

Burn baby burn

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Prescribed burn south of Gothenburg involves state, federal, local agencies.

A chance to see effective prescribed burn practices brought about 25 firefighters from six states plus local landowners and volunteers to Gothenburg the end of March.

The group gathered southwest of town on land owned by Jerry Kranau where about 2,700 acres were burned.

Jeremy Bailey, a fire training and networks coordinator for The Nature Conservancy, said the area—as well as around Curtis and Broken Bow—was chosen because private landowners and volunteer fire departments there are good role models when it comes to prescribed burning.

“We’re trying to take people places where effective management is demonstrated and export it to other places,” said Bailey who works out of Salt Lake City, UT.

Bailey said both local landowners and The Nature Conservancy want to take care of the land—landowners for economic reasons and conservationists to preserve the grasslands of the Great Plains.

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