

PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR CALIFORNIA PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

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▶ ABOUT ME:

- ▶ 25 years experience in the California fire service
- ▶ NWCG qualified Prescribed Fire Burn Boss
- ▶ Clients include the Nature Conservancy, CalFire, Santa Clara County Parks, Nebraska Lands Commission, and Forest Stewards Guild
- ▶ Have participated in many burns with multiple federal land agencies
- ▶ NRCS Technical Service Provider
- ▶ I want to help you learn to burn!






Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide

BURN PLANS

A burn plan is a document that specifies how you will conduct your prescribed fire. At a minimum, it should contain:

- Name of landowner and person in charge of ignition if different from landowner
- Burn objectives (why are you burning?)
- Types of vegetation to be burned and the weather conditions under which burning will occur. The weather prescription should specify a range of conditions acceptable for burning while safely and successfully conducting the burn. Low, High, and preferred conditions are good to note.
- Location of project with maps
- Procedures used to confine fire within desired boundaries
- Equipment that will be on hand

BURN PLANS – continued

- Areas that may be impacted by smoke and strategies to reduce or eliminate smoke intrusions
 - Ignition patterns and devices
 - Contingency plans in case something unwanted occurs
 - Notifications to be made
- 



- ▶ Weather
 - ▶ Wind
 - ▶ Temp/RH
 - ▶ Fuel Moisture
 - ▶ NFDRS Outputs
 - ▶ Stability
- ▶ Timing
 - ▶ Season
 - ▶ Time of Day

- ▶ Fire Effects
- ▶ Legal Requirements
- ▶ Resource Allocation
- ▶ Firing Methods
- ▶ Smoke Mgt.
- ▶ Control & Mop-Up
- ▶ Evaluation

FIRE PRESCRIPTION

Decide on Course of Action

- Select Burn Start Point
- Select Firing Method
- Decide on Timing Issues
- Determine if Weather Parameters can/will be met.
- Determine Communications

Checklist

- ❑ Make sure all equipment is working and safe.
- ❑ Carry burn plans and maps to job.
- ❑ Check Weather
- ❑ Check all control lines.
- ❑ Locate any Danger Spots.
- ❑ Notify adjacent landowners.
- ❑ Post signs when/if needed.
- ❑ Check fuel moisture.
- ❑ Conduct Test Burn

Test Fire & Evaluation

- Always conduct test fire prior to mass firing.
- Evaluate burn to see if objectives were met.



Test Fire

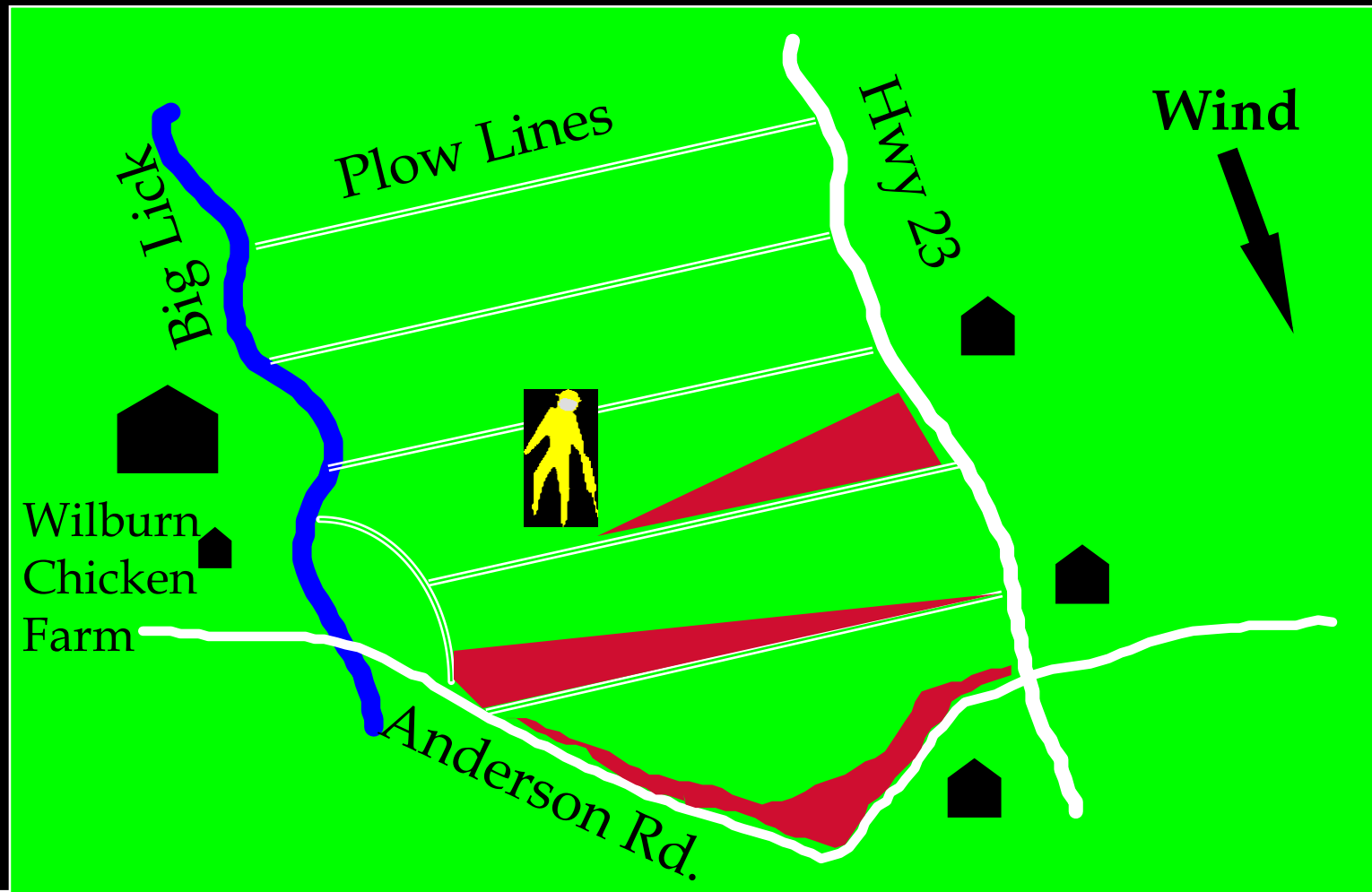
- Test burn with a small fire before firing.
- Check the fire and smoke behavior to make sure the fire is burning as expected. (This is the time to cancel the burn if you are not comfortable with the observed behavior).

