




---

## National Fire and Aviation Executive Board

---

### Directives Task Group Briefing Paper #03 January 19, 2005

Subject: Three Kinds of Wildland Fire

The Interagency Strategy for Implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Policy has established that there are three kinds of Wildland Fire. The definitions are as follows:

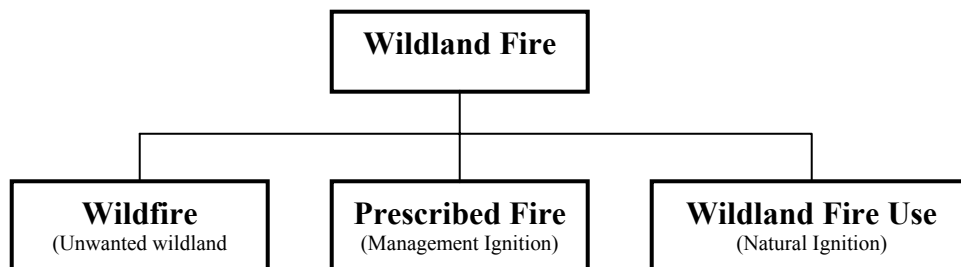
**Wildland Fire.** Any non-structure fire, that occurs in the wildland. Three distinct types of wildland fire have been defined and include **wildfire**, **wildland fire use** and **prescribed fire**.

**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.

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

**Prescribed Fire.** Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met, prior to ignition.

The following diagram depicts the relationship between these terms:



“Use of Wildland Fire” or “Fire Use” are terms that are used to describe the two types of wildland fire that provide for resource benefits; Prescribed Fire and Wildland Fire Use.