



Fighting Fire and Weeds Together

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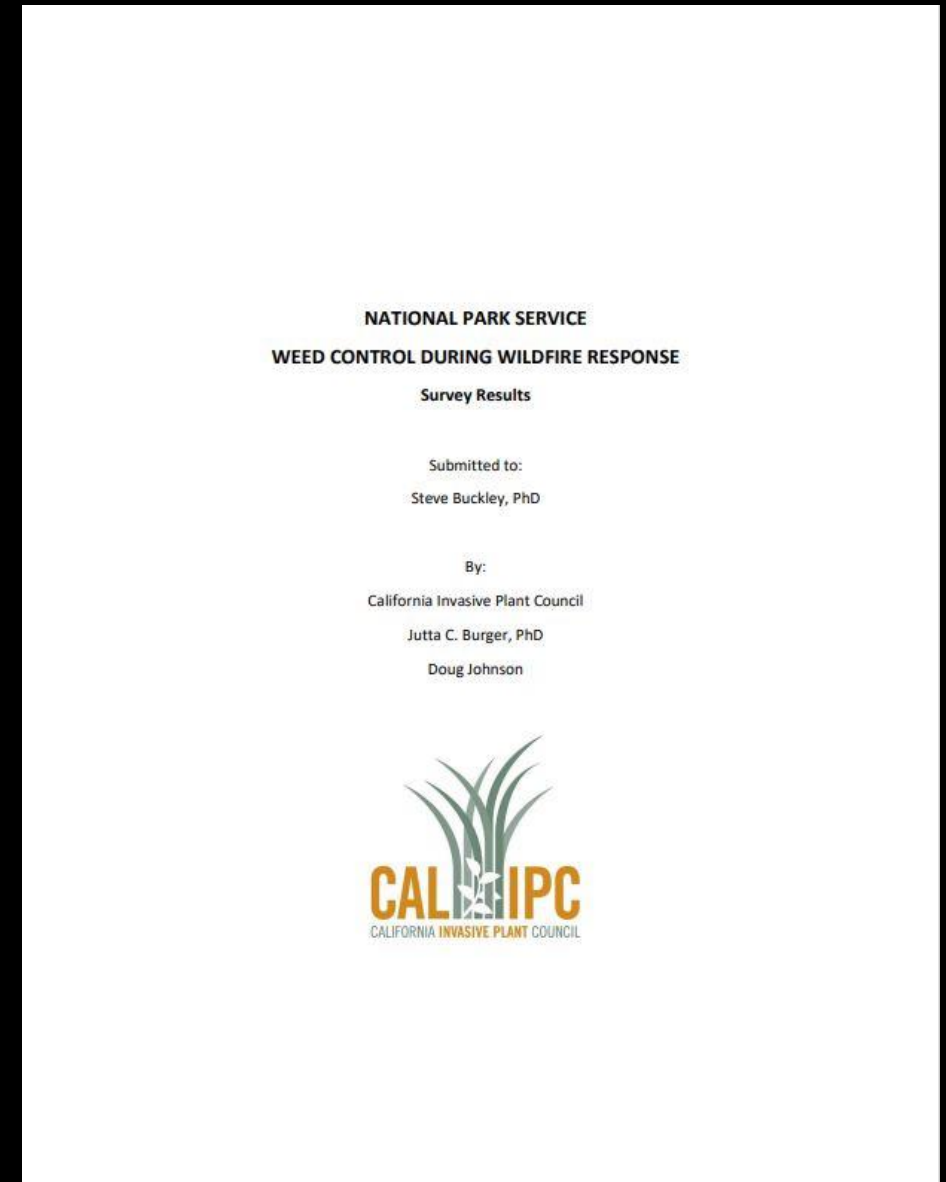
Cal-IPC & NPS Collaboration

Originated in 2021 with a survey of 13 NPS units across California

Led to 2 workshops in 2023, supporting NPS Resource Managers

*January 2023: ([workshop link](#))
- Focused on preparedness, role and relevance of Resource Advising (READ)*

*March 2023: ([workshop link](#))
- Focused on what happens during fire operations and then post-fire with suppression repair and burned area rehabilitation*



Cal-IPC & NPS Collaboration

Preparing for Wildland Fire: A Step-by-Step Guide for NPS Invasive Plant Managers

Preparing for Wildland Fire:

A Step-by-Step Guide for NPS Invasive Plant Managers



Wildfires – and wildfire response – present a significant risk for the spread of invasive plants. In addition to spreading invasives already on site, firefighting personnel and equipment may introduce new invasive species. Natural resource managers can guide and influence firefighting activity in ways that greatly reduce the risk of invasive plant spread. Doing so effectively, however, requires effective preparation. This guide describes steps that can be taken by National Park Service (NPS) natural resource managers to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the introduction and spread of invasive species before and during wildland fire incidents.

Although some protocols are specific to the NPS, the overall approach is generally transferable to other organizations.

When a fire starts, critical information regarding sensitive park resources must be readily available and organized in a manner which can be efficiently shared with fire operations personnel. Considerable impact often occurs within the first operational periods of wildfire response, and typically little time is available to gather plant distribution information, produce maps, procure weed wash equipment, and provide training. Such resource protection measures need to be accomplished in advance of an emergency.



Woolsey Fire, Paramount Ranch. Photo courtesy National Park Service.



National Invasive Species Council (NISC)/Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) Co-chairs Departmental Memo (Oct. 2022):

Integrating and Coordinating Wildland Fire and Invasive Species Management Efforts

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/nisc-wflcmemo-final-10-12-2022.pdf>



Memorandum

October 12, 2022

To: Assistant Secretaries, Heads of Agencies and Offices

From: National Invasive Species Council Co-Chairs:

Janet Coit, Acting Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
and Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA
U.S. Department of Commerce

Andrea Delgado, Chief of Staff, Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Eric Werwa, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy and Environmental
Management
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wildland Fire Leadership Council Co-Chairs:

Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Joan Mooney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management
and Budget

Exercising the Delegated Authority of the Assistant Secretary,
Policy, Management and Budget

U.S. Department of the Interior

Subject: Integrating and Coordinating Wildland Fire and Invasive Species Management Efforts

I. Purpose

This memorandum provides direction for the Departments' Agencies and Offices to provide appropriate support and resources to the integration and coordination of wildland fire and invasive species management efforts.

II. Background

The interaction between invasive species, particularly invasive plants, and wildfire is presenting increased risks to the integrity of natural ecosystems, human safety, and rural economies in areas





*Dixie Fire, Lassen Volcanic NP,
August 2021*

Natural resource managers can guide and influence firefighting activity in ways that greatly reduce the risk of invasive plant spread. Doing so effectively, however, requires effective preparation.

