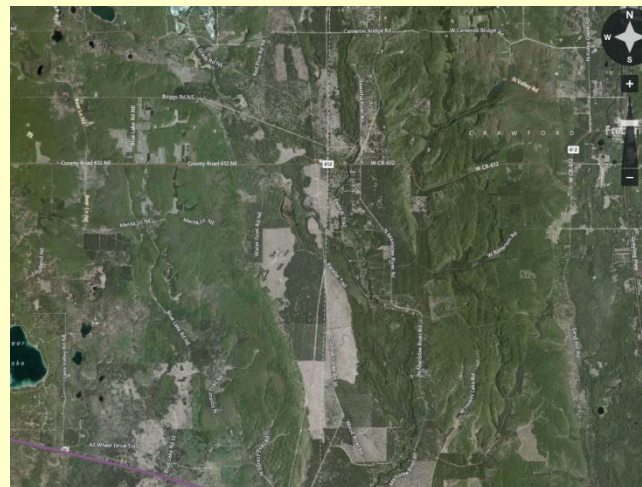
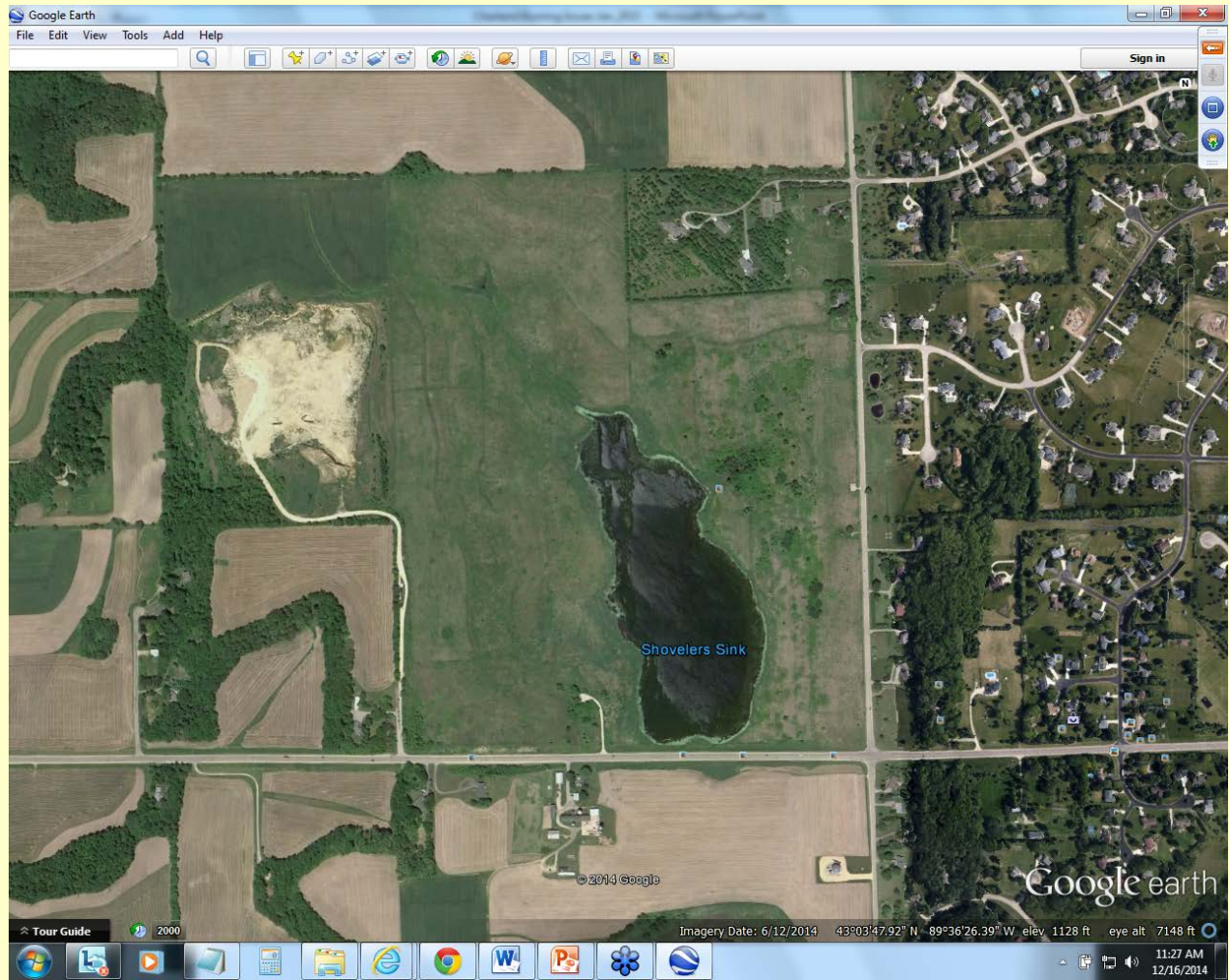


