

Prescribed fire

- Classification
- What we can control
- Prescribed fire plans
- Uses (case examples)

Prescribed vs wildfire

Classification does not have to do with physical or biological properties of fire

- Prescribed fire promotes management goals of responsible
- Prescribed fire can be set (or let burn) under conditions that favor control and that lead, on the whole, to net enhancement of the resource or ecosystem.
- Wildfire – fire with effects counter to management goals
- Wildfire occurs under conditions that make fire difficult to control and lead to net resource damage

Prescription & fire plan

- Every prescribed fire must be executed under the provisions of a prescribed fire plan
- the essence of the plan is the **prescription**
 - prescription is analogous to a fire behavior forecast around which plans for control of the fire are made.
 - prescription is the set of conditions within which a prescribed fire will be allowed to occur.

What aspects of fire can be controlled?

- SIZE
 - fuels, purposes (mgt area or goal), control, will usually be determining factors
- INTENSITY
 - achieved through prescription, fuel preparations, and choice of [ignition patterns](#).
 - Fire effects vary with intensity and fire intensity is rarely uniform across entire fire.
- TIMING
 - affects fire behavior while season affects biological consequences
- FREQUENCY - how often fires occur.
 - single burn or a periodic application of fires
 - affects fire intensity, and fire size
- CLASSIFICATION
 - classify a fire as a wildfire or prescribed fire
 - not the properties of the fire but the cultural values of the management agency.

Slash burning



Pre-suppression burning



Underburning



Ecosystem maintenance



Prescribed natural fire



Type conversion

