

Fire Management Planning

The National Wildlife Refuge System and fire management planning process are accomplished by assessing the purpose for which the refuge was established, applicable laws and ordinances, policies and regulations, local conditions, and social concerns, which in turn identifies the appropriate management option(s) (i.e., how when and where fire will be used and/or excluded). The Refuge Fire Management Plan formulates the appropriate management option(s) into an operational plan. It is this plan that determines the range of appropriate management responses available to the managers.

Appropriate management response considerations include:

- SAFETY- first and foremost
- Cost effectiveness
- Ability to accomplish objectives
- Values to be protected.

The appropriate management response is formulated by objectives, environmental and fuel conditions, and constraints.

The appropriate management response could include aggressive suppression on one portion of a wildland fire and monitoring on another portion of the same fire. It could also include reducing hazardous fuels on the refuge or off the refuge. The key to successful implementation of the policy is the Fire Management Plan. If asked what the policy says you can do - the answer is: "What does your Plan say?"

If you do not have a Plan, you have only one option - aggressive initial attack.