

# Attachment A

## Huachuca FireScape Project

### Implementation Plan

The Decision Notice, with Finding of No Significant Impact, incorporates the Huachuca FireScape Project Implementation Plan and Design Criteria by reference. The Forest Supervisor’s decision requires that the following checklist be completed and signed by all parties identified below prior to implementation of each individual Huachuca FireScape project. Each checklist must be signed by the line officer of the agency implementing the action. Completion of the checklist will ensure that project implementation will follow design criteria and that effects of the project will be within the boundaries established in the impacts analyses.

#### Part 1 – Project Summary

<b>Project Name</b>	
<b>Project Location</b>	<i>Give legal</i>
<b>Project Description</b>	

Is the project located within the project boundary displayed in Figure 2 of the EA?														
<i>Identify the Ecological Units in which the project is located based on Figure 2 of the EA.</i>	EU1	EU2	EU3	EU5	EU6	EU7	EU8	EU9	EU10	EU11	EU12	EU13	EU14	EU15
<i>Are Firescape treatments allowed in this EU?</i>	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
<i>(A) How many acres are allowed to be treated in this EU over the lifetime of the Decision Notice?</i>	XX	5000	40,000	45,000	10,000	40,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	XX	40,000	20,000
<i>(B) How many acres have been treated in this EU since the Decision Notice was signed?  Must include all agencies – See Part 2 for specific projects</i>	XX											XX		
<i>(C) How many remaining acres are available for treatment over the lifetime of the Decision? (A – B)</i>	XX											XX		
<i>(D) How many acres will this project treat?</i>	XX											XX		
<i>Are the acres to be treated less than remaining acres available for treatment? (C-D)</i>														

<p><b>Are acres proposed for treatment within the limits approved by the agency decision?</b></p>	<p>YES _____ NO _____</p>		
<p><i>What treatments will be applied?</i></p>	<p>Prescribed (Rx) Burn: _____</p>	<p>Hand, chip, remove, handpile and burn treatments: _____</p>	<p>Mastication: _____</p>
<p><i>How many acres?</i></p>	<p>_____ acres</p>	<p>_____ acres</p>	<p>_____ acres</p>
<p><i>How many acres of each treatment have been accomplished under this decision in the past year?</i></p>	<p>_____ acres</p>	<p>_____ acres</p>	<p>_____ acres</p>
<p><i>Do the combined totals exceed the annual maximum allowed in the decision?</i></p>	<p>20,000 acres max _____</p>	<p>500 acres max _____</p>	<p>10,000 acres max _____</p>

Is the project within the annual maximum treatment type established by the decision?	YES _____ NO _____													
<i>Acres of each treatment type accomplished in each EU from past projects under this decision</i>	EU1	EU2	EU3	EU5	EU6	EU7	EU8	EU9	EU10	EU11	EU12	EU13	EU14	EU15
<i>Prescribed (Rx)Burn</i>	N/A	500Max	40,000Max	45,000Max	10,000Max	40,000Max	10,000Max	20,000Max	10,000Max	15,000Max	15,000Max	N/A	40,000Max	20,000Max
<i>Hand, Chip, Remove, Handpile, Burn</i>	N/A	500Max	1,000Max	1,000Max	500Max	500Max	500Max	500Max	500Max	1000Max	500max	N/a	500Max	500Max
<i>Mastication</i>	N/A	5000Max	5,000Max	10,000Mx	4,000Max	5,000Max	2,000Max	5,000Max	2,000Max	3,000Max	1,000Max	N/A	5,000Max	5,000Max
<i>Acres of each treatment type by EU that will be accomplished in this Project</i>	EU1	EU2	EU3	EU5	EU6	EU7	EU8	EU9	EU10	EU11	EU12	EU13	EU14	EU15
<i>Rx Burn</i>	N/A	5000Max	40,000Max	45,000Max	10,000Max	40,000Max	10,000Max	20,000Max	10,000Max	15,000Max	15,000Max	N/A	40,000Max	20,000Max
<i>Hand, Chip, Remove, Handpile, Burn</i>	N/A	500Max	1,000Max	1,000Max	500Max	500Max	500Max	500Max	500Max	1000Max	500max	N/a	500Max	500Max
<i>Mastication</i>	N/A	5000Max	5,000Max	10,000Mx	4,000Max	5,000Max	2,000Max	5,000Max	2,000Max	3,000Max	1,000Max	N/A	5,000Max	5,000Max

<b>Is the project within the maximum treatment acres within each EU?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Are proposed treatments consistent with resource management plans of agencies/owners?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Are wildlife surveys, if necessary, complete? Is the action consistent with the Biological Opinion dated _____?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Are heritage surveys complete? Is the action consistent with the letter of concurrence form the AZ SHPO dated _____?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Have past monitoring results for this EU analyzed, interpreted, and considered in design of present project?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Are monitoring needs in EUs identified and justified for present project?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Is the agency administrator checklist completed and signed by the appropriate resource specialists?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Is the treatment (burn) plan completed and signed</b> Objectives clearly delineated Objectives are consistent with management direction Objectives match those described for EU in NEPA analysis Complexity rating _____	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Do conditions match those described in NEPA analysis?</b> <b>Examples where conditions have changed:</b> New listed species in project area New invasive species in project area Change in regulations Burn/treatment plan doesn't allow implementing design criteria	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Have issues identified in the NEPA analysis been reviewed (see part 2, Agency Administrator Checklist)?</b>	YES _____	NO _____
<b>Has a post-implementation review been completed (may be filled out after approval)?</b>	YES _____	NO _____

**Recommended By:**

I have reviewed the project and signed the Agency Administrator Checklist as resource specialist. Based on my review, the project is consistent with the Huachuca FireScape Environmental Assessment and the agency decision implementing the Huachuca FireScape Project.

