fit but the modified Polaris Ranger fits into the MMRPBA trailer for easy hauling.

of the sprayer controls relocated to make the Ranger narrower so nothing sticks out to catch on brush or trees. The Ranger is a tight fit in the trailer. There is about 2 feet of room in front of the Ranger. The gloves, goggles, Nomex hoods, pants and jackets, 2 backpack sprayers, prescribed burn signs, marker cones, and first aid kit are the only thing in the trailer besides the Ranger and my long ramps. The trailer was not bought to haul a UTV and the ramp door is marginal for the weight of the Ranger 6X6 and slide-in unit. The ramps are used to prevent the door from bending if the trailer is on uneven ground.

Our first use of the Ranger 6X6 was on the Whetstone Ranch burn this spring. There were some minor issues with the Ranger and slide-in unit's pump. The biggest issue was the pump is an Ace centrifugal pump which puts out 22 gallon per minute and has a maximum pressure of 45 psi. The friction loss through the 3/8" hose on the hose reel made it ineffective. After the burn, I re-plumbed the slide-in unit and put a short 5/8" hose with a garden hose nozzle on the reel. The relief valve was cleaned up and is working. The pressure and volume seem adequate to use on a prescribed burn.

Another issue is the way the tank in mounted on the sprayer. The tank is tapered on the bottom so it drains 100%. This raises the tank up and with 100 gallons of water the center of gravity is high and makes the Ranger somewhat

unstable on uneven side hills. One suggestion is to sell the sprayer and build a slide-in unit with a Hypro roller pump and 60 to 75 gallon water tank. We have built several different pump and engine combinations, and the best one for the way we conduct prescribed burns is a 6:1 gear reduction, 6.5 hp engine with a direct drive 8 roller pump and 1/2" hose reel with 100 ft of hose.

Author's Note: If anyone is interested in buying the F/S Manufacturing 100 gallon UTV sprayer with manual controls and 18 ft spray boom or the steel cab that fits a 2016 Polaris Ranger 6X6 contact me at 605-830-0931. The web site with information on the sprayer is <https://www.fsmfg.com/products/utv-sprayers/>. The list price for a new sprayer is \$2722.00. I have all the parts to put the sprayer back to original.

The cab that came off the Ranger has some rust. The windshield and top are in good condition, but the plastic back window is hazy and the doors need some adjustments.

If interested in either item, please let me know and I can get you more information. All offers will need to be approved by the MMRPBA Board of Directors.

Equipment Available

Hauling Tips

Both of the MMRPBA trailers, enclosed equipment and water, have 2 5/16" balls and 7-way blade style plugs. A 2" receiver hitch ball mount with a 2 5/16" ball is kept with both trailers. If any MMRPBA member is conducting a burn and would like to utilize this equipment, contact Brad at 605-830-0931.

Polaris dealers have offered a few recommendations when hauling a Ranger. They recommend hauling the Ranger backwards on an open trailer, because the taillights are cheaper to replace than the headlights. When tying the Ranger down on the trailer, it needs to be just tight enough not to move, but not so tight that it collapses the suspension. Also, especially on 6X6's the parking brake needs to be released once the Ranger is tied down or it will wear out the parking brake going down the road.

Stay connected to MMRPBA and upcoming event details:



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MMRPBA/>

Website:

www.MidMissouriRiverPBA.com

Email:

Contact@MidMissouriRiverPBA.com



Jerry Marts (pictured at left with Todd Christensen at right) gave the MMRPBA a 150 gallon slide-in unit that he used the water pressure to blast holes in hard ground when he was fencing. It is designed to fit over the gooseneck ball and has arms that extend out to the side to keep it from moving around. The unit hadn't been used for several years, so Brad Christensen, MMRPBA Training Officer, is restoring the unit as time allows.

SDSU Research Update: Eastern Red Cedar Trees

By Alexander "Sandy" Smart,
Lan Xu, and Robby Schaefer
South Dakota State University,
Department of Natural Resources

Research is continuing to study the impact eastern red cedar trees have on grasslands of south central South Dakota. One year of data collection has been completed, and here we share preliminary results related to cedar tree growth rate, age dynamics, and encroachment.

Cedar tree growth dynamics

The research objectives were to evaluate how much cedar trees grow in height, canopy area, and tree trunk diameter. In June 2019, we permanently marked 30 cedar trees per ranch on three ranches north of Bonesteel, SD.

