

**DECISION NOTICE**  
**Finding of No Significant Impact, and**  
**Finding of Non-significant amendment**  
**BRIDGER-TETON LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**REVISION OF FIRE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE**  
**Intermountain Region**  
**Bridger-Teton National Forest**  
**Wyoming**  
**Teton, Lincoln, Sublette, and Fremont Counties**

## **Background**

The Bridger-Teton National Forest Land and Resource Plan Management (Forest Plan) was originally approved in 1990. Since that time, new information has provided managers with a greater understanding of fire's role on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) landscape. Fire-adapted ecosystems on the Bridger-Teton are in a condition that threatens their long-term resiliency, integrity, and sustainability. Fire suppression has become more complex and expensive. Wildland fire size, intensity, and severity have increased. These changes pose a greater threat to human life, including firefighters.

More people are recreating on national forests and building homes in wildland areas, increasing their exposure to the risks of wildland fires and requiring aggressive and complex suppression efforts. On the other hand, we are also spending large amounts of suppression funds to control fires in areas with low resource value with little risk to human and private property. In these cases, we may be suppressing fires that actually would benefit resources.

Following the unprecedented 2000 fire season, Forest managers reviewed the current Forest plan fire management standards and guidelines and determined that they should be updated. Some of the standards and guidelines were outdated and unclear, especially with regard to where naturally ignited wildland fires (wildland fire use) and prescribed fire were allowed on the BTNF. In addition, several changes in Forest Service fire management policy now allow more flexibility in the use of wildland fire.

Previous standards and guidelines did not meet current accepted fire management terminology. Minor wording changes were suggested for the fire management standards and guidelines for permitted summer homes and Forest Service capital improvements.

## **Reason for decision**

The amendment clarifies previously unclear Forest Plan fire management direction for prescribed fire, wildland fire, and fuels management.

The new standards and guidelines are now consistent with current Forest Service policy and direction. Outdated fire terminology and direction in the current Forest Plan have also been replaced

This amendment allows the BTNF to take full advantage of these policy changes and provide better and more efficient management of the Forest resources. Previously, it was unclear if the Forest plan allowed wildland fire use outside of wilderness, limiting Forest manager's opportunities to use this tool throughout non-wilderness areas of the Forest. Wildland fires managed as fire use can be managed to accomplish resource management objectives, versus a wildfire where Forest Service policy requires suppression strategies to minimize the total cost of suppression and resource values.

Forest managers now have a wide range of fire management tools to utilize while meeting social and economic goals, including human health and safety, and protection of private property. The wider range of fire management strategies throughout the Forest provides opportunities to lower the threat to human life, property, and natural and cultural resources, along with reducing suppression costs. This increased flexibility will provide more opportunities to move at-risk ecosystems toward properly functioning conditions.

## **Public Involvement**

Scoping began on January 4, 2001 and ended on February 5, 2001. Scoping letters were sent to approximately 400 individuals, organizations, tribes and federal agencies, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Local agencies including Teton, Sublette, Lincoln and Fremont Counties received scoping letters. A copy of the scoping was also sent to the Wyoming State Clearinghouse that coordinates NEPA responses for all state agencies.

Included in the scoping were all current grazing permittees, summer home owners, and special use permittees. News releases were distributed to local and regional news organizations. The project was listed on the Forest quarterly schedule of proposed actions, and the scoping letter was posted on the Bridger-Teton public website. Congressional field representatives for Senators Thomas and Enzi, and Representative Cubin were briefed on February 16, 2001. Briefings were also held with the Sublette and Lincoln County Commissioners.

Twenty-eight responses were received from individuals and organizations by the end of February 2001. Comments varied by the respondent's interests. Most comments concerned:

- Short and long-term impacts to livestock grazing because of unavailability of allotments due to wildland fire use fires
- Emphasis on producing wood products versus allowing potential timber to burn. Several of these respondents supported prescribed burning if the burns were small and well controlled.
- Several summer home owners wanted more information on how the amendment would specifically affect them and how they needed to manage their permitted land and structures. Summer homeowners are special use permittees that have long-term leases in designated summer home areas.

