



Scoping Document

Fire Management Plan / Environmental Assessment Multiple Park Units Nationwide

February 1, 2016



Cover Photos:

Antietam National Battlefield
Aztec Ruins National Monument
Catoctin Mountain National Park
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
City of Rocks National Reserve
Kenai Fjords National Park
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
Niobrara National Scenic River
Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
Valley Forge National Historical Park



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Scoping Document

Fire Management Plan / Environmental Assessment

Multiple Park Units Nationwide



Dear Reader:

The National Park Service (NPS) wants to know your thoughts about the proposed mechanical treatments, prescribed fire, and wildfire management actions for 28 park units across the nation. Each of the 28 park units will prepare or update its own fire management plan (FMP), but one environmental assessment (EA) will serve as the overall analysis of potential environmental impacts that could result from the proposed actions. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require federal agencies to invite public involvement prior to making a decision on proposed actions that may affect the environment. “Scoping” is an early and open process that ensures a full range of issues, related to a proposed action, are identified and that all significant issues are addressed. Scoping provides the opportunity for federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; members of the public; and tribal governments to present additional background and technical information that could improve the analysis and resulting FMPs. We are pleased to provide you with this Scoping Document, which describes the proposed action that will be analyzed in the upcoming EA.

The proposed FMP/EA will be prepared in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA), as amended [42 United States Code (USC) 4332(2) (C)]; the implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508.9]; the Department of the Interior NEPA regulations (43 CFR Part 46); NPS Director’s Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision-Making (DO-12) and the accompanying DO-12 Handbook (NPS 2015); and Departmental Manual (516 DM 2).

Your concerns, thoughts, and suggestions (such as for a new alternative) about the proposed use of mechanical treatments and prescribed fire and wildfire management actions described in this Scoping Document will help us prepare sound and realistic approaches to fire and fuels management in the 28 park units. Comments will be accepted during the 30-day scoping period, which begins on February 1, 2016, and will end on March 1, 2016.

Please submit your comments by March 1, 2016, using the following online method:

1. Go to the NPS planning website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nationwide_FMP_EA
2. Under “Park Projects” choose “Nationwide Multi-Unit FMP/EA.”
3. Then on the left side of the page, select “Open for Comment” — under “Document Name,” click on “Scoping Document, Nationwide Multi-Unit FMP/EA.”

If you are not able to submit comments electronically on the website, then you can mail comments by March 1, 2016, to

Becky Brooks
Attn: Nationwide Multi-Unit FMP/EA
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

When you provide comments on the information you read about in this Scoping Document, you will automatically be placed on the mailing list for this project. If we do not hear back from you by the close of the scoping comment period (March 1, 2016), you will not be included on the mailing list for the FMP/EA. However, we do hope to hear from you and encourage you to submit comments.

Also, please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Otherwise, all submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

We look forward to receiving your comments.



INTRODUCTION

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy requires that “every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved fire management plan (FMP).” National Park Service (NPS) direction includes *Management Policies* 2006; Director’s Order #18: Wildland Fire Management; and Reference Manual 18. FMPs are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland fires based on an area’s approved land management plan. FMPs must provide for firefighter and public safety; include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; address values to be protected and public health issues; and be consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations. All federal agencies must update their FMPs to be consistent with the current Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and new FMP template. Likewise, new FMPs must be prepared in conformance with the policy and new template.

Twenty-eight NPS park units are being combined under one fire management plan / environmental assessment (FMP/EA) because the units (which consist of parks, preserves, monuments, historic sites, and trails) have very low to low wildfire occurrence and desire to implement prescribed fire and mechanical treatments. The National Park Service has determined that it is most cost-effective and efficient to prepare one compliance document (the EA) to cover the fire management programs at the 28 park units. It is important to note that, in the future, other park units may use the FMP/EA as their compliance document if no impacts would result beyond those that will be described in the FMP/EA. The following are the 28 park units that will be combined under the nationwide multi-unit FMP/EA:

Northeast Region

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NST)
Flight 93 National Memorial
Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park (NHP)
Morristown NHP
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites (NHS)
Sagamore Hill NHS
Valley Forge NHP
Weir Farm NHS

Midwest Region

Ice Age NST
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (NRRRA)
Niobrara National Scenic River (NSR)

Intermountain West Region

Aztec Ruins National Monument (NM)
Fort Union NM
Petroglyph NM

National Capital Region

Antietam National Battlefield (NB)
Catoctin Mountain National Park (NP)
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP
Harper’s Ferry NHP
Monocacy NB
Prince William Forest NP
Wolf Trap NP for the Performing Arts

Pacific-West Region

City of Rocks National Reserve (NR)
Fort Vancouver NHS
Hagerman Fossil Beds

Alaska

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (NM&P)
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (NP&P)
Kenai Fjords NP
Klondike Gold Rush NHP

PURPOSE AND NEED

All fire management programs are guided by management objectives to protect life, property, and cultural resources and perpetuate the natural resources and their associated natural processes. Based on those management objectives, there are two statements of purpose for fire and fuels management actions at the 28 park units.

