

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

FIRE EFFECTS MONITORING PROGRAM 1993



PREPARED BY:
PRESCRIBED FIRE STAFF
OCTOBER 1993

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRANCH OF AVIATION & FIRE MGMT
P.O. BOX 129
GRAND CANYON, AZ 86023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRAND CANYON FIRE ACTIVITY SUMMARY	1
1993 FMH PROJECTS COMPLETED	2
1993 RX CREW TIME EXPENDITURES	3
CHANGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROTOCOLS	6
EQUIPMENT INFORMATION	6
MONITORING TYPE INFORMATION	7
ANTICIPATED 1994 FMH PROJECTS	9
1994 SOUTH RIM PLOT RE-READ CHECKLIST	10
1994 NORTH RIM PLOT RE-READ CHECKLIST	11
SOUTH RIM 5 YEAR PROJECTED WORKLOAD	12
NORTH RIM 5 YEAR PROJECTED WORKLOAD	13
PROPOSED 5 YEAR SCHEDULE	15
APPENDIX A	
SOUTH RIM PLOT LOCATIONS	16
NORTH RIM PLOT LOCATIONS	17
POST-BURN FUEL REDUCTIONS	18
POST-FIRE SEEDLING DENSITIES	19
MAPS	20

Grand Canyon National Park Aviation and Fire Management Annual Summary 1993

Prescribed Fires:

Prescribed Natural Fires (PNF):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Size (acres)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fuel Model</u>	<u>Ignition Date</u>
Crystal	0.1	Inner Canyon	8	5/12/93
Walhalla	130.0	North Rim	9	8/12/93
Emerald	342.0	North Rim	9	8/10/93
Burnt	1.5	Inner Canyon	2	8/19/93
Pearce	20.0	Inner Canyon	2	8/19/93
Mescalero	2.1	Inner Canyon	6	8/20/93

PNF Acres: 495.7

Management Ignited Prescribed Fires (MIPF):

Quarry II	370.0	South Rim	9,6	5/11/93
Cedar	20.0	South Rim	2	9/19/93
Atchinson II	621.0	South Rim	9,2,6	9/8/93
NW III	221.0	North Rim	9,10	9/20/93

MIPF Acres: 1232.0

Wildfires:

lightning-caused	18
human-caused	59

Other:

support actions/mutual aid	37
false alarms	5

Wildfire Acres: 1996.8

1993 FMH PROJECTS COMPLETED

PLOTS INSTALLED:

<u>1993 Plots</u>	
<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>
FPIED1D02	4
FPIPO1D09	4
FPIP1D09	16
FPIEN1D10	2
TOTAL	26

<u>Plots Installed to Date</u>	
<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>
FPIED1D02	13
FPIPO1D09	14
FPIP1D09	19
FPIEN1D10	2
TOTAL	48

POSTBURN PLOTS:

<u>Total Plots Reread 1993</u>	
<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>
FPIED1D02	10
FPIPO1D09	7
FPIP1D09	4
FPIEN1D10	0
TOTAL	21

<u>1993 Postburn Plot Status</u>	
<u>status</u>	<u>#</u>
Immediate Post	12
Year One	9

PLOTS BURNED:

<u>Total Plots Burned 1993</u>	
<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>
FPIED1D02	6
FPIPO1D09	4
FPIP1D09	2
TOTAL	12

<u>Total Plots Burned to Date</u>	
<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>
FPIED1D02	10
FPIPO1D09	7
FPIP1D09	4
TOTAL	21

Results of Minimum Plot Calculations by Monitoring Type *

<u>Monitoring Type</u>	<u>Primary Monitoring Type Variable (Overstory)</u>		<u>Secondary Monitoring Type Variable (Fuel Loading)</u>	
	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>
FPIED1D02**	6	4	11	7
FPIPO1D09	10	7	20	13
FPIP1D09	24	15	21	14

* Precision Value = 0.80

** Overstory min. plots for PIED in table. JUOS values:
R = 20, 11; R = 25, 7

Make more user friendly?

NARRATIVE FOR RX CREWMEMBER TIME EXPENDITURES

The graphs on the following pages depict to the best possible extent, a workload breakdown for the 1993 season. These activities addressed are: training, travel, fire effects, PNF/MIPF, suppression and unit preparation. The following information briefly describes these activities.

Training

Most members of the prescribed fire crew were involved in the following courses conducted at Grand Canyon: S-130, S-190, S-217, S-212 and S-211. Additional training was provided to Rx staff members with the RX-91 being hosted at the park this spring. Finally, J. Silverstone, E. German and C. Letz attended S-390 at Sequoia NP in June.

Travel

As the graphs illustrate, a somewhat significant amount of time was incurred traveling to the North Rim of the park. Travel to the North Rim involves a 274 mile one-way trip, taking 4-5 hours to drive. State highway 67 leading into the North Rim has been undergoing extensive road improvements, adding to travel delays.

Fire Effects

The prescribed fire staff successfully completed all the required immediate post burn and 1 year re-read plots per the monitoring schedule. Also, 26 pre-burn monitoring plots were installed this season, see page 2 for details.

PNF and MIPF

During the 1993 fire season at Grand Canyon, 6 prescribed natural fires occurred, totaling 495.7 acres. All Rx staff members were involved in various capacities in the management and execution of these fires. In addition 4 management ignited prescribed fires were conducted as of Oct. 27, 1993 totaling 1232 acres. See page 2 for details.

Suppression

As resource availability and ambient conditions warranted, Rx personnel aided suppression crews in initial attack activity, helitack operations and in a variety of support functions, ie. logistics, dispatching, etc.

