

SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

CY 2002



The Annual Fire Report for the Southern Geographic Area includes narrative and statistical information submitted by each of the thirteen states which make up the Southern Geographic Area and by participating federal agencies: Department of Defense, Fish & Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service.

The CY 2002 Annual Fire Report was compiled and edited by the Southern Area Coordination Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Layout, design, primary editing by Donald E. Forester.

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JACKSON HOTSHOTS
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN STATES
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



SPRIT OF COOPERATION IN FUEL LOAD REDUCTION

The Jackson Hotshots are one of four Interagency Hotshot Crews based in the Southern Geographic Area. During the early months of 2002 the Crew developed two prescribed fire modules from its own ranks. The two prescribed fire modules burned 24,956 acres on National Wildlife Refuges in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina--giving the Fish & Wildlife Service a boost in achieving its hazardous fuels reduction targets for 2002.

After the prescribed fire season the Jackson Hotshots received assignments on fires both in the Eastern U.S. and in the drought stricken West.

The Jackson Hotshots are described by experienced fire managers as professional in appearance, attitude and performance. The Jackson Hotshots are among the best.

SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

CY 2002



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SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA ANNUAL FIRE REPORT CY 2002

THE SOUTHERN AREA

The Southern Geographic Area includes 13 states and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. A great diversity of vegetative communities and species associations are found within the Area creating a complex fire environment ranging from the sub-tropical to the sub-alpine, from coastal plain to tall-grass prairie.

More than one-third of the population of the United States lives in the South. Thirty-six people share a square mile in the Western United States whereas 115 people share a square mile of land in the South. The Southern wildland fire environment has evolved into a place where wildland fire and population growth are rapidly converging.

The Southern population, while expanding in number, is extending its commercial and residential range into the remaining Southern wildlands. There is little wonder that the wildland fire managers of the South provide for the perpetuation and protection of the Nation's most-visited parks, forests and recreation areas.

Drought, disease and insect infestations have, in recent years, contributed greatly to the challenges facing the Southern land manager. Thousands of standing dead trees and millions of tons of down-dead wood have been left lying on the Southern forest floor. In some badly affected areas the fallen trees litter the landscape to depths of more than 20 feet.

The most effective forest protection and ecosystem perpetuation tool has long been understood by Southern resource managers to be prescribed fire. The first officially approved prescribed fire on southern national forests occurred on the Osceola in Florida in 1943. Southern resource managers now prescribe burn an estimated 8 million acres of forest and rangeland annually. The bulk of the burning is targeted for hazardous fuels management. (*Southern Forest Resource Assessment, 2002.*)

The Southern fire environment is a place where wild-fire and population growth are converging rapidly manifesting a need for effects mitigation—in the form of the sound application of fire management principles, practices, methods and techniques. This document tells the story of the 2002 fire year in the words of those responsible for managing wildland fire, in all its myriad roles as friend and as adversary, in the Southern Geographic Area of the United States.

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN



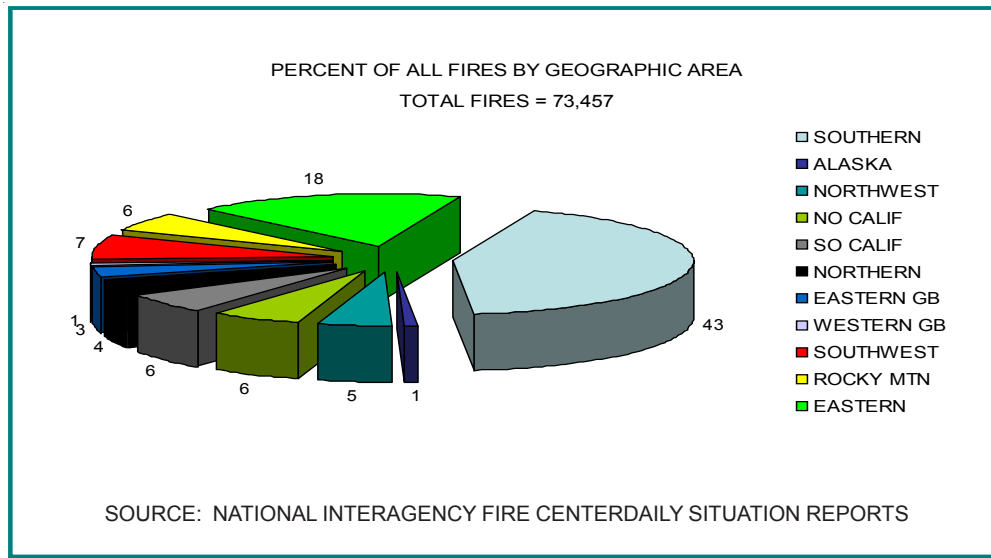
Implementation of the *National Fire Plan* significantly impacted the conduct of wildland fire management programs in the Southern Geographic Area. National Fire Plan support has made possible significant increases in staffing, facilities and equipment inventory. It has spurred progress in mutual aid and cooperation between agencies. The National Fire Plan has reinvigorated efforts among agencies to provide community assistance, public awareness and education at the grassroots level.

AWARDS

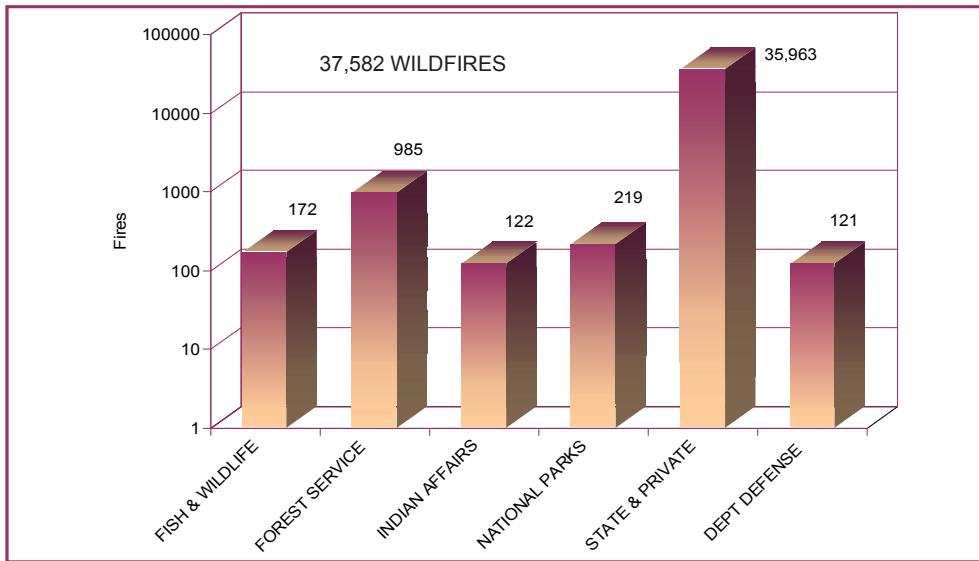
Among the best performers in achieving National Fire Plan goals are two employees of Region 4, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Roger Boykin and Sami Gray were each recognized at the National level. They were awarded National Fire Plan Awards in January 2003 for their outstanding accomplishments in carrying out the National Fire Plan during FY 2002. Roger was presented the award for "Excellence in Hazardous Fuel Treatment." Sami was presented the award for "Excellence in Implementing the National Fire Plan."



THE SOUTHERN AREA REPORTED MORE WILDLAND FIRES
THAN ANY OTHER GEOGRAPHIC AREA FOR CY 2002



WILDFIRES BY AGENCY
SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA



"NOWHERE IN AMERICA IS THERE A GREATER VARIETY OF NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES, NATIVE PLANT SPECIES OR RARE AND ENDEMIC NATIVE PLANTS THAN IN THE FORESTS OF THE SOUTHEAST."

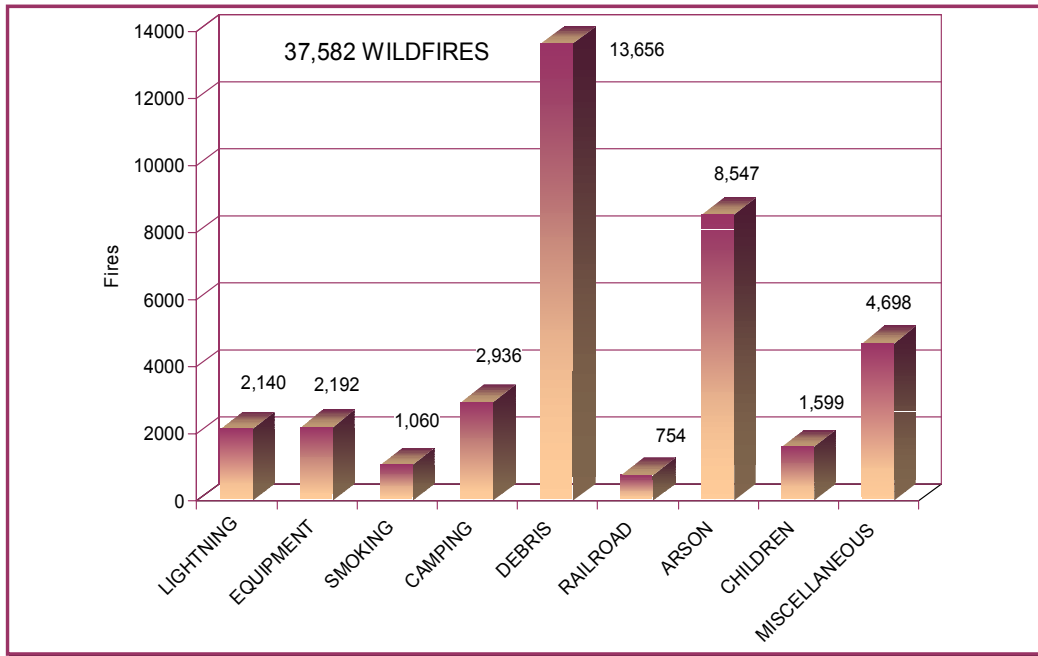
SOUTHERN FOREST RESOURCE ASSESMENT, 2002

WILDFIRES BY CAUSE BY AGENCY
SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

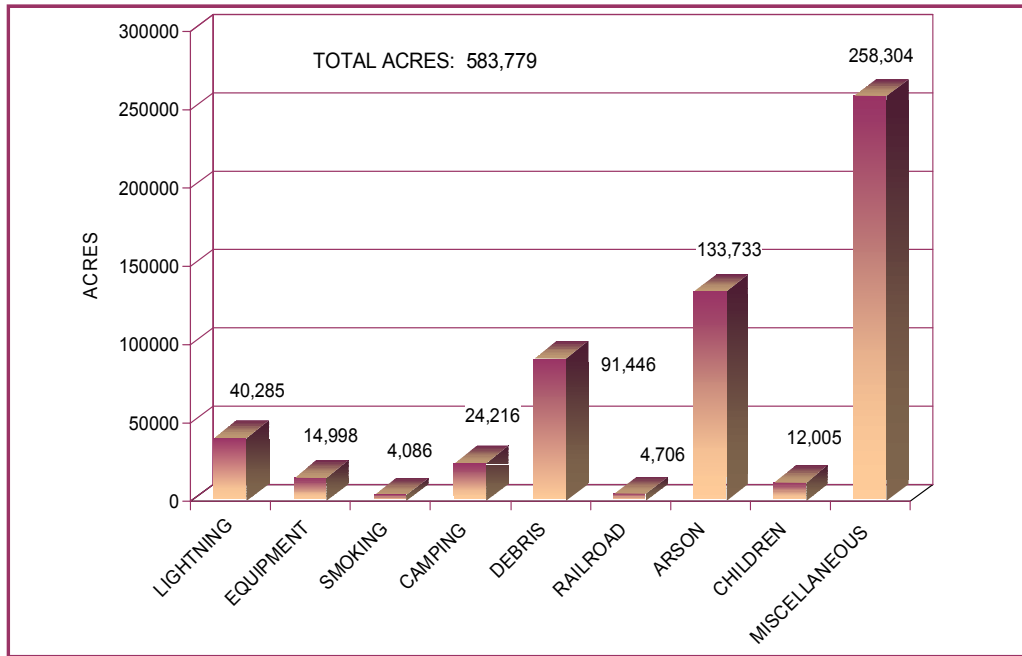
CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres /Fire
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	172	172		882
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	151,734.3		151,734.3	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL FORESTS*	Fires	142	46	10	109	10	424	9	196	985		30
	Percent	14%	5%	1%	11%	1%	43%	1%	20%			
	Acres	7,147.5	486.6	137.6	2,010.5	204.2	14,095.4	187.3	4,486.3		29,082.9	
	Percent	25%	2%	0%	7%	1%	48%	1%	15%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**	Fires	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	122		146
	Percent	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	98%			
	Acres	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17,833.0		17,836.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE***	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	219	219		37
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8,100.1		8,100.1	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	1,984	2,146	1,050	13,547	744	8,123	1,590	3,882	35,963		10
	Percent	6%	6%	3%	38%	2%	23%	4%	11%			
	Acres	27,942.6	14,511.8	3,948.1	89,435.3	4,501.9	119,637.9	11,817.6	67,328.9		363,012.9	
	Percent	8%	4%	1%	25%	1%	33%	3%	19%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE**	Fires	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	109	121		116
	Percent	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	90%			
	Acres	5,192.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8,821.0		14,013.0	
	Percent	37%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	63%			
Total Fires and Acres	Fires	2,140	2,192	1,060	13,656	754	8,547	1,599	4,698	37,582		16
	Percent	6%	6%	3%	36%	2%	23%	4%	13%			
	Acres	40,285.1	14,998.4	4,085.7	91,445.8	4,706.1	133,733.3	12,004.9	258,303.6		583,779	
	Percent	7%	3%	1%	16%	1%	23%	2%	44%			

SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

**WILDFIRES BY CAUSE
SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA**



**ACRES BY CAUSE
SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA**



HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

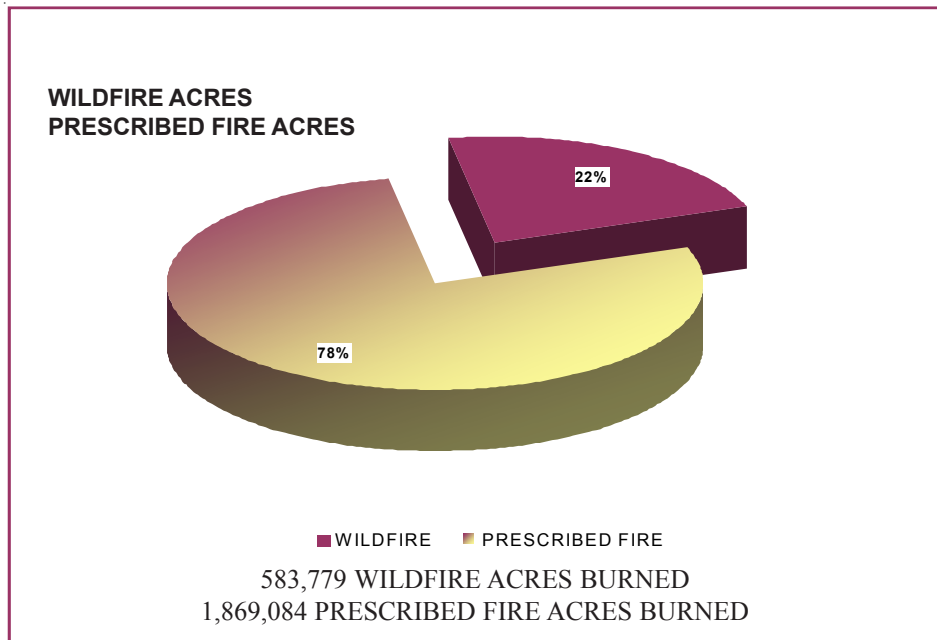


Southern Area state and federal agencies treated 1.86 million acres with prescribed fire during CY 2002. More than 900,000 acres were treated for hazardous fuel reduction, either by mechanical methods or with prescribed fire.

PRESCRIBED FIRE AND HAZARDOUS FUELS ACCOMPLISHMENTS					
SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA – ALL AGENCIES					
	Hazard Fuels* Non-Fire Treatment	Hazard Fuels Burned	Other Resource Objectives	NO. Rx Burns	Total Acres Burned
Fish & Wildlife service	184,337			295	130,337
Forest Service		748,346	84,552	1,025	837,887
Bureau of Indian Affairs**				60	11,061
National Park Service	4,608			88	107,491.8
State Agencies**				23,070	921,873
Dept of Defense**				87	49,379
Total:	188,945	748,346	84,861	24,622	1,869,084
Total Hazardous Fuels Acres Treated by Both Fire and Mechanical Methods: 937,291 (Not all agencies reporting acres).					

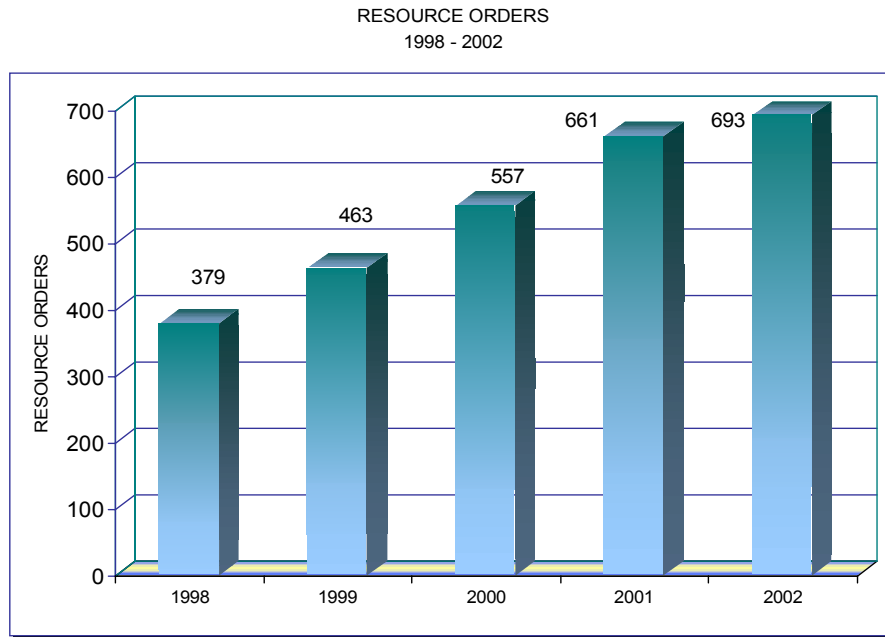
*Hazardous fuels totals not reported by all agencies.

**Data Source for this agency: Southern Area Situation Report. Data for other agencies taken from annual fire reports.



SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

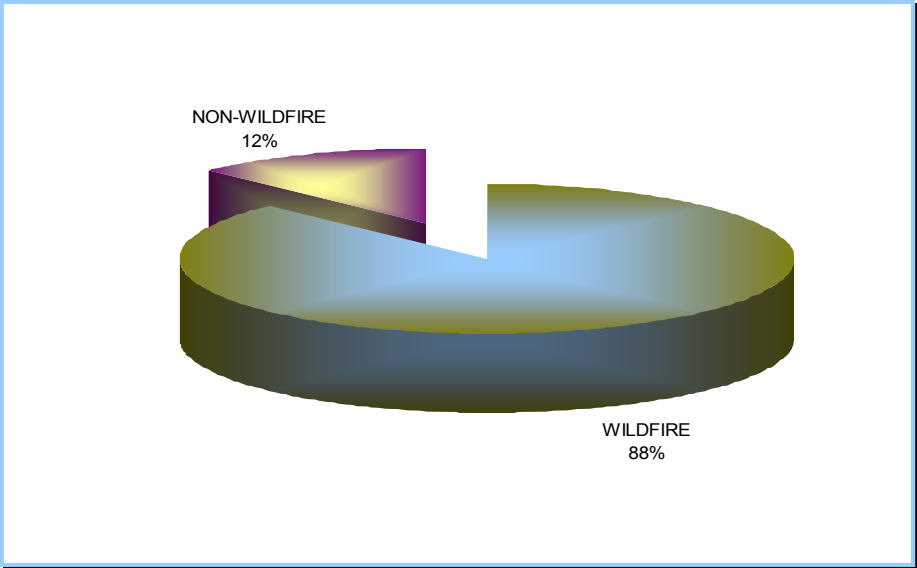
The Southern Area Coordination Center processed 6,896 resource requests in supporting 693 incidents. The nature of supported incidents varied greatly: wildfire, FEMA hurricane, FEMA storm, animal health, homeland security, oil well blowout, resources management projects, prescribed fire, incident investigation, aviation operations, all risk.



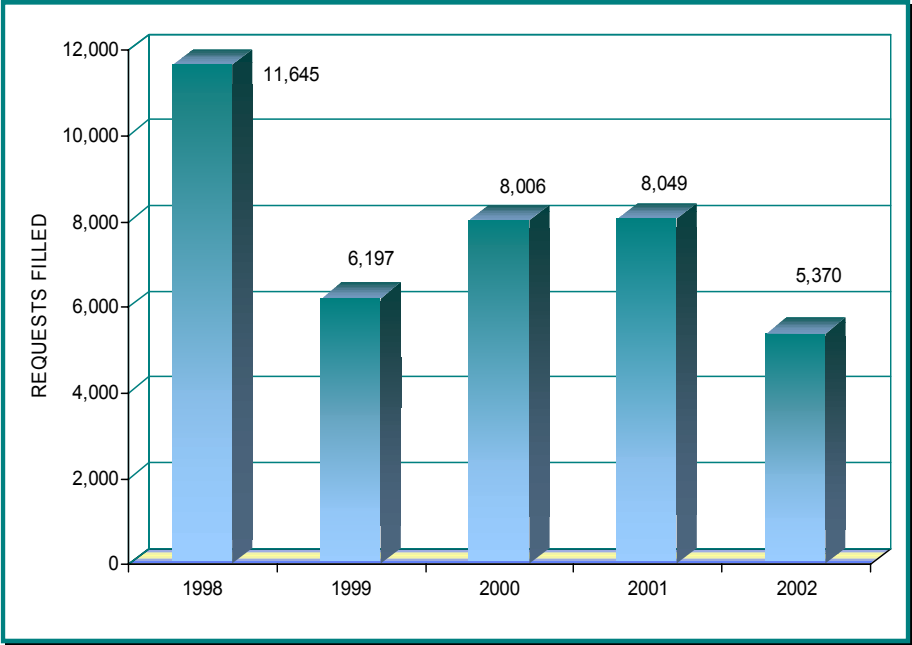
INCIDENTS SUPPORTED & RESOURCE REQUESTS FILLED					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
INCIDENTS	379	463	557	661	693
RESOURCE REQUESTS FILLED	11,645	6,197	8,006	8,049	5,370

SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

WILDFIRE vs NON-WILDFIRE
INCIDENTS SUPPORTED BY SACC 2002



RESOURCE REQUESTS FILLED
1998 - 2002

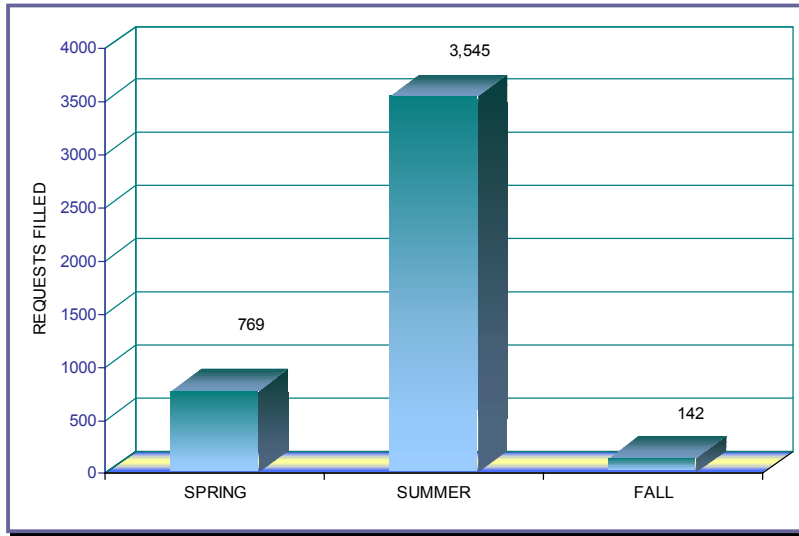


RESOURCE REQUESTS FILLED BY SEASON*

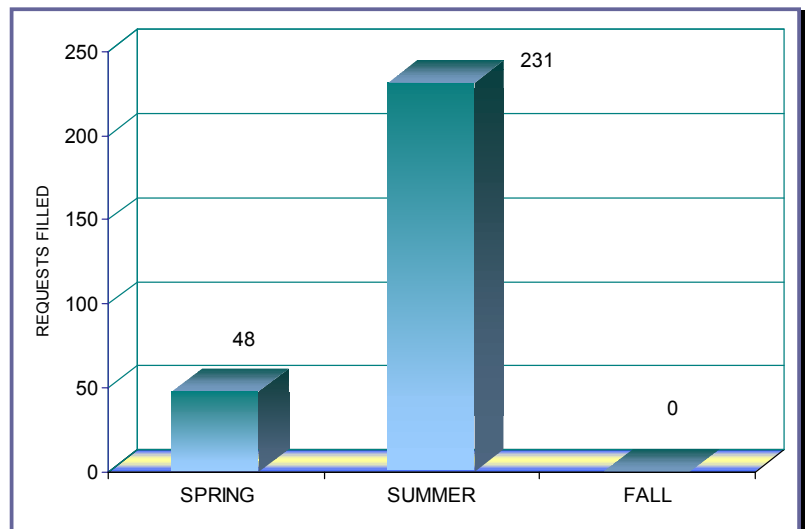
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Total
CREWS	48	231	0	279
OVERHEAD	769	3,545	142	4,456

*Does not include GA-SAC Preposition and Dispatcher Requests.

