



HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK PRESCRIBED FIRE PLAN

UNIT NAME: Sugarloaf RX

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Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____
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RXB2

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Approved By: _____ Date: _____
Superintendent

NFPORS Project #: 3268223
Copies of approved plan will be sent to MWR Fire Management Office.

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APPENDICIES

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B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sugarloaf RX is a 66 acre prescribed fire (broadcast burn) project. The project area is located on Sugarloaf Mountain, inside the boundary of Hot Springs National Park, on public lands managed by the National Park Service. The primary goal is the reintroduction of fire as a component of natural ecological processes. Reintroduction of fire and restoration of pre-settlement fire occurrence intervals is essential if native plant communities and vegetative composition are to survive. In addition prescribed burning will reduce the dead and down fuels allowed to accumulate without the presence of fire. Reducing fuel loads under prescribed burning conditions reduces the chance of larger, more complex, and possibly catastrophic wildfires occurring. Subsequently, the risks to the community associated with wildfire and the risk and cost of wildland fire suppression is significantly reduced.

The prescribed fire operation will be managed by NPS personnel and is planned to occur spring or fall 2007.

C. DESCRIPTION OF PRESCRIBED FIRE AREA

GENERAL AREA: Hot Springs National Park, Sugarloaf Mountain, East of Pineland Drive and North of Mt Ida Road

LOCATION: Legal: SEC: 29 /T 2S / R 19W
Latitude N 34.530 Longitude W 93.060

Fire Management Zone: Suppression (Mixed Hardwood Forest).

GEOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES:

Size: 66 acres Elevation Range: 700-860 FT
Slope Range: 0-30 % Aspect Range: Saddle, all aspects present.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT BOUNDARIES:

The unit boundaries are composed of Cedar Glades Road and Pineland Drive on the west, park boundary on the north, transmission power line right of way on the east, and Mt Ida Street, unnamed roads, & park boundary on the south.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

The unit is fuel model 9, a conifer canopy with pockets of mixed hardwood present in unit interior. The burn unit is surrounded by fuel model 9. This is indicated in the Holding forces worksheet.

Vegetation Type	NFFL Fuel Model	Estimated Acres	Estimated Tons Per Acre
Hardwood litter	9	66	2 - 10

PROJECT MAPS APPENDIX #3

D. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Provide for public and firefighter safety.
2. Keep the prescribed fire from escaping or damaging public or government property.
3. Introduce prescribed fire as an effective resource management tool in Hot Springs National Park.
4. Promote natural ecological processes.
5. Promote public awareness and support for the NPS Fire Management Program.
6. Maintain and enhance historic conditions.
7. Reduce Hazard Fuels within the park.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:	PROPOSED REDUCTION - INCREASE WITHIN ONE YEAR	ACTUAL RESULTS
Reduction of total Dead & Down fuel load (1, 10, & 100 hr time lag fuels)	20 - 50% Reduction	

Throughout the entire unit a mosaic of different levels of fire severity are desired and acceptable.

E. PROJECT RISK and COMPLEXITY

A risk and complexity analyses was conducted) for Sugarloaf RX (Appendix 4, and Appendix 5) The project was determined to be low in complexity, pose no unusual risk to personnel safety or property and will require a Type 2 qualified Burn Boss (RXB2) is to manage operations. Burn duration is expected be no more than 12 hours with little residual burning expected.

F. ORGANIZATION

The Burn Boss may order additional resources to assist with the project if slopovers or spot fires are occurring. All non-park resources will be ordered and committed to the prescribed fire project through the Arkansas Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC). The holding resource worksheet and Fireline Handbook will be used to determine adequate number and type of holding resources for each scenario. Specific resources will be identified in an incident action plan prepared prior to each operational period during the implementation of the burn. A total of twenty-two (22) persons will be the minimum organization required to conduct the prescribed fire.

