

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Fifty-fifth Legislature - First Regular Session

**FOREST AND WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Report of Interim Meeting  
Friday, December 17, 2021  
House Hearing Room 1 -- 8:00 A.M.

Convened 8:03 A.M.  
Recessed  
Reconvened  
Adjourned 12:07 P.M.

MINUTES RECEIVED  
CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE  
12-21-21

**Members Present**

Representative Cook, Chairman  
Representative Cano  
Representative Dunn  
Representative Griffin  
Senator Stahl Hamilton

**Members Absent**

**Agenda**

Original Agenda – Attachment 1

**Request to Speak**

Report – Attachment 2

**Committee Attendance**

Report – Attachment 3

**Presentations**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Attachments (Handouts)</u></b>
Michael Martinez & Tom Torres	U.S. Forest Service	4
Keisha Tatem	Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist	5
Frank Carroll		6
Cynthia Campbell	City of Phoenix Water Resources Management	7
	Department of Forestry and Fire Management	8

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Jana Babel, Committee Secretary  
December 21, 2021

(Original attachments on file in the Office of the Chief Clerk; video archives available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)

Interim agendas can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.azleg.gov/Interim-Committees>

**ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE**

Conv 8:03 A.M.  
Adj 12:07 P.M.

**INTERIM MEETING NOTICE**  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**FOREST AND WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Friday, December 17, 2021

**Time:** 8:00 A.M.

**Place:** HHR 1

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Chairman's remarks
3. Public testimony
4. Presentations:
  - • U.S. Forest Service on Burned Area Emergency Response work/funding and Telegraph Fire and forest restoration/fuels reduction projects
  - Frank Carroll on his experience with the U.S. Forest Service
  - Department of Forestry and Fire Management on the status of HB2001 disbursements
  - Keisha Tatem, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist, on agency resources available for impacted communities
  - Cynthia Campbell, City of Phoenix Water Resources Management Advisor, on water quality issues caused by wildfires
5. Committee discussion
6. Adjourn

**Members:**

Representative David L. Cook, Chair  
Representative Gail Griffin, Vice-Chair  
Representative Andres Cano  
Representative Timothy M. Dunn  
Senator Stephanie Stahl Hamilton

12/10/2021  
12/15/2021  
DF

**People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, alternative formats, or assistance with physical accessibility. If you require accommodations, please contact the Chief Clerk's Office at (602) 926-3032 or through Arizona Relay Service 7-1-1.**

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Please PRINT Clearly

Committee on Forest & Fire Management Bill Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date 12-17-21  Support  Oppose  Neutral

Name FRANK DALMON Need to Speak?  Yes  No

Representing Az Cattle Growers Are you a registered lobbyist? NO

Complete Address # 2 Dalmon Heights Globe AZ 85501

E-mail Address fdalmon@dalmonevents.com Phone Number 928-812-1083

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Generation Rancher -

\*\*\*FIVE-MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT\*\*\*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Please PRINT Clearly

Committee on Forest & Fire Management Bill Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date 12-17-21  Support  Oppose  Neutral

Name Heather Heister Need to Speak?  Yes  No

Representing A Cattle growers and El Capitan Community Are you a registered lobbyist? NO

Complete Address P.O. Box 937 Globe AZ 85502

E-mail Address raven\_feathers\_2u@yahoo Phone Number ~~602 722 0~~  
602 882 9507

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*FIVE-MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT\*\*\*

**ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
Fifty-fifth Legislature - Second Regular Session

**COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**FOREST AND WILDFIRE  
MANAGEMENT AD HOC  
COMMITTEE**

HOUSE AD HOC STUDY COMMITTEE ON \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN: David Cook

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Gail Griffin

DATE	12/17/21	/21	/21	/21	/21
CONVENED	8:03am	m	m	m	m
RECESSED					
RECONVENED					
ADJOURNED	12:07pm				
MEMBERS					
Andres Cano	✓				
Timothy M. Dunn	✓				
Stephanie Stahl Hamilton	✓				
Griffin, Vice-Chairman	✓				
David Cook, Chairman	✓				

✓ Present


--- Absent

exc Excused

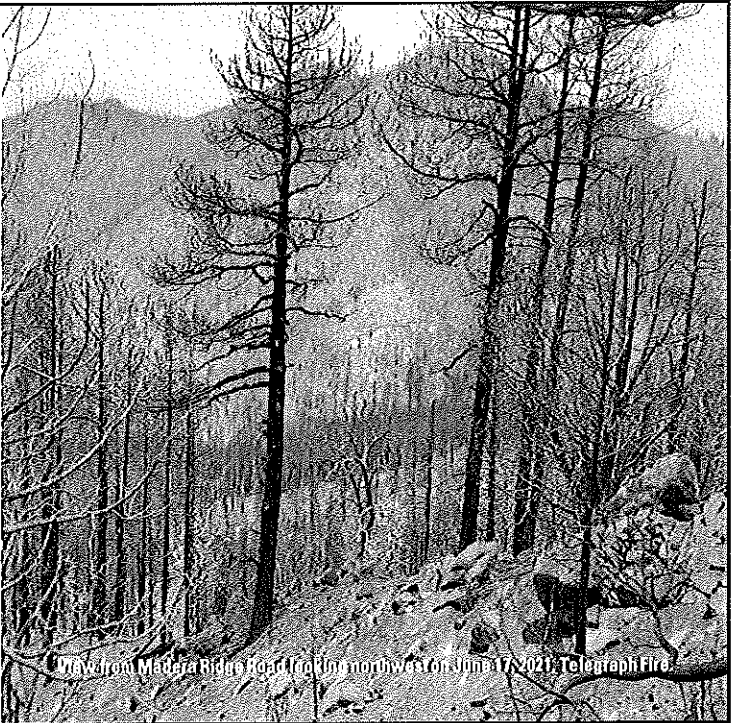


**BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE (BAER)**

Mike Martinez, BAER Team Lead  
Ecosystems Staff Officer - Tonto National Forest



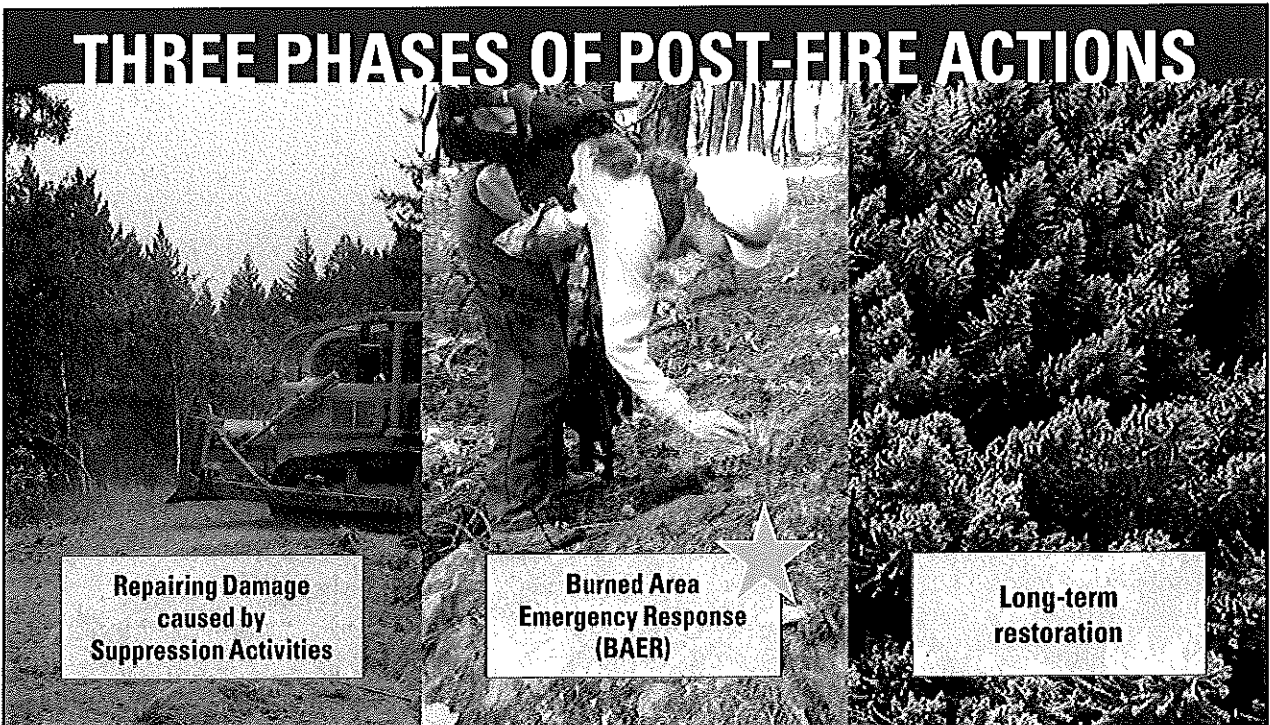
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View from Madara Ridge Road looking northwest on June 17, 2021, Telegraph Fire.

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**THREE PHASES OF POST-FIRE ACTIONS**



**Repairing Damage caused by Suppression Activities**

**Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)**

**Long-term restoration**

2

## BAER PROGRAM: SOME KEY CONCEPTS



- A program to identify imminent post-wildfire threats on National Forest System (NFS) lands to human life and safety, property and critical natural or cultural resources and to take immediate actions to manage *unacceptable* risks. The BAER program can include emergency soil stabilization treatments on NFS lands.
- Information collected by the BAER team is shared with other Federal, State, County, and local emergency response agencies to assist their efforts to provide assistance to communities and private landowners who may also be affected by potential post-fire damage.
- The FS only has authority to complete actions on and for areas under FS jurisdiction (i.e., NFS lands and BAER Critical Values (BCV)). The BAER Directives do not allow us to conduct BAER treatments on non-federal lands or to protect non-federal lands.

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## THE BAER PROCESS

### Values > Threats > Risk > Treatment

- Step 1. Identify critical values
- Step 2. Assess for threats
- Step 3. Evaluate risk
- Step 4. Develop response strategy
- Step 5. Implement the strategy



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# TELEGRAPH FIRE BAER ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

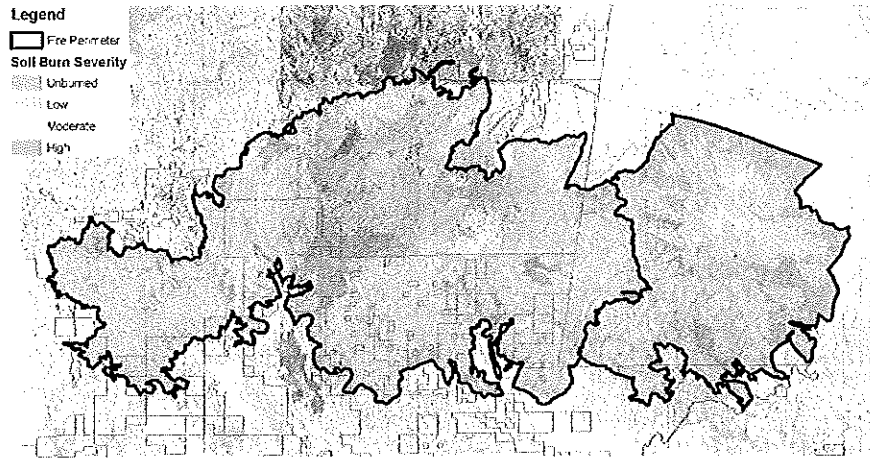
- On June 15, 2021, the Telegraph Fire BAER Team deployed while the fire was still growing.
- The first step was to field validate the Burned Area Reflectance Classification (BARC) image, prepare a SBS map, and to inventory BCVs.
- On Saturday, June 26, the BAER team assembled to assess unacceptable risk to BAER critical values exist, utilizing the hydrologic modeling.
- Risk is determined by evaluating the magnitude of consequences (based on value of resource) versus the probability of damage or loss.
- The BAER Team coordinated with County Emergency Services and National Weather Service to provide early warnings to communities for potential flooding.



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- This SBS map is used to conduct hydrologic modeling to make predictions of potential watershed response.
- Both products are shared with partners and local jurisdictions.
- Pinal Fire (2017), low severity burn

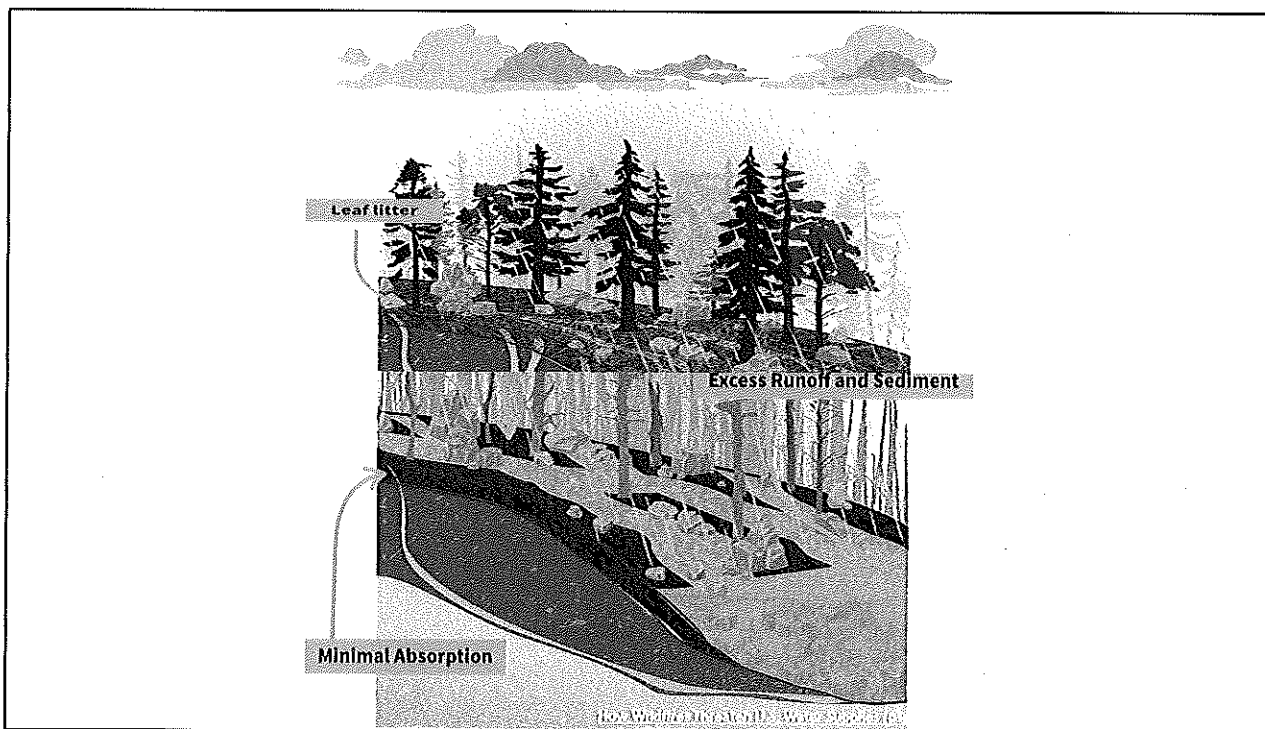


2021 TELEGRAPH - MESCAL FIRES  
SOIL BURN SEVERITY  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE (BAER)

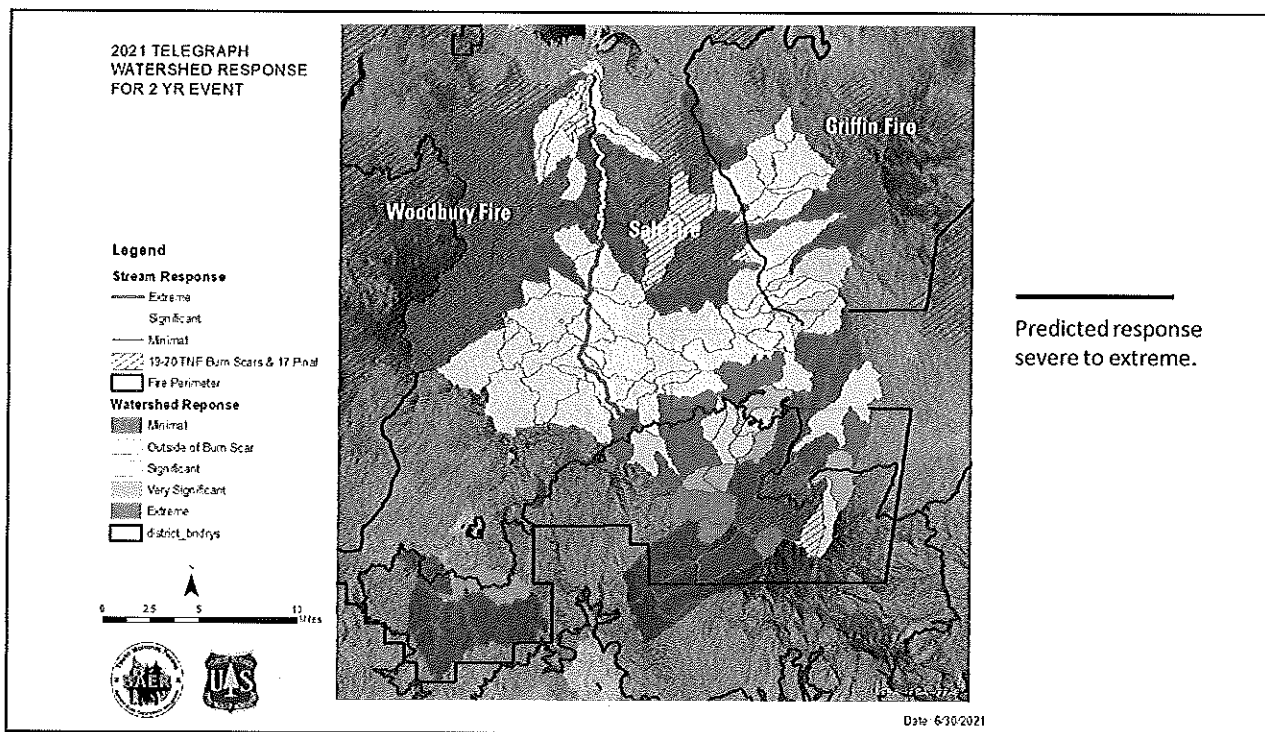
Percent Soil Burn Severity By Fire			
Telegraph			
Moderate	Low	Unburned	
0.6%	23.6%	51.6%	17.0%
Mescal			
Moderate	Low	Unburned	
0.0%	7.8%	58.2%	31.9%

SBS	Acres burned by jurisdiction				
	Telegraph	NFS	Other Federal	State	Private
Unburned	11903	6058	8887	4640	31488
Low	44179	19961	27654	7864	99658
Moderate	37488	5053	5692	4621	52854
High	958	99	14	31	1102
<b>Total</b>	<b>94528</b>	<b>31171</b>	<b>42248</b>	<b>17156</b>	<b>185102</b>

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## TELEGRAPH FIRE BAER ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

- Throughout the assessment, the FS team coordinated with technical partners, local jurisdictions, stakeholders, elected officials, State and County emergency services, and direct interaction with community members, the public, and the media.
- By July 1, specialist reports were complete, treatment recommendations were crafted, Leadership was briefed, funding requests were initiated, and the treatment implementation phase began.
- We created an Inciweb site and also posted an Executive Summary document on Inciweb on July 9, 2021.  
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7560/>



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## TELEGRAPH BAER TREATMENTS

- Recommended treatments include removal of floatable debris in channels; installation of signage; a short-term closure; soil stabilization and flood protection treatments at mine sites and along trails; storm inspection and response to protect Forest roads; installation of gates; and early detection and rapid response for invasive weeds.
- Total traditional BAER dollars:
  - Telegraph Fire total was \$390,000.
  - Bush Fire total was \$396,244.
  - Woodbury Fire total was \$413,000.

*Wattles installed at Blue Gate / Henderson mine site in coordination with Pinto Valley mine for the purpose of repository stabilization. Work accomplished mid September 2021.*



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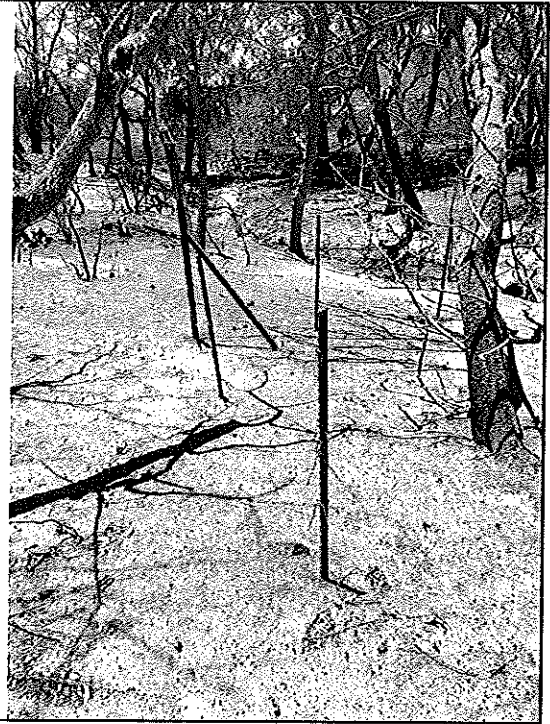


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## MINOR FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PILOT

- Pilot program intended to manage, post-fire rehabilitation related to minor facilities and infrastructure damaged by wildfire.
- For the Telegraph Fire, we worked closely with permittees, local jurisdictions, and other Federal and State partners to develop a workable approach.
- The Tonto NF received approval for **\$2.3 million** to construct approx. 66 miles of allotment boundary fence under the pilot program. The National BAER program administers this pilot program.
- For the Bush Fire, the Tonto NF was approved for **\$290,483** to purchase material to replace a water system, allotment fencing and pipelines, and add signage. We are in various stages of acquisition.

