



Los Alamos Wildfires

Tom Ribe



Los Alamos Wildfires:

Fire management lessons learned from the Cerro Grande (Los Alamos) fire , **Los Alamos Wildfires** Nichol Bryan, 2003-07 The massive wildfire racing down a mountain toward a nuclear research center in New Mexico wasn't caused by carelessness. It was deliberately set by the U.S. National Park Service on May 4, 2000, as a controlled burn to prevent future forest fires. Instead, it quickly blazed out of control, destroying acres of forests, consuming homes, and causing the evacuation of Los Alamos and other cities. Learn how firefighters worked to contain this environmental disaster and see why fire control remains a controversial practice. Book jacket *Fire Management: Lessons Learned From the Cerro Grande (Los Alamos) Fire and Actions Needed to Reduce Fire Risks*, 2000 We are here today to discuss two related issues: lessons learned from the recent Cerro Grande fire and, on a broader note, actions needed to mitigate current hazardous forest conditions in the interior West. Only a few months ago the Los Alamos fire, now officially known as the Cerro Grande fire, caused hundreds of families in Los Alamos, New Mexico, to lose their homes and more than 18,000 residents of the state to be evacuated. Over 1,000 firefighters were required to bring the fire under control. Estimates have placed total damages at about 1 billion. This tragedy was the result of a prescribed fire ignited by officials of the National Park Service. Ironically, the fire was ignited in an effort to reduce some of the vegetative buildup in a forested area of Bandelier National Monument and thus help prevent the very kind of event that occurred. The plan was to burn up to 900 acres; in the end, about 48,000 acres were burned. The policy supporting the use of prescribed or controlled burns as a forest management tool has been in place for some time. According to analyses by federal land management agencies, the use of prescribed burns has been and will continue to be a critical component of forest management if the nation wants to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, particularly in the interior West. The need to reduce these risks has never been more obvious than at this time. While the Cerro Grande fire demonstrated this, as events have unfolded, it was only the beginning of what has turned out to be one of the worst wildfire seasons in history, with over 4 million acres already burned and dozens of fires still burning in many western states. In reviewing the events surrounding the Cerro Grande fire, we examined how well the policy was implemented and what, if any, lessons can be learned to prevent future tragedies like it. Inferno by Committee Tom Ribe, 2010-05-12 Tom Ribe's clear, scrupulous, and thorough account of the Los Alamos/Bandelier fire of 2000 is a white-knuckle narrative yet meticulously accurate. Roger G. Kennedy, Former Director, U.S. National Park Service, Director Emeritus, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, and author of *Wildfire and Americans*. *Inferno by Committee* tells the story of America's worst prescribed fire disaster, the Cerro Grande Fire of 2000, which burned 250 homes in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The fire started with a National Park Service prescribed fire that went out of control and ended up burning 42,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest. A thorough review of the investigations of the fire and the policy changes that resulted from this seminal event in American fire history are also an integral part of this examination. Prescribing fire on the landscape involves risk

Sometimes as with the Cerro Grande Fire the risk taken results in disaster For land managers there really is no option but to prescribe fire and take risk to restore fire to a landscape where fire is native and necessary for the survival of biological systems Cerro Grande showed us both the consequences of taking a risk with fire and more dramatically the consequences of avoiding that risk

Inferno by Committee Tom Ribe, 2010 Tom Ribe's clear scrupulous and thorough account of the Los Alamos Bandelier fire of 2000 is a white knuckle narrative yet meticulously accurate Roger G Kennedy Former Director U S National Park Service Director Emeritus National Museum of American History Smithsonian Institution and author of *Wildfire and Americans* *Inferno by Committee* tells the story of America's worst prescribed fire disaster the Cerro Grande Fire of 2000 which burned 250 homes in Los Alamos New Mexico The fire started with a National Park Service prescribed fire that went out of control and ended up burning 42 000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest A thorough review of the investigations of the fire and the policy changes that resulted from this seminal event in American fire history are also an integral part of this examination Prescribing fire on the landscape involves risk Sometimes as with the Cerro Grande Fire the risk taken results in disaster For land managers there really is no option but to prescribe fire and take risk to restore fire to a landscape where fire is native and necessary for the survival of biological systems Cerro Grande showed us both the consequences of taking a risk with fire and more dramatically the consequences of avoiding that risk