On January 12, 2004, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was released for public review. Six comments were received. All of the comments were supportive of the proposed amendment. Two comments, from State of Wyoming, Game and Fish Department, and the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, noted that the constraints in the standards and guidelines were restrictive and urged that we consider a more aggressive use of wildland fire use. One comment from a summer home permittee requested that the fuels guideline for summer homeowners would be changed from "specific requirements" to "specific recommendations" (EA, page 96).

## Decision

Based upon review of the Environmental Assessment and supporting documents, I have decided to implement **Alternative B**, the proposed action as described in detail on page 11 of the EA. Internal and external comments suggested minor wording changes to the alternative described in the EA. These changes were incorporated into my decision and are described below. The changes did not change the analysis of or results of the environmental analysis.

Specific wording changes to the Forest Plan fire management standards and guidelines are attached to this decision. A summary of the changes include the following:

- Outdated fire definitions have been replaced with current accepted fire terminology.
- New standards and guidelines have been adopted Forest- wide. New standards include:
  - All human caused fires will be suppressed.
  - A full range of suppression tactics is authorized Forest-wide consistent with Forest Plan emphasis and direction.
  - Wildland fire use is authorized Forest-wide consistent with Forest-wide and individual Desired Future Condition emphasis and direction.
  - Cultural resources will be protected if feasible with priority given to sites on the National Historic Register.
  - Prescribed fire is authorized Forest-wide, subject to policy direction regarding prescribed fire in wilderness areas.
  - Specific direction for fire suppression strategies and fuels strategies will be addressed in the Fire Management Plan instead of the Forest Plan.
- Desired Future Conditions 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D (Wilderness) have the following standards and guidelines:
  - The number, size and intensity of fires approximate the natural fire regime.
  - Favored suppression actions on wildfires and any required fire use holding actions should be those that have the least long-term impact on wilderness values and resources.
- Wording regarding maintenance of “defensible areas” around all Forest Service capital improvements has been revised and clarified, and there have been minor wording changes for protection of improvements in Desired Future Condition 9B (Special-Use Recreation Areas).

## Changes from Alternative B in Environmental Assessment

Following public comments, the proposed fuels guideline in alternative B for Desired Future Condition 9B was rewritten.

<b>Alternative B wording in EA</b>	<b>Decision Wording</b>
Permittees will be responsible for maintaining adequate defensible space to protect capital improvements and resource values. Specific requirements may be included as part of their annual operating plan. (Page 96, EA)	Permittees are responsible for maintaining adequate defensible space to protect their capital improvements. Specific mitigation measures will be mutually agreed upon between the Forest Service and permittees during development of annual operating plans

Several internal reviewers felt the wording regarding authorization of prescribed fire was redundant and unclear. The alternative B direction for prescribed fire use was described both in Forest-wide standards, and in the Desired Future Conditions for wilderness (page 81).

Based on these comments, authorization of prescribed fire was consolidated into one Forest-wide standard.

<b>Alternative B wording in EA</b>	<b>Decision wording</b>
<p><b>Guideline</b>                      Prescribed fire is authorized in all non-wilderness areas Forest-wide.                       (EA, page 81)</p>	<p><b>Standard</b>                      Prescribed fire is authorized Forest-wide consistent with Forest-wide and DFC emphasis and direction.                      Prescribed fire use in wilderness must meet current Forest Service wilderness and wildland fire policy and manual direction.</p>

<b>Alternative B wording in EA</b>	<b>Decision wording</b>
<p><b>Prescribed Fire Standard</b>                      Prescribed fire is only authorized when natural occurring fires cannot be allowed. Prescribed fire use in wilderness must meet current Forest Service wilderness and wildland fire policy. (EA, page 88)</p>	<p>Deleted and addressed prescribed fire in one Forest-wide standard.</p>

**Other Alternatives Considered**

The Environmental Assessment focused on the selected Alternative B, and the required No-Action Alternative. Two alternatives, “exclusion of potential timber harvest emphasis areas from wildland fire use” and “exclusion of critical grazing allotments from wildland fire use,” were considered, but not analyzed in detail. The Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) examined these comments and recommended that these comments could be addressed within the context of Alternatives A and B.