Name/Signature	Date	Resource Area
		Wildlife/Botany
		Range
		Recreation
		Archaeology
		Fire
		Hydrology
		Silviculture
		Recreation
		Visual

**Approved By:**

I have reviewed the project and signed the Agency Administrator Check List. Based on my review, the project is consistent with the Huachuca FireScape Environmental Assessment and the agency decision implementing the Huachuca FireScape Project.

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**Agency Approving Official, Title**


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**Date**
**ATTACHMENTS: (as necessary)**

**Part 2-Agency Administrator Checklist**

Indicate which documents are attached at the end of this checklist.

Y/N	Document Name	Attached? Y/N	Document Name
	Burn Plan		Archeological Surveys
	Safety Plan		Project Maps
	Project Specific Monitoring Plan		Correspondence
	Wildlife Surveys		
	Botany Surveys		
	Archaeological Surveys		

**Effects on range structures, livestock, local range economies, grasses and native vegetation**

Three years (minimum) out, coordination begun with Range staff

Three years (minimum) out, grazing permittee notified

Sensitive resource areas have been identified and mapped within and adjacent to project area

Funding is available to repair/replace fire-damaged range infrastructure

Design criteria questionnaire completed

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Range Specialist</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Effects of proposed activities on special status wildlife, fish and plant species**

Sensitive resource areas have been identified and mapped within and adjacent to project area

FWS county lists checked and species verified in project area

Forest Service, Region 3, sensitive species identified for project area

Calculate % project watershed area burned within two years and one year. (2 answers)

Presence of riparian/aquatic habitats documented

Reporting and BO checklist completed

Design criteria questionnaire completed

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Wildlife Biologist</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Effects of proposed activities on soil and water resources**

Sensitive resource areas have been identified and mapped within and adjacent to project area

Design criteria questionnaire completed

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Hydrologist/Soil Scientist</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Effects of proposed activities on air quality**

Permits obtained as specified in the burn plan

Design criteria questionnaire completed

Specialist signed Part 1

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Fire/Fuels Specialist</b>	<b>Date</b>



**Effects of proposed activities on cultural and heritage resources**

Sensitive resource areas have been identified and mapped within and adjacent to project area

Presence of cultural sites documented

Tribes notified of burning plans (one month in advance)

Surveys completed and documented

Design criteria questionnaire completed

<b>Archaeologist</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Effects of proposed activities on scenic quality**

Sensitive resource areas have been identified and mapped within and adjacent to project area

Design criteria questionnaire completed

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Recreation Specialist/Landscape Architect</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Effects of proposed activities on social considerations**

Neighbors notified

Public notified

Design criteria questionnaire completed

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Public Affairs/Agency Representative</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Effects of proposed activities on recreational uses**

Sensitive resource areas have been identified and mapped within and adjacent to project area

Design criteria questionnaire completed

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Recreation Specialist/Landscape Architect</b>	<b>Date</b>

# HUACHUCA FIRESCAPE PROJECT

## PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA

Design Criteria Number	Description	Jurisdiction Where Design Criteria are Applicable			<b>Specialist Review</b> I have reviewed the action and the design criterion has been applied to the project. <i>Initial each box and indicate if any special notes or instructions are attached below.</i>
		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
<b>ALL RESOURCES</b>					
A-1	<b>A prescribed burn plan</b> would be developed according to agency standards and approved prior to initiating any burning operation.	X	X	X	
A-2	<b>Off-road vehicle (ORV) activity</b> would be kept to a minimum during burning. Vehicles would be parked as close to roads as possible, and vehicles would use wide spots in roads or disturbed areas to turn around. If off-road travel is necessary, local fire-fighting units would go off-road first because of their prior knowledge of the area.	X	X	X	
A-3	<b>No permanent or temporary road construction would be allowed.</b> Any skid trails and ORV trails resulting from proposed activities would be obliterated and restored.	X	X	X	
A-4	<b>Areas of significant human activity during prescribed fire operations</b> , such as fire crew camps and equipment staging areas, would not be located on or adjacent to sensitive sites, such as habitat of protected species or archaeological sites. Such activities would also be kept to the minimum area possible and would be located in previously disturbed sites whenever possible.	X	X	X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
<b>VEGETATION AND FUELS<sup>1</sup></b>					
VF-1	When necessary, slash would be removed from around trees to minimize damage in thinning units proposed for prescribed burning (EUs 1, 3, 5-12, 14, 15).	X	X	X	
VF-2	Hazard Trees – If tree thinning operations take place around campgrounds, roadways, utility lines, structures, facilities or other improvements, the hazard potential of all dead or dying trees would be assessed and those trees considered hazardous would be removed (EUs 1, 5-12, 14, 15).	X			
VF-3	Tree thinning activities in forest types for which there are defined old-growth standards would meet thinning-diameter limits, stocking levels, and coarse woody debris standards appropriate for the forest type to retain old-growth attributes (EUs 1, 5-12, 14, 15).	X			
VF-4	For burns designed to reduce encroachment of woody species into grassy areas, plans and prescriptions would also address maintenance of native, perennial grasses and reduction of the spread of invasive exotics (EU 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15)	X	X	X	
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>					
AQ-1	Fire managers would cooperate with other Federal, state and local regulatory agencies to protect air quality as required by the Clean Air Act and State and local regulations.	X	X	X	
<b>SOIL AND WATER</b>					
SW-1	Waterbars would be constructed in firelines, especially on steep hillsides.	X	X	X	