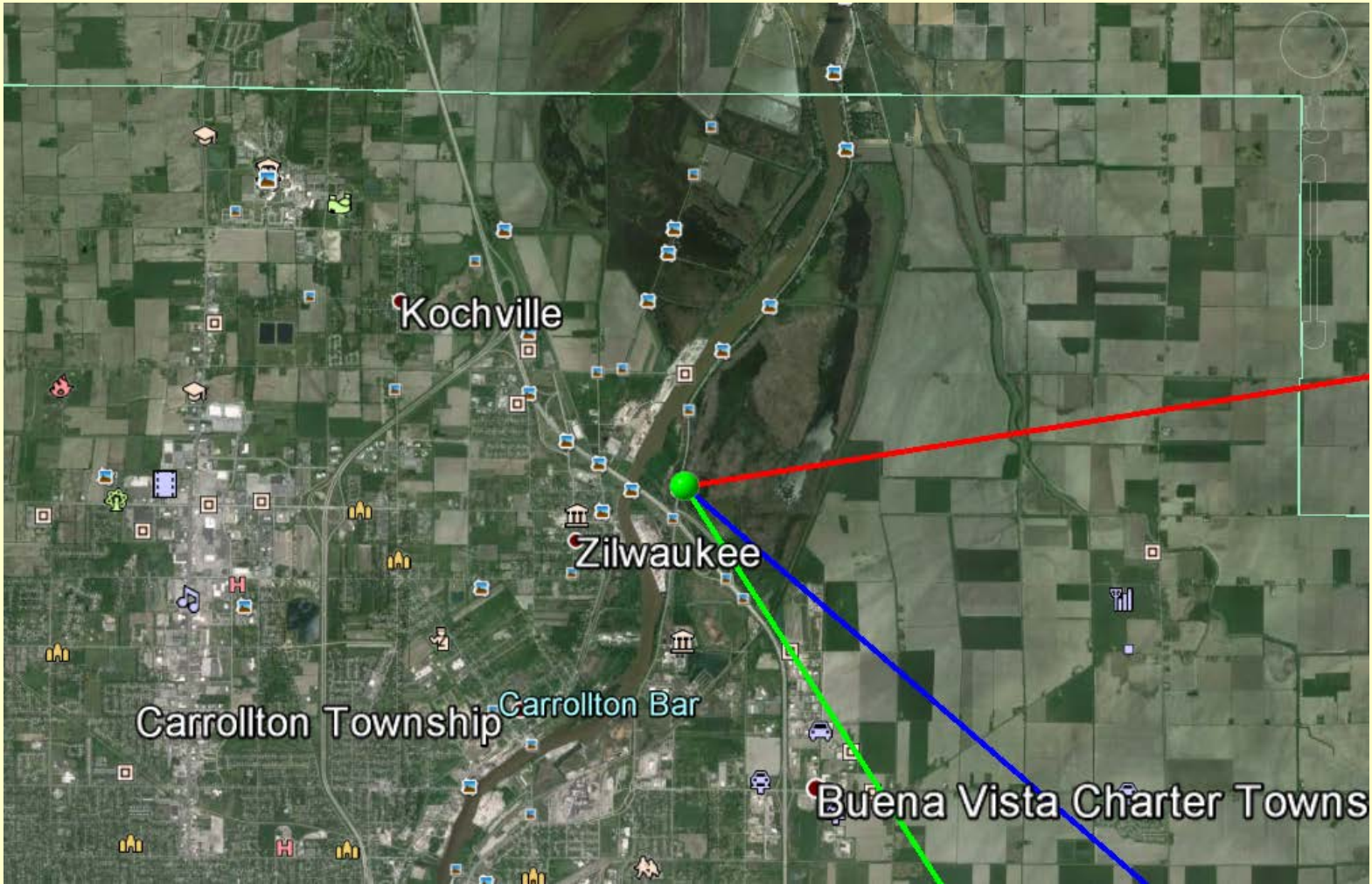


Communication, Communication, Communication







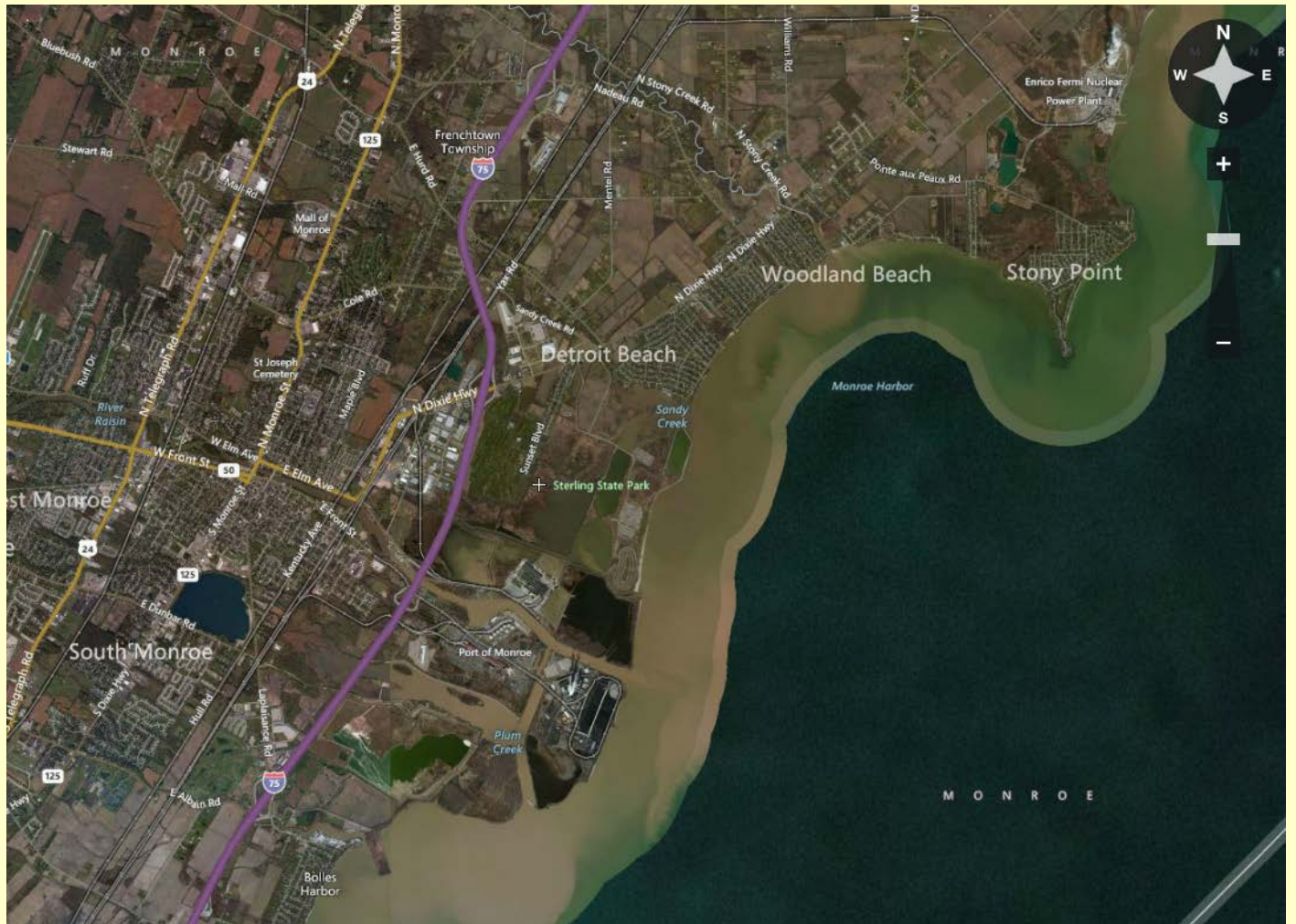


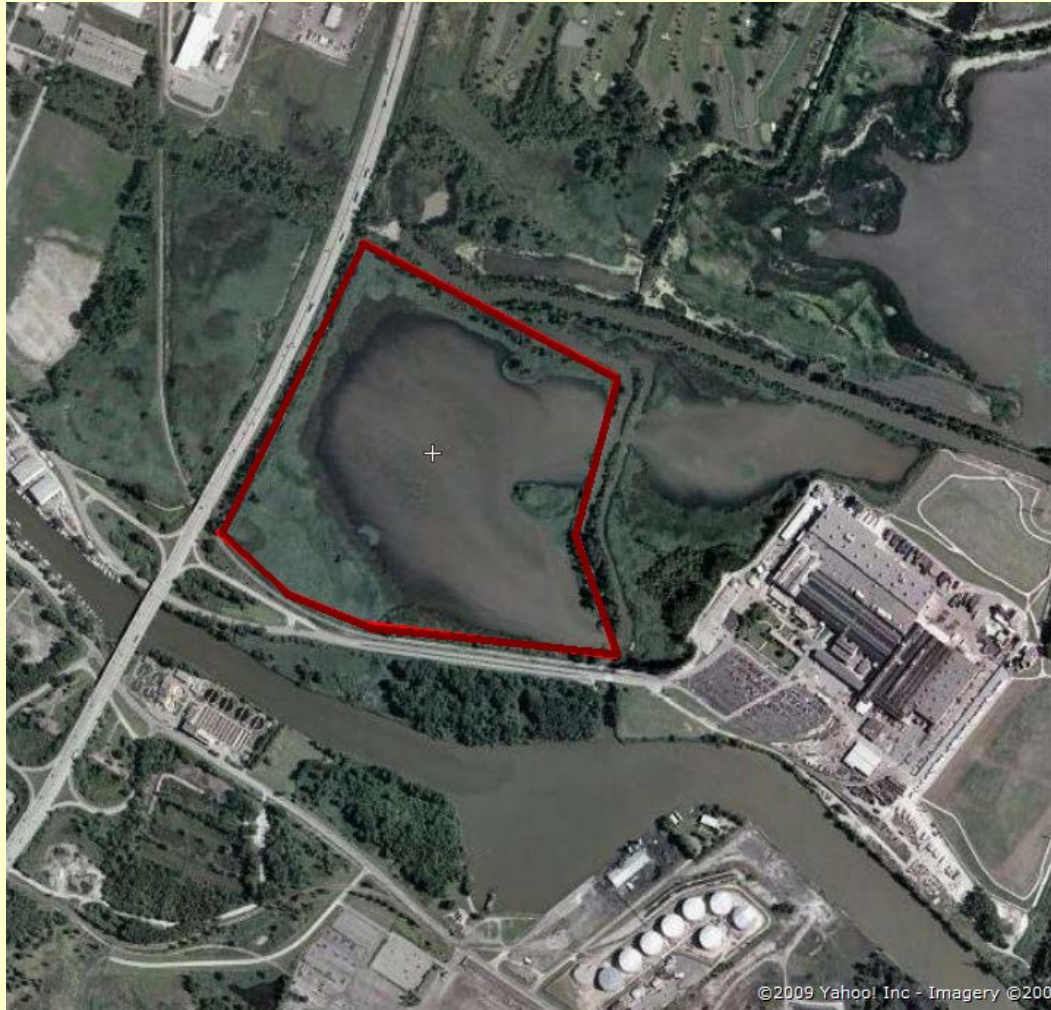


2014/03/26









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Get the word out: Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, etc. or, *OMG*.....In person, actually face to face!!!

Contact: Nik Kalejs 231-788-5055 (DNR Wildlife Division); or Lee Osterland (989) 275-5151 (DNR Forest Resources Division - Fire Operations)

DNR to conduct prescribed burn on the Grand River in Ottawa County

The Department of Natural Resources is planning to conduct a prescribed burn on the Grand River in Spring Lake Township (Ottawa County) sometime during the week of July 28 when weather and other burn conditions are favorable. Encompassing 15 sites that range in size from an eighth of an acre to two acres, the objective is to burn phragmites, an invasive plant that competes with native vegetation.

"The management of phragmites has a two-pronged approach in that it is first sprayed with herbicide and then burned the following year," said Nik Kalejs, DNR Wildlife biologist for Ottawa County. "Phragmites produces thick, nearly impenetrable vegetation that has very little-to-no value to wildlife. This management technique has been very effective in the past in mitigating the spread of this aggressive invader.

Kalejs said that prescribed burning is necessary for the health of wetlands and many wildlife species.

"Phragmites control is an ongoing collaborative project with the Wildlife and Forest Resources divisions. The health of the habitat of this area will be much better off for many years as a result of these burns."

The prescribed burn will take place on state land on two islands: Dermo and Poel.

Prescribed burns are planned to achieve specific objectives – oftentimes simulating the benefits of natural fires. The burns are conducted at all times of the year by highly trained DNR personnel in designated state-managed areas during appropriate weather conditions and in cooperation with the proper authorities and local units of government.