Wildfire Alianor True, 2013-04-10 During the summer of 2000 Americans from coast to coast witnessed the worst fire season in recorded history Daily news reports brought dramatic images of vast swaths of land going up in smoke from the mountains of Montana and Wyoming to the scrublands of Texas to Los Alamos New Mexico where a controlled burn gone awry threatened forests homes and even our nation's nuclear secrets As they have for centuries wildfires captured our attention and our imagination reminding us of the power of the natural forces that shape our world In *Wildfire A Reader* nature writer and wildland firefighter Alianor True gathers together for the first time some of the finest stories and essays ever written about wildfire in America From Mark Twain to Norman Maclean to Edward Abbey writers featured here depict and record wildfires with remarkable depth and clarity An ecological perspective is well represented through the works of John Muir Aldo Leopold and John McPhee Ed Engle Louise Wagenknecht and Gretchen Yost firefighters from the front lines give us exciting first person perspectives reliving their on the ground encounters with forest fires The works gathered in *Wildfire* not only explore the sensory and aesthetic aspects of fire but also highlight how much attitudes have changed over the past 200 years From Native Americans who used fire as a tool to early Americans who viewed it as a frightening and destructive force to Aldo Leopold and other conservationists whose ideas caused us to rethink the value and role of fire this rich collection is organized around those shifts in thinking Capturing the fury and the heat of a raging inferno or the quiet emergence of wildflowers sprouting from ashes the writings included in *Wildfire* represent a vital and compelling addition to the nature writing and natural history bookshelf

Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Los Alamos, New Mexico Los Alamos

County. Community Wildfire Protection, Los Alamos County [NM]. Fire Department, Los Alamos County [NM] Government, 2009 *Wildfires*, 2004 The 2000 and 2002 fire seasons were by most standards among the worst in the past Many argue that the threat of severe wildfires has grown because of unnaturally high fuel loads e g dense undergrowth undergrown and dead trees raising concerns about damage to property and homes in the wildland urban interface WUI homes in or near forests Debates about fire control and protection including funding and fuel treatment e g thinning and prescribed burning have focused on national forests and other federal lands but nonfederal lands are also at risk This new book explores the latest issues dealing with wildfires the consequences that they sow and what means are being used to prevent and protect the environment and the local populations CONTENTS Preface Wildfire Protection Legislation in the 107th Congress Ross W Gorte Wildfire Protection in the 108th Congress Ross W Gorte Timber Harvesting and Forest Fires Ross W Gorte Forest Fire Protection Ross W Gorte Forest Fires and Forest Health Ross W Gorte Managing the Impact of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment A Report to the President Forest Fire Wildfire Protection Ross W Gorte

Fire Management Barry Thomas Hill, 2000 *Wildfire* Heather Hansen, 2018-02-07 In *Wildfire* the journalist Heather Hansen embeds herself in an elite crew of wildland firefighters based in Boulder Colorado Hansen learns and shares some fire science and fire history filling in the background of the current crisis She describes the crew s punishing training and their powerful camaraderie and recounts their stories of fires fought disasters survived lessons learned New York Review of Books The author was embedded with one of the busiest wildfire crews in the United States Reveals wildfires through the experiences of the people who go face to face with them Focuses on challenges faced in Western states Every year wildfires ravage forests destroy communities and devastate human lives with only the bravery of dedicated firefighters creating a barrier against even greater destruction Throughout the 2016 wildfire season journalist Heather Hansen witnessed firsthand the heroics of the Station 8 crew in Boulder Colorado She tells that story here layered with the added context of the history science landscape and human behavior that year by year increases the severity frequency and costs of conflagrations in the West She examines the changes in both mindset and activity around wildfires and tracks the movement from wildfire as something useful to something feared to something necessary but roundly dreaded *Wildfire* shares the drama hardships and experiences of the firefighters who try sometimes in vain to prevent destruction when a spark flares out of control Hansen tells the rich and frightening stories of the firefighters themselves and the challenges they face a safety system struggling to keep up with fire seasons that are lengthening fires that are becoming more extreme and agencies that are struggling to cover the bills

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