<sup>1</sup> These design criteria are applicable to the ecological units (EUs) specified after each description.

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SW-2	Sufficient groundcover would be retained to prevent erosion of the burned acreage.	X	X	X	
SW-3	Intense prescribed fire would be avoided on sensitive soil, to prevent water repellency, nutrient leaching, and erosion.	X	X	X	
<b>RIPARIAN, AQUATIC, AND WETLAND AREAS</b>					
RAW-1	Prescribed fire control actions and wildland fire use in riparian areas would apply minimum impact suppression tactics to minimize damage to stands of native vegetation and soils.	X	X	X	
RAW-2	To the extent possible, large, downed woody materials and snags that are not a hazard to firefighters would be retained. Large logs (12 inches diameter and greater and 8 feet or more long) would not be cut into sections.	X	X		
RAW -3	Retain all age classes of riparian species (defined in FSM 2526, Riparian Watershed Management) and madrone.	X			
RAW -4	Fire management (e.g., control lines) and rehabilitation in riparian corridors would be coordinated with an agency Resource Advisor.	X	X	X	
RAW -5	Site-specific implementation plans (e.g., Coronado National Forest Fire Management Plan, Ft. Huachuca Integrated Fire Management Plan) that include management areas with Federally listed aquatic or riparian-obligate species would specify fire management objectives and prescribed burning guidance, taking into account the special concerns related to these species.	X	X	X	
RAW -6	In riparian areas, natural barriers, openings in riparian vegetation, or topographic features would be used where possible as the easiest, safest method to manage prescribed fire.	X	X	X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
RAW -7	Motorized-vehicle crossings over perennial streams would not be permitted, unless an established road already exists or where dry, intermittent sections occur. Avoid use of heavy mechanical equipment in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wet riparian drainages or</li> <li>• on wet upland soils if rutting greater than 3 inches is occurring</li> </ul>	X	X	X	
RAW -8	The use of fire retardants or chemical foams in riparian habitats or within 300 feet of aquatic habitat would be avoided, particularly at sites occupied by Federally listed species. On National Forest lands, operational guidelines in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2005 (or updates) would be applied. "Environmental Guidelines for Delivery of Retardant or Foam Near Waterways," Chapter 8 (pp. 8-13 through 8-15) (USDA Forest Service 2005).	X	X	X	
RAW -9	Placement of prescribed fire support sites (e.g., camps, staging areas and, refueling sites) would be outside riparian areas or river/stream corridors.	X	X	X	
RAW -10	Water from sources supporting Federally listed species will not be used for fire abatement. Unused water from prescribed fire activities would not be dumped in sites occupied by Federally listed aquatic species to avoid introducing non-native species, diseases, or parasites.	X	X	X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
RAW -11	If water is drafted from a stock tank or other body of water for prescribed fire activities, it shall not be refilled with water from another tank, lake, or other water source that may support non-native fishes, bullfrogs, crayfish, or salamanders. Only water drawn from a municipal water supply or well water shall be used to refill stock tanks. Use of containment systems for portable pumps to avoid fuel spills in riparian or aquatic systems would be required.	X	X		
RAW -12	For priority fire/fuels management areas (e.g., wildland-urban interface areas) with Federally listed species or designated critical habitat downstream, biologists and other resource specialists, as appropriate, in coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department, would determine: a) The number of acres and the number of projects or phases of projects to occur within one watershed per year. b) An appropriately sized buffer adjacent to perennial streams and ponds (e.g., lowest discernable bench above the stream but outside the high-water mark) in order to minimize soil and ash from entering the aquatic system.	X	X	X	
<b>CAVES AND MINES</b>					
CM-1	Design criteria for caves and mines will be determined on a site-by-site basis. Efforts will be made to preserve vegetation around cave entrances. Fuel reduction buffer areas may be desirable to protect such vegetation.	X	X	X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
CM-2	Aerial or ground application of retardant or foam would be restricted within 300 feet of caves and abandoned mines, and water used instead, in accordance with the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations.	X	X	X	
<b>WILDLIFE, FISH, AND PLANT HABITAT</b>					
WFP-1	<b>General Protective Measures:</b> Resource advisors should be consulted regarding all treatment and prescribed burning activities. They would also be responsible for coordination with the agencies on Federally listed and other sensitive species. They would monitor fire and vegetation management activities to ensure the protective measures are implemented.	X	X	X	
	Resource advisors should coordinate site-specific burn and implementation plans with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to identify site-specific measures to protect Federally listed and sensitive species, and species of concern.	X	X	X	
WFP-2	Implementation activities in habitats of threatened, endangered, sensitive species, and/or species of concern will include oversight by and coordination with agency wildlife staff. Coordination may include training of crews in: the identification of listed species; avoidance of impacts to listed species (e.g., identification and avoidance of wildlife use/habitat elements, such as nests, cavities, and woodpecker foraging holes); notification of the appropriate agencies (i.e., AGFD or USFWS) if a sensitive, threatened, or endangered species is encountered; and that individuals must not be picked up or removed without a permit.	X	X	X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
WFP-3	Prescriptions (particularly timing and intensity of burn) for projects within or adjacent to suitable habitat for Federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plant populations shall be designed to maintain or improve the existing population or habitat.	X	X	X	
WFP-4	Project-wide manageable areas would be delineated to avoid impacts to sensitive areas. This is a large perimeter around a smaller prescribed burn unit within which fire is allowed to spread before control action must be taken. It is not actively ignited during the prescribed burn, and it establishes the trigger points that will drive management actions based on resource values	X	X		
WFP-5	Maintain 3 or more cavity bearing live trees and 3 or more snags or decadent trees per acre	X			
WFP-6	Retention areas will emphasize hiding, escape, bedding and thermal cover around feeding and watering areas, in drainages, and along roads.	X			
WFP-7	Minimize mechanical disturbance of soils to reduce the impact of habitat manipulation on small mammal and reptile communities	X	X	X	
WFP-8	RE: Nesting birds and sensitive plants. Consult with local biologist for species and site-specific guidance when developing burn/implementation plans, especially for fire treatments outside the normal natural fire season.	X	X	X	
WFP-9	Within a calendar year, consider the spatial scale of treatments relative to distribution of individual species of concern (e.g., the proportion of habitat treated) in the planning area when implementing project(s).	X	X	X	



