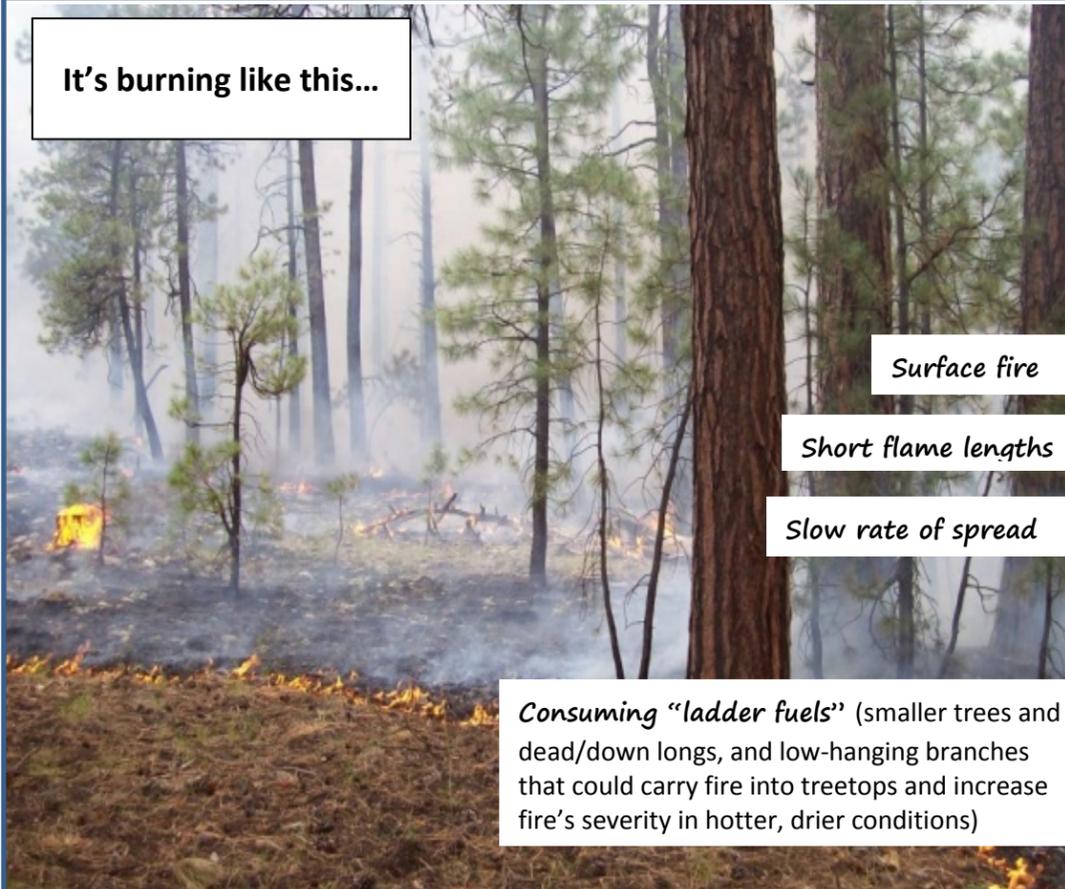


WILDFIRE & SMOKE AHEAD

IT'S A GOOD THING – A natural & necessary process...



It's burning like this...



Surface fire

Short flame lengths

Slow rate of spread

Consuming "ladder fuels" (smaller trees and dead/down logs, and low-hanging branches that could carry fire into treetops and increase fire's severity in hotter, drier conditions)

Fire crews are utilizing lightning-caused wildfires to *benefit the forest*, helping to make the area healthier and improving safety for public and firefighters

It's NOT burning like this...



This forest NEEDS frequent, low-severity fire

Historically, it occurred every 2-10 years; these events are opportunities to reintroduce the natural disturbance into the ecosystem

- To survive, plants need minerals such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and calcium – which remain in fallen leaves and debris until bacteria and other "decomposers" feed on the dead matter and return the nutrients to the soil where they can be used again by other plants. But **decomposers don't work well in our dry climates. In this area – FIRE is the agent** that breaks down the "forest litter" and recycles the minerals into the soil for new grasses and forbs to thrive.
- Healthy grasses and forbs promote healthy wildlife habitat and feeding grounds.
- And of course, removing these accumulated fuels reduces the risk of severe fire occurring during the hotter, drier months of the year = this means **safer conditions for the public and firefighters.**



Fire breaks down organic material leaving nutrients behind

Nutrients are stored in the dead vegetation



New vegetation absorbs nutrients through the soil

- Less fuel that could contribute to severe fire behavior – **safer conditions for public and firefighters**
- Healthier vegetation, enhanced habitat and food for wildlife

We use various tactics to keep the fire within pre-determined parameters (planning areas, rate of spread, severity).