Overhead Personnel:

- 1 Burn Boss/ Incident Commander (RXB2/ICT4)
- 1 Ignition Specialist (RXI2)
- 1 Holding Squad Leader (Single resource Boss)

Additional Crews/Personnel/Resources for Daytime Holding and Ignition Operations:

- 4 FFT2 – Ignition Crew
- 5 FFT2 – Holding Crew
- 2 ATV’s with Water – Operators can be counted as part of holding crew
- 2 Type 6 engines with crew of two (2)

Contingency Resources:

- 1 - Type 1 or Type 2 structure engine with crew (3-5)
- 1 - Type 6 engine with crew (2-3)
- 1 - Type 1 or Type 2 water tender

G. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

(All base and non-based funded personnel; supplies and equipment, other agency, contract):

Costs will be primarily for personnel and equipment preparing and conducting burn operations. The unit requires some preparation. Firing operations and post firing patrols should be of short duration with the goal of keeping overall costs low.



Sunset Trail on Sugarloaf Mountain

H. SCHEDULING

Proposed Ignition Date:	Winter 2006 – Spring or Fall 2007
Projected Burn Duration:	12 – 24 hours
Actual Ignition Date:	
Date Declared Out:	
Date DI-1202 Submitted:	

There are no dates in which the burn cannot be conducted as long as prescription parameters are met. The burn should not be conducted however, if County has a burn ban in effect, unless the county judge has granted a specific waiver to do so.

I. PRE-BURN CONSIDERATIONS

ON SITE:

1. Mitigate fire intensity around park improvements such as signs, gates, and fences by clearing ground fuel around the objects or moving accumulations of surrounding fuel.
2. Prepare fire line along unit boundaries. Line specification is to include remove brush and blow leaf litter in a width of 12 to 15 feet in timber areas.
3. Power line right of ways will be examined to determine if accessible to engines with minimal risk of tire damage. If inaccessible to engine and brush fuel loading conditions warrant, HOSP staff shall brush hog a control line between unit and power line 15 to 20 feet wide. Burn Boss should then ensure that ATV's are present during firing operations to hold and patrol right of ways
4. Ensure access, egress, and parking is available for resources on site along the park and municipal roads.
5. Check perimeter tree line for snags that will endanger firefighter safety and project goals. Mitigate snags by preferably, scraping all flammable fuel at the base of the bole of the tree or by felling trees within 1.5 times their height of the perimeter (or 100 ft.).
6. Post Rx Fire/Smoke Ahead signs county roads and state highways and post trail closure signs on Sunset trail.
7. Ensure two (2) backpack blowers are on the scene. A radio and hand tool for each assigned person will be on scene.
8. Ensure minimum of eight drip torches and 40 gallons of drip torch fuel will be on scene.
9. Coordinate burn schedule with HOSP staff to maximize chance of achieving objectives while minimizing impacts to park observations/visitation.
10. Take pre-burn photos of unit and record photo point locations.
11. Obtain a spot weather forecast from the National Weather Service in Little Rock, AR (501-384-0308/3955) for the day of the burn.

OFF SITE:

1. Coordinate daily weather and burn conditions monitoring with park staff for at least four days prior to ignition date.
2. Coordinate with Hot Springs fire department, Morning Star, Piney, Fountain Lake, and Highway 70 West volunteer fire departments, Arkansas Oklahoma Interagency Center (AOICC), and appropriate law enforcement resources so all clearly understand their perspective roles and responsibilities.
3. Ensure contingency resources are ordered and available throughout planned ignition date and time.
4. Contact local residents at least one week prior to planned ignition date (public notice on radio and in news papers, followed up with door knocking in areas adjacent to the unit)
5. Ensure required burn notifications are made.
6. Ensure local media is contacted as appropriate.
7. Coordinate with and brief assigned personnel and park staff as appropriate
8. Notify Arkansas forestry Commission (AFC) (800-468-8834) day of the burn.

