



People, Parks & Fire... Better Together



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Map of Sites

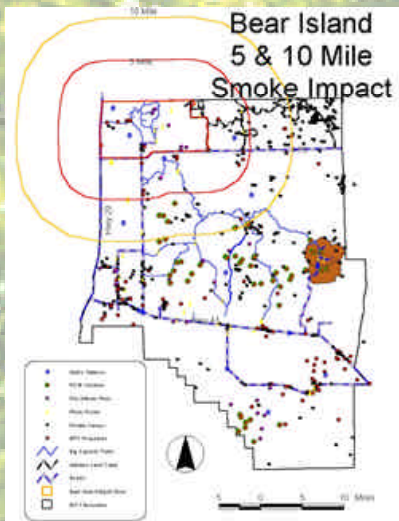


National Park Service Regions



- Regional Office location
- Regional boundaries
- * Featured Story Location

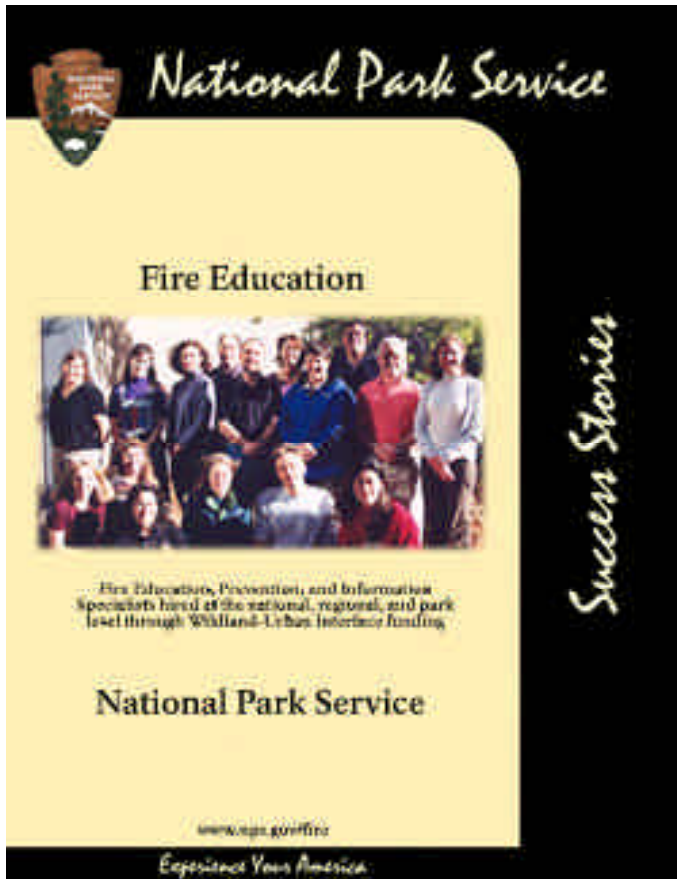
Poster Features



Poster Feature Fire Education



New Program Sees Successes Now and into the Future



Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002

Among the newest members of the National Park Service fire community to be hired under the National Fire Plan is a group of Fire Education, Prevention, and Information Specialists. The program was established after a need was recognized to improve communications about the National Fire Plan with the public and within the National Park Service. The new fire education specialists are in parks and regions throughout the country in the states of Maine, Virginia, Georgia, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, California, and Alaska. Although the fire education specialists are in many different areas, they have one thing in common – they are there to educate about wildland fire in the national parks and our partnerships with the surrounding communities. This education process may include public meetings, working with volunteer groups, creating publications, displays educational materials, and more.

more parks increase their education efforts about wildland fire management and the National Fire Plan.

In November 2001, the group met in Boise to discuss the fire education program as well as where each park or individual fits into the national program. National Park Service Fire Education efforts will continue to expand as

Poster Feature

Fire Prevention



Wildland Fire Field Seminar at Shenandoah National Park

Field study seminars offer an exciting, hands-on way to learn about park and community resource issues.



*Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002*

Shenandoah National Park's Education Office hosted a **Wildland Fire Field Study Seminar** for local citizens on Saturday, September 29, 2001. During this daylong seminar, participants learned of the ecological and social impacts the largest fire in the park's history had on this region. Over 24,000 acres of the Blue Ridge Mountains burned in the Shenandoah Complex Fire in the fall of 2000. No one died, and no homes were lost during this event. In the aftermath of the fire, questions remained and the seminar addressed these issues.

- What impact did the fires have on Shenandoah's natural and cultural resources?
- What could/should be done to mitigate the impact of future wildland fires?
- What is being done to alleviate the impact of future wildland fires in our area?

Community and wildland firefighters, a wildfire ecologist, and an urban interface fire protection community coordinator gave presentations, interacted, and hiked a portion of the fireline with participants during the seminar. Hikes to locations both inside and outside the park boundary enabled participants to witness

firsthand the changes that have taken place 10 months after the fire. They learned of wildland fire fighting techniques and tactics. Fire professionals discussed concerns of fighting fire in the wildland/urban interface and provided homeowners with information on actions they could take to protect their homes from the threats of a wildland fire.

Shenandoah National Park started its Field Study Seminar Series in 1996. **Wildland Fire** seminars, offered every other year, provide an opportunity for citizens to learn of the park's fire suppression program, its objectives, and its challenges.

