



Meddler Incident Decision

Published
08/27/20 12:07

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1. Decision

1.1. Decision Summary

Decision Information

NAME	VALUE
Published	08/27/2020 12:07 CDT
Estimated Cost	\$15,000,000
Incident Owner(s)	Rocky Gilbert, Mary Lata, Taiga Rohrer, Christopher Loxterman, Dana Bagnoli, Robb Beery
Editor(s)	Anthony Madrid, Kelly Jardine
Reviewer(s)	Kelly Jardine, Neil Bosworth
Approver(s)	Anthony Madrid
Natl Preparedness Level	5

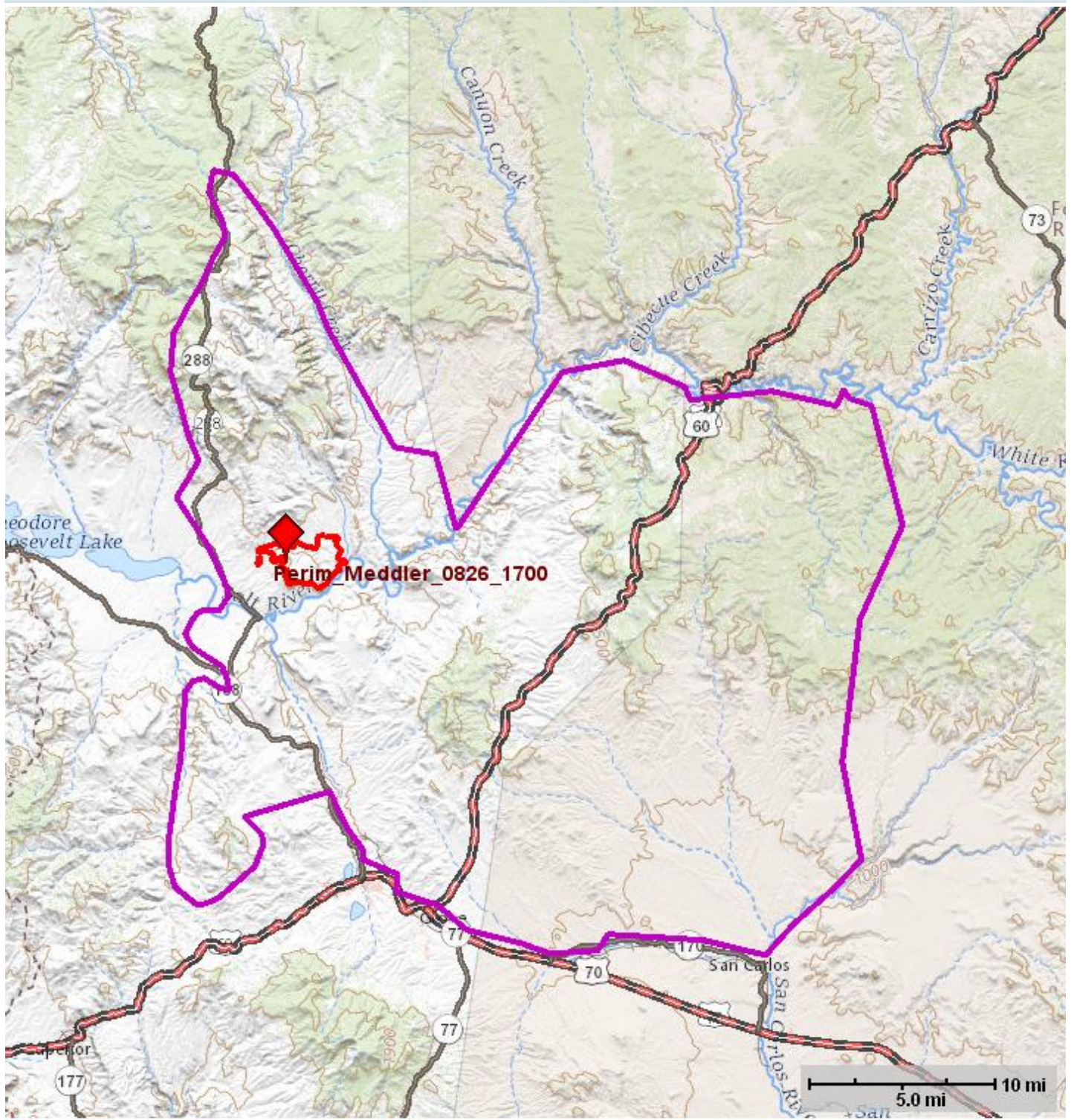
Decision History

Editor Name	Action	Date (CDT)	Comment
Madrid, Anthony	Approved	08/27/2020 12:07	
Madrid, Anthony	Published	08/27/2020 12:07	
Jardine, Kelly	Accepted	08/27/2020 11:41	
Beery, Robb	Review Requested	08/27/2020 10:27	
Beery, Robb	Review Requested	08/27/2020 10:27	Re-submitted with Anthony Madrid as Approver
Beery, Robb	Rejected	08/27/2020 10:25	Rejected to add Anthony Madrid as Approver
Lata, Mary	Review Requested	08/25/2020 17:54	
Lata, Mary	Review Requested	08/25/2020 17:54	
Lata, Mary	Created	08/25/2020 17:16	

1.2. Incident Information

Incident Information

NAME	VALUE
Incident Name	Meddler
Unique Fire Identifier	2020-AZTNF-002600
Responsible Unit Name	Tonto National Forest
FireCode	NG67
P-Code	P3NG67
Point of Origin	33.66167N / 110.8976 W
Incident Size	5,142acres
Latest WFDSS Perimeter Size	4,452acres
Incident Cause	Unknown
Incident Type	Wildfire
Incident Discovery	08/24/2020 07:18
Contained	
Controlled	
Out	
Jurisdictional Unit	AZTNF - Tonto National Forest
Jurisdictional Agency(s)	BIA/Tribal, BLM, USFS, State
Geographic Area (prep level)	Southwest (4)
Owner Name(s)	Rocky Gilbert, Mary Lata, Taiga Rohrer, Christopher Loxterman, Dana Bagnoli, Robb Beery



— Fire Perimeters — Planning Areas ◆ Point of Origin

1.3. Weather

Fire Weather Zone Forecast

000
FNUS55 KFGZ 271035
FWFFGZ
Fire Weather Planning Forecast for northern Arizona
National Weather Service Flagstaff AZ
335 AM MST Thu Aug 27 2020
+++ Thunderstorms imply strong gusty and erratic winds +++
+++ 20-foot wind forecast of 'light winds' indicates mainly
 terrain driven winds +++
+++++
.DISCUSSION...
Expect scattered afternoon and evening thunderstorms
on Thursday along the high terrain, and isolated coverage elsewhere.
For Friday and Saturday, expect a decrease with storm coverage,
especially in the White Mountains and eastern Arizona. Breezy
southwest winds are forecast Saturday afternoon.
Sunday and Monday..Monsoon moisture is expected to increase with
better chances for shower and thunderstorms.
AZZ118-280115-
Northern Gila County (Fire Weather Zone 118)-
Including the cities of Payson, Strawberry, and Young
335 AM MST Thu Aug 27 2020
.TODAY...
Sky/weather.....Partly cloudy. Haze through the day. Chance of
 showers and thunderstorms through the day.
Max temperature....95-105 below 5000 feet...88-97 above 5000 feet.
 24 hr trend.....Little change.
Min humidity.....15-20 percent.
 24 hr trend.....Little change.
20-foot winds.....Light winds becoming west around 10 mph in the
 afternoon.
Free winds.....West 5 to 10 mph.
Haines Index.....3 or very low.
PoP.....30 percent.
LAL.....3.
.TONIGHT...
Sky/weather.....Mostly cloudy then becoming partly cloudy.
 Slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening.
 Slight chance of rain showers through the
 night.
Min temperature....65-75 below 5000 feet...59-69 above 5000 feet.
 24 hr trend.....Little change.
Max humidity.....39-59 percent below 5000 feet...48-68 percent
 above 5000 feet.
 24 hr trend.....Little change.
20-foot winds.....North winds around 10 mph in the evening
 becoming light.
Free winds.....Northwest 5 to 15 mph.
Haines Index.....3 or very low.
PoP.....20 percent.
LAL.....3.
.FRIDAY...
Sky/weather.....Mostly sunny. Slight chance of showers and
 thunderstorms in the afternoon.
Max temperature....94-104 below 5000 feet...87-95 above 5000 feet.
 24 hr trend.....Little change.
Min humidity.....14-19 percent.
 24 hr trend.....Little change.
20-foot winds.....Light winds becoming west around 10 mph in the
 afternoon.
Free winds.....West 5 to 15 mph.
Haines Index.....3 or very low.
PoP.....20 percent.
LAL.....3.
.FORECAST DAYS 3 THROUGH 5.....
.SATURDAY...Partly cloudy. Slight chance of showers and
thunderstorms. Highs 89 to 99. Light winds becoming southwest
10 to 15 mph.
.SUNDAY...Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly
cloudy. Chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs 85 to 95.
Light winds becoming west around 10 mph in the afternoon.
.MONDAY...Mostly clear. Chance of showers and thunderstorms.
Highs 85 to 95. Light winds becoming west around 10 mph in the
afternoon.
\$\$
.6 TO 10 DAY Outlook for Sep 01 - 05 2020
Near normal temperatures and Below normal precipitation.
=
\$\$
VENTILATION...Transport wind and mixing height are based
on the following points.

Fire Weather Zone Forecast

ZONE 115...Williams.....6750 FT MSL.
ZONE 106...Tusayan.....6606 FT MSL.
ZONE 108...Prescott.....5052 FT MSL.
ZONE 111...Window Rock....6739 FT MSL.
ZONE 113...Winslow.....4883 FT MSL.
ZONE 117...Whiteriver.....5225 FT MSL.
Ventilation categories are determined by criteria
established by each state.
\$\$

1.4. Modeling

1.5. Risk

Relative Risk

NAME	VALUE
Relative Risk High	
Duration	Moderate
Saved By	Lata, Mary
Completed	08/25/2020 15:20 CDT

Relative Risk Notes

Notes: The fire is currently active, and has moved quickly where there has been alignment. Thunderstorms in the proximity of the fire could put it out, or severely curtail spread within the next week. However, they can also produce outflow winds that increase fire behavior, and make the direction of spread unpredictable - that happened last night, causing the fire to jump a four lane highway. Fire behavior potential is well above average for this time of year because of invasive grasses combined with exceptionally dry and hot conditions.

Over the last week, scattered thunderstorms have produced a lot of lightning as well. Between human starts and lightning, there have been about a dozen starts, in addition to the large fires included in the Tonto Central Incident Group.

