

Errata Sheet - Executive Summary

Yosemite Fire Management Plan – Environmental Impact Statement 2004 Amendment to incorporate Guidance for Implementing the 2009 Federal Wildland Fire Policy

The following errata and clarifications to the final Yosemite Fire Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (FMP/EIS) are presented below.

Alignment of Yosemite’s FMP/EIS with Federal Wildland Fire Policy: Any kind of wildland fire, from planned (prescribed fire) or unplanned (wildfires) ignitions, can be managed to achieve land management goals. Different objectives and management strategies can be utilized on multiple portions of one fire. For example, a wildfire started by lightning will have protection objectives (firefighter and public safety and property protection) as well as the fire burning to meet resource objectives such as fuel reduction, wildlife habitat improvement etc or other objectives as stated in Yosemite’s FMP.

The 2009 Federal Wildland Fire Policy made the following terms in Yosemite’s FMP/EIS obsolete:

Fire Use

Managed Wildland Fire

Suppression Zone (The suppression of a wildfire is still a tactic that can be used on all or parts of a wildfire.)

The 2009 Federal Wildland Fire Policy Current Terminology:

Wildland fire	A general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Wildland fire includes prescribed fire and wildfire.
Prescribed fire	A wildland fire originating from a planned ignition to meet specific objectives identified in a written, approved, prescribed fire plan for which NEPA requirements (where applicable) have been met prior to ignition (see planned ignition).
Wildfire	An unplanned ignition of a wildland fire (such as a fire caused by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized and accidental human-caused fires) and escaped prescribed fires.
Protection objectives	Identify the actions taken to limit the adverse environmental, social, political, and economical effects of fire
Resource objectives	Fire management objectives in the Yosemite FMP/EIS provide the basis for the development of resource (natural and cultural) objectives within a designated area.
Suppression	The work of extinguishing a fire or confining fire spread.

The 2017 amendment to Yosemite’s FMP/EIS changes the obsolete terms globally to the current terminology. The following errata sheets provide additional substantive changes needed to bring Yosemite’s FMP/EIS into alignment with current federal fire policy.

Executive Summary
Page ES-8

Original Text:

Under the action alternatives, the three fire management zones currently in effect (NPS 1990) would be changed to two fire management units—a Fire Use Unit (83% of the park; 621,059 acres) and a Suppression Unit (17% of the park; 128,044 acres). In the Fire Use Unit, managed wildland fire would be the primary tool used to restore and maintain natural ecosystems and processes. In a portion of the Fire Use Unit (48,912 acres), additional prescribed burning may be necessary to reduce fuel loads near the Unit’s boundary to a point where managed wildland fire would be safe and appropriate. In the Suppression Unit, all wildland fires would be suppressed using the appropriate management response.

2017 Amendment

~~Under the Community Protection Strategy the park would be managed as one unit. Under the action alternatives, the three fire management zones currently in effect (NPS 1990) would be changed to two fire management units—a Fire Use Unit (83% of the park; 621,059 acres) and a Suppression Unit (17% of the park; 128,044 acres). In the Wilderness Fire Use Unit, wildfires would be the primary tool used to restore and maintain natural ecosystems and processes. In a portion of the Wilderness Fire Use Unit (48,912 acres), additional prescribed burning fires may be necessary to reduce fuel loads near the Unit’s Wilderness/Non-Wilderness boundary and near communities and critical infrastructure to a point where managed wildland wildfires would be safe and appropriate. In the Suppression Unit, all wildland fires would be suppressed using the appropriate management response.~~

Executive Summary
Page ES-8

Original Text:

Actions Common to All Alternatives
Fire Management Units

The park is divided into fire management units based on the need for both ecosystem restoration and protection of homes, businesses, historic buildings, and other developments. Under Alternative A (No Action Alternative), unit boundaries would remain the same as the three existing zones (Map 2-19) approved under the park’s previous fire management plan. The 1990 plan intended that these boundaries would be dynamic—to be relocated as work was accomplished. Because of the amount of burning from prescribed and wildland fire over the last decade, and because of the direction received from the National Fire Plan, only two units - a large Fire Use Unit and a Suppression Unit - are proposed under Alternatives B, C, and D (Map 2-20).