Unit preparation

For the successful execution of the accomplished MIPF acreage this season, nearly all Grand Canyon fire personnel and misc. park personnel devoted a great deal of time and effort in unit preparations. Utilization of park suppression crews greatly contributed in completion efforts.

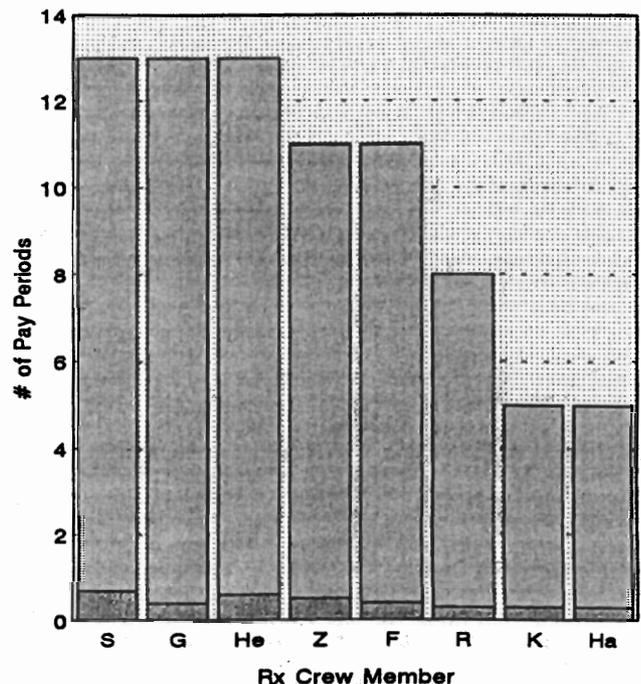
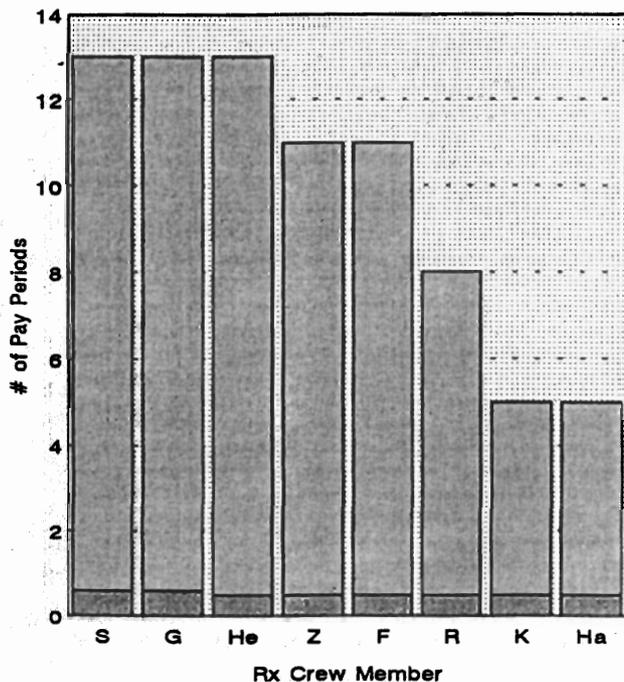
RX CREW TIME EXPENDITURE ON PROJECTS

Code	Name	Classification/Grade	Funding Source
S	James Silverstone	GS-0404-5	Fire Effects
G	Eric German	GS-0404-5	PNF Monitor
He	Carl Helquist	GS-0404-5	PNF Monitor
Z	Brenda Zimpel	GS-0404-5	Fire Effects
F	Roland Foss	GS-0462-5	Hazard Fuel Reduction
R	Sandra Rosas	GS-0404-5	PNF Monitor
K	Christy Klassett	SCA	Presuppression
Ha	Eric Harris	SCA	Presuppression
Sc *	Jim Schroeder	GS-0462-6	Fire Effects