Poster Feature Technology



Technology is Key to Success in Fire Management for South Florida Parks



Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002

For the past several years both Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park have been using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for planning and managing Prescribed Fire. The two units combine to manage over 2 million acres of south Florida's endangered Everglades ecosystem (640,000+ and 1,462,000+ acres, respectively). The Fire and Aviation Programs of both units use GIS in their daily operations in a variety of ways, including the identification of Fire Management Units (FMUs) and to locate and map potential fuels management project areas (prescribed fire and mechanical removal).

The use of GIS has also been important in the management of Smoke Emissions. With the Miami metro area bordering both units closely on the east, and the rapidly growing communities of Fort Myers/Naples to the west, as well as being a popular tourist destination, the use of GIS to predict and manage smoke emissions has been critical.

The parks have also made good use of GIS in selecting locations for their long term Fire Effects Monitoring plots. Using GIS they have been able to generate statistically random locations in a way that represents all of the vegetation communities effected within a burned area, whether from wildfire or prescribed fire. Overall, GIS is proving to be an invaluable tool for implementing the goals of the National Fire Plan not only in the Southeast Region, but throughout the National Park System.

Poster Feature Partnerships



National Park Service Fire Management and AmeriCorps Team Up in National Capital Region



AmeriCorps is a volunteer organization whose service encompasses a wide variety of areas and has often been called the domestic Peace Corps. One of the areas in which it has been working in partnership for the past several years is Fire Management in the National Park Service.

National Capital Region has been training and outfitting students from the AmeriCorps DC and Perry Point, Maryland campus since 1998. Over one hundred corps members have been trained by this region. These members have gone on to participate on numerous wildland fire assignments with National Capital Region crews in Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Idaho, New Mexico, and other states. AmeriCorps members have also participated in three prescribed fires at Shenandoah National Park and four mechanical fuels projects at Prince William Forest Park, both in Virginia.

Both the National Park Service and the AmeriCorps volunteers have reaped rewards from the partnership. At least five have progressed to positions in wildland fire with various agencies after leaving the AmeriCorps program.

Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002



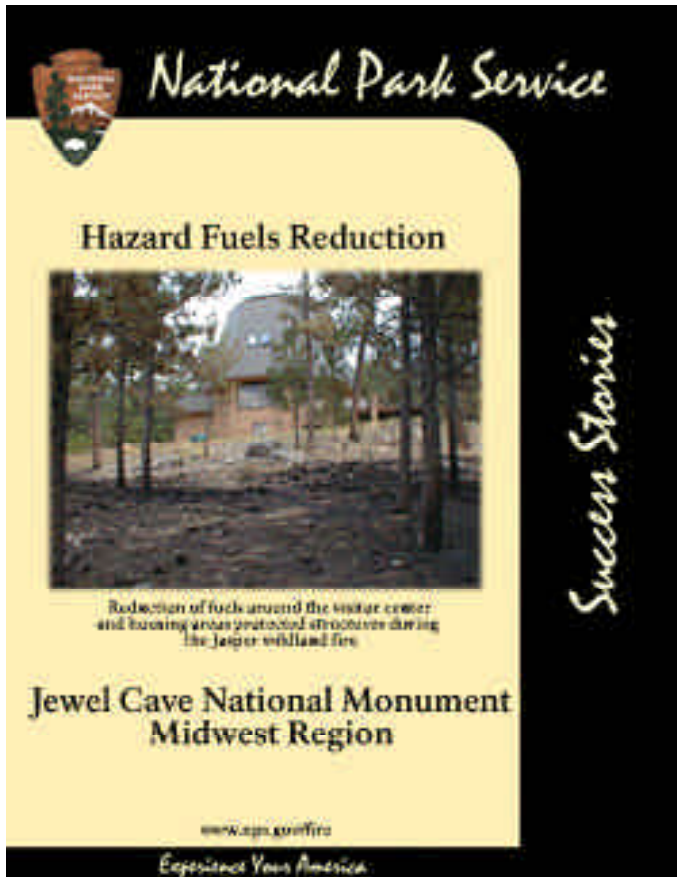
AmeriCorps volunteers in training

Poster Feature

Hazard Fuels Reduction



Jewel Cave National Monument Protects Structures during Wildland Fire through Hazard Fuels Reduction



Jewel Cave National Monument, a park with 1,274 acres of Ponderosa pine hills and 127.15 miles of underground caverns currently mapped is nestled in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Its proximity to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Badlands National Park and Wind Cave National Park, along with its geologic significance, makes it a year-round visitor destination.

Though the park is small in size, it plays a major role in implementing fire management strategies. Under the direction of Bill Gabbert, the Northern Great Plains Fire Management Officer, and others who preceded him, the park has done a combination of mechanical treatment and prescribed fire since 1986. These treatments range from 44 to 154 acres and include all of the areas around the structures at the Monument's headquarters being thinned and then treated with prescribed fire. The true test of the effectiveness of these fire management strategies came to light during the Jasper Fire of 2000.

*Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002*

The fire started outside Jewel Cave National Monument by a cigarette butt dropped on the forest floor. The fire spread rapidly, consuming

3,655 acres in the first three and a half hours. Strong winds, 7% relative humidity, dry fuels, and a history of fire suppression in the Black Hills were the ideal combination that created this intensely hot, fast-moving, wildfire.

