



## NPS Southeast Region Fire Management

[www.nps.gov/fire](http://www.nps.gov/fire)

InsideNPS (NPS Employees Only)  
<http://ser.sero.nps.gov/education>

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## Wildland Fire Use in the Smokies



Chilly Springs Wildland Fire Use Fire

The Chilly Springs Wildland Fire Use (WFU) fire was ignited by lightning on April 4, 2006. Located southwest of Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the WFU burned for two weeks, totaling 913 acres. The fire was extinguished naturally when the area of the fire received approximately three inches of rain within a 24- hour period.

Fire is a natural ecological process in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Fire allows forests to be thinned, opening the canopy and allowing sunlight for sprouting and re- growth of plants, shrubs, and trees. Fire also allows for the recycling of nutrients to the soil while reducing the amount of dead, woody debris.



Burn Mosaic Along Perimeter

The Chilly Springs WFU is significant in that it is the largest WFU fire, not only in the history of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but also in all of the southern Appalachian Mountains.



Backing Through Pin Oak  
West of Parson High Top

Specialized resources assigned to the fire included a Fire Use Manager and Trainee, Fire Use Modules, and a Long Term Fire Behavior Analyst. Partner agencies included the Cherokee National Forest.

The Great Smoky Mountains wildland fire use program first started in 1998 with the 370 acre Forney Creek Fire. Since then the park has had WFUs ranging from 550 acres to an individual snag burning for over one month.

**Blue Ridge Parkway, NC / VA**— On March 4, 2006 the Quarry Fire started on private land, burned onto the Blue Ridge Parkway within about 25 minutes, and onto Forest Service lands within an hour. The relative humidity at the time of ignition was reported to be eight percent. Fuels consisted primarily of dormant brush and hardwood slash. Standing snags and deadfall caused by Southern Pine Beetle, Gypsy Moth (Oak), & Hemlock Woolly Adelgid were also present.



**Quarry Fire Smoke Column**

A Type 3 Incident Commander from the Blue Ridge Parkway assumed command of the incident on March 4. Steep terrain and significant wildland-urban interface were concerns. Values to be protected included numerous homes in Villamont and Montvale, a cellular communications facility, and a 640K transmission line.

Significant events included road closures and structural protection. Burn upslope against the wind and flame lengths three to six feet were reported.



**Crown Run**

Portions of the Parkway remained closed on March 5. The fire made two large runs and some crowning was involved.

On March 6, Quizenberry's Type 1 Incident Management Team (IMT) assumed command of the incident. Precipitation (rain and some snow) dramatically reduced fire activity. Containment lines were completed.

On March 7, one to three foot flame lengths, and rates of spread three to five chains per hour were reported. Favorable weather enabled burnout operations to begin. A community meeting was held in Montvale, Virginia. It was attended by about 150 community members with significant media interest.

On March 8, burnout operations were completed. Backfiring operations created one to two foot flame lengths with some jackpots of fuel from pine mortality with greater flame lengths.



**Burnout Operations**

Crews made significant progress on rehab on March 9. The IMT transitioned the incident to the George Washington & Jefferson NF on March 11. Demobilization was also underway. Mop up and patrol continued.

On March 14, the fire spotted in three locations due to high winds. Fifty mph winds were reported on March 15 and 16.

This fire was managed under Unified Command with USDA Forest Service, Virginia Department of Forestry, and several Rural Fire Departments from Bedford and Roanoke Counties along with the NPS. These agencies have all participated in the Bedford County Interagency Wildland Fire Training Academy which has been supported by Rural Fire Assistance funds under the National Fire Plan.

## **Big Cypress NPres, FL—**

The Six Pack fire was ignited by lighting on April 25, 2006 during an extended severe drought period, with some areas going on 75 plus days without rain. KBDI's were in the 700 plus range (normal for this time of year would be in the 400- 500 range). On April 29, Custer's Type 1 IMT assumed command of the fire. The fire burned approximately 650 acres in Southern rough.