* Not included in the following graphs

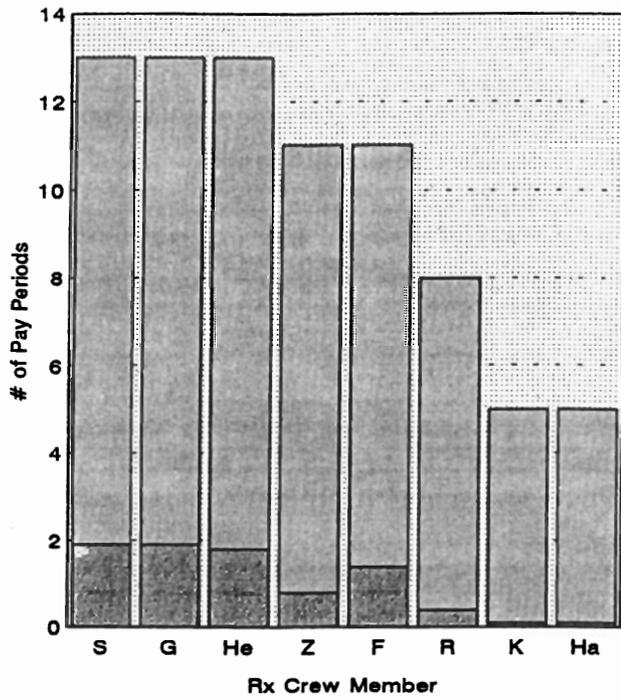
Training

Travel

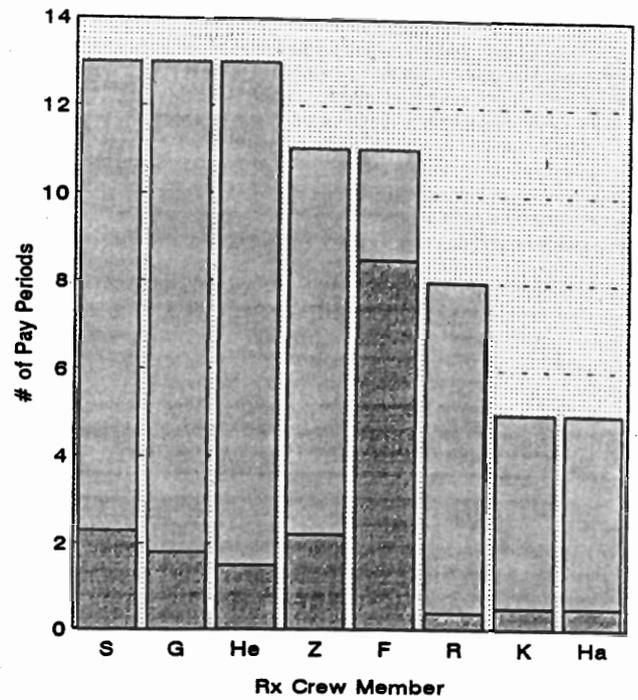


■ Time Expended □ Pay Periods Worked

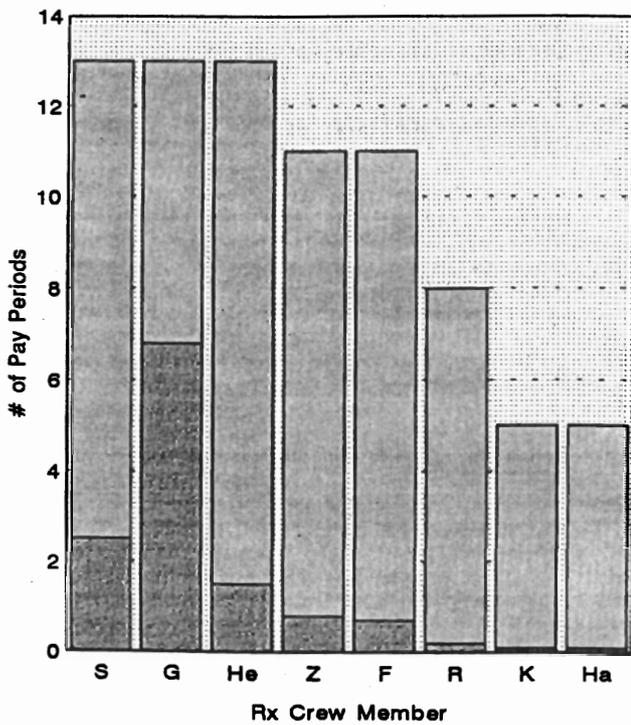
PNF & Rx Burns



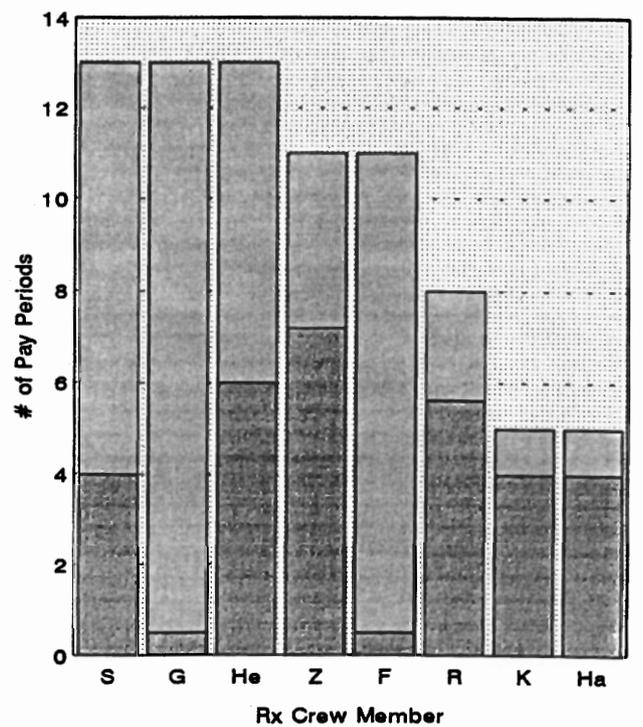
Unit Prep. Work



Suppression



Fire Effects



Time Expended
 Pay Periods Worked

CHANGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN PROTOCOLS

Overall the parks 1993 fire effects monitoring program encountered few problems. There were no deviations from established protocols noted. Throughout all levels of monitoring, (1-4), the changes to standards and protocols addressed in the 1992 version of the handbook provided many solutions to deficiencies encountered in previous versions of the handbook. As Grand Canyon's prescribed fire program remains active and plots are being burned, program managers can expect continued refinements in implementing the fire effects program.

As for a couple of recommendations, mandatory measuring of char heights while measuring scorch heights. The actual percent of overstory or pole-sized crown scorch can solely or in part be a result of bark charring. Furthermore, to better understand overstory tree crown scorch, pole-sized trees should require char and scorch sampling. Areas with higher densities of seedlings and pole-sized trees, provided ladder fuels that can greatly contribute to overstory crown scorch. In addition, while conducting immediate post-burn monitoring, a re-read of the 50-meter transects should be mandatory, providing researchers a more comprehensive view of fire intensities and overall extent of fire spread in and around the plot.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WHILE MONITORING

To address problems encountered while monitoring, particularly during the NW III prescribed fire, there was not a sufficient safety margin to allow monitors near the plots to gather appropriate data as MAS dictates. Variables contributing to these conditions were:

- * high fuel loadings, resulting in moderate to high fire intensities, accompanied by several active flame fronts
- * significant smoke impact
- * conditions stated above contributed to unacceptable escape routes and safety zones

Solution: Within the burn unit, identify similar plot conditions in locations that provide safe monitoring of fire behavior.

