

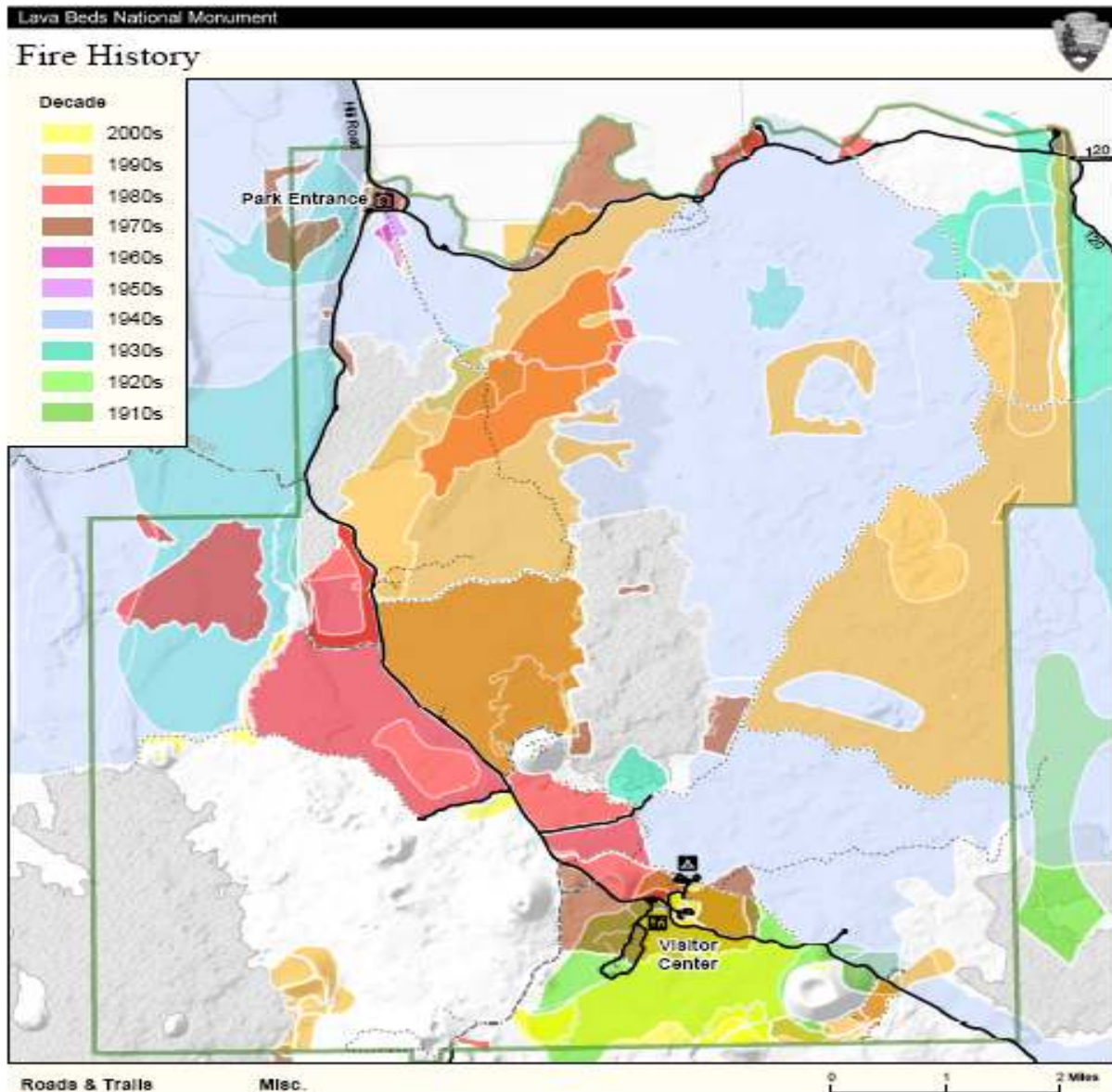
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Teacher Sheet: Fire at Lava Beds NM

✓Fledglings

Below is a map of the fire history at Lava Beds National Monument. Each color represents a decade and the area burned during that decade. How has the fire history changed? During what decade was the most land affected by fire?



