

## Hegman North Prescribed Fire Fact Sheet

**Date Issued:** May 9, 2024

**Prescribed Fire Information:** 218-248-7404 or online at inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or the Superior National Forest website: [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior)

**Anticipated Schedule for Prescribed Fires:** The USDA Forest Service plans to implement several prescribed fire projects on the Superior National Forest this spring and summer, including the fuel reduction Hegman North unit. Several factors including fuel moisture, relative humidity, temperature, and wind will be used to determine the actual date of ignition. Fire managers hope to complete the units during the spring or summer burning season.

**Size and Location:** The Hegman North unit (207 acres) is located 12 miles north of Ely, MN west of County Road 116 (Echo Trail). (Township 64N, Range 12W, Sections 6 & 7). This unit straddles the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness boundary.

**Description:** Prescribed fire is one of many management tools that helps support the boreal forest ecosystem of the Superior. This unit is part of the Hi Lo Project encompassing several fuels treatment areas north of Ely. The unit consists mostly of mixed red and white pine stands with varied understory fuels. The resource objectives of this project are to improve public safety by reducing the potential for high-intensity wildland fires to spread from the BWCAW into areas of intermingled ownership, which include areas containing homes, cabins, camps, and resorts. This treatment unit is part of an overall pattern of treatments that are designed to slow wildfire spread and allow more effective control actions. In addition, the mosaic burn pattern of cover and forage will benefit moose habitat.

Existing portages will be utilized when needed for control/ignition lines. A low intensity fire will be used that burns beneath the canopy of live trees (under burn) to consume small down, dead, woody materials and live forbs, shrubs, and seedlings.

Precise ignition methods will be used to start this prescribed fire. Natural features such as lakeshores,

portage trails, and creeks will be utilized as control lines. Pumps and hose will only be used if necessary to hold the control lines.

**Safety Message:** Smoke on the Echo Trail and other areas may be heavy at times. If near the fire unit following burning be aware of hazardous conditions like dead, burnt standing trees, they could fall at any time.



**Prescribed fire under pines**

**Closures:** The Hegman Lake Entry Point #77, portage trail and campsites may be closed during the prescribed fire and for a duration of time following the fire until they can be safely reopened.

**Resources:** Holding and ignition crews of firefighters and engines will directly work on the prescribed fire while it is active. Fire crews will continue to monitor the fire after completion.