J. PRESCRIBED FIRE PRESCRIPTION

NFFL Fuel Models used: 9 Hardwood leaf litter

PRESCRIPTION

Weather	Range
Temperature F	32-90
Relative Humidity %	20-75%
Wind Direction	SW, S, SE, E (S preferred)
Mid Flame Wind Speed	0-9
Minimum Smoke Dispersion Forecast	Category 2 Day*
1 hour Fuel Moisture	5-10
10 hour Fuel Moisture	8-15
100 hour Fuel Moisture	12-18
Live Herbaceous Fuel Moisture	60-300

*See table in section Q.

FIRE CHARACTERISTICS *

Characteristics*	Range
Rate of Spread (chains/hour)	1-26
Flame Length (feet)	1.4-5.0
Fireline Intensity (btu/ft/s)	4-186
Spotting Distance (miles)	0-0.3
Probability of Ignition*(POI)	20%-70%

*Range shown for Fuel Model 9

*Maximum POI used in Adequate Holding Resources Worksheet (see APPENDIX #10)

* POI range calculated using stated Temperature and one hour fuel moisture ranges using shaded conditions for minimum POI and unshaded conditions for maximum POI.

K. IGNITION AND HOLDING ACTIONS

Burn unit boundaries will be hand ignited with drip torches. The unit interior will also be hand ignited with drip torches at the direction of the Burn Boss with coordination of the Ignition Specialist. The Burn Boss or Ignition Specialist will thoroughly describe the firing plan and safety considerations to all burn personnel at the pre-burn briefing. Everyone will be provided a copy of the project map. Firing operations for the entire unit should be completed in one day, and would be desirable to complete by 1400 to promote smoke dissipation and must be completed no later than 1500.

Test Fire:

A test ignition at the burn site will be conducted in representative fuels with a drip torch to observe ignition and combustion rates on the actual day of the burn. The burn boss will decide this location based on current, on-site wind directions. All holding resources will be present at the site. If the observed burning conditions, fire behavior, or smoke dispersion is unacceptable, the test burn will be suppressed and the primary burn project delayed. If successful, firing of the primary unit may continue.

Firing and Ignition:

Ignition operations are to be completed by 1500 hours. Firing will utilize backing and strip head patterns. Ignition teams and all holding resources will be located at the test fire site. Firing the remainder of the unit may be accomplished with multiple ignition teams, as the Burn Boss deems necessary. Interior ignition will be at the discretion of the burn boss. The fireline will be strengthened with an adequate blackline prior to extensive interior ignition. Close coordination via radio will be necessary between ignition and holding personnel to ensure that the operation proceeds safely and efficiently. The burn boss will monitor progress from a suitable location, most likely the area with the most potential for the fire to escape, and will adjust the pace and pattern of firing as needed. Ragged fire edge may need to be touched up to prevent unexpected flank or head fire runs through utilization of a "clean-up" torch carrier. Ignition will continue until the entire perimeter has been secured unless the burn boss halts firing for any reason. 50'-100' of blackline will be established on all upslope areas of the line prior to interior ignition. General ignition directions will work into the predominant general wind direction. Prevailing winds will determine the ultimate pattern and direction of ignition operations of the burn unit lines and interior areas. If at any time the burn boss decides that smoke production and subsequent dispersion rates are not acceptable, further ignition will be terminated and the burn will be placed into hold and mop-up status.

Firing Sequence:

A detailed ignition plan will be developed by the Burn Boss and Ignition Specialist at least 24 hours prior to ignition. The Burn Boss, at their discretion, can divide the unit into north and south sections by using the power line right of way crossing the interior of the unit if they determine that doing so will lessen smoke impacts on surrounding values at risk. These sections can then be fired independent of each other as conditions dictate. If prescription parameters are exceeded during project execution, the Burn Boss will terminate ignition operations until conditions permit further execution. Holding actions shall maintain control of the fire until a decision to continue, postpone or extinguish the prescribed fire is made and the Agency Administrator or their designee is notified. The Burn Boss will document this decision process on a unit log.

