

**Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact
Fire Use Amendment
to the
Shoshone National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
USDA Forest Service
Shoshone National Forest
Fremont, Hot Springs, Park and Sublette Counties in Wyoming**

Decision and reasons for the decision

Background

The Shoshone National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) was approved in 1986 and amended over time. Its goals, standards, and guidelines were derived from agency management policy in place at the time of its approval, or the approval of its amendments. The standards and guidelines for the management of wildland fire within the current Forest Plan reflect agency fire management policy in 1986. Under the current Forest Plan, suppression of wildland fire is the only choice available to Forest Service managers, with the exception that wildland fire use is permissible in designated wilderness. There is also Forest Plan direction that, in some circumstances, limits the flexibility of managers to choose the most appropriate management response to a fire.

The Federal Wildland Fire Policy and Program was developed in 1995 and updated in 2001. The policy supports the need to reestablish the role of fire in the environment and emphasizes the application of the appropriate management response to a fire. This policy rendered the Forest Plan's fire management direction out of date. The Shoshone proposes to amend the Forest Plan to reflect current federal fire management policy. The amendment focuses on expanding the role of fire across the landscape by allowing the option of wildland fire use Forest-wide and making available to fire managers the full range of appropriate management response options to all fires in order to implement the best actions given a set of circumstances.

Based on my review of the environmental assessment, specialist reports, and analyses contained in the administrative record¹ for this National Environmental Policy Act review, I am issuing this Decision Notice with a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Decision

Based on my review of the alternatives, I have decided to implement Alternative 2, which amends current Forest Plan direction, standards, and guidelines pertaining to protection and fire management. The primary objective of the amendment is to provide the option for managing unplanned ignitions for suppression or resource benefit objectives on a Forest-wide basis and to make available the full range of appropriate management responses options (monitoring to intensive management actions). The changes would affect Forest-wide direction and specific management area direction for the Shoshone National Forest as well as fire management related standards and guidelines.

¹ The environmental assessment and is available from the Shoshone's Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone/projects/planning/forest_projects/new_completed_projects.shtml. The Forest Plan and administrative record for this project are available at the Supervisor's Office, 808 Meadow Lane Avenue, Cody, WY 82414, telephone 307.527.6241.

As disclosed in this Finding of No Significant Impact, the environmental effects of implementing Alternative 2 would not be significant. In addition, the implementation of Alternative 2 would result in a non-significant amendment to the Forest Plan, pursuant to Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 §5.32. This decision meets requirements under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and implementing regulations found in 36 CFR 219.

This amendment is a programmatic action that is not directly related to a specific project, and, in and of itself, does not authorize ground-disturbing actions. Wildland fire use and suppression are considered emergency actions and do not require site-specific project analyses prior to implementation. Actions allowed under the amendment would still be constrained by federal wildland fire management policy and implementation compliance processes already in place. Adoption of Alternative 2 would best satisfy the purpose and need to restore natural fire regimes and allow the Forest Plan to reflect current Federal Wildland Fire Policy.

Appropriate management response options range from monitoring at a distance to intensive suppression actions. Specific responses would depend on the circumstances and conditions for each fire, in part, including the cause of the fire (human versus natural), risks to firefighters and the public, resources at risk, location of the fire, the time of year, potential direction of fire spread, and current and expected fire behavior.

Alternatives considered

Two alternatives were evaluated and considered: no action and the proposed action.

Alternative 1 - no action

Under the no action alternative, current Forest Plan direction would continue to guide management of fire use. The Forest Plan would not be amended to reflect current wildland fire policy and wildland fire use would be allowed only in designated wilderness. The range of appropriate management response options would continue to be the same as described in Appendix F of the Forest Plan. Processes and other direction described in standards and guidelines would continue to be applied, and wilderness fire management guidebooks would continue to be used.

This alternative does not meet the purpose and need.