DURATION

The fire will likely last more than a few days, but not for a month. Most of the fuels in the planning area are grass and shrub, and there is a chance of some precipitation in the next few days. However, monsoon has been spotty and sparse this year, making it difficult to predict duration. The duration of this fire depends largely on the weather over the fire - if there are outflow winds, it could move the fire around into heavier fuels, resulting in a longer duration fire.

As of this morning, Predictive Services said there is no season-ending rain event in the near future.

Values Notes

FUEL CONDITION

ζ Fuel moistures are highly variable across the forest but, currently, fuel moisture in Globe/Tonto Basin have manzanita at 52%, and oak at 70%. Shrubs are mostly decadent and ready to burn. Consistent with past years, fuel moistures are currently trending down as per the season.

ζ A wet fall/winter/spring produced a bumper crop of invasive grasses that has provided a surface load of fine fuels that is more contiguous and heavier than is typical. Record low precipitation and high temperatures mean the fine fuel load is now completely available, and providing means for fire to spread faster and further than is typical.

ζ There is no record of significant fire history in the southern part of the planning area since the 1970s, just a few smaller fires in the 1970s, and some really near Highway 188. In the upper elevations of the planning area, the Juniper Fire (~30,000 acres in 2016) and the Coon Creek Fire (~10,000 acres in 2000).

ζ Shrubs in the planning area are mostly at least 40 years old, and have sufficient volume and dead/down material to ignite easily and burn with high intensity. In the north zone, manzanita is at 90% and oak varies between 70 and 84% in the higher elevations.

FIRE BEHAVIOR

Fuels in much of the fire area are primarily grasses and shrubs. As per the fuel condition discussion above, surface fine fuel loading is allowing fire to move faster and further than is typical. These fuels, combined with steep topography and hot, dry conditions provide the needed ingredients for extreme fire behavior - in this case, high flame lengths in grass and shrubs, and high rates of spread. The higher RH values associated with nearby storms and some RH recovery overnight could slow or stop the fire in places. The fire has not yet burned much above about 4,000 feet. In the upper elevations in the Sierra Anchas and Timber Camp, fuels transition into ponderosa pine forests. Some of these upper elevations have had more rain lately, but there have been no significant fires in those fuels yet to provide fire behavior observations.

The fire has exhibited some extreme behavior, and afternoon/evening thunderstorms are in the forecast for the next few days, so it is possible there will be outflow winds from scattered T-storms. If the fire moves into higher elevations, it will move into areas of chaparral, PJ, and ponderosa pine.

The outlook for the next 10 days is for continued hot and dry conditions, with RH in the single digits, and temperatures averaging 10°F above normal. There is some chance of precip for the next week, but it will be spotty and unpredictable.

Currently, fire behavior for the Meddler Fire is mostly terrain driven and influenced heavily by outflow winds. It has gotten hung up on rocks, but direction and speed depend primarily on outflow winds and terrain.

Two of the other fires being managed as part of the Tonto Central Incident Group (Griffin, Champion) are exhibiting extreme fire behavior that, just a couple of hours ago (noon on 8/25) led to highway closures.

POTENTIAL FIRE GROWTH

The uncertainty of additional fires, lightning, outflow winds, or other weather related variables this time of year increases the variability of potential fire outcomes. Typical winds this time of year would move the fire to the north/northeast/east, and forecasted winds align with that. However, as mentioned above, thunderstorms are expect in the vicinity of the fires over the next few days. As occurred overnight on the 17/18th, and the 18th/19th these can push the fire in unexpected directions with increased fire intensity and rates of spread. This kind of behavior is still relevant, and possible on the Meddler fire, with good potential for it to become large quickly.

Hazards Notes

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years, fuel moistures are currently trending down as per the season.

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ζ There is no record of significant fire history in the southern part of the planning area since the 1970s, just a few smaller fires in the interior in the 1970s, and some really small ones near Highway 188. Shrubs are mostly decadent and ready to burn, as per the first bullet (above). In the upper elevations and northern part of the planning area, the Juniper Fire (~30,000 acres in 2016) and the Coon Creek Fire (~10,000 acres in 2000).

ζ Where there are shrubs in the planning area, they are mostly at least 40 years old, and have sufficient volume and dead/down material to ignite easily and burn with high intensity.

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Probability Notes

Late in season but not sure of when season ending event will occur. **TIME OF SEASON**

Typically, the fire season is slowing down at this point, because of monsoonal rains. However, this year the peak of the burning activity may not have occurred yet, and there may still be about 2 months of the fire season left.

BARRIERS TO FIRE SPREAD

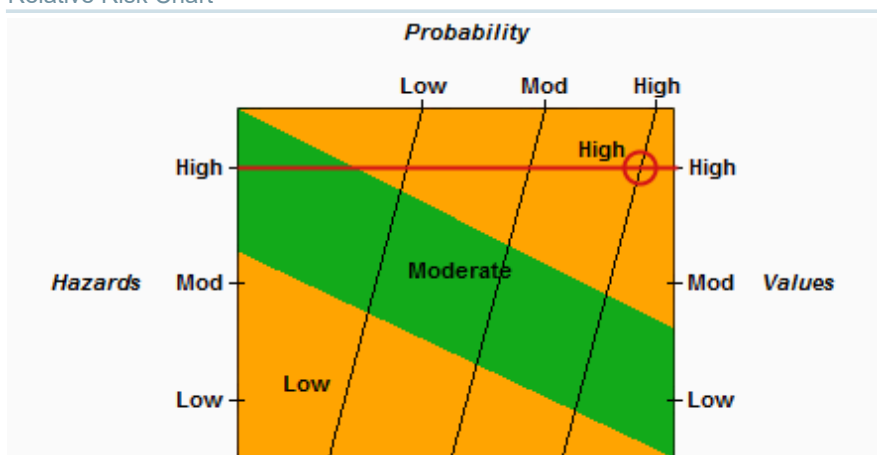
The most dependable barriers around the current fire location are the Salt River to the south, Highway 288 to the west, FS203 to the north, and possibly FS1590 to the east. With current fuel conditions and the potential for outflow winds, there are few barriers that could be depended on.

SEASONAL SEVERITY

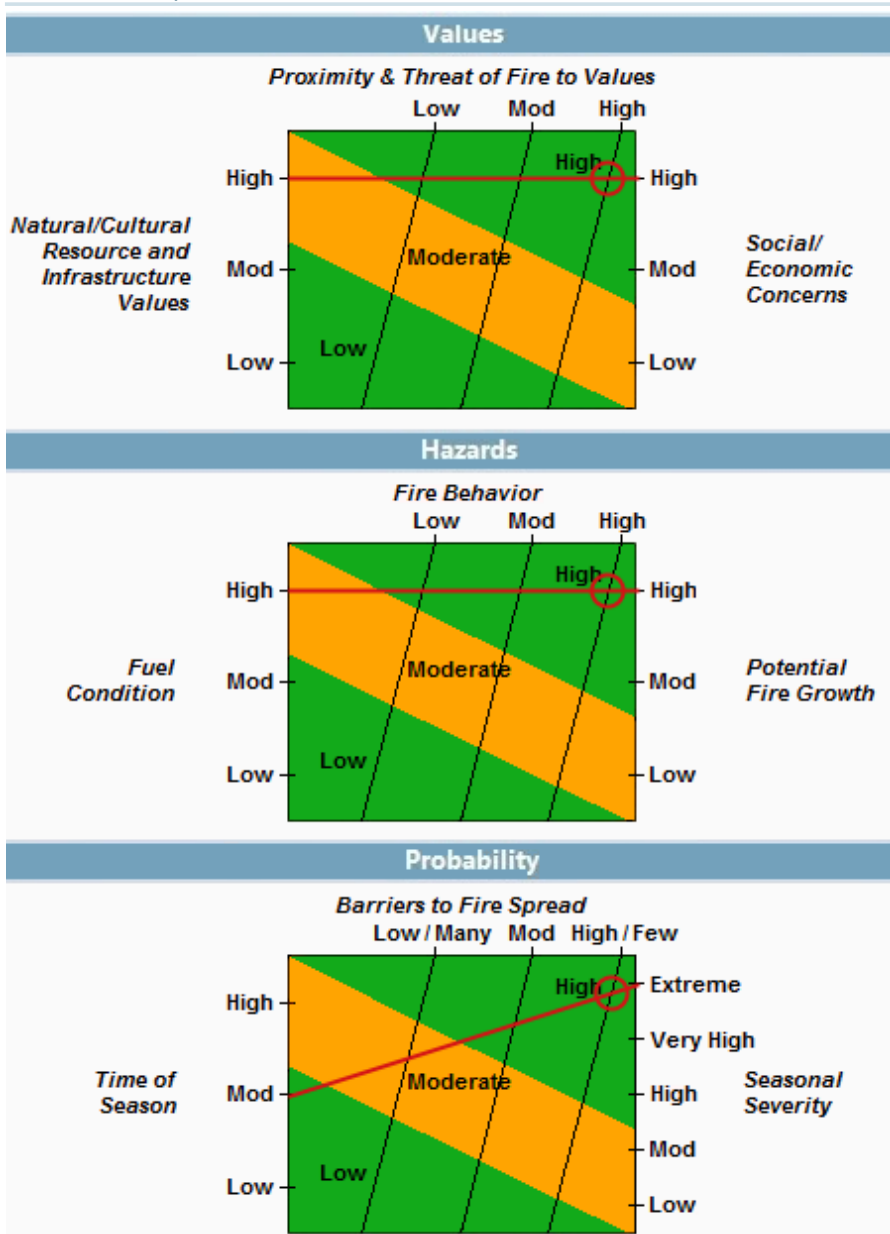
Current ERCs are at the 95th percentile in the Brush FDRA, and 96th in the Sonoran FDRA. Fuel moisture conditions are described above in 'Fuel Conditions', but are currently low and trending down. Temperatures have been, and will continue to be, about 10° above normal. Precipitation has been much spottier than usual, and currently this is one of the driest Augusts on record.

The longer term forecast is for La Nina conditions which, in the southwest, means a dry fall and winter.

Relative Risk Chart



Relative Risk Inputs



Organization Assessment

NAME	VALUE
Unit Recommended Org Type 1	
Saved By	Lata, Mary
Completed	08/25/2020 16:08 CDT

Organization Assessment Notes

The Meddler Fire is one of five fires that are currently being managed as the Tonto Central Incident Group. During the process of completing this initial analysis, the Griffin Fire (one of those in the Group), behavior and spread caused Highway 60 to be closed, including the Gila County Fairground where the ICP is for the Tonto Central Incident Group. The forecast is for fire weather to worsen, with potential for additional starts and outflow winds from afternoon/evening thunderstorms. Nationally, we are at PL5, and regionally at PL4. The Tonto National Forest currently has seven active large fires, with initial attack very active over the last few days. There are also other large fires in adjacent jurisdictions.