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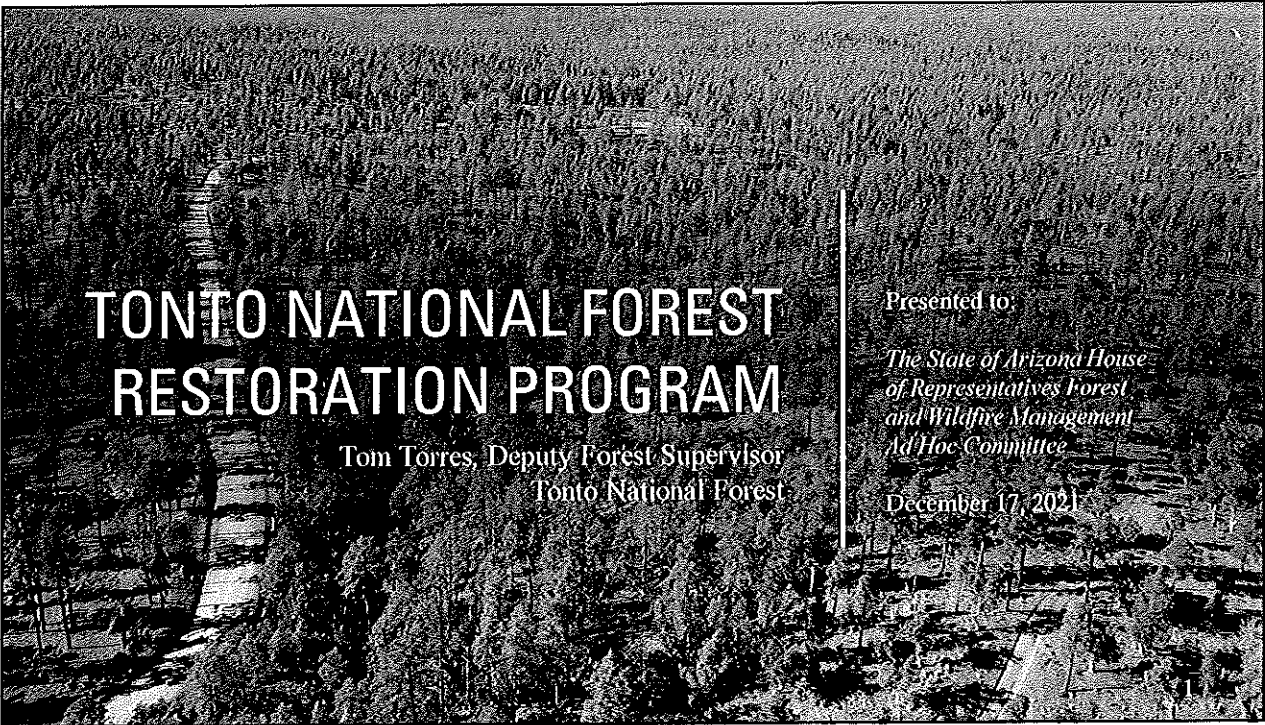


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## Questions?

*Thank you,  
Tonto National Forest*

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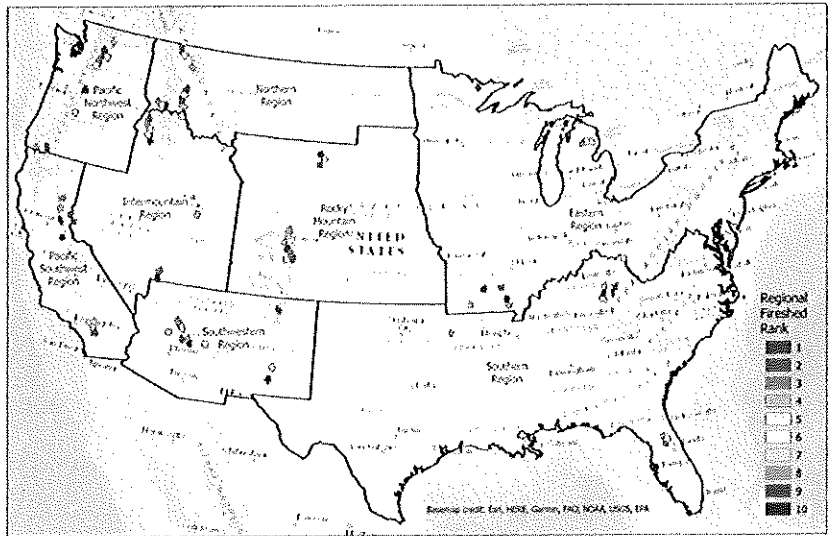


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# RESTORATION NEEDS

- Firesheds avg. 250k-acre areas that delineate areas where fires likely (or not), can spread to communities/buildings.\*
- 7 of the top 10 ranked firesheds in SW (AZ/NM) are in Arizona

\* <https://www.isardc.gov/press-releases/press-releases-and-fireshed-registry>



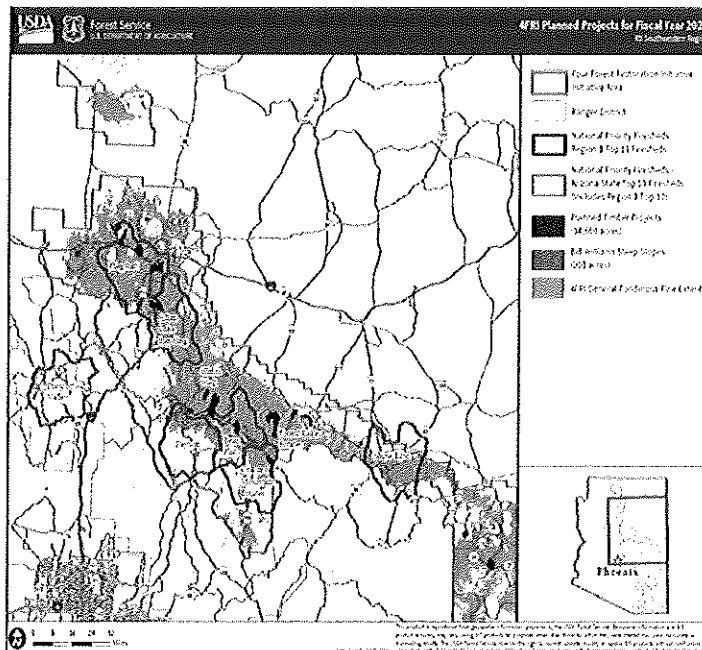
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# ARIZONA NATIONAL FOREST FIRESHEDS

- 3 Firesheds are associated w/ Tonto NF
- Payson Fireshed is highest ranked exposure in Arizona and the Southwest Region of USFS



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# CEDAR BENCH/ FLYING V&H PROJECTS



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## Payson Fuel Reduction & Forest Restoration Projects Cedar Bench/Flying V&H:

- Project dates: 2021-2022
- Cost: \$936,000
- Acres: 8,000 acres treated so far with an addition 51,000 acres planned.
- Partners: NFF, AZ Game & Fish, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pine Strawberry

*AZ Family TV feature story: Federal forestry officials are working to minimize wildfire risk*

4



# HARD SCRABBLE MESA & SPARKY MASTICATION PROJECTS

**Project Details:**  
 Good Neighbor Agreement between USFS and AZ DFFM w/ significant project funding/participation from SRP, NFF, RMEF, AZDGF.

**Location:** Payson and Pleasant Valley RD's TNF

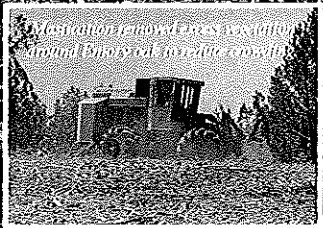
**Treatment Type:** Mechanized mastication equipment used to shred smaller trees and brush.

**Treatment Goals:** 1,200 acres (Hardscrabble) 108 acres (Sparky)

**Est. Implementation Costs:** \$597,000

**Benefits:** Forest Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Emory Oak restoration for tribal culturally important food source.
- Sparky Site Improved watershed health and wildlife habitat.

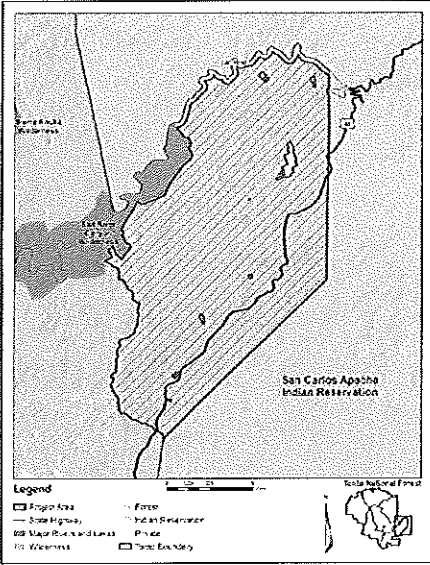


*Mastication created areas favorable around Emory oak to reduce growth.*

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## OTHER ONGOING RESTORATION WORK

Tonto NF efforts work with the San Carlos Tribe to develop a plan to manage and protect the world-class riparian and riparian forest habitat on the Tonto and by utilizing the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. 125,000 acres will be treated on the Tonto NF and the San Carlos Indian Tribe will treat 125,000 acres as a continuation of the project on Reservation land.

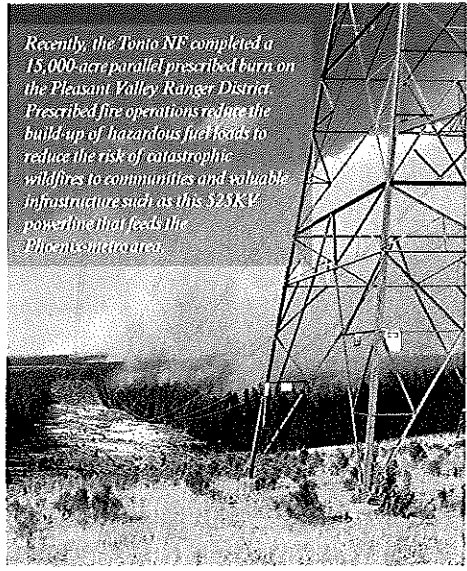


San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation

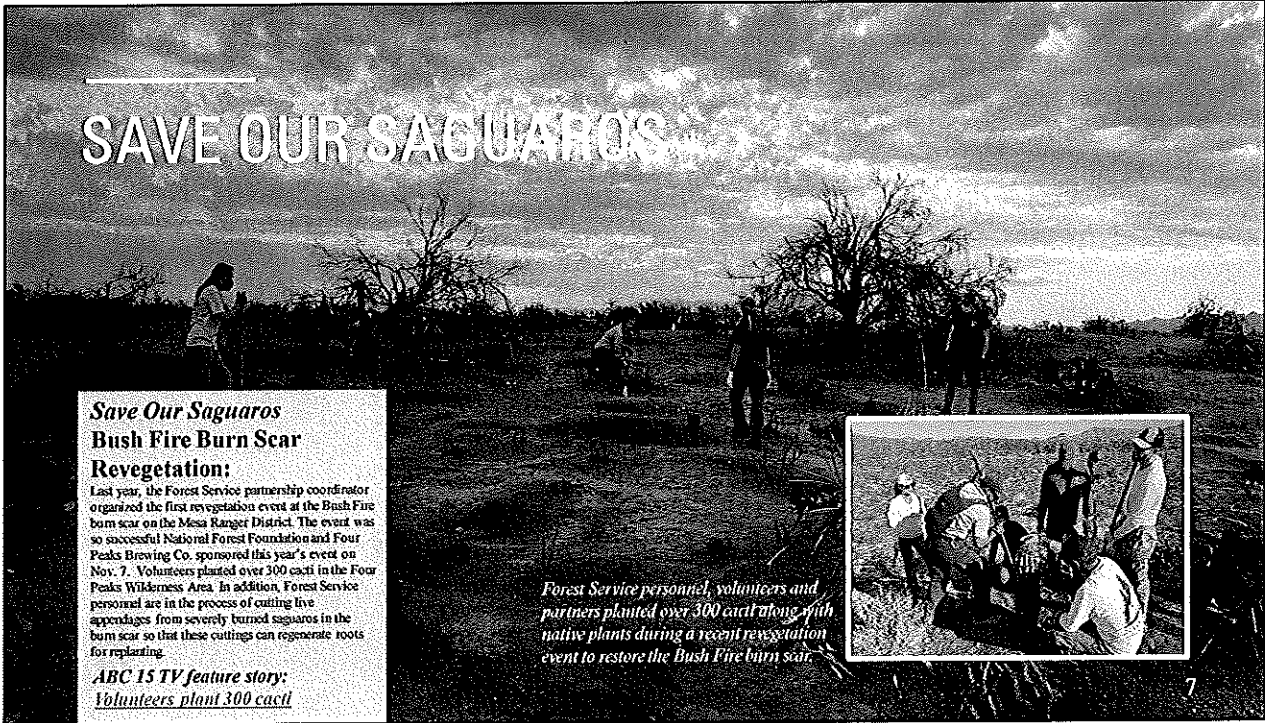
**Legend**

▭ Project Area	▭ Forest
— State Highway	▭ Indian Reservation
⊕ Major River and Lakes	▭ Private
⊙ Wilderness	▭ Tonto Boundary

Recently, the Tonto NF completed a 15,000-acre parallel prescribed burn on the Pleasant Valley Ranger District. Prescribed fire operations reduce the build-up of hazardous fuel loads to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires to communities and valuable infrastructure such as this 525KV powerline that feeds the Phoenix metro area.



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**Save Our Saguaros  
Bush Fire Burn Scar  
Revegetation:**

Last year, the Forest Service partnership coordinator organized the first revegetation event at the Bush Fire burn scar on the Mesa Ranger District. The event was so successful National Forest Foundation and Four Peaks Brewing Co. sponsored this year's event on Nov. 7. Volunteers planted over 300 cacti in the Four Peaks Wilderness Area. In addition, Forest Service personnel are in the process of cutting live appendages from severely burned saguaros in the burn scar so that these cuttings can regenerate roots for replanting.

**ABC 15 TV feature story:  
Volunteers plant 300 cacti**

*Forest Service personnel, volunteers and partners planted over 300 cacti along with native plants during a recent revegetation event to restore the Bush Fire burn scar.*

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## FOUR FOREST RESTORATION INITIATIVE (4FRI)

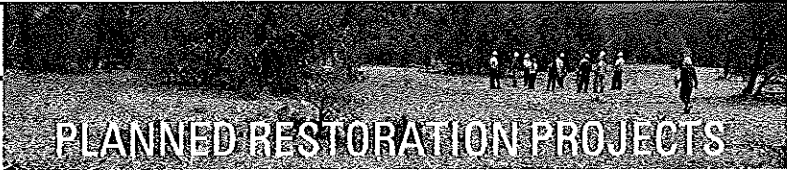
4FRI is a landscape-level effort to collaboratively restore 2.4 million acres of forests on the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab and Tonto National Forests in Northern Arizona over 20 years.

USFS Chief Moore, announced a \$54 million investment in FY 2022 to accelerate restoration work within 4FRI via:

- \* Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects
- \* Prescribed Fire
- \* Commercial Timber Removal

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**4FRI 5-Year Priority Work\***

- Implement high-priority partnership projects (138k acres / \$202 mil / 5-10 yrs.)
- Implement 1<sup>st</sup> 5 yr. phased plan to provide 295,000 acres (commercial timber) over 20 years to existing timber industry.
- Prescribed fire and Hazardous Fuels Reduction restoration on Tonto and Kaibab NFs
- Transportation System Investments - fund and implement road and bridge needs across the 4 forests to support industry and recreation; critical to scale and local economies.

**Tonto NF Restoration 5-Year Priority Work**

- On average treat 30k acres/year via hazardous fuels treatments in Tonto's 4FRI Area
  - 15k acres/ yr. via mechanical/thinning
  - 15k acres/yr. via prescribed fire
  - 1.5k acres/year via commercial timber removal in priority Firesheds
  - FY 2022 - \$6.0 Mil.
    - 12.2k Acres Haz Fuels (w/ partners)
    - 26.0k Prescribed Fire
    - 1.8k acres Timber Removal
    - \$1.5 mil. Transportation Improvements
- Highway Tanks Hazardous Fuels project (Tribal Forest Protection Act w/ San Carlos Apache Tribe)
- Cave Creek Hazardous Fuels (NEPA 2022)
- Long-Term restoration of burn scars

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**TONTO NF PARTNERS AND RESOURCES**

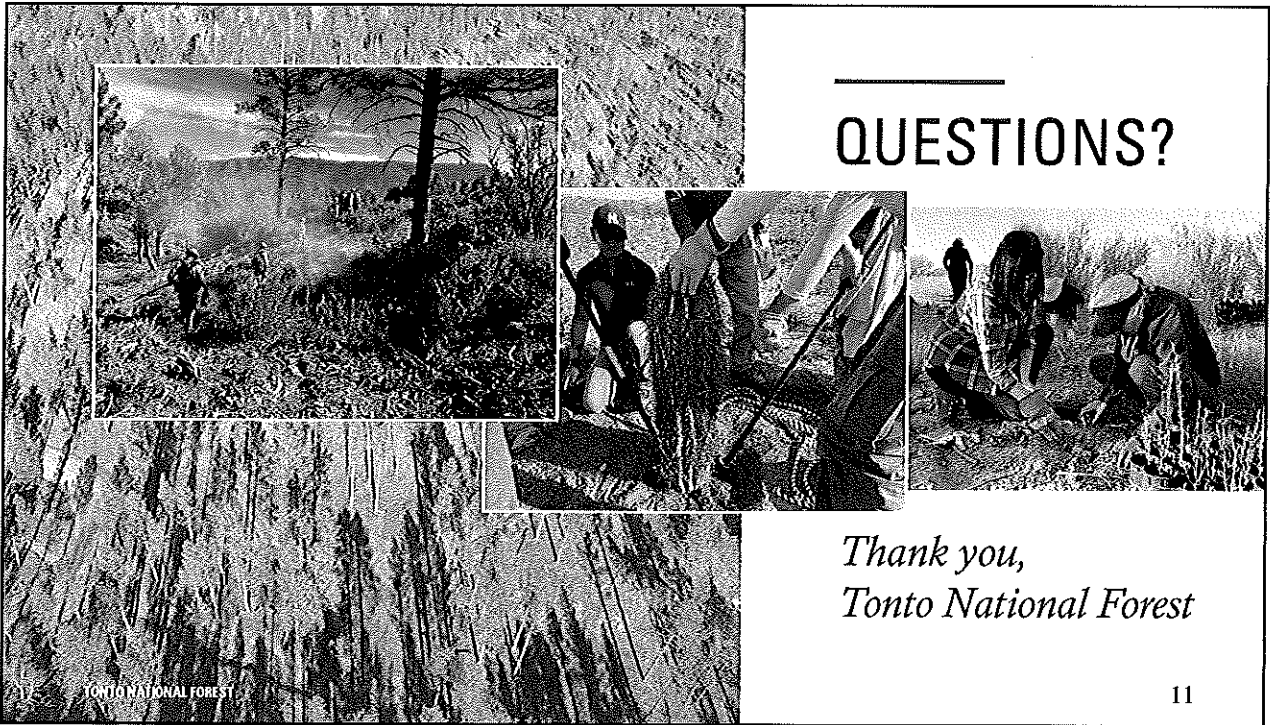


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- AZ DFFM and USFS:**
  - Good Neighbor Agreement (10 yr.) (Nov. 1, 2021)
  - FY 2022 – 2.1k acres @ \$1.8 mil total
  - Support from AZGF – Habitat Improvement
  - AZ Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative
- SRP and TNF: Restoration Funding Agreement (pending...)**
  - Funding Agreement (pending) for 50/50 implementation cost sharing on 45k acres or 10 yrs. on TNF for hazardous fuels work
- NFF – Master Stewardship Agreement**
  - Collaborative Planning/implementation/fund raising
  - FY 2022 – 3.1k acres at \$1.7 mil. (Total)
- USFS Healthy Forests–Safe Communities**
  - 10 yr. investment strategy to reduce wildfire risk to communities/natural resources in Western US

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QUESTIONS?

*Thank you,  
Tonto National Forest*

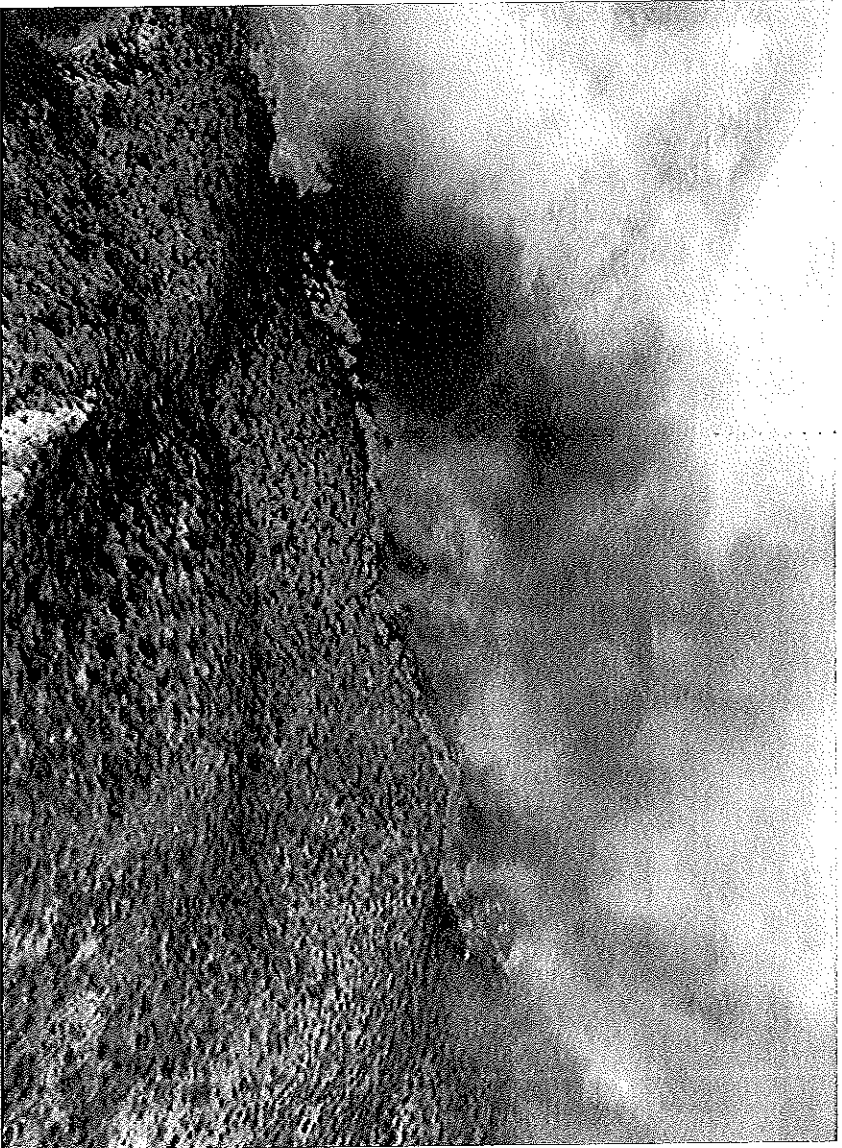
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# USDA-NRCS Fire Response in Arizona

December 17, 2021 - Keshia L. Tatem, State Conservationist

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[az.nrcs.usda.gov](http://az.nrcs.usda.gov)



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# USDA-NRCS Fire Response in Arizona