Alternative 2 - proposed action

The proposed action is to amend Forest Plan management direction to be consistent with current wildland fire policy by incorporating the following:

- Forest-wide application of appropriate management response
- Managing wildland fire from unplanned ignitions² to accomplish resource benefits (wildland fire use) would be allowed Forest-wide, when and where conditions are appropriate

² Current federal wildland fire management policy limits managing wildland fire for resource benefits to unplanned *natural* ignitions. Unplanned *human* ignitions cannot be managed for resource benefits at this time. Additionally, federal policy does not permit the management of wildland fire for both a suppression objective and a resource benefit objective at the same time. Once a fire has been declared a wildfire, it cannot be managed for resource benefits. Federal wildland fire policy is subject to periodic reviews and updates and it is possible that in the future a wildland fire could be managed for both suppression and resource benefit objectives. In addition, under some circumstances wildland fire that originated from unplanned human ignitions could be managed for resource benefits. If this change in policy were to occur, managing wildland fire for resource benefits from any unplanned ignition would be an option available to

- Removal or modification of Forest-wide and management area direction, standards, and guidelines that are redundant, process oriented, or no longer needed due to more specific Forest-wide direction and updates in agency policy
- Addition of desired condition (goals) statement, general direction, standards, and guidelines regarding fire management activities and related resource protection measures
- The Fire Management Assessment in appendix F would be removed and replaced with the Forest's fire management plan.³

Public involvement

Scoping began December 14, 2005 and ended January 25, 2006. Scoping letters were sent to approximately 300 individuals, organizations, tribes, and federal agencies. News releases were distributed to local and regional news organizations. The proposal was listed in the Shoshone's Schedule of Proposed Actions report beginning January 1, 2006, and the scoping letter was posted on the Forest's Web site.

Nine responses were received from individuals and organizations. Comments varied by the respondent's interests. Most comments expressed support for restoring fire to the ecosystem. One comment was concerned with the impacts to timber management and potential reduced economic benefits.

All correspondence is retained in the project file. All comments received through scoping were considered in developing the issues and alternatives, which directed the analysis process.

Finding of no significant impact

After considering the environmental effects described in the environmental assessment, I have determined this amendment will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). An environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following.

- 1) My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action. The purpose of the proposed action is to update fire management direction in the Forest Plan based on current federal wildland fire policy. The beneficial effect of reestablishing a more natural fire regime and allowing naturally caused fire to play its role in the environment did not bias the finding. There will be short-term negative impacts (smoke, visual quality, modification of wildlife habitat). Long-term impacts will be to promote more sustainable and resilient forest conditions and reduce the risk of an uncharacteristically large and intense wildfire. The amendment is a programmatic action that is not directly related to a specific project and does not authorize ground-disturbing actions. Site-specific National Environmental Policy Act analyses and prescribed fire burn plans are required for prescribed burning projects, and responses to wildland fires require development of wildland fire implementation plans and associated decision criteria.
- 2) There will be no significant effects on public health and safety, because impacts to local air quality are temporary in the short term. In general, the air quality in the area of the Shoshone

fire managers. Until this policy change occurs, wildland fire use would be authorized only for fires that originate from unplanned *natural* ignitions.

³ Fire management plans represent the functional activity plan for wildland fire management. These plans provide the strategic definition of the program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the area's approved Forest Plan, and translation of programmatic direction from Forest Plans into operational implementation activities.

is some of the best in the United States, including annual impacts from wildland fires. Potential effects of smoke on residents would be factored into each decision on whether to allow wildland fire use in a specific location. Each decision to manage or suppress a fire would be based on resource-specific criteria. With regard to air quality, maintenance of national ambient air quality standards would be a primary criterion. Current implementation compliance from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality Division and the Environmental Protection Agency provide the criteria for smoke management (environmental assessment section 3.3).

