

Burning with partners A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR



Fish and Wildlife Service Fire Planning

Wildfire

Comprehensive
Conservation
Plan (CCP)

Fire
Management
Plan

Wildland Fire
Decision Support
System (WFDSS)

Prescribed Fire

Comprehensive
Conservation
Plan (CCP)

Fire
Management
Plan

Prescribed Fire
Plan

A.R.M. Loxahatchee RX Fire

- Unit Planning-----18 months pre-burn
- Budget Request—18 months pre-burn
- Budget approval—3-6 months pre-burn (hopefully)
- Cooperators Meeting/Public Meeting for Type 1 Burns
- Burn Day planning with cooperators
- Burn Day



Loxahatchee Cooperators

- Everglades National Park
- Florida Forest Service
- Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
- Florida Park Service
- South Florida Water Management District
- USDA Forest Service
- Other Refuges
- National Weather Service

Challenges

- No burning for two weeks prior to water quality sampling!
- Water levels in refuge. Must be greater than 15.2 ASL and less than 16.2 ASL
- Urban Interface...must have easterly wind direction for all burns over 50 acres
- Exotic Vegetation/contracts/contractors
- Budget

Presidents budget proposed 2013

- Although funding for hazardous fuels treatments has quadrupled since 2000, the previous policy of treating the greatest number of acres possible has led to a patchwork of hazardous fuels treatment that has not been as focused as it could have been on reducing risks in the WUI.
- As suggested by Forest Service scientists, extensive wildland vegetation management does not effectively change whether or not homes in the WUI catch on fire. However, when there is a clear priority of treating acres within the WUI, hazardous fuels treatments can be more effective in reducing risk.
- In 2013, the Forest Service and DOI will target fuels management activities to mitigate hazards and enhance the ability to control fires in WUI. The agencies will focus funding for hazardous fuels treatments in communities that are on track to meet Firewise standards and have identified acres to be treated in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (or the equivalent) and have made an investment in implementing local solutions to protect against wildland fire.