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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
WFP-10	The spatial distribution and contiguous size of planned burn/treatment areas would be considered in order to reduce the effects of peak flow change on stream channels.	X	X	X	
WFP-11	When constructing slash piles, avoid agave and any known Forest Service sensitive plant populations	X	X	X	
WFP-12	<b>Jaguar Habitat:</b> Implement the conservation measures for fire management activities in riparian and aquatic habitats to eliminate adverse effects to jaguars that may occur in dense riparian habitats.	X	X	X	
WFP-13	<b>Huachuca Water Umbel Habitat:</b> Known locations and potential habitat for plant populations should be mapped to facilitate planning for prescribed fires and vegetation treatments to ensure protection of these populations.	X		X	
	Delineate buffer areas around plant populations prior to prescribed fire and vegetation treatment activities. Coordinate with USFWS during prescribed burning and vegetation treatments to ensure protection of plant populations.	X		X	
	During prescribed fire in habitat occupied by Federally listed plant species, no staging of equipment or personnel would be permitted within 328 feet (100 meters) of identified individuals or populations (Huachuca Area Fire Partners Fire Management Plan, page 81)). Off-road vehicles would also not be allowed within the 328-foot buffer area, unless necessary for firefighter or public safety or the protection of property, improvements, or other resources.	X		X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
WFP-14	<p><b>Pima Pineapple Cactus Habitat:</b>                      Surveys shall be conducted for this species where suitable habitat exists.                      Where individual plants or groups of plants are vulnerable to damage from fire and radiant heat ,clear vegetation from the area between 2 and 3 meters around the plant or group of plants leaving the area within 2 meters intact (to avoid disturbance of microhabitat/microclimate).                      Remove woody fuels within the vegetation “leave patch” if it is determined that woody fuels contribute to risk of damage from fire/radiant heat                      In suitable habitat, no broadcast burning will be conducted where Lehmann lovegrass is the primary grass component</p>	X			
WFP-15	<p><b>Bat Habitat – all species:</b>                      Caves and abandoned mines will be surveyed prior to project implementation to determine occupancy. Fire and other vegetation management activities would not be located within 0.5 mile of-occupied caves and abandoned mines</p>	X	X	X	
WFP-16	<p><b>Lesser Long-nosed Bat Habitat:</b>                      Low-moderate severity prescribed fire would be planned to minimize adverse effects to lesser long-nosed bat forage plants and roosts.</p>	X	X	X	
	<p>All crew bosses (prescribed fire and vegetation treatments) would be instructed in the identification of agave and the importance of their protection for bats. Resource advisors, qualified biologists designated to coordinate lesser long-nosed bat concerns will be present or available during prescribed fire and vegetation treatments.</p>	X	X	X	