- 3) There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because site-specific features such as cultural sites and ecologically critical areas have been designated for suppression responses and would receive protection at the time of implementation through mitigation and avoidance processes in place. The amendment has decreased risk of affecting sensitive plant species and their habitat due to the decreased probability of high intensity and severity fire over time. The primary concern is related to the influx of people and equipment; this can be mitigated. There are inherent risks to Fremont's bladderpod and the roundleaf orchid from fire, separate from the actions that would occur from the amendment. Guidelines were added to reduce the risk from fire to these species. The risk of long-term habitat impacts to Fremont's bladderpod and the roundleaf orchid are less with the amendment (environmental assessment section 3.8.2)
- 4) The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial, because there is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of the amendment. The potential for greatest short-term impacts is from smoke generated by wildfire events. Historically, Wyoming enjoys very clean air and to date there have been no measured exceedance of air quality parameters due to wildland fire.
- 5) We have considerable experience with the types of activities to be implemented. The effects analysis shows the effects are not uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risks. Management of wildland fire use events or long-term suppression events combine technologies and techniques developed for both wildland fire suppression and prescribed burning. The Shoshone has had a substantial fire management program for the last 15 years, experiencing more than 10 large fires and prescribed burning 200 to 6,000 acres annually.
- 6) The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, because the amendment does not establish a need for future actions. The national emphasis for land management agencies is to move forward with developing an appropriate management response to all wildland fires and use of wildland fire use when and where appropriate.
- 7) The cumulative impacts are not significant, as described in chapter 3 of the environmental assessment. A wide range of activities on and off the Forest contributes to cumulative effects, primarily livestock grazing, vegetation management, and recreation use. Wildland fire management activities would not add appreciably to cumulative effects from these other activities. No additional actions were identified that when combined with the proposed action would cause significant cumulative impacts.
- 8) The amendment will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, because wildland fire use events require a wildland fire implementation plan, with associated decision criteria. The action will not cause loss or destruction of significant cultural or historical resources because adoption of wildland fire management policy is not considered an undertaking as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act regulations. Accordingly, the amendment will have no direct effect on heritage resources. Indirect effects include the increased exposure of artifacts. Such sites are more likely to be protected during

a low or moderate intensity fire managed for resource benefit than during a high-intensity, catastrophic wildland fire. The decision makers are aware of the locations of heritage resources based on the preplanning guidance provided by the programmatic agreement with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.

- 9) The action will not adversely affect endangered or threatened species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act. There may be short-term effects on many wildlife species because of on-the-ground implementation from occasional use of wildland fire instead of suppression. The long-term effects of the amendment are expected to return the natural fire regime, which would benefit all species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination for the critical habitat for the Canada lynx, based on the relatively small habitat changes that may result from the amendment at the Greater Yellowstone Area scale.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may or may not be required at the time decisions are being made to manage a wildland fire, depending on the location, time of year, presence or absence of threatened and endangered species, and whether management may affect threatened and endangered species. In many instances, there would be no need for consultation because there would be no substantial suppression actions or extensive human presence on the ground.

- 10) The action will not violate federal, state, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the environmental assessment (chapter 3). The action is consistent with the Shoshone National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended.

Findings required by other laws and regulations

This decision to amend Forest Plan direction, standards, and guidelines pertaining to protection and fire management, the primary objective of which is to allow both suppression and/or wildland fire use on a Forest-wide bases as an appropriate management response to wildland fire, is consistent with the intent of the Forest Plan's long term goals and objectives. The proposed changes to existing Forest Plan goals, directions, standards, and guidelines are based on changes in Forest Service fire management policy.

It is my finding that the actions of this decision comply with the requirement of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR 219. This amendment is being made primarily in response to new federal fire policy. I followed direction found in 16 USC 1604(f) (4), 36 CFR 219, Forest Service Manual 1922.5, and Forest Service Handbook 1090.12(5.32) and determine this is not a significant amendment to the Forest Plan because it does not meet the required definition of significance found in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 (5.32). Those factors are:

Timing. The Forest Plan was signed in 1986 and is well outside the original planning period. The Forest Plan is under revision and expected to be completed in the next two years.

Location and size. While the amendment covers the entire Shoshone National Forest, the actual implementation on the ground is expected to be less than 90,000 acres over the next 10 years.

Goals, objectives, and outputs. This amendment will not significantly alter the long-term relationship between multiple use goals and objectives in the Forest Plan. No changes in the levels of goods and services provided by the Forest Plan are expected.

