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Prescribed Fire on DoD Lands

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2018 | Enhancing DoD's Mission Effectiveness

The Mission = Fire

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Wildfire Vs. Prescribed Fire

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Most DoD fire is like this….

- Low-intensity surface fire regimes
- Prescribed fire is the dominate form of fire
- Risk reduction for training
- T&E Species management

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Prescribed Fire Dominates

- 12-13 million acres of prescribed fire nationally
- Federal lands burn ~2.5-3 million annually
- RxFire dominated by SE, Great Plains, and portions of SW and Great Lakes.
- Majority conducted by private landowners in the SE and Prairies
- These acres are a “free” ecosystem service but not guaranteed due to liability

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The Mission and Smoke

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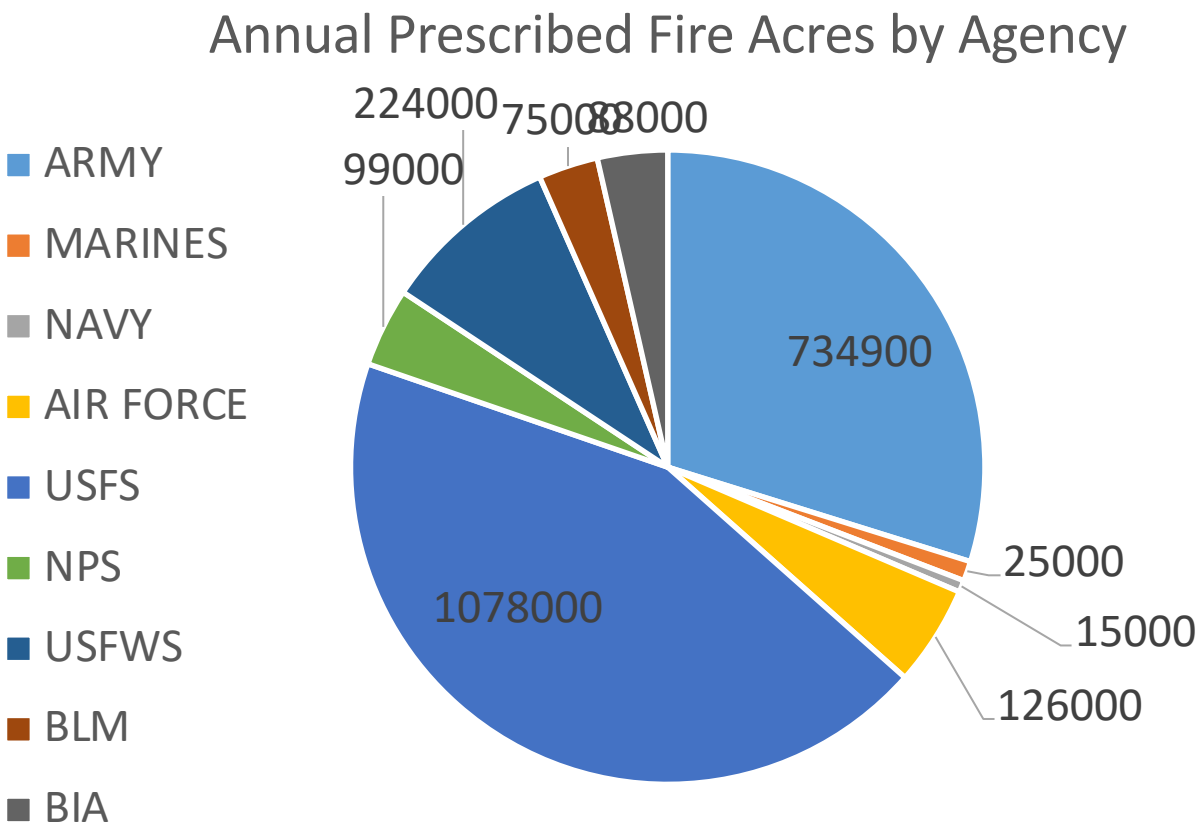
DOD Prescribed Fire



