



**ERI Proposed Program of Work in Response to the Wallow Fire:
The proposed actions are based on recent lessons learned**

Lesson #1 - We need to act at the pace and scale of the problem NOW—or be prepared to continue to bear the cost of fires at the scale of 100,000 acres and larger.

- 1a. Synthesize and analyze available research from the Rodeo Chediski, Schultz Tank, and other high impact fires to determine what should be done differently to achieve effective treatments at the landscape scale
- 1b. Analyze and model where conditions are right for the next high impact fires to occur in the next 30 years
- 1c. Determine if current fire models that guide treatment design match actual fire behavior
- 1d. Determine what areas within the Wallow Fire perimeter remain vulnerable to unnatural fire
- 1e. Accelerate acceptance and application of effective treatments among stakeholders and land managers

Lesson #2 - Unnatural crown fire is destroying critical wildlife habitat such as old growth. The Wallow fire reinforces the conclusion of the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan that fire is the biggest threat to their long-term survival.

- 2a. Initiate landscape scale wildlife response monitoring for 4FRI treatments in order to acquire the knowledge and science that will build support in the wildlife community

Lesson #3 - Towns are not fully protected by wildland-urban interface (WUI) treatments alone.

- 3a. Analyze how the WUI treatments performed in the face of the Wallow Fire. What are the relative impacts on fire behavior of WUI treatments versus landscape fuels?

Lesson #4 - Small treatments embedded in an overstocked landscape won't survive high-impact fire. Treatments must be large enough to make a difference.

- 4a. Examine which thinning and burning treatments alter fire behavior. The analysis should include: demonstration areas, mechanically treated areas, prescribed burns and other treatment approaches (such as pile burning, burn only etc)
- 4b. Analyze how patch characteristics affect burn severity

Lesson #5 - Comprehensive restoration requires action in mixed conifer forests.

- 5a. Analyze how the Wallow Fire behaved in the mixed conifer forest type
- 5b. Develop and test preventative restoration treatments for mixed conifer

Lesson #6 – High-impact fires are expensive to suppress and astronomically expensive to society and the environment when all costs are calculated.

- 6a. Examine the ecological and economic tradeoffs between salvaged and unsalvaged areas
- 6b. Conduct a full cost accounting analysis of the Wallow Fire

Lesson #7- Based on current trajectories of fire, work is needed to understand the outcomes of rehabilitation and to develop new rehabilitation strategies designed to promote long-term restoration

- 7a. Identify a practical and effective approach to long-term monitoring at the landscape scale and the treatment unit scale to measure post fire recovery, and to help inform mitigation and recovery for high impact fires
- 7b. Provide Strategic agency support for post-fire assessments, and implementation of stabilization and rehabilitation plans, and other restoration related science transfer
- 7c. Identify and execute post- fire research needs for rehabilitation
- 7d. Analyze the effectiveness of BAER treatments and fill information gaps

Cost

This program of work represents approximately \$6.2 million annually.

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