

157 Feb '90

SECRET/NOFORN

PROJECT SUN STREAK

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER:	5177 (Tng)	SESSION NUMBER:	1
DATE OF SESSION:	26 FEB 90	DATE OF REPORT:	27 FEB 90
START:	0958	END:	1023
METHODOLOGY:	CRV	VIEWER IDENTIFIER:	052

1. (S/STD) MISSION: To describe the target site (Forest fire in Yellowstone National Park) in Stage 2 terminology.
2. (S/STD) VIEWER TASKING: No coordinates are provided for this site, so the target number alone was used as cueing. No other information given.
3. (S/STD) COMMENTS: No Physical Inclemencies. 052 quickly proceeded through Stage 1, but incompletely. Stage 2 filled in the missing elements to resolve the site. Post session discussion concerned the "self-correcting" quality of CRV, as shown by this session. Later, this session was compared to a previous site 052 had done (with another monitor). Strong similarities exist between the two sites, showing a factor of "reproducibility" of the CRV process.
4. (S/STD) EVALUATION: 3
5. (S/STD) SEARCH EVALUATION: N/A

MONITOR: 018

HANDLE VIA STIPPLE CHANNELS ONLY

SECRET/NOFORN

CLASSIFIED BY: DIA (DT)
DECLASSIFY: OADR

252

PI: NONE
AV: NONE

26 Feb 90

0958

Ft. Meade

018

5177

~

miss BK

5177

~

A - Wavy Across
fluid
X B. Water

5177

-

miss BK

5177



A. Wavy Across
soft
B. Water

A. Loops
stopping up
smooth
B. —

5177



A - loop
hard
B. Island

5177

o

A. Loop
hard
B. Island

S2

Blue

fresh cool air

ADZ BK

Tree

Bird Noise

Wind sound in trees

Cool on face

Salt

Bright Sunny
Cool on face

~~ADZ BK~~

~~ADZ BK~~

ADZ BK

ADZ BK

ADL BK
Hawaii

Move to the date of 1 of the target events. Move to latest event and describe.

S2
Blue
Black

ADL BK
Pearl Harbor

Dark
Bad Smell ✓
-
Round ✓
Smooth ✓
Slippery

⊙ Sweet smell

⊙ Black

⊙ blue

⊙ Dark

⊙ warm

⊙ Blue

⊙ Black

⊙ Grey

⊙ Smokey

Bright Red stuff

Big



site 1017

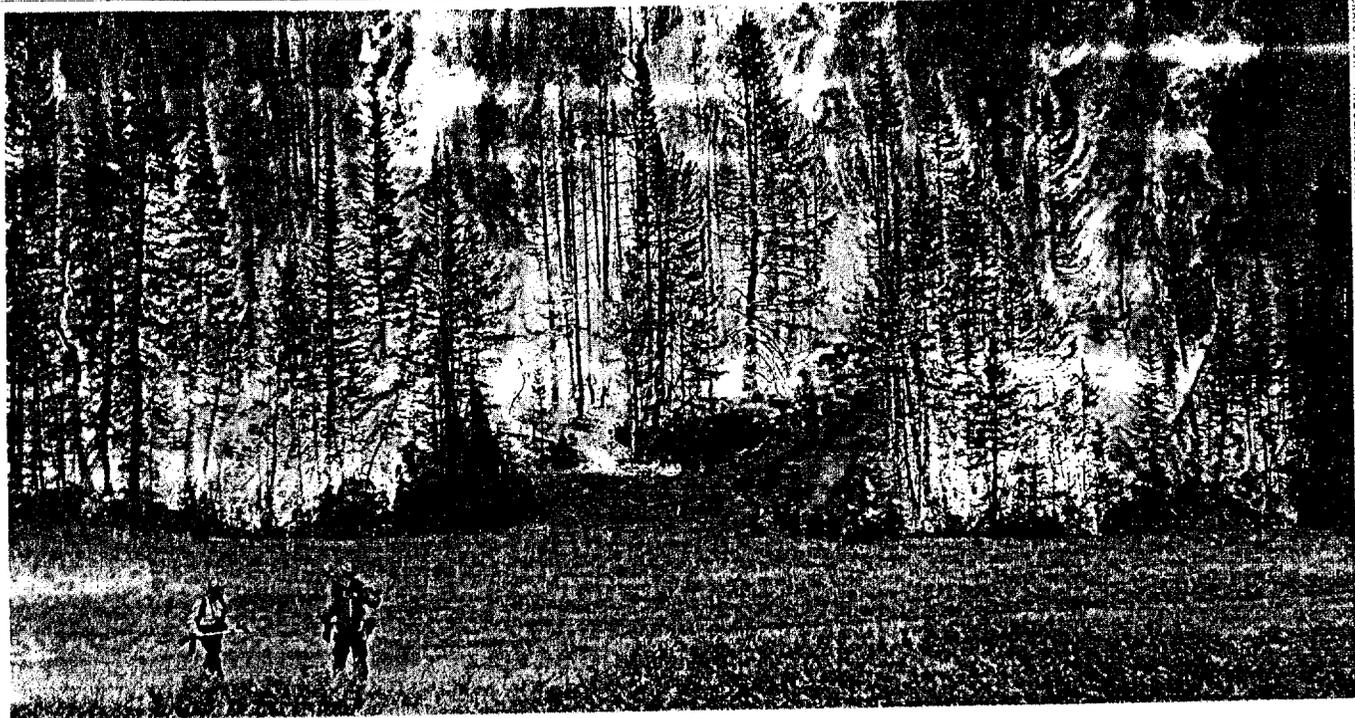
- O Blue
- O Reddish purple
seems big
- U glowing
Bright
- O jagged
- O Warm