## **Cape Hatteras NS, NC—**

The Whalebone Fire was reported on Sunday, August 13 with two acres burning into the Roanoke Sound just south of Whalebone Junction in Nags Head, NC. The area vegetation was comprised of dense pine, shrub and overgrown marsh fuels and exhibited intense flames and torching that could be seen from the nearby Nags Head Causeway.

NPS Chief Ranger Norah Martinez stated that "With predicted strong southwest winds it was necessary to aggressively suppress the fire as soon as possible and protect the highways, businesses and residences outside the park boundary."

The 12- acre Whalebone Fire in South Nags Head was declared contained again at noon on August 16 by NPS officials. Spot fires on Monday and Tuesday crossed the line and burned four additional acres. The extremely dry conditions and strong breezes presented challenges to firefighters in controlling the fire and produced a large amount of smoke visible from miles away.



**Whalebone Fire at Cape Hatteras NS**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fire tractors worked to contain the fire. National Park Service officials called in park firefighters along with additional firefighters and equipment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and North Carolina State Forest Service. Nags Head Fire Department provided contingency support for the fire in the event that it escaped and threatened structures.

# Hazardous Fuels Reduction

## Gulf Islands NS, FL / MS—

Gulf Islands National Seashore used a combination of mechanical treatments and prescribed burning to reduce hazard fuel loads from dead and down trees that had accumulated in the Naval Live Oaks area of the park during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Hurricane Dennis in 2005.

RFCC, Inc., a local Gryo- Trac contractor from Molino, Fla., cleared a 50- 60 ft. fuel break along the boundary in December 2005. In a separate contract, large jack-pots of dead and down sand pine on ten miles of interior fire breaks/roads were treated by an Oregon based Northwest Arbor- Culture Inc. Posi- Track contractor for access and holding concerns.



**Before (Top), Posi-Trac Clearing Fuel Break (Middle), and After (Bottom) Mechanical Fuels Reduction**

- ✓ **As of November 2006, the Southeast Region Fire Management Program has treated approximately 45,471 acres or 60% of 75,640 total acres planned in FY-2006.**
- ✓ **The Southeast Region has treated 9,413 acres to date or 84% of its planned 11,207 wildland-urban interface acres.**

## Natchez Trace Parkway, MS / AL—

During 2005, a remnant of a rare prairie plant community was identified along the Natchez Trace Parkway, within the city of Tupelo, Mississippi. Due to fire suppression, the area was heavily encroached with small- diameter eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*).



**Pre-thinning cedar-encroached prairie along the Natchez Trace Parkway**

The situation was undesirable because of the increased fuel load and threat of wild-fire, and because the prairie was disappearing due to the shade of the cedar trees.

This prairie plant community is found on the unique and chalky soils of the Black Belt region of Mississippi. The species that dominate this prairie include indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) white prairie clover (*Dalea candida*), scaly blazingstar (*Liatris squarrosa*) and prairie rosinweed (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*).



**Removing cedar trees**

In order to reduce fuel loading and to promote the health of the plant community, it was necessary to carefully remove the cedar trees. Removal was done by the Natchez Trace Parkway fire suppression and fire effects crews using chainsaws. Work was performed during the spring and summer of 2006.

The cedars were moved in small bunches to a chipper. Trees were then chipped and the resulting wood chips were moved offsite. Although this process was time-consuming and demanding, it was decided that limiting the use of mechanized equipment within the site would result in minimum impact to the fragile ecosystem. Moving the chips offsite, as opposed to disbursing them, promoted regrowth of the prairie species .



**Post-thinning cedar-encroached prairie along the Natchez Trace Parkway**

During fiscal year 2008, this site will be burned and fire effects crews will continue to monitor the site. Because more of this prairie habitat has been identified in the area, future plans include thinning and burning of additional acres. This project was one of the first thinning and burning restoration projects for the Parkway in recent history.