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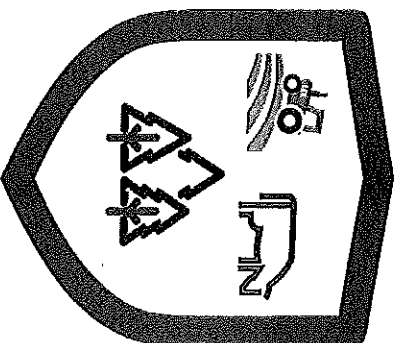
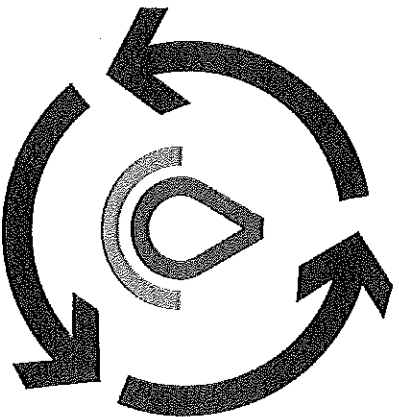
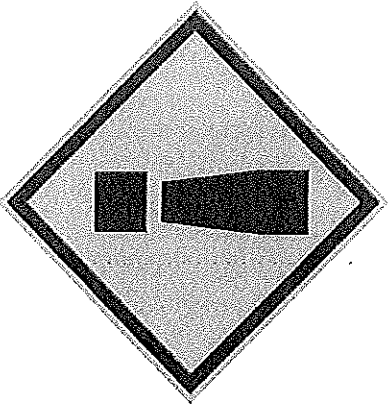
PROTECTION

2

RECOVERY

3

PREVENTION



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# Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

**EWP provides assistance (up to 75% of the cost) to implement emergency recovery measures for runoff control and erosion prevention to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.**

Types of threats (watershed impairments) the program can help with include, but are not limited to:

- Damaged upland sites stripped of vegetation by wildfire
- Debris-clogged waterways
- Unstable streambanks
- Severe erosion jeopardizing public infrastructure



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# Requesting Assistance

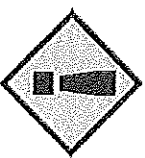
**Official of a sponsoring entity**\* submits letter of request to the **State Conservationist**. The letter should include:

- Description of the natural disaster
- Description of potential hazards to life and property
- Location for which assistance is requested
- The sponsor should also indicate the:
  - Willingness and ability to provide 25% of the total installation cost
  - Commitment to responsibility for any operation and maintenance
  - Authority to obtain necessary land rights and permits

**Email request to Keisha Tatem, State Conservationist, at:**

**[AZwatershed.nrcs@usda.gov](mailto:AZwatershed.nrcs@usda.gov)**.

*\* Program cannot be applied to federal lands and properties.*



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# EWP Assistance in FY-2021

Name	Sponsor	Financial Assistance*
Museum Fire 10 Day	Coconino County	\$606,328
Museum Fire 220 Day	Coconino County	\$2,684,605
Gila Bend	Maricopa County	\$352,417
San Lucy Farms	Tohono O'odham Nation	\$79,629
Railroad Wash	Greenlee County	\$147,253
Telegraph Fire	Gila County	\$8,230,030
Bush Fire 2021	Gila County	\$1,240,331
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN FY 2021</b>		<b>\$13,340,593</b>

*\*Some sponsors also received technical assistance funds.*



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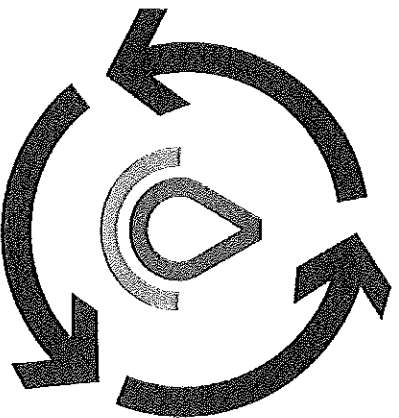
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# NRCS Fire Response in Arizona

## RECOVERY

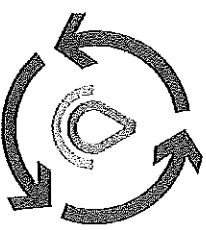


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[ariz.nrcs.usda.gov](http://ariz.nrcs.usda.gov)

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Failed/Destroyed Structural Practices previously installed with EQIP Funds within their lifespan can receive assistance to reinstall
- Quick implementation, ideally 12-16 months
- Normal EQIP Payment Rates (approx. 75-90% of costs)
- Timeframe: special signup held in 2021 for Telegraph and Mescal Fires
- Producers apply through the local NRCS field office
- Lessons learned in 2021 used to develop recurring funding for future wildfires



R E C O V E R Y

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# EQIP - Reapplication (Recovery)

## EQIP Reapplications

Code	Practice name	Count	Obligations
382	Fence	2	\$36,832.00
516	Livestock Pipeline	24	\$74,185.00
533	Pumping Plant	2	\$10,045.00
614	Water Facility	2	\$6,777.00

Contract acres-42,019.50

8 applications received      6 - obligated contracts-\$127,839.00

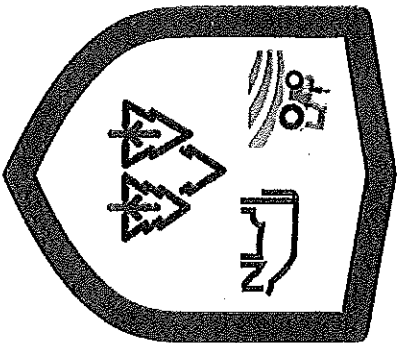




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# NRCS Fire Response in Arizona

## PREVENTION



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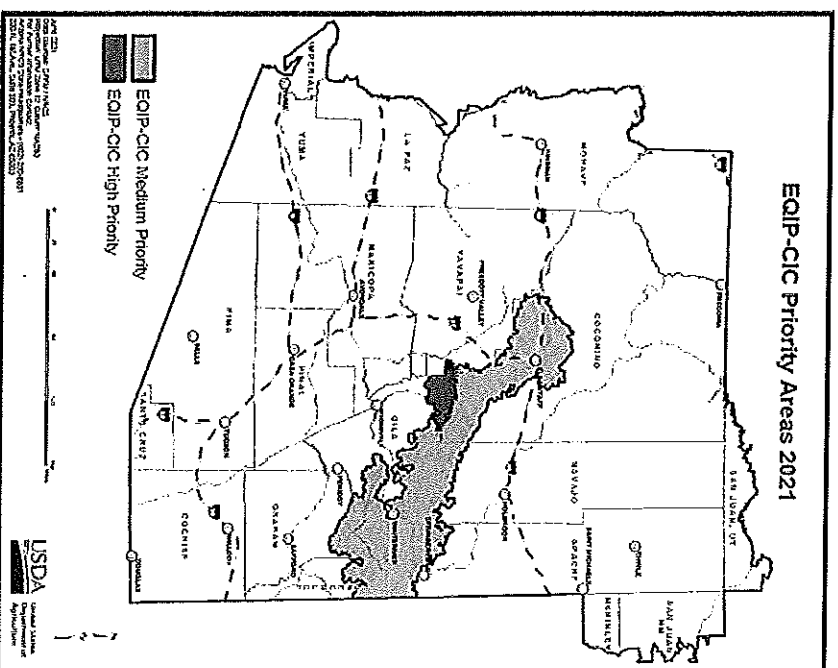
[az.nrcs.usda.gov](http://az.nrcs.usda.gov)



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## EQIP Incentives Contracts

- **Combination of conservation practices and enhancements on AZ forest lands**
  - Forest Stand Improvement, Fuel Break, Prescribed Burning, Critical Area Planting, Biochar Production, Reduce Forest Density, Maintain Structural Diversity in Dry Western Forests, etc.
- **5-year contracts, up to \$200,000**
- **Emphasis on Mogollon Rim**
  - Entire state can apply (incl. Tribes)
- **Producers apply through the local NRCS field office**



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[nrcs.usda.gov](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov)



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## EQIP - CIC (Prevention)

The new Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC) component of EQIP helps producers mitigate the immediate impacts of drought, while expanding on those conservation efforts to develop long term resiliency to drought and wildfire.

### EQIP CIC

Incentives Forestry Statewide

Obligation: \$471,020.00

Incentives Forestry Tribal

Obligation: \$2,624,125.00

12 Incentives applications

5 moved forward with meeting eligibility and ranking

Contract acres 1,626



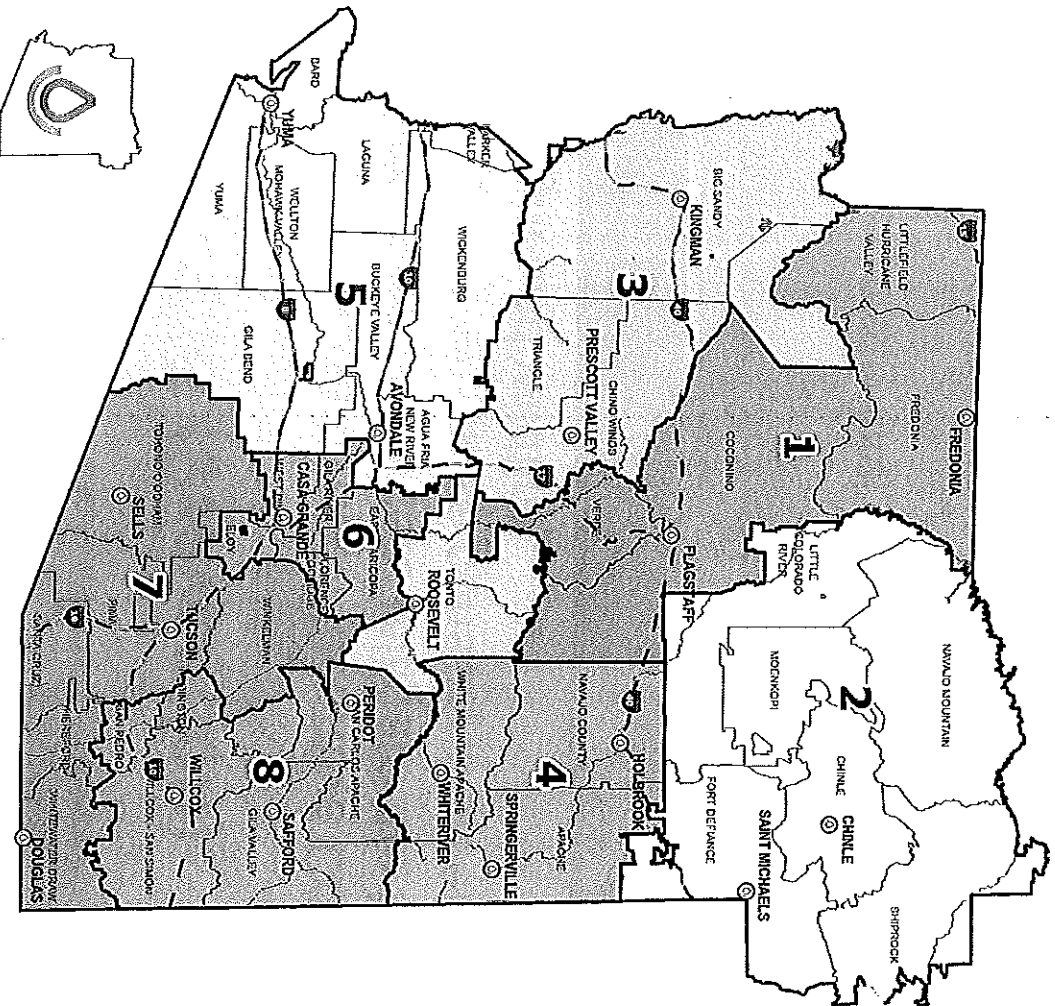




United States Department of Agriculture

# Locally Led Conservation

In cooperation with Arizona's Natural Resource Conservation Districts



- Establish the local natural resource priorities that guide NRCS programs and services

## Local NRCDs

- **State Technical Advisory Committee**
- Reviews local priorities to determine statewide issues
- Recommends state priorities and initiatives
- Includes several state agencies, including ASLD, DFFM, AGFD





United States Department of Agriculture

# Questions?

email: [AZinfo.nrcs@usda.gov](mailto:AZinfo.nrcs@usda.gov)

website: [az.nrcs.usda.gov](http://az.nrcs.usda.gov)



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[az.nrcs.usda.gov](http://az.nrcs.usda.gov)



United States Department of Agriculture

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

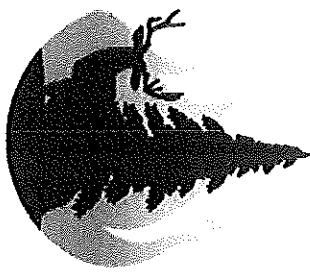
To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

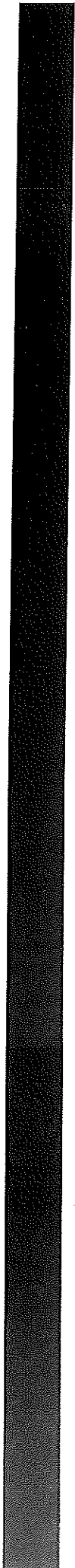


# NATIONAL WILDFIRE INSTITUTE

Supporting Healthy Forests That Resist Catastrophic Fire

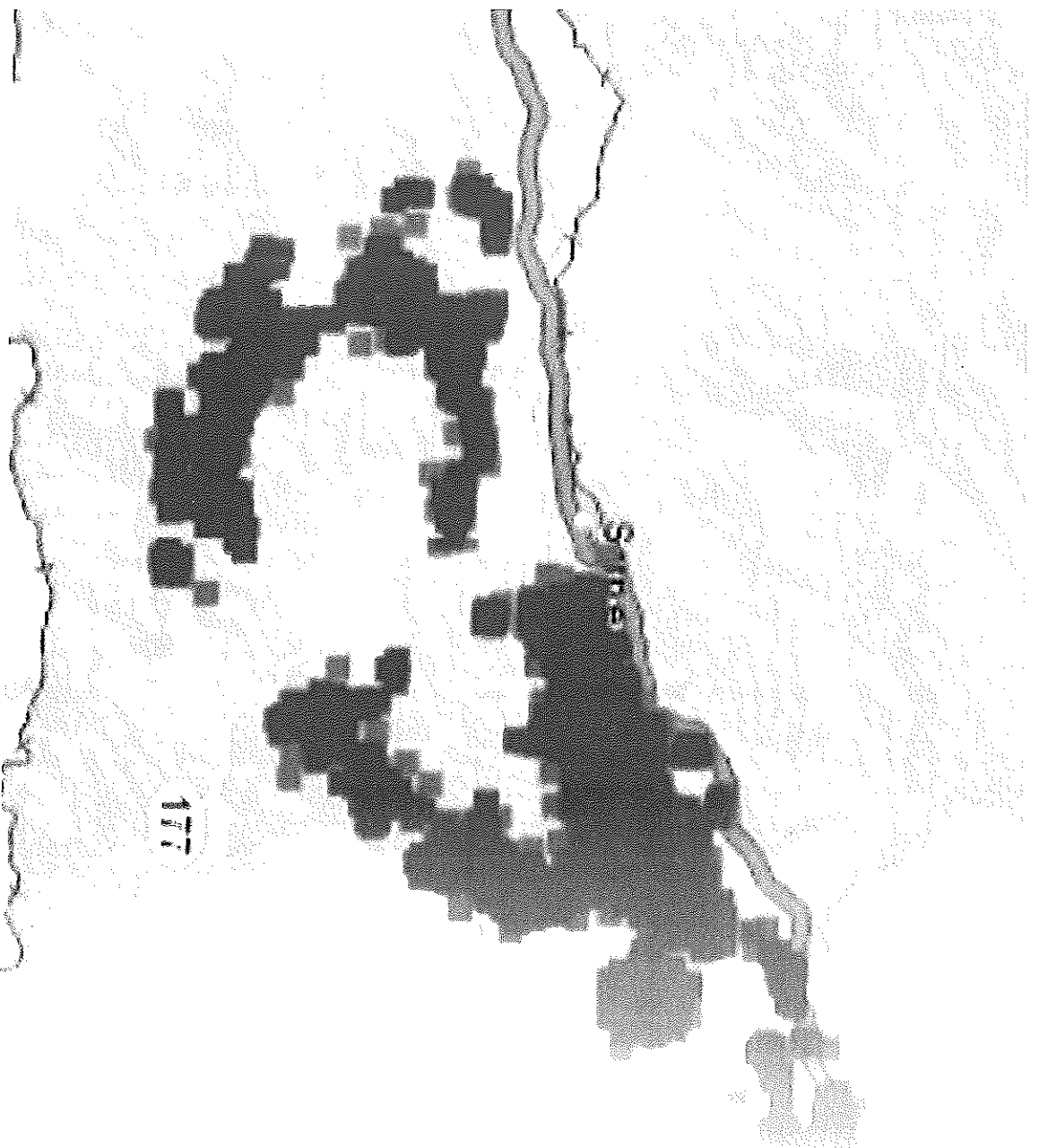
Chief, it's time to declare that all fires will be promptly and aggressively extinguished.... This would be direction until such time as the Agency would engage the public in a robust and comprehensive planning process to subject fire policy to widespread public involvement and public understanding.

July 26, 2021



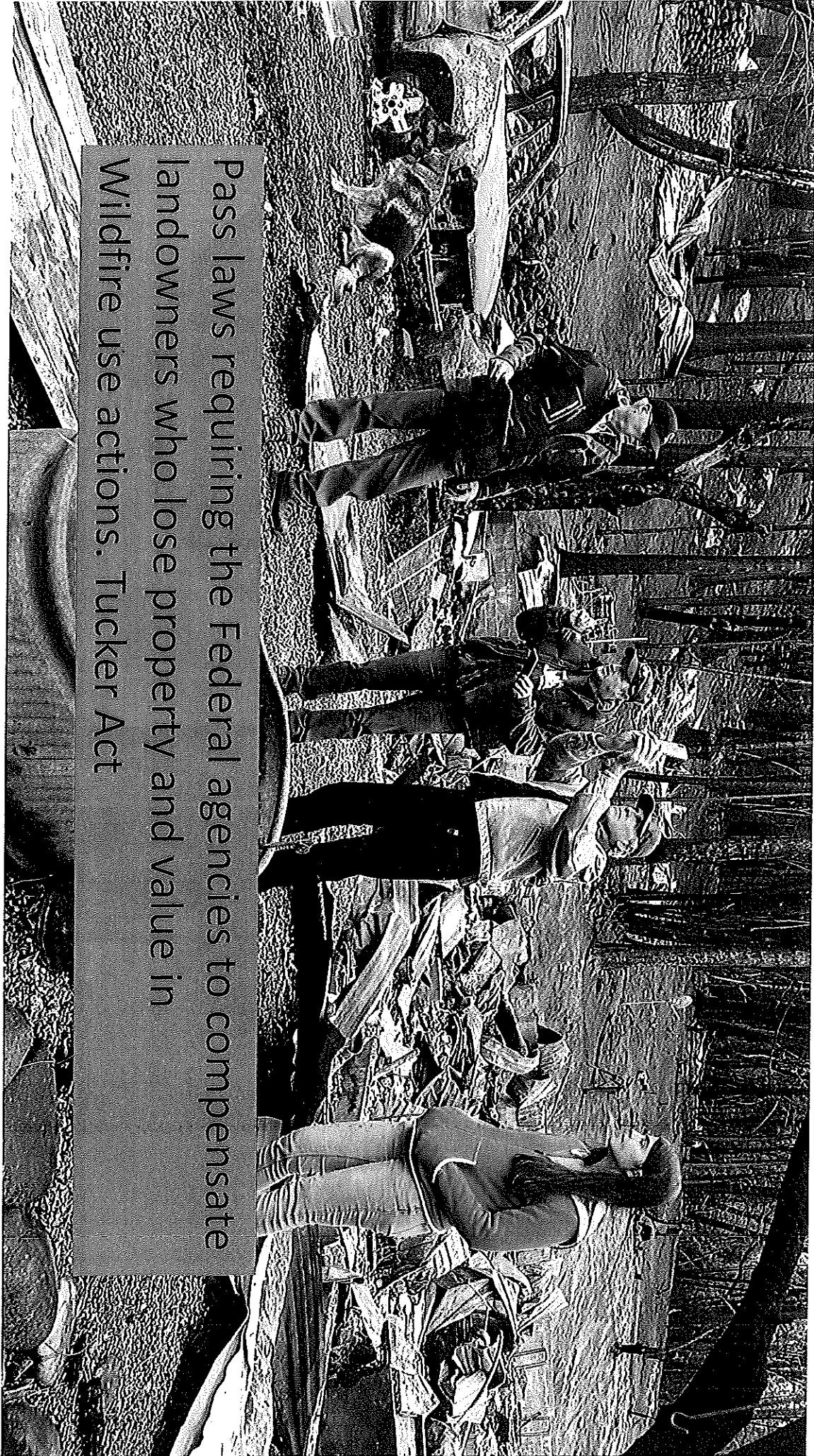


States can  
take action...

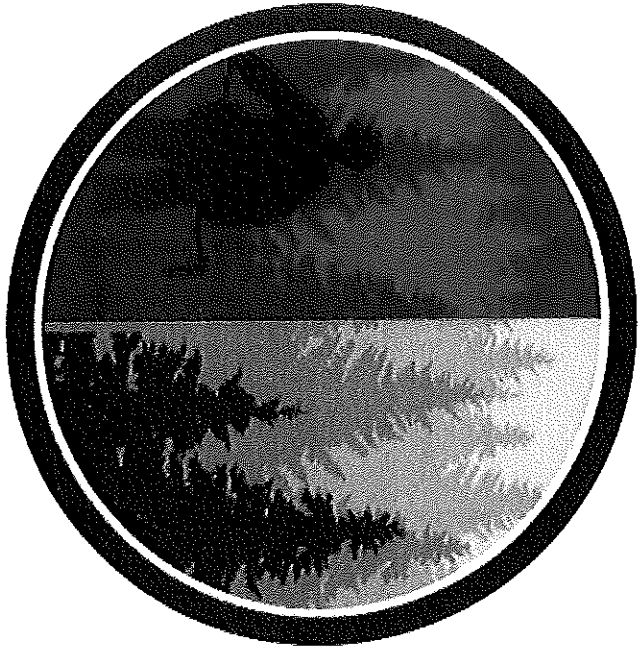


- Make sure your letters of delegated authority and agreements with the Federal agencies prevent them from burning State and private ground on purpose.
- Sign letters that express your will that “wildfire use” is not an option.
- Require fires on State and private ground to be extinguished immediately.