- **Exclusion of potential timber harvest emphasis areas from wildland fire use**

Some respondents to the scoping letter believed that wildland fire use should be excluded from areas having potential commercial or personal use emphasis for timber resources. This potential alternative would not allow fire use in management areas with scheduled timber harvest. Management areas in DFC 1B, 7A, and 10 fit these criteria.

The theme of DFC 1B is “an area managed for timber harvest, oil and gas, and other commercial activities with many roads and moderate to occasionally substantial emphasis on other resources.” Scheduled timber harvest is also allowed in DFCs 7A and 10. DFC 7A is “grizzly bear recovery through scheduled timber harvest,” and DFC 10 is “Simultaneous development of resources, opportunities for human experiences, and support for big game and a wide variety of wildlife species.” Timber harvest is also allowed in all other non-wilderness DFCs but is not considered “scheduled.”

Although wildland fire use may not be routinely used in these areas, fire use may be appropriate at certain times of year or in specific areas where fire use would enhance the desired future conditions of this DFC. The Fire Management Plan (FMP) will provide clear

direction on when fire use should be considered in these areas. The FMP will also designate areas where fire use is not appropriate. Following discovery of a natural ignition, the line officer will immediately determine if the candidate fire meets these criteria for fire use. This is often referred to as the “go/no go” decision.

If fire use were excluded in all of timber harvest areas, the exclusion will hinder the development of logical maximum management areas (MMAs), where a small but strategic portion of the exclusion area may be required to effectively manage a fire use fire.

- **Exclusion of critical grazing allotments from wildland fire use**

Several comments received from scoping suggested that fire use could cause short-term (one to three year) impacts to livestock grazing. Permittees might be required to move livestock during ongoing fires. Depending on the severity of the fire, post-fire rest of one to three years may be required. Certain livestock operators were concerned that these requirements would adversely affect their operations.

A potential alternative excluding critical grazing allotments was considered to address this issue. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need because it would prohibit fire use as a tool to enhance long-term range conditions and provide other resource benefits.

Short-term impacts to grazing availability will be addressed during the site specific Wildland Fire Use Implementation Plan (WFIP) analysis to determine if a candidate fire could be managed as a fire use project. The approving line officer will determine on a case by case basis if impacts to livestock operations are acceptable.

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

After considering the environmental effects described in the Environmental Assessment, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

The disclosure of effects in the EA found the actions limited in context. The project area is limited in size and the activities limited in duration. Effects are local in nature and are not likely to significantly affect regional or national resources.

1. The proposed management action does not cause significantly adverse impacts. The proposed fire management direction is expected to reduce the potential adverse impacts of project decisions (wildfires, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use) compared to current fire management direction.
2. There will be no significant effects on public health and safety. This decision provides programmatic direction to be applied to site-specific projects and activities. Part of the go/no go decision for each fire use declaration requires the agency administrator to determine if there are any significant health and safety issues. Other site specific projects including prescribed fire and mechanical fuels treatments require site specific NEPA. Page 6-7 of the EA discusses how the approval process for wildland fire use and prescribed fire addresses this issue.
3. This action has no effect on unique characteristics of the geographic area (historic, cultural resource, park land, prime farm lands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers). The proposed

management direction does not alter the environmental protection afforded such unique lands as already provided in the Forest Plan and may provide improved protection for such resources.