**Vicksburg NMP, MS** — On March 2, 2006, the park implemented an eighteen acre prescribed burn to help restore and maintain the historic landscape at Vicksburg National Military Park.



**Prescribed fire at Vicksburg NMP**

**Moore's Creek NB, NC**— The park is rehabilitating a five-acre wet-pine savanna to bring it closer in appearance to the likely landscape at the time of the 1776 Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. The savanna is also home to several state threatened/endangered plant species including Carolina bogmint.

Prescribed fire is being used successfully to control the invasive plants in order to establish and increase the abundance of characteristically dominant savanna bunch grasses.



**Prescribed Fire at Moore's Creek NB**

Three burns have been carried out in cooperation with the North Carolina Forest Service, with the most recent taking place on February 14, 2006. More than 25,000 bunchgrass plugs have been planted since the initial burn in November 2003. Dozens of volunteers have assisted in the replanting efforts.

**Gulf Islands NS, FL / MS**— The 28 acre Naval Live Oaks prescribed fire was completed on March 8, 2006 along the wildland-urban interface with Reservation Road to help reduce post-hurricane hazard fuels.

Gulf Islands recently entered into the Gulf Coast Plain Ecosystem Partnership and was rewarded with cooperation from members including Eglin Air Force Base and the Florida Division of Forestry, both of which provided contingency tractor plow units. The Nature Conservancy also provided several firefighters to supplement NPS firefighters and engines regionwide that were assigned to the fire.



**Naval Live Oaks Prescribed Fire**

**Stones River NB, TN**— On March 29, 2006, Stones River NB conducted the first ever burn on the battlefield. Last year, the park conducted a prescribed burn at Fortress Rosecrans, which is part of the park, but is not the battlefield. Natchez Trace Parkway provided a burn boss and fire personnel. Some local fire departments also participated. Twenty-one acres were burned.



**Prescribed fire at Stones River NB**

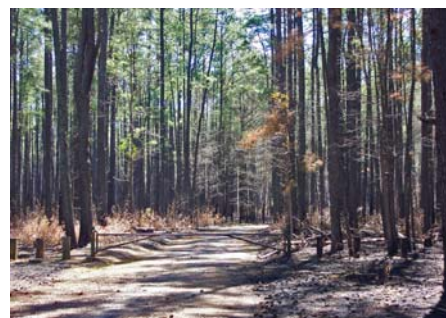
**Natchez Trace Parkway, MS / AL**— The Parkway used prescribed fire to mitigate heavy concentrations of naturally occurring fuels and to reduce encroachment of exotic species in the vicinity of Park residences. Seventeen acres were treated during March 2006.



**Prescribed fire was used to treat fuels around residences at Natchez Trace**

**Congaree NP, SC**— On March 3, 2006, Congaree National Park completed a 575 acre burn that included the primary entrance to the park and was adjacent to numerous private residences near the town of Gadsden, South Carolina.

The Columbia-Richland Fire Service's volunteer station provided a structure engine for standby protection of adjacent homes.



**Burn units 1 & 2, post-burn at Congaree National Park**

The burn units were located in the park's upland bluff areas which feature second growth Loblolly pine forest with remnants of the original Longleaf pine scattered within. For portions of the total burn unit this was the eighth prescribed burn, and for other areas this was the third.

**Kings Mountain NMP, NC**— On Wednesday, March 29, 2006 the park introduced 115 acres of prescribed fire into the Wastewater Treatment Plant burn unit of the park for the first time. Through the use of prescribed fire the park is making progress towards reducing heavy fuel loads caused by southern pine beetle and ice storm damage.

On Friday, March 31 the Aster Burn Unit was treated with 220 acres of prescribed fire for hazard fuel reduction and habitat enhancement for Georgia Aster, a fire adapted species of concern.