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	In agave stands, personnel would avoid driving off road and over plants, piling slash on top of plants, and burning on or near plants. Staging areas for fire crews or helicopters would be located in previously disturbed sites, if possible. Creating public access to known roosts during fire operations would be avoided.	X	X	X	
WFP-17	<b>Mexican Spotted Owl Habitat:</b> Prescribed fire (preferably low to moderate-intensity) would be used to maintain and enhance MSO habitat inside and outside of the Protected Activity Centers by varying the management prescriptions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) reproduce natural disturbance patterns;</li> <li>b) maintain native vegetation in the landscape, including early seral species;</li> <li>c) allow natural gap processes to occur, thus producing horizontal variation in stand structure;</li> <li>d) promote the growth of additional large oaks and pines by thinning out understory vegetation through the use of moderate-intensity burning and by pre-treating large trees (ringing, foam, limbing).</li> <li>e) reduce fuels to promote future low to moderate-intensity fire in PACs and adjacent areas.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	
	Survey PACs for occupancy and determine location of nest tree/delineate core area prior to implementing treatments within the PAC: Within occupied PAC, implement prescribed fire and mechanical treatments outside breeding season: March 1 – August 31	X	X	X	

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	<b>Protected Activity Centers (Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, 1995):</b> Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk. Select up to 10% of the PACs within each Recovery Unit that exhibit high fire risk conditions. Nest sites must be known within these PACs. Ideally, a paired sample of PACs should be selected to serve as control areas.	X	X	X	
	Within each selected PAC, designate 40 ha (100 acres) centered around the nest site. This nest area should include habitat that resembles the structural and floristic characteristics of the nest site. These 40 ha (100 acres) will be deferred from the treatments described below.	X	X	X	
	Within the remaining 203 ha (500 acres), combinations of thinning trees <22.4 cm (9 inches) dbh, treatment of fuels, and prescribed fire can be used to reduce fire hazard and to improve habitat conditions for owl prey. Habitat components that should be retained or enhanced include large logs (>30 cm [12 inches] midpoint diameter), grasses and forbs, and shrubs. These habitat components are strong correlates of the presence of many key prey species of the owl. Emphasis of the spatial configuration of treatments should be to mimic natural mosaic patterns.	X	X	X	
	Treatments can occur only during the non-breeding season (1 September- 28 February) to minimize any potential deleterious effects on the owl during the breeding season.	X	X	X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
WFP-17	Following treatments to 10% of the PACs, effects on the owl, prey species, and their habitats should be assessed. If such effects are nonnegative, an additional sample of PACs may be treated. If negative effects are detected, these effects must be carefully evaluated. If they can be ameliorated by modifying treatments, those modifications should occur prior to treatment of additional PACs. If not, no additional treatments should be permitted.	X	X	X	
	Within the remaining PACs, light burning of ground fuels may be allowed within the 500 acres surrounding the 100-acre PAC centers (as stated above), following careful review by biologists and fuel management specialists on a case-specific basis. Burns should be designed and implemented to meet the objectives noted above. Burns should be done only during the non-breeding season (September 1- February 28).	X	X	X	
	Resource advisors would be consulted when making decisions about prescribed fire activities. Advisors would be notified if MSO are discovered during fire operations.	X	X	X	
	Prescribed fire and mechanical thinning treatments would be conducted to minimize effects on reproduction; actions with known potential for negative effects to MSO and MSO habitat (protected and reserve) would be avoided.	X	X	X	
	Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995) pine-oak forest habitat structure guidelines would be followed in setting project objectives. These guidelines stress maintaining large trees (greater than 18 inches dbh), snags, and downed logs (greater than 16 inches in diameter).	X	X	X	

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		Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Memorial	Fort Huachuca	
	Staging areas and other “activity centers” would be located more than a mile from designated PAC boundaries during the breeding season (March 1 – August 31).	X	X	X	
WFP-18	<p><b>Chiricahua Leopard Frog Habitat:</b>            Implement the conservation measures for fire management activities in riparian and aquatic habitats as described in the riparian, aquatic and wetland protection measures above.</p> <p>For fire management sites with habitat for the Chiricahua leopard frog, unsurveyed sites would be considered occupied unless surveyed prior to project implementation.</p> <p>No water would be drafted for fire (prescribed fire) control activities from bodies of water known to be occupied by the Chiricahua leopard frog.</p>	X	X	X	
WFP-19	<p><b>Sonora Tiger Salamander Habitat:</b>            High-intensity fire shall be avoided near occupied stock tanks and within the drainage feeding the tanks.</p>	X	X		
	Post-treatment monitoring of occupied stock tanks shall occur to determine the need for sediment filters to avoid ash loading into the tank.	X			
	Areas of significant human activity during prescribed fire activities, such as fire crew camps, landing strips, and equipment staging areas, shall not be located on or adjacent to salamander breeding sites and should be located at least 1,650 feet away from such sites unless absolutely necessary for fire control.	X	X	X	