4. The effects of this action on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial because there is no effect on the human environment. The changes in fire management direction would help move towards the Forest's desired future conditions.
5. The effects of this action are not highly uncertain, nor do they involve unique or unknown risks. The best available scientific information provided the foundation for designing the proposed management direction. Management direction is consistent with current federal wildland fire policy.
6. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. This short-term action will be in effect through Forest Plan revision which is scheduled for completion in 2008.
7. This action is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The EA discloses the projected cumulative effects of adopting this action. The cumulative effects are not considered significant at the Forest level.
8. The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The action contains standards and guidelines that protect cultural and archeological resources. The proposed action has been reviewed and supported by the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.
9. The action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species act of 1973 because there is no effect other than the potential for improved understanding of effects of management activities on habitats and populations. The proposed management direction does not alter the environmental protection afforded threatened and endangered species that is already provided in law and the Forest Plan. A biological assessment has been prepared and is included as Appendix C of the EA. Project analysis at the local scale will again consider direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to threatened and endangered species.
10. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

### **Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations**

The National Forest Management Act regulations at 36 CFR 219.10(f) state: "Based on an analysis of the objectives, guidelines, and other contents of the forest plan, the Forest Supervisor shall determine whether a proposed amendment would result in a significant change in the plan." The Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12) provides a framework for consideration, and section 5.32 lists four factors to be considered when determining whether a proposed change to a forest plan is significant or not significant: (a) timing; (b) location and size; (c) goals, objectives, and outputs; and (d) management prescriptions. I have evaluated the amendment and concluded that it does not constitute a significant amendment of the Bridger-Teton National Forest Land Management Plan.

(a) Timing: The timing factor examines at what point, over the course of the forest plan period, the Plan is amended. In most cases, the later the change, the less likely it is to be significant for the current forest plan. Since the Bridger-Teton plan is 14 years old and Forest Plan revision will begin shortly (revised plan expected in 2008), the timing factor implies that this amendment is non-significant.

(b) Location and size: The key to location and size is context, or “the relationship of the affected area to the overall planning area.” The planning area includes all of the 3.4 million acre Bridger-Teton National Forest. Page 15 of the EA provides estimates of burned acres under the current (no-action) alternative and the proposed action. Total estimates of actual burned acreage from wildfire, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use are approximately 25,000 to 50,000 acres per year under both alternatives. This would not be a significant change in acres burned, but will be a shift from wildfire and prescribed burn acres to more wildland fire use acres. Estimated acres burned even under severe years would be less than one percent of the planning area.

(c) Goals, objectives, and outputs: This factor involves the determination of “whether the change alters the long-term relationship between the level of goods and services in the overall planning area”. The amendment does not change any of the goals, objectives and outputs associated with each DFC (page 10 EA). All of the fire management standards and guidelines have been developed to move the Forest closer to the Forest Plan desired future conditions and the outputs associated with each DFC.

(d) Management prescriptions: This factor involves the determination of (1) “whether the change in a management prescription is only for a specific situation or whether it would apply to future decisions throughout the planning area” and (2), “whether or not the change alters the desired future condition of the land and resources or the anticipated goods and services to be produced.” The amendment does not change any of the desired future conditions (DFC) in the Forest Plan (page 10 EA). The amendment will only be in effect through Forest Plan revision expected to conclude in 2008.

Based on review of the Environmental Assessment and supporting documents and considering the above guidance and findings, it is my determination that this amendment does not result in a significant change to the forest plan and is therefore a non-significant amendment.

### **Implementation Date**

This amendment will be implemented 7 days after the decision has been published and the appeal period has begun.

### **Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.3. A written appeal must be postmarked or received in duplicate by the Appeal Reviewing Officer within 45 days of the date of publication of the legal notice regarding this decision in the Casper Star Tribune. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 217.9 and be mailed to: Regional Forester, USDA, Forest Service, 324 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden, Utah 84401.

## Contact

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact John Kuzloski, Bridger-Teton National Forest, 340 North Cache, Jackson Wyoming, 83001 (307)-739-5568. If you wish to discuss the content of the amendment, please contact Andy Norman, Fire Amendment Team Leader (307)-739-5571.