OVERHEAD REQUESTS FILLED
BY SEASON



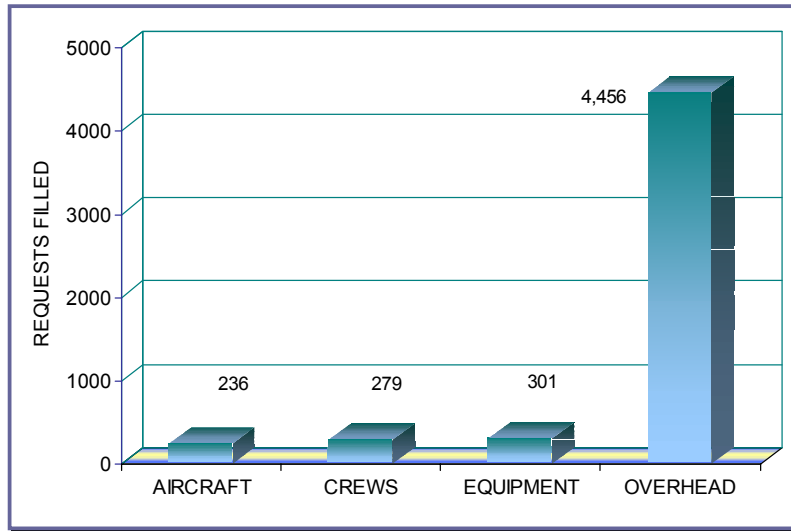
CREW REQUESTS FILLED
BY SEASON



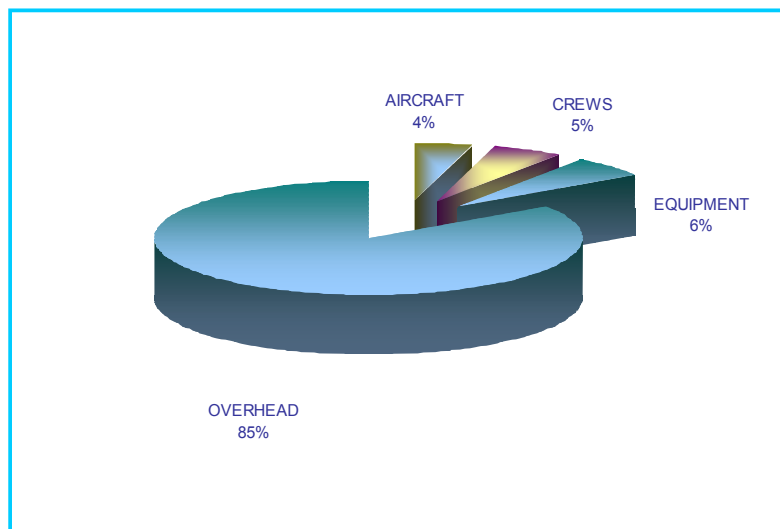


URBAN FORESTERS
MOBILIZED TO LOUISIANA
FEMA INCIDENT
HURRICANE LILI

RESOURCE REQUESTS FILLED
BY CATEGORY



REQUESTS FILLED BY CATEGORY

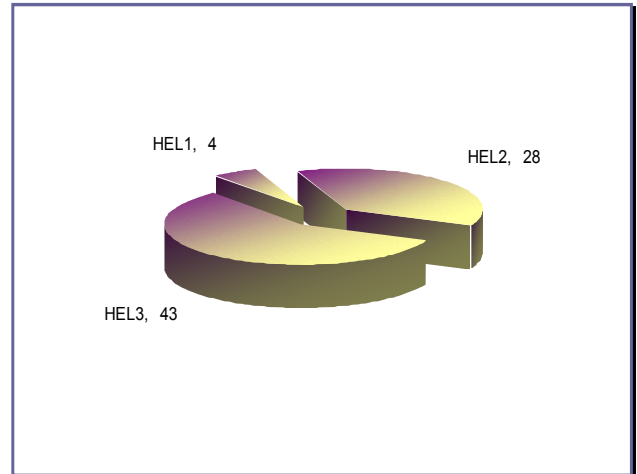


SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

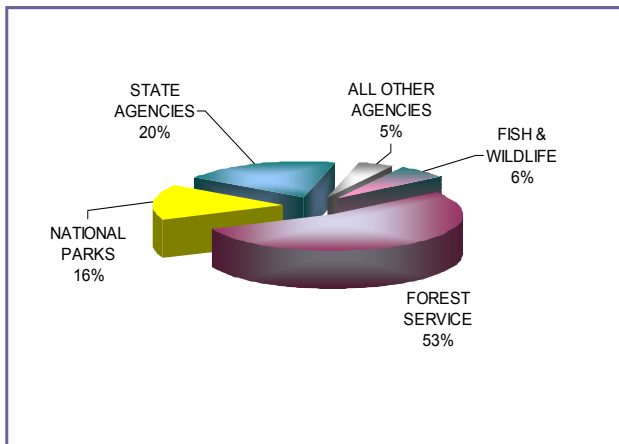
AIRCRAFT REQUESTS FILLED

Transport	10
SEAT	6
TFR	1
Lead Plane	19
HEL 3	43
HEL 2	28
HEL 1	4
Fixed Wing	52
Air Attack	26
Air Tanker	13
Aircraft Frequency	34
Total	236

HELICOPTER REQUESTS FILLED



OVERHEAD REQUESTS
FILLED BY MAJOR CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES
SOUTHERN AREA BASED PERSONNEL



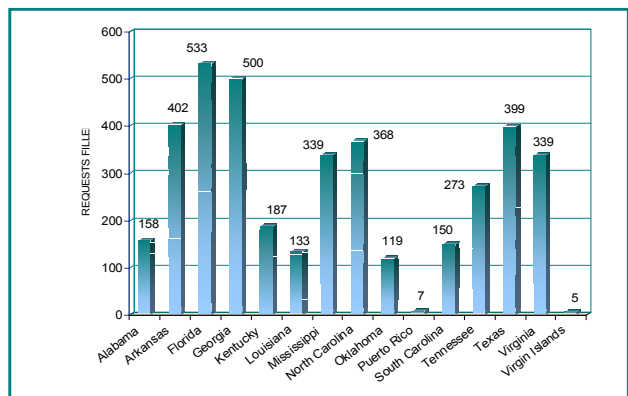
OVERHEAD REQUESTS FILLED BY SA AGENCIES

Bureau of Land Management	12
Bureau of Indian Affairs	27
Coordination Center Personnel (Not identified by agency)	43
Deptment of Defense	9
Fish & Wildlife Service	250
Forest service	2,100
National Park Service	615
Office of Aircraft Services	14
Private	54
State Agencies	763
Tennessee Valley Authority	5
Weather Service	14
Total	3,906*

*6 requests not identified by agency.

SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

**OVERHEAD REQUESTS FILLED BY STATE
SOUTHERN AREA BASED PERSONNEL**



OVERHEAD REQUESTS FILLED BY SA STATES

Alabama	158
Arkansas	402
Florida	533
Georgia	500
Kentucky	187
Louisiana	133
Mississippi	339
North Carolina	368
Oklahoma	119
Puerto Rico	7
South Carolina	150
Tennessee	273
Texas	399
Virginia (DC=104)	339
Virgin Islands (NPS)	5
Total	3,912

DISPATCHERS ASSIGNED TO SACC

	2000	2001	2002
Coordinator			16
EDSP			8
EDSD			137
EDRC			39
Total	320	231	200

CREWS MOBILIZED THROUGH SACC

HC1	34
HC2	236
Total	270

SOUTHERN AREA TYPE I CREW MOBILIZATIONS*

Asheville Hotshots	11
Augusta Hotshots	9
Cherokee Hotshots	9
Jackson Hotshots	5
Total	34

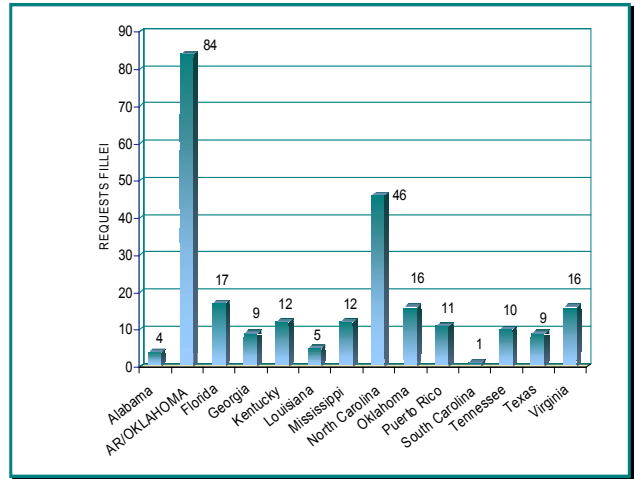
*Does not reflect the total number of fires after initial mobilization.

SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

TYPE II CREW MOBILIZATIONS
BY SOUTHERN AREA STATE

TYPE II CREW MOBILIZATIONS*	
SOUTHERN AREA BASED CREWS	236
OTHER AREA BASED CREWS	9
Total	245

*SACC preposition requests not included.



TYPE II CREW MOBILIZATIONS													TOTAL
AL	AR/OK	FL	GA	KY	LA	MS	NC	PR	SC	TN	TX	VA/DC	
4	84	17	9	12	5	12	46	11	1	10	9	16	236

SOUTHERN AREA INTERAGENCY FIRE CACHE

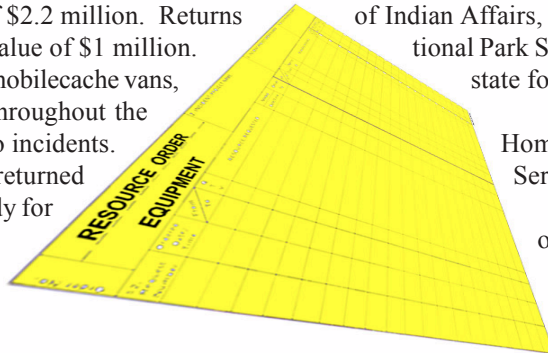
The Southern Area Incident Support Cache (SAK) processed 470 issues during CY 2002. This represents 4,065 line items with an inventory value of \$2.2 million. Returns totaled 2,554 line items with a value of \$1 million.

Several of the 250-person mobilecache vans, which had been prepositioned throughout the Southern Area, were deployed to incidents. Upon demobilization they were returned to SAK, restocked and made ready for future assignment.

SAK customers included all of the state coordination centers within the Southern Geographic Area, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Forest Service and several state forestry agencies.

SAK continued to provide support for Homeland Security via the National Park Service office in Luray, Virginia.

Cache employees supported the other geographic areas by serving on assignments in the Northwest Area, the Eastern Great Basin and the Rocky Mountain Area.



SOUTHERN INTERAGENCY FIRE CACHE
LONDON, KENTUCKY

SOUTHERN AREA HOTSHOTS

ASHEVILLE HOTSHOTS

The mission of the Asheville Interagency Hotshot Crew is to provide a concentrated fire management development training opportunity for personnel from all firefighting agencies with fire suppression responsibilities. The mission is accomplished by:

- Involving candidates in classroom instruction and practical field work in fire suppression, fuels management, fire planning and budgeting techniques.
- Offering the employee a well-balanced, on the ground training experience, while providing a highly organized reinforcement crew for wildland fire suppression during the southeast fire season.

THE 2002 ASHEVILLE SEASON

The Asheville Hotshot Overhead positions are fulltime agency personnel. There are 18 crew positions open every season. Since the establishment of the Asheville Hotshots in 1989, a total of 244 people have completed the program.

The 2002 crew had 9 people from the Southern Area. Of these, 6 were USFS and 3 USFWS. The other 9 crewmembers came from other Geographic Areas. This year the crew had 3 females and 15 males.

Training is a major component of the Asheville Hotshot Program. Our target is the completion of the required NWCG courses for the Crew Boss position. In 2002, the crew spent 224 hours in classroom training. Crewmembers completed 8 NWCG courses as well as training specific to the Asheville Hotshot Program.