We'll manage these fires as long as they remain in these parameters or until fire runs its course

Management strategies:
Establish clear goals
Pre-plan an area where the fire should and shouldn't move

Closely monitor smoke impacts – work with Az DEQ, municipal FD's, and neighboring forests

Use existing roads, trails and other natural barriers

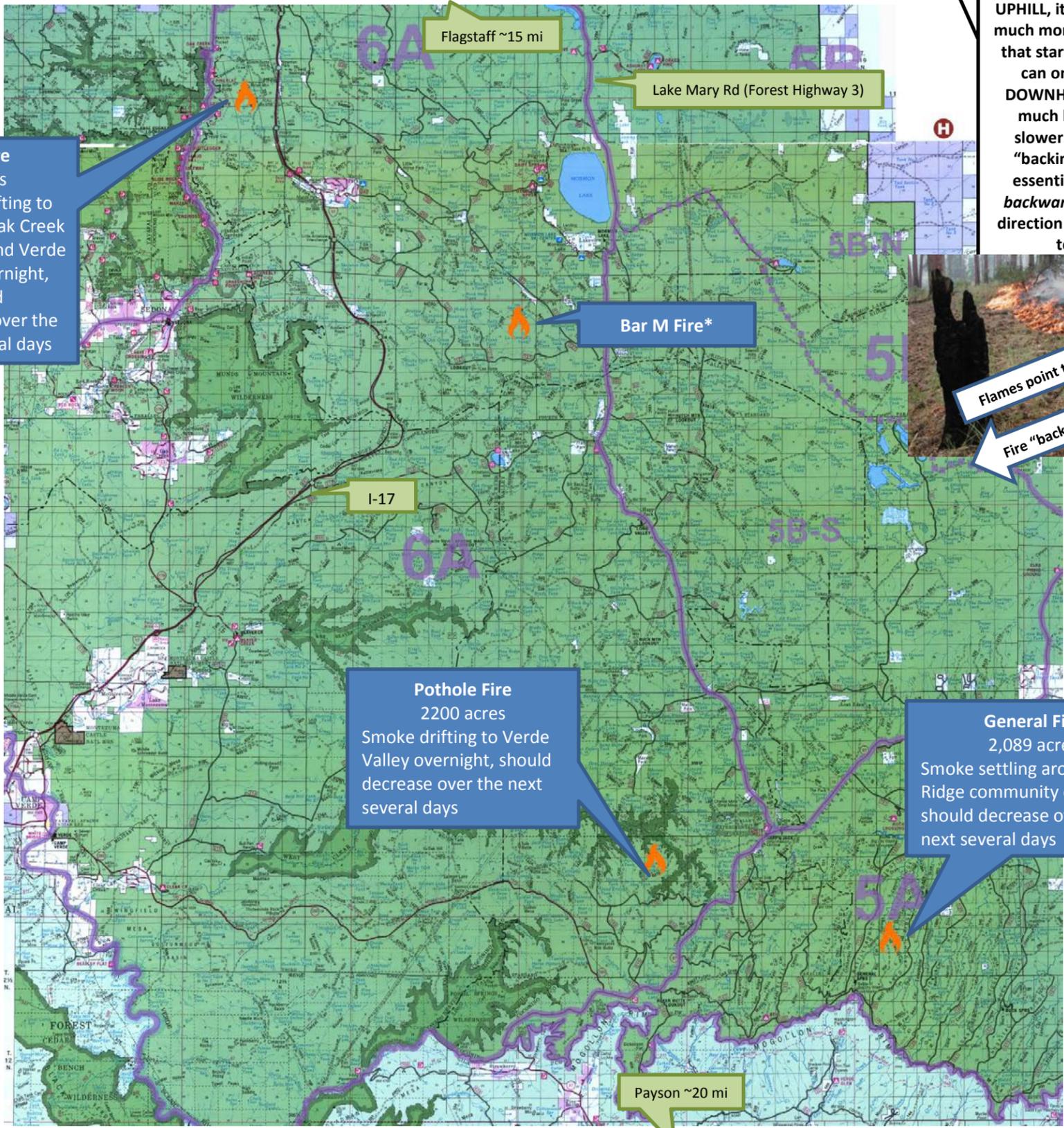
Put out flames in certain areas, Conduct burnout (aka "firing" or "ignitions") operations to solidify perimeters

Keeps fire from moving too fast or into undesired locations

Conduct burnout ops at the top of hills, forcing fire to slowly move downslope.

If fire starts at the bottom and moves UPHILL, it can gain too much momentum. Fire that starts at the top can only go but DOWNHILL, moving much lower and slower. We call it "backing fire" – it essentially moves backwards from the direction flames want to go.

Willard Fire
2,019 acres
Smoke drifting to Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon, and Verde Valley overnight, and should decrease over the next several days



Pothole Fire
2200 acres
Smoke drifting to Verde Valley overnight, should decrease over the next several days

General Fire
2,089 acres
Smoke settling around Blue Ridge community overnight, should decrease over the next several days

***EXPECT GROWTH & INCREASED SMOKE FROM BAR-M FIRE**

*Smoke is likely to settle in Mormon Lake Basin and Verde Valley overnight
Willard, Pothole, and General Fires *are no longer growing*. Interior pockets continue to burn, however these fires' smoke production has is decreasing.