Management prescription. Management prescriptions in the Forest Plan will be replaced or modified by statements related to goals, desired conditions, direction, standards, and guidelines pertaining to wildland fire management. Implementation direction in appendix F will be replaced

by the fire management plan. The changes in fire management actions of this amendment will not alter the desired future condition of the land and resources, but provide managers with the flexibility to meet those conditions.

Implementation date

This project will be implemented 7 (seven) days following notice of this decision in the newspaper of record, the *Cody Enterprise*, Cody, Wyoming

Administrative review or appeal opportunities

This decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217. A notice of appeal must be in writing and clearly state that it is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Appeals must be filed within 45 calendar days of the date the legal notice of this decision is published in the *Cody Enterprise*, the newspaper of record.

The appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand delivery, or express delivery) with the Appeal Deciding Officer at:

USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
Attn: Appeal Deciding Officer
740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401-4720

Fax number 303.275.5134

Office hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm MT, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic appeals must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to appeals-rocky-mountain-regional-office@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identify will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of this notice in the *Cody Enterprise*. The day after the publication of this notice in the *Cody Enterprise* is the first day of the appeal filing period. Attachments received after the 45-day appeal period will not be considered. The publication date in the *Cody Enterprise* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements of 36 CFR 217.

Contact

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Rick Connell, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Shoshone National Forest, 808 Meadow Lane Avenue, Cody, WY; rconnell@fs.fed.us; or telephone 307.527.6921.

/s/ Rebecca Aus

June 11, 2008

Rebecca Aus
Forest Supervisor

Date

Shoshone National Forest Forest Plan Amendment Number 2008-01 June 11, 2008

The Shoshone National Forest Wildland Fire Use Amendment Environmental Assessment was completed in June 2008. A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was issued by the Forest Supervisor to amend the Shoshone National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) on June 11, 2008. Forest Plan Amendment number 2008-01 changes Forest Plan direction related to wildland fire management activities. A summary of the amendment includes the following:

- Forest-wide application of appropriate management response
- Managing wildland fire from unplanned ignitions to accomplish resource benefits (wildland fire use) is allowed Forest-wide, when and where conditions are appropriate.
- Removal or modification of Forest-wide and management area direction, standards, and guidelines that are redundant, process oriented, or no longer needed due to more specific Forest-wide direction and updates in agency policy
- Addition of desired condition (goals) statement, general direction, standards and guidelines regarding fire management activities and related resource protection measures
- The Fire Management Assessment in appendix F is removed and replaced with the Forest Fire Management Plan. Fire management plans represent the functional activity plan for wildland fire management. These plans provide the strategic definition of the program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the area's approved Forest Plan, and translation of programmatic direction from Forest Plans into operational implementation activities.

Table 1 displays the changes to the 1986 Forest Plan and the new direction, standards and guidelines pertaining to wildland fire management. Existing Forest Plan direction regarding fuel treatment and the use of prescribed fire did not change.

Table 1—Forest Plan amendment 2008-01

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
Chapter III - Forest Management Direction	Protection	Protection and Fire Management
Page III-10	Provide cost effective fire protection to minimize the combined cost of protection and damages, and prevent loss of human life (planning Problem Statement 9).	<p>Remove Forest-wide goal statement pertaining to fire protection and replace with the following:</p> <p>Desired Condition (Goals)</p> <p>Wildland fire receives an appropriate management response based on ecological, social, economic, and legal consequences of the fire. Wildland fire plays a role within and outside wilderness where appropriate and desirable, but active suppression of fire occurs where necessary to protect life, investments, and valuable resources. Valuable resources include the wildland urban interface, utility corridors and communication sites, public water supply, recreation facilities, administrative sites, range allotments, special management areas, fish and wildlife habitats, and lands suitable for timber production.</p>

