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PRESCRIPTION BURNS SCHEDULED AT THE BADGER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT
By Alison Duff

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance (TSPCA) is coordinating two prescribed burns in April at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant off of U.S. Highway 12 in collaboration with the U.S. Army, Spec-Pro Inc, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the International Crane Foundation. Controlled burning is a management tool used to control invasive species, restore native ecosystems and improve habitat of declining wildlife species such as grassland birds.

The first burn scheduled at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant is a small hillside prairie at the southern end of the property. The second is a 300-acre parcel in the northeast part of the Plant which includes prairie, savanna, and oak woodland vegetation. As is standard for prescribed burning, these burns will be implemented by trained fire personnel. They have been carefully planned to prevent any risk of fire escape and to keep the highway clear of smoke.

The Badger Army Ammunition Plant has long been cited by wildlife biologists as an important haven for grassland birds and other species. Restoration activities have been coordinated by TSPCA for a number of years in an effort to preserve and restore critical habitat. Since 2005, TSPCA has hosted volunteer work days at Badger and this is the fourth year the Alliance has coordinated prescribed burns on the property.

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance supports conservation activities involving the Badger lands through education, research, ecological restoration, and community participation. If you have questions about the prescribed burn activities, or if you would like to volunteer for the restoration program at Badger, visit <http://www.saukprairievision.org>.