In 2002, the Asheville Hotshots reported on January 13 and were released on May 18 for a total of 127 days. The crew was available for assignment beginning February 15. During this 93-day period Asheville was in assigned status on wildfires and prescribed fires for over 80 days, which included over 450 hours of overtime. All of these assignments were off forest, away from the crew's base of operation.

The crew worked on 11 wildfires for a total of 43 shifts. Four of these fires were in the Southern Geographic Area. The other assignments were in the Southwest Area. The crew was used as an initial attack resource on 2 incidents. Fire sizes ranged from 2 to 38,000 acres. Fire duties for the crew included line construction, burnout, structure protection, hose lay management and mop-up.

Due to the number of fire assignments and extensive travel out of the Southern Area, the 2002 crew only worked 2 shifts in completing 2 prescribed fires. This included ignition and holding duties. A total of 2,900 acres were accomplished. The prescribed burns were executed by hand ignition.

Additional support was provided to various districts through the completion of project work. The crew provided 1,700 personnel hours of project work. Projects included fuel reduction and brush disposal, trail maintenance, and recreation area improvements.

ASHEVILLE HOTSHOTS		
	2002 TRAINING SUMMARY	HOURS
	HOTSHOT DETAIL INTRODUCTION	8
	LARGE CREW ORGANIZATION/EQUIPMENT	16
	FIRE READINESS/MAINTENANCE	20
	TEN STANDARD FIRE ORDERS/18 WATCHOUT SITUATIONS	ON-GOING
	LCESTRAINING/FIRE SHELTER REFRESHER	8
S-131	ADVANCED FIREFIGHTER	8
S-200	INITIAL ATTACK INCIDENT COMMANDER	16
S-230	SINGLE RESOURCE BOSS	32
S-234	IGNITION METHODS	32
S-260	FIRE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	24
S-270	BASIC AIR OPERATIONS	20
S-290	INTERMEDIATE FIRE BEHAVIOR	40
I-100/200	INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM	ON-GOING

AUGUSTA HOTSHOTS

The Augusta Hotshots started their Spring 2002 fire season in early February with critical training and the work capacity test. The first few weeks of the new season were spent training the crew to be certified in ATV operations and to be certified as Class C Fallers. Additional training included water and pumps and the incident command system. The overhead was sent to Prescott, AZ for Fireline Leadership training. This year the crew received over 170 hours of training, all completed during a very busy fire season.

During the 2002 season the crew was in Georgia, Minnesota, New Mexico, Idaho and California. The Augusta Hotshots assisted on 5 prescribed fires on Southern Area forests. With severe drought conditions and water restrictions in October they geared up for a very busy fall season only to receive 12" plus of rain in two months, making it impossible for anything to burn. Although the crew did not spend a lot of time on fires, they managed to stay very busy with project work and training.



Although most of their project work was on the George Washington/Jefferson Forest, they also help other districts while staged on fire assignments. In New Mexico and Minnesota they were involved in fuels reduction projects. On their home district, they were able to accomplish a variety of work. Projects included clearing wildlife openings, restoring an old apple orchard, and some trail maintenance. Most work was in preparation for prescribed burns. Over 300 acres were thinned and snagged. Control lines were constructed on the 2300 acre Short Mountain prescribed burn on the Warm Springs district.

In addition to all the project work several members participated in an Information Education Program in conjunction with the Lexington public school system. The crew also participated in a hunter contact program on the Deerfield district. In closing the Augusta Hotshots had a very successful 2002 fire season, with no serious injuries, no lost time incidents or vehicle accidents. They look forward to the 2003 season.



CHEROKEE HOTSHOTS

The Cherokee hotshots had another busy year. The crew is a permanent 18/8 hotshot crew. Their tour began in February and ended in early December, with 4 pay periods off in June and July. The crew was assigned to incidents for most of March, April, May, August and September. The fall weather patterns in the east resulted in no assignments for the crew for October and November.

The crew quarters have been completed this year and will hopefully be ready for occupancy when the crew returns in February.

One of the hotshot crew members had the privilege of being assigned as a smokejumper during June and July. The busy fire season in the western states during this time provided some valuable training and experience for this individual.



**ON ASSIGNMENT
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK**



**CREW QUARTERS
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

JUST OFF THE LINE



JACKSON HOTSHOTS

EXCELLENCE IN HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION--

As outlined in the National Fire Plan and in the spirit of the Secretary's vision of conservation through cooperation, consultation and communication, the BLM's Jackson Field Office entered into a partnership with Region IV of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the purpose of fuel load reduction on National Wildlife Refuges. The Jackson IHC established two prescribed fire modules, each with 6-8 crew members. Through an Intra-agency agreement the two BLM prescribed fire modules burned nearly 25,000 acres during the winter and early spring of 2002. The Jackson IHC plans to continue, and perhaps expand, their prescribed fire work in succeeding years. Jackson IHC prescribed burning activities do not conflict with their suppression season which typically runs from May through September.

The Jackson IHC fielded two prescribed fire modules. Module 103 was based at Southeast Louisiana Refuges and completed 8,239 acres of prescribed burns on National Wildlife Refuges in Louisiana and Mississippi. Module 104 was based at the Savannah Coastal Refuge and completed 16,717 acres of prescribed burns on National Wildlife Refuges in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Module 104 worked primarily within the Savannah, Santee, and PeeDee Ecosystems, which cover National Wildlife Refuges located within the 3-state area of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The crew started burning on the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina. Carolina Sandhills is well known for its aggressive burn program to control mid-story competition in longleaf pine stands. The Carolina Sandhills NWR support the largest population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers on Fish and Wildlife Service controlled lands. Prescribed burning is essential to maintain this longleaf-wiregrass ecosystem and to provide optimum habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker.

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN ACHIEVEMENT



For the period that the burns occurred, it was noted that the Jackson Modules burned more acres on these refuges than had been burned during any previous prescribed fire season. The module working out of Southeast Louisiana was equally successful. They traveled and logged over 4,000 miles, supporting five additional refuges.

The accomplishments of the Jackson Hotshots prescribed burn modules is significant and in line with priorities set in the National Fire Plan. All of the prescribed burning took place in areas that were in close proximity to urban interface environments.

In all of these areas the threat of disastrous wildland fire has been reduced. In addition, they were able to reduce fire risks where ecosystem risks are excessive, while preventing low risk areas from deteriorating.





**JACKSON HOTSHOTS
KEEPING FIT**



**THE JACKSON HOTSHOTS
WORKDED MORE THAN 30
WILDFIRES IN 11 STATES
DURING THE 2002 SEASON**



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

REGION 4



Satellite Images courtesy of MODIS Land Rapid
Response Team, NASA

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



REGION 4

THE SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA INCLUDES ALL OF FISH & WILDLIFE REGION 4, TWO STATES FROM REGION 2, AND ONE STATE FROM REGION 5.

THIS REPORT INCLUDES FIRE OCCURRENCE DATA FOR THOSE STATES FROM REGIONS 2, 4 AND 5 WHICH LIE WITHIN THE SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA. THE REPORT INCLUDES MORE INDEPTH INFORMATION ON FIRE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN REGION 4.

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

WILDFIRE SUMMARY

Region 4 (Southeastern Region) had 87 wildland fires covering 136,973.3 acres in 2002. The total number of fires for all Fish & Wildlife Service field areas within the Southern Geographic Area was 172. Total acres for all units with the Southern Geographic Area was 151,734.3.

One wildfire, the Blackjack, burned a total of 114,314 acres. The Blackjack, burning on the Okefenoke National Wildlife Refuge, was the largest fire to occur in the Southern Geographic Area during CY 2002. Refuge fire staff at the ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in south Florida assisted their neighbors with one wildland fire for 1,830 acres.

The Southeastern Region (FWS Region 4) was moderately busy during the spring fire season. The majority of the fires took place in Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and North Carolina.

The Southern Area stood at Planning Level 4 for 30 days; then at Planning Level 5, due to the western fire season, for 45 days. There were 16 large fires within the southern area and numerous smaller fires. The fall fire season was non-eventful due to the abundance of precipitation.

The southern area had five states with FEMA Fire Suppression Assistance Grants in the fall and one in the spring. The states involved were Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina and Virginia.

TRAINING

Dusty Dendy of Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge hosted Interagency Helicopter training, S-271. He also served as lead instructor for chainsaws, S-212, and water and pumps, S-211, for the National ParkService. Dusty also taught PLDO in Texas for the McFadden National Wildlife Refuge, Region 2. In addition Dusty taught a short-course in prescribed burning for Mississippi State University.

The Southeastern Region (Region 4) hosted the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) course at NCTC. This was the first time the newly rewritten NFDRS course was taught in the Eastern U.S. Pat Boucher served as course coordinator.

OVERHEAD TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Three Region 4 district fire management officers were given positions on one of the Southern Area Overhead Teams. Tony Wilder, District 7 Fire Management Officer is Operations Section Chief on the Red Team. Jim Durrwachter, District 6 Fire Management Officer is Operations Section Chief on the Red Team. Glenn Stratton, Acting District 5 Fire Management Officer, is a Division Supervisor on the Blue Team.

Three Regional Office staff were given assignments on the overhead teams as well. Bob Eaton, Assistant Regional Fire Management Coordinator, is a Division Supervisor on the Red Team. Dave Brownlie, Regional Fire Ecologist, served as Situation Unit Leader on the Red Team. Ken McLaughlin, Regional Prescribed Fire Specialist, served as Air Attack Group Supervisor on the Red Team during FY 2002.

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN AWARDS

Roger Boykin and Sami Gray were each awarded National Fire Plan Awards in January 2003 for their outstanding accomplishments in carrying out the National Fire Plan during FY 2002. Roger was presented the award for "Excellence in Hazardous Fuel Treatment" and Sami was presented the award for "Excellence in Implementing the National Fire Plan."



ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES

Support was provided locally to other agencies on approximately 16 fires in various parts of the Region, as shown in the following table:

ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL AGENCIES	
State	Personnel
Florida	13
South Carolina	15
Louisiana	11
North Carolina	10

WILDLAND FIRES BY STATE*			
	Fires	Acres	Acres/fire
Alabama	1	12.7	13
Arkansas	5	86.6	17
Florida	19	394.4	21
Georgia	8	117,821.9	14,728
Kentucky	0	0	0
Louisiana	28	14,634.3	523
Mississippi	3	220.0	73
North Carolina	18	3,764.3	209
Oklahoma	21	8,70.6	41
South Carolina	5	39.1	8
Tennessee	0	0	0
Texas	63	13,890.2	220
Virginia	1	.2	0
Total Fires*	172	151,734.3	882

*USFWS Region 4 plus Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia

911 HOMELAND SECURITY

Due to the September 11th attack in 2001, terrorist threats were an issue throughout 2002. Law enforcement personnel were requested for Homeland Security assignments. The Fish & Wildlife Service responded and helped to protect Shasta Dam and other sensitive sites by filling requests for 60 SEC1 positions.

SOUTHWEST AND WESTERN ASSISTANCE

Region 4 responded for overhead personnel requests to combat the fires that spread through the Southwestern and Western U.S. during the 2002 summer fire season. Region 4 filled requests for 147 overhead positions and 42 firefighters. The Southeastern Region also supplied several Type VI engines and engine crews to fight the western fires.

For the western wildfires we supplied 100 individuals and filled 17 overhead incident management team personnel requests. Individual employees served on two or even three assignments during the summer season.

The National preparedness level was at Planning Level V for approximately 65 days. The Southern Geographic Area deployed its two Type I Incident Management Teams and its two Area Command Teams to the Western U.S. for fire assignments.

Two Region 4 employees, Howard Poitevint, Regional Wildland Fire Specialist and Terri Jenkins, District 2 Fire Management Officer, spent one week in August training military personnel at Fort Riley, Kansas.

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS: PERSONNEL

Bob Eaton accepted the position of Assistant Regional Fire Management Coordinator in August.

Sue Grace began service with the Southeastern Region in 2002 as the Regional Fire Ecologist. She is stationed at the Fire Management Field Office in Tallahassee, Florida.

Dave Cann also began service with the Southeastern Region during 2002, as the Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator for District 7. Dave is stationed at Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge.

Kelley Van Druten transferred from Region 2 (Aransas NWR) to Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge where she serves as the Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator for District 1.

Chet Foyle accepted the position of Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator for District 4 in December. He is stationed at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). He transferred from the South Carolina Forestry Commission.

Heidi Hubbs transferred from Region 2 (Wichita Mountains NWR) in December to fill the District 4 FMO position at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

Jeremy Keller came on board in December as the Regional Wildland Urban Interface Specialist. Jeremy transferred from the U.S. Forest Service, Region 4.

Ken McLaughlin, Regional Prescribed Fire Specialist, retired in December.