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Carole "Kniffy" Hamilton  
Forest Supervisor  
Bridger-Teton National Forest

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Date

Attachment

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## Forest-Wide Resource Management Prescriptions, Standards and Guidelines

Original Forest Plan Wording	Decision Wording
<p><b>Protection: General Prescription</b>            Natural resources of and human presence on the Bridger-Teton National Forest are protected from catastrophic events and endemic or epidemic pests.(p.142)</p>	<p><b>Deleted.</b> Redundant, already addressed in fire, insects and disease guidelines.</p>
<p><b>Protection: Fire Prescription</b>            Fire is managed as a tool to accomplish resource objectives while protecting identified values within acceptable levels of risk. (p. 142)</p>	<p><b>Protection: Fire Prescription</b>            Provide an appropriate fire protection and use program that is economically efficient, responsive to land management objectives and provides for public safety and protection of property values.</p>
<p><b>Forest Protection Standard</b>            A fire protection program will be developed and coordinated with local, state, and other federal agencies. A program for reducing fuel loadings adjacent to or on private in holdings will be included.(p. 143)</p>	<p><b>Fire Management Standard</b>            The forest Fire Management Plan (FMP) will provide operational direction for implementation of the forest's land management plan. The interdisciplinary developed FMP will be developed and implemented in coordination with local, state, and other federal agencies.</p>
<p><b>No current standard</b></p>	<p><b>Fire Management Standard</b>            Firefighter and public safety is the highest priority during all fire management activities.</p>
<p><b>No current standard</b></p>	<p><b>Fire Management Standard</b>            Human-caused fires (either accidental or arson) are unwanted wildland fires, and will be suppressed using an appropriate management response.</p>
<p><b>No current standard</b></p>	<p><b>Wildland fire suppression standards</b>            A full range of suppression tactics is authorized Forest-wide, consistent with Forest-wide and individual DFC management emphasis and direction.</p>
<p><b>No current standard</b></p>	<p><b>Cultural Resource Standard</b>            Cultural resources will be protected if feasible with priority given to sites listed on the National Historic Register. Second priority will be given to sites recommended for selection to the Register.</p>

<b>Original Forest Plan Wording</b>	<b>Decision Wording</b>
<p><b>No current standard</b></p>	<p><b>Prescribed Fire Standard</b>  Prescribed fire is authorized Forest-wide consistent with Forest-wide and DFC emphasis and direction.</p> <p>Prescribed fire use in wilderness must meet current Forest Service wilderness and wildland fire policy and manual direction</p>
<p><b>Prescribed fire guideline</b></p> <p>Prescribed fire may be used to accomplish resource objectives, which include:</p> <p>Protecting, enhancing, or providing desirable habitat for Threatened, Endangered, and sensitive species;</p> <p>Insect and disease suppression;</p> <p>Reducing fuel loading to acceptable levels;</p> <p>Improving or developing desired wildlife habitat conditions;</p> <p>Achieving other desired vegetation conditions to meet management objectives; and</p> <p>Maintaining fire-dependent animal and plant species. (p. 143)</p>	<p><b>Prescribed fire guideline</b></p> <p>Prescribed fire may be used to accomplish resource objectives, which include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>Protecting, enhancing, or providing desirable habitat for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species;</p> <p>Controlling insect and diseases.</p> <p>Reducing fuel loading to acceptable levels.</p> <p>Improving or developing desired wildlife habitat conditions.</p> <p>Achieving other desired vegetation conditions to meet management objectives.</p> <p>Maintaining fire-dependent animal and plant species.</p>
<p><b>No current standard</b></p>	<p><b>Wildland fire use standard</b></p> <p>Wildland fire use is authorized Forest-wide, consistent with Forest-wide and DFC emphasis and direction.</p> <p>The Fire Management Plan will designate areas of high resource values that will be protected during fire use. These sites include:</p> <p>Administrative sites  Developed recreation sites  Summer homes  Communication sites  Oil and gas sites  Utility corridors,  Other sites containing capital improvements</p>