Trees were categorized into 5 height classes: <50 cm, 50-99 cm, 100-199 cm, 200-399 cm, and >400 cm tall. Each tree was tagged with a metal tag and its global position was recorded with a GPS unit. We measured the tree height to the nearest cm. Tree canopy diameter was measured along the longest axis and another perpendicular to it. We used the average diameter from the two measurements to calculate the circular canopy area. Finally, we measured the basal diameter of the tree trunk and the diameter breast height (4.5 ft high) of the trees that were tall enough.

All the measurements were repeated on the same trees in June 2020. The trees we marked ranged from 16 cm (6 inches) to 1200 cm (38 ft) in height.

For the tree height, the smallest cedar trees (class 1) grew the least and the trees in class 3 (100-199 cm) grew the most (Table 1). Growth in tree height from classes 2, 3, 4, and 5 were statistically similar to each other.

Tree canopy area increased the least for the smallest tree class (<0.1 ft²) and the most for the largest tree class (almost 2 ft²), as you would expect. The tree classes 2, 3, and 4, growth rate was about 0.5 ft²/tree/year. Basal diameter and diameter breast height also increased in similar trend as tree canopy. For the largest tree class, trunk basal diameter and diameter breast height annual growth rates were 1 inch/yr and 0.75 inch/yr, respectively.

To put these growth factors into perspective, imagine a one acre pasture with 50 cedar trees (3-6 ft tall or class 2 & 3). If these trees grow their canopy area by 0.5 ft²/tree/year for a total of 25 ft²/year, they would fill up the pasture in 35 years. This estimate is based on the assumptions that no new recruitment will occur and tree canopy growth rate maintains a constant 0.5 ft²/tree/year. However, in reality, we know recruitment does occur and older trees have higher growth rate. Thus, the pasture fill-in by cedar trees would be much less than 35 years. We can obviously see why cedar trees are such a problem.

Tree age and height

Additionally, we were curious to determine how old eastern red cedar trees are at our sites and the relationship between tree age and height. To establish

this relationship, we harvested 40 trees ranging in height (37-231 cm) from a USFWS Waterfowl Production Area north of Volga, SD in Brookings County this past spring. We recorded tree height, basal trunk diameter, diameter breast height, and canopy diameter in two perpendicular directions as described above. We brought tree trunk cross-sections back to the lab and sanded them with fine-grit sandpaper. We then counted the rings and measured the width of each of the outer five rings (2015-2019 growing years) under a dissecting microscope.

We found that trees around 50 cm (20 inches) are about 6 year-old (6 tree rings). We also found that the width of the rings had a linear relationship with tree height. As trees get older/taller, they increase girth growth rate (i.e. basal tree trunk diameter). The oldest/tallest trees annual girth growth rate was about 6.3 mm (0.25 inch). This is about half the growth rate of the trees in Gregory County with 100-199 cm tall.

Cedar tree recruitment

Another research objective was to measure recruitment (new establishment) of cedar trees in a known area. In June 2019, at each of the three ranches, we established 6 permanent 10 x 10 m plots. In each plot, we counted the number of cedar trees, established GPS locations, and measured their heights.

In June 2020, we revisited each plot and recounted the number of trees and measured the height. Thus, we were able to tell if these were trees that



Robby Schaefer uses a PVC pole with measuring increments to estimate cedar tree height (Photo by A. Smart, June 2020)



Robby Schaefer marking the corners of the 10 x 10 m eastern red cedar tree plots used to measure recruitment/encroachment of new cedar trees (Photo A. Smart, June 2019)

survived from last season or were new “recruitment” seedlings that sprouted this year (new additions).

Change in cedar tree density per 10 x 10 m plot ranged from -0.67 to 4.5 trees per plot. Two out of the three ranches showed an increase while one ranch had decreased. If we took the average of all three ranches, it would be 2.5 new trees per 100 m²/year. That would be equivalent to 100 trees per acre. This is a high recruitment rate.

Many of the new trees we counted were less than 8 cm tall (3 inches or less). These trees may or may not survive depending

upon the weather conditions, disease, or defoliation by animals or insects. And this is only one year’s worth of data. We intend to keep collecting data in these plots to yield a better estimate.

