

Glossary

Appropriate Management Response Specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and fire use objectives.

Appropriate Suppression Response Specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire, with priority consideration given to firefighter and public safety.

Burning Period That part of each day when fires spread most rapidly.

Confine Confinement is the strategy employed in appropriate management responses where a fire perimeter is managed by a combination of direct and indirect actions (burnout, helicopter water drops, etc.) and use of natural topographic features, fuel, and weather factors.

Contain/Control These terms, when used in the context of suppression strategies, are confusing since they also have tactical meanings. Containment and Control will continue to be used to represent the status of a particular fire for reporting purposes (e.g., a controlled fire, date of control, date of containment, etc.) and not to represent a type of management strategy.

Contingency Plan A back up plan of action for implementation when actions described in the primary plan are no longer appropriate. On prescribed fires these are the actions to be taken if the fire is declared out of prescription and is designated a wildfire.

Drought Index A number representing net effect of evaporation, transpiration, and precipitation in producing cumulative moisture depletion in deep duff or upper soil layers.

Energy Release Component A number related to the rate of heat release (BTU's per second) per unit area (square foot) within the flaming zone of the fire. This component of the National Fire Danger Rating System is used by fire managers to assess fire potential in forest fuels.

Escaped Fire A fire which has exceeded, or is anticipated to exceed, initial action capabilities or the fire management direction or prescription.

Expected Weather Conditions Those weather conditions indicated as common, likely, or highly probable based on current and expected trends and their comparison to historical weather records. These are the most probable weather conditions for this location and time. These conditions are used in making fire behavior forecasts for different scenarios (one necessary scenario involves fire behavior prediction under "expected weather conditions").

Experienced Severe Weather Conditions Those weather conditions that occur infrequently, but have been experienced on the fire site area during the period of weather records. For example, rare event weather conditions that significantly influence fires may have occurred only once, but their record can be used to establish a baseline for a worst-case scenario. These are the most severe conditions that can be expected. These conditions are used in making fire behavior forecasts for different scenarios (one necessary scenario involves fire behavior prediction under "experienced severe weather conditions").

Fire Group A collection of similar habitat types and their associated fire ecology.

Fireline Intensity The amount of heat released in BTU's per foot of fire front per second. It related to the difficulty of containment of a fire.

Fire Management Area (FMA) A sub-geographic area within an FMU that represents a predefined ultimate acceptable management area for a fire managed for resource benefits. This predefined area can constitute a Maximum Manageable Area (MMA) and is useful for those units having light fuel types conducive to very rapid fire spread rates. Predefinition of these areas removes the time-lag in defining an MMA after ignition and permits preplanning of the fire area; identification of threats to life, property, resources, and boundaries; and identification on initial actions.

Fire Management Plan (FMP) A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires and documents the Fire Management Program in the approved land use plan. The plan is supplemented by operational plans such as preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire plans, and prevention plans.

Fire Management Unit (FMU) Any land management area definable by objectives, topographic features, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types, or major fire regimes, etc., that set it apart from management characteristics of an adjacent unit. FMUs are delineated in FMP's. These units may have dominant management objectives and preselected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives.

Fire Use The combination of wildland fire use and prescribed fire application to meet resource objectives.

Fuel Management The practice of evaluating, planning, and treating wildland fuel to reduce flammability and to reduce its resistance to control through mechanical, chemical, biological, or manual means, including prescribed fire and wildland fire use in support of land management objectives.

Fuel Model A simulated fuel complex for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical fire spread model have been specified.

Fuel Profile The mosaic of fuel as it occurs on an area of land over time and space.

Fuel Treatment The manipulation of wildland fuel, such as lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning, or removal for the purpose of reducing its flammability or resistance to control.

Hazard The measure of ease of ignition, fire spread potential, and fire suppression difficulty as influenced by the type, volume, size, distribution, condition, arrangement, and location of the fuel profile.

Holding Actions Planned actions required to achieve wildland and prescribed fire management objectives. These actions have specific implementation timeframes for fire use actions but can have less sensitive implementation demands for suppression actions. For wildland fires managed for resource benefits, an MMA may not be totally naturally defensible. Specific holding actions are developed to preclude fire from exceeding the MMA. For prescribed fires, these actions are developed to restrict the fire inside the planned burn unit. For suppression actions, holding actions may be implemented to prohibit the fire from crossing containment boundaries. These actions may be implemented as firelines are established to limit the spread of fire.

Initial Attack An aggressive suppression action consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) This index attempts to measure the amount of precipitation necessary to return the soil to full field capacity. It is a closed system ranging from 0-800 units, and represents a moisture regime from 0-8 inches of water through the

Management Action Points (also called "trigger points") Either geographic points on the ground or specific points in time where an escalation or alteration of management actions is warranted.

