

APPENDIX B – Definitions

Active Crown Fire-When the main surface fire and the fire burning in the crowns are moving together across the fire front.

Adaptive Management-A type of natural resource management that implies making decisions as part of an on-going process. Monitoring the results of actions will provide a flow of information that may indicate the need to change a course of action. Scientific findings and the needs of society may also indicate the need to adapt resource management to new information.

Appropriate Management Response-The response to a wildland fire is based on an evaluation of risks to firefighter and public safety, the circumstances under which the fire occurs, including weather and fuel conditions, natural and cultural resource management objectives, protection priorities and values to be protected. The evaluation must also include an analysis of the context of the specific fire within the overall local, geographic area, or national wildland fire situation.

Appropriate Management Strategy-A plan or direction selected by an agency administrator which guide wildland fire management actions intended to meet protection and fire use objectives.

Aspect-The direction a slope faces. For example, a hillside facing east has an eastern aspect.

Buffer-Used in the context of GIS; a buffer is a zone of a specified distance around a feature in a coverage.

Burned Area Rehabilitation-The full range of post-fire activities to rehabilitate and restore fire damaged lands, including protection of public health and safety.

Canopy-The part of any stand of trees represented by the tree crowns. It usually refers to the uppermost layer of foliage, but it can be used to describe lower layers in a multi-storied forest.

Chain-A traditional forestry term equal to 66' or approximately 20 m.

Confine-A strategy employed in suppression where a fire perimeter is managed by a combination of direct and indirect action and use of natural topographic features, fuels, and weather factors.

Control Line-A line in which fuels have been removed. A control line may be dug by a fire crew (a hand line) or by machinery such as a bulldozer (a dozer line). Sometimes a control line is established by wetting fuels using engine and fire hoses (a wet line). A control line may also consist of a road, river, snow bank, rock outcropping or other barrier to fire spread.

Cooperators-Federal, state and local agencies that participate in planning and conducting fire management projects and activities.

Desired Future Conditions (Target Conditions)-Land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

Drip Torch-An ignition tool which drips a flaming mixture of diesel and gasoline onto the ground.

Ecology-The interrelationships of living things to one another and to their environment, or the study of these interrelationships.

Ecosystem-An arrangement of living and non-living things and the forces that move them. Living things include plants and animals. Non-living parts of ecosystems may be rocks and minerals. Weather and wildland fire are two of the forces that act within ecosystems.

Ecosystem Sustainability-The capacity to maintain ecosystem health, productivity, diversity, and overall integrity, in the context of human activity and use.

Endangered Species-Those plant or animal species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Endangered species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Fauna-The animal life of an area.

Fine Fuels-Fuels that ignite readily and are consumed rapidly by fire (ex. cured grass, fallen leaves and needles, small twigs less than 1/4 inch diameter, also referred to as 1-hour fuels).

Fire, Creeping-A low intensity fire with a low rate of spread.

Fire, Crown-A fire that burns through the canopy of a forest.

Fire Extent-The area burned per time period or event.

Fire Frequency-A general term referring to the recurrence of fire in a given area over time.

Fire, Ground-Fire burning on the ground or through the understory and not reaching into the canopy. Also called surface fire.

Fire Intensity-Energy release per unit length of flame front (kW/m or BTU/ft-s). Flame lengths of about 4' (1.2 m) correspond roughly to 100 BTU/ft-s (29 kW/m), and is the approximate limit of control by direct attack by a hand crew.

Fireline- A narrow line, typically ranging from two to ten feet wide, from which all vegetation is removed down to mineral soil.

Fire Management Activities-Including fire planning, fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives, prevention; preparedness, education, and addresses the role of mitigation, post-fire rehabilitation, fuels reduction, and restoration activities in fire management.

Fire Management Unit (FMU)- A land management area definable by objectives, management constraints, topographic features, access, values-to-be-protected, political boundaries, fuel types, or major fire regime types that sets it apart from management characteristics of an adjacent unit.

Fire Management Plan- A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland fires and prescribed fires and documents the Fire Management Program in the approved land management plan.

Fire Regime-The combination of fire frequency, predictability, intensity, seasonality, and extent characteristic of fire in an ecosystem.

Fire Return Interval-The average amount of time between successive fires.

Flame Length-The average length of the flame front from the ground to the flame tips.

Flora-The plant life of an area.