**Wet lining the SE end of the Aster burn unit at Kings Mountain NMP**

The 180 acre Swale Burn was a wildland-urban interface burn conducted in April/May 2006. It was designed to reduce hazard fuels along a section of the park's northern boundary. Other goals for the burn were reduction of mid-story density and increasing native grass habitat. The burn area was one of many areas impacted by the southern pine beetle. Fire effects monitoring plots were installed by the USDA Forest Service and Clemson University to gather information on the effects of burning in pine beetle killed timber. Each plot received a specific treatment (i.e. Gyro-Trac only, Gyro-Trac and burn, and burn only.)



**Ignition of the Gyro-Trac Test Monitoring Plot at Kings Mountain NMP**

**Mammoth Cave NP, KY**— Floating Mill Hollow, 2,443 acres north of Flint Ridge Road, was one of Mammoth Cave National Park's planned prescribed fires for 2006. It was carried out on April 28, 2006.



**Smoke dispersal was captured on film by the park's air quality webcam**

Members of the Cumberland Gap, Great Smoky Mountains, and Bandelier Fire Use Modules assisted in planning, preparation, and implementation of the prescribed burn. The Great Onyx Job Corps Fire Team constructed fire line around cemeteries and the perimeter of the site.



On the day of the fire, firefighters black-lined the perimeter by burning a swath 10 to 20 feet wide inside the fireline. Aerial ignition, via helicopter, was used to set the ridgetops on fire. As per the prescription, the fire was allowed to creep downslope into the hollows; there was no ignition in the hollows or along the river. The Floating Mill Hollow fire improved habitat by removing encroaching plants, released nutrients, and burned off grass thatch that prevents natural reseeding.

Fire communications and education activities in the park included a special bulletin board/wall display, continuously running a seven-minute segment from an Arts and Fire video produced by WKYU- PBS in the Visitor Center lobby, and interpretive programs offered throughout the day.

**Natchez Trace Parkway, MS / AL**— Along the Parkway, there are several thousand acres of unleased agricultural fields that are becoming invaded with woody species. In order to maintain an early successional state, the Fire Management Office at the parkway has been reintroducing fire into the agricultural fields. Burning is occurring during late winter in order to minimize the disruption to nesting wildlife and to reduce the amount of time winter plant cover is removed. The use of prescribed fire over bushhogging to maintain these openings is beneficial for logistical as well as ecological reasons. As of March 2006, approximately 170 acres have been treated.



**Applying fire to an agricultural field along the Natchez Trace Parkway.**

**Natchez Trace Parkway, MS / AL**— The Natchez Trace Parkway, in conjunction with the Tombigbee National Forest, participated in a 3,500 acre burn during March 2006. This collaboration marked one of the largest joint fires ever undertaken by the Parkway and the Tombigbee NF. Burn objectives included reducing fuel loading and pole-size tree density. In addition, the area was burned to create the early stages of succession that are desirable by quail.



**Prescribed fire in the Tombigbee National Forest**

# Fire Use Modules / Community Assistance

**Fire Use Modules** — During FY- 06, the Cumberland Gap and Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Modules accomplished more than 5,900 acres, including prescribed burning in the wildland- urban interface for hazard fuels reduction. The modules assisted parks in Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee.



**Cumberland Gap and Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Modules, Natchez Trace Fire Effects Monitors, and Kings Mountain NMP Engine Personnel**

As of May 22, 2006, the Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module had assisted with 21 prescribed fires in eight Southeast Region parks, treating 2,912 acres, and wrote and/or reviewed nine burn plans. During FY- 06, the Cumberland Gap Fire Use Module assisted with 22 prescribed burns in eight Southeast Region parks, treating 4,940 acres, and wrote and/or reviewed eight burn plans.



**Battlefield Prescribed Fire at Cowpens National Battlefield**

With the assistance of the regional fire ecologist, the modules mobilized the Firestorm Contract Crew to help with burn preparation and implementation. The modules managed Firestorm's work and stayed on task with burn implementation by enabling resources to simultaneously prep and burn in up to three locations at a time.

**Florida**— The National Park Service Southeast Region has funded a variety of community assistance contract projects with the Florida Division of Forestry to help support projects in communities that border parks. Several of those projects are now complete.

