

**FSM 2300 - RECREATION, WILDERNESS, AND RELATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CHAPTER 2320 - WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT**

2324.2 - Management of Fire

2324.21 - Objectives

The objectives of fire management in wilderness are to:

1. Permit lightning caused fires to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role within wilderness.
2. Reduce, to an acceptable level, the risks and consequences of wildfire within wilderness or escaping from wilderness.

2324.22 - Policy

1. Two types of prescribed fires may be approved for use within wilderness: those ignited by lightning and allowed to burn under prescribed conditions and those ignited by qualified Forest Service officers.
2. No fire may be ignited or allowed to burn without documented, preplanned, specified conditions.
3. Document specific objectives, standards, and guidelines for the control of wildfire and the use of prescribed fire within each wilderness (FSM 5100, 5150, and 5190) in a forest plan or, where the forest planning process has not been completed, in either an interim wilderness management or fire management area plan. Document specific direction for fire program implementation in the forest fire management action plan (FSH 5109.19).
4. Suppress all wildfires within wilderness in accordance with the direction FSM 5130.
5. Fire ignited by lightning may be permitted to burn if prescribed in an approved plan (FSM 2324 and 5150).
6. Forest Service managers may ignite a prescribed fire in wilderness to reduce unnatural buildups of fuels only if necessary to meet at least one of the wilderness fire management objectives set forth in FSM 2324.21 and if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The use of prescribed fire or other fuel treatment measures outside of wilderness is not sufficient to achieve fire management objectives within wilderness.
 - b. An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists has evaluated and recommended the proposed use of prescribed fire.
 - c. The interested public has been involved appropriately in the decision.

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d. Lightning-caused fires cannot be allowed to burn because they will pose serious threats to life and/or property within wilderness or to life, property, or natural resources outside of wilderness.

7. Do not use prescribed fire in wilderness to benefit wildlife, maintain vegetative types, improve forage production, or enhance other resource values. Although these additional effects may result from a decision to use prescribed fire, use fire in wilderness only to meet wilderness fire management objectives.

8. Do not use management ignited fire to achieve wilderness fire management objectives where lightning-caused fires can achieve them.

2324.23 - Fire Management Activities

Conduct all fire management activities within wilderness in a manner compatible with overall wilderness management objectives. Give preference to using methods and equipment that cause the least:

1. Alteration of the wilderness landscape.
2. Disturbance of the land surface.
3. Disturbance to visitor solitude.
4. Reduction of visibility during periods of visitor use.
5. Adverse effect on other air quality related values.

Locate fire camps, helispots, and other temporary facilities or improvements outside of the wilderness boundary whenever feasible. Rehabilitate disturbed areas within wilderness to as natural an appearance as possible.