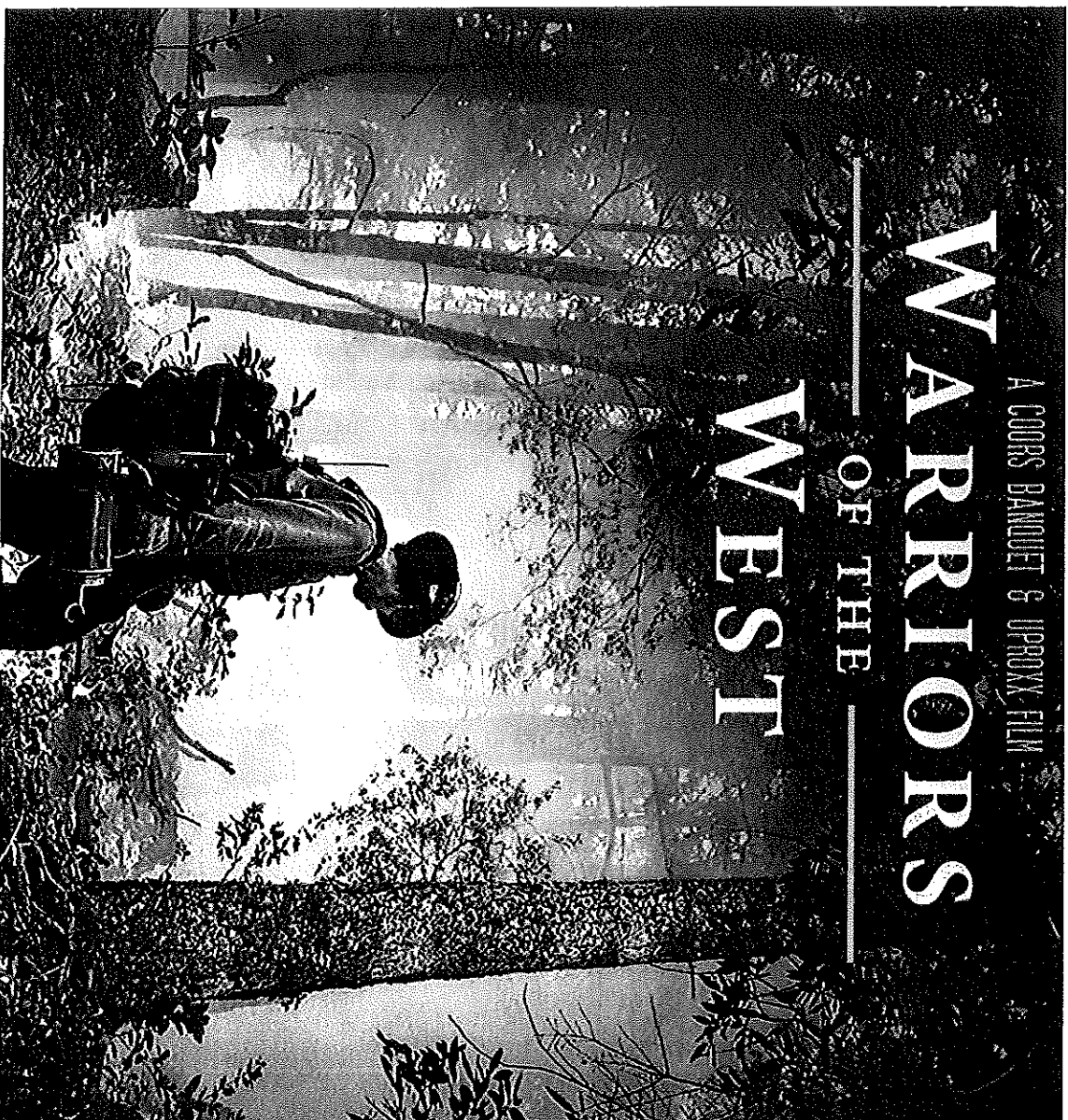


Pass laws requiring the Federal agencies to compensate landowners who lose property and value in Wildfire use actions. Tucker Act



**P  
F  
M  
C**





A COORS BANQUET & UPROXX FILM

# WARRIORS OF THE WEST

[wildfirepros.com](http://wildfirepros.com)

Use “ignited prescribed fire” and wildfire where allowable...

- Managed Fire
- Restoration Wildfire
- Defensive Fire
- Unplanned Fire Use
- Let-Burn Fire
- Prescribed Wildfire
- Wildfire Use
- Applied Wildfire

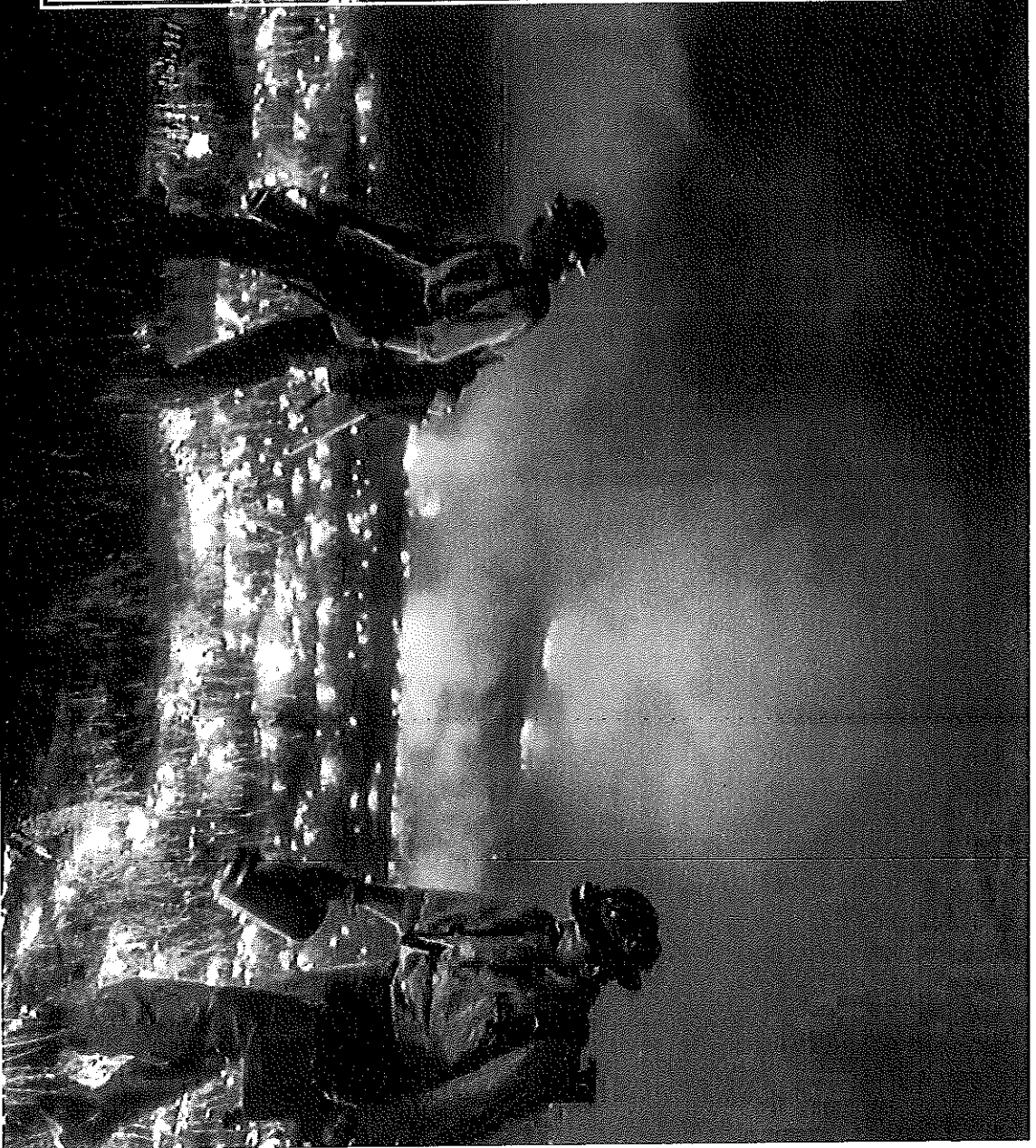




The New Wild West: "Using Wildfire where allowable..."



Using  
unplanned  
fire....





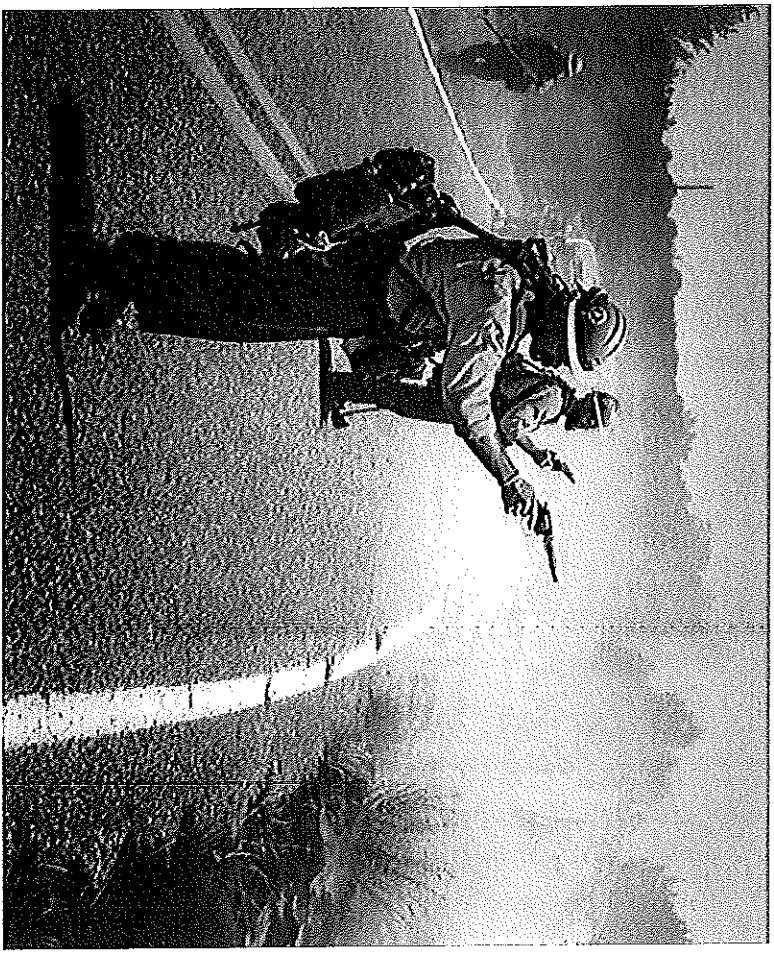
To reintroduce fire  
to fire-depleted  
ecosystems....

SCIENCE

## Land Managers Can't Burn the West Fast Enough

Prescribed burns, which create buffers against larger fires, can do only so much.

AMANDA MONTHEI | OCTOBER 28, 2020



# The Massive Burning is Premeditated

Can't burn fast enough....

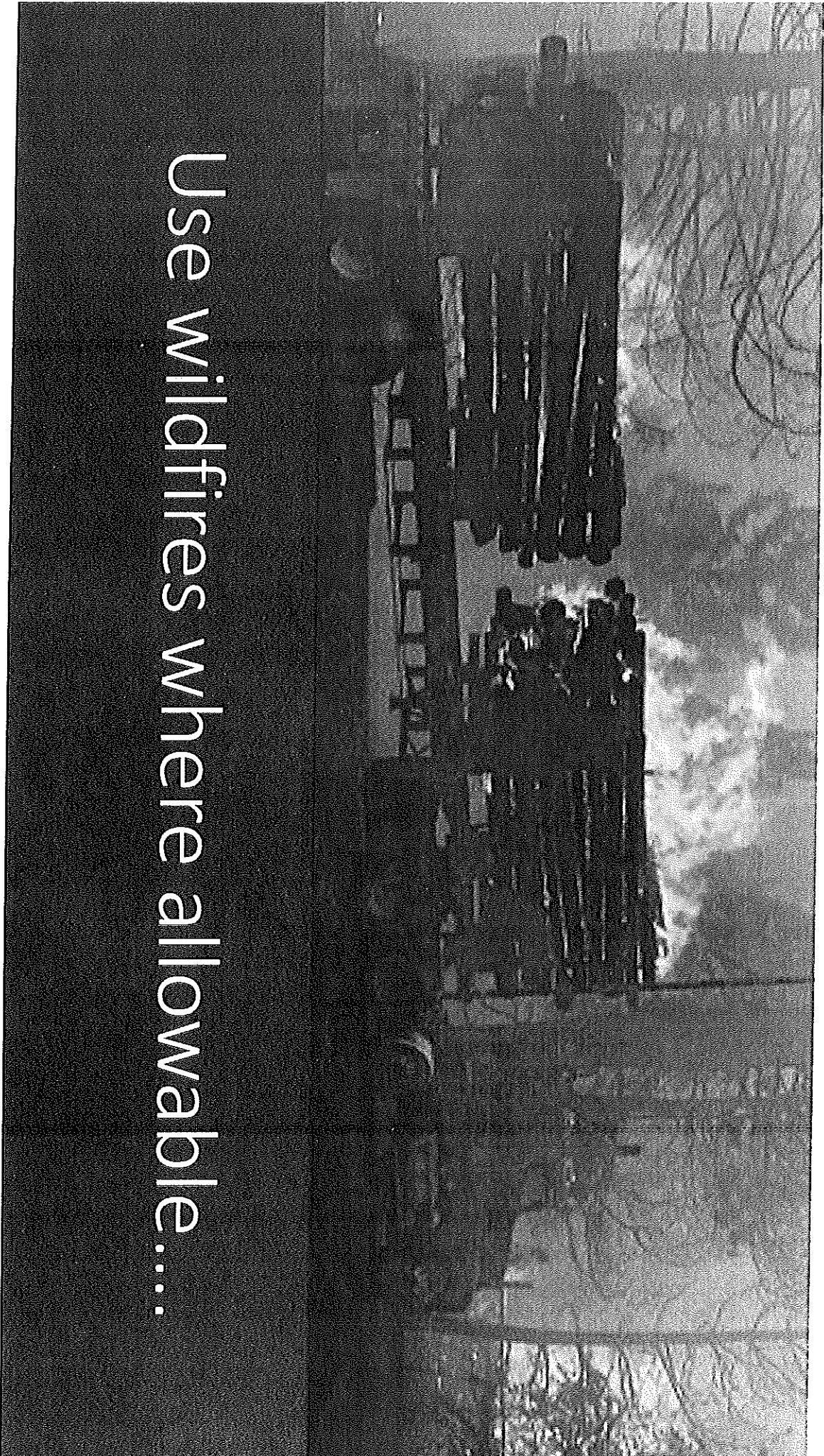
“If the location is right, if extreme weather is not predicted, and if the appropriate resources are on hand to help should anything go awry, allowing wildfires to burn naturally—with viable fire lines established ahead of time—could be the best way to accomplish widespread forest management.” None of these conditions are controls





# Use Wildfires where allowable...

- Firefighter safety – too dangerous to send FFs in (Tamarack)
- Resource benefits – restore fire to fire-depleted ecosystems (Pole Creek)
- Manage scarce resources – Not enough FFs to go around (All)
- Community protection – Defensive backfires (Dixie)
- Fuels management – Restoration wildfire (B-T)
- Ignited prescribed wildfire to do good
- Burning for natural resources - Pinal



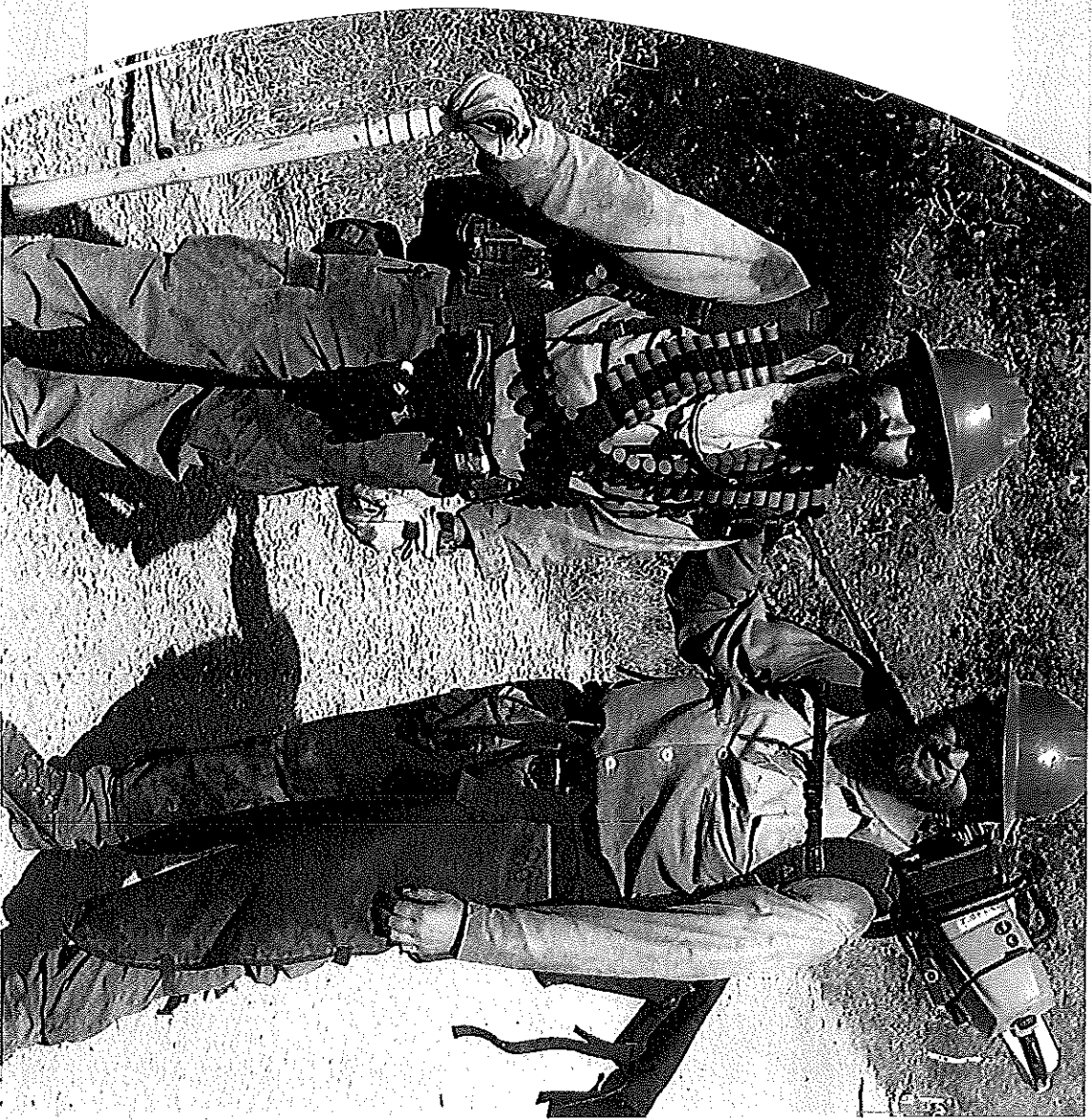
Use wildfires where allowable.....

# The Endangered Species Act

- Willow Fly Catcher
- Jumping Mouse
- Spotted owl

They don't know the cumulative effects of their actions or the extent of their damage to core habitat and T&E species.

They'll throw you in jail for destroying spotted owl habitat.

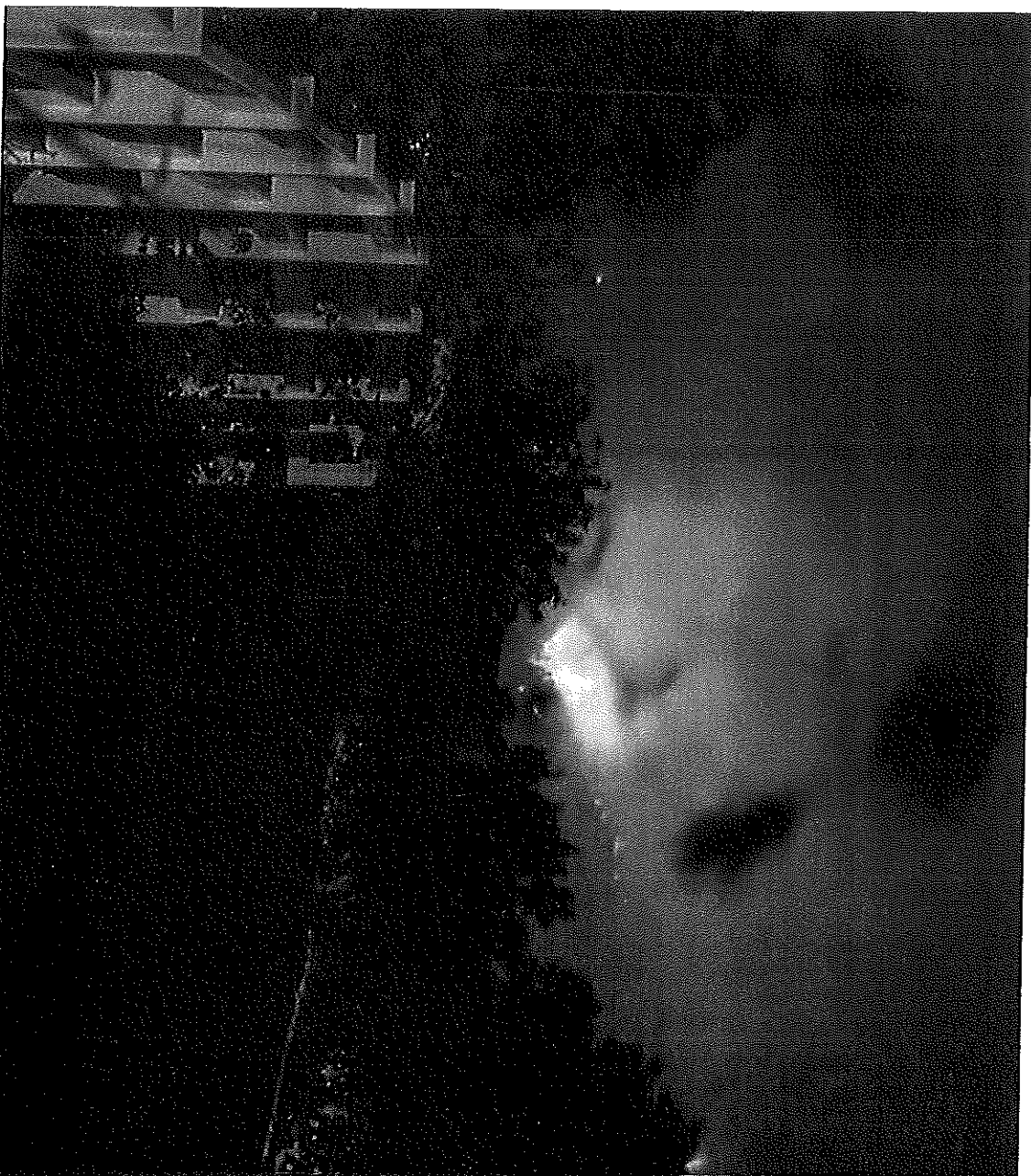




# No legal basis...

- Managed fire and ignited prescribed fire are major federal action that demands conformance to procedural law including NEPA NFMA, and substantive law including Clean Air, Clean Water, ARPA, T&E.
- There is no programmatic EIS or unit EISs, no Records of Decision, no public processes or objection periods.
- Fire managers are using “emergency fire suppression” money to conduct massively expensive and time-consuming “prescribed wildfires” with no specific authorization from Congress.