Suppression crews and all available local firefighting resources were called to the fire. On the second day, it entered Jewel Cave National Monument. The park's visitor center, park offices, housing areas, and historical structures were in its path. Unsure of the fire's impacts on these

areas, an evacuation of personal and private property began. Major park documents and objects of historical significance were placed in the cave, 270 feet underground, for safe storage. Personal effects from people's homes were quickly packed in vehicles that were towed to a safe location (many of the residents were already on other western fires and unaware of what was happening at home).



The Jasper Fire approaches the Visitor Center at Jewel Cave National Monument

Everyone had been evacuated and only a few firefighters and 11 engines remained to protect the structures. As the fire approached, buildings and the surrounding land were sprayed with foam. As the smoke became thicker the firefighters lit a backfire and watched as it progressed toward the head of the Jasper Fire. With the smoke intensifying, firefighters retreated to their safety zone, the visitor center parking lot and waited the fire out. The fire burned into the prescribed fire and mechanically treated areas and quickly died down. Once burning through these areas at a less intense rate, with flame lengths as small as four inches, the fire continued burning through untreated areas and gained momentum once again. Those areas that were not previously treated experienced intense tree mortality from crowning and torching. Yet, the previously treated areas received very little mortality and look healthy today.

while also accomplishing resource objectives. There were many things at stake when the Jasper Fire struck. Jewel Cave's Fire Management Program is to be commended, it weathered the test and has taken away lessons learned.

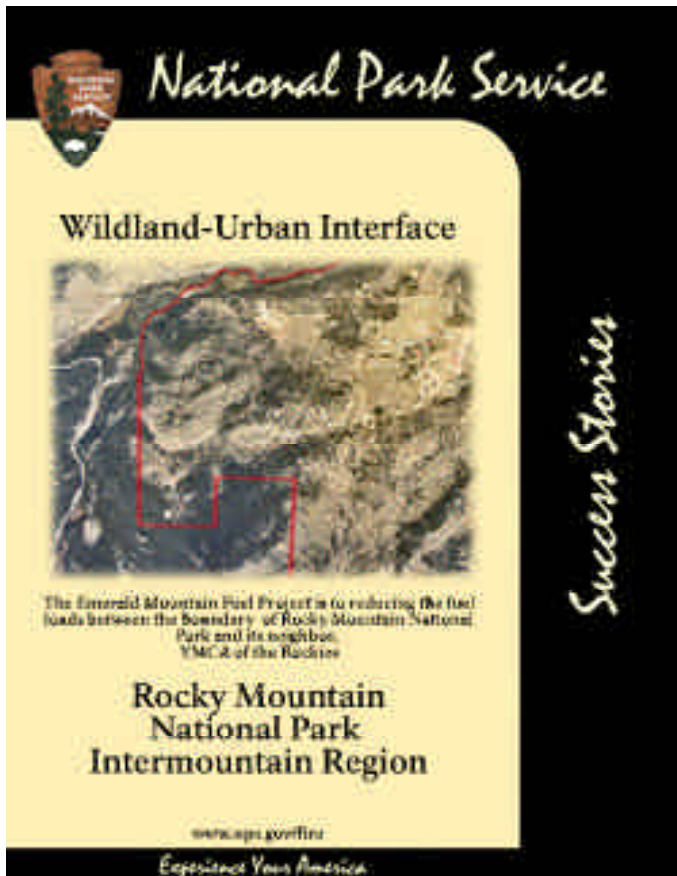
Park managers and fire management staff worked together to create an environment that could withstand a large wildland fire

Poster Feature

Wildland-Urban Interface



Rocky Mountain National Park Working In Partnership With YMCA Of The Rockies To Reduce Fire Risk



Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002

Crews from Rocky Mountain National Park are working to help reduce the threat of a major wildfire spreading from the park into YMCA of the Rockies lands. Exclusion of fire for the past century has resulted in unnatural forest conditions, with significant accumulations of forest fuels and an increased risk of a major wildfire. Excess vegetation is being manually removed from approximately 150 acres to provide a buffer zone along the common boundary. This project will help to restore the natural role of fire to this altered ecosystem.

Funding for the Emerald Mountain Fuel Reduction Project was obtained as a result of the National Fire Plan, developed in response to the extreme fire season the nation experienced in 2000. A major emphasis of the plan is to protect communities that are most at risk from the threat of a major wildfire.

Park Superintendent Randy Jones and Scott Pope, Chief Financial Officer for the YMCA of the Rockies, met to sign an agreement to work together in completing this important community protection project. "We are pleased with our partnership with the YMCA of the Rockies to reduce the fuel loads along our