Relative Risk Notes

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behavior, and make the direction of spread unpredictable - that happened last night, causing the fire to jump a four lane highway. Fire behavior potential is well above average for this time of year because of invasive grasses combined with exceptionally dry and hot conditions.

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As of this morning, Predictive Services said there is no season-ending rain event in the near future.

Implementation Difficulty Notes

POTENTIAL FIRE DURATION

Covered above.

INCIDENT STRATEGIES (COURSE OF ACTION)

The relative risk assessment for this fire is high.

Current actions include point protection of values at risk, indirect and direct actions, and monitoring / confinement of areas that are inaccessible by ground resources, or with few values at risk.

Aircraft will be used if needed, when they are available.

FUNCTIONAL CONCERNS

The forest has had multiple large fires this year, and there are increasing numbers of active large fires across the country; resources are already difficult to obtain. Aircraft, in particular, are in demand across the west, and will be difficult to obtain, though in the extreme terrain in the vicinity of the Meddler Fire, it would be the only option in some areas.

Because resources are limited at this time (nationally, we're at PL5 and regionally we're at PL4), the resources needed for the organization type may not be available, so span of control could be less than in a more typical year.

If the fire crosses FS203, it would be in a large area (POD78) with few opportunities to cut it off. It would most likely become a long-duration incident, with increased exposure for firefighters, and increased threats to VARs.

Currently, the Meddler Fire is one of four fires being managed as a Group of Incidents as the Tonto Central Group. This complicates the management of resources and the fires. There continue to be multiple incidents and high levels of initial attack on the forest and adjacent area.

Ground personnel working in the vicinity of the 500KV lines is a concern if there is smoke in the area.

Socio/Political Concerns Notes

OBJECTIVE CONCERNS

Until and unless fire behavior changes, objectives are clear and straightforward. The primary objective of this fire is to minimize exposure for firefighters while suppressing the fire in areas where there is a high probability of success. Management actions will utilize direct and indirect and point protection tactics and strategies as needed.

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

The Tonto Basin area and the associated communities have experienced major fires and related incidents this year and last year, affecting the public, state, and county. There is still potential for rolling brownouts in Phoenix if the Meddler Fire impinges on two 500 KV lines that run through the fire area.

Additionally, there are ongoing concerns from previous fires in the area about flooding, debris flows, infrastructure damage, and the associated evacuations should there be a heavy rain event.

Smoke is becoming more of a factor, as more fire in the area creates more smoke, and weather conditions are allowing smoke to settle into communities. Additionally, there has been smoke / fire in the area for almost two weeks already, and there is currently no clear end in sight.

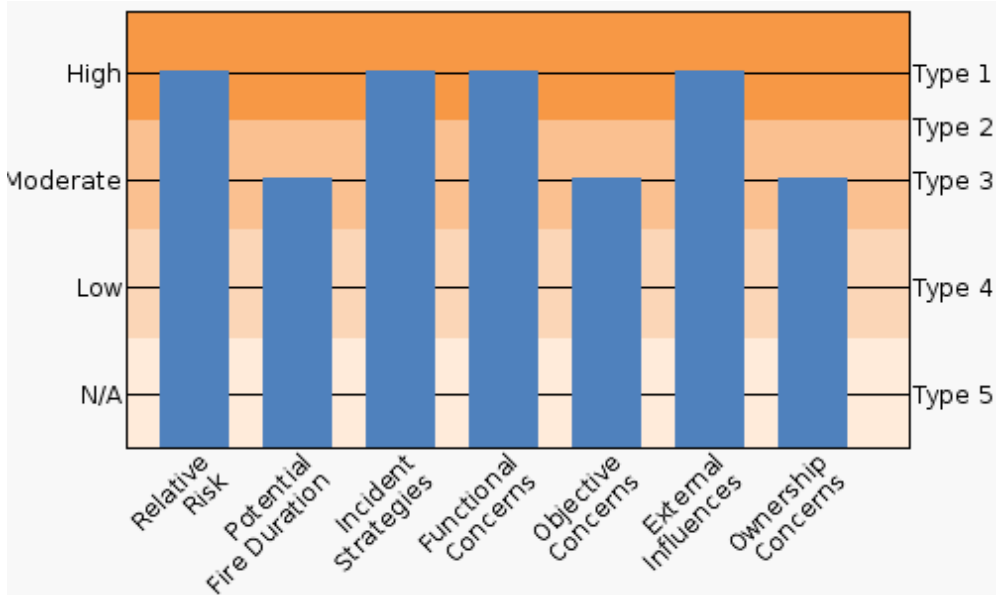
OWNERSHIP CONCERNS

The list below includes the entire planning area for the Tonto Central Group. Those VARs that are specifically threatened, or could be, by the Meddler Fire are marked with an asterisk.

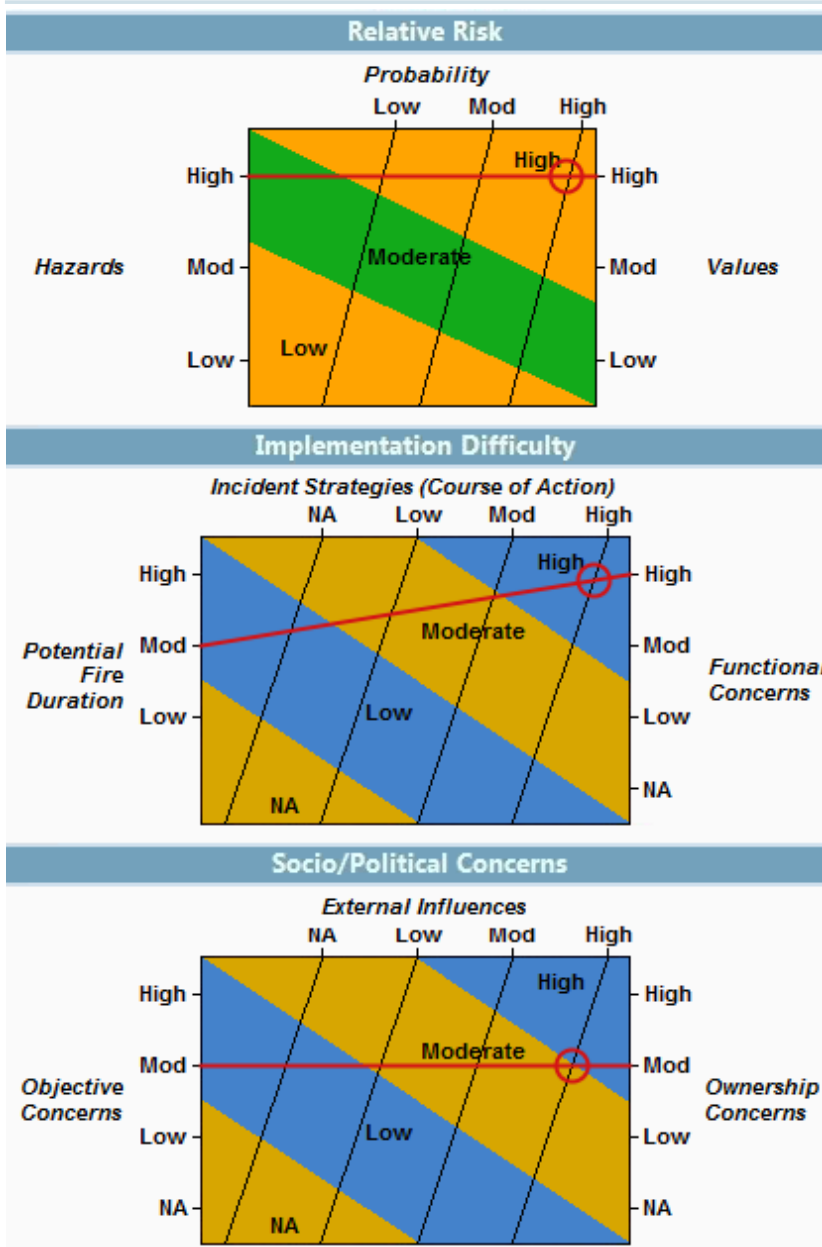
The following will need to be notified and kept informed of ongoing developments so they can be responsive to, and prepared for, expected effects:

- ¿ Gila County Emergency Services
- ¿ ADOT
- ¿ Sierra Anchas Experimental Forest*
- ¿ Fort Apache
- ¿ Grazing permittees*
- ¿ SRP*
- ¿ APS*
- ¿ Multiple Ranches and private property (listed in the Assessment under Values at Risk)*
- ¿ Gila County SO
- ¿ DPS
- ¿ City of Globe/Claypool
- ¿ City of Miami
- ¿ San Carlos Tribal Council
- ¿ San Carlos BIA
- ¿ San Carlos Tribal Emergency Response Commission

Organization Assessment Chart



Unit Recommended Org:Type 1



Planning Area Values Inventory Generated at 08/25/2020 13:41

NAME	VALUE
Planning Area Name	08/27/2020 12:07
Incident Name	Meddler
Planning Area Size	661,837 acres

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
AZTNF - Hazards / Asbestos	15	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Hazards / Uranium	33	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Land / wilderness	21,000 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Lands / Designations / Special Mgt Areas	12,802 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Minerals / High Risk Repository	8 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Plants / AZ Hedgehog	23 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_100_Restore	1,270 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_112_Protect	4,399 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_121_Restore	14,975 acres	AZTNF		Unit

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_122_Protect	28,747 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_123_Protect	25,520 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_124_Restore	4,397 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_125_Restore	9,437 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_126_Protect	7,779 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_127_Protect	9,215 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_128_Restore	351 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_129_Restore	4,185 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_132_Protect	401 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_135_Exclude	220 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_55_Restore	416 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_63_Restore	3,979 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_71_Restore	566 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_73_HighComplexit	9,340 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_75_Restore	5,336 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_76_Restore	23,638 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_78_Maintain	79,821 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_79_Exclude	566 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_83_Restore	25,865 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_85_Restore	18,753 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_88_Restore	3,332 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_89_Exclude	6,606 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_91_Restore	27,339 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_93_Protect	6,924 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_94_Restore	17,846 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_95_Exclude	17,846 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_96_Restore	35,779 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_97_Restore	42,505 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_98_Protect	9,885 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Strategic Response / POD_99_Protect	26,833 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / Active Owl Nest Tree	1	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / Bald Eagles	8	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / Golden Eagle	208 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / Goshawk	4 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / Owl Cores	1,677 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / Owl PACs	8,763 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / Razorback Sucker CH	469 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / SWFL	27 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / SWFL CH	1,872 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / THRU	8 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / YBCU	146 acres	AZTNF		Unit
AZTNF - Wildlife / YBCU CH	1,691 acres	AZTNF		Unit
BLM Range Allotments	11,650 acres	BLM	03/11/2019	National
Building Clusters: Gila, AZ	1,113	Various	Various	Available counties
Building Clusters: Graham, AZ	0	Various	Various	Available counties
Campgrounds	5	BLM (FAMS) and USFS INFRA	6/01/2018	National (BLM and USFS only)
Class 1 Airsheds	21,035 acres	NPS Air Resources Division	Various	National
Communication Towers	92	HIFLD	02/20/2020	National
County: Gila, AZ	660,737 acres	USFWS ECOS	2/10/2020	National
County: Graham, AZ	1,101 acres	USFWS ECOS	2/10/2020	National

