

Restoring the Environment after Forest Fires

A.

Fighting forest fires and other wildfires means:

- deciding if heavy equipment is needed, or an aircraft is needed, or if fire fighters will use light equipment such as pumps
- getting the necessary staff and equipment into an area
- once the staff and equipment are there it will mean clearing a spot
 - for a camp
 - for the helicopters which will be carrying supplies, people, and fuel
 - for landing zones which are used as staging crews for helicopters that directly fight a fire

B.

Fighting a forest fire can also mean:

- cutting kilometers of fire control lines through the forest
- these are areas where vegetation has been cleared to create a break in the path of an advancing fire

So fire fighters consider every waterbody to be fish-bearing, so every effort is made to avoid damage to it and its banks.

As well they try not to cross bodies of water and if they have to they may install temporary culverts or build a temporary bridge of logs and brush.

It is critical to deal with wildfires quickly so equipment operators and other fire fighting people can get the situation under control. Often there is time to make a detailed plan of how to attack a fire, how to avoid doing additional environmental damage and how to reclaim areas that get disturbed or damage during fire fighting.

C.

Getting to a fire, setting up camp and all that it brings can open up otherwise inaccessible areas. But once the fire is out, distance areas such a firelines, landing pads, and campsites will be reclaimed by

- replacing value topsoil
- reestablishing slopes on hills and stream
- preventing erosion by replanting vegetation

