



# OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

## Resource Guidelines for Fire Suppression

**Fire: Pioneer**

**Location: Pioneer Creek, North shore of Lake Chelan**

**Date: 6/18/2024**

### Resource Advisors

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### **HUMAN SAFETY IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR EVERY EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTION**

#### *MIST for Spike Camp and Lucerne Forward Operating Base Management*

- Employ minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) where feasible, especially in remote or sensitive areas.
- If spike camps are necessary, use existing, or previously impacted campsites where available. If existing campsites are not available; use your local resource advisor to help identify the most resilient sites in rocky or sandy soils. Avoid camping in wet meadows, along streams, or on lake shores.
- Store food properly so that it is not accessible to wildlife. Consider hanging food in trees at least 15 feet off the ground and 5 feet from the trunk of the tree, or store food in sealable containers. Store food away from the campsite (300 feet is ideal) to reduce the risk of human and bear (and rodent!) conflicts.
- Do not let garbage and food scraps accumulate in camp. All garbage and food scraps need to be removed from the camp ASAP and before leaving the site.
- Minimize disturbance to land in preparing bedding and campfire sites. Do not clear vegetation, trench, or excavate a flat spot to create bedding sites.
- Do not use nails in trees. Don't construct camp furniture.
- If a campfire is built for warmth in the evening, build either a pit or mound fire. Use dead and down firewood. Use small diameter wood that burns down more cleanly. Don't burn plastics or aluminum - pack it out with the rest of the camp garbage.



- In small spike camp situations (not Lucerne), individuals should use the "cat-hole" method of disposing of human waste. Toilet seats should be located a minimum of 200 feet from water sources. Holes should be dug 6-8 inches deep.

In large or long term spike the camps use helicopters, boats, or pack stock to deliver portable backcountry latrines and remove human waste if necessary. If the camp does not have adequate pack, boat, or air support for human waste management, establish community latrines well away from water sources and common areas. Use human waste bags, if necessary.

### *Dipping and Drafting*

- No cross-dipping between water bodies. All buckets or snorkels should be cleaned, inspected, and dried in the sun if they must be used between lakes. Dipping in small lakes must be pre-approved by the READ or AA.
- When drafting, use already disturbed areas for stream access (road crossings, dispersed campsites) to reduce the need for riparian vegetation clearing.
- Use screens (3/32" inch) for all pumping operations.
- Use containment pads and basins under pumps and fuel cans. Ensure a spill kit is present with every operating pump.

### *Invasive Species*

- The fire is burning within an infestation of common crupina, a WA State Class A Noxious weed. Prevent spread of crupina off site – plan to wash hose and other equipment. Request fire fighters brush boots before boarding boat or **before entering National Park Service Land**.
- Inspect slings and remove all plant/soil material prior to use.
- Ensure all camps, staging areas, helispots and cargo areas are free of invasive plants to prevent spread to un-infested areas.
- Weed wash all vehicles when they arrive to the incident and when demobed.

### *Fisheries /Aquatic Recommendations*

- If trees must be felled in riparian areas for suppression or safety reasons, fell them toward streams where possible and minimize bucking where possible.
- Non-mechanized suppression activities are recommended within Riparian Reserves (150-300 ft from stream channel). For example, consider hand lines instead of dozer lines when feasible.

### *Retardant Use*

- Retardant avoidance areas are present in the fire suppression area for both aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Track all retardant drops – locations and amounts.

- Report all mis-applications ASAP to READ. Monitoring and reporting of misapplications is required.

#### *Wet Meadows*

- No line or other disturbance in wet meadows in the Summer Blossom area (east of South Navarre campground above and below the 8200 road) and at Coyote and Poison Springs at the headwaters of their respective creeks.

#### *Dry Meadows*

- Minimize disturbance from staging and parking areas in dry meadows. These areas recovery slowly and are vulnerable to invasive plant infestation.

#### *White Bark Pine*

- Avoid cutting white bark pine whenever possible. Needles of 5 keep it alive! Ask READ for help with ID.

#### *Burnout operations*

- Plan to protect whitebark pine of all ages and mature cold and moist forest during burnouts. READ consultation and line officer approval is required for burn plans that include these forest types.
- During burnouts modify firing to retain large trees, large snags and large down wood in forests whenever possible.
- Minimize total acres burned in burnouts.
- Incorporate typical resource protection measures used in RX burning whenever it is safe and practical to do so (such as retention of green islands in moist areas).
- Provide a map of areas that were burned as part of the burnout operation (for use in emergency consultation).

### **Cultural Resources**

- If cultural resources are discovered during suppression activities, leave on site and notify READ.

# Needles of five, keep it alive!

Please do not cut WHITEBARK PINES.

If a tree's needles grow in clusters of five, leave it to grow!

Whitebark pines live in the mountains, often in areas too harsh for any other tree. More than 100 kinds of living things depend on these special pines, including bears and many bird species. People love whitebark pines for their beauty and strength, and we also need them because they trap snow in the high country, slowing spring runoff and helping provide water to the valleys in summer.

But whitebark pines are in trouble. Many whitebark forests now contain more dead pines than living ones.

- Blister rust, a non-native fungus, weakens the trees, reduces cone production, and eventually causes death.
- Whitebarks are also killed by bark beetles, and beetle epidemics may increase with global climate change.
- Wildfires may kill whitebark pines, although burned areas are good habitat for seedlings. Careful management of fire is essential.



So remember: *If it has five, let's keep it alive!*

For more information and to learn how you can help,  
visit the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation at [www.whitebarkfound.org](http://www.whitebarkfound.org).