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Alternate Charter Forest Fire Module Questions

NSRE2000 Fire Module

INTRO: Now we would like to ask you about fire in forests or rangeland and fire management.

PART I -- Experience

1. Have you seen, heard, or read about forest fires in the past 3 months? (Y/N).
2. Have you ever witnessed a forest fire? (Y/N).
3. Have you ever seen a forest or rangeland soon after a fire burned through it? (Y/N).
4. Have you ever altered your recreation or vacation plans because of a forest fire? (Y/N).
5. Has forest fire smoke ever affected your visibility while traveling by car or by air? (Y/N).

6. How likely do you think a forest fire could occur within 10 miles of your home? (Very Likely, Somewhat Likely, Very Unlikely).
IF Very Unlikely GO TO Question 9.

7. How concerned are you that your home could be damaged by forest fire? (Concerned / Slightly Concerned / Not Concerned).

8. Do you do any of the following to protect your home from forest fire?
 - A. Keep leaves, shrubs, trees and vegetation cleared near buildings. (Y/N).
 - B. Spray herbicides to control undergrowth. (Y/N).
 - C. Purchase property insurance. (Y/N).
 - D. Keep extra hoses and firefighting equipment around. (Y/N).
 - E. Routinely burn undergrowth around your home. (Y/N).

PART II -- Knowledge

9. Do you know the difference between wildfire and prescribed fire (controlled burn)? (Y/N).

IF Yes GO TO Question 10.

Definitions:

Wildfire is an unplanned fire burning out of control in a forest or rangeland. It can be started by lightning or by people, either accidentally or intentionally.

Prescribed fire is a controlled burn set by professionals in a forest or rangeland under strict guidelines. Prescribed fire is often used to prevent build-ups of flammable woody materials that could result in intense wildfires.

(For questions 10 through 12, please ask half the sample, with the intro “for your state and region,” and then ask the second half, with just please state whether....)

10. **For your state or region**, please state whether you think the following statements are true, false, or you are uncertain.

- A. Most wildfires occur naturally. (T/F/U).
- B. Wildfires are destructive to long-term forest or rangeland health. (T/F/U).
- C. Wildfire is a leading environmental problem. (T/F/U).
- D. Prescribed fires and wildfires have similar effects. (T/F/U).
- E. Prescribed fires kill most large trees in the burned area. (T/F/U).

10a. **For your state or region**, please state whether you think the following statements are also true, false, or you are uncertain.

- A. Prescribed fires reduce the risk of wildfire. (T/F/U).
- B. Prescribed fires regularly get out of control. (T/F/U).
- C. Fire increases chances of insect outbreaks and plant disease. (T/F/U).
- D. Many plants require fire as part of their life cycle. (T/F/U).
- E. Fire is useful to control undesirable weeds and plants. (T/F/U).

PART III – Attitudes, Opinions, Preferences

11. **For your state or region**, please state whether you agree, disagree, or are uncertain about the following statements.

- A. An area burned by wildfire should be left to recover naturally. (A/D/U).
- B. Wildfires in remote areas should be allowed to burn if human life or property is not threatened. (A/D/U).
- C. All wildfires should be put out, regardless of location. (A/D/U).
- D. Where wildfire is common, homeowners should have to follow government guidelines to manage for wildfire risk. (A/D/U).
- E. People who choose to live near forests or rangelands should be prepared to accept the risks of wildfire. (A/D/U).

11a. **For your state or region**, please state whether you agree, disagree, or are uncertain about the following statements.

- A. Public land managers should use mechanical vegetation removal as part of a wildfire management program. (A/D/U).
- B. Public land managers should use chemical treatments to control ground vegetation as part of a wildfire management program. (A/D/U).
- C. Public land managers and forest professionals can be trusted to select the best methods for dealing with wildfire. (A/D/U).
- D. It makes sense to salvage and sell timber damaged by wildfire on public lands. (A/D/U).
- E. Public land managers should use prescribed fire as part of a wildfire management program. (A/D/U).

12. **For your state and region**, please state whether you are concerned, slightly concerned, or not concerned about the following:

- A. Smoke from prescribed fire. (C/SC/NC).
- B. Public land managers' ability to manage for fire in forests and rangeland. (C/SC/NC).
- C. Harm to fish and wildlife from prescribed fire. (C/SC/NC).
- D. Reduced scenic quality and recreation opportunities from prescribed fire. (C/SC/NC).
- E. Taxpayer's costs will be considered when developing fire management programs (C/SC/NC).
- F. Long-term forest health will be considered when developing fire management programs

(C/SC/NC).