



# Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History

*Julie Courtwright*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History

*Julie Courtwright*

## **Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History** Julie Courtwright

Prairie fires have always been a spectacular and dangerous part of the Great Plains. Nineteenth-century settlers sometimes lost their lives to uncontrolled blazes, and today ranchers such as those in the Flint Hills of Kansas manage the grasslands through controlled burning. Even small fires, overlooked by history, changed lives—destroyed someone's property, threatened someone's safety, or simply made someone's breath catch because of their astounding beauty.

Julie Courtwright, who was born and raised in the tallgrass prairie of Butler County, Kansas, knows prairie fires well. In this first comprehensive environmental history of her subject, Courtwright vividly recounts how fire—setting it, fighting it, watching it, fearing it—has bound Plains people to each other and to the prairies themselves for centuries. She traces the history of both natural and intentional fires from Native American practices to the current use of controlled burns as an effective land management tool, along the way sharing the personal accounts of people whose lives have been touched by fire.

The book ranges from Texas to the Dakotas and from the 1500s to modern times. It tells how Native Americans learned how to replicate the effects of natural lightning fires, thus maintaining the prairie ecosystem. Native peoples fired the prairie to aid in the hunt, and also as a weapon in war. White settlers learned from them that burns renewed the grasslands for grazing; but as more towns developed, settlers began to suppress fires—now viewed as a threat to their property and safety. Fire suppression had as dramatic an environmental impact as fire application. Suppression allowed the growth of water-wasting trees and caused a thick growth of old grass to build up over time, creating a dangerous environment for accidental fires.

Courtwright calls on a wide range of sources: diary entries and oral histories from survivors, colorful newspaper accounts, military weather records, and artifacts of popular culture from Gene Autry stories to country song lyrics to *Little House on the Prairie*. Through this multiplicity of voices, she shows us how prairie fires have always been a significant part of the Great Plains experience—and how each fire that burned across the prairies over hundreds of years is part of someone's life story.

By unfolding these personal narratives while looking at the bigger environmental picture, Courtwright blends poetic prose with careful scholarship to fashion a thoughtful paean to prairie fire. It will enlighten environmental and Western historians and renew a sense of wonder in the people of the Plains.

 [Download Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History Julie Courtwright**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Russell Bussey:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book eligible Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

#### **Margaret Barone:**

This book untitled Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by means of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

#### **Shirley Daniels:**

Can you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't judge book by its include may doesn't work is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not because fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer could be Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History why because the amazing cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

#### **Elisa Hall:**

A lot of e-book has printed but it is unique. You can get it by net on social media. You can choose the most effective book for you, science, amusing, novel, or whatever by means of searching from it. It is known as of book Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History. You can add your knowledge by it. Without making the printed book, it may add your knowledge and make a person happier to read. It is most critical that, you must aware about publication. It can bring you from one place to other place.

**Download and Read Online Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History  
Julie Courtwright #IK8NGJEF1SA**

## **Read Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History by Julie Courtwright for online ebook**

Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History by Julie Courtwright Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History by Julie Courtwright books to read online.

### **Online Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History by Julie Courtwright ebook PDF download**

**Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History by Julie Courtwright Doc**

**Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History by Julie Courtwright Mobipocket**

**Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History by Julie Courtwright EPub**