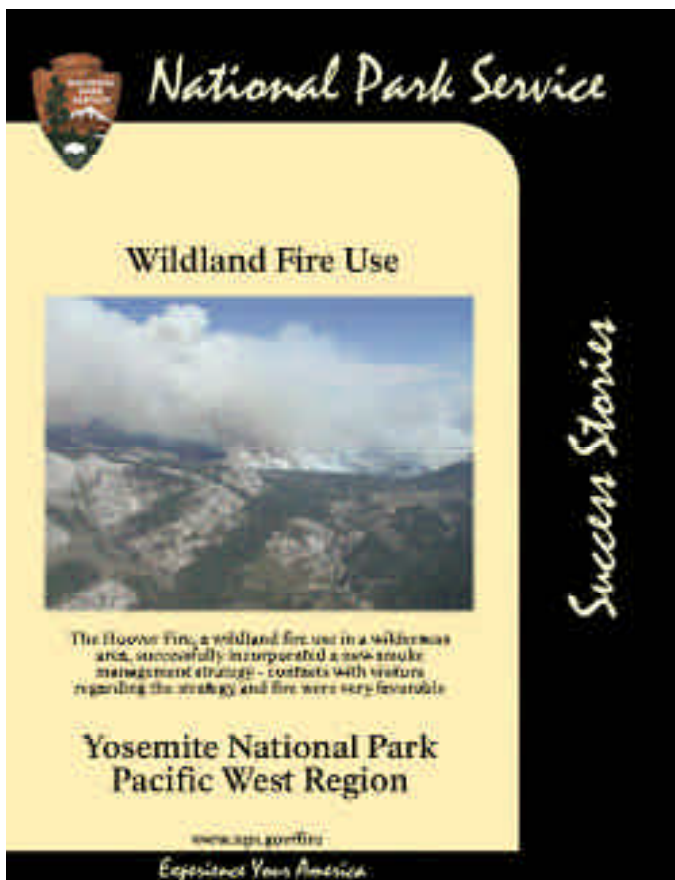
common boundary" Jones said. The Colorado State Forest Service and Larimer County have also lent support for this fuel reduction work.

Poster Feature

Wildland Fire Use



Wildland Fire Use Leads to Several Successes



Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002

The Hoover Fire began on July 4, 2001 as a result of a lightning storm that passed through the Sierra Mountains of northern California. This storm triggered many fires in the region, both inside and outside National Park Service boundaries. Many of these fires were fairly inactive until late August.

Outside the park, suppression efforts were underway to protect private property from the expanding wildfires. In Yosemite National Park, fire and resource management staffs were monitoring the growth of the fires and outlining management strategies. All of the park's fires were within federally designated wilderness areas and were slowly moving towards natural firebreaks. But in late August, fire activity began to increase. The largest fire, known as the Hoover Fire, increased to around 1,000 acres. At this point, park management called in a Fire Use Management Team to manage these expanding fires.

As the Hoover Fire continued to grow, Fire Use Modules were brought in and sent to the fire. Daily updates were provided to Yosemite's park management that the fires were meeting

resource objectives and were within the guidelines established in the wildland fire use component of the park's fire management plan. Decisions were made to continue with this type of fire management.

From a visitor's point of view, the fires were having an impact - visibility was impaired due to the smoke, an inversion at night made for uncomfortable smoky conditions in the Yosemite Valley, and outside communities were concerned about the fire's impacts on local tourism. These concerns were addressed through a variety of venues. A Fire Information Unit, that was part of the Fire Use Management Team working for the park, was created and dedicated to these issues. The results of the work conducted by this Fire Information Unit were unprecedented.

A Smoke Management Strategy was developed which outlined what measures were being taken during the Hoover Fire and how parks with such fires in the future might address resulting smoke issues. This smoke strategy is the first of its kind in the National Park Service and has since been sent to all national park sites for inclusion in their Fire Management plans, should they choose to adopt it.



Providing visitor information on a daily basis was accomplished through posted updates, the park website, radio announcements, visual displays, information kiosks, and public meetings. During the two-week period of the Hoover Fire, approximately 3,600 visitors were contacted directly at key park overlooks. An additional 3,040 people were contacted through community outreach efforts. Media outlets also provided information to local areas, southern California, and nationwide venues.

Many visitor contacts took place at park overlooks

The following quote from a Maryland couple best sums up visitor reactions to the Hoover Fire: “...The park website was invaluable to us as our departure date approached. We toyed with the idea of not coming as we’d never been here before and didn’t want our trip ruined because of the fires and smoke. However, we felt the information on the park website was honest and accurate and so we decided to come. And truthfully, we couldn’t be happier...this is a beautiful place and we’re actually enjoying watching the fire’s progression, it’s been a great learning experience for us.”

The Hoover Fire accomplished many things:

- Excellent interagency cooperation
- Meeting ecosystem maintenance and restoration objectives and hazardous fuel reduction in the Yosemite wilderness
- The creation of a valuable management and information tool – The Smoke Management Strategy
- Unprecedented numbers of visitor contacted and educated about the natural role of wildland fire, its ecological effects, and how it can benefit natural environments such as Yosemite National Park

Lastly, the Hoover Fire is the largest Wildland Fire Use Fire to date at 9,192 acres. It’s a true example of people working together to meet fire management objectives and create an understanding and appreciation for fire’s role in the natural environment.