Ignition Techniques

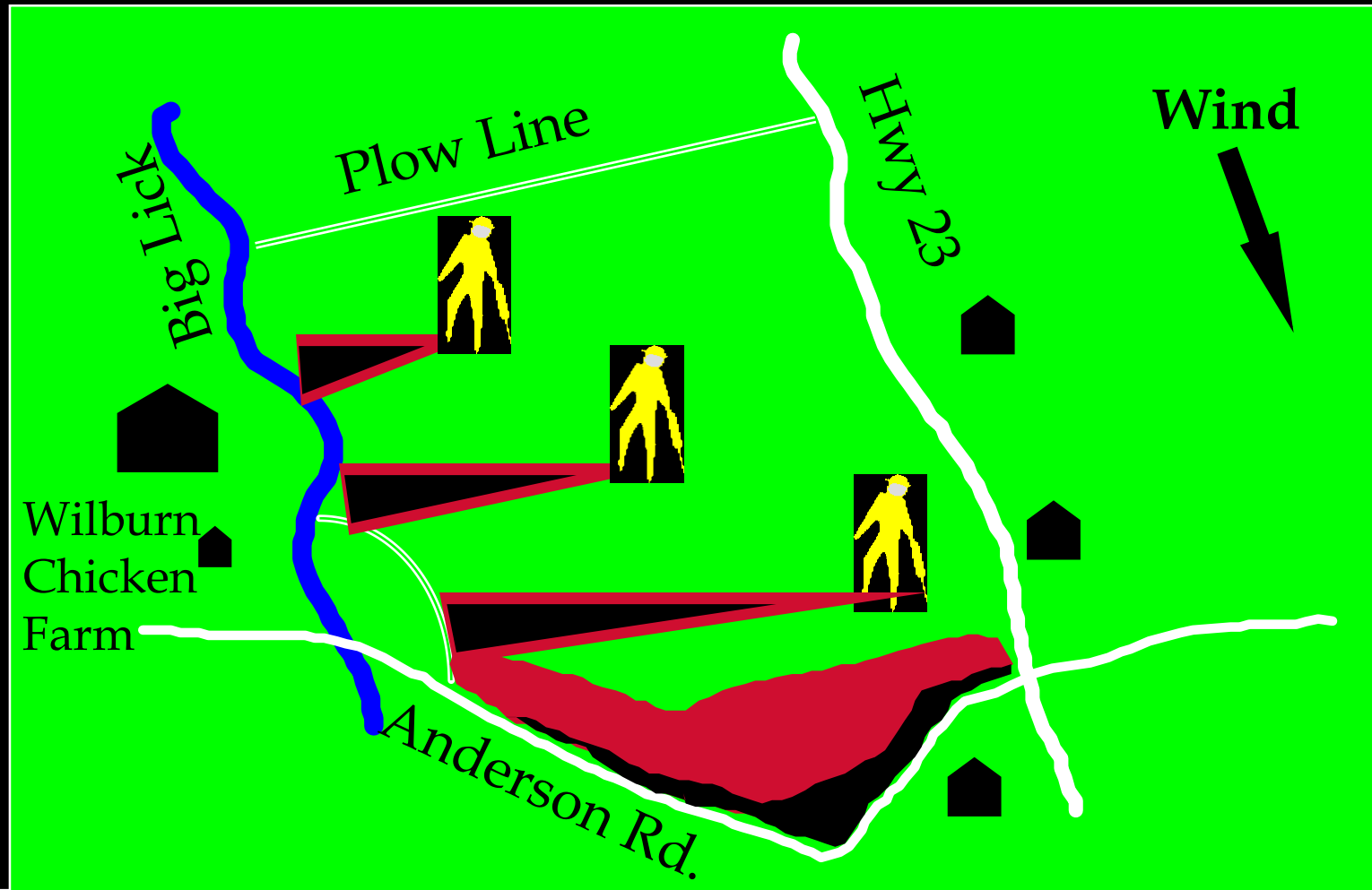
- ❑ Various firing techniques can be used to accomplish a burn objective.
- ❑ Technique chosen must correlate with objectives, fuels, topo, weather, and resources.



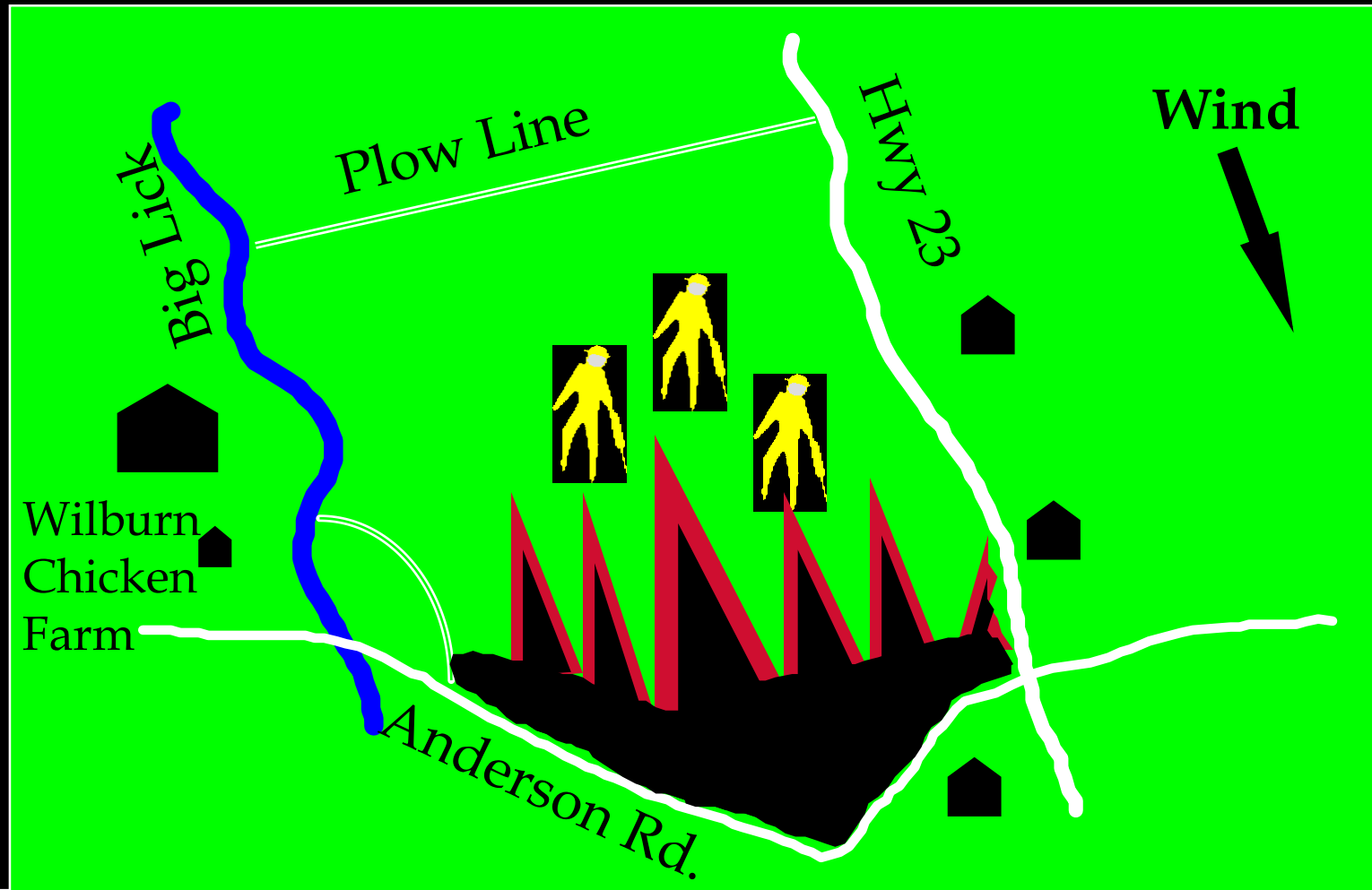
Backing Fire



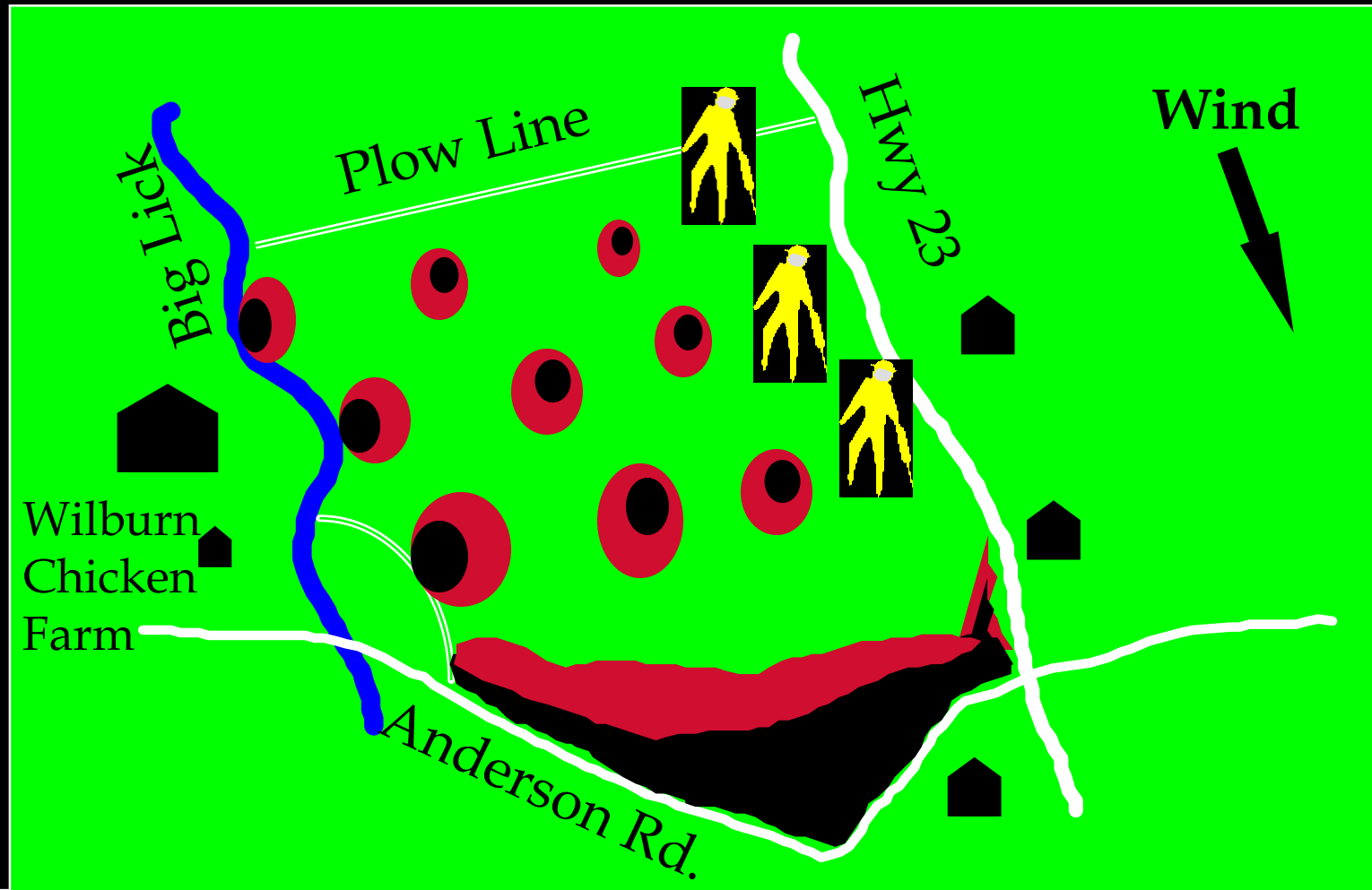
Strip Head Fire



Flanking Fire



Point Source (Spot) Firing



Ring Firing



Chevron Firing

Rare
Usually only in Mountains