We noticed at one of the ranches (which had the highest encroachment rate) it had large female trees adjacent to the plots. We speculate that seed falling off these large trees are the most likely seed source. At the ranch where we saw a decrease in tree count, large female trees were much further away. Thus, we attribute birds or mammals are probably responsible for seed dispersal into these

plots. Also, livestock use this site in the winter and could have bedded down and killed some of the smaller trees, which would have accounted for a net loss. We noticed a few trees not in our plots rubbed on by livestock. Livestock use the other sites during the summer.

This research is helpful as we gain more understanding of the eastern red cedar problem in South Dakota. We are eager to collect a second year’s worth of data and explore further questions regarding the soil seedbank dynamics, tree moisture dynamics, and estimate the cost benefit analysis of prescribe fire.

Table 1. Change in cedar tree height, canopy area, basal diameter, and diameter breast height from 2019 to 2020 by tree height class.

Tree height class	Height (cm)	Canopy area (cm ²)	Basal diameter (mm)	Diameter breast height (mm)
1 (<50 cm)	8	40	2.2	NA
2 (50-99 cm)	25	487	7.8	NA
3 (100-199 cm)	32	725	13.6	6.1
4 (200-399 cm)	31	446	21.5	12.6
5 (>400 cm)	22	1743	23.6	20.4



Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association
(Brule, Charles Mix, Gregory & Lyman Counties South of I-90)
Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

If you own land that may be burned in the future, which county is it located in: _____

Category of membership requested: (Check one)
Individual Membership: (May vote, dues \$25) _____
Organizational Membership: (1 vote/organization, dues \$25) _____
Name of organization represented: _____
Associate Membership: (No vote, no dues) _____

I wish to become a member of the Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association and agree to pay the applicable \$25.00 membership dues, certify that I have never been convicted of a felony or crime involving arson, sexual misconduct or extreme immorality and, agree to a background check.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return Application and Membership Fee To:
 Sara Grim
 35801 Old 1806th Road
 Bonesteel, SD 57317

Make membership fee checks payable to: MMRPBA

After the Burn: Assessing additional clean up spots

Owner and renters must partner together to identify priorities

By Tom Hausmann,
MMRPBA Secretary

In previous newsletters, I commented on the need for an effective relationship between an absentee owner and the renter in regards to re-claiming pastures with heavy cedar infestations.

When we had our primary burn in May of 2018 – as with most rough terrain burns – there were many small spots that didn't burn well, even though we had considerable fuel in the form of tucked trees around them. And, we had other small ravines that hadn't been included in the original, larger burn plan. The process of cleaning up those small areas creates another opportunity to work closely with your renter. Like many of you, I've had no previous experience at this, so hopefully this information might save you time or help in your future planning.

Again, a solid working relationship with your renter to continue the process of cleaning up small groups of trees with additional shearing/burning is to be expected and simply a part of the on-going process of reclaiming the pasture. And, while not considered in great detail, this second effort should be a part of the overall plan created before the primary burn.

As before, open, honest communication with the goals of both parties clearly defined is the starting point. Once those goals are clarified, deciding when and where to shear more trees after the initial burn should be a mutually agreed upon objective(s). I favor simply asking the renter "Where does it make the most sense to shear next?" not only to involve him/her in the process, but to get realistic input on where the shearing would most benefit him or her.

For instance, I helped move my renter's cows this spring from one of the smaller pastures. It should have been a fairly simple event, and it was, other than the cows noticing about eight 4-wheelers coming at them, realized something was up and immediately headed towards a thick stand of cedars where people had to go on foot – and even knees – to push them out.

For that reason, it became obvious to me that that area of cedars should be a



With most rough terrain burns there will likely be small spots that didn't burn well and those cedar trees will need to be taken care of.

priority area for shearing, even though I personally might not pick up very many more cleared acres. In my opinion, working with a valued partner to know and understand his/her frustrations in managing the land is just a part of effective teamwork.

A secondary but really significant objective for beginning the whole reclamation project was to be able to move cattle more easily. Those of you with a lot of cedars in rough country will need no further explanation on that point. We had already cleared trees in this small pasture to gain grazing ground but the cows were wise enough to take refuge in the remaining cedars across the creek. Next spring will be different!

The trees I speak of are being sheared/tucked as I write this and will likely be burned next spring. I'm guessing that particular spot might only take a couple of hours to burn out. Living ninety miles away, I find it difficult to be monitoring the weather forecast, lining up a crew of people on short notice that I don't know very well anymore, arranging for the necessary equipment and taking care of all other details for a two-hour burn.

