


THINK LIKE A FIRE SCIENTIST

WILDFIRES are a natural part of many ecosystems. They help recycle nutrients, clear out dead plants, and make room for new growth. But when a forest hasn't burned in a long time, a buildup of dry material makes wildfires burn hotter and spread faster. These bigger, hotter wildfires can wipe out whole forests, destroy wildlife habitat and even threaten our communities. Fire scientists manage the risk of destructive wildfires that threaten forests, wildlife, air quality and homes.



FIREBREAKS—like streams, roads, or strips of land where plant material is removed—can slow down wildfires.

PRESCRIBED BURNS are planned fires used to safely reduce fuel like dry grass and brush.



AIR QUALITY SENSORS help people monitor outdoor air for health risks.

ROBOTIC VEHICLES like drones and rovers are equipped with sensors that measure factors like temperature, humidity, and air quality—data that help scientists and land managers determine the right time for prescribed burning.