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Electric Transmission Lines	101.3 miles	Homeland Security Open Data	9/24/2019	National
Est Ground Evac Time: 1-2 Hrs	249,284 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Est Ground Evac Time: 2-4 Hrs	179,598 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Est Ground Evac Time: 4-6 Hrs	15,484 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Est Ground Evac Time: 6+ Hrs	1,530 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Estimated Population	2,475	LandScan USA	2018	CONUS, AK, HI
Habitat: Mexican Spotted Owl	53,536 acres	US Fish and Wildlife Service	02/01/2020	National
Habitat: Narrow-Headed Gartersnake	3,851 acres	US Fish and Wildlife Service	02/01/2020	National
Habitat: Razorback Sucker	486 acres	US Fish and Wildlife Service	02/01/2020	National
Habitat: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	1,872 acres	US Fish and Wildlife Service	02/01/2020	National
Habitat: Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	1,692 acres	US Fish and Wildlife Service	02/01/2020	National
IRA: Cherry Creek Roadless Area	1,232 acres	USFS	03/08/2019	National
IRA: Picacho Roadless Area	2,188 acres	USFS	03/08/2019	National
IRA: Sierra Ancha Wilderness Contiguous Roadless Area	7,779 acres	USFS	03/08/2019	National
Landowner Category: BIA	270,249 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	03/12/2020	National
Landowner Category: BLM	2,263 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	03/12/2020	National
Landowner Category: Private	21,357 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	03/12/2020	National
Landowner Category: State	2,389 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	03/12/2020	National
Landowner Category: USFS	365,575 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	03/12/2020	National
Natl Scenic Byways	32.8 miles	NPS	2/28/2019	National
Other Areas: Sierra Ancha	13,561 acres	USGS PADUS 1.4	03/13/2019	National
Other Areas: Summit Watersheds Research Area, Plo 3263	320 acres	USGS PADUS 1.4	03/13/2019	National
Roads	78.5 miles	NAVTEQ	11/2012	National
USFS Buildings	32	USFS	2020	National
Wilderness: Salt River Canyon Wilderness	30,545 acres	Wilderness.net	01/31/19	National
Wilderness: Sierra Ancha Wilderness	20,253 acres	Wilderness.net	01/31/19	National

Coverage of Values Queried that Produced No Results

BLM Buildings (BLM Lands), BLM Horse and Burro (National), BLM Oil / Gas Leases (National), Electric Power Plants (National), Electric Sub Stations (National), Mines (National), NPS Buildings (National), NRA (National), Natl Historic Trails (National), Natl Recreation Trails (National), Natl Scenic Trails (National), Natl Wild Scenic Rivers (National), Oil and Gas Pipelines (National), Ozone Non-Attainment (National), Particulates Non-Attainment (National), Protecting Unit (AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN), Sage Grouse Habitat (National), TNC Lands (National), USFWS Trails (National), WSA (National)

1.6. Benefits

1.7. Objectives

Incident FMU/Strategic Objective Code List

Unit	FMU/Strat Obj Code	Acres
AZA4S	Private	10,228
AZA4S	State	2,375
AZFTA	FMZ 4 - West Operational Zone	230
AZPHD	AZ_PHD_001 - PDO Desert South of I-10	2,265
AZSCA	APU - Asset Protection Unit	19,162
AZSCA	RMU - Resource Management Unit	250,880
AZTNF	2B - Globe RD Salt River Canyon Wilderness	19,575
AZTNF	2C - Globe RD Upper Salt River	196
AZTNF	2F - Globe RD General Management Area	217,540
AZTNF	5A - Pleasant Valley RD Sierra Ancha Wilderness	21,000
AZTNF	5D - Pleasant Valley RD Mogollon Rim-Sierra Ancha Area	18,889
AZTNF	5E - Pleasant Valley RD Sierra Ancha Experimental Forest	11,431
AZTNF	5F - Pleasant Valley RD Proposed Upper Forks Parker Creek Research Natural Area	1,442
AZTNF	5G - Pleasant Valley RD General Management Area	6,153
AZTNF	6F - Tonto Basin RD Roosevelt and Apache Lakes Recreation Area	1,231
AZTNF	6G - Tonto Basin RD Salt River Canyon Wilderness	10,978
AZTNF	6J - Tonto Basin RD General Management Area	68,102

Spatial Fire Planning Inventory

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Aqua Retardant Avoidance	21,719 acres	National - FS Land Only	April 2020	National (USFS Units only)
Mgmt Req: APU-All	19,162 acres	AZSCA	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: RMU-All	250,879 acres	AZSCA	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: RMU-Com&Power MAA	1,007 acres	AZSCA	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: RMU-Desert MAA	63,523 acres	AZSCA	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: RMU-Forest MAA	26,082 acres	AZSCA	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: RMU-Ranch&Historic MAA	3,013 acres	AZSCA	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: RMU-Range&Woodland MAA	157,256 acres	AZSCA	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: Recreation Sites	7 acres	AZTNF	Current	Unit Level
Mgmt Req: Sonoran Desert	51,494 acres	AZTNF	Current	Unit Level
Retardant Avoidance	5,110 acres	USDA FS Enterprise Data Warehouse	04/2020	National (USFS Units only)

Incident Objective List

Activated	Incident Objective
08/27/2020	<p>General</p> <p>Protect the identified values at risk of communities, critical infrastructure, private property, and air quality affecting communities by attempting to keep fire within the Planning Area.</p> <p>Cultural</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Avoid or minimize any impacts to known cultural sites. Information on specific cultural resources is not available, but will be added to this objective when it becomes available.</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whenever possible, consult with resource advisors prior to implementing ground-disturbing activities to identify cultural locations to be avoided 2. Assign a PARA or ARPA with all heavy equipment 3. Avoid any ground disturbing activities in archeological sites

Activated	Incident Objective
	<p>4. If a site is damaged, report to the Resource Advisor</p> <p>Endstate: There is no significant disturbance to any cultural sites within the planning area from management actions.</p> <p>Range</p> <p>There are currently about 10 allotments within the planning area for the Tonto Central Incident Group. Approximately two of these are within the vicinity of the Meddler Fire.</p> <p>Objective #1:</p> <p>Minimize adverse effects from fire and suppression activities to range improvement infrastructure</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work closely with District Range Specialists and permittee to identify locations of above-ground structures 2. When possible/feasible, use tactics to protect above-ground structures (fence, pipeline, storage tanks, etc.) <p>Objective #2:</p> <p>Prevent livestock loss of life</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with District Range Specialists and permittee to identify cattle locations 2. Coordinate with fire personnel in the event that cattle need to be moved immediately 3. Stay in contact with fire personnel and permittees about the potential spread of fire and the trigger for moving cattle to other pastures
08/27/2020	<p>Mexican Spotted Owl:</p> <p>There are twelve PACs within the planning area, all in the Sierra Anchas, north of the current fire location. At this time (1500 8-25) we do not have specific information on the PACs. This information will be updated when it is available. For now, the following objectives apply to all PACs:</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Minimize negative habitat and disturbance effects from fire and suppression activities to individual spotted owls and their habitats (PACS, recovery habitat, and critical habitat)</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement tactics that keep fire severity low and limited to the understory with occasional single tree torching in Mexican Spotted Owl protected activity centers (MSO core areas). 2. Outside of the nest core, high severity patches of up to 4 acres are acceptable, but 1 acre or less is preferred 3. Avoid building fire line and/or congregating people and/or equipment within, or conducting flights over PACS 4. Use tactics that protect the loss of snags and avoid the removal of interior snags and large trees if they do not pose a safety issue to firefighters or public. <p>Purpose: To protect MSO adults and fledglings and to enhance their habitat by striving to maintain low severity fire effects within all habitat (PACS, recovery habitat, and critical habitat).</p> <p>Endstate: MSO individuals were protected and key habitat components within their habitats were maintained or enhanced.</p> <p>Golden and bald Eagles</p> <p>There are at least eight known Golden Eagle nests within the planning area; five are along the Salt River; three are along Highway 60 (77).</p> <p>There are at least seven known Bald Eagle nests within the planning area, all are at the section of the Salt River where it flows into Roosevelt Lake or where Pinal Creek flows into the Salt River.</p> <p>At this time (1500 8-25) we do not have specific information on eagle nests and habitat other than what is described above. This information will be updated when it is available. For now, the following objectives apply to all known eagle nests and habitat:</p> <p>Objective:</p>

Activated	Incident Objective
	<p>Minimize disturbance from suppression activities to known eagle nest locations.</p> <p>Task:</p> <p>If safe to do so and can be implemented while meeting the direction for full suppression, avoid dipping near known nest sites and maintain a 300 foot retardant avoidance buffer at known nest locations.</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>To protect known nest locations from being destroyed or damaged by suppression actions.</p> <p>Endstate:</p> <p>Disturbance to adult and fledgling eagles and their nest structure was reduced or eliminated.</p>
08/27/2020	<p>Proposed or Designated Critical Habitat</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Minimize negative habitat and disturbance effects from fire and suppression activities to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwestern willow flycatcher and Razorback sucker (designated critical habitat) • Narrow-headed garter snake and Yellowbilled Cuckoo (proposed critical habitat) <p>Habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher, Razorback sucker, and the Yellowbilled Cuckoo is known to occur along the Salt River, and the northern part of Pinal Creek where it flows into the Salt River.</p> <p>Additionally, there are habitat for Lowland Leopard Frog and Arizona Chub in these same areas. Both are Sensitive species, and will benefit from actions taken to protect the other species described above.</p> <p>At this time (1500 8-25) we do not have additional information on specific locations for these species other than what is described above. This information will be updated when it is available. For now, the following objectives apply to all known Proposed or Designated Critical habitat:</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adhere to mapped aerial retardant avoidance areas. 2. Unless necessary to ensure public or firefighter safety, maintain a 300 foot buffer from the Salt River and Pinal Creek. The area where the Salt River enters Roosevelt Lake and where Pinal Creek enters the Salt River is a particularly important habitat area for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. There is a stretch of Pinto Creek right on the boarder of Tonto Basin and Globe Ranger Districts, and another on the southwestern part of the planning area near the large mining operation that is particularly important for the Yellowbilled Cuckoo. Avoid back burning or mechanical activities within a 300 foot buffer to protect and retain riparian critical habitat for species described above. 3. Utilize low impact suppression techniques in riparian areas as well as slopes leading to riparian areas. 4. When utilizing natural lakes, ponds, or earthen stock tanks as helicopter dip sites, avoid changing dip site locations without applying contamination mitigation measures, including sanitization of buckets, hoses, etc. to avoid the spread of invasive aquatic species. <p>Purpose:</p> <p>To protect or retain primary habitat components that make up proposed or designated critical habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher, Yellowbilled Cuckoo, narrow-headed garter snake, and razorback sucker.</p> <p>Endstate:</p> <p>Key habitat components for federally listed species were maintained or enhanced.</p>
08/27/2020	<p>Key habitat components for federally listed species were maintained or enhanced.</p> <p>Gila Topminnow</p> <p>At this time (1500 8-25) we do not have additional information on specific locations for these species other than what is described above. This information will be updated when it is available. For now, the following objectives apply to all known Gila Topminnow habitat:</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Minimize adverse habitat and disturbance effects from fire and suppression activities to individual Gila topminnow and their habitats (Sycamore Spring and Grapevine Spring).</p> <p>Task</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unless necessary to ensure public or firefighter safety, maintain a 300 foot buffer from Sycamore and Grapevine Springs by avoiding burnouts to protect and retain upland riparian critical habitat for Gila topminnow.

Activated	Incident Objective
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. When possible, utilize suppression techniques that maintain low to moderate fire severity on slopes adjacent to Sycamore and Grapevine Springs to minimize erosion and sedimentation post fire that may ultimately result in decreased dissolved oxygen levels that may kill fish. 3. Utilize low impact suppression techniques in riparian areas. 4. Keep retardant drops out of waterways including a 300ft buffer. 5. When utilizing natural lakes, ponds, or earthen stock tanks as helicopter dipsites, avoid changing dipsite locations without applying contamination mitigation measures, including sanitization of buckets, hoses, etc. to avoid the spread of invasive aquatic species. <p>Purpose:</p> <p>To protect aquatic habitat used by Gila topminnow and retain upland vegetation for slope and bank stabilization needed to reduce sedimentation and erosion post fire.</p> <p>Endstate:</p> <p>Gila Topminnow individuals were protected and key habitat components within their habitats were maintained or enhanced at Sycamore and Grapevine Springs</p>
08/27/2020	<h2 data-bbox="243 651 438 693">Recreation</h2> <h3 data-bbox="243 714 633 756">General recreation values</h3> <p data-bbox="243 756 1396 808">The following recreation values are within the planning area in the vicinity of the Meddler Area and should be considered when management actions are considered on the Meddler Fire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt River Bridge - this, and the area around it are popular with locals and tourists • There is a put-in / take out spot for rafts and other water recreation just downstream from the bridge • Trails and trailheads, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Oak Creek ◦ Bull Canyon ◦ Leisure Canyon ◦ Parker Creek ◦ Carr ◦ Moody ◦ Peterson ◦ Murphy ◦ Reynolds ◦ Muhley ◦ Cienaga • Campgrounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Falls ◦ Cascade ◦ Creekside ◦ Rose Creek ◦ Reynolds Creek ◦ Honey Divide <p>Objective:</p> <p>Minimize the footprint of any management actions visible, or in areas that could affect the facilities listed above</p> <p>Task:</p> <p>Where the following can be achieved without compromising firefighter or public safety or suppression objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect signs and other infrastructure 2. Report any damage to a Resource Advisor 3. Avoid the use of heavy equipment whenever possible <p>Endstate:</p> <p>Recreation areas are in the same or better condition than before the fire</p> <h2 data-bbox="243 1743 844 1785">Special Management Areas (SMAs)</h2> <p data-bbox="243 1806 1477 1858">For all of the objectives below, the following objectives should be applied to SMAs when it does not compromise the safety of firefighters or the public, or the success of suppressing the fire.</p> <h3 data-bbox="243 1879 714 1921">Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:</h3> <p data-bbox="243 1932 1169 1963">The Salt River above the Highway 288 Bridge is the only EWS within the planning area.</p>

Activated	Incident Objective
	<p>Objective:</p> <p>Avoid or minimize impacts to the Salt River if possible.</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the Salt River is needed as a dip site above the 288 bridge, it will be in consultation with a Resource Advisor 2. Avoid ground disturbing activities, including the use of heavy equipment in the riparian area <p>End state:</p> <p>After management actions on the Salt Fire have been completed, the Salt River will be in as good, or better condition than prior to the fire.</p>
08/27/2020	<p>Sierra Anchas Experimental Forest:</p> <p>The Sierra Anchas Experimental Forest (SAEF) is on the southern end of the Sierra Anchas, just north of the fire.</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Minimize adverse effects from fire and suppression activities to the SAEF:</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement tactics that keep fire severity within the historic fire regimes of the areas burned 2. Minimize disturbance, particularly in areas that can be identified where there are ongoing or historic plots or projects. 3. Contact the Scientist In Charge (Jackson Leonard - RMRS in Flagstaff) as soon as possible to determine the desired fire outcomes within the SAEF. <p>Purpose:</p> <p>Avoid adverse impacts to long and short term research efforts within the SAEF.</p> <p>Endstate:</p> <p>Prefire conditions of the SAEF are aligned with the objectives of the management of the SAEF.</p> <p>Important Birding Areas (IBA):</p> <p>There is one IBA within the planning area: the Salt and Verde Riparian Ecosystem IBA.</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Minimize negative habitat and disturbance effects from fire and suppression activities to Important Birding Areas</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement tactics that keep fire severity low to moderate 2. Minimize disturbance, including excessive noise, in or near IBAs <p>Purpose:</p> <p>Avoid adverse impacts to habitat and birds within the IBAs that could result from management activities or fire effects resulting from the Meddler Fire.</p> <p>Endstate:</p> <p>Prefire conditions of the IBA will be maintained or enhanced by the fire and actions taken to manage it.</p> <p>salt river and Sierra Anchas Wildernesses</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To protect the preservation of wilderness character:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unimpaired for future use and enjoyment 2. Untrammled by man 3. Undeveloped land retaining primeval character without permanent improvement or human habitation 4. Affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human's work substantially unnoticeable, 5. Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation 6. Protect the historic Aztec Lookout in the Sierra Anchas Wilderness <p>Ground Operation Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid fire management actions (spike camps, helispots, sling site, dip sites, etc.) in Designated Wilderness. If these fire management actions cannot be avoided: • Keep them outside of meadows, and at least 200 feet from lakes, streams, trails, or other sensitive areas if possible. • Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST)

Activated	Incident Objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select latrine sites a minimum of 200 feet from water sources with natural screening. • Use "leave no trace" camping techniques. • During fireline construction, limb vegetation adjacent to fireline as needed and ensure shrub or tree cuts are flush with the ground. • Align saw cuts to minimize visual impacts from more heavily traveled corridors. Slope cut away from line of sight when possible. • If heavy equipment is authorized, use alternative mechanized equipment such as excavators, rubber tired skidders, etc. rather than tracked vehicles when possible. <p>Aerial Operation Tasks:</p> <p>Avoid fire management actions (spike camps, helispots, sling site, dip sites, etc.) in Designated Wilderness. If these fire management actions cannot be avoided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep them outside of meadows, and at least 200 feet from lakes, streams, trails, or other sensitive areas if possible. • Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) • Maximize back haul flights as much as possible. • Use long line remote hook in lieu of constructed helispots for delivery or retrieval of supplies and gear. • Use natural openings for helispots and paracargo landing zones as far as practical. If construction is necessary, avoid high visitor use areas. <p>Endstate:</p> <p>Wilderness character was protected or restored.</p>
08/27/2020	<p>Infrastructure and private property</p> <p>Minimize fire impacts to residences, commercial properties, and critical community infrastructure to reduce the potential for adverse health, social, financial, and economic hardships. These include (but not limited to): Use a risk-based approach to provide for firefighter and emergency responder safety on the Salt, Gin, and Griffin Fire while operating in a COVID-19 environment, being deliberate in committing resources only when there is a reasonable expectation of success in protecting life and critical property and infrastructure as we work towards containment of the fire. Assure that residual risk to first responders is acceptable as we meet the following incident objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranches: Dagger, Coon Creek, Ellison, Flying H, Murphy, and Cook • Highways 288, FS203 • 2 500 KV lines • The communities of Rose Creek and Rock House • Aztec Lookout (Historic) <p>COVID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closely coordinate with state and county emergency response cooperators and health services to reduce and mitigate risks to public safety from operational and environmental hazards associated with the Salt, Gin, and Griffin wildfire and the potential for COVID-19 exposure and transmission to and from the local communities. • Provide mechanisms to actively monitor, address, and rapidly share lessons learned when varying COVID-19 implementation protocols interrupt effective and safe wildland fire suppression operations and/or cause conflicts among firefighters and crews. • Minimize to the extent feasible smoke exposure to firefighters, communities, and other affected areas to reduce susceptibility to and consequences from COVID-19 exposure. • Use a risk-based approach to provide for firefighter and emergency responder safety on the Salt, Gin, and Griffin Fire while operating in a COVID-19 environment, being deliberate in committing resources only when there is a reasonable expectation of success in protecting life and critical property and infrastructure as we work towards containment of the fire. Assure that residual risk to first responders is acceptable as we meet the following incident objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closely coordinate with state and county emergency response cooperators and health services to reduce and mitigate risks to public safety from operational and environmental hazards associated with the Salt wildfire and the potential for COVID-19 exposure and transmission to and from the local communities. 2. Provide mechanisms to actively monitor, address, and rapidly share lessons learned when varying COVID-19 implementation protocols interrupt effective and safe wildland fire suppression operations and/or cause conflicts among firefighters and crews. 3. Minimize to the extent feasible smoke exposure to firefighters, communities, and other affected areas to reduce susceptibility to and consequences from COVID-19 exposure.

Incident Requirement List

Activated	Incident Requirement
08/27/2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit resources only when there is a reasonable expectation of success in protecting life and critical property and infrastructure, encourage innovation and the use of doctrine for local adaptations. 2. Implement strategies and tactics that commit responders only to operations where and when they will have a reasonable probability of success and under conditions where important values at risk are protected with the least exposure necessary while maintaining relationships with the people we serve. 3. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic incident personnel are expected to be familiar with and implement to the best of their ability the guidance described within the "Wildland Fire Response Plan COVID-19 Pandemic" as provided by the Southwest Geographic Area. This guidance which includes a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs) represents a framework of considerations for use by the IMT, assigned resources and other personnel committed to the incident.
08/27/2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit resources only when there is a reasonable expectation of success in protecting life and critical property and infrastructure, encourage innovation and the use of doctrine for local adaptations. 2. Implement strategies and tactics that commit responders only to operations where and when they will have a reasonable probability of success and under conditions where important values at risk are protected with the least exposure necessary while maintaining relationships with the people we serve. 3. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic incident personnel are expected to be familiar with and implement to the best of their ability the guidance described within the "Wildland Fire Response Plan COVID-19 Pandemic" as provided by the Southwest Geographic Area. This guidance which includes a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs) represents a framework of considerations for use by the IMT, assigned resources and other personnel committed to the incident.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
AZA4S	<Unit>	05/24/2016	AZSF will utilize appropriate management strategies and tactics on all wildland fires with emphasis on firefighter and public safety, considering minimizing suppression costs, benefits, and values to be protected.
AZFTA	<Unit>	04/29/2017	<p>Wildland Fire Management Objectives Common to All Fire Management Units (FMUs) (2015 WFMP p.24)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity 2. Ensure that all fire personnel strictly adhere to national standards for qualifications, physical fitness, and personal protective equipment 3. Minimize danger to people and damage to structures in the WUI 4. Reduce hazardous fuels where appropriate 5. Restore and maintain a healthy forest and woodland ecosystem 6. Promote the re-introduction of fire to its natural role within the ecosystem 7. Enhance natural and cultural resources through forest activities based on Tribal goals and objectives 8. Protect the ecosystem during fire management activities, including restricted use of retardants in designated areas and preventing the spread of invasive species 9. Protect and enhance areas and objects of cultural, traditional, religious, archaeological, and historical significance to the WMAT through the use of advisors to assist in identification and protection of these values during fire suppression or management activities, consistent with federal and Tribal regulations 10. Coordinate resource management activities with Tribal resource managers and with adjoining landowners and other agencies 11. Maintain aggressive fire suppression capability and communicate fire danger indices to the Tribe to insure an adequate level of preparedness 12. Provide support to meet land management objectives, and conduct prescribed fire programs 13. Promote the employment of Tribal members in forest and fire management activities 14. Provide a continuous cadre of local federal and Tribal specialists with the knowledge and experience to accomplish the fire programs with fire qualifications and experience commensurate with National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) standards 15. Minimize damage or maximize benefits to all resources from planned and unplanned ignitions, commensurate with the identified values at risk and resource objectives 16. Use planned/unplanned wildfire ignitions and/or mechanical treatment methods to reduce the danger of fuel accumulations and to achieve multiple Tribal resource management goals and objectives 17. Maintain a fire prevention program to reduce human-caused fires 18. Initiate, when needed, the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) process on areas burned by wildfire

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
AZFTA	<Unit>	04/29/2017	<p>19. Coordinate and manage smoke emissions from prescribed fires between the Tribe and all adjoining federal and state agencies to minimize the impact on air quality</p> <p>20. Manage preparedness and suppression activities in a fiscally responsible manner</p> <p>Wildland Fire Management Requirements Common to All Fire Management Units (FMUs) (2015 WFMP p. 34)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation with Tribal and agency (BIA) personnel is required for all operations located in and around MEAs. 2. Protect the ecological, cultural, and social values by emphasizing wildland fire suppression tactics. Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) when carrying out suppression efforts. 3. Avoid aerial application of retardant and chemicals within 300 feet of any waterway without approval by the agency administrator with Tribal consultation. 4. Approval by the agency administrator with Tribal consultation is required before utilizing any water from Tribally owned water sources. 5. The use of heavy equipment must be approved by the agency administrator with Tribal consultation and closely monitored to minimize the impacts to cultural resources, wetlands, and other at risk resources. 6. Tribal cultural resource specialists, wildlife biologists, and/or resource advisors should be consulted during wildland fire operations to mitigate unwanted impacts. 7. Public perception and the need to suppress all fires along with the economic dependence on fire suppression for Tribal member employment. Current public thought is that all fires must be suppressed and fire fighter employment must be provided. This perception will need to be addressed through public education and outreach. Information outreach efforts should involve Tribal programs and departments that support the role of fire in resource management.
AZFTA	FMZ 4	04/29/2017	<p>FMU 4: West Operational Zone</p> <p><u>Fire Response Objectives (2015 WFMP p. B-59, B-60, B-62)</u></p> <p>With emphasis on firefighter and public safety, use wildland fire to protect and maintain existing ponderosa pine, woodland and grassland/desert shrub/riparian associations, to allow for natural revegetation and successional change and protection of restoration areas, and to enhance watershed health, and natural and cultural resources. Enable fire to function in its ecological role, and maintain the natural fire regime through mechanical and wildland fire response. Weight the costs and associated environmental impacts of suppression actions against the values to be protected, while considering benefits/resource objectives and firefighter and public safety.</p>
AZFTA	FMZ 4	04/29/2017	<p>FMU 4: West Operational Zone</p> <p><u>Primary Strategic/Operational Considerations Common to All Vegetation Associations (RMAs) (2015 WFMP pgs.B-59 to B-63):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize all strategies as needed (based on operational thresholds) with primary consideration for resource values and objectives • Minimize adverse effects of fire suppression efforts • Realize short- and long-term cost effectiveness and efficiencies • Prioritize response to wildland fire secondary to FMU 1, RMA 1-WUI • Use wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources where present within defined weather and fuel moisture conditions with documented decision analysis and support process • Implement established interagency cooperators agreements in order to determine the management of wildfire threat occurring on or off trust lands • Achieve fuel treatments and restoration of natural fire frequencies and function through careful vegetation manipulation and through the application of prescribed fire or fire use • Restore and improve habitat for wildlife and livestock through prescribed fire, mechanical fuel treatments, and the use of natural fire
AZFTA	FMZ 4	04/29/2017	<p>FMU 4: West Operational Zone</p> <p><u>Operational Constraints (2015 WFMP p.B-57)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage in and around recreational areas will need to be minimized. All fire lines, especially dozer lines, must be constructed in accordance with Cultural Heritage Best Management Practices.

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access throughout the FMU is generally poor due to a limited number of roads. Access through the area along the main highways is generally restricted to the road. Travel off the highway and other roadways are generally impossible due to the thickness of brush stands and the rugged topography which is characteristic of this area. • Areas identified as plantations (re-forestation) should be protected prior to planting by treating heavy dead standing and down fuels. If the heavy fuels are left untreated and catch fire after planting, the extreme, long-duration heat caused by heavy material will kill most seedlings.
AZPHD	AZ_PHD_001	04/29/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management response to unplanned ignitions will be full suppression for all lands within the LSFO Planning Area (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-45</i>). • Limit the extent of wildfires and the impact of fire suppression efforts on wildlife, plant communities, and natural and cultural features (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-46</i>). • Reduce the frequency of human-caused wildland fires and minimize the total number of acres burned within the Planning Area (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-46</i>). • For all fire management activities, a focus will be to maintain or improve habitat for federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-47</i>). • For all fire management activities, efforts will be made to reduce the impacts on natural and cultural resources (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-51</i>).
AZSCA	APU	10/06/2015	<p>APU, Asset Protection Unit Strategic Objective: Protection of life and property, infrastructure, and high value resources without compromising firefighter or public safety. <u>Wildland fires are undesirable</u>. Emphasize fuel treatments that create and maintain fire-adapted communities, including prescribed burns and homeowner burn permits.</p> <p>Primary Operational Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place highest priority on the allocation of available resources to fires threatening sites in the APU over fires in RMU. • Full perimeter control will receive highest priority for suppression resources. Confinement may be utilized in rare occasions, based on site-specific circumstances with documented direction from line officer. Examples include confining fire to a designated area to treat fuels once structures are secure or if fire is burning away from structures towards RMU. • Place highest priority on fuels treatments in the APU over RMU to create defensible space and increase landscape resiliency.
AZSCA	RMU	10/06/2015	<p>RMU, Resource Management Unit Strategic Objective: Protection of life and property, infrastructure, and high value resources without compromising firefighter or public safety. <u>Promote the use of fire as a desirable component of the ecosystem</u>. Coordinate fuels treatments with proposed strategies for unplanned ignitions to protect values at risk and promote landscape resiliency.</p> <p>Primary Operational Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize response to wildland fire in APU over all fires in RMUs. • Emphasis will be perimeter control where needed, and confinement/point protection elsewhere. • Use of Wildland Fire to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources is encouraged. Use appropriate risk management/analysis tools to plan for and manage long-duration wildfires. • Prioritize fuels treatments within the RMU to increase opportunities to use confinement and point protection as strategies near values at risk and promote landscape resiliency. Areas with high hazards will be identified for fuels projects to reduce or moderate fire behavior, especially at preplanned strategically located management action points.
AZTNF	<Unit>	08/17/2013	On all Class E or bigger fires, an Interdisciplinary (ID) team will determine the need for fire rehabilitation and resource protection, including the option for assigning a Burned Area Rehabilitation Team (BAER Team).
AZTNF	2B	08/17/2013	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened.
AZTNF	2B	08/17/2013	Resource benefit optional - management of fire for resource benefits can be considered
AZTNF	2B	08/17/2013	For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate.
AZTNF	2B	08/17/2013	Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands.
AZTNF	2B	08/17/2013	All suppression efforts will emphasize minimum impact strategies. Use of mechanized equipment for fireline construction is discouraged. Where use is necessary, rehabilitation will be implemented.
AZTNF	2C	08/17/2013	Resource benefit optional - management of fire for resource benefits can be considered
AZTNF	2C	08/17/2013	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened.
AZTNF	2C	08/17/2013	For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate.
AZTNF	2C	08/17/2013	Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands.
AZTNF	2F	08/19/2013	Resource benefit optional - management of fire for resource benefits can be considered
AZTNF	2F	08/17/2013	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened.
AZTNF	2F	08/17/2013	For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate.
AZTNF	2F	08/17/2013	Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands.
AZTNF	5A	05/16/2014	Wildland Fires occurring in these areas will receive an appropriate management response based on previous, current and projected climatological, and existing fuel conditions. Additional considerations for seasonal differences and fire management resources availability will be addressed.

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
AZTNF	5A	05/16/2014	<p>All suppression efforts will emphasize minimum impact strategies. Use of mechanized equipment for fireline construction is discouraged. Where use is necessary, rehabilitation will be implemented.</p> <p>Management Emphasis: Manage for wilderness values, wildlife habitats and natural ecological processes while allowing livestock grazing and recreation opportunities that are compatible with maintaining these values and processes.</p> <p>Wildland Fire will receive an appropriate management response and be managed consistent with Wilderness resource objectives. Naturally occurring fires may be used to play as nearly as possible their natural ecological role and to reduce unnatural fuel hazards as identified in the Forest Service Manual and approved Wilderness Implementation Plan.</p>
AZTNF	5A	05/16/2014	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition. 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened. <p>For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate. If approved, a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) will be prepared that identifies specific resource concerns.</p> <p>Designated Wildland Fires managed for resource benefit will be monitored according to established guidelines.</p> <p>Wildland Fire suppression actions using accepted fire management tactics will be taken if any of the above parameters are not met. Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands.</p>
AZTNF	5D	05/16/2014	<p>Management Emphasis: Manage for a variety of renewable resource outputs with primary emphasis on intensive, sustained yield timber management, timber resource protection, creation of wildlife habitat diversity, increased populations of emphasis harvest species, and recreation opportunity. Timber harvesting methods and timing will include improvement of wildlife habitat quality and watershed condition, and will consider impacts on intensive range and recreation management. Mining activities are authorized in conformance with existing laws and regulations. Visual quality protection will be emphasized in the area (analysis area 5542) of the Highline Trail, a National Recreation Trail.</p> <p>Wildland Fires will be managed consistent with resource objectives. Wildland Fires will be managed with an appropriate suppression response. Fire management objectives for this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a mosaic of age classes within the total type which will provide for a mix of successional stages, and • allow fire to resume its natural ecological role within ecosystems. Wildland Fires or portions thereof, will be suppressed when they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety, or have a potential to damage significant capital investments.
AZTNF	5D	05/16/2014	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition. 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters.

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
			<p>6. No site specific resource objective is threatened. For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate. If approved, a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) will be prepared that identifies specific resource concerns. Designated Wildland Fires managed for resource benefit will be monitored according to established guidelines.</p> <p>Wildland Fire suppression actions using accepted fire management tactics will be taken if any of the above parameters are not met. Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands.</p>
AZTNF	5D	05/16/2014	Prevent Wildland Fire from destroying developed recreation improvements.
AZTNF	5E	05/16/2014	<p>Management Emphasis: The Experimental Forest was established and is managed for purposes of research on vegetative treatments for increasing water yield. The Experimental Forest is operated by the RockyMountain Research Station, Flagstaff, Arizona, often cooperatively with Arizona State University and the University of Arizona.</p> <p>Wildland Fire will be managed consistent with resource objectives. Wildland Fire will be managed with an appropriate suppression response. Fire management objectives for this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a mosaic of age classes within the total type which would provide for a mix of successional stages, and • allow fire to resume its natural ecological role within ecosystems. Wildland Fires or portions thereof will be suppressed when they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety or have a potential to damage capital investments.
AZTNF	5E	05/16/2014	<p>Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition. 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened. <p>For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate. If approved, a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) will be prepared that identifies specific resource concerns. Designated Wildland Fires managed for resource benefit will be monitored according to established guidelines. Wildland Fire suppression actions using accepted fire management tactics will be taken if any of the above parameters are not met. Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands.</p>
AZTNF	5F	05/16/2014	<p>Management Emphasis: Manage to provide opportunities for non-disruptive research and education. Use restrictions will be imposed as necessary to keep areas in their natural or unmodified condition. There will be no harvest of forest products, including fuelwood.</p> <p>Wildfires outside the natural area which endanger the area will be extinguished in an appropriate manner as will person-caused fires within the area. Unplanned ignitions within the area will receive appropriate suppression action.</p>
AZTNF	5F	05/16/2014	<p>Unplanned ignitions will receive appropriate suppression action. Wildfires burning outside which threaten area will be suppressed</p>
AZTNF	5G	05/16/2014	<p>Management Emphasis: Manage for a variety of renewable natural resources with primary emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement, livestock forage production, and dispersed recreation. Watersheds will be managed so as to improve them to a satisfactory or better</p>

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
			<p>condition. Improve and manage the included riparian areas (as defined by FSM 2526) to benefit riparian dependent resources.</p> <p>Wildland Fires will be managed consistent with resource objectives. Wildland Fire will be managed with an appropriate suppression response. Fire management objectives for this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a mosaic of age classes within the total type which would provide for a mix of successional stages, and • allow fire to resume its natural ecological role within ecosystems. Wildland Fires or portions thereof, will be suppressed when they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety or have a potential to damage capital investments.
AZTNF	5G	05/16/2014	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition. 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened. <p>For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate. If approved, a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) will be prepared that identifies specific resource concerns.</p> <p>Designated Wildland Fires managed for resource benefit will be monitored according to established guidelines.</p> <p>Wildland Fire suppression actions using accepted fire management tactics will be taken if any of the above parameters are not met. Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands.</p>
AZTNF	6F	09/05/2013	Resource benefit optional - management of fire for resource benefits can be considered
AZTNF	6F	09/05/2013	For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate.
AZTNF	6F	09/05/2013	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented. 5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened.
AZTNF	6F	09/05/2013	Designated Wildland Fires managed for resource benefit will be monitored according to established guidelines.
AZTNF	6F	09/05/2013	Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands
AZTNF	6J	09/05/2013	<p>All reported wildland fires will receive a strategic fire size-up. Wildland fires meeting locally developed operating guidelines listed below may be managed for resource benefit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire cause is from a natural ignition 2. Fire does not threaten life, property, public and firefighter safety. 3. Fire does not threaten fire sensitive cultural resources. 4. ADEQ, Air Quality Division procedures and guidelines for consultation and management of smoke will be implemented.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
			5. Wildland Fire managed for resource benefit must meet Tonto, Regional, and National fire situation parameters. 6. No site specific resource objective is threatened.
AZTNF	6J	09/05/2013	Designated Wildland Fires managed for resource benefit will be monitored according to established guidelines.
AZTNF	6J	09/05/2013	For each wildland fire located in an FMU approved for wildland fire use and naturally ignited, a decision criteria checklist will be prepared to determine whether or not it should be declared a Wildland Fire use candidate.
AZTNF	6J	09/05/2013	Suppression of fires, or portions thereof, will be undertaken where they adversely affect forest resources, endanger public safety and/or have a potential to damage private lands

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
	Aqua Retardant Avoidance	06/18/2013	The aerial application of fire retardant is allowed for fighting fires. Aerially delivered fire retardant should not be applied to any mapped aquatic avoidance area, waterway or buffer. The only exception to using aerially applied fire retardant in avoidance areas is for the protection of human life or public safety . The Incident Commander is the decision maker. Information concerning the Record of Decision for the Aerial Application of Fire Retardant is available at https://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html
	Retardant Avoidance	05/31/2012	The aerial application of fire retardant is allowed for fighting fires. Aerially delivered fire retardant should not be applied to any mapped terrestrial avoidance area, waterway or buffer. The only exception to using aerially applied fire retardant in avoidance areas is for the protection of human life or public safety . The Incident Commander is the decision maker. Information concerning the Record of Decision for the Aerial Application of Fire Retardant is available at https://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html
AZPHD	<Unit>	04/29/2014	Smoke Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of management of a wildland fire, fire managers will document potential smoke impacts on public health and safety as well as sensitive receptor sites. • Fire managers will coordinate appropriate and timely smoke monitoring and reporting with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Smoke monitoring may include: meteorological conditions; plume observations and documentation; smoke dispersal; and/or particulate monitoring. • Appropriate and applicable wildland fire management opportunities to reduce smoke impacts will be considered and documented (i.e. under "Courses of Action" in WFDSS). • Public information should be provided regarding potential smoke impacts on public health and safety as well as potential smoke impacts on sensitive receptors.
AZPHD	AZ_PHD_001	04/29/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure firefighter and public safety is the highest priority in every fire or fuels management activity. Set priorities among protecting residences, community infrastructure, and other man-made property and improvements (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg.2-45</i>). • Resource advisors from the BLM will be designated to coordinate natural resource concerns, including federally protected species. They will also serve as a field contact representative responsible for coordination with the USFWS. Duties will include identifying protective measures endorsed by the field office manager, and delivering these measures to the incident commander; surveying prospective campsites, aircraft landing, and fueling sites; and performing other duties necessary to ensure adverse effects on federally protected species and their habitats are minimized. On-the-ground monitors will be designated and used when fire suppression activities occur within identified occupied or suitable habitat for federally protected species (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-51</i>). • All personnel on the fire (firefighters and support personnel) will be briefed and educated by resource advisors or designated supervisors about listed species and the importance of minimizing impacts on individuals and their habitats. All personnel will be informed of the conservation measures designed to minimize or eliminate take of the species present. This information is best identified in the incident objectives (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-51</i>).

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement general and species-specific conservation measures to the extent possible to minimize harm to federally listed, proposed, or candidate species within the action area (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. A-24</i>). • Fire suppression and rehabilitation in riparian corridors will be coordinated with the resource advisor or qualified biologist approved by the BLM (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-52</i>). • Conduct all fire management activities within ACECs and along the Anza NHT in a manner that will avoid or minimize degradation of these areas and values that have been identified in the respective legislative designations for these areas (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-51</i>). • Ensure fire management activities in wilderness areas are compatible with the applicable wilderness plan (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-51</i>). • Develop effective interagency and community interactions and cooperation to meet wildland-fire and fuel-management strategies and landscape-scale resource condition objectives across administrative boundaries (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. 2-54</i>). • Fire suppression will be carried out in a manner consistent with Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. A-23</i>).
AZPHD	AZ_PHD_001	04/29/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect all known cultural resources from disturbance. Fire management activities will continue to avoid disturbing known archaeological sites or sites found during such activities. Fires will not be intentionally started at known sites. Archaeologists will serve as resource advisors for fire management and help develop and implement fire and fuels management plans, which would address effects on cultural resources. Fire crews will be educated about the need to protect cultural resources (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. A-23</i>). • Use suppression tactics that limit damage or disturbance to the habitat and landscape. Use no heavy equipment (such as dozers) unless approved (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. A-23</i>). • Use MIST, comply with the management plan to the maximum extent possible, and coordinate with resource advisors (<i>Lower Sonoran ROD & ARMP, September 2012, pg. A-24</i>). • Use of all fire chemicals will be accomplished in accordance with guidelines in the Interagency Policy for Aerial and Ground Delivery of Wildland Fire Chemicals near Waterways and Other Avoidance Areas (<i>Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, 2014 and as updated</i>). • The Federal Land Manager or State Land Manager (F/SLM) in whose jurisdiction a wildfire occurs shall make available to ADEQ no later than the day after the activity all required information for wildfire incidents that burned more than 100 acres per day in timber or slash fuels or 300 acres per day in brush or grass fuels. For each day of a wildfire incident that exceeds the daily activity threshold, the F/SLM shall provide the location, an estimate of predominant fuel type and quantity consumed, and an estimate of the area blackened that day (<i>Arizona Administrative Code, Title 18, Environmental Quality, Chapter 2, Department of Environmental Quality-Air Pollution Control, Article 15, Forest and Range Management Burns 2004</i>).
AZSCA	APU-AII	10/06/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and firefighter safety is always the top priority. Apply risk management principles in every decision and action. • Keep the tribal council and public informed on wildfires and prescribed fires. • Use local staff and crews to manage wildfires, and local vendors to support wildfires. • Protect cultural sites, dance grounds, and holy grounds from damage. • Protect Threatened and Endangered Species to the greatest extent possible. • Protect or minimize threats and loss to private property, tribal assets, and community infrastructure. • Coordinate security, evacuations, traffic control, road closures, and medical emergencies in the Wildland Urban Interface with the San Carlos Fire Department/EMS and San Carlos Police Department. • Restrict retardant drops on homes unless absolutely necessary. • Restrict dozer use near homes and infrastructure unless absolutely necessary. • Strategically plan fuels treatments to increase fire protection near homes and infrastructure. • Promote fire prevention and education to reduce human caused ignitions. • Investigate human-caused fires, and assist with the prosecution of arsonist.
AZSCA	RMU-AII	10/06/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and firefighter safety is always the top priority. Apply risk management principles in every decision and action. • Keep the tribal council and public informed on wildfires and prescribed fires.