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

All equipment and supplies (e.g., tags, forms, tapes, etc.) are located and stored at the Fire Support Office, South Rim, Grand Canyon. Files containing raw data and FMH software generated copies are also located at the Fire Support Office. Copies of all database files have been duplicated, one set at Fire Support and the other at Ranger Operations, South Rim, Grand Canyon.

FMH equipment suppliers list:

**Band and Tag Co.
721 York St., P.O. Box 430
Newport, KY 41072-0430**

**Patricia Ledley Bookseller Inc.
1 Bean Rd., P.O. Box 90
Buckfield, ME 04220**

**Trimble Navigation
2105 Donely Dr.
Austin, TX 78758**

**National Wildfire Coordinating Group
1849 C Street
Washington, DC 20240**

MONITORING TYPE INFORMATION

**After evaluating data from the first 2 plots installed in the Engelmann Spruce/
Mixed Conifer vegetation type, it was determined that there is a need to better
quantify species composition as described in the rejection criteria portion
of FMH-4. Quantifying numbers of individual species as part of the selection
criteria, will enable field technicians to accurately determine the acceptance
or rejection of the random plot points. Once the selection criteria has been
"tightened" a more realistic and obtainable number of required plot installations
can be accomplished.**

FMH-4

MONITORING TYPE DESCRIPTION SHEET

Monitoring Type Code: * F P I E N 1 D 1 0 Date Described: 01/25/93
 Monitoring Type Name Rocky Mountain Subalpine Conifer Forest
 Preparers (RxFs/RxFT): Duhnkrack/Schroeder
 Burn Prescription: Prescribed fires will be conducted during summer and fall (May-December) to meet management objectives. Both backing and head fires will be used. Prescription parameters are identified in 1992 GRCA Fire Management Plan and include:
RH 20-60 %
Mid-flame Wind Speed 0-6 mph
10hr Time Lag Fuel Moisture 6-15 %
Rate of Spread .3 - 6.8 ch/hr
 Burn Goals: Reduction of hazardous fuel accumulations and restoration of natural fire regimes.
 Monitoring Type Variables: Fuel loading & overstory tree density.
 Physical Description: Located on the North Rim, this monitoring type ranges from 7,500 to 9,165 feet (2,290 to 2,793 meters) elevation. Slopes range from 0 % to greater than 60 % and favors north and northeast aspects at the lower elevations, yet occurs on all aspects at higher elevations. Soils are relatively deep of loamy texture which are derived from Kaibab limestone material.
 Biological Description: Vegetative associations 121.3111, 121.3171, and 121.3172 have been identified by Warren et al. (1982) adapted from the system of Brown, Lowe, and Pase (1979). *Picea engelmannii*, *Populus tremuloides* and *Abies concolor* combine to form the main forest canopy. *Abies lasiocarpa*, *Pinus ponderosa* and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* may be present, but to a much lesser degree. The understory is variable, composed of scattered stands of conifer and deciduous pole-sized and seedlings, deciduous shrubs, and evergreen shrubs. Ground cover is also variable to sparse, composed of grasses, sedges, and herbs. Fallen dead timber and deep litter are common on the forest floor.
 Rejection Criteria: Initial random areas within 20 meters of large rock outcrops, boundary fences, anomalous vegetation patches, roads, trails, utility corridors, slash piles, or open bare ground. Areas with fuel loading less than 15 tons/acre. Areas within 10 meters of ecotones or transitional vegetative influences including areas void of *Picea engelmannii*, *Populus tremuloides* and *Abies concolor*. Areas with >50% *Pinus ponderosa* or *Populus tremuloides*. Areas within 10 meters of significant cultural resource features including prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic sites.

- * Assign unique 9 character code as described below:
- Plot Type (F=forest, B=brush, G=grass)
- - - - - Dominant Species Alpha Code (see Appendix C of FMH)
- Burn Period Phenology (phenological stage of key plants affected by and/or carrying the fire):
- G=green-up (period of active plant growth)

ANTICIPATED 1994 FMH PROJECTS

PLOTS TO BE INSTALLED

<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Location</u>
FPIEN1D10	13 *	North Rim

* Projected number to be installed assuming that 15 plots will meet minimum plot requirements.

PLOTS TO BE REREAD

Immediate Postburn *:

<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Location</u>
FPIP1D09	16	North Rim
FPIPO1D09 ^A	4	South Rim
FPIED1D02	2	South Rim
TOTAL	<u>22</u>	

* Immediate postburn numbers based on projected 1994 burns.