Fuel-All material (whether in the ground, on the surface, or in the air) that may be burned, including duff, logs, branches, needles, twigs. Fuel is divided into four size classes:

- 1 hour time lag - <1/4 inch (grass, litter, duff)
- 10 hour time lag - 1/4 inch - 1 inch (twigs and small stems)
- 100 hour time lag - 1 inch - 3 inch (branches)
- 1000 hour time lag - >3 inch (large branches and stems)

Fuelbreak-A system of linear or mosaic patch treatments of forest or shrub vegetation designed and treated to reduce fire spread, intensity, and create carriers to fire spread.

Fuel Load-The amount of available fuel (dead plants and trees, litter and duff) that is found in an area (tons/acre).

Fuel Model-A standardized description of fuel potentially available to a fire. Fuel load is based on the dominant vegetation and the amount, distribution and continuity of wood and other combustible material.

Fuel Moisture-The amount of water in a fuel sample. The proportion of water to dry material.

Fuels-Plants and woody vegetation, both living and dead, that are capable of burning.

Fuels Management-The planned manipulation and/or reduction of living and dead forest fuels for forest management and other land use objectives.

Fuels Treatment-The treatment of fuels that left untreated, would otherwise interfere with effective fire management or control. For example, prescribed fire can reduce the amount of fuels that accumulate on the forest floor.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-A computer system capable of storing, manipulating, analyzing, and displaying geographic information.

Hazard Fuels-Fuels posing a threat to people or property in the event of a wildland fire.

Hazard Fuel Reduction-In fuels management, the planned treatment or manipulation of naturally growing vegetation or any other flammable material for the purpose of reducing the rate of spread and the output of heat energy from any wildland fire occurring in the treated area.

Initial Action-The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire. Initial Action may include the full spectrum of responses from monitoring to aggressive containment.

Initial Attack-Initial action focused on aggressive containment of the fire perimeter

Interagency-Coordination, collaboration, communication among cooperating agencies.

Ladder Fuels-Fuels such as branches, shrubs or an understory layer of trees which allow a fire to spread from the ground to the forest canopy.

Landscape-A large land area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated due to factors such as geology, soils, climates and human impacts.

Mechanical Treatment-The use of mechanical equipment (chainsaw, dozer, rubber-tired skidders, etc.) to cut, remove, or prepare woody fuels for burning.

Prescribed Fire-Generally a management ignited fire that is allowed to burn within a prescription of weather and safety considerations in order to meet specific objectives.

Planning Data System (PDS) – Takes the place of FirePro for budget submittals. Works in conjunctions with NFORS

Preparedness-Activities that lead to safe, efficient, and cost-effective fire management programs in support of land and resource management objectives through appropriate planning and coordination.

Prescribed Fire-any fire intentionally set under specific conditions in order to accomplish resource objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire burn plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

Prescription-Measurable criteria which define the conditions under which a prescribed fire will be ignited or allowed to burn. Prescription criteria may include safety, weather, environmental, geographic, social or legal considerations.

Rate of Spread-The speed a flame front travels.

Relative Humidity-The ratio of absolute to saturation vapor pressure. Fire behavior is dependent on, and can be predicted from relative humidity.

Response to Wildland Fire-The mobilization of the necessary services and responders to a fire based on ecological, social, and legal consequences, the circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected.

Snag-A standing dead tree. Snags are important as habitat for a variety of wildlife species and their prey but can be a hazard for firefighters.

Stand-A group of trees that occupies a specific area and is similar in species, age and condition.

Suppression- All the work of extinguishing a fire or confining fire spread.

Threatened Species-Those plant and animal species likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of their range within the foreseeable future as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Treatment Area-The site-specific location of a resource improvement activity.

Understory-The trees and woody shrubs growing beneath branches and foliage formed collectively by the upper portions of adjacent trees.

Unplanned Ignition-The initiation of a wildland fire by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized human-caused fires and escaped prescribed fires where the objective is to protect values at risk while meeting resource objectives specified in Land/Resource Management Plan.

Unwanted Ignition- An ignition from any source that is unplanned and unwanted.

Use of Wildland Fire- Management of either wildfire or prescribed fire to meet objectives specified in Land/Resource Management Plans.

Values to be Protected/Values at Risk-Include property, structures, natural and cultural resources, and environmental values.

Wildfire- Unplanned ignition of a wildland fire or escaped prescribed fire where the objective is to protect values at risk while meeting resource objectives specified in the Land/Resource Management Plan.

Wildland-Any area under fire management jurisdiction of a land management agency.

Wildland Fire- Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Two distinct types of wildland fire have been defined and include wildfire (unplanned ignition) and prescribed fire (planned ignition).

Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)-Decision support process and analysis that help determine and document decisions regarding the management of individual ignitions.

Wildland Urban Interface-Defined as the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.