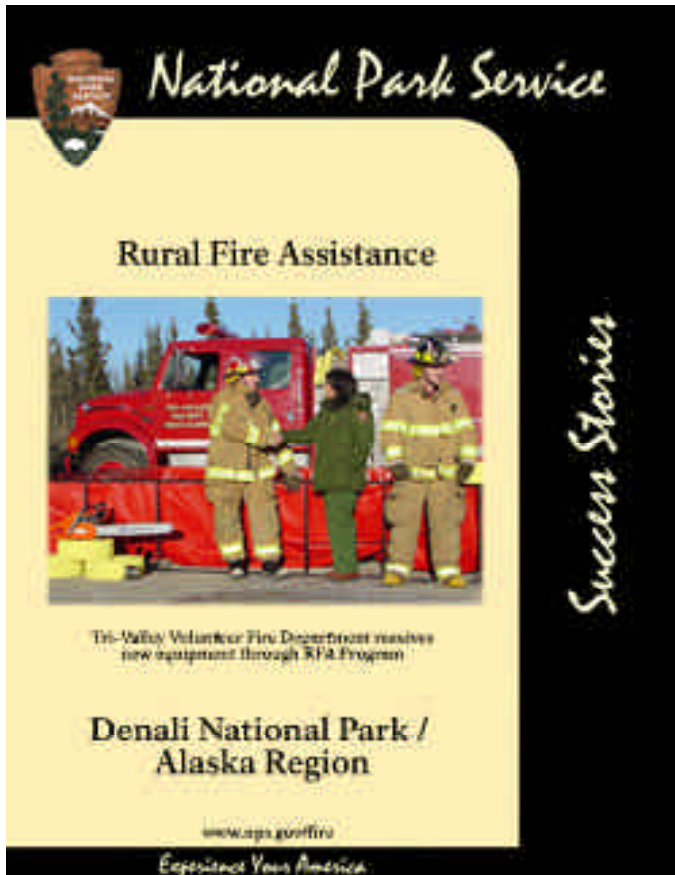
Poster Feature

Rural Fire Assistance



Where There's Smoke...There's Rural Fire Assistance

Agencies Cooperate to Lend Financial Assistance to Fire Departments Throughout Alaska



*Poster presented at National Fire Plan Conference
Madison, Wisconsin - April 2002*

Gayle Norton, the Secretary of the Interior often comments that the main goals for the Department of the Interior are to reinforce what she calls the 4 Cs. She asks that each employee of the Department of Interior strive to work to accomplish cooperation, communication and consultation in the service of conservation. The National Park Service in Alaska has reached that goal with its Rural Fire Assistance Program.

Alaska's national parks took the interagency approach when it came to distributing Rural Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance dollars. The State of Alaska, Department of Forestry, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and the National Park Service sent applications for assistance to Volunteer Fire Departments across Alaska. In this cooperative venture, applicants were reviewed by a workgroup of State, Tribal and Federal partners. Applicants were divided up according their location in Alaska. Volunteer Fire Departments were assigned to the agency nearest their location. A total of \$162,140 was allocated statewide to 46 volunteer fire departments for Rural Fire Assistance/Volunteer Fire Assistance program.

The National Park Service donation was \$66,000, which was divided between six fire departments adjacent to NPS units. Wildland fire equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was purchased for the Volunteer Fire Departments.

Skagway Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), located next to Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, received a slip-on pump. The pump and truck will be housed on park land and be available for fires in the area. Skagway VFD, some of which are NPS employees, will staff and maintain the pumper truck. In addition, hose and fittings were also purchased.



The Bear Creek VFD received a new portable pump through Rural Fire Assistance

Gustavus Emergency Response received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) along with hose and fittings. Gustavus is located in Bartlett cove, near Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve headquarters. The National Park Service will also sponsor Wildland Fire training for the community of Gustavus and the staff at Glacier Bay in the spring of 2002.

The Chitina Volunteer Fire Department is located on the west side of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The VFD received portable pumps and water tanks along with PPE.

Bear Creek Fire Service Area also received a portable pump. In addition, Bear Creek received PPE and a carbide saw. Bear Creek VFD is located in Seward, AK, which is bordered, by Kenai Fjords National Park and the Chugach National Forest.

A 1,000 gallon water trailer was purchased for McKinley Volunteer Fire Department. McKinley VFD is located on the East side of Denali National Park and Preserve about 6 miles south of the park entrance road. Denali's neighbor to the north, the Tri Valley Volunteer, received a chainsaw and portable water tank. Tri-Valley received funding from both the state (VFA) and NPS (RFA).

"This program is beneficial to the fire departments as well as the federal and state agencies that are involved," said the Alaska Regional Fire Management Officer Brad Cella. "It is just an excellent example of interagency cooperation and it allows us to keep the lines of communication open between agencies and Alaska's rural communities."

Featured Successes



Rural Fire Assistance



Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site



Cornish Volunteer Fire Department Benefits with Assistance from Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

The Cornish Volunteer Fire Department received a \$20,000 grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Rural Fire Assistance Program. The money was used to replace an engine in the CVFD's forestry unit. A ceremony on December 12, 2001 marked the receipt of the grant. Saint-Gaudens' Superintendent John Dryfhout was "delighted" and noted that the NPS has always valued the support of local fire and emergency services.

Saint-Gaudens NHS preserves the home, studios and gardens of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the United State's foremost sculptor of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Original sculpture is on exhibit at the park and the site continues to play a role in the artistic community.

Fire Interpretation



Yellowstone National Park



Yellowstone Uses Historic Fire Truck to Interpret Fire

Soon to enter its third season of use in 2002, a 1963 International fire truck is being used as a tool to educate visitors about forest and fire ecology as well as fire management. Throughout the summer of 2001, fire rangers, Holly McRae and Cheryn Fairbairn drove all over Yellowstone National Park, stopping in popular pull-offs, and attracting attention wherever they went. During late summer, there were many opportunities to park the truck in view of smoke from wildland fires occurring in the park.