Team Approach

My solution to the problem, with my insurance agent's approval, has been to hire a local person to be in charge of the process. The person I hired happens to have a vested interest in the renovation process because he is a member of the partnership that rents the land. Also, he

is knowledgeable of safe burning practices and knows who might be available to help when the conditions are right for that particular burn area. I give that person complete freedom to make all decisions necessary in executing those smaller burns.

A solid working relationship to continue the process of cleaning up small groups of trees with additional shearing/burning is to be expected and simply a part of the on-going process of reclaiming the pasture.

For a lot of years, very little money was reinvested in this pasture. Now, working with the Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) cost-share programs and out-of-pocket money, we are beginning, after three years, to see the benefits of the time, money and efforts put into the project.

When the relationship with your renter is a real partnership, their contribution is often the physical effort they have to contribute to hold up their end of the deal. And I need to be cognizant of the fact they probably can't get everything done on my timetable. Therefore, developing a plan with clear objectives not all that long after the first big burn takes place is the next important step in continuing the renovation process. If the renter doesn't realize or at least have a vision of the benefits for them in years to come, don't expect any real commitment on their part and your investment might be for naught.

Eastern Red Cedar workshops draw full house

Held in Yankton and Mitchell in early March



This strong attendance reflects the increasing concern over the loss of grasslands to cedar encroachment.

By Rod Voss, NRCS

The Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association (MMRPBA) in cooperation with NRCS and SDSU Extension sponsored public workshops on March 3, 2020 in Yankton and March 5, 2020 in Mitchell. The events titled "Grass or Cedar: Time to Choose" were well attended with 44 attendees in Yankton and 37 attending in Mitchell.

This strong attendance reflects the increasing concern over the loss of grasslands to cedar encroachment and a growing interest in the use of fire as an ecological process as well as a tool that can be used to combat the encroachment and restore healthy diversity to native grasslands.

The James River valley is feeling the creep of the cedar today, much as their neighbors along the Missouri River did in the past 30-50 years. MMRPBA prescribed fires are being watched by others outside our area and recognizing

that burn associations can have a positive impact on the land. Several attendees expressed interest in forming a burn association within the James River watershed.

Additionally, through a grant from NRCS with SDSU, the Yankton workshop was recorded by Bruce Anderson and Lowell Haag of the SDSU Yeager Media Center. The workshop is split into six separate sessions and now available to the public on Youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlIdDb7IZYqIc8OuMFNOSlJwKcQN87XoM>.

The six YouTube session recordings provide an overview of the cedar tree encroachment problem in South Dakota along the James River and Missouri River valleys, a discussion of non-burning methods of control, an introduction to prescribed burning methods, and a discussion of technical assistance and available NRCS cost share programs.

2020 Update:

Deferred Grazing Project

By Dave Steffen,
MMRPBA Vice-Chairman

Six producers have signed up for deferred grazing payments on acres of cedar trees burned so far this year. Only one of the producers on that list was able to get fire on the land this spring mainly due to COVID-19 contact rule complications. Several of the planned burns are on hold until this fall. Hopefully, the burns can be accomplished. The others have agreed to wait until the spring of 2021 to carry out burns.

Those producers who completed applications for deferred grazing will not need to complete another application for the revised burn dates in their plan. Over 4,200 acres of deferred grazing will be applied to the burned cedar tree acreage when the burns are completed.

For more information or to request assistance in planning deferment after your burn, contact Sean Kelly at 605-840-2200, Brad Christensen at 605-830-0931, or Dave Steffen at 605-830-9112. Funds are limited so get started as soon as possible. If you already have a prescribed burn plan developed and would like deferred grazing assistance contact us to get the paperwork started.



Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association
Sean Kelly
33815 288th Street
Gregory, SD 57533



Pictured: The Whetstone Ranch land shows signs of forage regrowth after the early May burn was conducted to control Eastern Red Cedar encroachment. Photos taken July 2020 by Sean Kelly.

Become a MMRPBA member

See our membership form on page 8 inside!

The Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) formed to control cedar tree infestation and improve grassland health by conducting prescribed burns. MMRPBA's efforts will focus on land in Brule, Charles Mix, Gregory and Lyman Counties with the goal to conduct 2,000 acres of prescribed burns each year for the next three years.