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
Chapter III - Forest Management Direction	Fire Planning and Suppression	Wildland Fire Management
Page III-95	<p>General Direction</p> <p>1. Protect life, property and resource values from wildfire in a cost-efficient manner that maximizes the benefits of shared resources and developing technologies.</p>	<p>General Direction</p> <p>Remove general direction statement and replace with:</p> <p>Forest-wide General Direction</p> <p>1. Both unplanned ignitions⁴ and prescribed fire are used as tools to achieve and maintain vegetation conditions and desired fuel levels. Fire operates within historical fire regimes appropriate to the vegetation type and management objectives. Prescribed fire plays a role in areas where managing unplanned ignitions for resource benefits is not appropriate because of high values. Fire management strategies are designed to achieve land management protection or benefit objectives, are cost effective, and meet safety objectives for firefighters and the public.</p>

⁴ Current federal wildland fire management policy limits managing wildland fire for resource benefits to unplanned natural ignitions. Unplanned human ignitions cannot be managed for resource benefits at this time. Additionally, federal policy does not permit the management of wildland fire for both a suppression objective and a resource benefit objective at the same time. Once a fire has been declared a wildfire, it cannot be managed for resource benefits. Federal wildland fire policy is subject to periodic reviews and updates and it is possible that in the future a wildland fire could be managed for both suppression and a resource benefit objectives. In addition, under some circumstances wildland fire that originated from unplanned human ignitions could be managed for resource benefits. If this change in policy were to occur, managing wildland fire for resource benefits from any unplanned ignition would be an option available to fire managers. Until this policy change occurs, wildland fire use would be authorized only for fires that originate from unplanned natural ignitions.

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
	<p>Standards and Guidelines</p> <p>a. Planned budgets and programs are based on an analysis of efficiency and public concern, b. Fiscal year fire program activities are based on a cost-efficient analysis of the budget, c. Wildfire suppression is based on least-cost plus damages with consideration for policy concerns, d. The responsible line officer shall promptly organize and implement an appropriate suppression resource for each escaped fire by using an escaped fire situation analysis, e. Control wildfire during regular fire season, June 20 to September 30, when located on or within one-half mile of tentatively suitable timberland, f. Control wildfire where structural improvements are threatened (generally within one-half mile). Structural improvements include items such as lodges, summer homes, private developments, campgrounds, trailheads, picnic grounds, ski runs and administrative sites, g. Control, contain, or confine wildfires from June 20 to September 30 outside of above areas according to Table 2 of Appendix F, Fire Management Assessment, using a least-cost objective.</p>	<p>Remove Standard and Guidelines and replace with:</p> <p>Standards</p> <p>a) Firefighter and public safety is the priority in all fire management activities. Reduce firefighter and public injuries and loss of life, and damage to communities from unwanted wildland fires, by prioritizing firefighter and public safety above other concerns in fire management activities.</p> <p>b) Managing unplanned ignitions to accomplish resource benefits is authorized Forest-wide where compatible with agency policy and other resource management direction and objectives. Wildland fire may be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and as nearly as possible be allowed to function in its natural role.</p> <p>c) Every wildland fire that is not a prescribed fire will receive an appropriate management response. In implementing an appropriate management response, the full spectrum of tactical options, from monitoring a fire at a distance to intensive management actions are available.</p>

5 A fire management plan is developed for all areas with burnable vegetation. The fire management plan is a strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the Forest Plan. The fire management plan will provide for firefighter and public safety; include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; appropriate management response options; address values to be protected and public health issues; and be consistent with resources management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations.

6 Minimum impact suppression techniques refers to the application of strategy and tactics that effectively meet suppression and resource objectives with the least environmental, cultural, and social impacts.

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
		<p>d) For all unwanted wildland fires (wildfire), the overarching goal of suppression will be applied in every case. The initial suppression action will usually focus on prompt and decisive control of the fire commensurate with firefighter and public safety and cost effectiveness. In the initial or subsequent suppression responses, a full and immediate control objective may be modified, and the commitment of resources and actions reduced, when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personnel cannot safely or effectively engage the fire • suppression resources necessary for a successful outcome are not available • values to be protected and at risk from the fire are less than the expected cost of continuing an aggressive suppression effort <p>e) Wildland fire can be managed through less aggressive tactical approaches when values of resources at risk are low, threats to exceed management capability are low, firefighter exposure and risk are high, and expected costs of aggressive suppression actions are high.</p> <p>f) All human-caused wildland fire will be managed in a manner consistent with agency policies.</p> <p>Guidelines Fire Management</p> <p>a) Implementation information for wildland fire management activities will be described in the fire management plan.⁵</p>