Conf Bk
but my feet are
cold

Feel
top?


site 1023

CRAGG PHOTO—THE SENTINEL



Fire fighters watch as the Storm Creek fire engulfs the forest near Yellowstone's northeast entrance

“We Could Have Stopped This”

Yellowstone Park's worst blazes spark a controversy

For the first 100 years after Yellowstone National Park was created in 1872, its caretakers diligently protected its forests from fire damage. As scientists learned more about the balance of nature in areas like Yellowstone, they discovered that fire was sometimes a helpful, even necessary, ingredient. Thus in 1972 the National Park Service adopted a policy of allowing spontaneous fires to burn unimpeded unless they seriously threatened lives or property.

Natural burning has brooked little opposition, but then Yellowstone has rarely suffered serious fire damage. Until this summer, that is. In the midst of the hottest and driest season in the park's 116-year history, as many as ten separate fires have raged over 582,401 acres of Yellowstone's 2.2 million acres, four adjacent national forests and Grand Teton National Park. Ignited by lightning and whipped by high winds, the flames have threatened some of the park's most popular sites, including Old Faithful. Last week more than 500 tourists and employees were evacuated from one of Yellowstone's main tourist villages after the so-called North Fork fire burned within two miles. The swift fires occasionally raced into areas before park officials could warn tourists to stay away. “We could have stopped this,” complained one of the 8,000 weary fire fighters battling the blazes last week. “They won't let us.”

Park officials maintain that they can only contain the fires, not extinguish them. Meanwhile, defenders of the natural-burn policy trumpet its benefits: the flames clear thick stands of timber and prepare

the soil for a new generation of flora. For example, many of the seed cones of the lodgepole pine, which covers 60% of the park, only open after being exposed to intense heat. Ecologists expect the fires to help restore the park's depleted stands of aspen trees and increase the wide array of insects, birds and mammals that have found Yellowstone's aging forests increasingly inhospitable. “It's part of living in an ecosystem that is basically wild and uncontrollable,” says Louisa Willcox of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, which supports the natural-burn policy.

But critics say it is irresponsible to

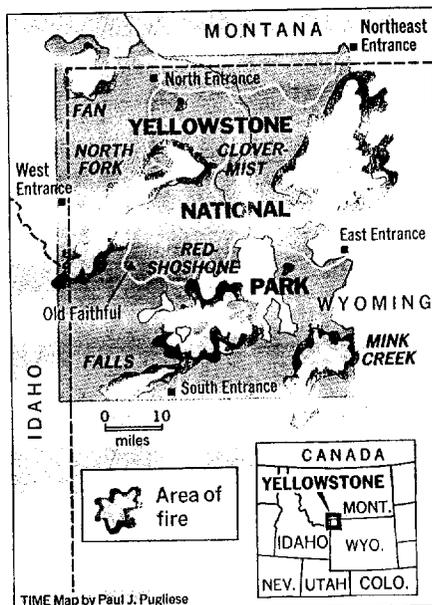
pretend that Yellowstone and other high-use wilderness areas can thrive on nature alone. “Letting nature take its course here is not based on realistic assumptions,” says Alston Chase, author of *Playing God in Yellowstone*. “What starts as a policy of laissez-faire ends up becoming a policy of massive interference.” Chase advocates setting controlled fires to produce the desired mosaic of vegetation, while creating breaks that would prevent natural fires from spreading out of control. “You don't prevent forest fires,” says Chase. “You just postpone them by building up fuels. This summer we're paying the price for more than a century of mismanagement.”

Chase is concerned that a backlash to the natural-burn policy may produce the other extreme: the rapid extinguishing of all forest fires. Residents, tourists and area politicians have already sharply criticized the Park Service for waiting too long before moving to contain the latest blazes. “I question the wisdom of sticking to the policy in a year like this, with these severe drought and weather conditions,” said Montana Senator Max Baucus, a Democrat. Wyoming Senator Malcolm Wallop, a Republican, agreed, adding his worry about the impact of the fires on the local economy. “We've had a catastrophe in our tourist industry,” he said.

Yellowstone officials anticipate congressional oversight hearings, and some observers predict that the summer of 1988 will be a turning point in the debate over how fires should be managed. “This fire will be an example of what went right and what went wrong,” says Willcox. But with many areas still blazing out of control late last week, such a postmortem won't take place until fall at the earliest, after nature finally snuffs out the last flames with rain and snow.

—By Laurence Zuckerman.

Reported by Patrick Dawson/Yellowstone



TIME Map by Paul J. Pugliese