A bi-lingual Wildfire Mitigation Specialist for the South Florida region, based out of Broward County, was hired to develop and maintain contacts with homeowner and mobile home park associations. He completed four Firewise presentations with a total of 59 attendees from the Sun Sport Resort, Loxahatchee Homeowners Association, Sugarloaf Fire Department, and Big Pine Key. He also wrote 24 press releases for 75 area newspapers, and conducted seven radio interviews and 50 TV interviews on Firewise and wildfire prevention.

The Florida Division of Forestry also hosted seven Firewise workshops, conducted in seven different counties, for citizens living in communities near NPS lands. Target audiences consisted of community and business leaders, homeowner association officers, builders, developers, elected officials, and private citizens. One- hundred seventy- eight people attended the presentations in Lee County (north Ft. Myers), Gilchrist County (Trenton), Clay County (Green Cove Springs), Marion County (Ocala), Alachua County (Gainesville), St. Lucie County (Port St. Lucie), and Palm Beach County (Lantana).



**Florida Firewise workshop**

The Florida Division of Forestry purchased 5,000 copies of the Living on the Edge in Florida and 5,000 copies of the How to have a Firewise Home CD- ROMs for distribution to homeowners around NPS lands.



**Living on the Edge CD**

Twenty- two Firewise presentations were conducted for 677 people in 14 counties (Lee, Clay, Pam Beach, Washington, Highlands, Baker, Putnam, Marion, St. Johns, Lake, Orange, Glades, Levy, and Alachua).

The Division of Forestry also purchased and received twelve portable prevention displays for use in counties adjacent to Department of Interior lands.



**FL DOF Portable Prevention Display**

The Division is also soliciting quotes for the purchase of 18 trailers with prevention messages emblazoned on the sides to serve as mobile billboards. Interior displays will be established inside the trailers. Displays will be able to be utilized both indoors and outdoors.

**North Carolina** — NPS Chief of Fire and Aviation Management Edy Williams- Rhodes presented a keynote address at the 2006 North Carolina Wildland Fire Symposium: Living with Fire in the Urban Interface. The NPS Southeast Region Fire Management Program was an exhibitor at the conference and representatives from the Southeast Regional Office and Great Smoky Mountains National Park were also in attendance.

## Blue Ridge Parkway, NC—

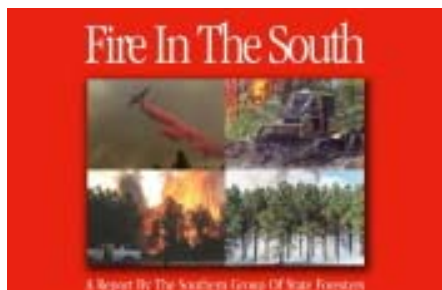
In March 2006, the Reems Creek Rural Fire Department (RFD) responded to the Rattlesnake Fire in Ashville, NC. Initial attack was conducted by the Reems Creek RFD and supported by a NC Forest Service Type 2 helicopter dropping water from buckets. They had the fire contained at 1.5 acres by that night. NPS and USFS firefighters also responded. The fire was located in a closed section of the Blue Ridge Parkway along a popular hiking trail at a cultural site. The initial attack response capabilities of firefighters helped keep fire encroachment into the cultural site to a minimum. Reems Creek RFD is one of 49 local fire departments the Blue Ridge Parkway has supported under the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) program.



**S130/190 Training at the Interagency 2006 Bedford Wildland Fire Academy**

## Southern Fire Risk Assessment—

The NPS helped fund this interagency risk assessment which provides specific information about fire risk on local, state, and federal lands. State and federal agency representatives recently received training in how to access GIS hazard assessment data. A companion *Fire in the South* Publication has also been produced.



