



Forest Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Prescott National Forest | September 2023

Prescribed Fires - What are we doing differently?

In 2022, the Forest Service completed a comprehensive national prescribed fire program review that identifies immediate and longer-term actions for using prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risk to communities and restore ecosystems. Based on the review, the Forest Service has changed how it plans and implements prescribed fire.

Pre-Ignition Checklist



Prior to ignitions, additional considerations are required including favorable weather conditions, as well as the readiness and availability of firefighting resources.

Collaboration



Close communication with private landowners, cooperators, elected officials and partners when planning and executing prescribed fires.

Burn Plan



Burn plans now make better use of available science, modeling and drought monitoring.

24 Hour Approval



Leadership must approve any new ignition or continued ignitions every 24 hours.

Forest Supervisor Involvement



The Forest Supervisor is briefed before a prescribed fire is ignited.

Drought Monitoring



The new prescribed fire template discusses a drought monitor website that should be reviewed and included in the plan discussion.

Contingency Resources



The burn plan specifies additional "just in case" personnel and equipment. A minimum number of firefighting resources must be within a 30-minute response time of the project area.

Infrared (IR) Use



Infrared sensing technology is used to monitor prescribed fires for residual heat invsible to the naked eye.

Patrol Plan



Plans for long-term patrol must be in place until the prescribed fire is declared out.

Leadership



Agency leadership must be available locally during all high-complexity burns.