



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Fire Management: Park Wins Regional Fuels Award



The park staff at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter, Ind., has been named the winner of the 2003 Midwest Regional Fuels Award. Supervisory Resource Management Specialist Bob Daum and Assistant Fire Management Officer Andy Bundshuh accepted the award on the park's behalf from Midwest Region Fire & Aviation Management Officer Fred Bird during the Regional Integrated Fire Management Workshop held in Nebraska City, Neb., January 5-9, 2004.

Because of the cooperative teamwork of all the divisions in the park, all of these goals were completed, despite the vacancies of some key positions for most of the year," said Bird. He added, "Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has a strong fire management program, and is well deserving of this recognition."

This annual award is presented to the park unit that meets or exceeds their projected goals in hazardous fuels reduction acres and projects for the year. Nineteen of 54 parks in the 13-state Midwest Region competed for the 2003 award.

In 2003, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore fire staff completed all five of its scheduled prescribed burns and contracted to complete a 2-mile long Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) mowing project on an old railroad grade. Without additional funding, the fire staff recut and widened two former WUI projects, cut and removed hazardous fuels from around park historic and administrative structures, and assisted natural resource staff with chainsaw work to remove invasive species. In total, the park fire staff completed 448 acres; 41 percent more than their anticipated goal of 317 acres.