Region 2 of the Fish & Wildlife Service has a new employee stationed at the Texas Interagency Coordination Center, Joe Perez. Pat Boucher, Region 4 Assistant Area Coordinator for the Southern Area Coordination Center, works very closely with Region 2 and with Region 5 to coordinate the mobilization of their resources.

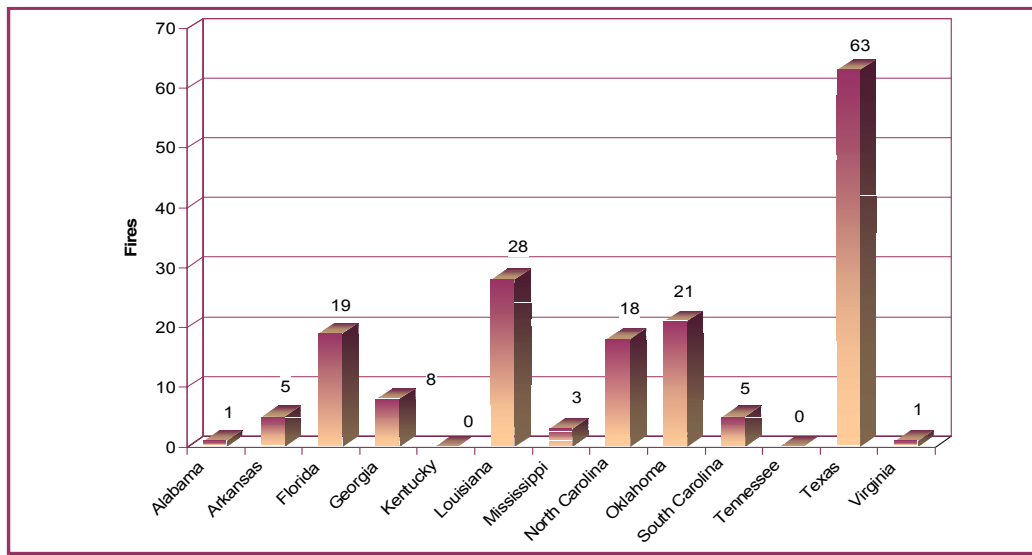
Pat Boucher ensures that Region 2 and Region 5 personnel are mobilized as needed. She ensures that Region 2 and Region 5 wildfires and prescribed burns appear in the Daily Situation Reports and she ensures that personnel from all three Fish & Wildlife Regions receive notice of fire training opportunities.



Pat also served as the overall coordinator for the implementation of ROSS in the Southern Geographic Area. Pat has instructed three ROSS dispatcher courses and has four more courses scheduled for 2003. The Southern Area was the first geographic area to initiate ROSS training.

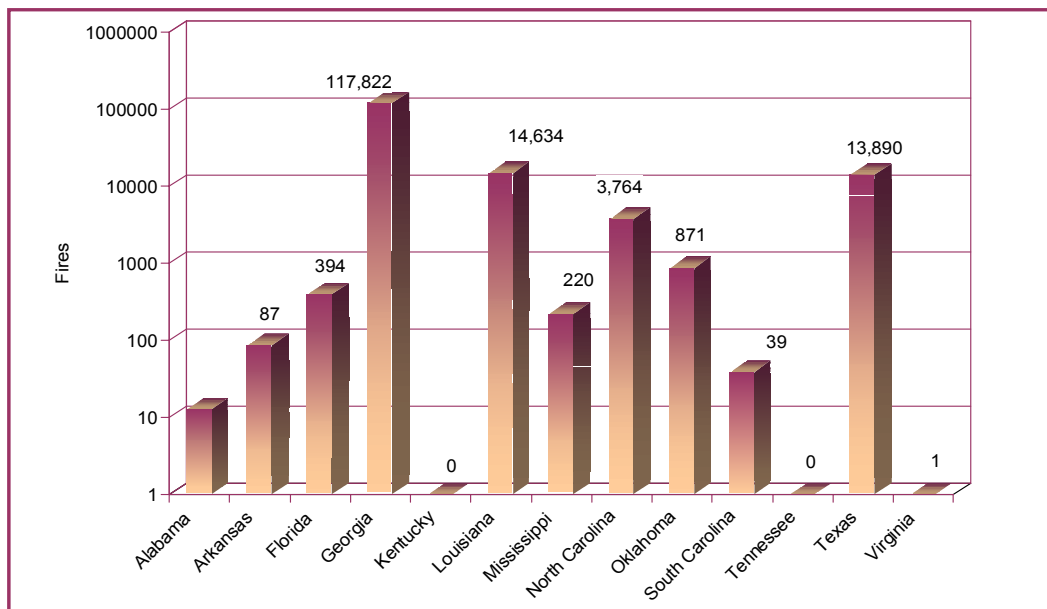
ROSS TRAINEES HARD AT WORK

**WILDFIRES BY STATE
Fish & Wildlife Service
Within The Southern Geographic Area**



172 WILDFIRES

**ACRES BURNED BY STATE
Fish & Wildlife Service
Within The Southern Geographic Area**



151,734.3 ACRES BURNED

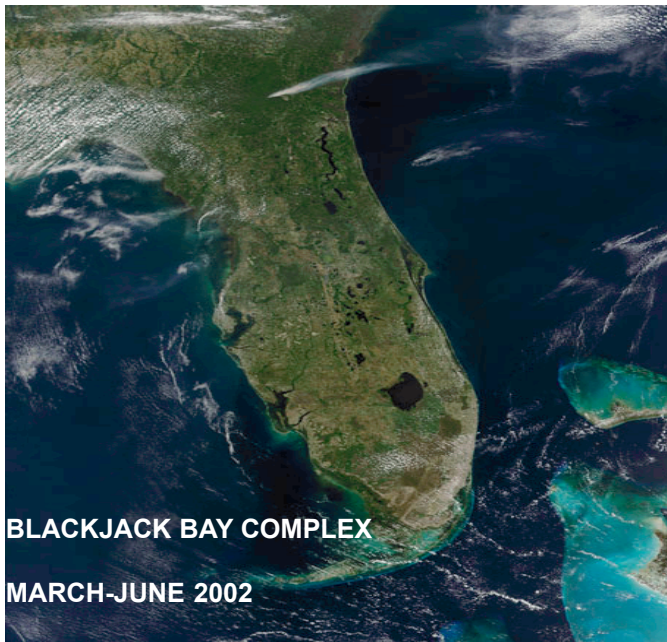
HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

Region 4 conducted 295 prescribed burns during 2002. A total of 184,337 acres were treated for hazardous fuel reduction projects.

Extreme drought conditions in the Southeastern Region affected the timing of certain prescribed burns. Notwithstanding the effects of drought, the Southeastern Region achieved 100% of its targeted prescribed burns. The drought conditions continue to provide a management challenge to balance the prescribed burning and the wildland fire suppression programs.

Six field stations burned more than 67,743 acres, even with the extreme drought conditions. This accounted for 50% of the Region 4's prescribed fire acreage; and 40% of the total number of prescribed fires.

Six Field Stations 50% of Prescribed Fires		
Refuge	Fires	Acres
St. Marks	65	12,697
Lacassine	7	21,713
Merritt Island	9	8,723
Carolina Sandhills	25	13,199
Piedmont	4	6,352
Noxubee	22	5,059



Satellite Images are courtesy of MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA GSFC

BLACKJACK BAY COMPLEX
NUMBER ONE ISLAND FIRE
MARCH 21, 2002



BLACKJACK BAY COMPLEX

FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Fire Management Plan directs that the management of wildland fires be guided by an integrated confinement, monitoring and surveillance strategy. The *Fire Management Plan* is part of a comprehensive *Habitat Management Plan* which applies to all aspects of habitat management throughout the refuge. This includes wetlands, wilderness and forest management compartments.

The plan complies with agency policy pertaining to fire management. It presents strategies and implementation procedures that are consistent with the 1995 Federal Fire Management Policy. Fire management strategies that are to be employed to achieve the resource management goals include:

- Wildland fires will be controlled in a safe and efficient manner, utilizing the best practical method that will produce the least negative impact on the environment and adjacent private property.
- Develop cooperative ventures with adjacent landowners to aid in management of swamp perimeter fires. Most cooperative ventures will be accomplished through the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL) organization.

An analysis was completed to determine the appropriate strategy and management response for three wildfires that were burning in the refuge in early May 2002. A strategy of confinement/surveillance was selected for management of all fires burning within the swamp boundary. Fires that moved beyond the swamp boundary, and threatened private lands and natural resources, were designated for control.

The three fires, Bay Creek, Blackjack02 and Number One Island were combined as the Blackjack Bay Complex for management efficiency.

UNIFIED COMMAND

A Unified Command was established to manage the Blackjack Bay Complex. Agencies participating in the Unified Command were the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Florida Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Greater Organization of Okefenokee Landowners (GOAL) also served as a valuable partner in the decision-making process in managing the Blackjack Bay Complex. GOAL is made up of private industrial and family landowners and federal and state agencies that have worked on fire related issues around the Okefenokee since the mid-1990s. GOAL facilitated extraordinary cooperation and collaboration among the many stakeholders involved and/or affected by the Blackjack Bay Complex fires.

FIRE USE MANAGEMENT TEAMS

Management of the Blackjack Bay Complex was delegated to an Interagency Fire Use Management Team (FUMT). The FUMT managed the fires under the overall direction of the Fish & Wildlife Service and the Unified Command.

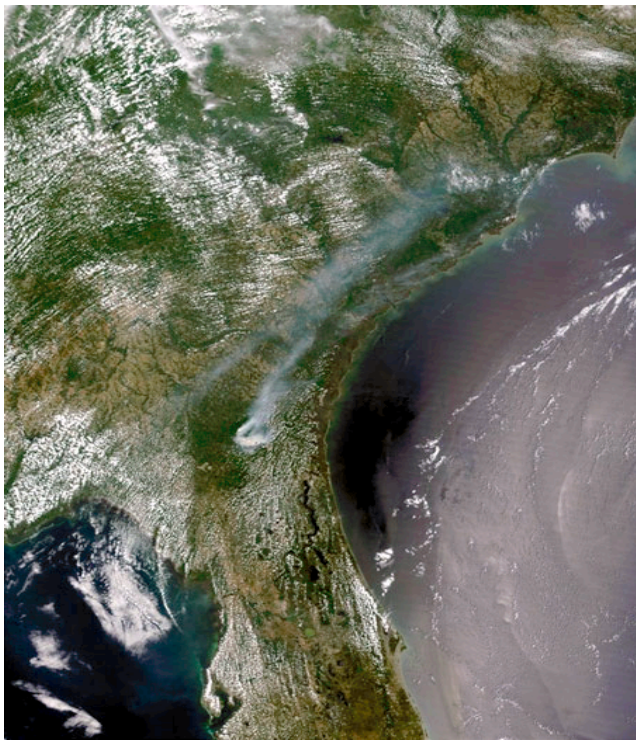
The Blackjack Bay Complex burned more than 114,000 acres. Fire management objectives and resources management goals, as outlined in the *Fire Management Plan* and in the *Habitat Management Plan*, were achieved.