Purpose 1. Protect human life and NPS values *inside* each park from damage caused by wildfire.

Need for Action. NPS values need to be protected, and in order to do so, there must be proactive management of hazardous fuels to reduce the behavior of wildfires, which can threaten lives, resources, and property. Values to be protected include property, structures, physical improvements, natural and culture resources, community infrastructure, and economic, environmental, and social values. Other park values include buildings (and furnishing and fixtures), storage sheds and the equipment inside, fences, information kiosks, signs, pedestrian boardwalks and bridges, observation decks, parking areas, public use comfort stations, and utilities (gas and electric—piping, wiring, poles). This list is just a small sampling of the types of NPS values that could be at risk from a potentially devastating wildfire.

Purpose 2. Protect human life, property, and the environment *outside* each park from damage caused by wildfire and fire management activities originating from *inside* the park.

Need for Action. There is a need to lessen potential wildfire intensity along park boundaries and reduce wildfire movement across jurisdictional boundaries. There is a need to protect NPS neighbors (including mutual aid zones, wildland-urban interface areas, and private inholdings) by implementing hazardous fuel reduction projects on park lands that contain heavy and overgrown vegetation or fuel loads. A variety of treatment methods are needed to reduce or remove excessive ground and ladder fuels in the 28 parks, provide for safe access into and out of the parks, and create firebreaks and defensible space so as to reduce the potential for damaging wildfires. The Park Service must ensure that properly trained and equipped personnel are prepared to respond to wildfires on NPS lands.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action for the 28 park units means implementing various levels of mechanical treatments and prescribed fire for fuel reduction and other vegetation management purposes and determining the appropriate response to wildfires.

Sixteen of the 28 park units already have an FMP and would be updating that FMP, using guidance contained in the current Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy; those 16 units are

Antietam NP	Chesapeake-Ohio Canal NHP	Mississippi NRRA
Catoctin Mountain NP	Morristown NHP	Niobrara NSR
Harpers Ferry NHP	Prince William Forest NP	Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS
Monocacy NB	Weir Farm NHS	Wolf Trap NP
Petroglyph NM	Aztec Ruins NM	
Appalachian NST	Fort Union NM	

The 12 park units that do not have an FMP would *develop* an FMP, using guidance in the current Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The 4 Alaska park units do not have park-specific FMPs but have been managing wildfires and fuel reduction actions under the *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan*. The 12 parks that do not have a unit-specific FMP are

Valley Forge NHP	Ice Age NST	Aniakchak NM&P
Flight 93 NMEM	City of Rocks NR	Klondike Gold Rush NHP
Cedar Creek & Bell Grove NHP	Hagerman Fossil Beds	Glacier Bay NP&P
Sagamore Hill NHP	Fort Vancouver NHS	Kenai Fjords NP

Mechanical Treatments under the Proposed Action

NPS Reference Manual-18 defines mechanical/manual treatment as “use of hand operated power tools and hand tools to cut, clear, or prune herbaceous and woody species.” Hand-held power tools include chain saws, masticators, chippers, mowers (such as brush hogs), weed eaters, blowers, and other specialty equipment. Mechanical treatments may be accomplished using wheeled or tracked power equipment (such as tractors and excavators) to mow fields, remove fuels, create and maintain firebreaks by removing fuel concentrations, mow “green” fire breaks, grade two-track roads to remove vegetation, and remove single or small groups of trees.

Mechanical treatments may be used in conjunction with prescribed fire to remove fuels and invasive plant species and as part of the overall treatment process to meet or maintain fire management goals and objectives. Mechanical treatments may also be used alone to remove invasive plant species that may not be treated by prescribed fire due to the size and amount of material needing to be removed.

The number of acres of mechanical treatments that may be implemented each year would vary in each park unit (Table 1). There are numerous reasons for the variation, based in part on specific fuel-reduction and habitat management objectives, availability of funding and resources, and current and long-term weather and fuel conditions. Some areas may only need to be treated once every 3 to 5 years or more, while other areas may require more frequent treatment to reduce fuel loads, preserve or enhance habitat conditions, or maintain native vegetation communities.