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	A resource advisor would be present or available during all prescribed fire in salamander habitat areas. Resource advisors would be qualified to address Sonora tiger salamander concerns, serve as an advisor to the fire boss, and coordinate with USFWS.	X	X	X	
	No water would be drafted for fire (prescribed fire) control activities from bodies of water known to be occupied by the Sonora tiger salamander.	X	X	X	
WFP-20	<b>Gila Topminnow Habitat:</b> Prescribed burns would be conducted such that no more than one-half of the watershed of each Gila topminnow natural or reintroduction site is burned in a two-year period (excluding buffers to the streams and/or spring habitats) and repeat treatments occur at greater than two-year intervals.	X			
	When considering which creek crossings to use for fire management activities, crossings that are known to be occupied by Gila topminnow would be avoided when possible.	X			
	Fire managers would develop burn plans in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department to identify site-specific measures, such as prescribed fires in grassland vegetation types, to improve watershed conditions and to protect populations of Gila topminnow from other resource program impacts.	X			
	As described in RAW-8, the use of fire retardant would be avoided near streams and other water bodies.	X			

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WFP-21	<b>Gila Chub Habitat:</b> When considering which creek crossings to use for fire management activities, crossings that are known to be occupied by Gila chub would be avoided when possible.	X			
WFP-22	<b>Barking Frog Habitat:</b> Fireline construction and other ground-disturbing activities would be avoided within 300 feet of the limestone hills and other areas known to provide habitat for barking frogs.		X	X	
WFP-23	<b>Peregrine Falcon Habitat:</b> Restrict human activity associated with vegetation management and prescribed fire operations within 1 mile of an active peregrine falcon nesting cliff between February 1 and August 31. The human disturbance buffer can be modified by the Resource Advisor based on nesting activity and local topography.	X	X	X	
	Maintain noise buffers around project areas between February 1 and August 31 (e.g., equipment operation shall not cause increase in noise levels at raptor nests and roost sites above 55 dB.)	X	X	X	



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WFP-24	<b>Northern (Apache) Goshawk Habitat:</b> Human activity should be limited in goshawk nesting areas and Post Fledging Areas (PFA) during the breeding season, March 1 through September 30.	X	X	X	
	Within nesting areas and PFA, maintain existing canopy cover levels. Within adjacent woodlands outside PFA, manage for uneven-age stand conditions to sustain a mosaic of vegetation densities (overstory and understory), age classes, and species composition well distributed across the landscape. Provide for reserve trees, snags, down woody debris.	X	X	X	
	Low-intensity ground fires may be used in a PFA at any time, but avoid burning the entire PFA in a single year. Prescribed fire within nesting areas should be planned to move with prevailing winds away from the nest tree to minimize smoke and risk of crown fire developing and driving the adults off or consuming the nest tree.	X	X	X	
	Maintain noise buffers around project areas during the raptor-nesting season (e.g., equipment operation shall not cause increase in noise levels at raptor nests and roost sites above 55 dB.)	X	X	X	
WFP-25	<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo Habitat:</b> Conservation measures for fire management activities in riparian and aquatic habitats would be implemented as described above.		X		
	Activities to reduce hazardous fuels or improve riparian habitats (prescribed burning or vegetation treatments) would be implemented within occupied suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos only during the non-breeding season (October 1 – March 31).		X		

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	Prescribed burning would only be allowed within ½ mile of occupied suitable habitat when weather conditions allow smoke to disperse away from the habitat when birds may be present (breeding season April 1 - September 30).		X		
	Vegetation treatment projects adjacent to occupied suitable habitat would be conducted when birds are not present (October 1 – March 31).		X		
WFP-26	<b>American Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle:</b> A qualified agency biologist shall assess the potential for bald eagle and golden eagle to occur in the project area and determine the need for species surveys. Impacts will be avoided or reduced by implementing measures prescribed in FWS guidance or requirements for the management of bald and golden eagles.	X			
<b>HERITAGE RESOURCES</b>					
H-1	<b>Any areas of intensive ground disturbance</b> will receive 100% survey (pre-field and on the ground); these include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intensive mechanical treatments</li> <li>- hand and mechanical fire line construction</li> <li>- staging areas, constructed safety zones</li> <li>- water bars and other constructed erosion control features</li> <li>- other actions such as constructing fuelbreaks</li> </ul>	X	X	X	

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H-2	<p><b>Prescribed burns:</b></p> <p>As a minimum, surveys for prescribed burn areas would include locations likely to contain additional fire-sensitive sites, based on pre-field research, expected fire behavior, and other relevant data. Additional surveys may be conducted at the agency archeologist's discretion. The survey strategy shall identify the types of sites that are considered fire-sensitive for each fuels reduction project, using the guidelines below. This should include both known fire-sensitive sites and other sites considered fire-sensitive for the specific burn, based on fuel loading, site characteristics, and expected fire behavior. If existing inventories do not indicate the presence or likelihood of fire-sensitive properties, survey strategy may be determined by the archaeologist without prior consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). If existing inventories indicate the presence or likelihood of fire-sensitive properties, the proposed survey strategy would be submitted to the SHPO for review. The use of prescribed burns and protection of historic properties would take safety and natural resource protection into consideration.</p>	X	X	X	
H-3	<p><b>Hand thinning units:</b></p> <p>Areas where machine piling or any other activity using mechanized equipment is planned would be surveyed 100 percent. Units where only hand thinning is planned, with no use of mechanized equipment and no follow-up prescribed burning, may or may not be surveyed at the discretion of the agency archeologist without prior SHPO consultation.</p>	X	X	X	