MAY 4, 2002



**JUNE 4, 2002
BLACKJACK FIRE**



Satellite Images are courtesy of MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA GSFC

MAY 8, 2002



DECISION MAKERS



REBURN OFF HONEY

6/17/02



**FOREST SERVICE
REGION 8**



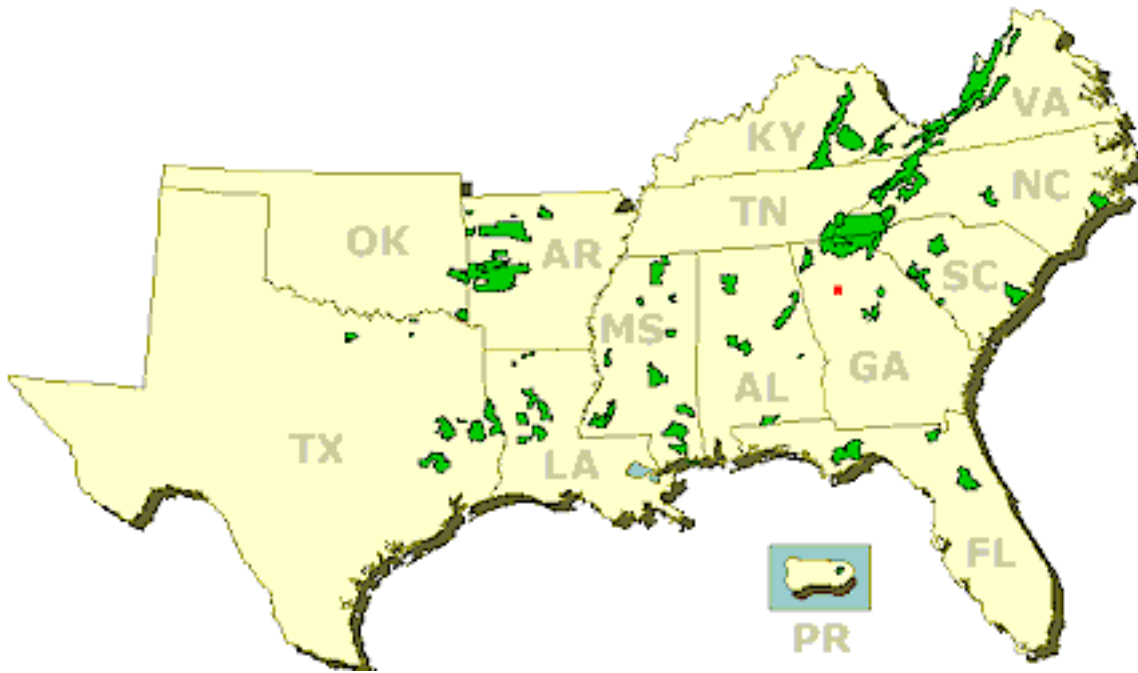
ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

2002



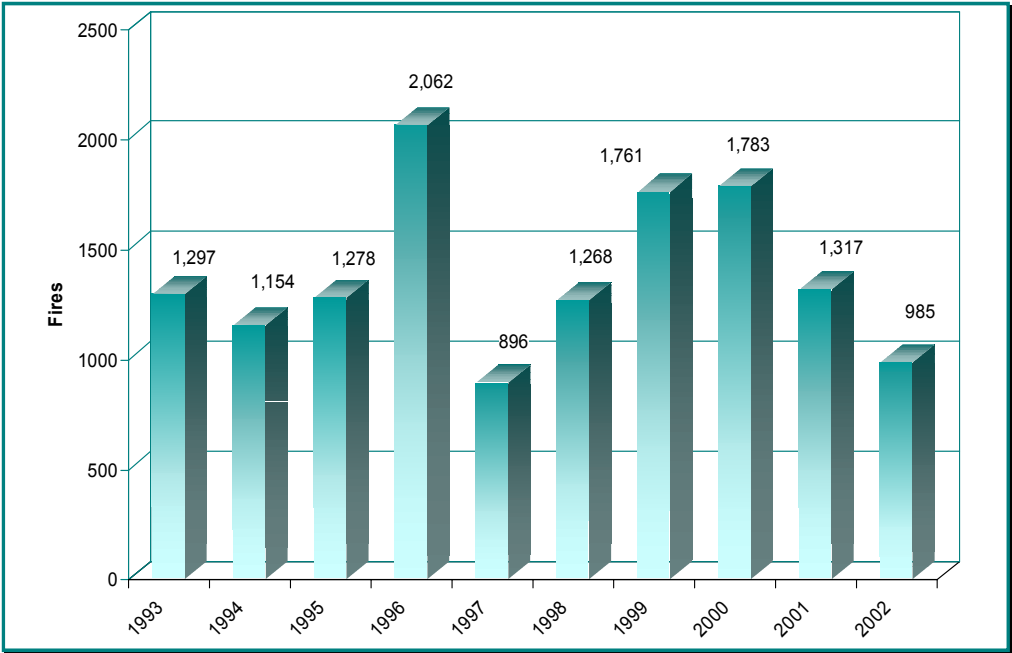
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE
REGION 8



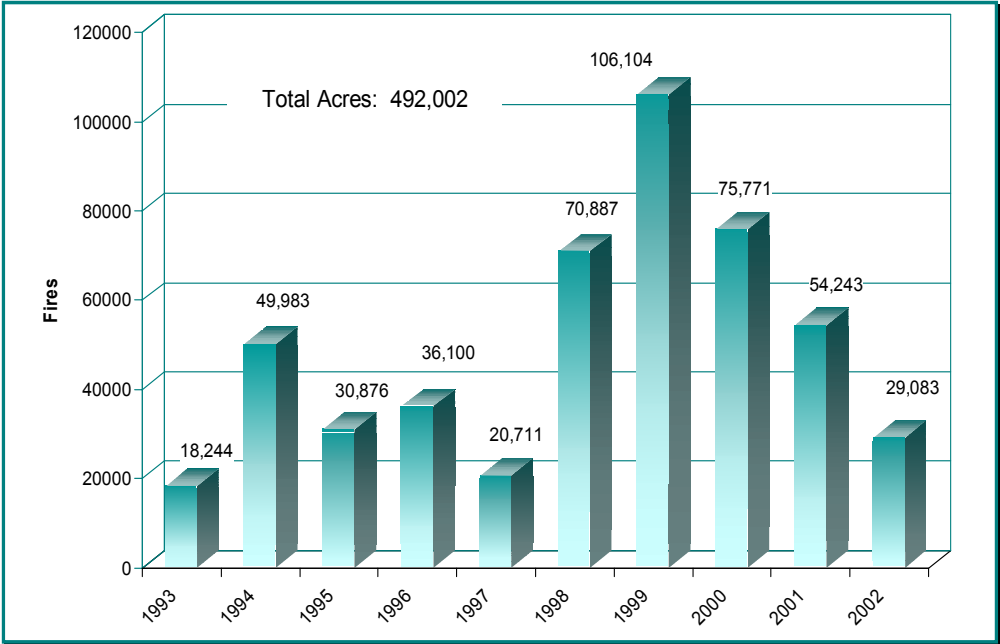
SUMMARY CHARTS

WILDFIRES 1993 Through 2002



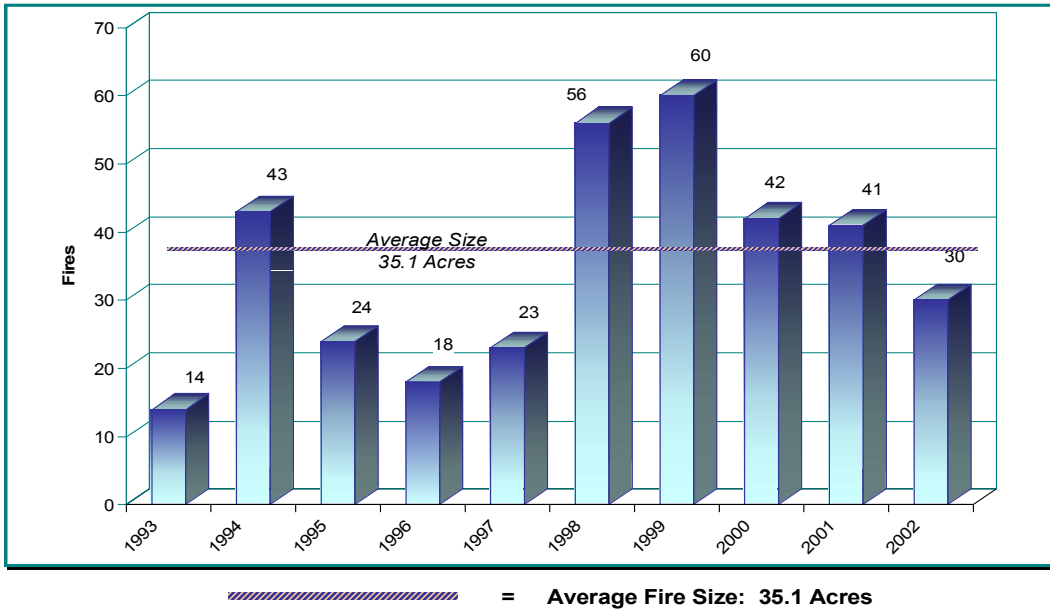
Total Fires: 13,801

ACRES BURNED 1993 THROUGH 2002

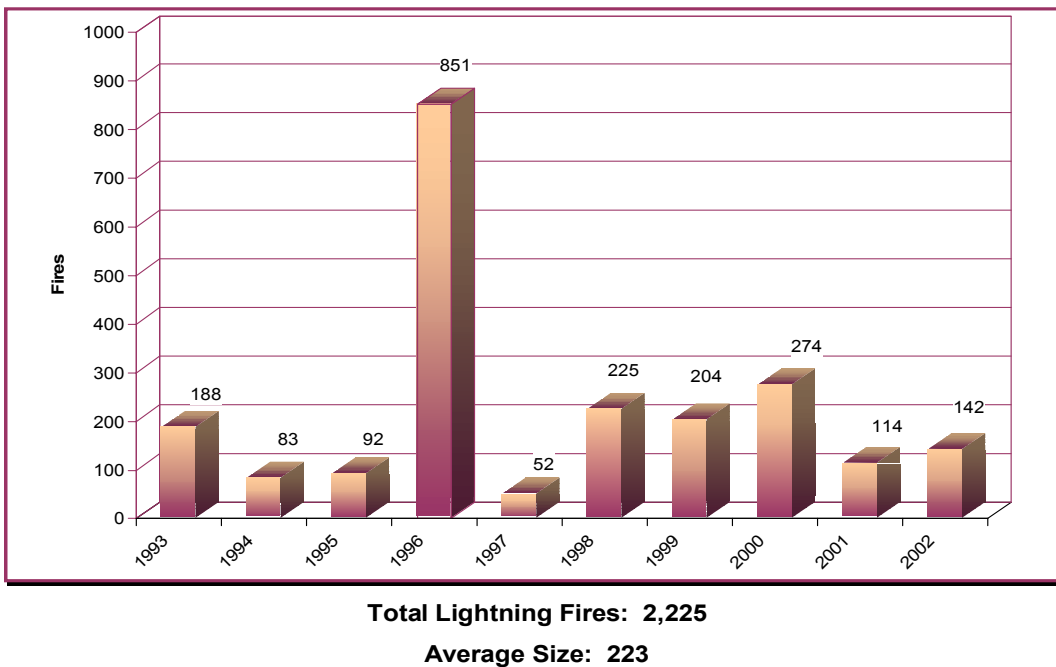


FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

**AVERAGE FIRE SIZE
1993 THROUGH 2002**



**LIGHTNING FIRES
1993 Through 2002**



FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

FIRES BY CAUSE
1990 - 2002

FIRES BY CAUSE: 1990 -- 2002												
Year	Lightning	Equip	Smoke	Camp	Debris	RR	Arson	Child	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres /Fire
1990	149	34	27	53	112	8	742	7	196	1,328	24,794	19
1991	80	66	28	53	90	13	704	10	134	1,178	30,349	26
1992	72	20	26	41	118	4	672	7	128	1,088	31,498	29
1993	188	24	26	50	108	14	725	11	151	1,297	18,244	14
1994	83	21	26	46	147	7	653	14	157	1,154	49,983	43
1995	92	29	33	61	134	15	738	12	164	1,278	30,876	24
1996	851	47	20	49	166	11	748	8	162	2,062	36,100	18
1997	52	24	18	52	94	27	474	8	147	896	20,711	23
1998	225	40	31	60	64	8	390	10	440	1,268	70,887	56
1999	204	30	23	93	161	21	847	5	377	1,761	106,104	60
2000	274	64	16	78	148	35	926	11	233	1,783	75,771	42
2001	114	46	33	50	129	63	607	13	258	1,317	54,243	41
2002	142	46	10	38	109	10	424	9	196	985	29,083	30

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8
FIVE YEAR AVERAGES

FIVE YEAR AVERAGES – FOREST SERVICE REGION 8												
Time Period	Light'ng	Equip	Smoke	Camp	Debris	RR	Arson	Children	Misc	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres /Fire
93-97	1266	145	123	258	649	74	3338	53	781	6,687	155,914	23
5 yr avg	253	29	25	52	130	15	668	11	156	1,337	31,183	
Percent	18%	2%	2%	4%	10%	1%	51%	1%	11%			
94-98	1303	161	128	268	605	68	3003	52	1070	6,658	208,557	31
5 yr avg	261	32	26	54	121	14	601	10	214	1,332	41,711	
Percent	20%	2%	2%	4%	9%	1%	45%	1%	16%			
95-99	1424	170	125	315	619	82	3197	43	1290	7,265	264,678	36
5 yr avg	285	34	25	63	124	16	639	9	258	1,453	52,936	
Percent	20%	2%	2%	4%	9%	1%	44%	1%	18%			
96-2000	1606	205	108	332	633	102	3385	42	1359	7,770	309,573	40
5 yr avg	321	41	22	66	127	20	677	8	272	1,554	61,915	
Percent	21%	3%	1%	4%	8%	1%	44%	1%	17%			
97-01	869	204	121	333	596	154	3244	47	1455	7,025	327,715	47
5 yr avg	174	41	24	67	119	31	649	9	291	1,405	65,543	
Percent	12%	3%	2%	5%	8%	2%	46%	1%	21%			
98-02	959	226	113	320	611	137	3,194	48	1,504	7,114	336,088	46
5 yr avg	192	45	23	64	122	27	639	10	301	1,423	67,218	
Percent	13%	3%	2%	4%	9%	2%	45%	1%	21%			