	In areas authorized for wildland fire use, the full range of management responses from full suppression to monitoring may be used.
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<b>Original Forest Plan Wording</b>	<b>Decision Wording</b>
<p><b>Activity Fuels Standard</b> – Residual fuels that result from mechanical activities such as timber harvest will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 400 BTU per second per foot (four foot flame lengths) on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season, or continuous fuels concentrations exceeding the above standard will be broken up into manageable units with breaks, or additional protection will be provided for areas exceeding the above standards when such protection will not be required for more than five years.</p>	<p><b>Activity Fuels Standard</b> The amount and composition of activity fuels that are left on project sites will be determined through project level NEPA and site-specific silvicultural prescriptions.</p>
<p><b>Fuels Guideline</b> Hazardous fuels in the form of native vegetation will be cleared from around buildings and facilities. For further information, see Wildfire Protection A Guide for Home Owners and Developers, Wildfire Hazard and Residential Development, Utah and California.</p>	<p><b>Fuels Standard- Forest Service Developments</b> Defensible areas will be defined and maintained for all Forest Service developments.</p> <p>The size of the area and the level of maintenance will be determined based on values of capital investments and adjacent fuel types.</p>

**Desired Future Condition 1B**

Substantial Commodity Resource Development with Moderate Accommodation of Other Resources

<b>Original Forest Plan Wording</b>	<b>Decision Wording</b>
<p><b>Protection: Fire</b> Fire management emphasizes preservation and enhancement of timber and range values scheduled for current use. A full range of suppression techniques is used. (p. 158)</p>	<p><b>Deleted:</b> Redundant, addressed in DFC description.</p>
<p><b>Prescribed Fire Guideline</b> Prescribed fire should be used to favor reducing fuel loadings, improving livestock forage conditions on primary ranges, and improving site conditions to increase wood fiber production. (p. 158)</p>	<p><b>Deleted:</b> Redundant, addressed in Forest-wide standards and guidelines.</p>

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using control strategies during the normal fire season. Pre- and post-fire season strategies may include containment, confinement, or surveillance.  
(p. 158)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, covered in DFC description.

**Fuels Guideline**

Fuel conditions should be maintained that permit fire suppression forces to meet fire protection objectives for the area under historic weather conditions.  
(p. 158)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Fire Management Plan.

**Fuels Standard**

Activity fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 400 BTU per second per foot (four foot flame lengths) on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season, or continuous fuels concentrations exceeding the above standard will be broken up into manageable units with breaks, or additional protection will be provided for areas exceeding the above standards when such protection will not be required for more than five years. (p. 158)

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

**Desired Future Condition 2A**

Non-motorized Recreation Areas

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes a natural-appearing landscape.  
(p. 164)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in DFC description.

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using strategies that keep fireline intensities below 400 BTU per second per foot.  
(p. 164)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Fire Management Plan.

**Desired Future Condition 2B**  
Motorized Recreation Areas

**Original Forest Plan Wording**

**Decision Wording**

**Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes a slightly modified landscape.  
(p 170)

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in DFC description.

**Original Forest Plan Wording**

**Decision Wording**

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using strategies that keep fireline intensities below 400 BTU per second per foot. (p.170)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Fire Management Plan.

**Desired Future Condition 3**  
River Recreation

**Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation of fish and wildlife values and river-oriented recreation opportunities.  
(p. 177)

**Deleted:** Redundant, covered in DFC description.

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using primarily containment and control strategies during the normal fire season. Pre- and post-season period strategies could include containment, confinement, and surveillance.  
(p.177)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Fire Management Plan.

**Fuels Guideline**

Hazardous fuels in the form of native vegetation will be cleared from around buildings and facilities. For further information, see Wildfire Protection A Guide for Home Owners and Developers, Wildfire Hazard and Residential Development, Utah and California. (p. 177)

**Deleted:** Revised and included in Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

**Desired Future Condition 4**

Special Emphasis Area for Municipal Water Supply

**Original Forest Plan Wording**

**Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation of soil and water values. A full range of suppression techniques is used.  
(p. 182)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in DFC description.

**Original Forest Plan Wording**

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using primarily contain and control strategies during the normal fire season. Pre- and post-season period strategies may include containment, confinement, and surveillance.  
(p.182)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in Fire Management Plan.

**Fuels Guideline**

Fuel conditions should be maintained that permit fire suppression forces to meet fire protection objectives for the area under historic weather conditions.  
(p. 182)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Fire Management plan.