**Fire in the South Publication**

**In FY06 the Southeast Region distributed \$332,482 in Rural Fire Assistance funds to 71 rural fire departments in AL, GA, KY MS, NC, SC, TN, & VA.**

## Little River Canyon NP, AL—

Since the beginning of March 2006, Little River Canyon National Preserve experienced five arson fires, totaling approximately 2,000 acres. A 20 person hand crew and one Type 6 engine were brought in to help with mop up and be on standby for initial attack. All but one of the fires started on the park. The other fire started on private land bordering the park. The park provided initial attack response and called in the local fire department to assist.

Soon after the fires, the park's fire coordinator received a request to



share a Firewise presentation with the local Kiwanis club in Fort Payne, Alabama. The presentation was conducted on March 15 and offered suggestions to help the community learn how they could help protect their homes and businesses from wildland urban interfaces fires.



**Firewise presentation with the local Kiwanis club in Fort Payne, Alabama**

## Little River Canyon NP, AL—

Through a PMIS request, the park sponsored a Youth Conservation Crew for the summer of 2006 to assist park staff with projects including collecting GPS data, conducting Firewise community outreach in the Wildland Urban Interface and helping maintain a fire break/fire road.



## Stones River NB, TN—

In February 2006, Stones River National Battlefield offered S130/190 basic wildland firefighter training for volunteer fire departments in the local community.

Thirty participants from eight Volunteer Fire Departments attended 40- hour of classes. The training was held at the newly renovated Rutherford County Emergency Management Agency Building in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Field day exercises were held at Stones River NB. The class participated in a simulation exercise for a planned prescribed project.

The fireline they installed was later utilized as a holding line for a prescribed burn in the park.



**Local VFD firefighters construct fireline at Stones River NB in S130/190 training**

## Mississippi—

The National Park Service has helped fund numerous Firewise workshops conducted by the Mississippi Forestry Commission, offered in communities across the state.



**Mississippi Firewise Workshop**

## Horseshoe Bend NMP,

AL—The Piedmont- South Atlantic Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) facilitates collaboration among university and federal agency partners to provide relevant research for stewardship of natural resources. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, in cooperation with Auburn University and the Piedmont- South Atlantic CESU, has combined resources to evaluate the impacts of various fire and mechanical treatments on the restoration of mountain longleaf pine.



Scattered longleaf pine trees have been found within Horseshoe Bend. These remnant trees provide clues about historic vegetation condition, thereby providing a foundation on which to prioritize ecological restoration efforts through the use of prescribed fire. Mapping and recording the condition of these trees will assist park managers in prioritizing areas for prescribed fire application. Fire exclusion in the vicinity of these trees, as well as throughout the park, has resulted in an unnatural accumulation of surface fuels and the establishment of more shade- tolerant hardwood species.

On April 10, 2006, Horseshoe Bend NMP implemented their first prescribed burn, successfully treating 285 acres. Discussions about how with excessive duff and forest litter, mountain longleaf feeder roots rise to the surface subjecting the roots to fire damage yielded a burn plan which called for reducing fuel loads while prudently removing duff layers surrounding longleaf pine stands.



Horseshoe Bend's First Prescribed Burn

The park is considering supplementing its prescribed fire program with the use of mechanical treatments such as thinning to accelerate the restoration process by increasing sunlight to the forest floor and encouraging longleaf pine regeneration. However, both the aesthetics of mechanical treatment and the improved benefit over prescribed fire alone are not yet known.

For this reason a 5- acre demonstration area is proposed for thinning treatments to enable park staff to evaluate the impacts of the treatments on a small scale. This project includes the selection and marking of trees in the demonstration area for thinning, as well as collecting pre- burn inventory data in both areas to be thinned and treated with prescribed fire, and areas to be treated with prescribed fire only.

In addition to burn implementation, NPS policy requires that all prescribed fire and fuels management activities be monitored to ensure that progress toward achieving treatment objectives is tracked.

Currently three fire effects monitoring crews in the southeast region conduct fire effects monitoring inventory work at 26 parks. This workload is increasing as additional units complete their Fire Management Plans and begin prescribed fire programs. Under the existing program, the fire effects monitoring work at Horseshoe Bend would be conducted by the Natchez Trace fire effects module.