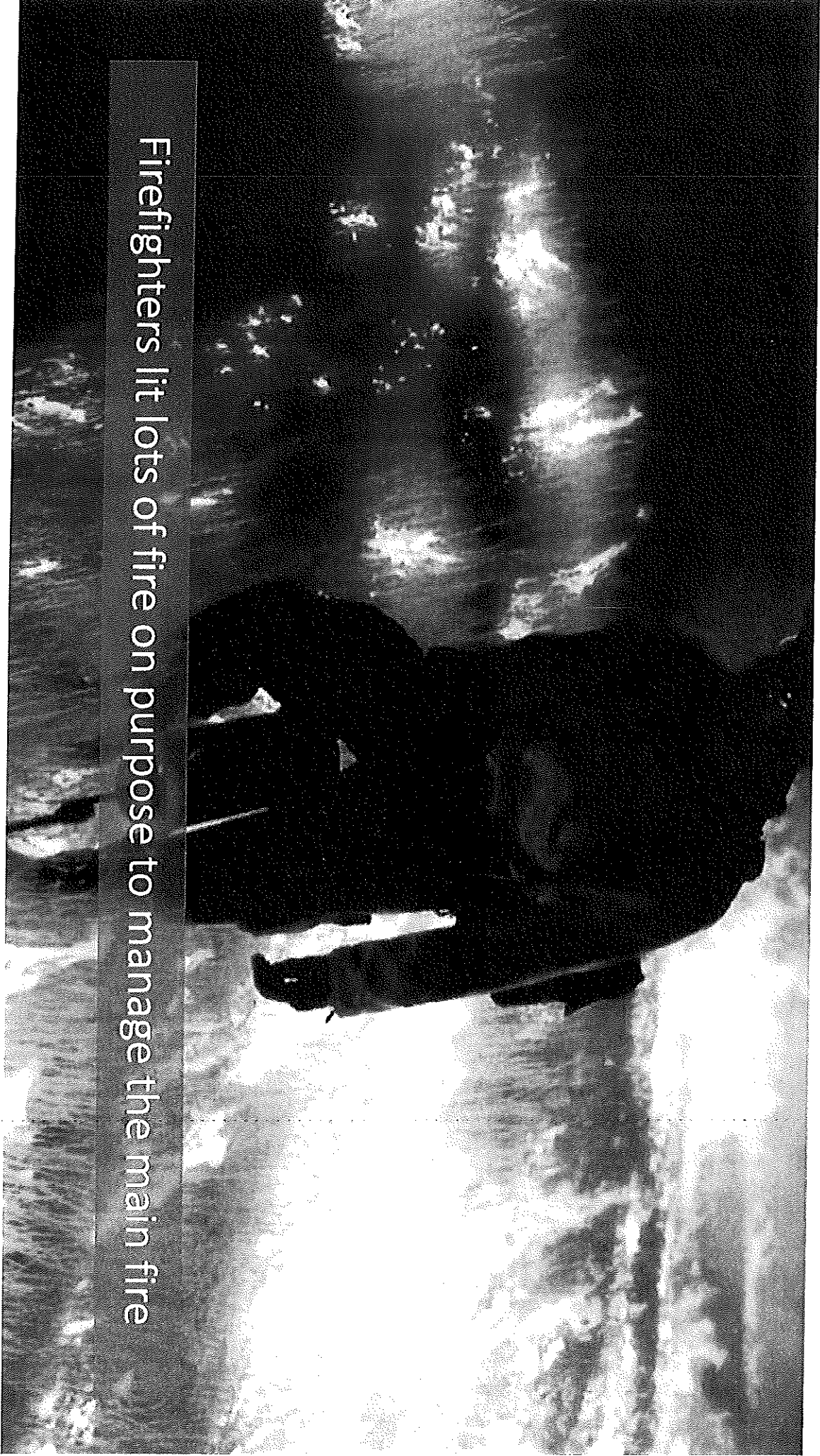
The Forest  
Service  
decided to  
make it an  
ignited  
prescribed  
wildfire....



[wildfirepros.com](http://wildfirepros.com)

The fire would  
burn over  
120,000-acres  
\$200 million in  
damages





Firefighters lit lots of fire on purpose to manage the main fire

*wildfirepros.com*

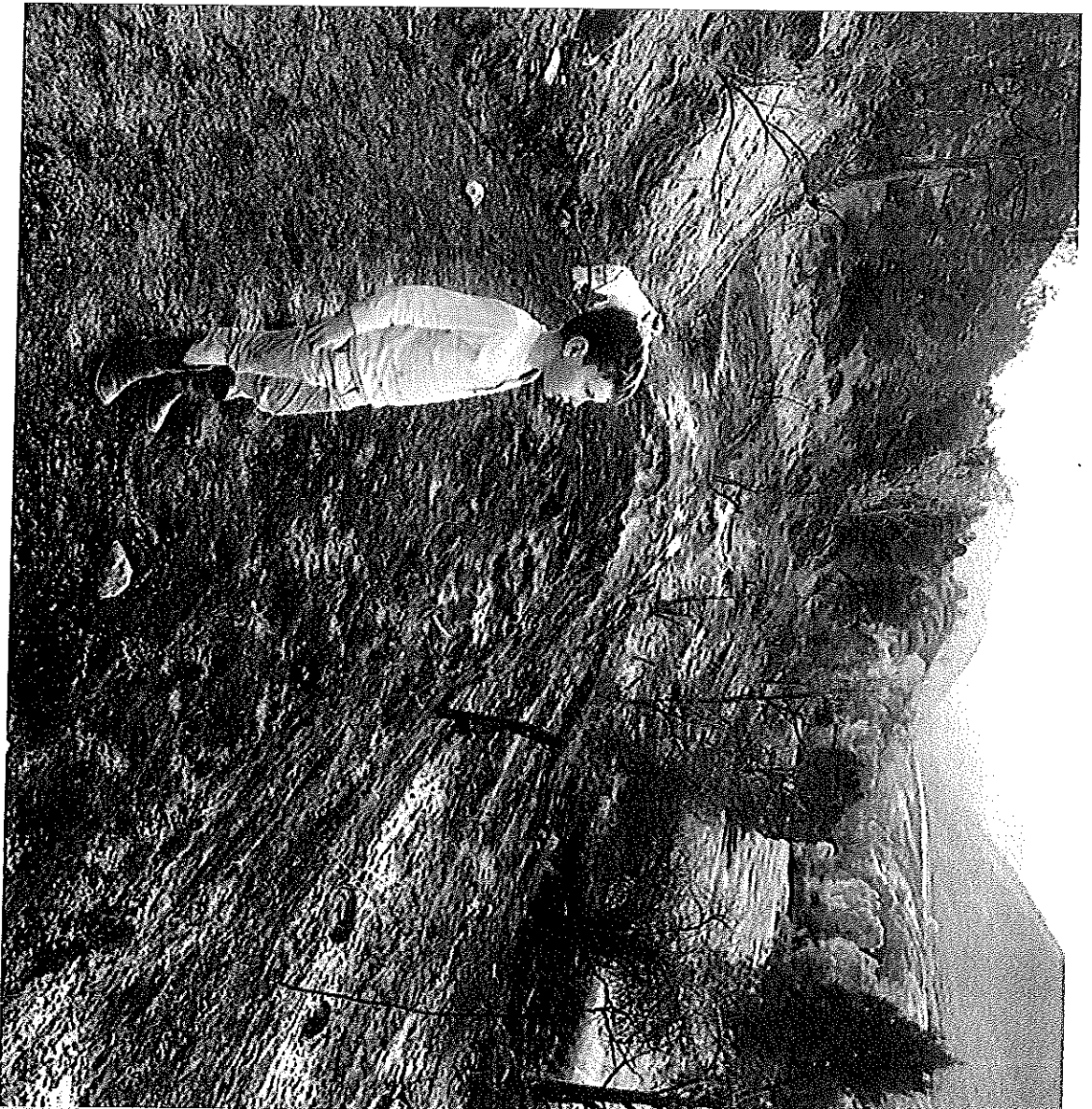
It's called drawing a  
Big Box then  
lighting it on fire.

Often using roads  
and lake shores for  
fire lines.

This one was an  
ignited prescribed  
wildfire.







[wildfirepros.com](http://wildfirepros.com)

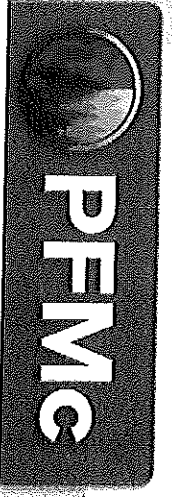
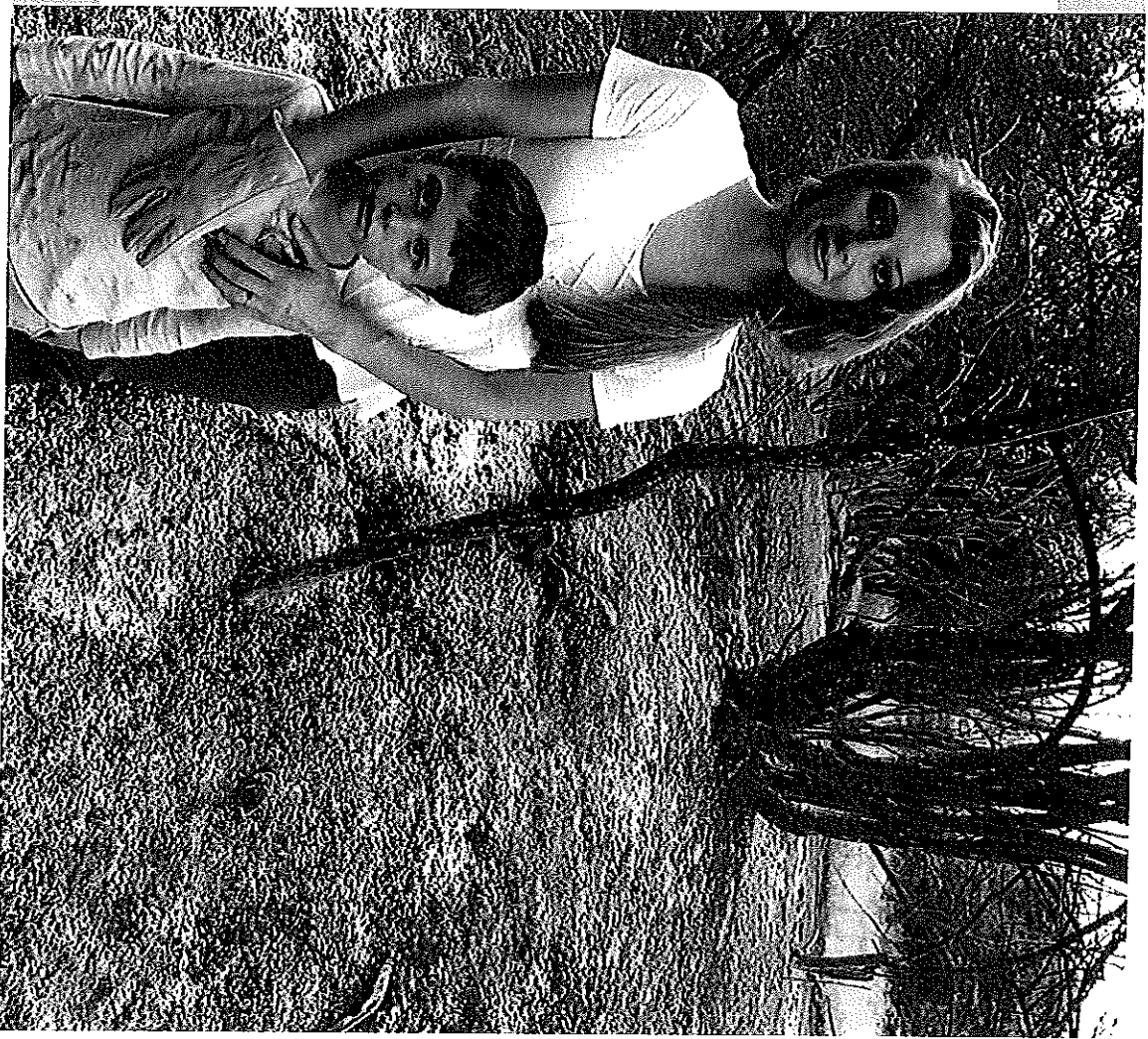
They called it  
an ignited  
prescribed  
fire...to do  
good....

This tactic  
increased the  
fire size from  
1 acre to  
120,000 acres

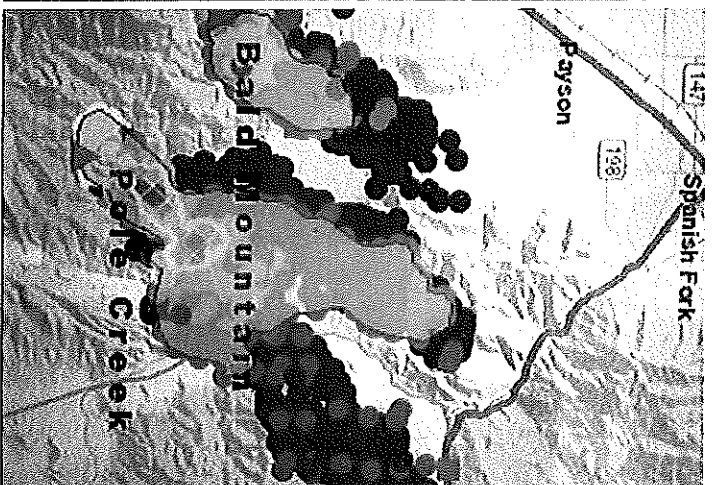


**PFMc**

And increased  
the harm....



[wildfirepros.com](http://wildfirepros.com)



They let the  
fire burn,  
then they lit  
more fire to  
stop it.



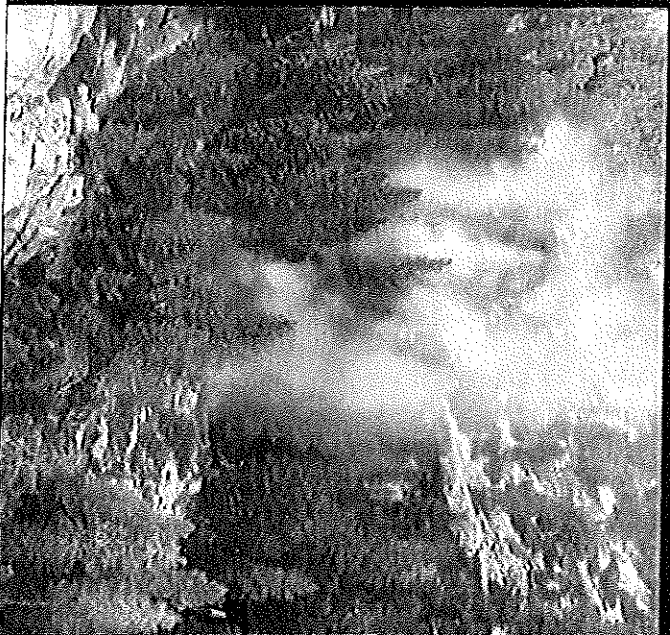




U.S. Forest Service-Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

July 10 at 6:20 PM · 🌐

The #TamarackFire burning in the Mokelumne wilderness was ignited July 4 from lightning. The tactical management decision is not to insert fire crews due to safety concerns, however, this is not an unresponsive approach. Smoke might be visible to Pacific Crest Trail hikers but the .25 acre fire is surrounded by granite rocks, a small lake and sparse fuels. Fire poses no threat to the public, infrastructure or resource values.



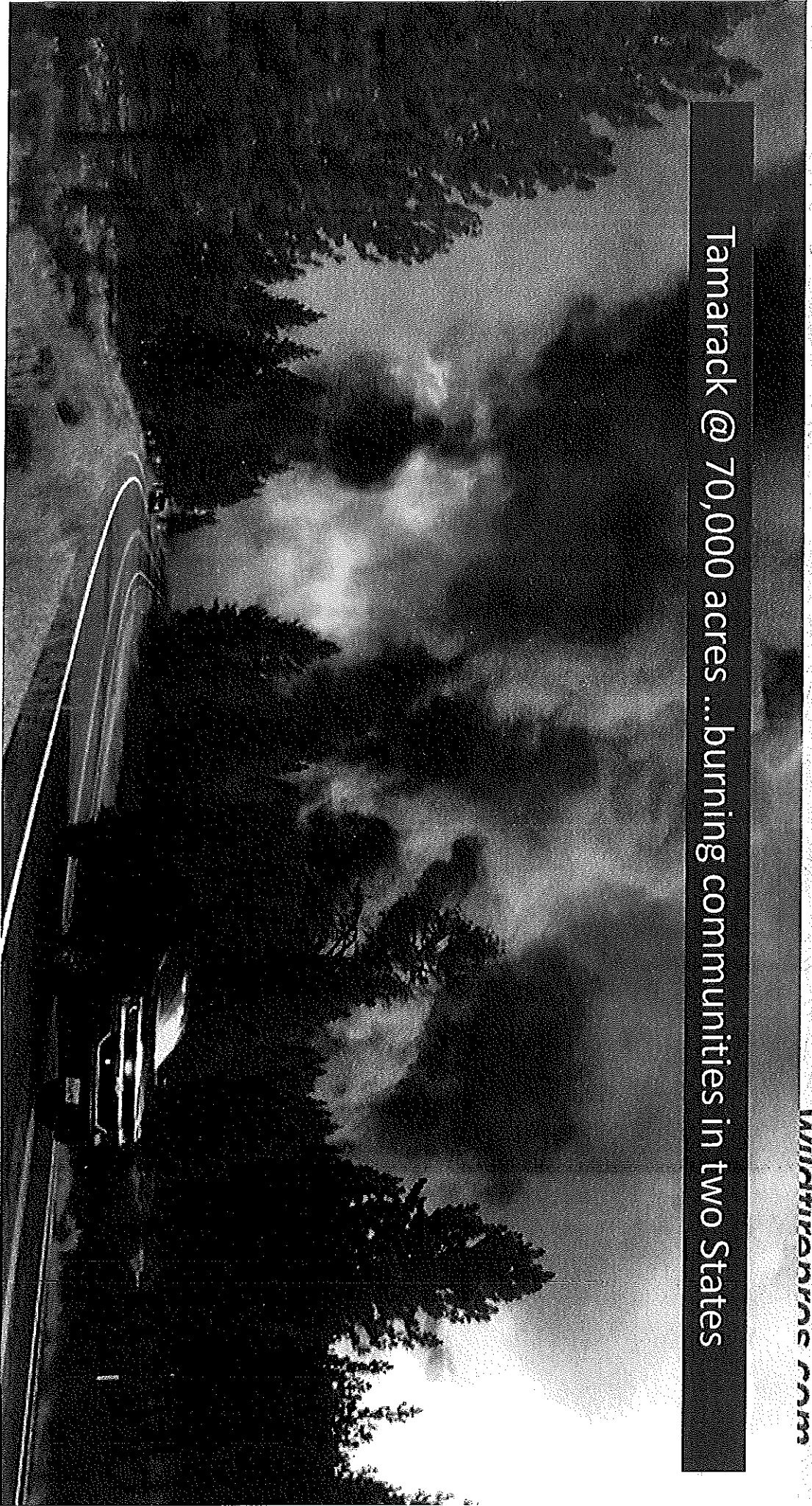
wildfirepros.com

The Tamarack Fire was a quarter acre on July 10, six days after it started. "Fire poses no threat to the public, infrastructure, or resource values," FS wrote.

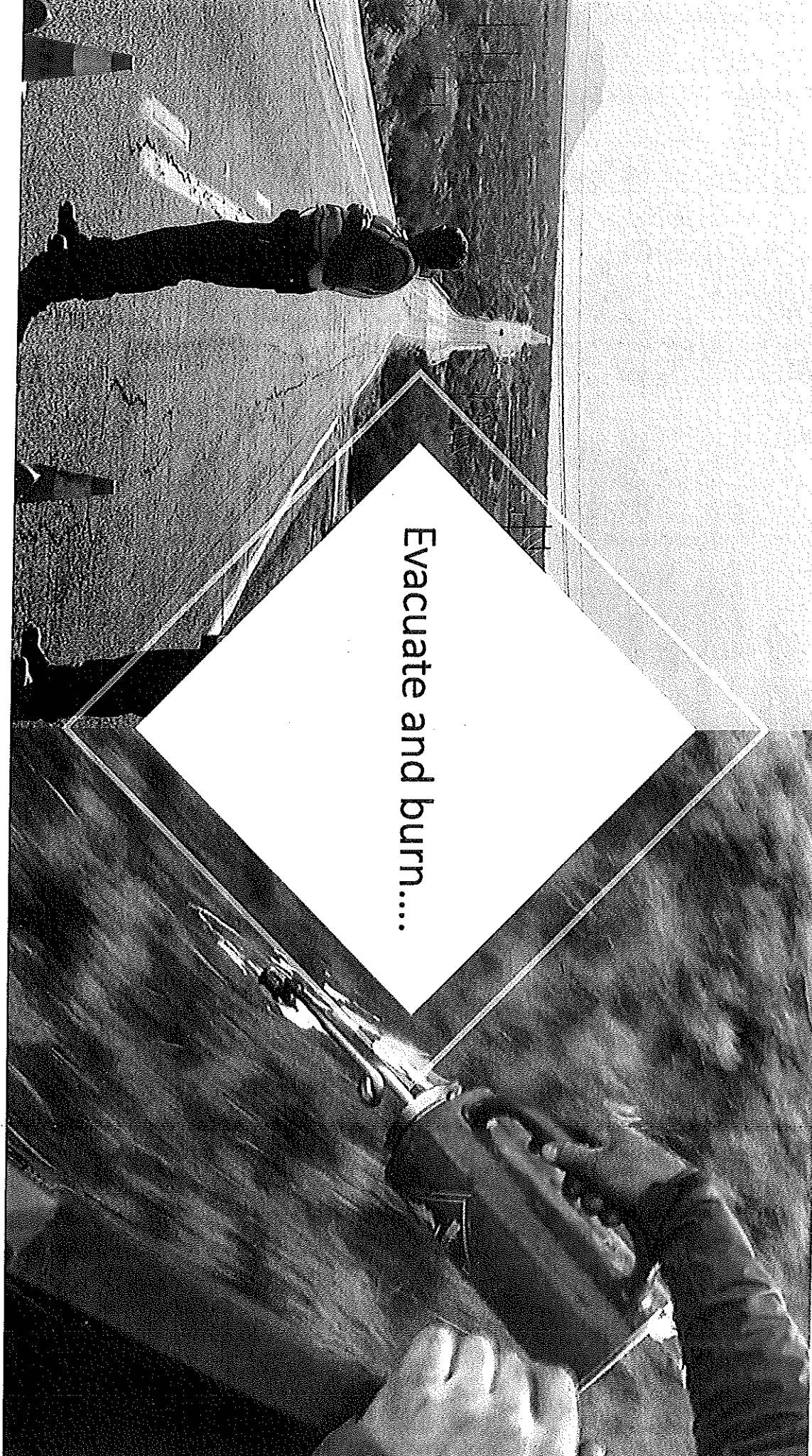
Decision is to not insert fire crews due to safety concerns.

