



# Interagency Environmental Assessment/Fire Management Plans

## Preliminary Alternatives

### No Action Alternative

Continues present fire management activities occurring in the BICY/FPNWR.

Allowed:

- Fire suppression, limited mechanical equipment use, prescribed fire use, handheld mechanical equipment use (e.g., chainsaws, leaf blowers), and spot treatment of invasive vegetation by herbicide under other approved NEPA documents may continue.

Anticipated Effects:

- Decreased funding for prescribed fire and vegetation work will reduce the number of acres treated across the BICY/FPNWR
- Continued increase and accumulation of hazardous fuels, resulting in more severe fires over time, and increased risk to human structures and improvements, and natural and cultural resources
- Continued decline of fire-adapted habitats and threatened and endangered species
- Increased risk for firefighters over time in trying to suppress more severe fires

### Proposed Action Alternative

Would allow the array of fire management tools/strategies listed under the “No Action” Alternative, but would add management of wildfires by lightning ignitions for resource objectives.

Anticipated Effects:

- Wildfire managed for resource objectives could increase the amount of acres treated by fire over time, despite decreased funds for vegetation management treatments
- Increased amount of acres treated by fire may lead to less hazardous fuel accumulations
- Wildfires managed for resource objectives could improve fire-adapted habitats and benefits associated with threatened and endangered species
- Minimizing suppression work by utilizing wildfire for resource objectives in proposed/eligible wilderness would keep the wilderness more natural and untrammeled
- All fire management tools/strategies create fuel reduction areas and opportunities to decrease the potential for wildfires that may pose a risk to human structures and improvements, and natural and cultural resources
- Wildfires managed for resource objectives could create more strategic options for fire managers and reduce risks to firefighters over time

#### **What is “Management of Wildfires for Resource Objectives”?**

These are wildfires from lightning ignitions that are allowed to burn in some areas under certain conditions for resource management reasons. The decision to manage a fire, or part of a fire, this way is dependent on assessing multiple factors. Location, fire behavior, fuels, human values at risk, risk to firefighters, cost, and resource benefits are all considered in making this decision. The Fire Management Plans would outline the criteria and decision factors that managers must contemplate. Upon deciding to manage a natural ignition, the fire management staff would develop a monitoring and future containment plan for the wildfire, and ensure that the firefighting resources are in place for a successful outcome. National Fire Policy allows part of a fire to be suppressed (e.g., approaching a community), while allowing another flank to burn (e.g., approaching wilderness). Wildfires managed for resource objectives would not be allowed to cross the BICY/FPNWR boundary without agreement of the adjacent jurisdictional agency.

**Do you see any additional alternative? If so, please write it down on your comment form!**