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DAY 13 Greener

I chose to look into prescribed burning as a forest management technique because I hear about it often but didn't know much about it. Ironically, using fire as a management tool helps in reducing Wildfire risk and protecting biodiversity. The method involves planned fire on purpose. People set controlled fires in certain areas to clear away extra plants that can catch fire easily. This helps prevent big, dangerous wildfires and keeps the forest healthy. The management technique that came before this was full out fire prevention and avoiding fire at all costs. But this led to a buildup of dead leaf litter and other fuel to wildfires, and it threw off the natural cycle of things. In places like Australia, Indigenous communities have been using planned fires for a very long time. They know when and where to do it to make sure it helps the land and the animals.

# PRESCRIBED BURNING

**What is this management method**  
The method involves planned fire on purpose. People set controlled fires in certain areas to clear away extra plants that can catch fire easily. This helps prevent big, dangerous wildfires and keeps the forest healthy.

**What specific forest issue does this method address**  
One main goal of prescribed burns is to decrease the risk of larger, uncontrolled wildfires. By intentionally burning away excess dry plants and leaves in a controlled setting, there's less fuel for a potential wildfire to spread.

**What does the method involve**  
Prescribed burns are carefully timed to support biodiversity. Some plants actually need fire to release their seeds, and certain animals depend on specific habitats that result from the controlled burns.

**Where this method has been used**  
In places like Australia, Indigenous communities have been using planned fires for a very long time. We have started using it in California and even in my home state of Missouri.

**Scientific knowledge, TEK**  
While modern science contributes to the understanding of fire behavior and ecological impacts, Indigenous communities rely on TEK to determine when and where to apply controlled burns. They consider factors like wind patterns, vegetation types, and animal habitats, blending ancient wisdom with scientific insights.

[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org), [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

Sources: <https://en-us/about-us/where-we-work/asia-pacific/australia/stories-in-australia/bringing-indigenous-fire-back-to-northern-australia/>

What the Method Involves:

Prescribed Burning is like a planned fire on purpose. People set controlled fires in certain areas to clear away extra plants that can catch fire easily. This helps prevent big, dangerous wildfires and keeps the forest healthy.

Example of Usage:

Indigenous Fire Management in Australia: In places like Australia, Indigenous communities have been using planned fires for a very long time. They know when and where to do it to make sure it helps the land and the animals.

Science and Traditional Wisdom Together:

Using Both: Scientists help us understand how fire works and what it does to the environment. But Indigenous communities also have their own wisdom, passed down through generations. They know which plants need fire to grow and how animals depend on it. So, when we combine what scientists know with this traditional knowledge, it makes the whole process better. The wisdom of Indigenous communities helps us do the right fires in the right way, making sure it's good for the forest and the creatures that live there.

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