*wildfirerange.com*

Tamarack @ 70,000 acres ...burning communities in two States



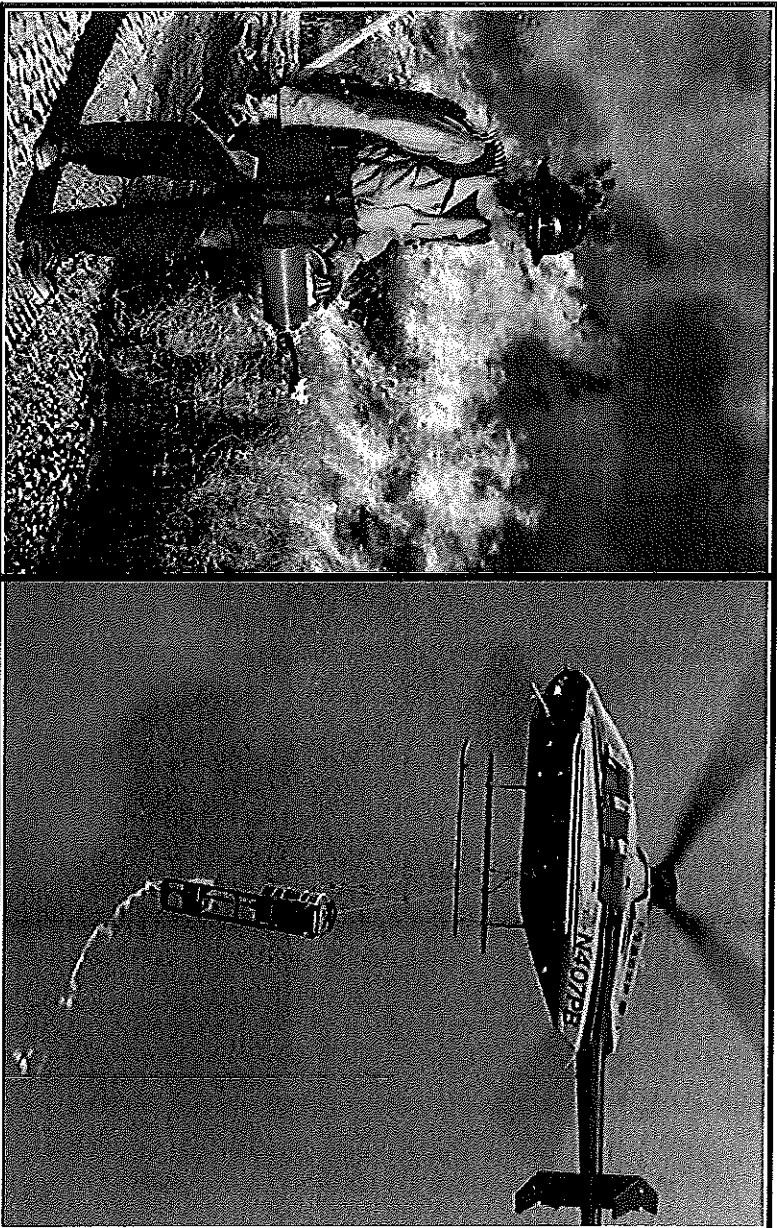


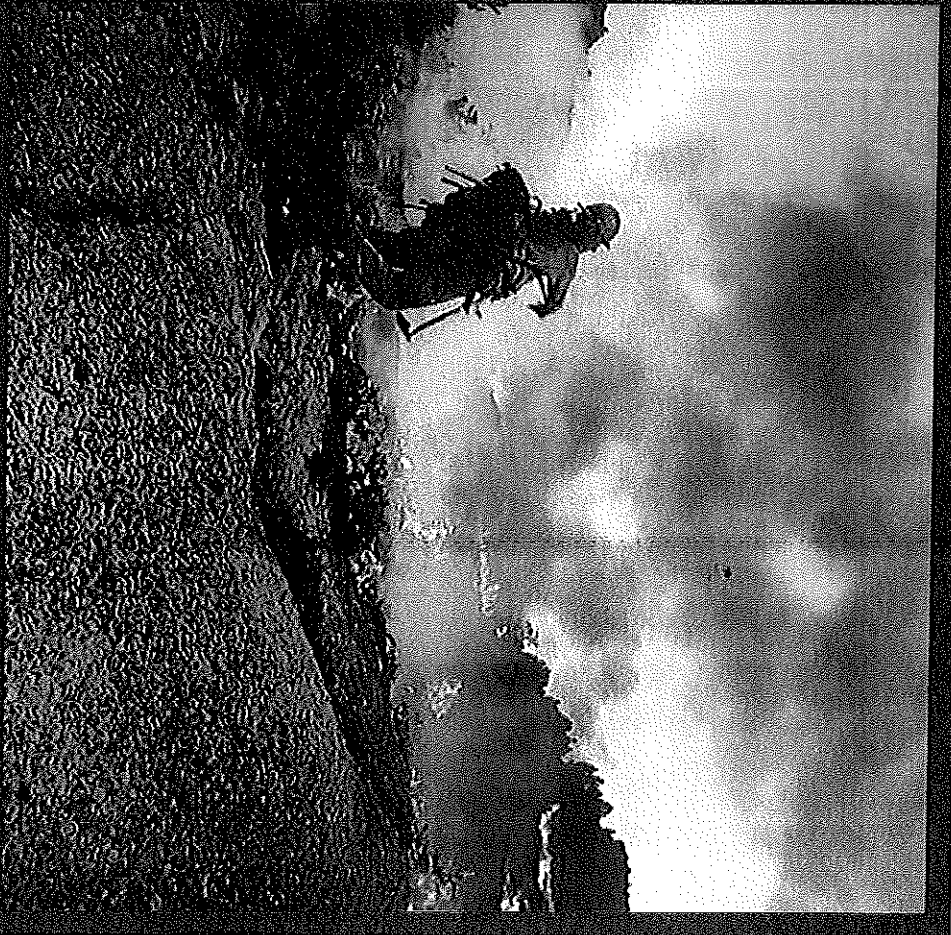


Evacuate and burn.....

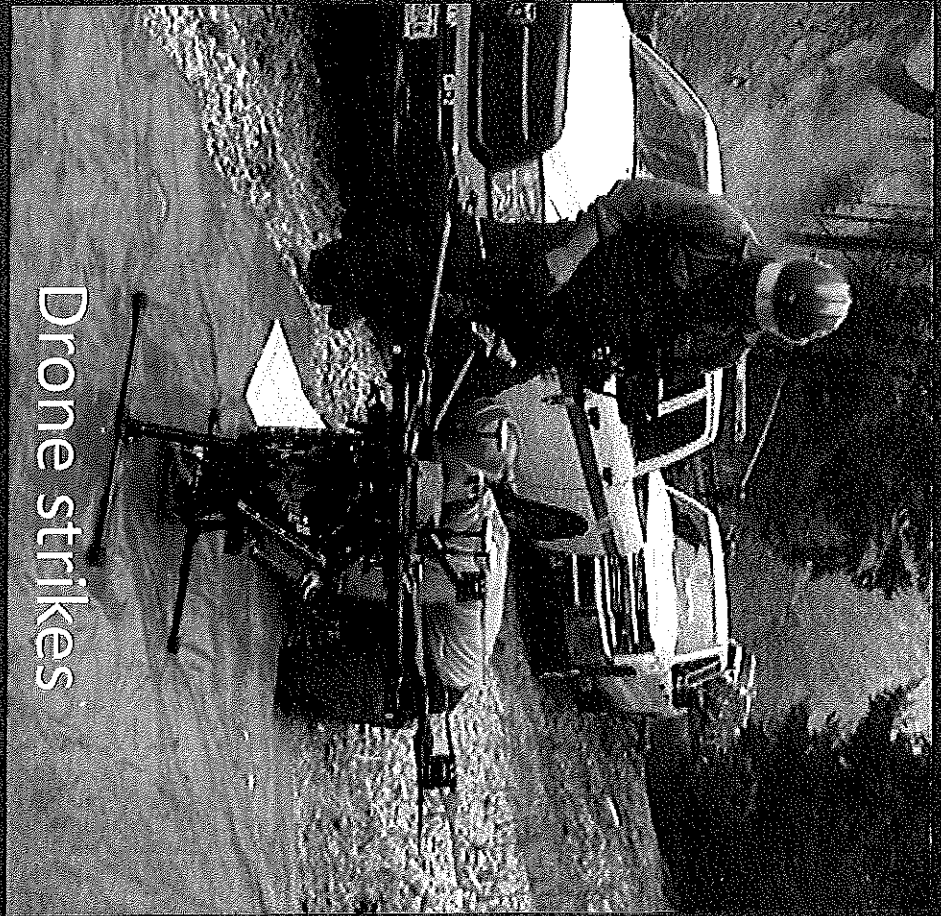
wildfirepros.com

Aggressive  
backfiring

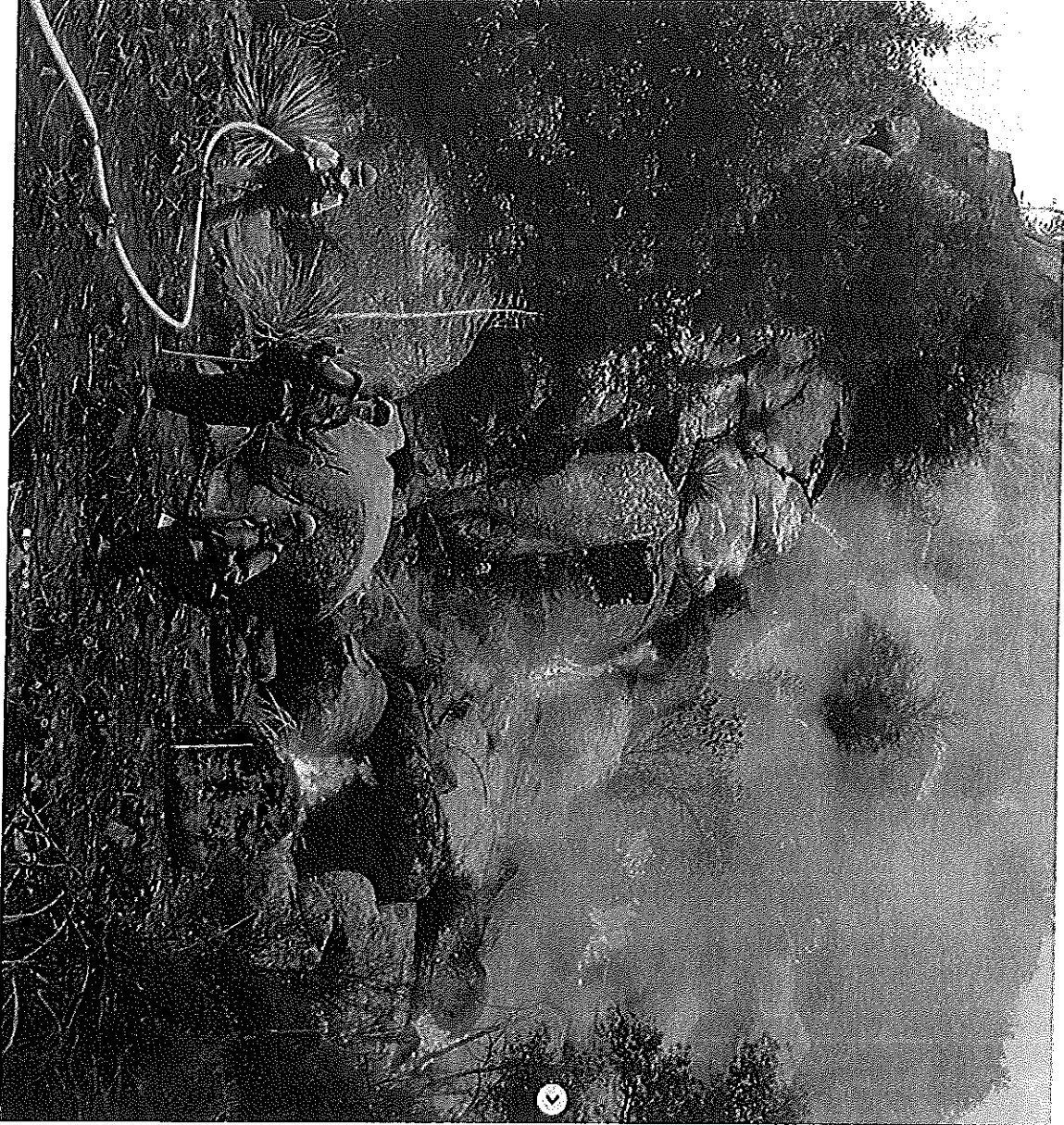








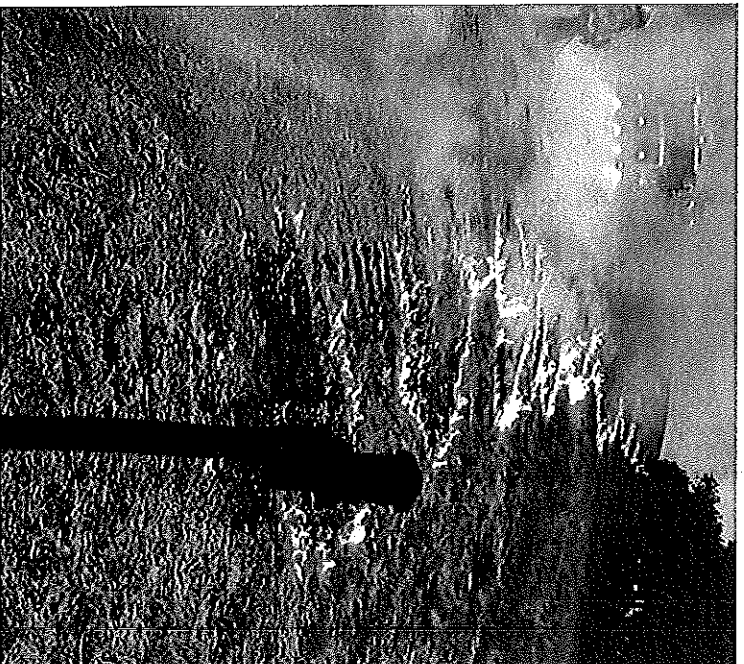
Drone strikes



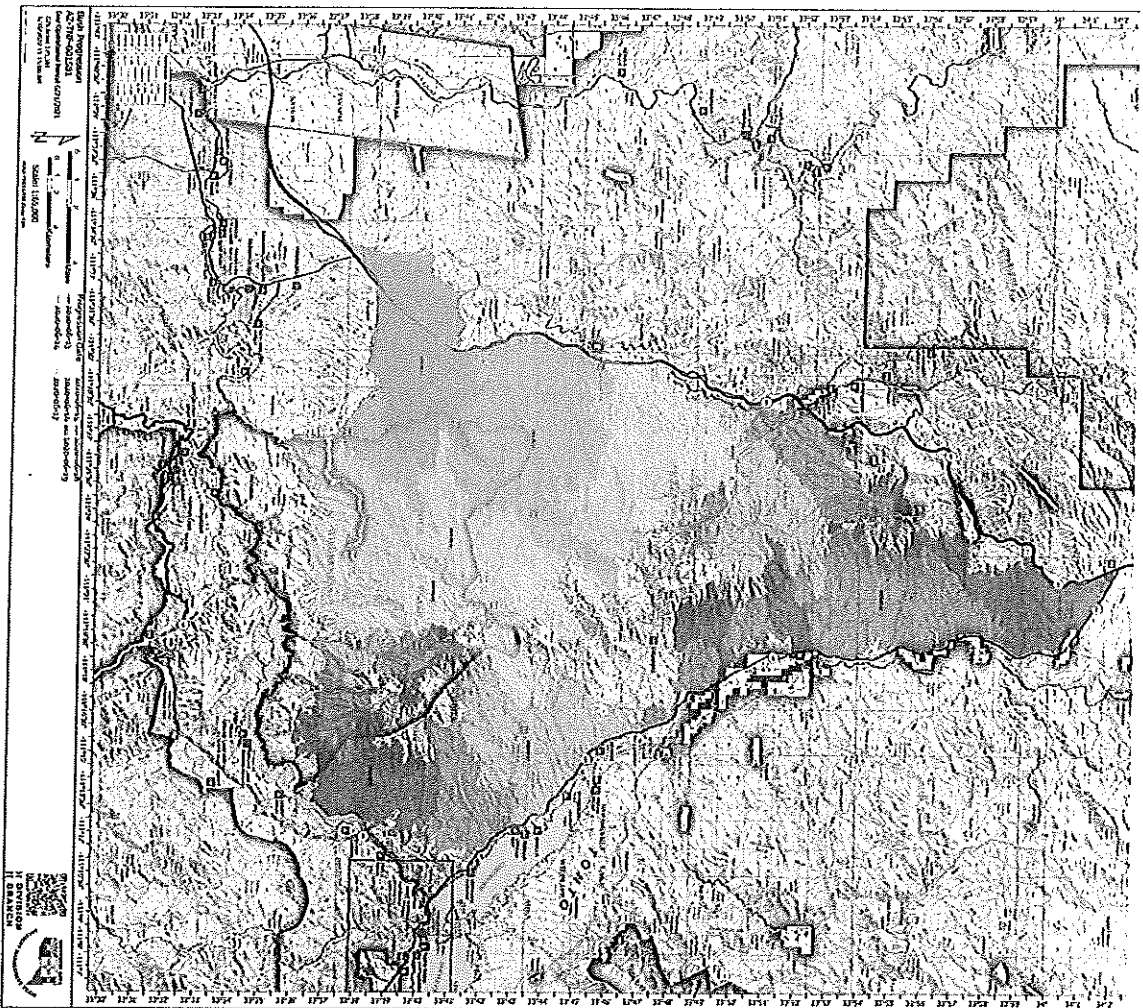
Arizona Fires:

No exception

# Burning night and day







# 2020 Bush Fire

Fire lighters burned  
everything in orange on  
purpose, claimed to be  
covered by FONSI

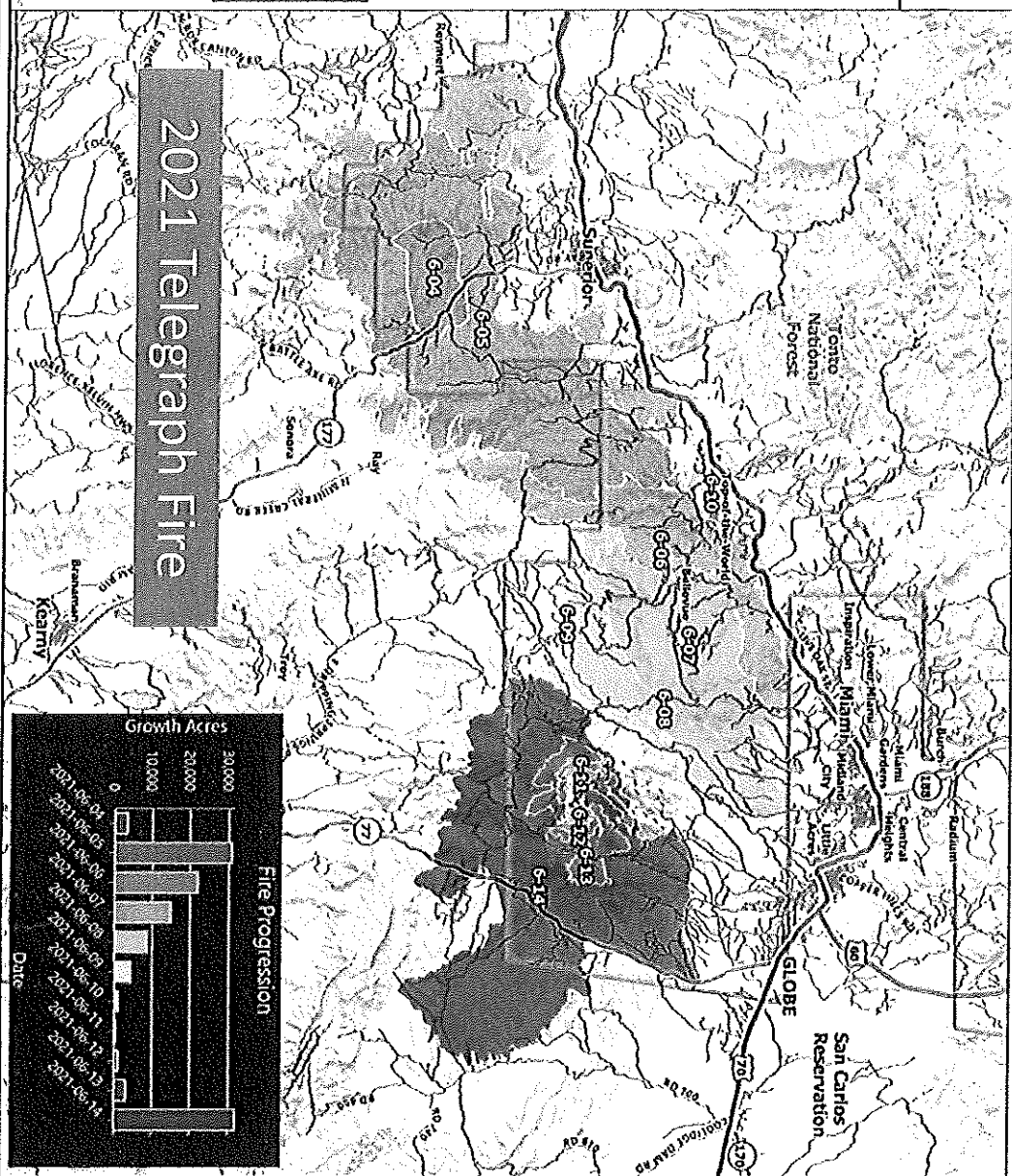
- 100,000 plus  
Saguaros
- Arizona cypress

**DGRESSION**

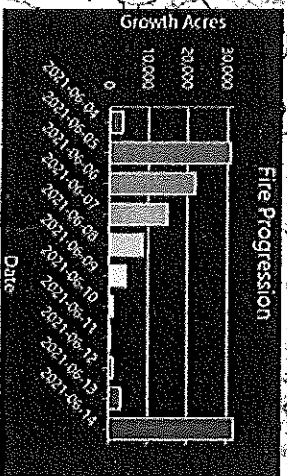
Telegraph  
Z-TNF-1255  
6/13/2021

Planned by 07/27/2021  
Approved by Major  
Commanding Road  
Local Road

- 2021-06-05
- 2021-06-06
- 2021-06-07
- 2021-06-08
- 2021-06-09
- 2021-06-10
- 2021-06-11
- 2021-06-12
- 2021-06-13
- 2021-06-14