K. IGNITION AND HOLDING ACTIONS (Continued)

Holding Actions:

Two type 6 engines and two ATV's will be positioned on the burn unit. There will be five firefighters on foot along with a holding squad supervisor to assist in holding containment lines and, subsequent patrol. The burn boss will monitor holding capabilities, needs, and make assignments accordingly. Foam or wet lines should be safely and liberally applied as necessary on control lines and sensitive features. Hot line edges should be monitored and allowed to cool, or be immediately extinguished where appropriate behind ignition personnel. Firing personnel and the burn boss should be available to assist with holding actions. Aggressive direct attack will be the priority suppression tactic on any spot fire. Water sources will be confirmed at the initial operations briefing. Identified contingency resources will be pre-positioned at the discretion of the burn boss in locations maximizing coverage areas and minimizing response times.

Alternate Control Line Location:

Interior: Power Line Right of Way
North: Pineland Drive
East: Sunset Trail and Russell Street
South: Mt Ida, Agate, Aspen, Bluff, Poplar, and Holly Streets
West: Intermittent Stream

Night Operations:

In the interest of personnel safety, no night operations will be conducted on this project unless they are deemed crucial to keeping the burn within the unit boundaries. In such cases, a special safety briefing will be conducted by the safety officer to ensure all personnel are aware of hazards, and know their responsibilities and limitations when working at night. There will be no tree falling during night operations. It is expected that burn personnel will regularly hike out from their assignment and that this may occur in fading light or darkness. All personnel should gauge their activities to allow egress from the burn unit in a safe and timely manner.

Mop-Up Operations:

Mop-up will occur following successful ignition and containment of the prescribed fire unit. The fire area will be mopped up 100%. Jackpots, snags, or problem areas will be secured through the use of water or foam where possible. Chainsaw and handtools will only be used when other methods, such as dragging burning material deeper into the burn, are not practical. At the discretion of the burn boss, an engine crew will remain on the burn to continue mopping up further interior and to monitor fire activity and smoke production. The following day, remaining fire resources will return to the unit and ensure it is mopped up 100% throughout. Upon completion of this task, the burn should be reported as officially "out" and reopened to the public.

L. WILDLAND FIRE TRANSITION PLAN

1. If spot fires or slopovers occur, the Holding Squad Leader will initially supervise suppression actions.
2. If spot fires and/or slopovers cannot be controlled within one burning period with on site resources the Burn I.C. will convert the fire to a wildland fire status. A Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) will be completed. Any suppression actions will be in accordance with the Hot Springs National Park fire management plan.
3. If the burn is converted to a wildland fire, the Burn Boss will make the declaration and assume the role of Incident Commander. If incident complexity increases or at the end of the first operational period, an assessment will be made and if deemed necessary, a qualified Incident Commander Type 3 will be ordered. The Burn Boss will immediately notify Buffalo National River Dispatch (**870-741-5446 x282**), AOICC (**501-321-5231**), and the Park Superintendent of the change in status to a wildland fire and will order resources through AOICC. Park dispatch will also notify the park Fire Management Officer if unaware of the situation.
4. The Burn Boss will coordinate safety considerations with the section leaders (Holding, Ignition, and Monitoring) to provide and ensure the safety of ALL personnel assigned. All personnel will be assigned holding or suppression duties.
5. Water sources (drafting sites, etc.) will be identified on a briefing map.

M. PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE FEATURES

There are no known sensitive features within or adjacent to this burn unit.