Many visitors were curious as to the presence of an old fire truck at Yellowstone and the truck was like a magnet wherever Holly and Cheryn went. The fire rangers used the interpretive opportunity that the truck created to talk about fire at the park. This year, the truck became even more of a mobile museum with the addition of interpretive panels on each side of the fire truck that used photos and text to tell about the stages of fire, fire ecology, and fire management.

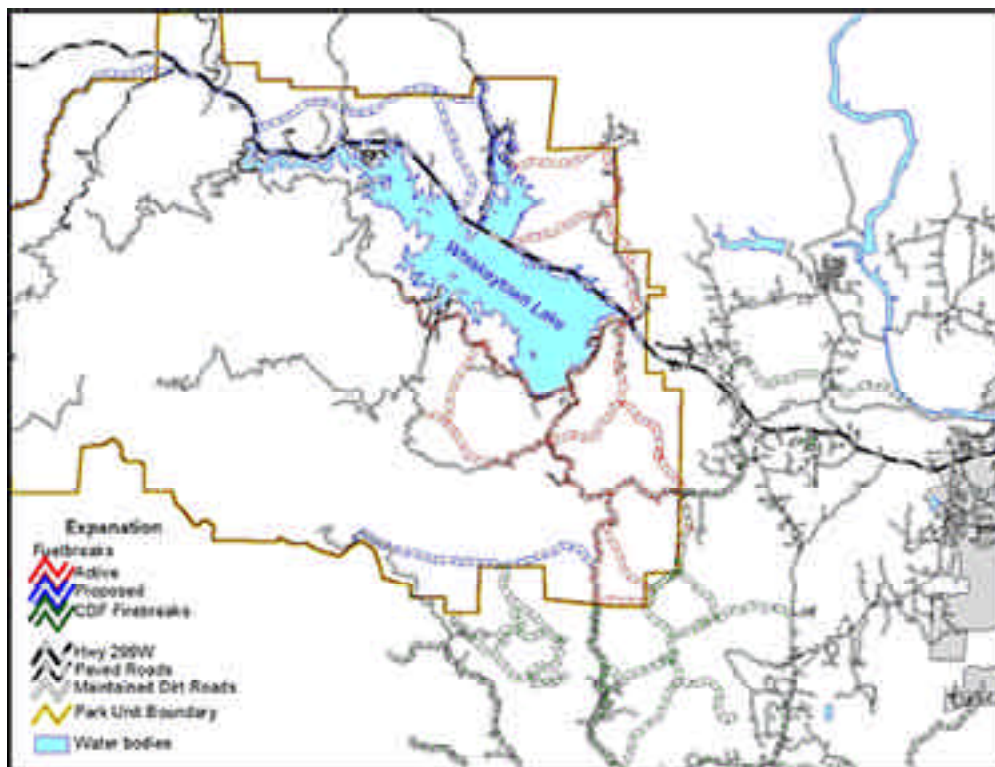
Holly and Cheryn didn't spend all their time in the truck; in order to reach other audiences, they frequently roved the Mt. Washburn Trail to the fire lookout at the summit talking to visitors about fire. In addition, each presented an evening illustrated program about fire at various park campgrounds. One of the fire rangers also obtained firefighter qualifications in order to fight fires in the park. During the Arthur Fire, both rangers served as Information Officers.

Between roving the trail, doing programs, and travelling the park in the 1963 International fire truck, the fire rangers created quite an impression and were able to share the story of fire with many visitors.

Wildland-Urban Interface



Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



Shaded Fuelbreak System Lowers Risk to Local Communities

The National Fire Plan has enabled Whiskeytown NRA to greatly expand the park's shaded fuelbreak system. Whiskeytown, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, and California Department of Forestry and Fire (Shasta-Trinity Unit), have developed a system of shaded fuelbreaks, named the Whiskeytown/Battalion 5 Shaded Fuelbreak System, that weave in and out of the boundaries of Whiskeytown and areas of western Shasta County. Lands adjacent to Whiskeytown's east and north boundaries have significant urban interface development. The three agencies are working closely together to lower the wildland fire risk to local communities. The communities of French Gulch, Shasta, Centerville, Igo, and Redding are protected by the system.

The shaded fuelbreaks are constructed along roads and ridges. The areas chosen have strategic significance for controlling the spread of fire. The purpose of shaded fuelbreaks is to:

- increase the margin of safety for firefighters engaging in wildland fire suppression
- reduce fire behavior from crown to surface fire
- serve as a burn unit boundary for prescribed fire.

Shaded fuelbreaks preserve the canopy cover of trees, and remove ladder fuels, such as brush and low tree limbs, and down and dead fuels. The standing trees provide shade which inhibits the growth of flashy fuel grasses and lowers the temperature of surface fuels.

The shaded fuelbreaks are constructed and maintained by hand crews using chainsaws and fire tools. The hand crews remove brush, tree limbs, and ground fuels according to a prescription written by the three cooperating agencies. Fuels are burned or chipped, depending on access. Whiskeytown has developed agreements and contracts to utilize hand crews from Firestorm, California Conservation Corps, and California Department of Forestry and Fire. The photographs below show the Buck fuelbreak, a cooperative fuelbreak adjacent to the park's east boundary.

Before the National Fire Plan, Whiskeytown averaged 225 acres of shaded fuelbreak treatment annually. In 2001 they have accomplished 350 acres to date, and should accomplish 450 acres by the end of 2001. They plan to develop and maintain a shaded fuelbreak system of 955 acres on a three year maintenance schedule, for a total of 32 miles. They are on track to achieve this objective and complete additional mechanical treatment projects, such as improving defensible space around all Park facilities. They plan on using the fuelbreak system to complete a series of east boundary burns, which will average 1500 acres annually over the next three years. The Whiskeytown/Battalion 5 shaded fuelbreak system is a key component of reducing the risk of wildland fire to the local communities, adjacent lands, and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.



A shaded fuelbreak before (left) and after (right) treatment



Pea Ridge National Military Park



Small Park Accomplishes Big Goals

Pea Ridge National Military Park is situated in the mountains of northern Arkansas. With its Civil War significance, this park is sought out by historians, local residents, school groups, and visitors traveling across the country. Pea Ridge NMP is small when compared to larger NPS units, only having 4,300 acres and a staff of 10. Yet, this small park is accomplishing large-scale goals.

In February 2002, Pea Ridge NMP completed a 2,232 acre prescribed fire. These acres have added to the Midwest total of 13,015 acres burned as of April 1, 2002. But aside from the fact that Pea Ridge is helping to fulfill regional and national fire targets, this park has a story to tell.

Pea Ridge NMP has worked hard to ensure that fire is a recurring part of the Park's landscape. Prescribed fires are conducted on a three to five year interval. This timeline has several measurable objectives; ensures that hazardous fuel accumulations do not occur, maintains the natural ecological balance that this fire regime requires, and restores a cultural landscape to a specific period in time, the Civil War battle of 1862.

Not only has the park been successful in accomplishing these burns, but it is an excellent example of people and resources working together. Pea Ridge, with its small staff would be



unable to do such large-scale burns on its own. However, with the help of additional resources: Buffalo National River staff, Buffalo Fire Use Module, local volunteer and rural fire departments, and USDA Forest Service staff, fire management goals are being accomplished in a safe and timely manner.

But something more is happening at Pea Ridge NMP other than the creation of a blackened landscape. Local communities and residents adjacent to the park are taking an interest in these burns. They realize the potential impacts of prescribed and wildland fires and are supporting the prescribed fire

program Pea Ridge has established. Much of this community support has been initiated by Superintendent John Scott, "In my experience, the quickest thing to kill a prescribed fire program is smoke. And despite the burn bosses best efforts to keep smoke to a minimum, it still creeps into homes and communities. To say that we're burning for 'hazard fuel reduction' only goes so far."

So how does one develop community support for a prescribed fire program when smoke is such an issue? Superintendent John Scott states, "We needed to launch a large-scale marketing campaign and this campaign needed a theme. The theme that I developed was: Pea Ridge National Military Park is not a memorial made up of marble and stone – we are a memorial made up of living landscapes. And the results have been magical. This simple thought has inspired our park neighbors and community leaders. It has allowed them to choose not to be inconvenienced or put out by smoke because they know it is part of something bigger. And I believe that these are the messages we need to get across to people. We need to use prescribed fire within the National Park Service not just to reduce 'hazard fuels' but for something bigger, something less tangible."

Mr. Scott has become an advocate for prescribed fire and the NPS fire management program. Through his efforts and the work of his staff, this small park is sharing a very large and important message, a message that inspires and fosters community support.

Wildland Fire Use



Glacier National Park



Moose Fire slows after coming into contact with the 1999 Anaconda burn area

Glacier National Park finds Success in Wildland Fire Use

In 1991, Glacier National Park updated its Fire Management Plan to allow for the increased use of Wildland Fire Use (fires started naturally, managed for resource benefits) as well as allow for more options in alternative suppression techniques. This new plan, coinciding with several active fire seasons, has allowed the park to achieve significant successes in the way of reintroducing fire to the landscape and minimizing damage from suppression actions in the North Fork and Flattop areas of the Park.

In 1994, the Howling Fire was the first fire in Glacier to be managed as a Wildland Fire Use fire that had significant potential for large growth. This fire received national attention due to its visibility during a very dry and active fire season in the Western United States. The fire eventually burned 2,238 acres. Two adjoining suppression fires, the Anaconda and Adair II, treated an additional 6,395 acres. Due to firefighter safety considerations, costs and potential resource damage, both of these fires were managed under a confinement strategy. This strategy consisted primarily of monitoring the fire's activity and spread.

Additionally in 1994, the Starvation Creek Fire burned 7,832 acres in the northwest corner of the park and into Akamina/Kishenehna Provincial Park in Canada. In coordination with the

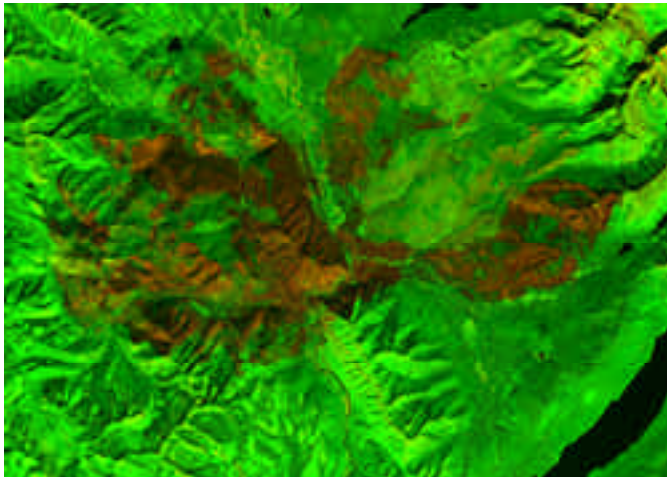
Wildland Fire Use, cont.

Canadians, the fire was lined on the western and northern flanks, but monitored on the eastern and southern. Although this fire did not meet the proper conditions to be managed as a Wildland Fire Use fire, this tactic accomplished three objectives. These were to reduce the use of strapped fire fighting resources in a remote area during a busy fire season, reintroduce fire to an area that had many fires suppressed, and reduce wildland fuels on thousands of acres.

In 1998, the Kootenai Complex consisting of 6 separate fires, burned 9,246 acres in the central part of the park on West Flattop Mountain. These fires were managed as Wildland Fire Use Fires, although some suppression action was taken on the northern flank in an effort to alleviate fears of the fire spreading into Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada. These fires occurred in a high elevation subalpine forest that supports whitebark pine. Whitebark pine forests have been on the decline throughout the west due to fire suppression policies as well as outbreaks of blister rust. This plateau has since been planted with 1000's of blister rust resistant whitebark seedlings, and hopefully, more will naturally become seeded.

In 1999, the Anaconda Fire was managed throughout the summer as a Wildland Fire Use fire. The fire treated 10,812 acres and eventually validated the wisdom of the program two years later.

The 2001 Moose Fire started on the Flathead National Forest to the west of the Park. Aggressive suppression action was taken with all available firefighting resources. Exceptionally dry conditions and dissected topography made containment difficult. The fire burned into the park on September 1st, spread actively up Camas and Adair Ridges, and eventually burned 27,120 acres within the Park. The 1999 Anaconda and the 1994 Howling fires slowed and in places stopped the fire's growth. The Moose Fire eventually burned over 71,000 acres on National Forest Service, State of Montana and National Park lands.



Initial burn severity of the Moose Fire. The Moose Fire burned around the 1999 Anaconda Fire burn area

The previous effort and planning associated with managing earlier fires was rewarded when the Moose Fire was limited in size, smoke, and possibly resource damage due to heavy suppression tactics that might have been employed. Minimum Impact Management Tactics

were utilized on the Moose Fire within the park, resulting in minimal ground disturbance. It may have been a very different situation if the Howling and Anaconda Fires had not previously reduced the fuels and helped reduce the size and slow the fire.

Since 1994, over 66,500 acres have been treated by various wildland fires in the western quarter of Glacier National Park with very little resource damage due to suppression and with no structures lost. This area of the park is on its way to a natural fire regime with reduced fuel loads and more natural diversity. The use of Wildland Fire has been a successful tool, and just one of the many tools used in Glacier National Park. Planning, appropriate management, and hard work today make tomorrow's fires safer and easier to manage.

Fire Education



Big Thicket National Preserve



Educating the Next Generation about Fire

For the past eight years, park ranger Bob Valen has been presenting a wildland fire and prevention program for the Lumberton, Texas 3rd grade students. The teacher, Mrs. Brown, who coordinated the program is Bob's neighbor and was his son's 3rd grade teacher. The reader the children used had a great story about "recovery" following the Yellowstone Fire of '88. Bob mentioned to Mrs. Brown that he was assigned to Area Command during the fires and would be willing to share his experiences with the kids. And the program was born...

The 50 minute program covers several basic areas including geography - where is Yellowstone and how does it fit into the United States; history - how did Yellowstone become a park; the fires of 1988 - a history including causes. He then forms up a "crew of kids," all 3rd graders, with wildland fire fighting equipment. They talk about the equipment and how crew members use each item. The greatest attraction is the fire shelter! Part of the program discusses that women and men are involved in wildand fire fighting which serves as a long-term recruitment tool.

Bob has a video disc with raw footage of the '88 fires and shows segments using school equipment - the kids are amazed.

Fire Education, cont.

A few years ago Mrs. Brown switched to second grade. So, the program was modified with a focused prevention message. The ever popular "crew of kids" is still used as is a showing of the fire shelter. This past year Bob had one of the park's wildland fire trucks come down as a special treat. The student population is growing - there were about 240 2nd graders at this program. Mrs. Brown is retiring at the end of this school year, but the school is still very interested in continuing the program.

Bob relates this story of results of the program. "Recently, my son, now a sophomore in high school, had a friend at our home. This now young man visiting my son looked at me and said I was his hero. I was taken aback. He told me he attended the fire program in 3rd grade and I became his hero. I suggested that all fire fighters should be."

The local weekly newspaper has carried a story for the last three years. Bob still enjoys presenting the program!



Mrs. Brown's third grade class learns about wildland fire in the national parks from Ranger Bob Valen

Thank You



Alaska Regional Office

Big Cypress National Preserve

Big Thicket National Preserve

Denali National Park and Preserve

Fire Management Program Center

Glacier National Park

Jewel Cave National Monument

Midwest Regional Office

National Capital Regional Office

Northeast Regional Office

Pea Ridge National Military Park

Rocky Mountain National Park

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

Shenandoah National Park

Southeast Regional Office

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Wind Cave National Park

Yellowstone National Park

Yosemite National Park

For more Success Stories, visit www.nps.gov/fire/success/