Fire: Outline

1. Awareness of local/regional management activity, especially in WUI communities

Goals: Communication between homeowners and their local officials, as well as communication between local officials and federal agencies.

- education of the homeowner
  A. an understanding of what is being done in the community and how to get involved
  B. an understanding of what can be done around the house to mitigate fuel hazards
  C. an understanding of the danger the expanding WUI presents to firefighters

- education of the municipal leader
  A. an understanding of what is being done at the regional and federal levels and how to get involved
  B. improved programs for communication with homeowners at the WUI; examples of successes
  C. improved management of local fire departments, including volunteer departments; examples of successes

- education of the common citizen
  A. how fires concern him; damage to watershed, air quality, fishing, tourism, etc.

2. Healthy Forests and the NFP: Pros and cons of a strictly science-based plan

Goals: To understand the economic repercussions of Bush’s plan and to understand how management changes might affect the future of the National Forests and forestry practices in National Parks.

- whose economic interests does it serve?
  A. Stewardship contracts
  B. Effect on Local Economies

- what will the future of forests/forest management look like under these plans?
  A. Forestry management at local, regional, and federal levels
  B. An analysis of the restorations process

3. Opposition to the Bush Administration plans
Goals: To highlight the benefits of the methods eschewed by the Bush Administration and analyze the meaning of their absence.

- what are the differences between environmentalist plans/ Clinton’s plans and the Bush plan?
  A. Bush compared to the Sierra Club
     i. the absence of any real effort to prevent logging
     ii. the absence of any non-economically related ecological concerns
  B. Bush compared to Clinton’s Plan
     i. the absence of any effort to prevent excessive road construction (and, in effect, limit commercial logging)
     ii. conflicting methods of aiding timber-based communities.

- what, then, is the best way to solve the wildfire problem?
  A. how do we compare economic gain with ecological concerns?

4. A history of White Man’s fire-suppression ethos

Goals: To provide a historical context to understand the problems with fire suppression in a way that makes their solution seem more focused.

- the 10 am policy and its economic underpinnings
  A. the fires and problems that lead to the policy
  B. the economic system set up to support it
  C. its successes

- responses within the fire community
  A. the added pressure/ the element of danger
  B. the new role of managers and managerial systems

- responses outside the fire community
  A. the popularization of Smokey the Bear
  B. the image of the heroic, fearless fire fighter
  C. the sympathetic response to Bambi

5. A history/anthropology of Indian People’s use of prescribed fire

Goals: To locate the use of fire (and, Human’s relationship with Nature at large) in a broader context.

- an anthropological perspective
  A. Indian People used fire consciously, understood it as an integral part of the ecosystem
- an ecological perspective
  A. Indian People understood the science of prescribed fire and used it in a way the improved crop yield and general well-being

- why have we forgotten these fires?
  B. an appreciation of the controversy surrounding the publication of Stewart’s book
  C. The impact of his book on the Indian People community

- what lessons could be learned from this history?
  D. what is lost in Steward’s argument?
    i. consequences of an incomplete understanding of Indian People’s use of fire
  E. how do we integrate this lesson into current fire policy?

6. Harold Biswell, the prophet, and Smokey the Bear’s mid-life crisis

Goals: To begin with the framework that will lead us to broader conclusions in bullet 8.

- the recognition that the 10 am policy lead to a build up of hazardous fuels
  A. the fires and dangers that lead to Biswell’s work
  B. Biswell’s eccentric character, and consequent opposition to and criticism
  C. Biswell’s early successes

- an analysis of the different scientific methods of fuel mitigation and their economic consequences
  A. thinning, logging, clearcutting, herbicide use, prevention of road-building
    a. each methods economic consequences

7. The fuel mitigation debate today and the questions of rehabilitation and restoration

Goals: to re-discuss the ecosystem/economy debate we started in bullets 2 and 3

- an analysis according to ecosystem types
  A. grasslands/rangelands, dense forests, WUI, historical sites
  B. an analysis and explanation of when these areas are in the most danger.
    i. examples of extreme cases

- current disagreement in the fuel mitigation debate
  A. a re-focus of the Bush vs. Environmentalist debate

- current disagreement in the rehabilitation/restoration debate
A. the differences between the two
B. historical and ecological problems with restoration

8. The future of wildfires: Lexicon, trust and cooperative management

Goals: To re-focus the entire question in terms of what the public can do and to modify the public’s perception of risk.

- the origin of fire’s pejorative connotations
  A. the need to understand that fire was painted into a pejorative context out of both ecological ignorance and economic greed.
  B. an analysis of the need and the methods to reverse this connotation

- the origins of mistrust in fire management policies
  A. Bridging Perspectives
  B. the complications of and methods to resolve the problem of extra-long courtroom deliberations

- an analysis of cooperative management
  A. current advances
  B. an analysis of the economic effects of cooperative management on local, regional and federal levels
  C. an analysis of the effect of cooperative management on fire management on local, regional, and federal levels
  D. examples of successes of cooperative management
  E. ways the public can be involved in the activity of management conglomerates