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H-4	<b>Fuelwood sales:</b> Surveys of fuelwood sale units would follow a survey strategy similar to that previously described for thinning. Projects that affect 500 acres or less will be surveyed 100 percent.	X			
H-5	<b>Determining fire-sensitive sites:</b> Archaeologists would use site assessment and monitoring data, and would consult with fire management staff, to identify known and other project-specific fire-sensitive sites for individual project areas, and to ensure that fire personnel are appropriately qualified and briefed on cultural resource fire management guidelines, or are supervised by a qualified cultural resource advisor. Fire-sensitive sites include sites with organic (combustible) elements and rock-art sites. Other sites may be fire-sensitive depending on the severity of the fire (e.g. buried cultural deposits). Fire-sensitive sites officially determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places do not require protection. Of the known fire-sensitive site types, only historic sites with wooden elements and rock art sites have been identified within the project area.	X	X	X	

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H-6	<p><b>Treatment actions within or adjacent to site boundaries:</b>                      Agreed-upon Standard Site Protection Measures include one or more of the following items.</p> <p>Protection measures may be approved by the agency archaeologist to protect sites within WUI and other large-scale hazardous fuels reduction projects without additional SHPO consultation.</p> <p>Agency archaeologists may approve additional measures to further protect sites; however, if a lesser level of protection is recommended, or if it is likely that adverse effects cannot be avoided, the agencies shall consult with the SHPO on a case-by-case basis.</p>	X	X	X	
	<p><b>For Prescribed Burning</b>                      To protect fire sensitive sites, exclude the following from treatment area: hand line, black line, wet line, foam retardant, structural fire shelter</p> <p>Remove heavy fuels from site by hand</p> <p>Prevent ignition of in-situ heavy fuels that cannot be removed (e.g., flush-cut &amp; bury stumps)</p> <p>Implement same protective measures for future maintenance burns</p> <p>Prescribed burning would be allowed on non-sensitive sites.</p>	X	X	X	

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	<p><b>To protect other selected sites (optional)</b>                      Allow burning over sites without fire sensitive features or materials</p> <p>No ignition points within site boundaries</p> <p>No staging of equipment within site boundaries</p> <p>Allow construction of safety zones and additional lines in 100% surveyed areas, with archaeological monitoring to assure recorded sites are avoided</p> <p>Conduct post-fire monitoring (in accordance with inventory report)</p>	X	X	X	
	<p><b>Thinning, Hand and Mechanical Treatments</b>                      No thinning within site boundaries -or-allow thinning within site boundaries, provided that:</p> <p>Cutting is accomplished using hand tools only</p> <p>Large-diameter trees are felled away from all features</p> <p>Thinned material is hand carried outside site boundary</p> <p>No use of mechanized equipment within site boundaries</p> <p>No staging of equipment within site boundaries</p> <p>No slash piles within site boundaries</p>	X	X	X	

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	<b>Fuelwood Sales</b> No fuelwood cutting or vehicles within site boundaries, or:  Allow fuelwood cutting within sites, but do not allow vehicles within site boundaries  Allow fuelwood cutting in areas of continuous, low-density scatters, with post-project monitoring	X			
H-7	<b>Newly Discovered Sites</b> When previously unidentified cultural resources are discovered, or unanticipated detrimental impacts occur, all work would cease in the immediate vicinity and the appropriate heritage resource specialist would be notified.	X	X	X	
H-8	<b>Notification</b> Prior to project-specific implementation, NEPA and 36 CFR 800 regulations regarding scoping and Tribal consultation would be followed. In addition, Tribes would be notified in advance of activities that may affect traditional practices, such as the gathering of beargrass or yucca.	X	X	X	
H-9	<b>Chipping</b> A chipper should not be placed within or immediately adjacent to an historic property or archaeologically sensitive sites. Spreading chips back across the site cannot cause ground disturbance.	X	X	X	
H-10	<b>Lop and Scatte</b> Lop and scatter using hand techniques is not considered ground disturbing providing no piling of downed material occurs. If mechanized equipment is used, survey at 100%.	X	X	X	

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H-11	<b>Mastication</b> Sites would be avoided if a heavy-duty masticator (hydro axe/front end loader) is used, but would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis if light-duty (agra axe/bobcat) is used.	X	X	X	
H-12	<b>Pile burning</b> Pile burning would not be allowed within an historic property or archaeologically sensitive site boundaries. This would include no hand piling.	X	X	X	
H-13	<b>Prune and hand-removal, thin by hand</b> These methods would be allowable within historic properties, as long as materials are not piled (i.e. scattered across the landscape)	X	X	X	
<b>RANGE RESOURCES</b>					
R-1	<b>Coordination with Permittees:</b> To ensure success of burning operations, it is imperative to coordinate plans with grazing permittees. Areas to be burned must receive a minimum of one complete growing season rest from grazing prior to burning to ensure fine fuels are present to carry the fire. Burned areas must receive at least one complete growing season rest to ensure plant recovery and soil protection. If the first summer is dry, livestock will not enter a burned pasture until a second full growing season has passed. A growing season is the period from July to September every summer when peak herbaceous plant growth occurs.	X			
R-2	<b>Infrastructure Compensation:</b> Management burns must provide for protection or replacement of range infrastructure (e.g., fences, pipelines, water storage, etc.) Costs of replacement must be considered and planned for up front.	X			