N. PUBLIC AND PERSONNEL SAFETY

1. A safety briefing will be given at the pre-burn briefing and at the start of each operational period. All personnel will be advised of Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones. Any other potential safety hazards will be pointed out and mitigated as soon as possible upon identification of hazard.
2. All burn personnel will wear standard firefighting personal protective equipment. They will carry a fire shelter and fire tool at all times.
3. Only red-carded personnel or cooperators who have attended S130 and S190 and meet their own agency's qualifications will be utilized during the burn. Prescribed fire command and lead operational personnel will meet NWCG 310-1 prescribed fire qualification standards.
4. All standard wildland firefighter safety rules will be strictly enforced (ref: Fireline Handbook).
5. The prescribed fire area will be closed to the public starting at 0800 the day of the burn. The Sunset Trail, the burn interior and the roads surrounding the unit will be swept for visitors. Trails will be posted with information regarding the planned prescribed fire 24 hours prior to ignition and the Visitor Center, likewise, will have information to pass out to park visitors.
6. City streets and county roads will remain open to traffic and posted with signs to alert drivers of the prescribed burn operations. Smoke impacts and visibility on the road will be monitored on a regular basis and mitigation measures in the form of traffic control or limiting ignition will be initiated if conditions warrant. An evening patrol will be conducted if there is any chance that smoke will concentrate on roads and/or bridges after dark.
7. Law Enforcement Rangers or other assigned qualified personnel will provide traffic control if necessary.
8. Night operations will not be conducted except to allow personnel to depart from the fireline and to provide patrols to ensure public safety and monitor fire activity.

9. EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROCEDURES:

- EMT or First Responder assigned the day of the burn.
- First Aid equipment available and location made known to all burn personnel.
- Burn Boss notified immediately of injury.
- Burn Boss will coordinate with EMT/First Responder.
- Burn Boss will notify Park Dispatch of an injury and will follow up with information as soon as the injury has been assessed.
- EMT/First Responder will assess injury and begin treatment.
- Once injury has been assessed, the Burn Boss or designee will activate the appropriate EMS response for evacuation of injured personnel.
- If personnel need to be evacuated, park dispatch will dispatch/contact EMS resources from the following table:

RESOURCE	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER	LOCATION
BAPTIST HOSPITAL-MED FLIGHT	501-202-1000	Little Rock, AR
NATIONAL PARK MEDICAL CENTER AMBULANCE	501-620-2400	Hot Springs
NATIONAL PARK MEDICAL CENTER	501-620-2400	Hot Springs
ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BURN TREATMENT UNIT	501-364-1323	Little Rock, AR

O. SMOKE MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY

COMPLIANCE:

The state of Arkansas has developed Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines to manage smoke from prescribed fire so that the smoke's impact on people and the environment will be acceptable. Under these guidelines, there are no burn or smoke permits required to ignite a prescribed burn. However, all burn projects are to provide the following information:

1. Determine available fuel loading
2. Identify the closest smoke sensitive target
3. Determine tons of fuel allocated to an airshed
4. Determine category day, mixing height, and transport winds to meet minimum smoke plume dispersion.
5. Notify the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) Dispatch Center the day of the burn with the following information:
 - o Person in charge of prescribed fire and how he/she can be contacted.
 - o Location of prescribed fire (Section, Township, Range or GPS reading and county).
 - o Acres to be burned.
 - o Purpose of prescribed fire.
 - o Fuel type and tonnage of fuel to be consumed
 - o Planned ignition time and duration of prescribed fire.

MODELING:

A smoke projection model map was created to estimate smoke plume dispersion for all proposed wind directions (APPENDIX #3). No smoke sensitive targets are within 5 miles downwind of the burn unit.

MITIGATION:

A minimum category 2 smoke dispersion forecast index day is necessary to meet the minimum acceptable ventilation rate. The table below will be used along with the National Weather Service daily smoke management forecast identifying this information. This forecast will be obtained the day of the prescribed burn and attached to the plan. Ignition operations will be complete by 1400 in order to promote smoke dissipation. On the day of a planned prescribed fire, the Prescribed Fire Specialist, FMO or Burn Boss will notify the AFC Dispatch Center prior to ignition.