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
		<p>Cultural Resources</p> <p>b) Wildland fire management activities should protect cultural resources when feasible with priority given to sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, sites recommended for selection to the Register and to known unevaluated sites.</p> <p>c) Fires within the proposed Kirwin Historic Area should be suppressed. Use initial attack actions that keep fires as small as possible. For wildland fires that threaten to burn into the historic area, the appropriate management response should consist of strategies and tactics that keep fires from burning into the historic area.</p> <p>Public Water Supply</p> <p>d) For unwanted fires that start in the Sawmill Creek sub-watershed, use aggressive initial attack actions that keep fires as small as possible. For unwanted wildland fires that threaten to burn into the sub-watershed, the appropriate management response should include of strategies and tactics that keep fires from burning into the watershed.</p> <p>e) Use the most effective suppression strategies and tactics that have the least impact possible on water quality.</p> <p>Research Natural Areas</p> <p>f) Fires within research natural areas (established and proposed) should be suppressed when they threaten the values for which the research natural</p>

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
		<p>area was established or threaten other values outside the research natural area. For unwanted wildland fires that threaten to burn into research natural areas, the appropriate management response should consist of strategies and tactics that keep fires from burning into research natural areas.</p> <p>g) Use minimum impact suppression techniques⁶ when suppressing fires within research natural areas.</p> <p>Swamp Lake Botanical Area</p> <p>h) Fires within the botanical area should be suppressed. Use initial attack actions that keep fires as small as possible. For wildland fires that threaten to burn into the botanical area, the appropriate management response should consist of strategies and tactics that keep fires from burning into the botanical area.</p> <p>i) Use minimum impact suppression techniques when suppressing fires within the botanical area. Avoid ground disturbing activities on sites where unique or sensitive plants exist.</p> <p>Proposed Sawtooth Peatbed Geologic Area</p> <p>j) Fires within the geologic area should be suppressed. Use initial attack actions that keep fires as small as possible. For wildland fires that threaten to burn into the geologic area, the appropriate management response should include of strategies and tactics that keep fires from burning into the</p>

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
		<p>geological area.</p> <p>k) Use minimum impact suppression techniques when suppressing fires within the geologic area. Avoid ground disturbing activities on sites where unique or sensitive plants exist.</p>
Chapter III - Forest Management Direction	Escaped Fire Suppression	Wildland Fire Management
Page III-96	<p>General Direction</p> <p>1. Take suppression action on all escaped fires considering the following:</p> <p>a. The values of the resources threatened by the fire (both positive and negative),</p> <p>b. Management objectives for the threatened area(s),</p> <p>c. The fuelbeds the fire may burn in,</p> <p>d. The current and projected weather conditions that will influence fire behavior,</p> <p>e. Natural barriers and fuel breaks,</p> <p>f. Social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental concerns,</p> <p>g. Public safety,</p> <p>h. Firefighter safety,</p> <p>i. Costs of alternative suppression strategies. Use the escaped fire situation analysis to make this determination.</p>	<p>General Direction</p> <p>Remove Forest General Direction statements 1 and replace with Forest General Direction statement 1 as described above.</p> <p>Remove Forest General Direction statements a - i and replace with Standards a - f and Guidelines a - k for Wildland Fire Management as described above.</p>