Year One:

<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Location</u>
FPIP1D09	2	North Rim
FPIPO1D09	4	South Rim
FPIED1D02	6	South Rim
TOTAL	<u>12</u>	

Year Two:

<u>monitoring type</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Location</u>
FPIP1D09	2	North Rim
FPIPO1D09	3	South Rim
FPIED1D02	4	South Rim
TOTAL	<u>9</u>	

1994 SOUTH RIM PLOT RE-READ CHECKLIST

COMPLETED?	PLOT I.D.	STATUS	MONTH TO READ
	PIPO 6	YR 01	APRIL
	PIED 10	YR 01	APRIL
	PIED 11	YR 01	APRIL
	PIED 13	YR 01	APRIL
	PIPO 1	YR 02	MAY
	PIED 1	YR 02	MAY
	PIPO 2	YR 02	JUNE
	PIED 8	YR 02	JUNE
	PIPO 13	YR 01	JULY
	PIED 14	YR 01	JULY
	PIED 15	YR 01	JULY
	PIED 4	YR 02	JULY
	PIED 5	YR 02	JULY
	PIPO 14	YR 01	AUGUST
	PIPO 7	YR 02	SEPTEMBER
	PIPO 10	YR 01	OCTOBER
	PIED 9	YR 01	OCTOBER

1994 NORTH RIM RE-READ CHECKLIST

COMPLETED?	PLOT I.D.	STATUS	MONTH TO READ
	PIPN 9	YR 01	JUNE
	PIPN 12	YR 01	JULY
	PIPN 1	YR 02	JULY
	PIPN 2	YR 02	JULY

SOUTH RIM 5 YEAR PROJECTED WORK LOAD

PROJECT NAME	AC.	# OF PLOTS	BURN YR.	FMH Workload by Year				
				1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
				QTY./INT.	QTY./INT.	QTY./INT.	QTY./INT.	QTY./INT.
ATCHISON I	220	1 PIPO	1992	----	----	1 YR05	----	
ENTRANCE	424	4 PIED 2 PIPO	1992	----	----	6 YR05	----	
SANTE FE	275	1 PIPO	1992	----	----	1 YR05	----	
TOPEKA	824	1 PIED 1 PIPO	1992	----	----	2 YR05	----	
VILLAGE	170	1 PIPO	1992	----	----	1 YR05	----	
ATCHISON II	750	3 PIED 2 PIPO	1993	5 YR02	----	----	5 YR05	
QUARRY	370	3 PIED 3 PIPO	1993	5 YR02	----	----	5 YR05	
PICNIC	220	2 PIED 4 PIPO	1994	6 YR01	6 YR02	----	----	
TOTAL PLOTS:				27	16	6	11	10

NORTH RIM 5 YEAR PROJECTED WORKLOAD

PROJECT NAME	AC.	# OF PLOTS	BURN YR.	FMH Workload by Year				
				1994 QTY./INT.	1995 QTY./INT.	1996 QTY./INT.	1997 QTY./INT.	1998 QTY./INT.
NORTH WEST I	210	2 PIPN	1992	2 YR02	----	----	2 YR05	----
NORTH WEST III	1200	2 PIPN	1992	2 YR01	2 YR02	----	----	2 YR05
NORTH WEST V	260	3 PIPN	1994	3 POST	3 YR01	3 YR02	----	----
TIYO I	740	4 PIPN	1994	4 POST	4 YR01	4 YR02	----	----
TIYO II	240	2 PIPN	1994	2 POST	2 YR01	2 YR02	----	----
VISTA IV	120	4 PIPN	1994	4 POST	4 YR01	4 YR02	----	----
WIDFORSS I	380	2 PIPN	1994	2 POST	2 YR01	2 YR02	----	----
NANKOWEAP	320	3 PIEN	1995	3 INSTL	3 POST	3 YR01	3 YR02	----
SOUTHBEAR	400	3 PIEN	1995	3 INSTL	3 POST	3 YR01	3 YR02	----
IMPERIAL	980	3 PIEN	1996	----	3 INSTL	3 POST	3 YR01	3 YR02
LOWER WILDCAT	400	3 PIEN	1996	----	3 INSTL	3 POST	3 YR01	3 YR02
UPPER WILDCAT	130	3 PIEN	1997	----	----	3 INSTL	3 POST	3 YR01
TOTAL PLOTS:				24	29	28	18	11

NARRATIVE FOR NORTH RIM FIVE YEAR PROJECTED WORKLOAD

Based on minimum plot number projections, we anticipate the installation of at least 15 additional PIEN forest plots. Plot locations will be distributed randomly throughout the projects listed and within the individual units. For planning purposes and development of this report, it was assumed that an average of three plots would be installed per unit. These numbers will undoubtedly change based on the acceptance or rejection of identified random locations.

The five year plan for hazardous fuel reduction projects has inherent flexibility. The dynamic character of the list is driven by interagency cooperation, allocation of FIREPRO funds, and emerging park priorities. In addition, the execution of the individual projects is dependent on several factors, including wildfire activity, prescribed natural fire activity, environmental compliance procedures, completion of unit preparation work, availability of holding/monitoring/ignition resources, and, of course, ambient conditions. The implementation of the Western Region Fire Monitoring Handbook must be carefully applied and integrated into the dynamics of hazardous fuel reduction at Grand Canyon National Park.

The installation of PIEN plots will be coordinated with the evolution of this critical phase of the park management ignited prescribed fire program. In concurrence with the Western Region, we plan to locate proposed plot locations, determine if the location meets the monitoring type description, and install the origin point. Actual pre-burn sampling would occur within the two year period prior to ignition, once the project has been legitimized. A disadvantage to this strategy is the delay in calculating minimum plot values.

**GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
 BRANCH OF AVIATION AND FIRE MANAGEMENT
 MANAGEMENT IGNITED PRESCRIBED FIRE - PROPOSED FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE
 1993 - 1997**

<u>BURN PROJECT</u>	<u>PROJECTED BURN DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL ACRES</u>	<u>PROJECT LOCATION</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</u>	<u>MULTI-PR PLANNING *</u>
NW IV	JUNE 94	314	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	NWBD
TIYO I	SEPT 94	740	NRIM	NEAR THE BASIN	PNFX
VISTA IV	JUNE 94	120	NRIM	WALHALLA	
PICNIC	MAY 94	220	SRIM	ALONG ENTRANCE ROAD	
SHUTTLE	MAY 94	10	SRIM	PILE BURN-INTERFACE	
WIDFORSS I	SEPT 94	380	NRIM	NEAR DEVELOPED AREA	NRUI
NW V	SEPT 94	260	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	NWBD
TIYO II	JUNE 94	240	NRIM	NEAR THE BASIN	PNFX
CC HILL	OCT 94	85	NRIM	URBAN/INTERFACE	NRUI
WATSON	MAY 94	300	SRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	ERBD
TRANSCEPT I	NOV 94	30	NRIM	URBAN/INTERFACE	NRUI
WIDFORSS II	JUNE 95	410	NRIM	NEAR DEVELOPED AREA	NRUI
HOSPITAL	NOV 95	65	SRIM	PILE BURN-INTERFACE	
UNCLE JIM	JULY 95	310	NRIM	NE OF DEVELOPED AREA	NRUI
NW VI	SEPT 95	820	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	NWBD
NANKOWEAP	SEPT 95	320	NRIM	N OF PT. IMPERIAL	SMBD
SOUTH BEAR	SEPT 95	320	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	NEBD
GRAPEVINE	MAY 95	260	SRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	ERBD
TRANSCEPT II	NOV 95	40	NRIM	URBAN/INTERFACE	NRUI
IMPERIAL	SEPT 96	980	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	SMBD
OWEN	SEPT 96	160	NRIM	URBAN/INTERFACE	NRUI
L WILDCAT	SEPT 96	400	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	SMBD
FAWN	SEPT 96	310	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	NEBD
HANCE	MAY 96	400	SRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	ERBD
LONETREE	JUNE 96	860	SRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	ERBD
WIDFORSS III	JUNE 96	240	NRIM	NEAR DEVELOPED AREA	NRUI
U WILDCAT	SEPT 97	130	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	SMBD
LYELL	JUNE 97	870	SRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	ERBD
L FAWN	JULY 97	510	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	NEBD
TOWER	SEPT 97	320	NRIM	NPS/USFS BOUNDARY	SMBD
WALLA V	OCT 97	420	NRIM	NORTH OF PT. SUBLIME	PNFX
HAYDEN	OCT 97	190	NRIM	NEAR PT. IMPERIAL	SMBD

* MULTI-PROJECT PLANNING (NPS-WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT COMPUTER SYSTEM; HAZARD FUEL REDUCTION) DEFINITION FOR PROJECT CODE:

- NWBD Northwest Boundary
- NRUI North Rim Urban/Interface
- SMBD Saddle Mountain Boundary
- NEBD North Entrance Boundary
- ERBD East Rim Boundary
- PNFX North Rim PNF Zone Expansion

SOUTH RIM PLOT LOCATIONS

PROJECT NAME	BURN YEAR	FPIED1D02 PLOT NUMBERS	FPIPO1D09 PLOT NUMBERS
Atchison I	1992	-----	9
Entrance	1992	1,3,4,5	1,7
Santa Fe	1992	-----	2
Topeka	1992	6	3
Village	1992	-----	8
Atchison II	1993	13,14,15	13,14
Quarry	1993	9,10,11	6,10
Picnic	1994 *	7,8	4,5,11,12