The collaboration at Horseshoe Bend presents a unique opportunity to pilot an attempt at contracting fire effects monitoring. This arrangement is highly desirable due to the available expertise and the close proximity of Auburn University to the park. Although the Natchez Trace fire effects module is involved with the monitoring work at Horseshoe Bend, Auburn University staff is able conduct field work without incurring excessive travel costs and overnight stays.

## Kings Mountain NMP, NC

— Kings Mountain National Military Park and Clemson University have created a partnership for fuels management through a Cooperative Agreement that is reaping dividends for students and parks within the Southeast Region.



Under the agreement, Kings Mountain NMP provides training and practical work experience in fuels management (mechanical treatments and prescribed fire), weather data collection, wildland fire equipment operations and fire management planning. The interns receive Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) and Faller A (FALA) NWCG accredited training. The park also provides housing and transportation between the various park units in the region where the interns perform preparation work for prescribed burns, mechanical fuels reduction, and prescribed burns.

The success of this program has been immense. From the agency point of view, the interns have provided manpower to prepare and complete fuels reduction projects on approximately 2,900 acres within the Southeast Region during FY06.

Additionally, the program is viewed as a training ground for future employees in prescribed fire for the National Park Service and other land management agencies. The interns receive hands- on experience in fire and fuels management where they work with knowledgeable and experienced fire practitioners.

This experience develops a deeper understanding of the role fire and fuel reduction activities play in the management of our national parks as well as an appreciation of the significance of our national parks as historic sites, recreation sites, and remnant natural ecosystems.



**Natchez Trace Parkway, MS / AL**— In November 2005, fire staff from the Parkway attend the Ingo-mar School Fire prevention day. Three different fire departments/agencies were participated in the event.



### Smokey Bear at the Ingo-mar School

The Parkway brought a federal engine, accompanied by Smokey Bear. They performed fire prevention talks for K- 3 classes, including a fire prevention video and talk in the auditorium, and a farewell from Smokey.

The other fire departments brought two fire trucks and a smoke trailer that simulated a house fire where the children had to climb out of a window to escape.



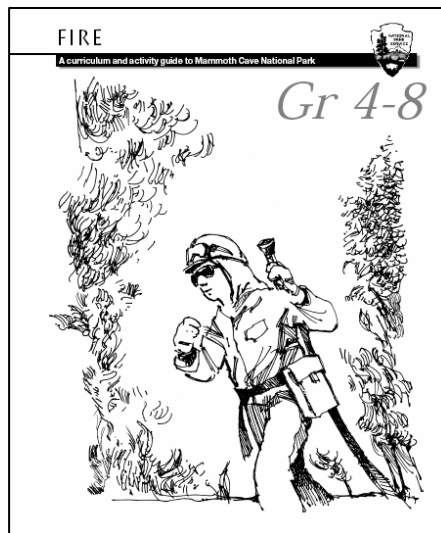
**Natchez Trace Parkway fire staff and Smokey Bear talk about fire prevention**

**Learning About Burning**— Regional Fire Communications and Education Specialist Michelle Fidler developed a Powerpoint presentation about NPS fire management in the Southeast as part of a November 2005 National Interpreter's Workshop session entitled Learning About Burning.

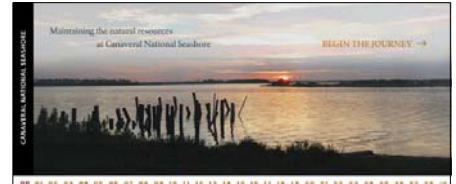


**Sample Slide from Learning About Burning Powerpoint Presentation**

To request a copy of the Powerpoint and/or a CD of related fire communications and education resources for the Southeast Region, contact Michelle Fidler at 404-562-3108 x 643.



