

# Using Fire

For thousands of years fires have been a common occurrence in California. Over time many native plants and animals evolved to withstand periodic burning—and in some cases to even depend on it.

Prescribed burning is used in this park under specific weather and moisture conditions to mimic the important role of naturally occurring fires. Prescribed fires, which are carefully planned and conducted by trained personnel, can be used to help

control non-native species, restore and maintain native grasslands and forests, and stimulate the reproduction of trees and plants that require fire to release their seeds. They also remove accumulated forest debris, reducing the risk of large, destructive wildfires.

The wise use of fire is a vital part of our efforts to restore natural ecological processes and preserve California's rich native plant and animal communities.