*The 1940s saw the most fire within the park. The National Park Service has changed its fire policy over the years, now the Park Service practices prescribed fires and lets natural fires burn.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

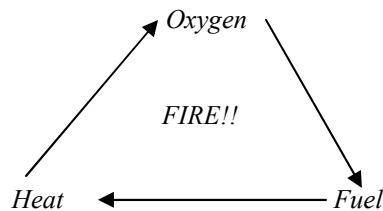
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Sheet: Fire at Lava Beds NM

✓ Fledglings

*Answer the following questions based on your class's discussion and experiment on wildfires.*

1. Draw the fire triangle in the space below. How would a build up of plant material impact the fire triangle?



*If the amount of plant material were to increase, fuel, the fire would burn more intensely.*

2. Write a prediction on which fire scenario will have the most intense wildfire.  
*I predict that the 4th scenario, with western juniper and invasive annual grass will have the most intense fire.*
3. In the space below record what happens in each of the different fire scenarios.

**Scenario 1:** *Small bursts of low intensity fire. Only 1/3 of the pan burned.*

**Scenario 2:** *Two of the western junipers caught on fire, but the fire was small and not very intense. Only 1/3 of the pan burned.*

**Scenario 3:** *Half of the pan burned. The newspaper, sagebrush grasslands, carried the fire to the match sticks and caused a more intense fire.*

**Scenario 4:** *Two thirds of the pan burned. The fire was fast and hot.*

4. How is the encroachment of western juniper impacting the fire regimes at Lava Beds National Monument?

*Western junipers increases the available fuel for the fire, causing hotter more intense fires that do not return nutrients to the soil or promote growth of understory plants.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Teacher Sheet: Fire at Lava Beds NM

✓ Fledglings

## Lava Beds Site I:

*Schonchin Butte*

---

*Using your observation skills, walk through the habitat and search for these habitat components. Place a tally mark next to each component each time you observe it. If there is anything interesting you come across, write a description of your findings. You will discuss the habitat results at the end.*

Habitat Components	Tally	Description of Interesting Observations
Western Juniper		
Large area of sagebrush and other shrubs		
Large area of native grasses and herbs (soft stemmed plants)		
Was fire implemented here? When?		
Wildlife seen or heard		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Teacher Sheet: Fire at Lava Beds NM

✓ Fledglings

## Lava Beds Site II:

*Captain Jack's Stronghold*

---

*Using your observation skills, walk through the habitat and search for these habitat components. Place a tally mark next to each component each time you observe it. If there is anything interesting you come across, write a description of your findings. You will discuss the habitat results at the end.*

Habitat Components	Tally	Description of Interesting Observations
Western Juniper		
Large area of sagebrush and other shrubs		
Large area of native grasses and herbs (soft stemmed plants)		
Was fire implemented here? When?		
Wildlife seen or heard		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Sheet: Fire at Lava Beds NM

✓ Fledglings

Use the information on the previous pages to answer the following questions.

**1. About how many Western Juniper did you see at Site 1? Site 2?**

*We saw more western junipers at the first site than at the second. There was evidence of a recent fire at the second site, which could have been the reason for the difference.*

**2. What was the approximate percent of juniper, grass and sagebrush coverage across the habitat for Site 1 and 2?**

*At the second site there was more sagebrush and grasses than at the first site, which covered about 75% of the area we surveyed. At the first site, juniper covered approximately 80% of the area we assessed.*

**3. Which site had the most open area? Why do you think it had the least amount of juniper trees?**

*The second site was more open. I think it had the less juniper trees because there was a history of fire in the area the past 5 years.*

**4. Do you think that the use of fire as a management tool is effective overall? What evidence brings you to this conclusion?**

*I think when studied and used in the correct habitats that fire is an effective management tool, because it helps land managers return ecosystems to the natural conditions and disturbances.*