

People who conduct Noyaki

Various people take part in Noyaki every year.

With the Noyaki executive committee taking the lead, the various people such as the local nature conservative group, pasture association, firemen, tourism staff, and volunteers work together and carry out Noyaki. It is not so simple as to just set fire to the field of dead grass. We need experts of Noyaki, who have rich experience of it. For example, the person who set fire need to see which way the wind is blowing, and judge the timing to start fire properly. They plan and carry out Noyaki with great care to prevent the fire from posing a threat to the public or to the Noyaki staff. It is important for everyone involving in Noyaki to cooperate closely to conduct Noyaki without any trouble.

The beautiful grassland landscape has been preserved for long by the effort of various people. From now on, the younger generation need to take over Noyaki tradition.

Flowers blooming after Noyaki

On the burnt field in Tadewara marsh, we can find various flowers. Among them, Kisumire (viola orientalis) are the most typical ones. Kisumire itself is a small fragile flower, but they bloom in a group and create a huge yellow carpet on the field. You can find them around Mt.Sensui. Even from your car window, they will catch your eyes. Let's visit Kuju after Noyaki and find as many spring flowers as possible!



Sakurasou



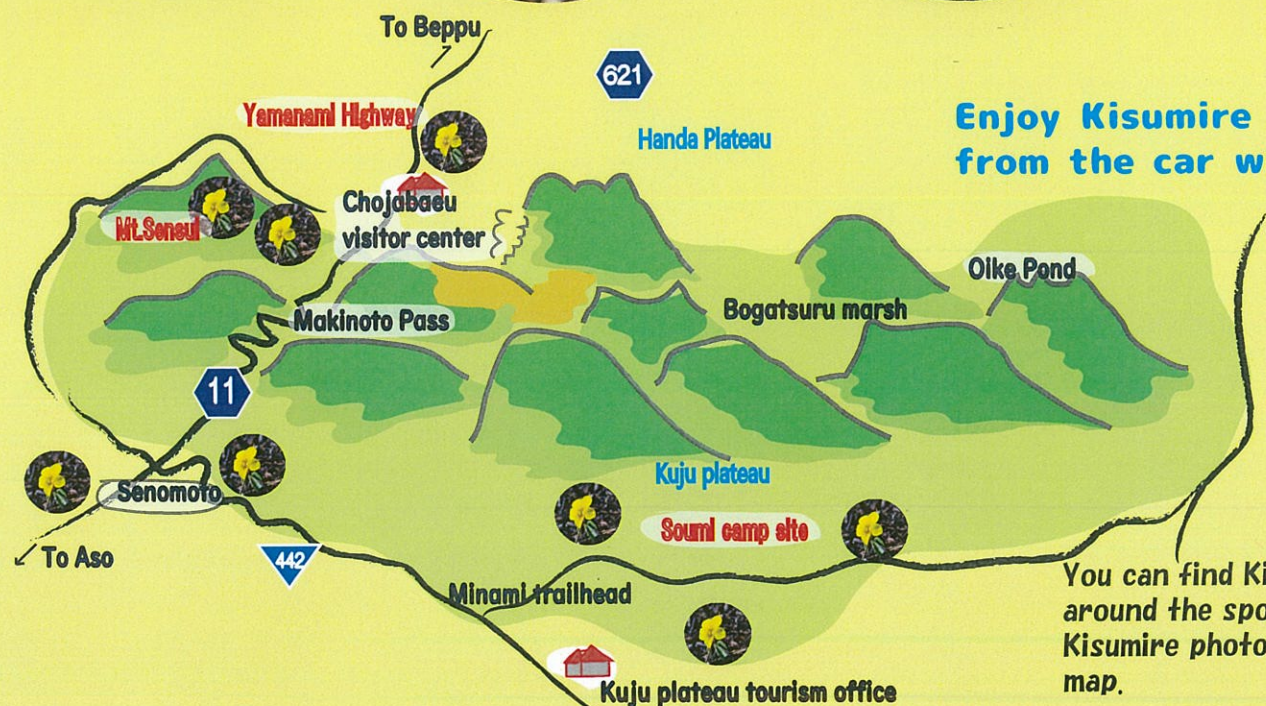
Harurindou



Kisumire

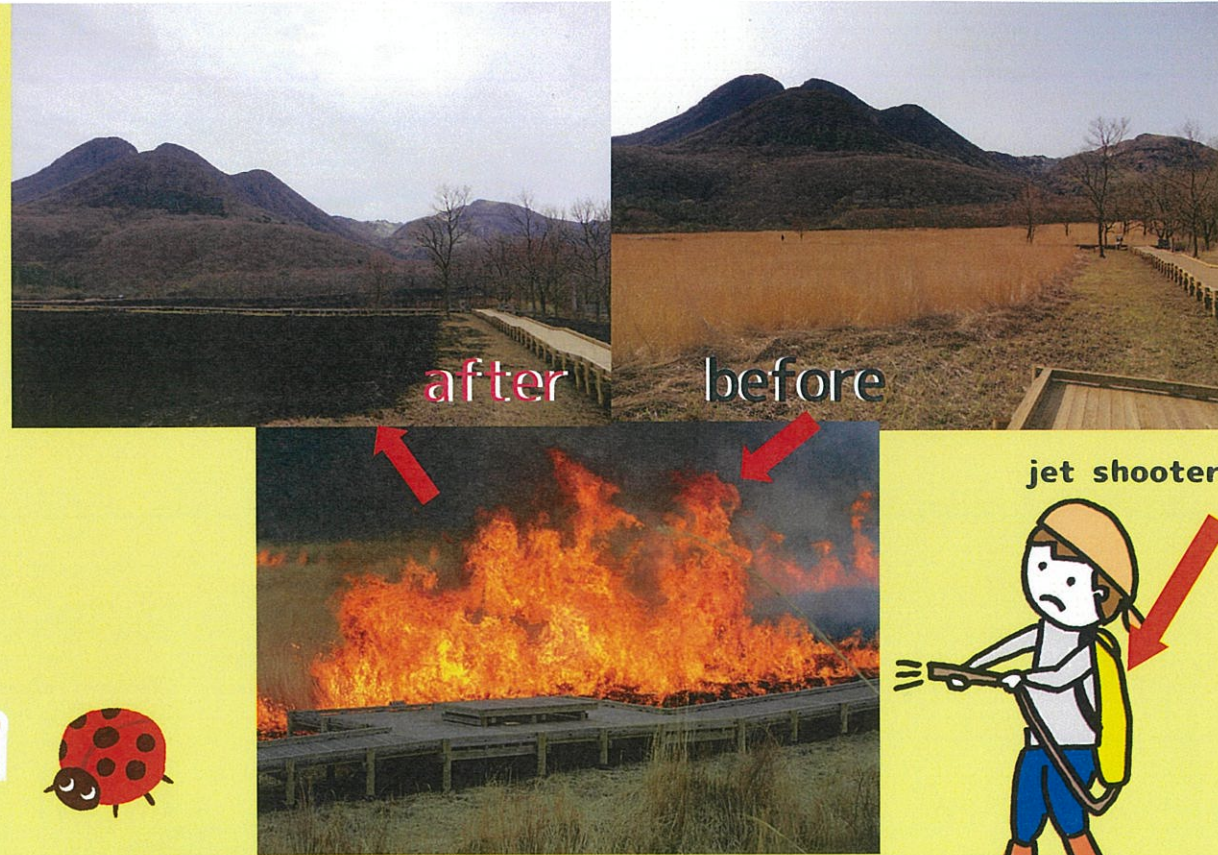


Ryukinka



Enjoy Kisumire (golden violet) from the car window

You can find Kisumire around the spots with Kisumire photo on this map.



Burn the ground black

~Noyaki in spring~