**Fuels Standard**

Activity fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 400 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season, or continuous fuels concentrations exceeding the above standard will be broken up into manageable units with fire breaks, or additional protection will be provided for areas exceeding the above standards when such protection will not be required for more than five years. (p. 182)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

**Desired Future Condition 6A-6D and 6S**

Wildernesses, Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild Rivers

**Original Forest Plan Wording**

**Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation of Wilderness values and allows natural processes of ecological change to operate freely.

(p. 191)

**Decision Wording**

**Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation of Wilderness values and allows natural processes of ecological change to operate freely.

The number, size and intensity of fires approximate the natural fire regime.

**Original Forest Plan Wording**

**Fire Protection Guideline**  
Wildfires will be managed in accordance with approved Wilderness Fire Management Plans for each Wilderness Area. The favored suppression techniques should be those that have the least long-term impact on Wilderness resources.  
(p. 191)

**Decision Wording**

**Fire Protection Guideline**  
The favored suppression techniques should be those that have the least impact on wilderness values and resources.  
  
Evidence of fire suppression activities will not be evident within one year.

**Protection: Pests Prescription** Insects, diseases, and noxious weeds are not controlled.  
  
(p. 191)

**Protection: Pests Prescription**  
Natural mechanisms of disturbance, such as insects and diseases are not controlled.  
  
Non-native plants, especially those that may significantly alter natural plant succession, are controlled by means that have the least impact on the wilderness resource.

**Desired Future Condition 7A**

Grizzly Bear Habitat Recovery Through Scheduled Timber Harvest

**Original Forest Plan Wording**

**Protection: Fire Prescription** -- Fire management emphasizes preservation and enhancement of grizzly bear food, cover, and security habitat.

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in DFC description.

**Prescribed Fire Guideline** -- Prescribed fire should be used to favor producing desired grizzly bear and wildlife forage with consideration for reducing fuel loadings.

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in DFC description.

**Fire Protection Standard**  
Wildfires will be suppressed using strategies that will keep fireline intensities below 400 BTU per second per foot.  
(p. 205)

**Deleted:** Moved to Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Fuels Guideline**

Fuel conditions should be maintained which permit fire suppression forces to meet fire protection objectives for the area under historic weather conditions.  
(p. 205)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Addressed in the Fire Management Plan.

**Desired Future Condition 7B**

Grizzly Bear Habitat Recovery

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation and enhancement of grizzly bear food, cover, and security habitat.  
(p. 211)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, Addressed in DFC description.

**Prescribed Fire Guideline**

Prescribed fire should be used to favor producing desired grizzly bear and wildlife forage with consideration for maintaining adequate security habitat.  
(p. 211)

**Deleted:** Redundant, Addressed in DFC description.

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using strategies that will keep fireline intensities below 400 BTU second per foot.  
(p. 211)

**Deleted:** Moved to Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Desired Future Condition 8**

Environmental Education about Integrated Multiple Uses

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation and enhancement of management indicator species habitat, particularly hiding cover for big game. A full range of suppression techniques is used.  
(p. 219)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in DFC description.

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Decision Wording****Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using control strategies during the normal fire season. Pre- and post-season period strategies may include containment, confinement, and surveillance.  
(p. 219)

**Deleted:** Moved to Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Fuels Guideline**

Fuel conditions should be maintained that permit fire suppression forces to meet fire protection objectives for the area under historic conditions.  
(p. 219)

**Deleted:** Covered in Fire Management Plan.

**Fuels Standard**

Activity fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 400 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season, or continuous fuels concentrations exceeding the above standard will be broken up into manageable units with fire breaks, or additional protection will be provided for areas exceeding the above standards when such protection will not be required for more than five years.  
(p. 219)

**Deleted:** Moved to Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

**Desired Future Condition 9A**

Developed and Administrative Sites

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Decision Wording****Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes protection of developed facilities and related site values. A full range of suppression techniques is used.  
(p. 224)

**Deleted:** Redundant, covered in DFC description.

**Prescribed Fire Guideline**

Prescribed fire should be used to reduce fuel loadings and accomplish vegetation manipulation objectives.  
(p. 224)

**Deleted:** Covered in Forest-wide standards.

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using control strategies.  
(p. 224)