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
Chapter III - Forest Management Direction	Wilderness Area Management	Wilderness Area Management
Page III-41	<p>General Direction</p> <p>13. The Washakie and North Absaroka Fire Management Plans will be applied as written. Fire management for all other wildernesses will be:</p> <p>a. Control all man-caused unplanned ignitions b. Control all unplanned ignitions within one-half mile of the boundary between wilderness and non-wilderness. c. Confine natural unplanned ignitions to less than 1,000 acres from June 20 to September 30. d. Confine natural unplanned ignitions to less than 2,000 acres from October 1 to June 19.</p> <p>Standards and Guidelines</p> <p>a. Specific instructions for responding to wildfire on specific areas of the Forest are contained in Table 1 of Appendix F - Fire Management Assessment.</p>	<p>General Direction</p> <p>Remove Forest General Direction 13 and corresponding standard and guidelines. General direction and standards and guidelines for managing wildland fire are the same as what is above under Forest-wide Wildland Fire Management.</p> <p>Individual fire management plans for wilderness areas on the Forest are replaced with implementation direction that is located in the fire management plan.</p> <p>Standards and Guidelines</p> <p>The Fire Management Assessment in appendix F of the Forest Plan is removed and replaced with the fire management plan. Specific instructions and strategies for implementing Forest Plan direction are located in the fire management plan.</p>
Page III-41	<p>General Direction</p> <p>14. Maintain fire dependent ecosystems using fires ignited naturally. Reclaim areas disturbed as part of fire control activities to meet the visual quality objective of retention.</p>	<p>General Direction</p> <p>Remove general direction statement and replace with:</p> <p>14. Permit fires to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role within wilderness.</p>
Page III-41	<p>General Direction</p> <p>15. Reduce the risk from wildfire or its consequences to life</p>	<p>General Direction</p> <p>Remove Forest General Direction 15. Forest general</p>

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
	and property within wilderness or to resources, life or property outside wilderness using trained professionals in a cost effective manner.	direction and standards and guidelines for managing wildfire are the same as what is above under Forest-wide Wildland Fire Management.
Chapter III - Direction for Management Areas 3B, 10E, and 10F	Fire Planning and Suppression	Wildland Fire Management
Pages III-144, III- 244, & III-250	1. Maintain fire dependent ecosystems using fires ignited naturally. Reclaim areas disturbed as part of fire control activities to meet the visual quality objective of retention.	Remove Management Area General Direction statement 1 that is associated with Management Areas 3B, 10E and 10F. General direction and standards and guidelines for managing wildland fire are the same as above under Wildland Fire Management on a Forest-wide basis.
Chapter III - Direction for Management Area 10A	Fire Planning and Suppression	Wildland Fire Management
Page III-233	<p>General Direction</p> <p>1. Extinguish wildfires endangering the RNA. Allow fires within the RNA to burn undisturbed unless they threaten persons or property outside the area, or uniqueness of the RNA.</p> <p>Standards and Guidelines</p> <p>a. Leave fire-caused debris for natural decay.</p>	<p>General Direction Standard and Guidelines</p> <p>Remove Management Area General Direction statement 1 and Standards and Guidelines that are with Management Area 10A. General direction and standards and guidelines for managing wildland fire are the same as above under Wildland Fire Management on a Forest-wide basis.</p>

1986 Forest Plan		Forest Plan Amendment #2008-1
Chapter III - Direction for Management Area 10D	Fire Planning and Suppression	Wildland Fire Management
Page III-239	<p>General Direction</p> <p>1. Provide a level of protection from wildland fire that is cost efficient and that will meet objectives.</p> <p>Standards and Guidelines</p> <p>a. Do not allow tractor use for fire suppression within river corridors.</p>	<p>General Direction Standard and Guidelines</p> <p>Remove Management Area General Direction statement 1 and Standards and Guidelines that are associated with Management Area 10D. General direction and standards and guidelines for managing wildland fire are the same as above under Fire Management on a Forest-wide basis.</p>
Appendix F	Fire Management Assessment	Fire Management Plan
Pages F-1 to F-33	This appendix provides specific instructions on practices and strategies to be applied to each analysis area to meet the direction for fire as specified in the Protection section of Forest Direction in Chapter III as well as wildland fire, prescribed fire, and other resource management direction; goals and objectives; and standards and guidelines.	The Fire Management Assessment in appendix F is removed and replaced with a fire management plan for the Forest. The fire management plan will contain the specific instructions and strategies for implementing Forest Plan direction for fire as specified in the Protection and Fire Management section of Forest Direction in Chapter III as well as wildland fire, prescribed fire, and other resource management direction, goals and objectives, and standards and guidelines.