Prescribed Fire under the Proposed Action

Prescribed fire is an intentionally ignited fire that is conducted according to site-specific objectives, prescriptions, and mitigation measures identified in individual prescribed burn plans. Prescribed fire would be used to reduce the accumulation and arrangement of hazardous fuels and to restore the role of fire in certain vegetation communities that are adapted to and benefit from fire. Prescribed fire is also used to treat areas infested with nonnative plant species and to maintain cultural landscapes /viewsheds and wildlife habitat.

Pile burning may be used as a method to dispose of vegetative material generated from maintenance activities (such as tree trimming), manual or mechanical hazardous fuels reduction, hazard tree removal, or similar activities. Burning may occur during time periods when proper fuel moisture, temperature, and wind conditions exist to ensure safety and meet resource objectives.

The number and size of prescribed fires that may be implemented each year would vary (Table 1). There are numerous reasons for the variation, based in part on specific habitat management and fuels-reduction objectives, availability of funding and resources, current and long-term weather and fuel conditions, and topography. Some areas may only need to be burned once every 3 to 5 years or more, while other areas may require more frequent fire to reduce fuel loads, preserve or enhance habitat conditions, or maintain native vegetation communities.

Mechanical Treatment (MT) Codes Referenced in Table 1

- MT1. Reduce fuels and create and maintain defensible space in order to protect NPS facilities, visitor use areas, assets, historic structures, and other cultural resources
- MT2. Reduce fuels in order to lessen potential wildfire intensity along park boundaries and reduce wildfire movement across jurisdictional boundaries
- MT3. Restore and maintain historic viewsheds and cultural landscapes/viewsheds
- MT4. Restore and protect wildlife habitat
- MT5. Control the prolific growth of invasive nonnative (exotic) plant species
- MT6. Restore and protect native plant communities and habitat

Prescribed Fire (PF) Codes Referenced in Table 1

- PF1. Reduce fuels and create and maintain defensible space in order to protect NPS facilities, visitor use areas, assets, historic structures, and other cultural resources
- PF2. Reduce fuels in order to lessen potential wildfire intensity along park boundaries and reduce wildfire movement across jurisdictional boundaries
- PF3. Restore and maintain historic viewsheds and cultural landscapes/viewsheds
- PF4. Restore and protect wildlife habitat
- PF5. Burn woody debris from mechanical treatments (thinning, pruning waste, and invasive exotic plant removal)
- PF6. Maintain or restore the role of fire in fire-adapted vegetation communities
- PF7. Control the prolific growth of invasive nonnative species

TABLE 1. MECHANICAL AND PRESCRIBED FIRE TREATMENTS UNDER THE PROPOSED ACTION

Park Unit	Total NPS Acres	Proposed Mechanical Treatments (Range of Acres Treated Annually and Treatment Codes)	Proposed Prescribed Fire (Range of Acres Treated Annually and Treatment Codes)
NORTHEAST REGION			
Appalachian NST The trail is 2,175 miles long	259,906	0 to 200 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT5	0 to 1,500 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF5, PF6
Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP	86.4	0 to 86.4 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	0 acres Codes: NA
Flight 93 NM	817	10 to 50 acres Codes: MT1, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	20 to 50 acres Codes: PF1, PF3, PF4, PF5, PF7
Morristown NHP	1,697.55	10 to 25 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	0 to 25 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF4, PF5, PF7
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS	776	0 to 388 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	0 to 388 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF4, PF5, PF6, PF7
Sagamore Hill NHS	83	5 to 25 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	5 to 10 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF4, PF5, PF7
Valley Forge NHP	3,464	0 to 1,500 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	0 to 500 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF4, PF5, PF6, PF7
Weir Farm NHS	67	0 to 5 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	0 to 14 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF4, PF5, PF6, PF7
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION			
Antietam NB	3,255.89	0 to 50 acres Codes: MT1, MT3	0 to 50 acres Codes: PF1, PF3
Catoctin Mountain NP	5,810	0 to 100 acres Codes: MT1, MT3	0 to 50 acres Codes: PF1, PF3
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP	19,236	0 to 50 acres Codes: MT1, MT3	0 to 20 acres Codes: PF1, PF3
Harper's Ferry NHP	3,745	0 to 40 acres Codes: MT1, MT3	0 acres Codes: NA
Manassas NB	5,071	0 to 40 acres Codes: MT1, MT4	0 to 80 acres Codes: PF1, PF4
Monocacy NB	1,355	0 to 50 acres Codes: MT3, MT4	0 to 50 acres Codes: PF3, PF4
Prince William Forest NP	15,000	0 to 100 acres Codes: MT1	0 to 40 acres Codes: PF1
Wolf Trap NP for the Performing Arts	130	0 to 20 acres Codes: MT1, MT3, MT4	0 to 3 acres Codes: PF1, PF3, PF4
MIDWEST REGION			
Ice Age NST, Cross Plains Complex	1,700	77 to 300 acres Codes: MT5, MT6	54 to 300 acres Codes: PF5, PF6, PF7
Mississippi NRR (Coldwater Spring only)	54,000	20 to 50 acres Codes: MT5, MT6	20 to 50 acres Codes: PF5, PF6, PF7
Niobrara NSR	185	0 to 50 acres Codes: MT5, MT6	0 to 100 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF4, PF6, PF7

