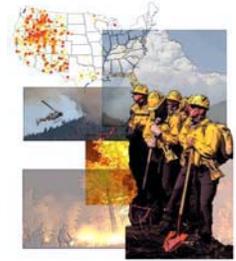


# National Fire Plan

## Fire Effects on Invasive and Exotic Pests

### Arizona and New Mexico

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Severe wildland fire is an ecosystem disturbance that allows rapid invasion of exotic weedy species and can increase damage from forest insects and disease. When exotic species replace native plants, watershed health can rapidly decline. Natural resource managers urgently need post fire vegetation management guidelines that will reduce the spread of weeds, forest insects, and pathogens that damage forest health. The National Fire Plan has provided funding for this research.

Investigators have expanded two long-term studies in Arizona that are focused on understanding the response of ponderosa pine understory vegetation, including exotic species, to fire and forest management treatments. Project researchers have assisted in training USDA Forest Service field crews in plant sampling and identification techniques to help in monitoring sites over time. Evidence of native and exotic vegetation response to fuel treatments will help managers in making choices that favor native species and minimize impacts from forest insects and diseases.

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