These points are defined and the management actions to be taken are clearly described in an approved Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) or Prescribed Fire Plan. Timely implementation of the actions when the fire reaches the action point is generally critical to successful accomplishment of the objectives.

Maximum Manageable Area (MMA) The firm limits of management capability to accommodate the social, political, and resource impacts of a wildland fire. Once established as part of an approved plan, the general impact area is fixed and not subject to change. MMAs can be developed as part of the FMP and described as an FMA. They can also be developed as part of the planning and implementation of management actions after a fire has ignited. If they are developed after the ignition, their definition will occur during the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Stage III process. In the event a fire occurs in a preplanned MMA or FMA and the local unit determines that this MMA is not the best-suited alternative for the present conditions, a new MMA can be developed as part of the Stage III process. Once this occurs, the Stage III MMA becomes the firm limits of the fire and is fixed.

Mitigation Actions Those on-the-ground activities that will serve to increase the defensibility of the MMA; check, direct, or delay the spread of fire; and minimize threats to life, property, and resources. Mitigation actions may include mechanical and physical nonfire tasks, specific fire applications, and limited suppression actions. These actions will be used to construct firelines, reduce excessive fuel concentrations, reduce vertical fuel continuity, create fuel breaks or barriers around critical or sensitive sites or resources, create "blacklines" through controlled burnouts, and to limit fire spread and behavior.

Most Cost-Efficient Fuel Profile The fuel profile that minimizes the sum of presuppression cost, including fuel treatment, suppression cost, and net value change.

Most Efficient Level The fire management program budget level that results in the minimum cost plus net value change (C+NVC).

National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS) The fire management analysis process providing input for Forest planning and Forest and Regional fire program development and budgeting

Natural Fuel Fuel comprised of combustible wildland vegetation resulting from natural processes and not directly generated or altered by management practices, including fuel that has accumulated as a result of fire exclusion.

Natural Ignition An ignition resulting from any natural cause.

Net Value Change The sum of the changes in resource values on a land area that results from increases (benefits) and decreased (damages) in resource outputs as a consequence of fire

Preparedness Activities that lead to a safe, efficient, and cost-effective fire management program in support of land and resource management objectives through appropriate planning and coordination. This term replaces presuppression.

Preparedness Plan A plan providing for timely recognition of approaching critical fire situations, priority setting, the deployment of forces, and other actions to respond to those situations.

Prescribed Fire Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition. This term replaces management ignited prescribed fire.

Prescribed Fire Plan A plan required for each fire application ignited by managers. The plan is prepared by qualified personnel and approved by the appropriate agency administrator prior to

implementation. Each plan follows specific agency direction and includes critical elements described in agency manuals.

Prescribed Natural Fire (PNF) This term no longer represents a type of fire and has no further use other than in historical descriptions. This term is replaced by wildland fire use.

Prescription Measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire may be ignited, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

Risk Assessment Process used in prescribed fires or wildland fire use planning to determine the level of risk. The risk assessment is documented and used by the approving official to make informed decisions. The risk assessment is completed in the Stage III Long-Term Implementation Action Plan.

Supplemental Protection The increased resources assigned to protect activity fuel from wildfire in lieu of fuel treatment.

Trigger Points See Management Action Points.

Wildfire An unwanted wildland fire.

Wildland Fire Any nonstructure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland. This term encompasses fires previously called both wildfires and prescribed natural fires.

Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and selection of strategies and describes the appropriate management response for a wildland fire being managed for resource benefits. A full WFIP consists of three stages. Different levels of completion may occur for differing management strategies (i.e., fires managed for resource benefits will have two-three stages of the WFIP completed while some fires that receive a suppression response may only have a portion of Stage I completed).

Wildland Fire Management Program The full range of activities and functions necessary for planning, preparedness, emergency rehabilitation of wildland fires, and prescribed fire operations, including nonactivity fuels management to reduce risks to public safety and to restore and sustain ecosystem health.

Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) A decision making process that evaluates alternative management strategies against selected safety, environmental, social, political, and resource management objectives.

Wildland Fire Suppression An appropriate management response to wildland fire that results in curtailment of fire spread and eliminates all identified threats from the particular fire. All wildland fire suppression activities provide for firefighter and public safety as the highest consideration, but minimize loss of resource values, economic expenditures, and/or the use of critical firefighting resources.

Wildland Fire Use The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in FMPs. Operational management is described in the WFIP. Wildland fire use is not to be confused with "fire use" which is a broader term encompassing more than just wildland fires.