TABLE 1. MECHANICAL AND PRESCRIBED FIRE TREATMENTS UNDER THE PROPOSED ACTION (CONTINUED)

Park Unit	Total NPS Acres	Proposed Mechanical Treatments (Range of Acres Treated Annually and Treatment Codes)	Proposed Prescribed Fire (Range of Acres Treated Annually and Treatment Codes)
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION			
Aztec Ruins NM	320	0 to 10 acres Codes: MT1, MT2	0 to 20 acres Codes: PF5
Fort Union NM	721	0 to 50 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3	0 to 20 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF6
Petroglyph NM	5,250	0 to 10 acres Codes: MT1, MT2	0 acres Codes: NA
PACIFIC-WEST REGION			
City of Rocks NR	9,680	0 to 100 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT4, MT5, MT6	0 to 150 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF4, PF5, PF6
Fort Vancouver NHS	165	0 to 10 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3	0 acres Codes:
Hagerman Fossil Beds	4,281	0 to 10 acres Codes: MT1, MT2, MT3, MT6	0 to 10 acres Codes: PF1, PF2, PF3, PF5, PF6
ALASKA			
Aniakchak NM&P (Note: There are 601,293.93 gross acres within the park boundary.)	595,985.35	0 to 5 acres Codes: MT1	0 to 5 acres Codes: PF1, PF5
Glacier Bay NP&P (Note: There are 3,281,789.43 gross acres within the park boundary.)	3,280,690.2	0 to 100 acres, Code: MT1 0 to 5 acres, Code MT3	0 to 10 acres Codes: PF1, PF5
Kenai Fjords NP (Note: There are 669,983.65 gross acres within the park boundary.)	603,129.86	0 to 5 acres Codes: MT1	0 to 5 acres Codes: PF1, PF5
Klondike Gold Rush NHP (Note: There are 12,996.49 gross acres within the park boundary.)	3,420.00	0 to 5 acres Codes: MT1	0 to 5 acres Codes: PF1, PF5

Wildfire Management under the Proposed Action

A wildfire is an unplanned ignition in a wildland that can be naturally caused (such as by lightning) or human-caused, including an escaped prescribed fire. There are multitudes of ways a wildfire may be managed, and they can change over time. The 2009 *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* defines a full range of strategic and tactical options for responding to wildfires and states that a wildfire may be concurrently managed for one or more objectives, and objectives can change as the fire spreads across the landscape. Strategic responses to a wildfire include preplanned responses and responses developed through a decision support process that is implemented during a wildfire. The first considerations when determining the appropriate strategic and tactical options for managing wildfires are firefighter and public safety, fire cause, current and predicted weather, current and predicted fire behavior and fire effects, values to be protected from the fire, management priorities, resource availability, and cost effectiveness.

Suppression. One strategic response to a wildfire is suppression, which may involve full suppression, partial perimeter suppression, and site protection. Wildfire suppression is accomplished by depriving a fire of additional fuels (such as using handtools or heavy equipment, if appropriate, to build a fireline) or by cooling

the fire sufficiently to prevent further combustion (such as applying water to the flaming front) using engines and aircraft. Managers would continue using natural or man-made barriers in a confined strategy to increase firefighter safety, minimize impacts of wildfire suppression actions, and lower costs. Tactics, such as burning out from roadways or allowing the fire to burn into areas of natural confinement (such as rivers or rocky areas), may be appropriate as well. Suppression actions would continue to include the construction of firelines by firefighters using hand tools, engines, and aircraft. Some suppression actions, such as using heavy equipment or aircraft, could be restricted in certain situations based on the presence of cultural sites, riparian habitat, waterways, and critical habitat and used only with approval from the Park Superintendent.

Minimum impact suppression techniques (MIST) is the application of strategies and tactics that effectively meet suppression and resource objectives with the least environmental, cultural, and social impacts. The objective of putting the fire "dead-out" by a certain time has been replaced by the need to make unique decisions with each fire start, to consider the land and resource objectives, and to decide the appropriate suppression response and tactics that results in minimum costs and resource damage. MIST principles are outlined in NPS Reference Manual-18, Chapter 9.