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<b>RECREATION</b>					
Rec-1	<b>Notification:</b> Signs would be posted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advising visitors when and where project activities will take place.</li> <li>• at trails and facilities to warn visitors of mechanical or pile burning operations occurring in the area.</li> <li>• at dispersed recreation sites to warn visitors of management activities in the area or they would be closed for safety until operations are complete.</li> </ul>	X	X		
Rec-2	<b>Rehabilitation of recreation infrastructure:</b> Trail treads, roads, or facilities would be rehabilitated if damaged during project operations.	X	X		
Rec-3	<b>Treatments within Developed Sites:</b> Vegetation treatments within developed sites would be coordinated with the local recreation/facility manager to protect developments and lessen impacts to visitors' ability to use sites.	X	X		
Rec-4	<b>Slash Disposal:</b> All slash and materials resulting from treatments within or adjacent to recreation facilities, trails or dispersed sites would be removed.	X	X		
Rec-5	<b>Timing of Activities:</b> Project activities that occur within or adjacent to developed sites, dispersed sites or trails would be conducted outside the major use season.	X	X		
Rec-6	<b>Noise Reduction:</b> In the Coronado National Memorial, actions would be taken to prevent or minimize unnatural sounds that adversely affect the memorial's resources or values or visitors' enjoyment of them.		X		

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<b>SCENERY</b>					
S-1	<p><b>The following criteria apply to <u>all</u> Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) for the project area on National Forest lands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Vegetation and fire treatment units would be shaped, scaled, and oriented in a manner that is natural appearing, mimicking existing vegetation patterns to blend with landscape characteristics.</li> <li>b. Straight lines and geometric shapes would be minimized in order to blend units to create free-form vegetative patterns that mimic natural patterns during vegetation and fire treatments.</li> <li>c. Where possible, islands of vegetation in various shapes and sizes would be left in random distribution patterns, providing a natural characteristic vegetative appearance, while meeting project objectives.</li> <li>d. The amount of slash within the project area would be decreased while meeting the project’s objectives.</li> <li>e. Excess slash from roadwork would be piled and burned or buried.</li> <li>f. Slash may be lopped and scattered up to 18 inches except in foreground areas of sensitivity level 1 travel routes, use areas and water bodies.</li> <li>g. Fire control lines would be shaped, blended and oriented in a manner that is naturally appearing by following topographic features where possible.</li> <li>h. A landscape architect will be contacted to determine if any additional design criteria are necessary at the time prior to project implementation.</li> </ul>	X			

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S-2	<p><b>The following apply to all VQOs except maximum modification on National Forest land, and specifically, to the 0- to 300-foot immediate foreground away from the center point of sensitivity level 1 travel routes and use areas.</b></p> <p>On the Forest, this includes Scenic Byway 82 (from Sonoita south to Forest Road 61), Highway 83 to Parker Canyon Lake, and National Forest System Road 827 from the Fort Huachuca boundary into the Forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Slash would be lopped and scattered to a depth of 6 inches or less.</li> <li>b. No boundary paint would be used parallel to sensitivity level 1 travel routes and use areas for leave trees.</li> <li>c. Slash treatment should generally be completed within one year in areas adjacent to and visible from Forest Service sensitivity level 1 travel routes and use areas.</li> <li>d. Brush-masticated slash should not exceed 6 inches in depth.</li> <li>e. Burned slash would be scattered to reduce the color contrast of the exposed soil. Unburned soil would be added to areas when needed to reduce color contrast on burn pile areas.</li> <li>f. Stumps that would be viewed by forest visitors would be cut flush to the ground or within 12 inches of the uphill side of the stump, whichever allows the stump to be shorter. Large-diameter tree stumps would be cut as low as possible.</li> <li>g. Tree prune heights would not exceed 10 feet or 1/3 the tree height, whichever is less.</li> <li>h. Shrub islands of various shapes and sizes would be left in a random distribution to provide a natural appearance, while meeting the project objectives.</li> </ul>	X			

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S-2	i. When placing piles for burning along private boundaries or within sensitivity level 1 travel routes and use areas, use topographic and other features (rock outcrops, hills, vegetation, etc.) to conceal burned piles viewed from private homes and travel corridors. j. When any private land boundary falls within or adjacent to the project boundary, a transition zone (a minimum of 300 feet) that gradually mimics the private land’s vegetative patterns should be used to minimize the edges of the management activities (unless the private vegetation contradicts the project’s objective or the private landowner desires the implementation of the prescription up their boundary). k. Placement of temporary use skid trails should be avoided within 100 feet of sensitivity level 1 travel routes and use areas, where practical. These trails should be placed at different angles to each other and roads.	X			