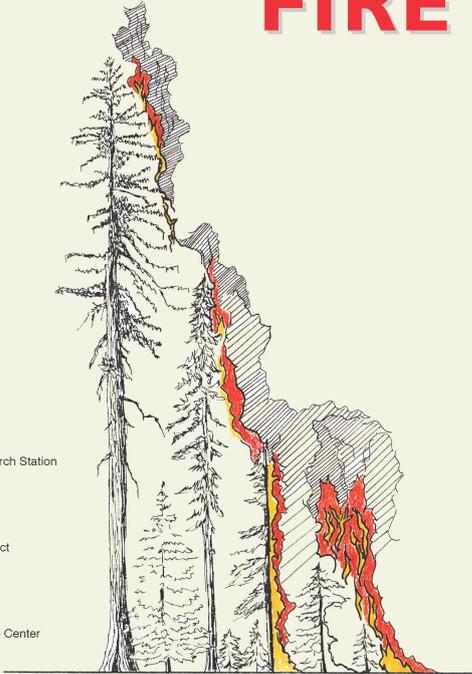




United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

FIRE

helps maintain healthy forests.



The forest around you is very different than it was 100 years ago, partly because fires have been suppressed, allowing trees and shrubs to grow in dense stands and create a severe fire hazard. If a high-intensity wildfire burned through this area, flames could climb up the small trees and underbrush like a ladder into the tops of the taller, older trees.

Wildfires are difficult to control and very dangerous to firefighters and humans and animals living nearby. For this reason, forest managers are reintroducing fire as carefully supervised prescribed burns that open up the forest and reduce the danger of large wildfires. The goal of fire managers is to protect human life and property, while at the same time benefiting ecosystems.



Prescribed fire has been used recently in this nearby forest. If a fire started now, the small amount of fuel on the ground would burn without causing serious damage to large trees and wildlife habitat.



Well-trained fire specialists start prescribed burns only after careful planning, the right weather conditions (wind, temperature, moisture), and with fire trucks standing by.

Although fire is being brought back into the forest, it is still very important to be careful. Please continue to help make sure that forest fires are not caused by human carelessness.

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Fire reaches the tops of tall trees by burning up through ladder fuels.