



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pacific Northwest Region | Pacific Southwest Region | Pacific Planning Service Group

Northwest Forest Plan Amendment - Fire Resilience

Key Highlights

- Reduces community exposure to wildfire through strategic thinning and prescribed burns.
- Promotes restoration of fire resilience and natural fire regimes in dry forest ecosystems.
- Encourages adaptive management to promote drought- and fire-resilient species where appropriate.

Fire Resilience Goals

Proactive Fuels Management

- Dry Forests:
 - » Prioritizes thinning and prescribed burns to create heterogeneity, with an emphasis on more open forest conditions and lower stand densities.
 - » Retains old, fire-resistant trees to maintain ecological and cultural values.
- Moist Forests:
 - » Focuses on retaining mature and old-growth forest conditions, while enhancing structural complexity in younger stands using ecological forestry approaches to increase wildfire patchiness and reduce overall severity.

Community Wildfire Protection Areas

- Establishes a buffer around communities to implement wildfire risk reduction activities, such as thinning and prescribed fire.
- Promotes community safety and reduced exposure to severe wildfire.

How Does This Amendment Improve Fire Resilience?

- Community Protection: Prioritizes wildfire risk reduction activities around communities.
- Fire Resilience: Promotes restoration of fire resilient landscapes.
- Ecological Integrity: Increases landscapes' ability to withstand undesired wildfire effects.

For more information about the Northwest Forest Plan & Amendment, including how to comment, scan the QR code or visit: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Spotlight on Alternatives

Alternative B (Proposed Action):

- Promotes moderate thinning and use of wildland fire, including both planned and unplanned ignitions, to reduce wildfire intensity while conserving key ecological features.

Alternative C:

- Focuses on minimal thinning and reliance on natural processes for fire adaptation.

Alternative D:

- Encourages broader use of thinning and use of wildland fire, including both planned and unplanned ignitions, for increased fire resilience and risk reduction.
- Introduces a **Strategic Fire Management Zone** approach, each with specific objectives:
 - » **Community Wildfire Protection Zone:** Reduce fuel loading adjacent to communities to facilitate safe firefighting operations. Defend communities and infrastructure.
 - » **General Wildfire Protection Zone:** Prioritize fuel treatments and fire management activities to contribute to the protection of communities.
 - » **Wildfire Maintenance Zone:** Vegetation conditions and distance from communities allow for safe use of wildland fire to support ecosystem health and reduce fire risk across the landscape.
 - » **Wildfire Restoration Zone:** Priority areas for ecological restoration, to support future wildland fire use as a tool for maintaining ecological conditions and reducing fire risk.

These zones would be developed by local units collaboratively with local communities and other management agencies.

Learn More About Fire Resilience in the DEIS

To explore the topic in greater detail, consult these sections of the DEIS:

1. Volume 1: Chapter 3 – Environmental Consequences of Fire Management

- » Analysis of fire resilience strategies under different alternatives.

2. Volume 2: Appendix A1 – Proposed Actions for Fire Management

- » Detailed description of prescribed burns, thinning, and strategic zones.

3. Volume 2: Appendix E – Environmental Justice and Fire Management

- » Community impacts and considerations for equitable fire resilience.

4. Volume 2: Appendix B – Changes to Fire Management Guidelines

- » Specific modifications to existing fire management protocols.



How to Stay Involved

Your input shapes the future of fire resilience in the Northwest Forest Plan area. Submit comments and questions by visiting: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp