

# Wildland Fire Use and Suppression



This year, 75 lightning-caused fires were managed for Wildland Fire Use on NPS land in the Pacific West Region, burning over 15,000 acres...

Wildland Fire Use efforts included 39 fires at Yosemite National Park, 27 at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and 9 at North Cascades National Park Complex. By managing these natural events, fire was allowed to reduce fuel, diversify vegetation structure, and preserve an ecological process integral to these landscapes.

LEFT: Crews at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks prepare a hose line during a suppression action.

BELOW: During the Griff Fire at Olympic National Park, 5 rapid assessment plots were installed and successfully burned over. These will allow vegetation conditions before and after the fire to be compared.

When lightning starts a wildland fire, the question arises, "What is the appropriate management action?"

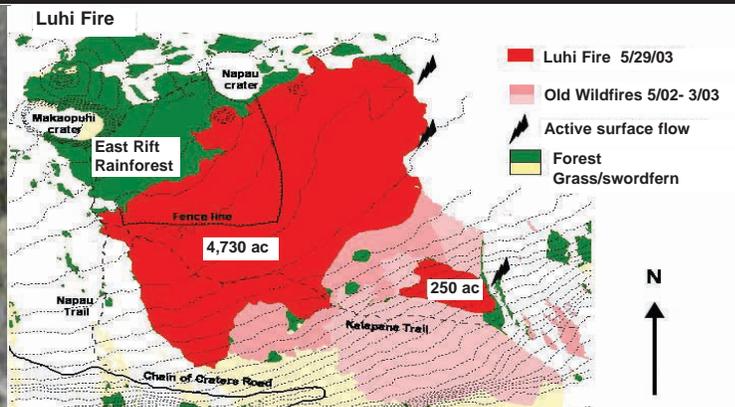
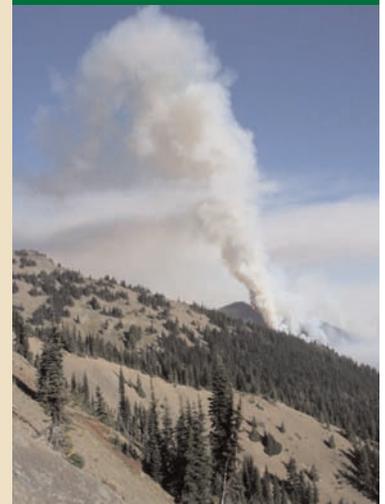
Can the fire be used for resource benefit or are there values at risk that require suppression of the fire?

*On the Cover*

TOP: Prescribed Fire in progress at Yosemite National Park, RIGHT: Fire Information at Yosemite. BOTTOM: Wildland Fire Use during the Kern Fire at Sequoia National Park.

More than 100 wildland fires were suppressed in parks throughout the region. Many of these were human-caused and were quickly extinguished...

Wildfires in Hawaii, however, ignited by lava flows, involved complex resource management issues and required an incident management team. The region's firefighters also provided support to interagency suppression efforts this year in Montana and Southern California.



Ignited by lava, and threatening a rare-species-rich rainforest community, the Luhi Fire at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in May, 2003, and a series of similar fires the previous winter, presented the region's most unusual fire suppression challenges. Working along side of active volcanoes, firefighters face the added hazard of sulfur dioxide exposure...

*"If the fire breaks and runs, a uniquely Hawaiian ecosystem will be forever lost -- the native rainforest will turn into a weed patch."* - Tim Tunison, HAVO Chief of Resource Management