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

CY 2002													
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE AND BY FOREST CY 2002													
Table 1 of 2													
	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Camping	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres/fire	
Alabama-- National Forests In Alabama	Fires	10	0	1	7	0	45	1	9	73		37	
	Acres	648.6	0	.1	337.5	0	1379.9	5	331.5		2,702.6		
AR/OK-- Ouachita National Forest	Fires	8	5	0	3	0	37	0	11	67		14	
	Acres	62.9	6.5	0	14.1	0	795.2	0	44.5		932.3		
AR/OK-- Ozark-St Francis National Forests	Fires	2	2	0	3	0	32	0	15	54		17	
	Acres	10.1	.4	0	10.6	0	702.5	0	193.7		917.2		
Florida-- National Forests In Florida	Fires	48	5	2	12	1	11	5	32	125		14	
	Acres	886.2	5.8	121.5	47	139	152.4	1.6	332.1		1,800.5		
Georgia--Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest	Fires	4	1	1	13	0	46	2	18	87		17	
	Acres	22.3	49	5.4	233.2	0	1034.6	1.7	156.4		1,503.6		
Kentucky-- Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	2	1	0	7	0	46	1	3	61		31	
	Acres	5.5	6	0	77.5	0	1598.8	20	170		1,877.9		
KY-- Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area	Fires	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2		2	
	Acres	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		3		
Louisiana-- Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	1	2	0	3	1	28	0	8	46		36	
	Acres	6	31	0	181	15	1202	159	0		1,633		

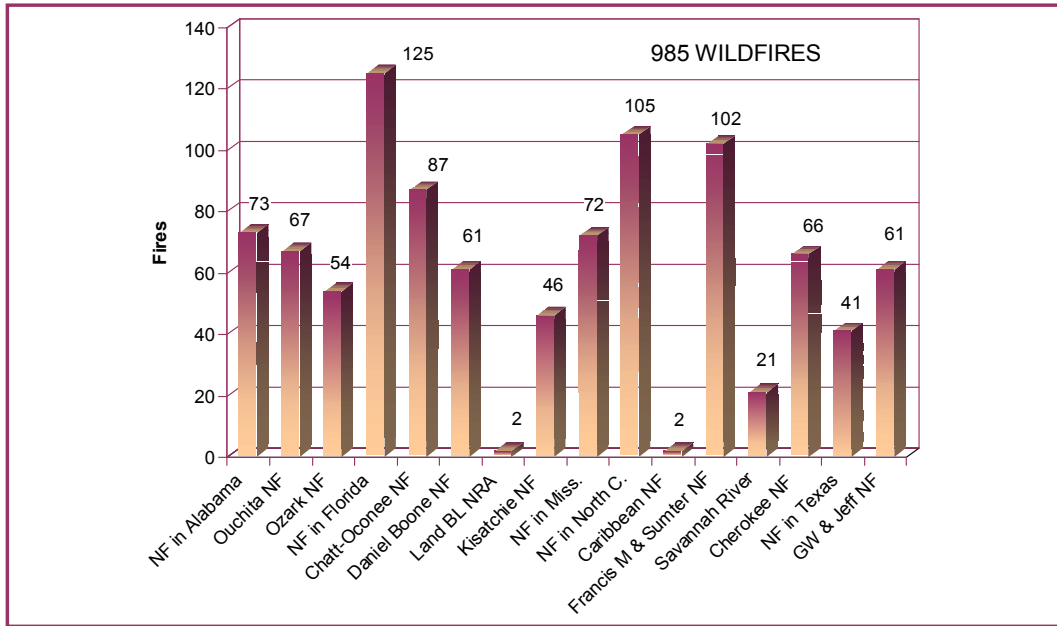
FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

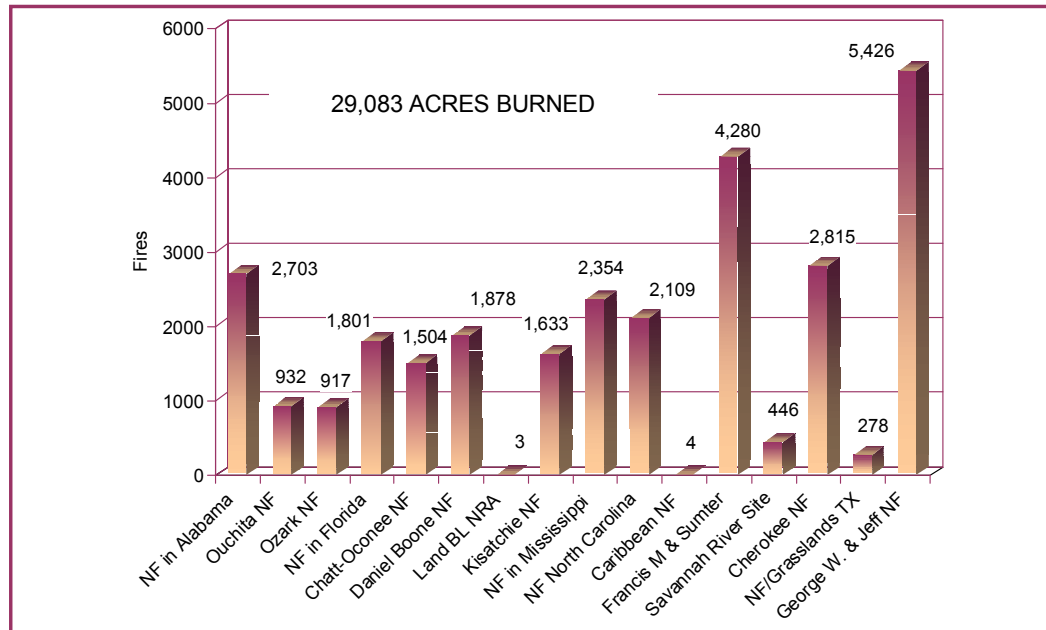
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE AND BY FOREST													
Table 2 of 2		Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Camping	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres/fire
Mississippi— National Forests In Mississippi	Fires Acres	2 .2	3 171	1 1	1 1	15 327.4	1 .1	42 920.3	0 0	7 933	72	2,354	33
North Carolina— National Forests In North Carolina	Fires Acres	4 10.0	15 170.0	0 0	3 5.0	27 360.0	6 50.0	37 1,014.0	0 0	13 500.0	105	2,109	19
Puerto Rico— Caribbean National Forest	Fires Acres	2 4	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2	4	2
South Carolina— Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests	Fires Acres	11 60.3	5 .9	2 2	2 .2	12 299.9	1 .1	50 3703.1	0 0	19 213.9	102	4,280.4	42
South Carolina— Savannah River Site	Fires Acres	9 20	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	12 426	21	446	21
Tennessee— Cherokee National Forest	Fires Acres	7 563	0 0	1 5	4 10	3 170	0 0	28 1382	0 0	23 685	66	2,815	43
Texas— National Forests & Grasslands In Texas	Fires Acres	4 4.4	2 8.0	1 0.6	4 23.6	6 41.0	0 0.0	16 158.6	0 0.0	8 42.2	41	278.4	
Virginia— George Washington & Jefferson National Forests	Fires Acres	28 4844	5 38	0 0	3 33	1 1	0 0	6 52	0 0	18 458	61	5,426	89
TOTAL REGION 8	Fires Acres	142 7,147.5	46 486.6	10 137.6	39 327.6	109 2010.5	10 204.2	424 14,095.4	9 187.3	196 4,486.3	985	29,083	30