**Mammoth Cave NP, KY**— Mammoth Cave's Environmental Education staff have developed a wildland fire curriculum for the park, with many activities that are adaptable for parks across the Southeast Region. It is now available online at [www.nps.gov/macaca/FireCurriculum.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/macaca/FireCurriculum.pdf)



**Canaveral National Seashore NPS Fire Case Study Flash Module**

**Canaveral NS, FL**—Canaveral National Seashore is one of four new NPS Fire case studies featured on [www.nps.gov/fire](http://www.nps.gov/fire). It focuses on using prescribed fire to maintain habitat for species, including those that are threatened and endangered.

A Flash module is a dynamic web presentation which combines images, text, video and narrator to tell an interactive story. A contractor, working in close cooperation with park, regional, and national office personnel, was hired to develop the modules for the NPS Fire Management Program Center.



**New Firewise displays available for loan**

**Firewise Displays**— Two new tabletop displays are now available for loan from the Southeast Regional Office. Contact Michelle Fidler at 404- 562- 3108 x 643 to borrow a display.

# FY-06 Accomplishments To Date

- ✓ Secured \$3,486,000 for Fire Management staffing, fuels projects, facilities, and contracting.
- ✓ Secured funding for Big Cypress NP and Everglades NP for severity requests; the following week the Florida Governor declared a State of Emergency.



- ✓ Acquired a 20 person contract crew from the western U.S. to assist the Fire Use Modules with prescribed fire preparation and implementation for three weeks.
- ✓ Provided \$304,000 Fire Facility Construction Funding for Canaveral NS to construct a new Fire Cache.
- ✓ Contracting 3 Environmental Assessments (EA) for Canaveral NS, Natchez Trace Parkway, Gulf Islands NS for their Fire Management Plans.
- ✓ Provided GIS support to parks for fuels projects and fire management plans.



- ✓ Completed and met all Fire Program Analysis (FPA) goals and deadlines for the entire region.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ The national Fire Program Analysis ★  
 ★ (FPA) project recognized Regional ★  
 ★ GIS Specialist Dean Gettinger for ★  
 ★ his outstanding support of FPA ★  
 ★ with an On the Spot Award. ★  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

- ✓ Conducted program reviews for Great Smoky Mountains NP and the Cumberland Gap and Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module programs.

- ✓ Maintained communications between the Southern Area MAC Group, State Collaborative Groups, and other federal agencies for project planning, prescribed burning, and community assistance programs.
- ✓ Provided \$85,000 to Interagency Fair Share costs such as helicopters, hot shot crews, Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) support and the Southern Area fire cache.



- ✓ Taught or assisted with many mid-level to advanced-level fire courses, as well as teaching the required yearly fire refresher for SER parks.
- ✓ Provided \$10,000 to park employees for fire training, travel, and Incident Management Team participation.
- ✓ Provided \$51,000 to Southeast Region parks for fire cache replacement needs.
- ✓ Provided funding for fire training and 20 New Generation Fire Shelters for the Great Onyx Youth Corp crew at Mammoth Cave National Park.



Great Onyx Job Corps Crew

## Contract Helicopter

— The Southeast Region Fire Management Program will have a Type 3 fuels-funded helicopter available to assist with fuels projects regionwide, with its primary emphasis on assisting with aerial ignition. The helicopter will be on a 90-day contract from approximately mid- February through mid- May. Mesa Verde NP will provide some personnel to help manage the ship.



Plastic Sphere Dispenser Used for Aerial Ignition

## Big South Fork NRRRA, KY—

Construction of a new Big South Fork fire cache is now complete.



Big South Fork Fire Cache



Type 6 Engine Now Housed at Big South Fork NRRRA

Big South Fork also recently took possession of a new regional resource. The park is now hosting a Type 6 engine that came to the region from Theodore Roosevelt NP. The fuels-funded engine will support fuels projects throughout the region. Detailers will be brought in to help staff the engine. Big South Fork was selected as a host park for the engine as it was centrally located within the region, had support staff available, and a heated engine bay.