

**File Code:** 5140

**Date:** February 28, 2003

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Sanford Prescribed Fire Review

**To:** Regional Forester, R-4

The Review Team completed the review of the Sanford Fire on the Dixie NF as requested in your January 30, 2003, 5140 memo.

The Team appreciates the hospitality of the Region and the Forest. Forest personnel were very open and forthcoming with information to help in the review.

The Dixie has a long history of a professional, safe, aggressive prescribed fire program. Prescribed fire has inherent risk. The Dixie followed well-tested procedures based on past experience. The forest encountered conditions of drought, wind, and atmospheric instability that are rare in that part of the State culminating in a fire escape with unintended consequences to valuable resources. After the escape the Dixie took appropriate actions to respond to the wildfire. The review identifies improvements that can be made in the Dixie NF's prescribed burning program, many of which the forest is already pursuing.

The review highlights a number of findings, lessons learned, recommendations, and commendations. Many of these have Regional and National application. We hope the lessons to be learned from the Sanford fire will minimize the chance of future escapes.

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