**Deleted:** Moved to Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Decision Wording****Fuels Near Facilities Standard**

Hazardous fuels will be cleared from around buildings and facilities within administrative sites, campgrounds, and other developed sites. For further information, see Wildfire Protection A Guide for Home Owners and Developers, Wildfire Hazard and Residential Development, Utah and California (p. 224)

**Deleted:** Standard addressed in Forest-wide standards.

**Fuels Standard**

Natural fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 100 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season. (p. 224)

**Deleted:** Standard addressed in Fire Management Plan.

**Desired Future Condition 9B**

Special-Use Recreation Areas

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Decision Wording****Recreation Residence Landscape Guideline**

Natural vegetation should be favored around facilities. However, mowing natural vegetation around facilities may be allowed. (p. 228)

**Recreation Residence Landscape Guideline**

Natural vegetation should be favored around facilities. Landscaping around all facilities should maintain an appropriate fire defensible space to protect structures from wildfires.

**Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes protection of private permitted developments. Permittees are responsible for fuels management. A full range of suppression techniques is used. (p. 229)

**Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management activities will reduce the risk to public safety and capital improvements. Permittees are responsible for fuels management.

**Prescribed Fire Guideline**

Prescribed fire should be used to reduce fuel loadings and accomplish vegetation manipulation objectives. (p. 230)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will normally be suppressed using control strategies during the normal fire season. Pre- and post-season period strategies could include containment, confinement, and surveillance. Access to special-use recreational sites will allow for safe ingress and egress during wildfire suppression (p. 230)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Fuels Guideline**

Hazardous fuels should be cleared from around permitted facilities and dwellings. For further information, see Wildfire Protection A Guide for Home Owners and Developers, Wildfire Hazard and Residential Development, Utah and California. (p. 230)

**Decision Wording**

**Fuels Guideline** –Permittees will be responsible for maintaining adequate defensible space to protect their capital improvements.

Specific mitigation measures will be mutually agreed upon between the Forest Service and permittees during development of annual operating plans.

**Fuels Standard**

Around buildings and facilities, natural fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so potential fireline intensities will not exceed 100 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular season, and in other areas, natural fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so that potential fireline intensities will not exceed 400 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season, or continuous fuel concentration exceeding the above standards will be broken up into manageable units with firebreaks, or additional protection will be provided for areas exceeding the above standards when such protection will not be required for more than five years. (p. 230)

**Deleted:** Addressed standard in Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Desired Future Condition 10**

Simultaneous Development of Resources, Opportunities for Human Experiences, and Support for Big-Game and a Wide Variety of Wildlife Species

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation and enhancement of habitat. A full range of suppression techniques is used. (p. 239)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, addressed in DFC description.

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using strategies that will keep fireline intensities below 400 BTU per second per foot. Wildfires will be suppressed using control strategies when they threaten plantations. (p. 239)

**Deleted:** Moved to Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.

**Fuels Guideline**

Fuel conditions should be maintained that permit fire suppression forces to meet fire protection objectives for the area under historic weather conditions. (p. 239)

**Deleted:** Addressed in operational Fire Management Plan.

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Fuels Standard**

Activity fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 400 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season, or continuous fuels concentrations exceeding the above standard will be broken up into manageable units with fire breaks, or additional protection will be provided for areas exceeding the above standards when such protection will not be required for more than five years.  
(p. 239)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Moved to Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

**Desired Future Condition 12**

Backcountry Big-Game Hunting, Dispersed Recreation, and Wildlife Security Areas

**Original Forest Plan Wording****Protection: Fire Prescription**

Fire management emphasizes preservation and enhancement of habitat, particularly through prescribed fire. A full range of suppression techniques is used.  
(p. 246)

**Decision Wording**

**Deleted:** Redundant, covered in DFC description.

**Fire Protection Standard**

Wildfires will be suppressed using control strategies during the normal fire season. Pre-season and post-season period strategies will include containment, confinement, and surveillance.  
(p. 246)

**Deleted:** Addressed in Forest-wide standards and Fire Management Plan.