Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge is planning a series of hazardous fuels reduction fire break projects. The reduction of hazardous fuels on new and established fire breaks is a significant preventative management tool for managing wildfire near structures and communities. These projects are done to protect life and property and enhance the safety of firefighters and their ability to manage fire within the refuge. The project is planned to start August, 2023 and expected completion by March, 2024.

Hazardous fuels reduction projects take place in strategic locations within Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. The project will take place within the refuge boundary buffering private land. Work will include removing dead trees, the lower limbs of remaining trees, dead and down logs and ladder fuels which can carry a fire burning in low-growing vegetation to surrounding taller vegetation. Resulting larger woody materials will be piled on site to be later hauled off refuge. Smaller woody material will be chipped on site.

Fuels reduction fire break projects cannot be a stand-alone defense against wildfire. It is advisable that additional fuels reduction be completed on private property to meet Firewise mitigation and Hardening Your Home efforts. To learn more about how you can protect your home and help firefighters, please visit:

https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire
https://www.fws.gov/program/fire-management/what-we-do

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and is located near the cities of Princeton, Zimmerman, and St. Cloud in central Minnesota.

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.