

# **Lowden Ranch Prescribed Fire Review**

## **Glossary**

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**Blowup:** A sudden increase in fire intensity or rate of spread strong enough to prevent direct control or to upset control plans. Blowups are often accompanied by violent convection and may have other characteristics of a fire storm.

**Burning Index:** An estimate of the potential difficulty of fire containment as it relates to the flame length at the most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter.

**Contain a fire:** A fuel break around the fire has been completed. This break may include natural barriers or manually and/or mechanically constructed line.

**Control a fire:** The complete extinguishment of a fire, including spot fires. Fireline has been strengthened so that flare-ups from within the perimeter of the fire will not break through this line.

**Control Line:** All built or natural fire barriers and treated fire edge used to control a fire.

**Crew:** An organized group of firefighters under the leadership of a crew leader or other designated official.

**Engine:** Any ground vehicle providing specified levels of pumping, water and hose capacity.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** EAs were authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. They are concise analytical documents prepared with public participation that determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for a particular project or action. If an EA determines an EIS is not needed, the EA becomes the document allowing agency compliance with NEPA requirements.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** EISs were authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Prepared with public participation, they assist decision makers by providing information, analysis and an array of action alternatives, allowing managers to see the probable effects of decisions on the environment. Generally, EISs are written for large-scale actions or geographical areas.

**Escaped Fire:** A fire which has exceeded or is expected to exceed initial attack capabilities or prescription.

**Fire Behavior:** The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather and topography.

**Fire Use Module (Prescribed Fire Module):** A team of skilled and mobile personnel dedicated primarily to prescribed fire management. These are national and interagency resources, available throughout the prescribed fire season, that can ignite, hold and monitor prescribed fires.

**Firefighting Resources:** All people and major items of equipment that can or potentially could be assigned to fires.

**Fireline:** A linear fire barrier that is scraped or dug to mineral soil.

**Flare-up:** Any sudden acceleration of fire spread or intensification of a fire. Unlike a blowup, a flare-up lasts a relatively short time and does not radically change control plans.

**Fuel Model:** Simulated fuel complex (or combination of vegetation types) for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical rate of spread model have been specified.

**Fuel Moisture (Fuel Moisture Content):** The quantity of moisture in fuel expressed as a percentage of the weight when thoroughly dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Fuel Type:** An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive plant species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of fire spread or difficulty of control under specified weather conditions.

**Go/No Go Checklist:** A series of questions related to prescribed fire project implementation that includes prescription specifications, weather forecasts, project planning, safety considerations, personnel and equipment, notifications and contingencies. A “no” response to any of the questions stops the project.

**Hand Line:** A fireline built with hand tools.

**Holding Resources:** Firefighting personnel and equipment assigned to do all required fire suppression work following fireline construction but generally not including extensive mop-up.

**Hose Lay:** Arrangement of connected lengths of fire hose and accessories on the ground, beginning at the first pumping unit and ending at the point of water delivery.

**Hotshot Crew:** A highly trained fire crew used mainly to build fireline by hand.

**Incident:** A human-caused or natural occurrence, such as wildland fire, that requires emergency service action to prevent or reduce the loss of life or damage to property or natural resources.

**Incident Management Team:** The incident commander and appropriate general and command staff personnel assigned to manage an incident.

**Job Hazard Analysis:** This analysis of a project is completed by staff to identify hazards to employees and the public. It identifies hazards, corrective actions and the required safety equipment to ensure public and employee safety.

**Mop-Up:** To make a fire safe or reduce residual smoke after the fire has been controlled by extinguishing or removing burning material along or near the control line, felling snags, or moving logs so they won't roll downhill.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** NEPA is the basic national law for protection of the environment, passed by Congress in 1969. It sets policy and procedures for environmental protection, and authorizes Environment Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments to be used as analytical tools to help federal managers make decisions.

**National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS):** A uniform fire danger rating system that focuses on the environmental factors that control the moisture content of fuels.

**Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE):** All firefighting personnel must be equipped with proper equipment and clothing in order to mitigate the risk of injury from, or exposure to, hazardous conditions encountered while working. PPE includes, but is not limited to: 8-inch high laced leather boots with lug soles, fire shelter, hard hat with chin strap, goggles, ear plugs, aramid shirts and trousers, leather gloves and individual first aid kits.

**Prescribed Fire:** Any fire ignited by management actions under certain, predetermined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels or habitat improvement.

**Prescribed Fire Plan (Burn Plan):** This document provides the prescribed fire burn boss information needed to implement an individual prescribed fire project.

**Resource Management Plan (RMP):** A document prepared by field office staff with public participation and approved by field office managers that provides general guidance and direction for land management activities at a field office. The RMP identifies the need for fire in a particular area and for a specific benefit.

**Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS):** An apparatus that automatically acquires, processes, and stores local weather data for later transmission to the GOES Satellite, from which the data is retransmitted to an earth receiving station for use in the National Fire Danger Rating System.

**Scratchline:** An unfinished preliminary fireline hastily established or built as an emergency measure to check the spread of fire.

**Slop-over:** A fire edge that crosses a control line or natural barrier intended to contain the fire.

**Spot Fire:** A fire ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire by flying sparks or embers.

**Spot Weather Forecast:** A special forecast issued to fit the time, topography, and weather of each specific fire. These forecasts are issued upon request of the user agency and are more detailed, timely, and specific than zone forecasts.

**Spotting:** Behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the wind and start new fires beyond the zone of direct ignition by the main fire.

**Suppression:** All the work of extinguishing or containing a fire, beginning with its discovery.

**Wildland Fire:** Any nonstructure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

**Test Fire:** A small fire ignited within the planned burn unit to determine the characteristic of the prescribed fire, such as fire behavior, detection performance and control measures.

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