Spring in Kuju reminds us of Noyaki, a controlled burning. The local people set fire to the golden field of dead grass and burn the ground black. Noyaki in Kuju has a long history. The local people associate spring season with black color, the color of burnt ground.

What have the local people conducted Noyaki for? People used to set the cattle out of the grassland to graze or use the grass to make fertilizer or thatched roof. Noyaki was an important and essential tradition to keep the grassland for their daily life.

Nowadays, the grass or the grassland itself has been less important in our life. Still the local people have continued Noyaki till today... why? What happens if they stop doing Noyaki? Let's think over this issue.

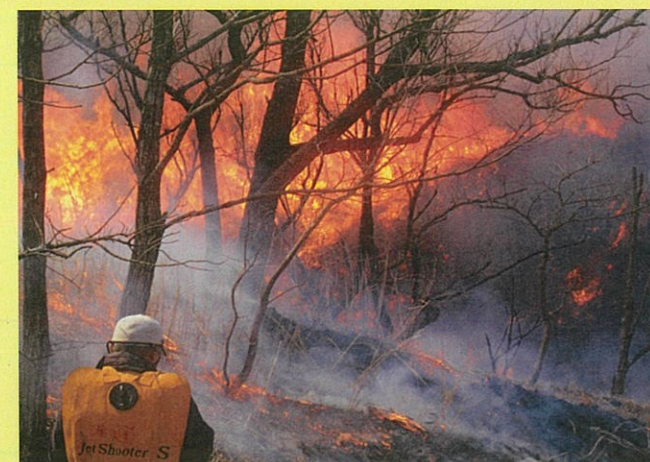
☆What happens if they stop Noyaki ?

①《grassland will turn into a forest》

Without Noyaki, the trees will start growing in the grassland. Eventually, they turn the grassland into a forest. By doing Noyaki, we can stop young trees from growing to be big trees.

②《the plants and creatures living in grassland will disappear... 》

In Kuju, we have many valuable plants and creatures which can only survive in the grassland. To protect these wildlife, it is essential to conduct Noyaki to maintain their habitat of grassland.



☆When and how to conduct Noyaki

Noyaki involves setting planned fires to the field of dead grass. Normally, it is conducted late May in Tadewara marsh and Mt. Sensui. In advance of carrying out Noyaki in spring, the Noyaki staff start preparing for it carefully in fall.

In fall, they cut the grass around the area they are planning to do Noyaki and burn the area. By doing this, they create the area to stop fire spreading. This area is called "Bokatai (fire breaks)". In Tadewara marsh, they gather the grass they cut to prevent the fire from reaching the wooden path built through the marsh.

