

Fall prescribed burns planned for Watson Lake and Upper Liard areas

September 3, 2025



Wildland Fire Management is planning prescribed burns in the Tintina region, including areas around Watson Lake and Upper Liard. These operations are scheduled to start as early as Friday, September 5, and may continue through mid-next week, depending on weather conditions.

The specific areas targeted for these burns include:

- Upper Liard, East of the Liard River
- Mt. Maichen
- West of Ravenhill Subdivision and South of Two Mile Village
- Areas near Watson Lake with previous FireSmart treatments

Prescribed burning is an essential tool in wildfire management. By intentionally conducting prescribed fires under specific conditions, we reduce the accumulation of combustible materials, thereby decreasing the risk of larger, uncontrolled wildfires. These operations are meticulously planned and carried out by trained professionals to ensure safety and effectiveness.

During these operations, our focus will be on burning shrub and leaf litter areas, concentrations of slash and conducting understory burns in forested regions. In some areas, such as Sawmill, we will also carry out blacklining and prepare for a potential prescribed burn next spring. It is unlikely all the areas will be completed, but plans will carry forward into future years.

Dry fuels—such as leaves, shrubs, and dead wood—are essential for prescribed burns because they ignite easily and burn at the appropriate intensity. Wet or snow-covered fuels don't support these controlled burns, which is why these operations can only be carried out in the present warm conditions.

Although conditions in the region are currently hot and dry, the Tintina region does not have active fires, meaning enough resources are available to complete prescribed burning. Resources will still be assigned to respond to any new fires.

During these operations, you may observe smoke in the vicinity. This is normal and part of the process. Wildland Fire Management crews will be on-site, monitoring conditions and ensuring that the burns remain safe and controlled.

For more information and updates on these prescribed burns, please visit the Wildfire Hub or follow Yukon Protective Services on social media.