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use local staff and crews to manage wildfires, and local vendors to support wildfires. • Protect cultural sites, dance grounds, and holy grounds from damage. • Protect Threatened and Endangered Species to the greatest extent possible. • Use roads and natural features as fire control lines, when and where possible, to reduce firefighter exposure and minimize resource damage. • Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) near cultural sites and tradition use areas. • Weed-wash incoming vehicles and heavy equipment before use. • Coordinate road and forest closures and security with Tribal Game Rangers. • Coordinate road work with Tribal Roads, BIA Roads, and Land Operations. • Coordinate medical emergencies and ground transportation with San Carlos Fire/EMS. • Utilize para-archeologists to clear dozer lines, and report all previously unknown sites to the Tribal Archeologists. • Obtain clearance from the Natural Resources Officer (or designee) before using dip sites or draft sites. • Restrict dozers and fire retardant from areas within 300 feet of any stream or water body, known cultural sites, and visitor use areas. • Minimize negative impacts to native fish and other aquatic species with any upstream water depletions or sedimentation. • Manage air quality issues in WUI areas, near high visitor use areas, and along main travel routes. Minimize impacts to any adjacent or potentially impacted designated Class I Airsheds. Coordinate smoke management with BIA-WRO and AZEQ. • Coordinate with adjacent agencies for fires within 1 mile of the Reservation boundary. • Minimize damage to livestock, fencing, corrals, and related ranch infrastructure. Consult with the Natural Resources Officer (or designee) before moving livestock to another pasture or range unit, unless the livestock are in eminent danger. • Use wildland and prescribed fire when and where appropriate to meet fuel treatment and forest restoration goals.
AZSCA	RMU-Com&Power MAA	10/06/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIA fire management and law enforcement, Tribal Public Safety, and others rely on equipment at these sites for daily operations. For public and firefighter safety, suppression strategies are a priority during wildfires. The vegetation around these sites should be cleared and maintained to withstand a wildfire. • Powerlines present a hazard to ground and air operations (see Air Hazard Map and IRPG). • During wildfire events, communication and power companies must be notified as soon as a threat is identified. • Some sites are operated by private companies and produce income for the Tribe.
AZSCA	RMU-Desert MAA	10/06/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppress wildfires in areas with fire-sensitive desert flora and fauna. • Consult with the Tribal Ethnobotanist on impacts to plant collection areas.
AZSCA	RMU-Forest MAA	10/06/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forested areas contain commercial timber, livestock, and wildlife that provides jobs and revenue to the Tribe. These areas may have activity fuels from timber sales and forest thinning projects; standing and downed fuels from insect and disease outbreaks, drought, and other natural disturbances. • Consult with the Forest Manager for current forest conditions, and the status of logging operations and other forestry project work. Consult with Resource Advisors (READs), Field Observers (FOBS), and Fire Effects Monitors (FEMOs) assigned to the incident to minimize damage to natural and cultural resources. • Manage wildfires for resource benefits, when and where possible. Benefits include forest and herbaceous regeneration, reduced competition from fire-intolerant species, improved wildlife habitat, and increased forage production. Use prescribed and wildland fires to approach the historical fire return interval and severity for Ponderosa Pine forests. • Monitor burning conditions (weather, fuels, fire behavior) and compare it to pre- and post-fire monitoring data to evaluate the effectiveness of fire in meeting forest restoration goals. Adjust fire prescriptions based on monitoring data. • Prioritize beneficial wildfires and fuels treatments in this area over other areas in the RMU to accelerate forest restoration.
AZSCA	RMU-Ranch&Historic MAA	10/06/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These sites include year-around and seasonally occupied ranches, and, historic structures outside the Asset Protection Unit FMU. These sites are the first priority for suppression actions (see map for ½ mile buffer). • Prioritize Initial Response to wildfires and fuels treatments in these areas over all other areas in the RMU. • Coordinate structural suppression with outside agencies and local fire departments, if necessary (Type 4 Engines or structural protection engines). • Propane, gas, and other hazardous materials may be present. • Livestock may be present in corrals near ranch houses.

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
AZSCA	RMU-Range&Woodland MAA	10/06/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage wildfires for resource benefits. Use prescribed and wildland fires to restore the native plant community. • Consult with the Natural Resources Officer for current range conditions, and the status of rangeland project work. Consult with Resource Advisors (READs), Field Observers (FOBS), and Fire Effects Monitors (FEMOs) assigned to the incident to minimize damage to natural and cultural resources. • Monitor burning conditions (weather, fuels, fire behavior) and compare it to pre- and post-fire monitoring data to evaluate the effectiveness of fire in meeting grassland/woodland restoration goals. Adjust fire prescriptions based on monitoring data. • Use fire, mechanical thinning, and grazing management to restore rangeland health in invaded grassland and savannas.
AZTNF	<Unit>	08/17/2013	Management activities will be planned so that air quality will equal to or better than that required by applicable Federal, State, and local standards or regulations.
AZTNF	<Unit>	09/05/2013	Wildland Fires threatening the Wildland/Urban Interface will have high suppression priority
AZTNF	Recreation Sites	09/05/2013	Prevent Wildland Fire from destroying developed recreation improvements, including a five-chain wide buffer surrounding them.
AZTNF	Sonoran Desert	09/05/2013	Wildland Fire occurring within the Sonoran Desert and riparian communities will receive an appropriate management response. Suppression strategy is to minimize damage within this ecosystem.

1.8. Course of Action

Course of Action

Active	Inactive	Action Item
08/27/2020		Utilize direct and indirect tactics as appropriate to contain the Meddler Fire as safely and efficiently as possible. If containment actions are not possible due to lack of resources then utilize point protection to protect values at risk.

1.9. Cost

Estimated Final Cost

NAME	VALUE
Estimated Final Cost	\$15,000,000
Method(s) Used	

1.10. Rationale

Rationale for the 8-25-2020 WFDSS Decision for the Meddler Fire

1. What are the critical values at risk?

KV lines, Hwy 288, FS203, communities of Rose Creek and Rock House

2. What is the chance the critical values will be impacted, and if so what are the consequences?

If the 500 KV lines are impacted by the Meddler Fire, it could cause rolling brownouts, much as were produced when the Salt Fire impacted the lines last week.

Highway 288 is a state highway that directly connects Tonto Basin to Young. Were it to be closed, the only options for residents to leave the community would be a rough backroads, or north via Hwy 260.

The cumulative effects of the Woodbury Fire last year, followed by the Bush Fire in June, multiple fires throughout this fire season, and the current fire situation have been difficult for local communities, as well as supporting agencies such as the AzDOT, emergency services, law enforcement, and others. Predictive Services is currently not forecasting a season ending event in the next few weeks, so the current situation is not likely to end any time soon. Currently, Highway 60 is closed at the junction with Hwy 70 in Globe, and all areas north of that junction are in 'set' status for evacuation. The Phoenix Metro area was impacted last week when the Salt Fire impinged on two 500 KV lines, creating rolling brownouts in the Phoenix area during a period of record-setting high temperatures. There is potential for the Meddler Fire to do the same.

3. What are the opportunities to manage the fire to meet land management plan objectives?

Where a management action, such as a burnout is planned, if it can be implemented in such a way that it produces beneficial fire effects, it would be desirable. However, such opportunities will not be sought.

4. What are the possible low probability/high consequence events?

High consequence events include damage to power lines, and structure/infrastructure loss on federal and private lands. Atypical fire behavior resulting from unnaturally heavy fuel accumulations could damage T&E habitat.

5. Who are the stakeholders that should be consulted prior to making a decision?

¿ Gila County Emergency Services

¿ ADOT

¿ Grazing permittees

¿ SRP

¿ APS

¿ Gila County SO

¿ DPS

¿ Rocky Mountain Research Station for management of the Sierra Anchas Experimental Forest

Risk Decision

1. What alternatives (objectives, strategies and tactics) are being considered?

Where safe and feasible to do so, direct attack will be used. In light fuels and moderate terrain and light winds, one foot in the black is the safest method. Where terrain is extremely rugged and fuel loading is high, indirect tactics should be utilized. The intent is to minimize firefighter exposure by choosing where and when to engage the fire.

2. What is the exposure to responders for the alternatives being considered?

As discussed above, the objective is to limit exposure to firefighters by choosing when and where to engage the fire. Direct tactics will be utilized where terrain and fire behavior allows, providing good access to the black (safety zone) but more exposure to fire front.

Where indirect tactics are being used, exposure issues will be unburned fuel between firefighters and fire and longer duration line prep time. Working along natural and man-made features (roads, trails, dry washes) will facilitate indirect options. Working in the vicinity of 500KV lines creates additional hazards for crews if there is heavy smoke in the area.

3. What is the relative probability of success associated with the alternatives being considered?

With high wind events, the probability of direct attack on the active flanks of the fire is low. Indirect options and point protection will have a higher probability of success until the wind event(s) decrease. Under more favorable conditions (decrease in wind) direct attack options in the light fuels and indirect options utilizing roads, natural barriers, etc. will have a higher rate of success.

4. What alternative provides for the best balance between the desired outcome and exposure to responders?

Based on current and expected conditions, a mix of direct and indirect attack would balance exposure of personnel while minimizing adverse impacts to values at risk. Limited availability of resources nationally and regionally could impact our ability to achieve desired outcomes while limiting exposure to responders.

5. What are the critical thresholds that will trigger reconsideration of the proposed alternative and how will they be monitored?

If the fire escapes the planning area or further threatens VARs, MAPs will be developed to identify trigger points for potential actions based on the VARs (see list in Information Section).

Rationale Summary

After meeting with all land agency administrators involved, the decision remains to suppress this fire and limit negative impacts to fire sensitive VARs and social/economic impacts to range permittees, KV lines, communities (local and metropolitan), and other stakeholders who utilize the public lands involved or are otherwise affected. The Life First Commitment of making reasonable and prudent risk-based decisions to accomplish the agency mission while minimizing exposure to hazards for firefighters and the public remains the top priority.