TWS Wind (m.p.h.)	MIXING HEIGHT (Feet) CATEGORY DAY												
	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500	5000	5500	6000	6500	7000	7500
7			1	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
8		1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
9	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
10	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
11	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
12	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
13	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
14	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
15	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
16	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
17	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
18	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
19	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
20	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5

P. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

1. Fire Management staff will distribute press releases a minimum of 24 hours before the burn.
2. Fire management staff will notify the following prior to the proposed ignition date:
 - Park Superintendent
 - Senior Management Staff
 - MWR Fire Management Office
3. Fire management staff will notify the contacts as listed in APPENDIX #14.

Notifications are to be made the day of the burn or the day before by either the Burn Boss, Fire Program Clerk, Fire Management Officer or designated person. Notifications will be recorded into dispatcher’s log and on the original burn plan with the time, date and agency/person notified. Attempts will be made to contact all park neighbors within one mile of the burn. If personal or telephone contact can not be accomplished, a “door hanger” advising of the planned burn will be left in a conspicuous place at the property.

Q. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

PRE-IGNITION:

An on-site weather observation will be taken no more than 30 minutes prior to ignition. The burn boss or designated person will be responsible for obtaining a spot forecast and smoke management forecast for the day of the burn. The nearest associated NFDRS/WIMS station is at Jessieville (#34802). Outputs from this station will be tracked, beginning at least one week prior to the proposed ignition date. Spot weather forecasts will be requested prior to the burn and each consecutive day of the burn from the **Little Rock NWS** office (**501-384-0308/3955**). Actual on-site weather information will be reported back to the weather forecaster to help improve the forecasts during the burn. The use of fire effects plots, transects, photo points or other monitoring and evaluation procedures will be determined by the Fire Management staff in consultation with the park's Natural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resource Management staff and the Midwest Region and Ozark Ecoregion Fire Ecologists. Pre-burn coordination with Resource and Fire Management staff will determine monitoring schedules and locations.

DURING THE BURN:

During the burn, specific parameters will be observed and recorded on the attached observation form (see APPENDIX #12). The completed form will then be attached to the original burn plan. Included on this form will be smoke, weather, and fire behavior observations. Smoke will also be monitored along State Hwy. 7 and US Hwy. 70 throughout the burn duration by park personnel with conditions reported regularly to the burn boss. The burn boss will determine if photo documentation is required and assign this duty to the FEMO(s) or designated observer. The burn boss will determine monitoring schedule as needed but observations will be taken at least hourly.

POST-BURN:

Post burn monitoring and evaluation will be coordinated by the Ozark Ecoregion Fire Ecologist working with the parks resource management staff. There are 2 monitoring plots inside the unit.

R. POST-FIRE REHABILITATION

"Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics" guidelines will be used to help minimize rehab needs. The following list of standards for the rehabilitation burn units can be adjusted for specific burn unit needs.

1. Flush cut stumps.
2. Remove flagging.
3. Snag hazard trees at the discretion of the burn boss and holding specialist.
4. Close all access created by fire personnel and equipment.
5. Any other rehab as directed by appropriate Resource Management personnel.

S. POST-FIRE REPORTS

Post-fire reports shall be the responsibility of the burn boss and should be submitted within seven (7) days of the completion of the burn to the Buffalo National River Fire Management Office. The Fire Management Officer and Fire Program Management Assistant (FPMA) will incorporate any long-term monitoring data or reports into the burn documentation package as they come available. The FPMA will be responsible for entering required prescribed fire reporting information, including the 1202 and employee experience records, into SACS when they become available. The FMO will be responsible for updating NFPORS data.

T. DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE

Documentation	YES	NO	N/A
1. Original Signed Plan			
2. All Reviewer Comments			
3. All Maps			
4. Notification Checklist			
5. Permits			
6. Weather Forecast			
7. Smoke Forecast			
8. Agency Administrator - Go/No Go Checklist			
9. Operational Go/No Go Checklist			
10. Daily Validation			
11. Unit Logs			
12. Press Releases			
13. Public Comments			
14. Monitoring Data			
15. Enter into Prescribed Files by FPA			
16. 1202 Completed and Entered into SACS			
17. Update NFPORS			
18. Other			

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