2017 Amendment

~~Fire Management Units~~

~~The park is managed as divided into fire management one units. The use of wildland fire will be based on the need for both ecosystem restoration and protection of homes, businesses, historic buildings, and other developments. Under Alternative A (No Action Alternative), unit boundaries would remain the same as the three existing zones (Map 2-19) approved under the park’s previous fire management plan. The 1990 plan intended that these boundaries would be dynamic—to be relocated as work was accomplished. Because of the amount of~~

burning from prescribed and wildland fire over the last decade, and because of the direction received from the National Fire Plan, only two units - a large Fire Use Unit and a Suppression Unit - are proposed under Alternatives B, C, and Alternative D would be managed as one unit with high priority based on community and infrastructure protection (Map 2-20). Revised Map 2-20

Executive Summary

Page ES-13

Original Text:

Alternative D – Multiple Action

This alternative would reduce fuels on approximately 1,095 acres per year for 6-8 years in the inner WUI (6,425 acres total). It would restore natural fire regimes to areas, generally in the Suppression Unit, that have missed four or more fires by treating between 1,817 and 9,194 acres per year for 15-20 years (31,503 to 160,894 acres total).

2017 Amendment

This alternative would reduce fuels on approximately 1,095 acres per year for 6-8 years in the inner WUI (6,425 acres total). It would restore natural fire regimes to areas, ~~generally in the Suppression Unit~~, that have missed four or more fires by treating between 1,817 and 9,194 acres per year for 15-20 years (31,503 to 160,894 acres total).

Executive Summary

Page ES-13

Original Text:

Table ES-4 Fire and mechanical treatments using alternative D by unit area (XX indicates primary strategies for that area)

Alternative D	Suppression Unit			Fire Use Unit		
	WUI	Non-WUI/ Non-wildernes s road corridors	Wilderness	WUI	Non-WUI/N on-wildernes s road corridors	Wilderness
Treatment strategy						
Aggressive reduction	XX					
Passive reduction	XX	X	X	XX	XX	X
Managed wildland fire					XX	XX
Prescribed fire	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X

2017 Amendment

Alternative D	Suppression Unit			Fire Use Unit Community Protection Strategy			
	WUI	Non-WUI/ Non-wilder ness road corridors	Wilderness	Inner WUI (1/4 mile buffer)	Outer WUI (1.5 mile buffer)	Non-WUI/ Non-wilder ness road corridors	Wilderness
Treatment strategy							
Aggressive reduction	XX			XX	XX		
Passive reduction	XX	X	X	XX	XX	XX	X
Managed wildland fire Wildfire: Protection Objectives				XX	XX	XX	XX
Wildfire: Resource Objectives					XX	XX	XX
Prescribed fire	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X

Original Text:
Alternative D – Multiple Action

Special Designations Wild and Scenic Rivers are discussed in Chapter 5. Effects on Wilderness would be beneficial, long-term, and moderate to major due to actions that would be generally beneficial in maintaining plant communities within their natural range of variability, thereby maintaining Wilderness values, especially in the Fire Use Unit. Benefits in the Suppression Unit would be greater than under Alternative A due to a greater amount of fuels treatment and prescribed fire, and lower potential for high-intensity, catastrophic fires. Helicopter and chainsaw noises would cause short-term, adverse, and major effects, much like under Alternative A.

2017 Amendment

Special Designations Wild and Scenic Rivers are discussed in Chapter 5. Effects on Wilderness would be beneficial, long-term, and moderate to major due to actions that would be generally beneficial in maintaining plant communities within their natural range of variability, thereby maintaining Wilderness values, especially in the Fire Use Unit throughout most of the park's wilderness areas. Benefits in the Suppression Unit throughout the park would be greater than under Alternative A due to a greater amount of fuels treatment, and prescribed fire, and the use of wildfire to meet protection and resource objectives and in a long term effort to lower potential for future high-intensity, catastrophic fires. Helicopter and chainsaw noises would cause short-term, adverse, and major effects, much like under Alternative A.