

JFSP Project Number: 04-2-1-110
Principal Investigator: Carol Miller

2006 Progress Report

1. Why is the research important from your perspective?

By removing the natural process of fire, fire suppression has one of the greatest effects on our landscapes, and yet, we cannot quantify these effects. We need to have a way of quantify and tracking the cumulative effects that result.

2. How will managers and practitioners use this research?

The GIS data library of fire progression will allow easy reference for managers during the fire season when making the decision whether or not to suppress, when preparing Stage III Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) analyses, and when developing appropriate management response on suppression incidents. The information and understanding about cumulative effects will improve the prioritization and planning of fuels management activities by supplementing the Fire Return Interval Departure analysis that is routinely done by both Parks. Analyses will allow park managers to frame future decisions and cost-benefit analyses in the context of past experiences, to track the cumulative effects of suppression, and to communicate tradeoffs to the public and other governmental entities

3. Is the work applicable at local, regional, or national scales and why?

This research is addressing a local need previously articulated by Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks, which is to be able to understand and track the consequences of their fire suppression decisions. The project is developing methodology and step-by-step procedures for conducting these retrospective analyses. As all land managers need to understand and track the consequences of their fire management decisions, the methods we develop will have broad national applicability and will provide a template for conducting similar analyses.

4. Contact information.

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