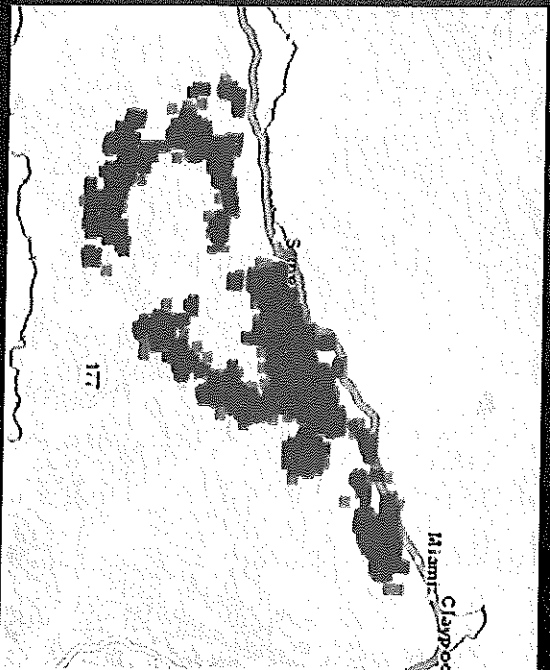


**2021 Telegraph Fire**

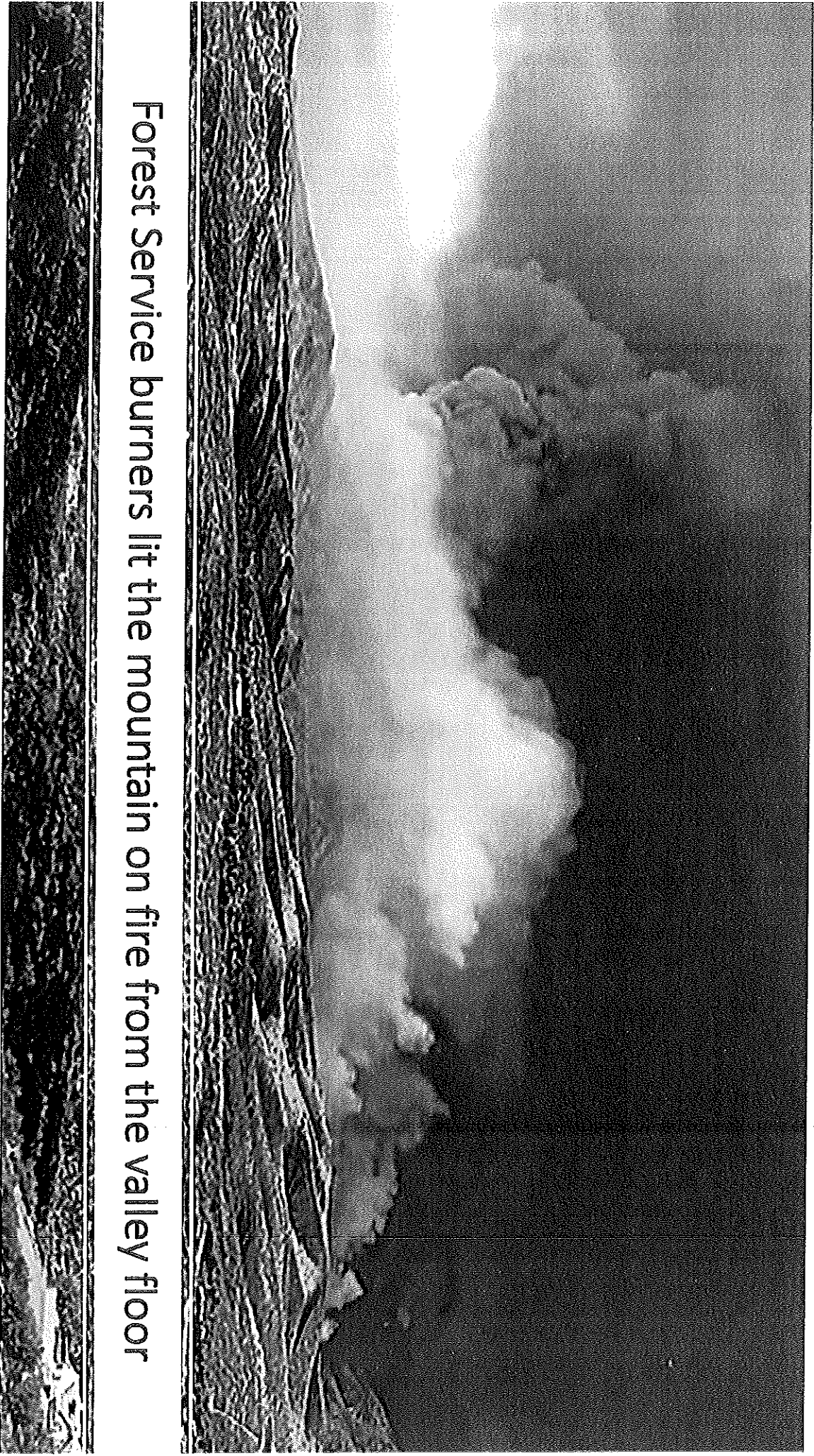


The red was  
burned on  
purpose June  
13-14,  
2021

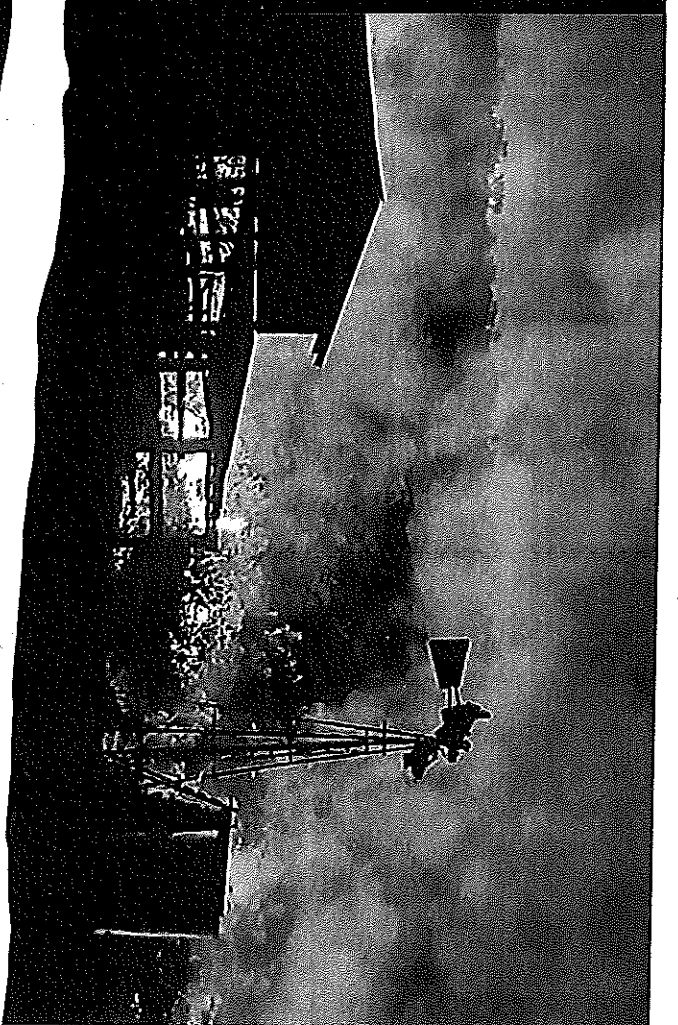
# Telegraph Fire







Forest Service burners lit the mountain on fire from the valley floor

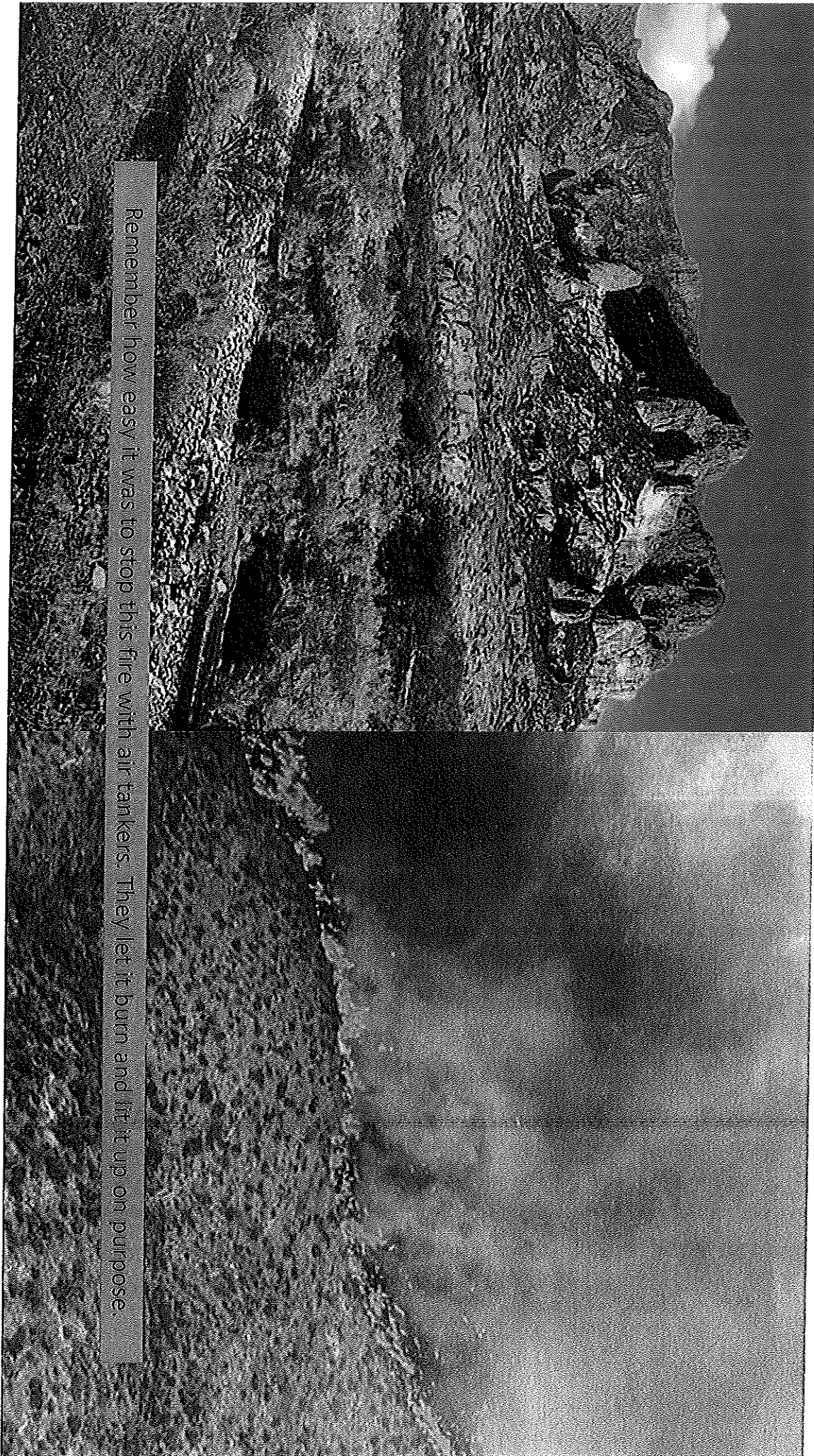


Usually on private  
property...



A dark, grainy photograph of a person standing in a field at night or in low light. The person is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame, appearing as a small, light-colored figure against the dark background. The overall scene is very dark, with some faint textures visible in the ground and the person's clothing.

Lighting fire only to lose it over  
and over again is just arson.....

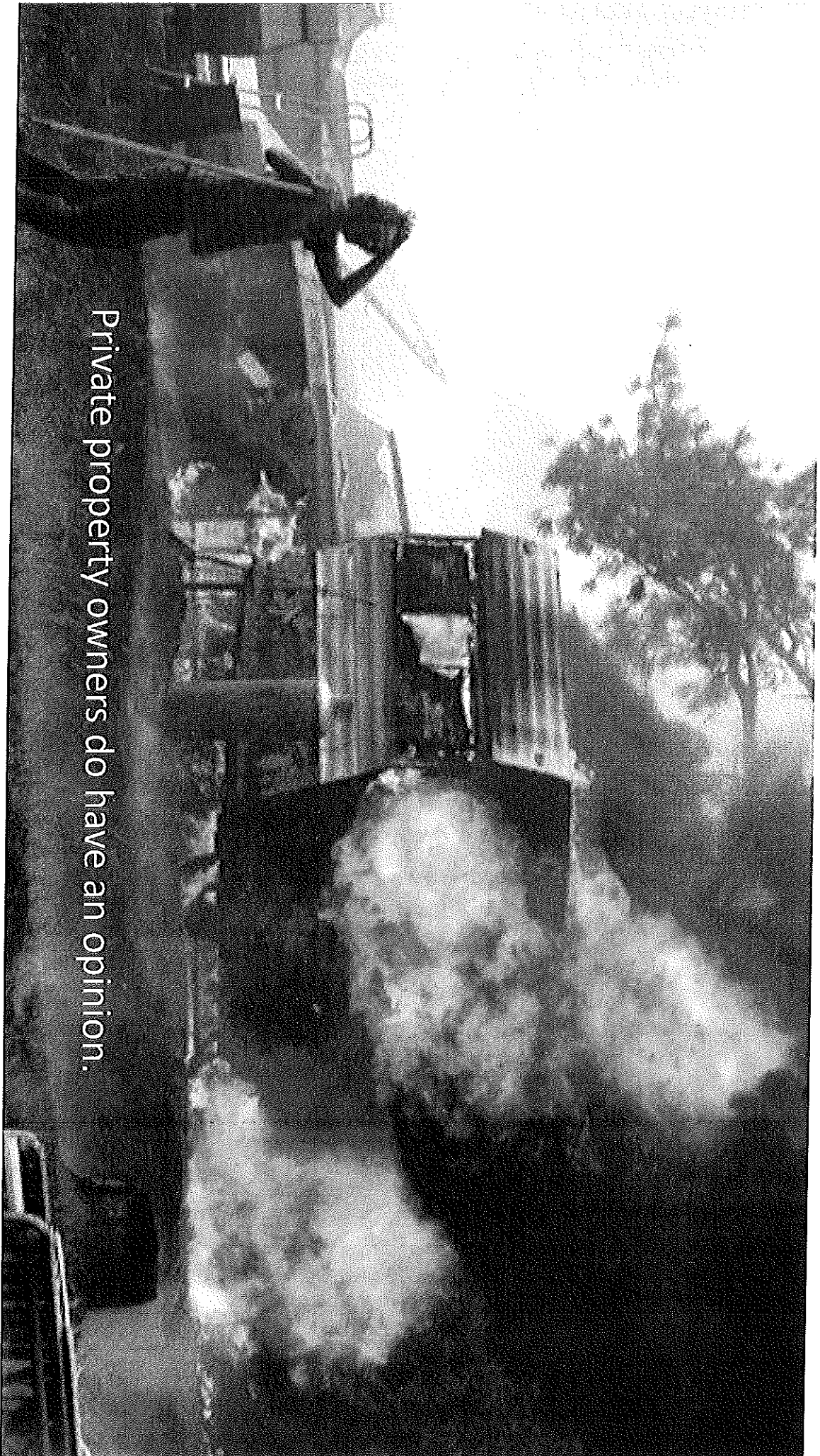


Remember how easy it was to stop this fire with air tankers. They let it burn and lit it up on purpose.

No one asks  
any private  
property  
owners for  
their opinions







Private property owners do have an opinion.

Decisions made  
with no input and  
no opportunity to  
object or  
participate

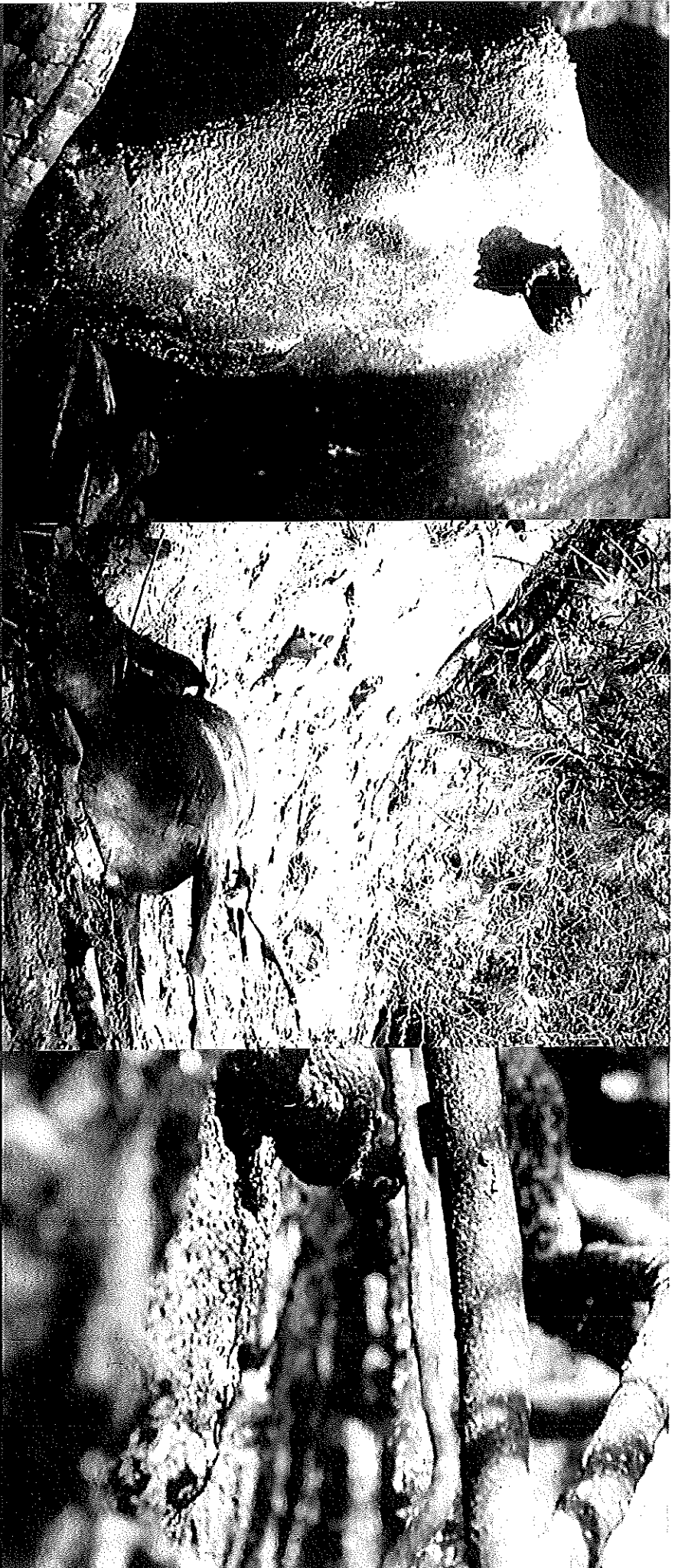




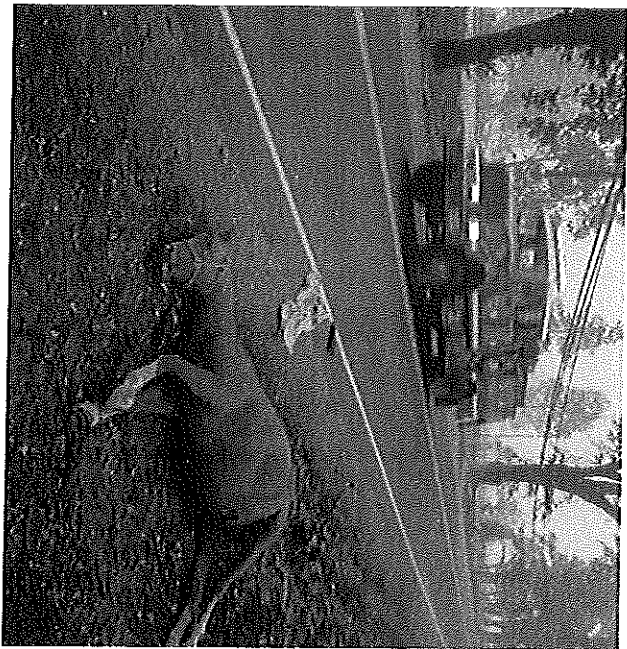


# NO

- Planning process
- Proposed action
- Public input
- EIS
- Record of Decision
- Objection process
- Affecting the outcome



Unlected acolytes of the New Wildfire Use Religion



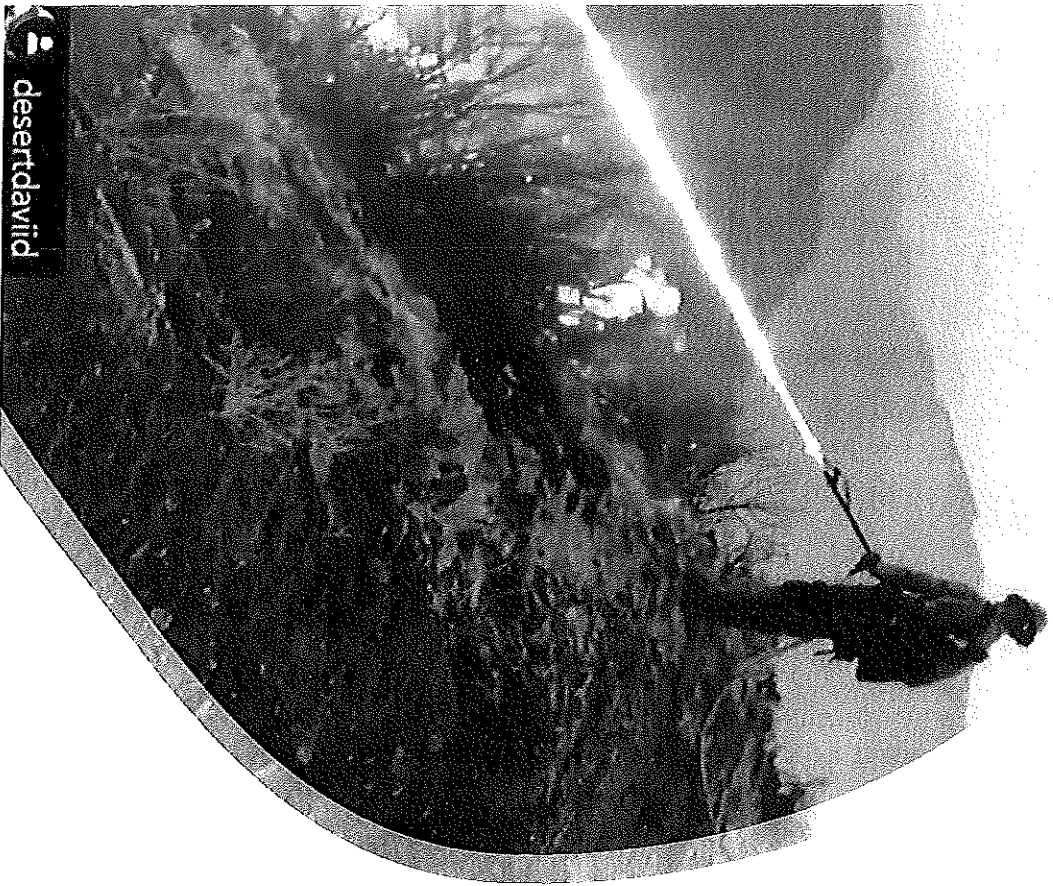
Wildfire Use has consequences....

