

NWCG Data Standard
FIRE OUT DATE & TIME
Discussion Paper
November 28, 2007

Proposed definition for “Out”:

The status of a wildland or prescribed fire when all observable combustion has ceased and/or there is no risk of the fire again becoming active and requiring additional control or management actions. All management activities directly relating to suppression (including mop-up), monitoring, or burning efforts have concluded; however, there may be secondary management efforts, such as burned area rehabilitation or hazard mitigation, still in progress.

Related content from previous “thinking paper” on fire strategies and statuses:

- Generic term: *Fire Out*
 - NWCG glossary does not specifically define “out”, “extinguish”, or any other closely-related term. It refers the phrase “suppress a fire” to the term “suppression”, which it defines as: All the work of extinguishing of confining a fire beginning with its discovery.
 - Other sources suggest that a fire can be declared out when the suppression, mop-up, and patrol phases have ended, and the main fire and any spot fires have been extinguished; however, this seems to preclude the idea of fire-use or prescribed fires attaining “out” status.
 - Extinguishment is attained when the all active burning has ceased and there is no possibility of rekindling.
 - While not clearly stated anywhere, it seems that a fire can be declared “out” even if there are ongoing rehabilitation or restoration efforts relating to the suppression impacts and/or burned area. Given this, it seems that “out” occurs when fire activity (i.e. burning) ceases, even if management actions have not concluded.
 - Related FORS element: *Fire Out Date*
 - FORS currently describes this as: The date the fire was declared out.
 - Given that the NWCG glossary does not define “out”, the FORS description should probably be expanded to mention extinguishment and clarify whether “out” can be declared if there are any management actions underway or pending.
 - Data standard presumably would conform to the existing standard for date.
 - Related FORS element: *Fire Out Time*
 - FORS currently describes this as: The time the fire was declared out.
 - Data standard presumably would conform to the existing standard for time.