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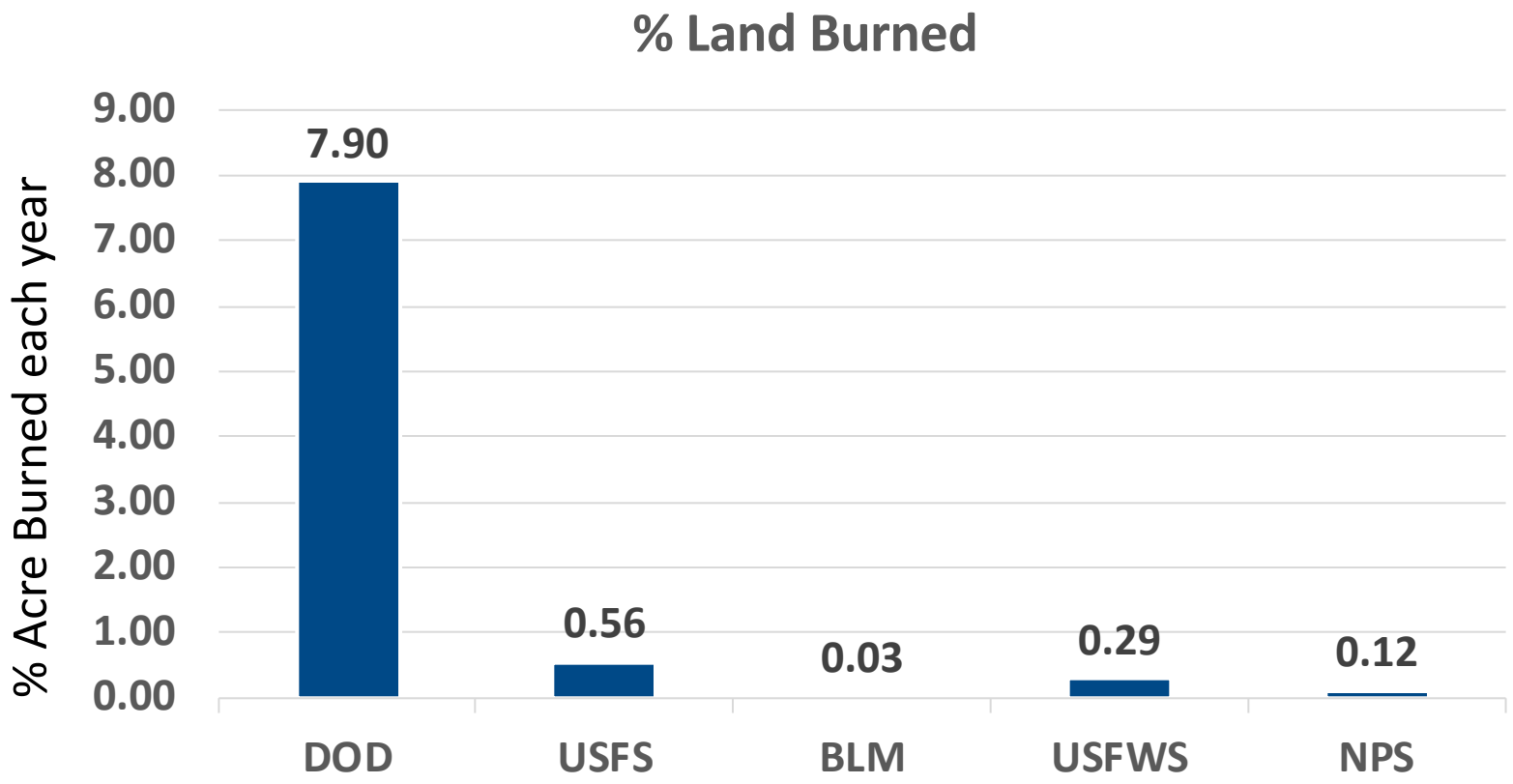
DOD Prescribed Fire



30% Burned more on DoD lands annually than other Federal Agencies Combined

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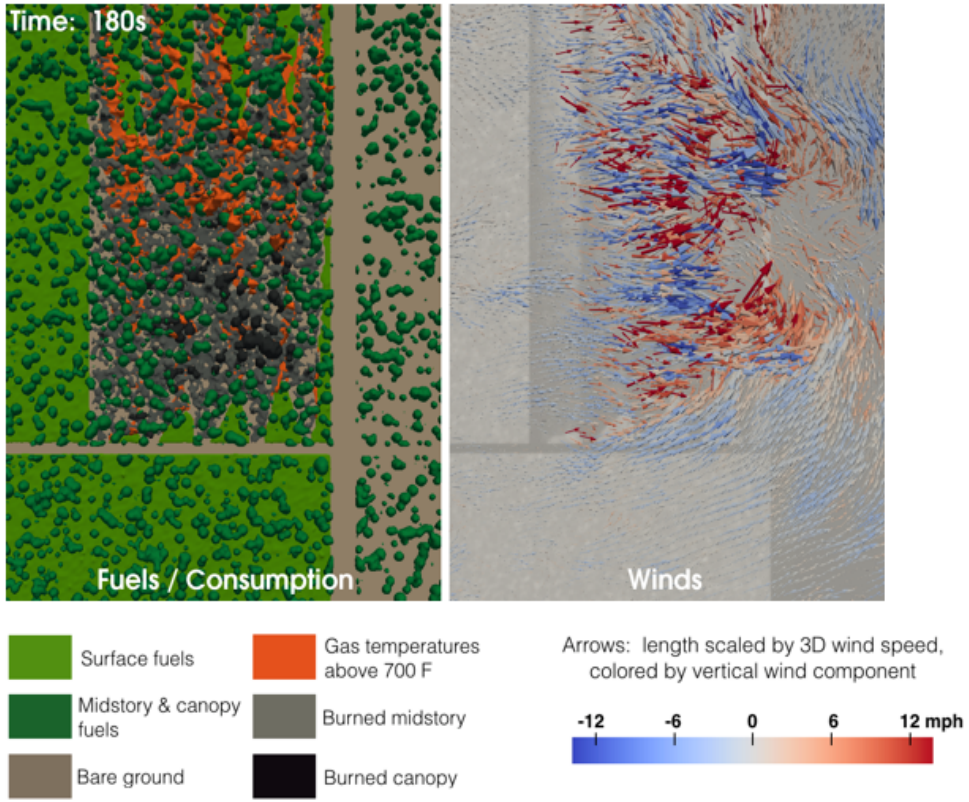
Management Challenges

- Smoke and emissions
- Escape prescribed fire
- Risk management for live-fire impact areas
- Resilience to mission and installations from outside fire risk
- Ecosystem resilience
- Threatened and Endangered species



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Research Needs

- Surface Fire Regimes Dominate
- Smoke and emissions modeling
- Ecosystem modeling to multiple disturbances
- Prescribed fire planning models
- Fire behavior in heterogeneous surface fuels
- Risk management tools for mission training
- Fire in the WUI
- Disease vectoring and ticks

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