* Proposed year to burn

NORTH RIM PLOT LOCATIONS

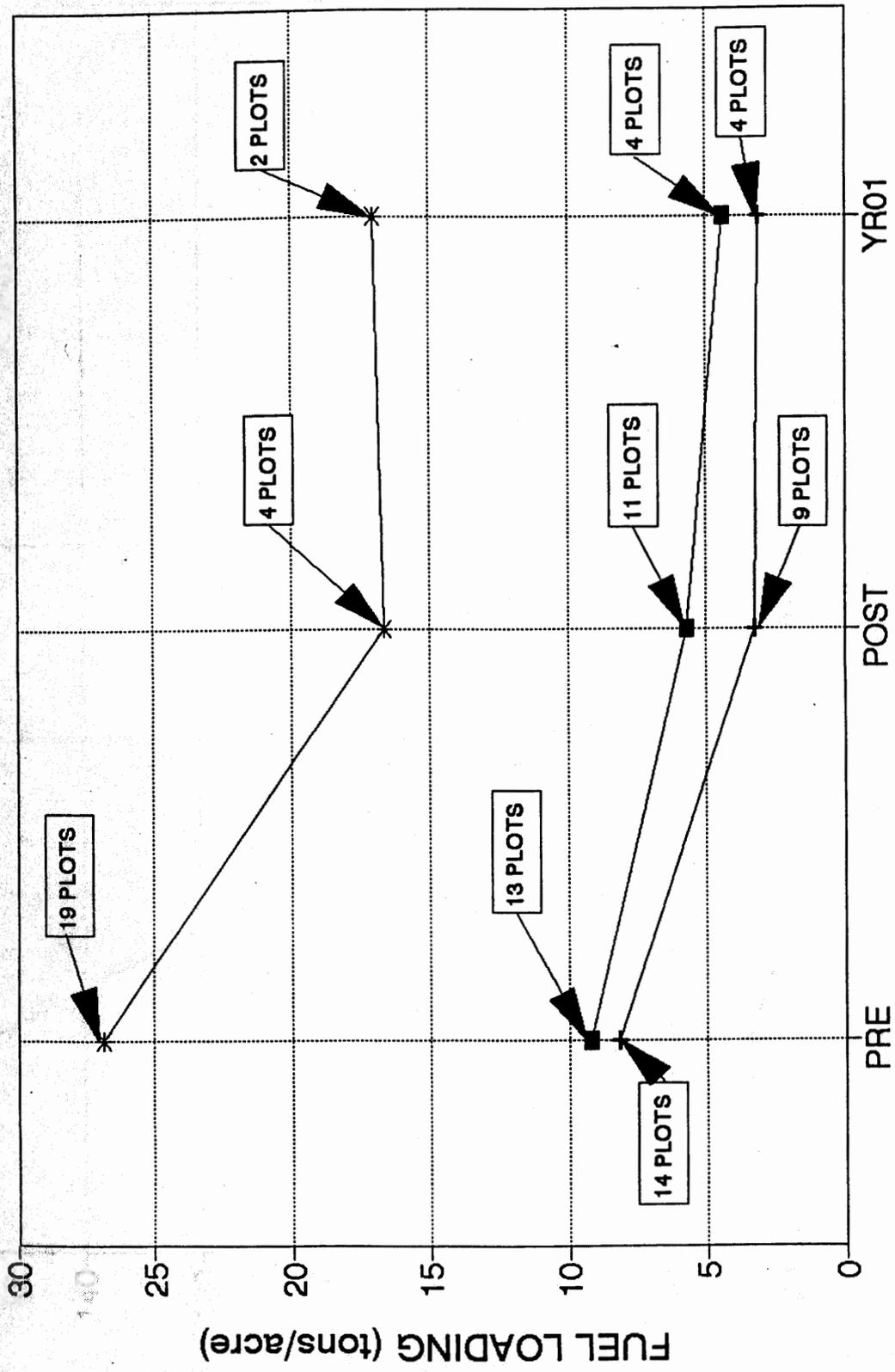
PROJECT NAME	BURN YEAR	FPIP1D09 PLOT NUMBERS	FPIEN1D10 PLOT NUMBERS
Northwest I	1992	1,2	-----
Northwest III	1993	9,12	-----
Northwest V	1994 *	11,14,19	-----
Tiyo I	1994 *	3,7,8,18	-----
Tiyo II	1994 *	13,16	-----
Vista IV	1994 *	5,6,10,15	-----
Widforss	1994 *	4,17	-----
Nankoweap	**	-----	1,2
Tower	**	-----	***
Imperial	**	-----	***

* Projected

** Burn Date to be determined after the 1994 fire season.

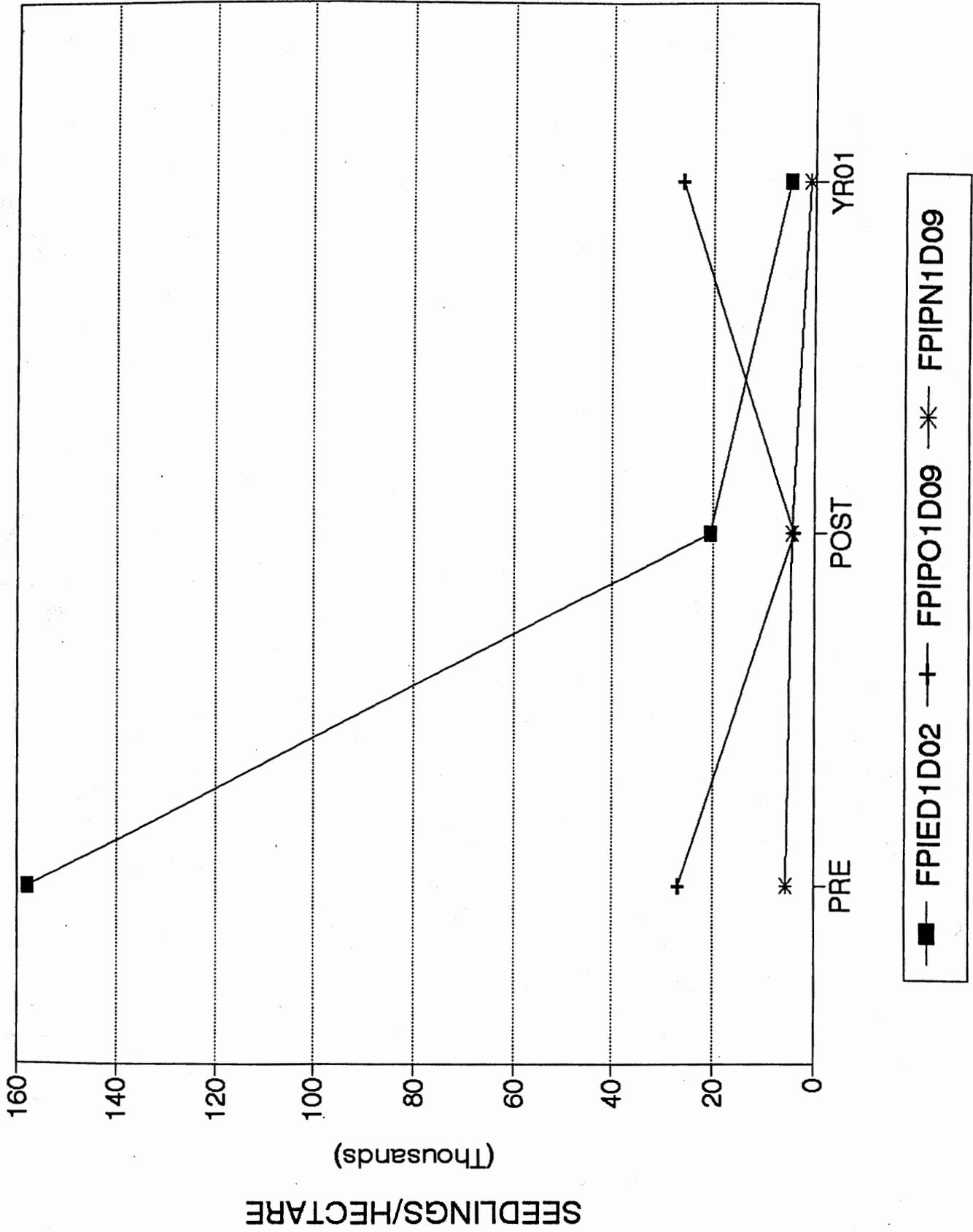
*** FPIEN1D10 Plots installed in 1994 will be randomly located in Nankoweap, Imperial, and Tower burn units.

