

# Creation of GIS Data of Everglades National Park's Fire History from 1948 to 1979

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Since 1948 the Everglades National Park has been accumulating vast amounts of fire history data. This data is in the form of paper records, mylar maps and hand drawn maps of the fire perimeters that occurred for each year. All types of fires were documented, whether they were prescribed, suppression, fire use or incendiary and are included in this project. The purpose of this project is for the U.S. Geological Survey to take the paper records and hand drawn maps from the Everglades National Park to develop Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers in ArcGIS 8.3 of the fire history. These data layers will be created in accordance with the National Fire Standards of the National Park Service (NPS). The creation of the layers is being done by extracting out vital information from the records and building a geodatabase from the attributes gathered. The next step is taking the paper maps to digitize polygons for each fire perimeter. These polygons are being created by using the best available source of data, which in most cases is obtained from the maps that were within the fire report. A point data layer will also be produced for each fire to represent the location at which the fire began. When this project is complete the creation of this dataset can play a significant role in park planning of fire management activities, fire ecology studies and many other issues concerning the behavior of wildfires.