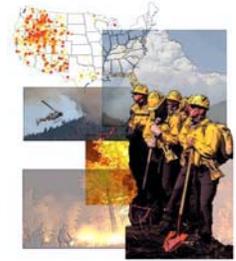


# National Fire Plan

## Research in Smoke Management Helps with Hazardous Fuels Treatments



With the increasing use of prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels on public lands and particularly the wildland urban interface, predicting the potential impacts and assessing risks are increasingly more important. Of great concern are the effects of smoke on air quality and visibility. Many people are sensitive to slight amounts of smoke, especially those with

respiratory problems such as emphysema or asthma. Citizen complaints can cause active burning programs to be delayed, redesigned, or even terminated. Also, smoke can severely degrade visibility when combined with moisture or other pollutants. The results can cause haze, ruin scenic vistas, and limit visibility while driving.

Funding from the National Fire Plan, research conducted by the interagency Joint Fire Science Program in smoke management is helping implement prescribed fire—one tool used to reduce hazardous fuels under the National Fire Plan. Calculations of the probability that smoke will be dispersed or remain stagnant on any given day in a selected spot on the landscape can be examined with other elements of risk for a more complete assessment of the impact of prescribed fire in wildland urban interface areas. Land managers can then select optimal weather conditions for prescribed fires. This knowledge is especially important since many of the burning projects will occur in the wildland urban interface.

Related Article: [Southern Regional Models Predict Smoke Movement Southeastern United States](#)

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit [www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)