Consequences  
with no  
accountability

---



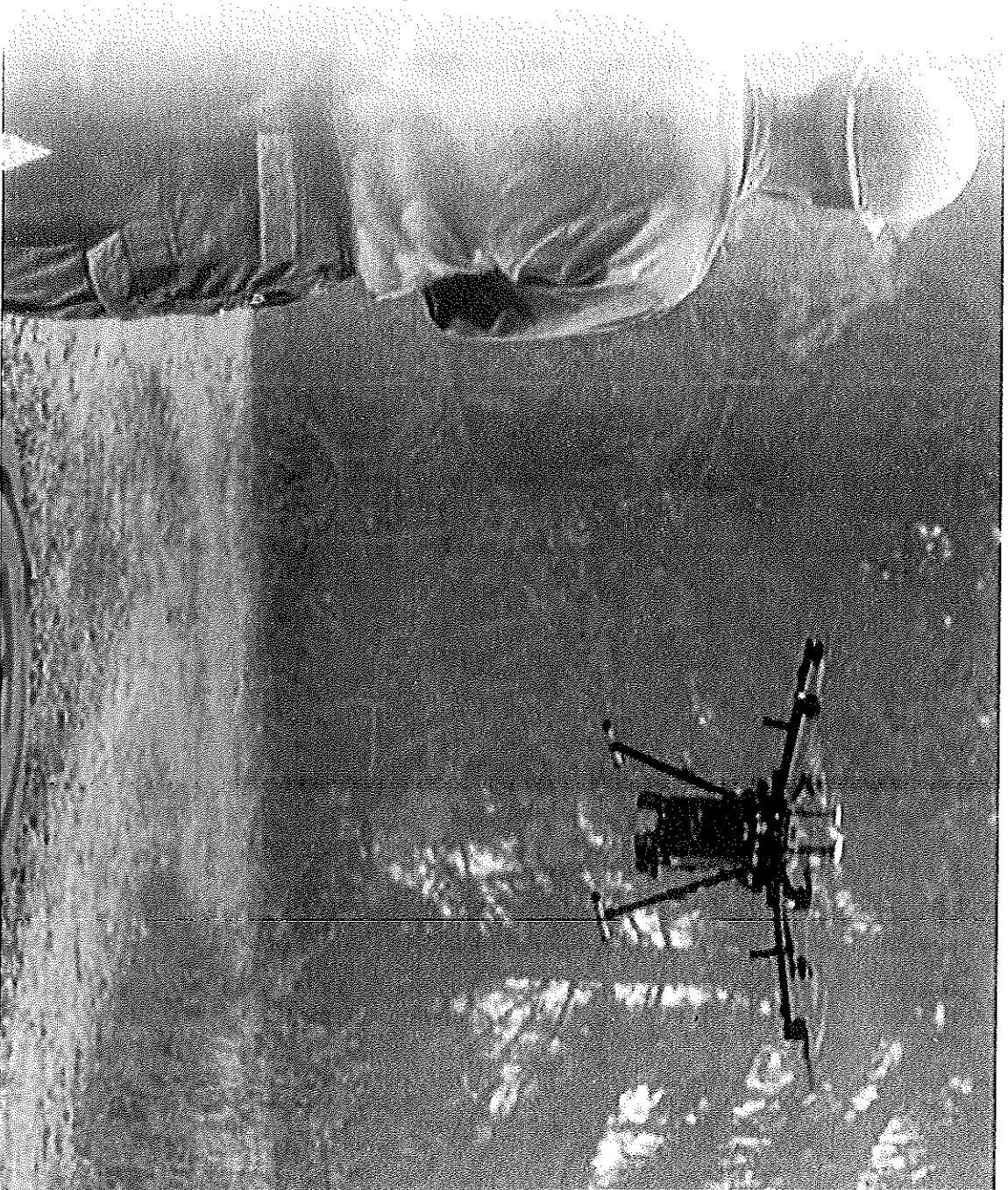




There is no  
Forest Service  
Accountability  
No private compensation



Using Congressionally  
appropriated WFM  
“emergency fire  
suppression” dollars to  
field thousands of  
firefighters to do  
prescribed wildfires for  
8 months through the  
summer....

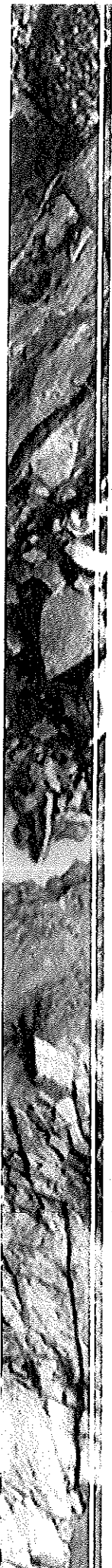




- The post-fire impacts are often as bad as the actual fire.
- **Who Pays?**



Post Fire Flooding







## Now what?

- Current burning practices are far outside the scope of Forest Plans
- Except for prescribed fire in shoulder seasons



[wildfirepros.com](http://wildfirepros.com)

- It's time to stop "using wildfires where allowable" for "resource benefits" or to "manage energy" in unburned fuel.
- Invite the public to participate in future policies and practices... Follow the Park Service lead and develop Fire Management Plans based on environmental assessments and EISs.



#7

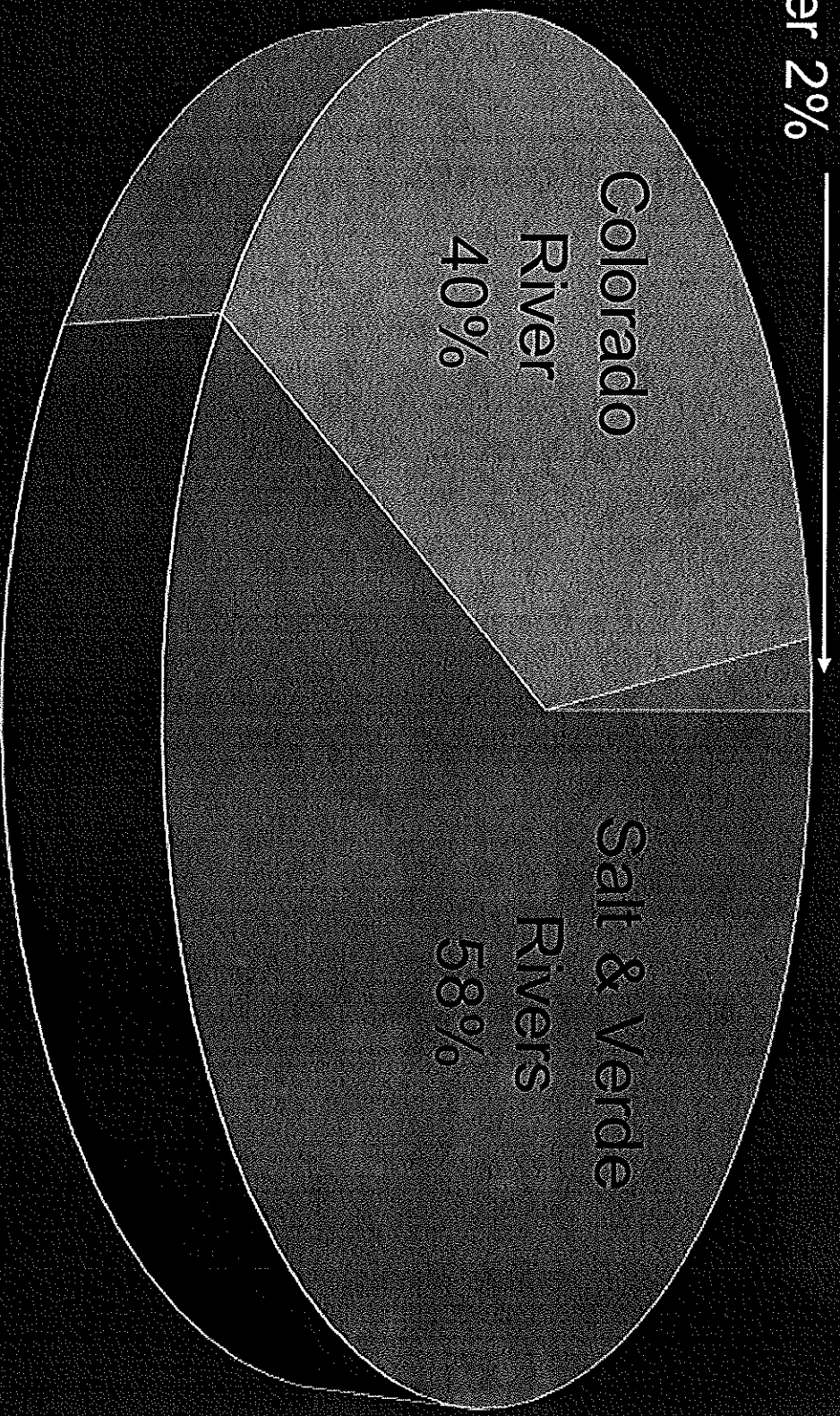


# WILDFIRE IMPACTS ON PHOENIX WATER

**Cynthia Campbell**  
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ADVISOR

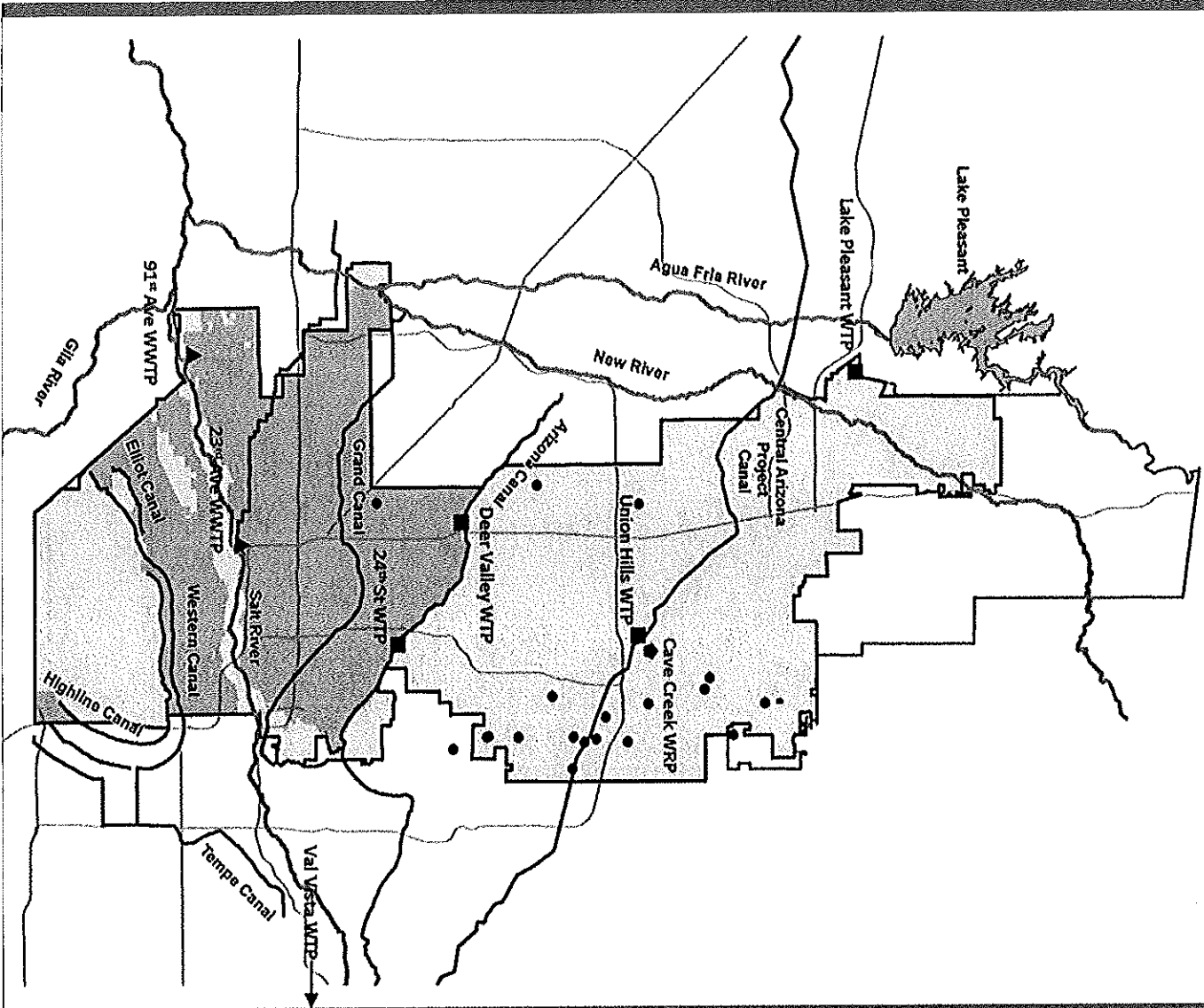
# PHOENIX WATER SUPPLY

Groundwater 2%





# PHOENIX WATER PLANTS



# CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE SINCE 2000

- Since 2000, an annual average of 70,600 wildfires has burned an average of 7 million acres each year. This is more than double the average annual area burned during the 1990s.
- The top five largest wildfires that have occurred since 1960 have been since 2000.

(Source: Congressional Research Service “Wildfire Statistics” October 4, 2021)





# HOW WILDFIRE IMPACTS WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

- Turbidity in water (NTU – nephelometric turbidity unit).  
Normal is 30 NTU. Storm events across burn scars yield up to 8,400 NTU.
- Increased organic carbon (TOC – total organic carbon).  
Difficult to treat and deposits as sediment in reservoirs for continued impacts over time.
- Sudden impacts of both can damage infrastructure







# Financial Impacts to Phoenix



- \$200 million since 2000 to install carbon filtration system (GAC) at water plants (\$84 M at Val Vista). Additional \$1/year for OM&R
- Increased water quality monitoring and advanced communication systems among SRP, CAP and cities with associated costs
- New operating guidelines designed to avoid high turbidity events

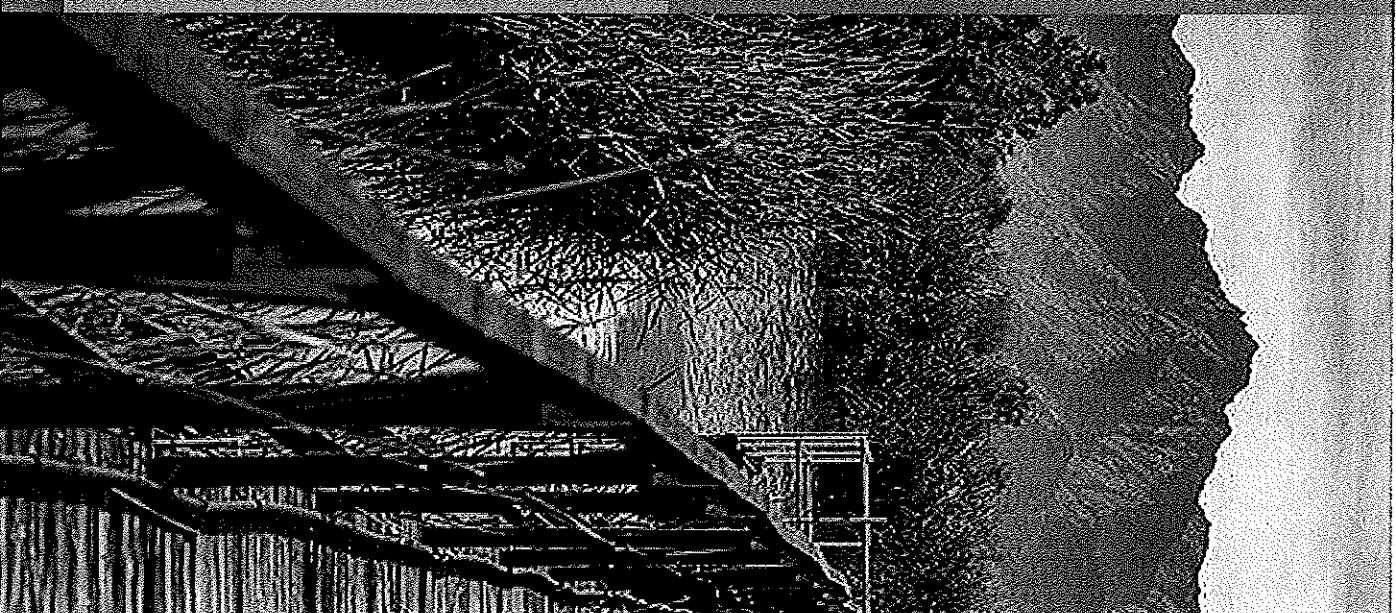


## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Northern Arizona Forest Foundation (NAFF)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Salt River Project (SRP)

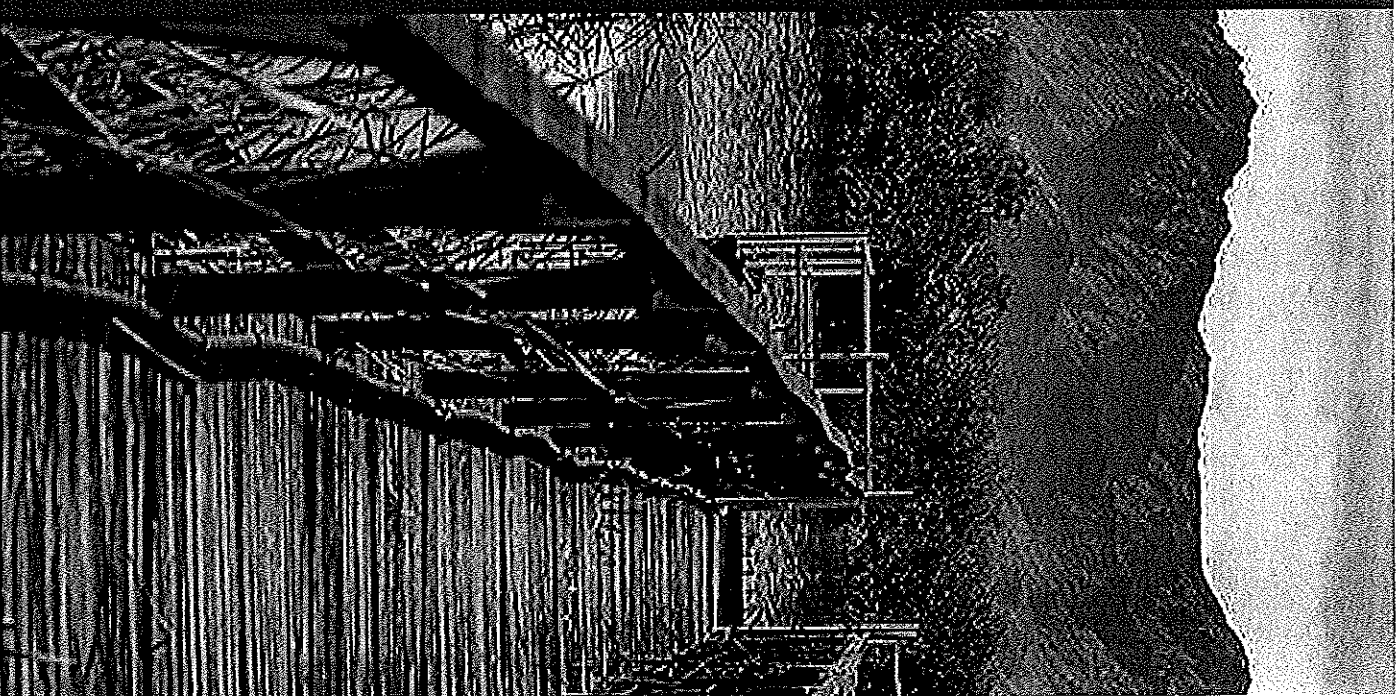
## CURRENT STATUS

Phoenix and its wholesale water partners have adapted, but long-term impacts to reservoir capacity and water yield threaten our foundational water supply.





# QUESTIONS?



# Update on the Status of HB 2001 Disbursements

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**Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management**

**Bill Boyd, Deputy Director**



DFFM.az.gov

# HB 2001

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Section 1, subsection A, appropriates \$75,000,000 in FY 21 to the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) for wildfire emergency response and allows DFFM to spend monies for the following:

1. Fire suppression and pre-positioning of fire suppression equipment and staff.
2. Capital expenditures and equipment associated with fire suppression and pre-positioning activities for fire suppression.
3. Mitigation projects to address post fire flooding and other damage that may occur as a result of fires or fire suppression activities.
4. A state or local government agency's emergency liabilities related to emergency sheltering, wraparound services, and support activities.
5. Financial assistance to public and private landowners for emergency repairs for infrastructure damage resulting from fires or fire suppression activities.
6. Reimbursement to a state agency or political subdivision for the state agency's or political subdivision's cost share of eligible claims arising from an emergency declared pursuant to state or federal law.



DFFM.az.gov

Category	YTD Actuals	YTD Approved
For fire suppression	\$14,812,195	\$14,812,195
Capital expenditures	\$3,440,169	\$6,413,500
Mitigation projects to address post fire flooding	\$3,536,622	\$12,196,760
State or local government agency's emergency liabilities		
Financial assistance to public and private landowners	\$20,995	\$335,990



DFFM.az.gov



# HB 2001

County	# of Resource Requests Approved	# of Resource Requests Disapproved	Total Money Approved
Gila	121	8	\$9,646,070
Pinal	12	2	\$579,584
Cocconino	14	7	\$1,094,623
Mohave	5	0	\$283,271
Pima	11	0	\$302,604
Apache	7	2	\$144,908
Yuma	3	2	\$34,863
Navajo	1	0	\$6,900
Yavapai	1	0	\$4,185
Graham	1	0	\$99,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$12,196,760</b>



DFFM.az.gov



Thank You

[DFFM.az.gov](http://DFFM.az.gov)