



## Fire Management Plan Fire Management Program

### National Park Service Wildland Fire Management Program Goals

“The Mission Goals of the NPS wildland fire management program are to:

1. Protect Values Through Effective Risk Management: Protect life, communities and resources from adverse effects of wildland fire without compromising safety.
2. Restore and Maintain Fire-adapted Ecosystems: Maintain and restore fire adapted ecosystems using appropriate tools and techniques in a manner that will provide sustainable, environmental and social benefits.
3. Science Based Management: General and park-specific science and research guides the wildland fire program.
4. Integrate Wildland Fire With Other NPS Programs: Fire management programs are responsive to Service-wide and park priorities and are integrated with other NPS programs.
5. External Audiences Understand and Support Wildland Fire Programs: NPS fire management will communicate and coordinate with interagency organizations and other stakeholders to pursue common goals, programs and projects.
6. Build and Promote Organizational Effectiveness: Fire management programs achieve desired outcomes by building program capacity, leadership and effective management practices.

-- Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual #18

This manual is issued by the Associate Director, Park Operations and Education, and provides details and guidance of all information presented in the NPS Director's Order 18.



### Fire Classifications



•**Prescribed Fire**: Any fire ignited by fire managers to meet specific objectives. A prescribed fire plan must be written and approved, and NEPA requirements must be met prior to ignition.

•**Wildfire**: An unplanned, unwanted, wildland fire including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

•**Wildfire Suppression**: An appropriate management response to wildfire that curtails fire spread and eliminates identified threats from the fire.

•**Wildland Fire Use**: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

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

*“Wildland fire use is a desirable method to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems. In other areas where fire is an essential component of the ecosystem but cannot be allowed to burn as a natural process because of management constraints, prescribed fire is used to maintain the influence of natural fire or to restore the fuel characteristics to a condition more compatible with the eventual reintroduction of wildland fire.”*

-- Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual #18



The Swamp Wildland Fire Use Incident, 2001



Suppression action on a North Rim fire

### Fire at Grand Canyon National Park

A prescribed fire at Grand Canyon is a planned ignition designed to contribute specifically to the park's resource management objectives. A prescribed fire plan is written by fire managers and recommended by the Deputy Superintendent, the Chief Ranger, and the Division Chief of Science and Resource Management. The plan is then approved by the Park Superintendent.



A wildland fire at Grand Canyon is managed as directed by the park's fire management plan and after an analysis of the specific situation. Considerations include values to be protected, management objectives, and external concerns. Management options range from monitoring the fire with little action taken on the ground, to full suppression on the entire fire perimeter.



### Accomplishing NPS Fire Management Goals at Grand Canyon NP

Fire managers and staff at Grand Canyon National Park will:

Protect life and property while providing for public and firefighter safety

Protect public health and environmental quality as mandated by state and federal law

Plan for fire prevention, suppression, wildland/urban interface protection, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire

Coordinate with resource managers to consider the best available scientific data

Maintain an adequate workforce and organization

Continue to communicate, educate, and cooperate with the public and other agencies

Continually evaluate and refine the fire management program and fire operations



### For more information...

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy that governs wildland fire management can be found on this website:  
[www.fs.fed.us/land/wdfire.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wdfire.html)

The NPS Reference Manual #18, Wildland Fire Management, can be found on this website:  
<http://www.nps.gov/fire/fire/policy/rm18/>

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has developed a flowchart illustrating the framework for federal agencies' management of all wildland fires. It can be found on this website:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fireuse/wildland\\_fire\\_use/ref\\_guide/index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fireuse/wildland_fire_use/ref_guide/index.html)

