



Maintain	This does NOT mean 'maintain status quo'. High Value Resource Areas (HVRAs) are at low risk of adverse fire effects, and many natural resources would be expected to benefit from most fires. Wildfire should be used to increase ecosystem resilience and provide ecological benefits when conditions allow.
Restore	HVRAs are at a moderate risk of adverse fire effects. Wildfire should be used to increase ecosystem resilience and provide ecological benefits when conditions allow. Mechanical treatments and/or prescribed fire may support using wildfire to achieve desired conditions.
Protect	HVRAs are at high risk of adverse impacts from wildfire, though this does not necessarily mean fire isn't needed. Mechanical fuel treatments may be used to manipulate fuels to achieve desired fire behavior and effects, though fire may be difficult to implement. Prescribed fire would generally not be a first entry treatment.
High complexity	HVRAs are at a high risk of adverse impacts from wildfire, depending on ignition location and burning conditions. This should be a transitional classification, with an objective of changing the classification of the POD and/or splitting it into smaller units once mitigation actions are taken. Fire sensitive HVRAs are intermixed with fire-tolerant HVRAs, often with mixed land ownership. The remoteness and complexity of ownership and fuels types means treatments are difficult and/or expensive, so they will take time to implement. Mitigation action and clear communication with POD stakeholders will be necessary to address current fire hazards.
Exclude	HVRAs are at high risk of adverse fire effects. For the Tonto NF, these PODs focused mostly on the Sonoran Desert. Historically, fires that ignited here did not spread, but invasive grasses have created an extremely vulnerable system where fire can cause ecosystem conversion. The primary objective is to minimize ecosystem damage from suppression actions and undesirable fire effects.

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

Mesa Ranger District Tonto National Forest PODs (Potential Operational Delineations) Updated Feb 24, 2025

Strategic Response

- Exclude
- High Complexity
- Maintain
- Protect
- Restore
- Desert In For Boundary

POD Boundary Line

- Freq Fire in Exclude
- Ranger District
- Other
- Containment Confidence: Moderate
- Containment Confidence: Strong

USDA U.S. Forest Service

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