POST BURN FUEL REDUCTION



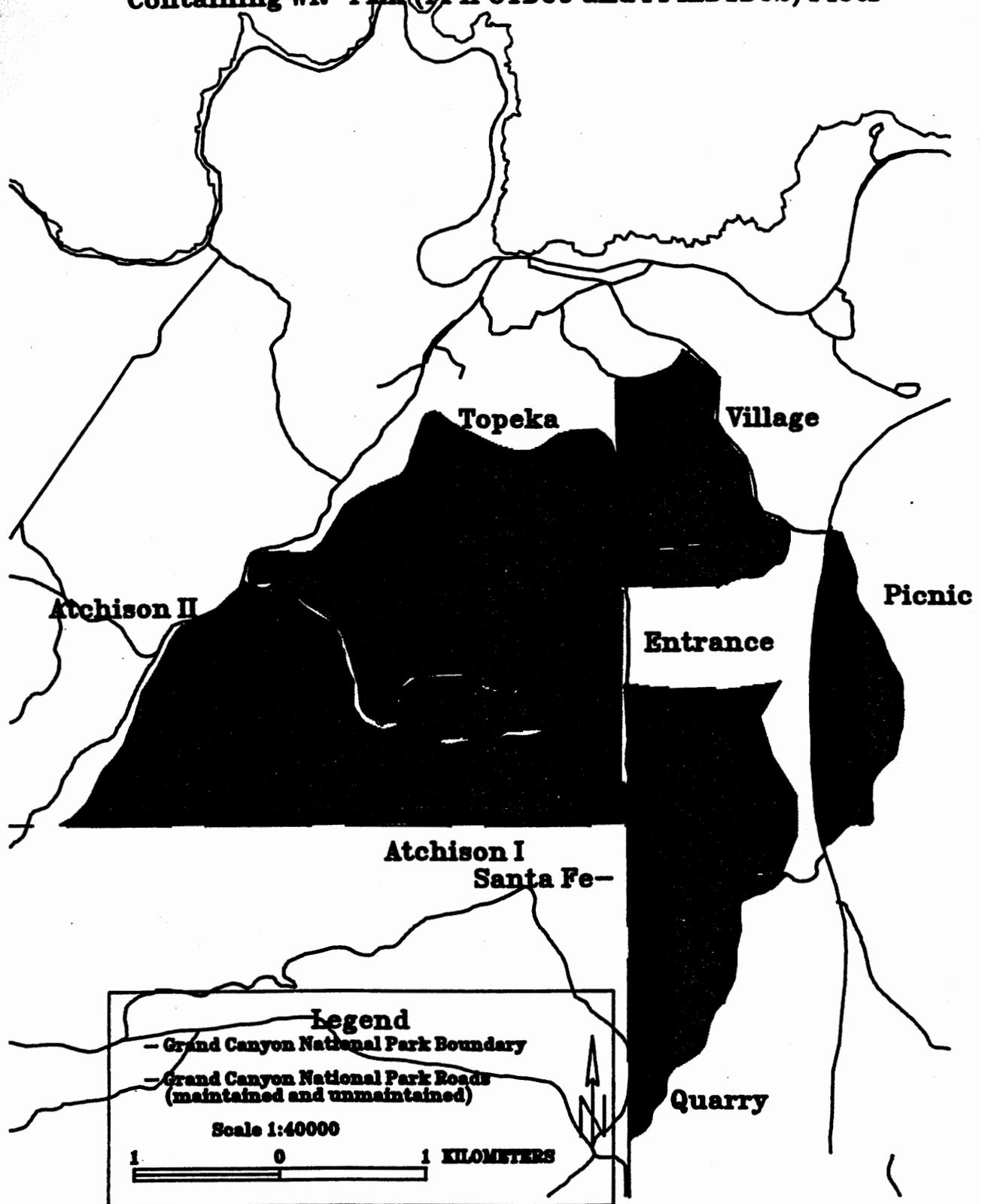
■ FPIED1D02
 * FPIP1D09

POST FIRE SEEDLING DENSITY



**Management Ignited Prescribe
Fire Units
GRCA/SOUTH RIM**

Containing WR-FMH (FPIP01D09 and FPIED1D02) Plots



Management Ignited Prescribed Fire Units GRCA/NORTH RIM

Containing WR-FMH (FPIRN1D09 and FPIEN1D10) Plots