Prescribed burns are often used to:

- Improve wildlife habitat.
- Help with forest regeneration.
- Restore and maintain native plant life.
- Control invasive plant species.
- Reduce the risk of wildfires.

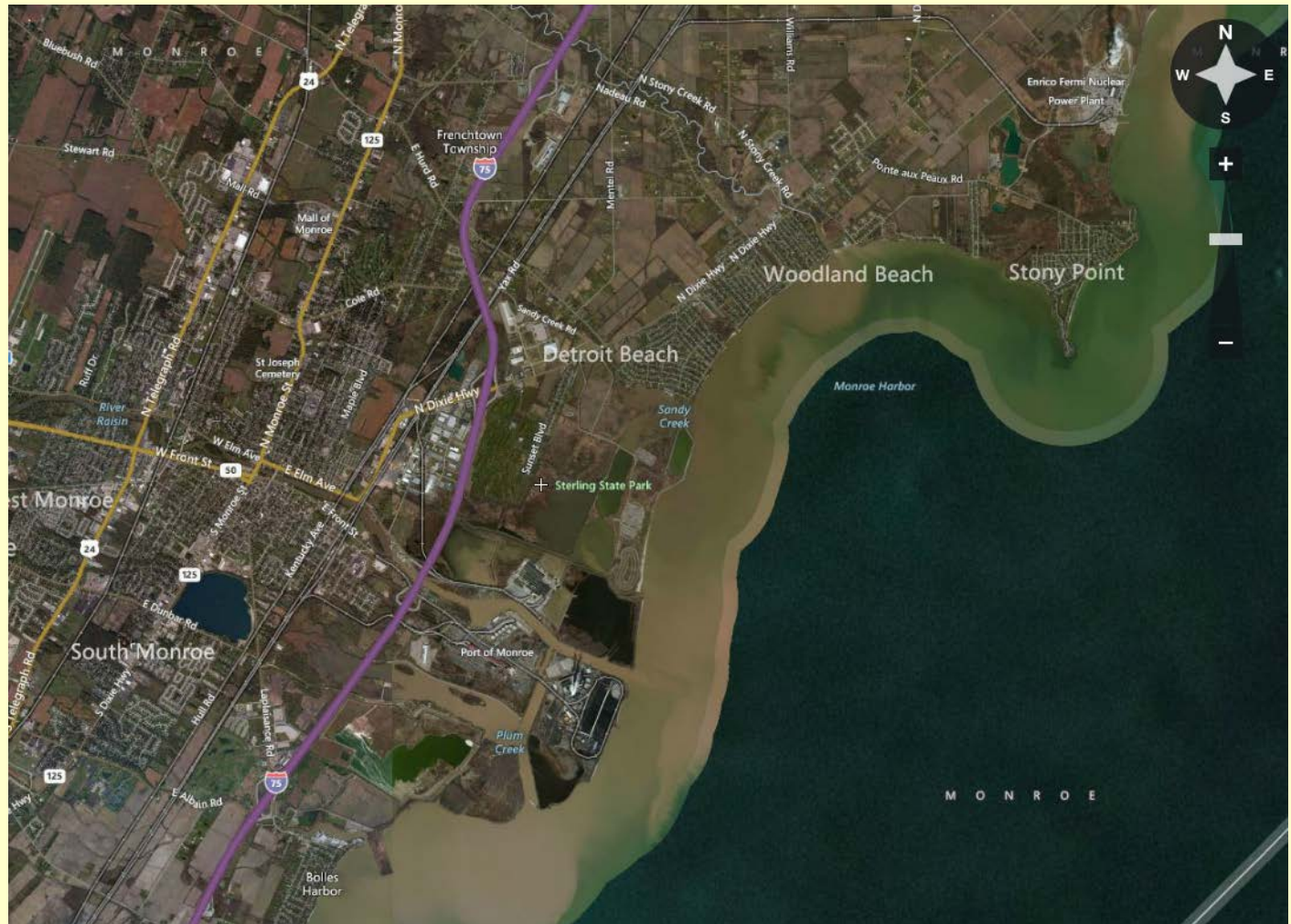
Before a burn is conducted, experienced DNR fire staff studies the area and carefully develops a burn plan to maximize the desired effects of fire while assuring safety procedures are in place. The burn plan is essentially the "prescription" for how to conduct the burn safely while accomplishing the management objectives.







Be successful. Reach out and tell your story.





Thank You!



Questions?

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