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NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES

Winds prompt officials to delay Thursday burn

BY MARSHA L. MELNICHAK Northwest Arkansas Times

Posted on Friday, February 29, 2008

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The controlled burn planned for Thursday at the wetlands mitigation site next to the West Side Wastewater Treatment Plant in Fayetteville may be held today.

Wind conditions led to the decision to postpone the controlled burn.

Whether the burn takes places today again depends on favorable weather, said David Jurgens, Fayetteville water and sewer director.

Jurgens said David Williams, Fayetteville fire marshal, was at the site Thursday with a full fire crew and fire truck.

It was a joint decision that it would be better for all parties involved to postpone the burn, Jurgens wrote in an e-mail about the delay.

The city will have a fire truck in the area again today.

Bill McKinney, fire management officer for Wildland Inc., which will conduct the burn, has said he will not start the fire if there are high



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winds or the humidity exceeds 40 percent.

When it does occur, he expects flames of 8 to 10 feet for about half an hour in what he described as basically a flash fire.

The intent of the 28-acre burn is to rid the site of fescue, a tall grass used for the rough on a golf course and for animal forage. It is hoped that removing the fescue that is taking over the site will encourage native prairie growth.

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