Wildfire Response in 24 of the NPS Units. The only strategic response for managing wildfires in 24 of the 28 NPS units would continue to be *full suppression*, which meets each unit's protection objectives. The option of managing wildfires for resource objectives is not feasible in these units for a variety of reasons, including the extent of values and infrastructure within the parks, the presence of a significant amount of wildland-urban interface both inside and outside park boundaries, and the size of the NPS unit coupled with any cooperative agreements to burn across jurisdictional boundaries.

Wildfire Response in 4 of the NPS Units. Following the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, the 4 Alaska NPS units would continue to use a wider range of wildfire response—everything from full suppression, to partial perimeter suppression, to site protection, to monitoring, and any combination thereof. The 4 Alaska NPS units would implement the full range of strategic and tactical options for responding to wildfires as defined in the 2009 *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* and would thus continue to manage wildfires for multiple objectives. Managing a wildfire for multiple objectives is a useful tool for managing fire-adapted ecosystems and achieving fire-resilient landscapes. This strategy is designed for broad, landscape-scale areas where the low density and wide distribution of values to be protected best allows for fire to function in its ecological role. Sites that warrant higher levels of protection may occur within the boundaries of limited areas, and actions to protect these sites are taken, when warranted, without compromising the intent of this management option.

Managing wildfire for multiple objectives is based on local and site-specific circumstances and incorporates aerial surveillance and assessment. Local conditions considered for this strategy include, but are not limited to, population density, fire occurrence, environmental factors, and identified values. Fire managers in Alaska weigh the costs and associated environmental impacts of the suppression actions against the values to be protected and consider firefighter and public safety, benefits, and resource objectives.

Following the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, all jurisdictional agencies in Alaska, including the National Park Service, use four wildfire management options: Critical, Full, Limited, and Modified, which provide precise direction for specific areas. The four management options are used to

- prioritize areas for protection actions and allocation of available firefighting resources to achieve protection objectives;

- optimize the ability to achieve land use and resource management objectives and integrate fire management, mission objectives, land use, and natural resource goals; and
- reinforce the premise that the cost of the suppression effort be commensurate with values identified for protection.

In Alaska the designation of a management option pre-selects initial strategies for the response to a wildfire; responses range from immediate suppression actions to periodic surveillance. Ideally, option boundaries are readily identifiable from both the air and on the ground, are based on fuel types, access, topographic features, natural barriers and fire regimes, and reflect operational feasibility. Management option designations in Alaska are intended to be flexible to respond to changes in objectives, fire conditions, land-use patterns, resource information, and technologies.

Critical Management Option: These are the highest priority areas/sites for suppression actions and assignment of available firefighting resources. Lands qualified to be considered for this designation include wildland urban interface areas and other populated areas where there is an immediate threat to human life, primary residences, inhabited property, community-dependent infrastructure, and structural resources designated as National Historic Landmarks. This classification is applicable for an entire village or town as well as a single inhabited structure. The use of wildfire would only be appropriate in extraordinary circumstances at the explicit documented direction of the National Park Service [affected jurisdictional agency].

Full Management Option: This option provides for protection of cultural and paleontological sites, developed recreational facilities, physical developments, administrative sites and cabins, uninhabited structures, high-value natural resources, and other high-value areas that do not involve the protection of human life and inhabited property. Structures on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and nonstructural sites on the National Register are placed within this category. Either broad areas or specific sites qualify to be designated as Full. The use of wildfire would only be appropriate on rare occasions, based on site-specific circumstances.

Limited Management Option: Limited is designed for broad, landscape-scale areas where the low density and wide distribution of values to be protected best allows for fire to function in its ecological role. Sites that warrant higher levels of protection may occur within the boundaries of Limited areas, and actions to protect these sites will be taken, when warranted, without compromising the intent of this management option. The use of wildfire is routinely available; documented decision analysis and support process may be appropriate based on complexity or initiated at the discretion of the National Park Service [jurisdictional agency].

Modified Management Option: Modified is the most adaptable option available since the response to wildfire is based upon fire and environmental conditions. Sites that warrant higher levels of protection may occur in Modified areas. The Modified option provides a management level between Full and Limited. Unlike Full management areas, the intent is not to minimize burned acres but to balance acres burned with suppression costs and, similar to Limited, to accomplish land and resource management objectives when conditions are favorable. The use of wildfire is through a documented decision from the National Park Service [jurisdictional agency].



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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