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

**WILDFIRES
REGION 8 FORESTS**

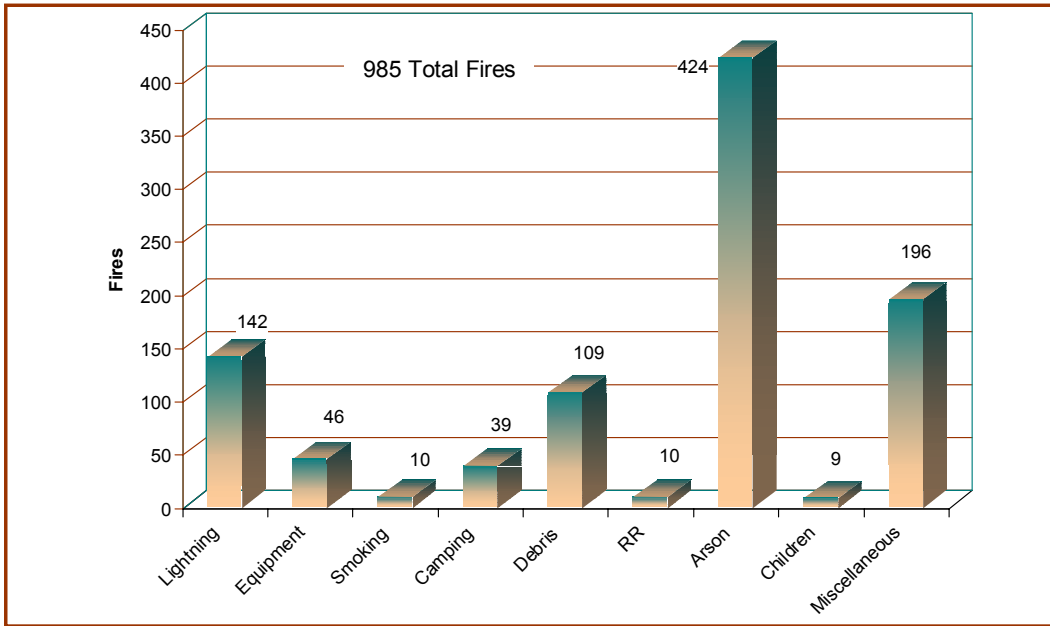


**ACRES BURNED
REGION 8 FORESTS**

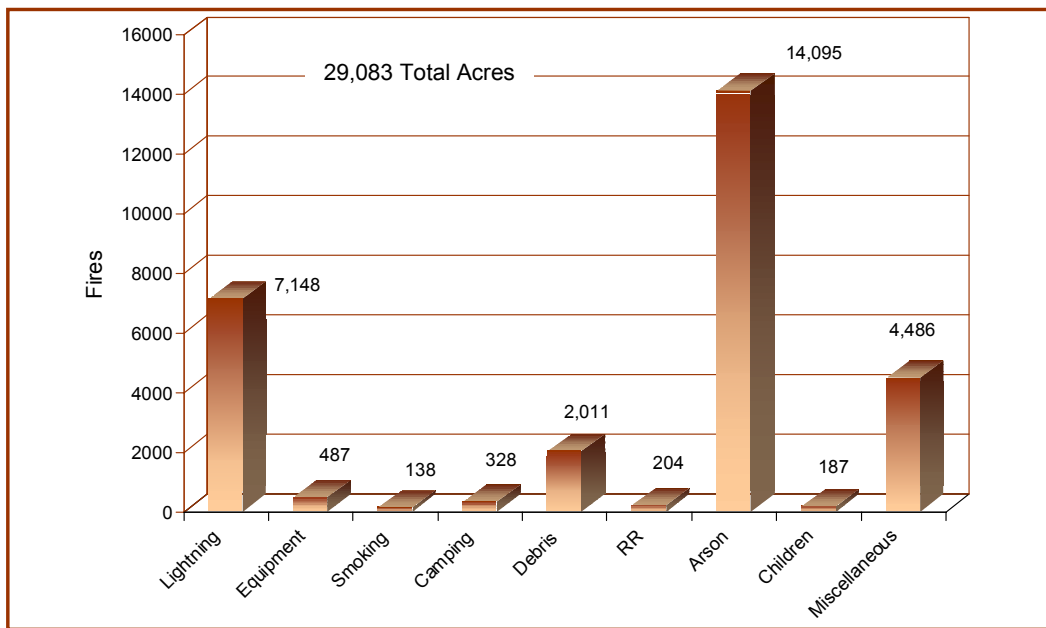


FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

**FIRES BY CAUSE
REGION 8 -- CY 2002**



**ACRES BY CAUSE
REGION 8 -- CY 2002**

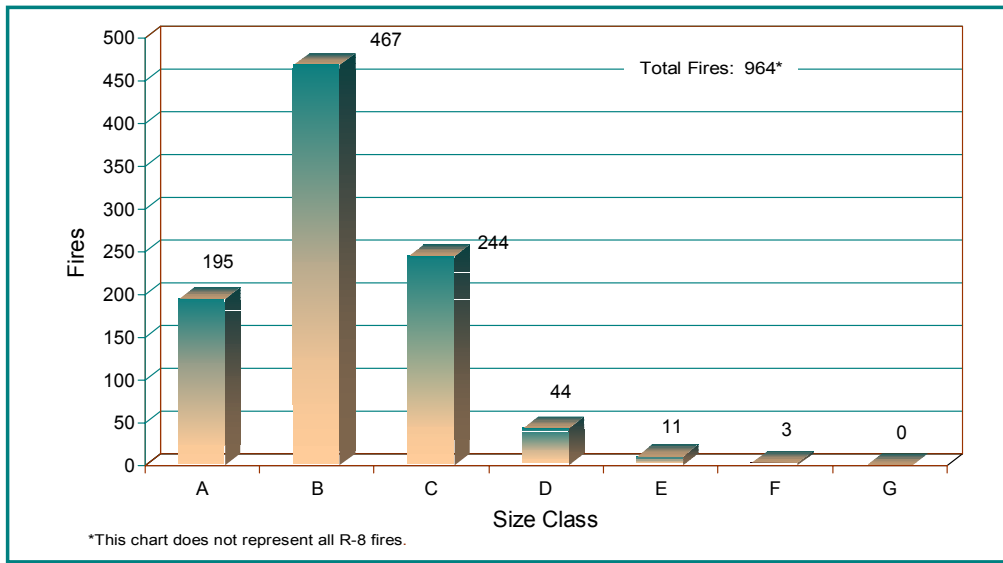


FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

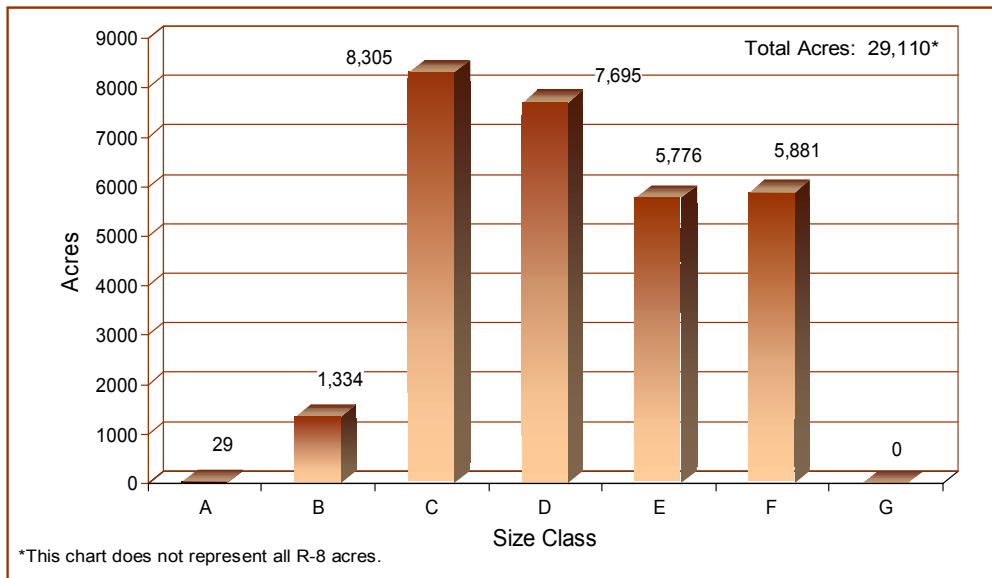
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS*								
FOREST SERVICE REGION 8								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total*
Fires	195	467	244	44	11	3	0	964
	20%	48%	25%	5%	1%	0.3%	0	
Acres	28.7	1334.2	8394.9	7695.2	5776	5881	0	29,110
	0.1%	4.4%	28.5%	25.9%	19.2%	21.8%	0	

*Does not include all R-8 fires---some field unit data not available. Private acres included for Texas NF & Grasslands.

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
REGION 8 -- CY 2002



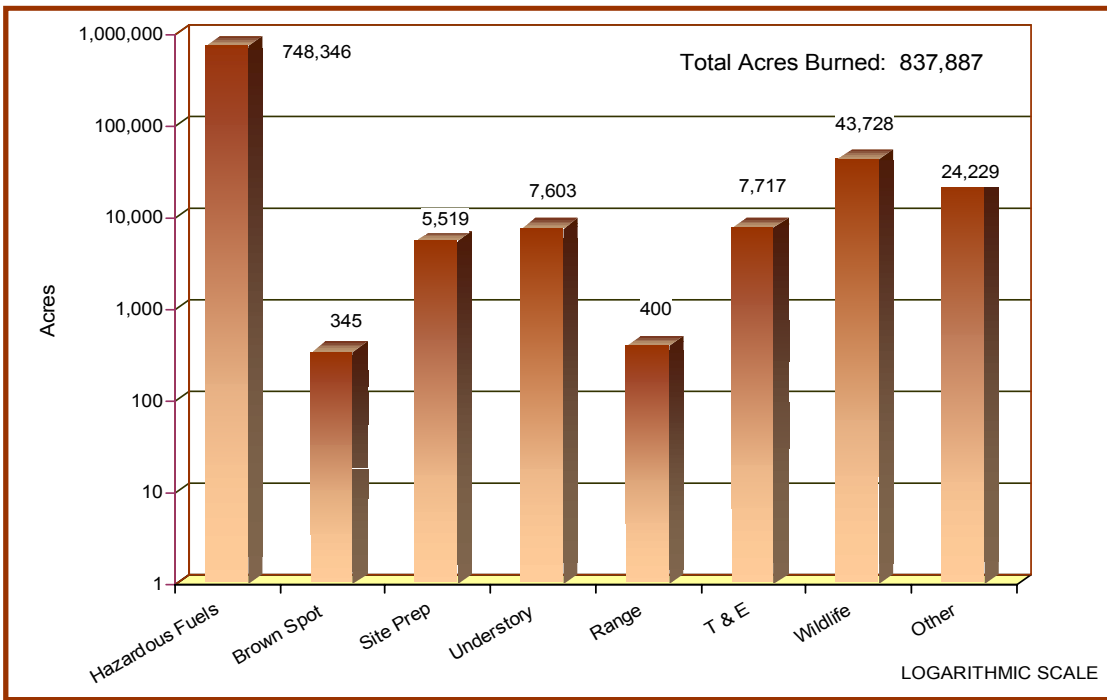
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
REGION 8 -- CY 2002*



FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS -- CY 2002											
FOREST SERVICE REGION 8											
	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	Other	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre
Acres:	748,346	345	5,519	7,603	400	7,717	43,728	24,229	837,887	-	\$26
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS						
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile		
CUS	Control Understory Sp.				5.5 MI.		\$8,250		\$1,500		
R	Range Improvement										
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

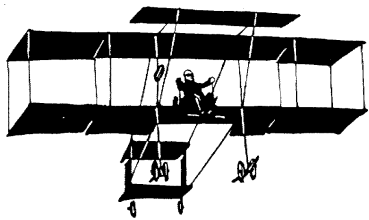


FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

TRAINING STATISTICS			
REGION 8			
STATE	FOREST	NO. TRAINING COURSES	NO. TRAINEES
Alabama	National Forests in Alabama	30	630
Arkansas	Ouachita, Ozark & St Francis National Forests	15	829
Florida	National Forests in Florida	18	480
Georgia	National Forests in Georgia	25	605
Kentucky	Daniel Boone National Forest and Land Between The Lakes NRA	9	135
Louisiana	Kisatchie National Forest	2	35
Mississippi	Mississippi -- National Forests in Mississippi	20	497
North Carolina	National Forests in North Carolina		
South Carolina	Francis Marion, Ft Sumter National Forests, Savannah River Site	11	330
Tennessee	Cherokee National Forest	12	256
Texas	National Forests & Grasslands in Texas	40	967
Virginia	George Washington & Jefferson National Forests	47	1,172
Total		229	5,936

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES	
FOREST SERVICE REGION 8	
Personal Contacts With Public	8,237
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	89
Patrol Miles Logged	96,077
Arson Cases Investigated	285
Warnings Issued	88
Violation Notices Issued	51
Arrests	5
Convictions	26
Misdemeanor	41
Felony	4



FLIGHT HOURS	
CUMULATIVE HOURS -- REGION 8 FORESTS -- CY 2002	
Purpose	Hours
Wildfire Detection	1287.71
Wildfire Suppression	2094.78
Prescribed Fire	1151.7
Transportation	6.72
Lead Plane	7.8
Air Tanker	107.01
Ferry	72.28
Forest Health	365.5
SPB Detection	209.56
Law Enforcement	365.5
Military	65
Other (Not given a classification)	139.6
Total Fixed Wing:	2,800.26
Total Rotor Wing:	2,715.40
Grand Total	5,515.66

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

SAFETY INCIDENTS								
REGION 8								
CATEGORY	Prescribed Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Extended Attack		Other Fire Related	Total Incidents
	Civilian	Fire fighter	Civilian	Fire fighter	Civilian	Fire fighter		
Injuries		1		2		17	3	23
Lost Time Injuries		1				3	3	7
Fatalities								
Safety Zone Used								
Shelter Deployed								
Near Misses/Close Calls				2				2
Abandoned Area or Fireline								
Threats Identified/Reported	1	1	1	1	1	1		6
Vehicle Accidents		4						4
Passenger Vehicle		1						1
ATV		4						4
Equipment								
Occurred On Highway				1				1
Smoke/Visibility Related:	2							2
Incidents/Near Misses								
Accidents								
Aviation Accidents:								
Rotor Wing								
Fixed Wing								
Safety Threats Identified								
Other Safety/Fire Incident								
TOTAL:	3	12	1	6	1	21	6	50

Note: Safety data not available from all field units.

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

REGION 8		STRUCTURES LOST & DAMAGED: STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY						CY 2002
State	Structures Lost			Houses Damaged	Structures Damaged	Houses Saved	Structures Saved	Grand Total Structures Impacted By Fire
	Houses	Combined	Structures					
Alabama	18	*	74	11	17	978	312	1,410
Arkansas	7	*	0	1	0	132	0	140
Florida	14**	*	28**			1,389	90	1,521
Georgia	64	*	178					242
Kentucky	2	*	20	2	15	104	62	205
Louisiana	0	*	0	18	27	422	416	883
Mississippi	12	*	1	8	8			29
North Carolina		*		22	327		5,964	6,313
Oklahoma	2	*	35	3	15	561	391	1,007
South Carolina	49	*	100	33	121			303
Tennessee	9	*	38			551	290	888
Texas	13	*	32			293	1,143	1,481
Virginia	6**	*	44**			514	334	898
Total	176	*	478	80	503	2,619	8,162	12,018

* Combined Houses & Structures. **Destroyed and damaged combined.

Source: Individual State Reports, FS-3100-08, CY 2002

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT										CY 2002
ST	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries									National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service									
	State & Private			Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total	S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS			
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp					Without Reimburse		
AL					659,430	659,430				
AR					2,581,858	2,581,858			949,101	
FL		37,758			1,154,736	1,192,494			520,610	
GA					685,033	685,033			87,530	180,010
KY		1,090			699,575	700,665				882
LA					604,278	604,278				
MS					1,152,898	1,152,898				
NC					1,247,264	1,247,264				
OK					350,845	350,845			372,707	
PR					27,831	27,831				
SC				198,344	621,025	621,025				
TN					650,000	650,000				
TX					675,572	675,572				
VA					1,781,449	1,781,449			1,654,489	
Total		38,848		198,344	12,891,794	12,930,642			3,584,437	180,892

FOREST SERVICE REGION 8

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES	
REGION 8	CY 2002
Regular Appointed Personnel	
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	227
Part-Time Fire Management	212
Others Used On Pre-suppression	601
Others Used On Suppression	914
Total Regular Appointed Personnel	1954
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel	
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	28
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	278
Emergency Fire Fighters	204
Total Emergency Firefighters	510
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression	3,454
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	504
TOTAL	5,918

NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

The National Forests in Alabama fire organization was staffed at 83% of the *most efficient level*. Vacancies created through retirement or transfers were filled as necessary.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Personnel completed a total of 244 formal fire courses. All fire personnel received annual refresher training.

FIRE FACILITIES

Facilities (work centers and fire caches) were maintained to appropriate standards. Weather stations on each unit were operable.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The forests experienced 73 wildfires during CY 2002. Seven (7) grew to large fire size (greater than 100 acres). All wildfires were contained as class D or smaller in size.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The National Forests in Alabama fire management program is responsible for fire program administration on 659,430 acres of national forest land. The State Coordination Center (ALAIC) provides support to 6 ranger districts on 4 National Forests plus the Alabama Forestry Commission, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

WEATHER

Drought, hurricanes and tropical storms served as the major weather events for 2002. Northern Alabama received normal to above normal rainfall. This brought an end to the multi-year drought for the northern half of the state. The southern half of the state received only 78% of the normal rainfall amount. At the end of the year water tables in the southern half of Alabama were approximately 6 feet below normal. Relatively few fires occurred during the fall fire season due to a steady procession of rainfall events.

WILDLAND FIRE OCCURRENCE

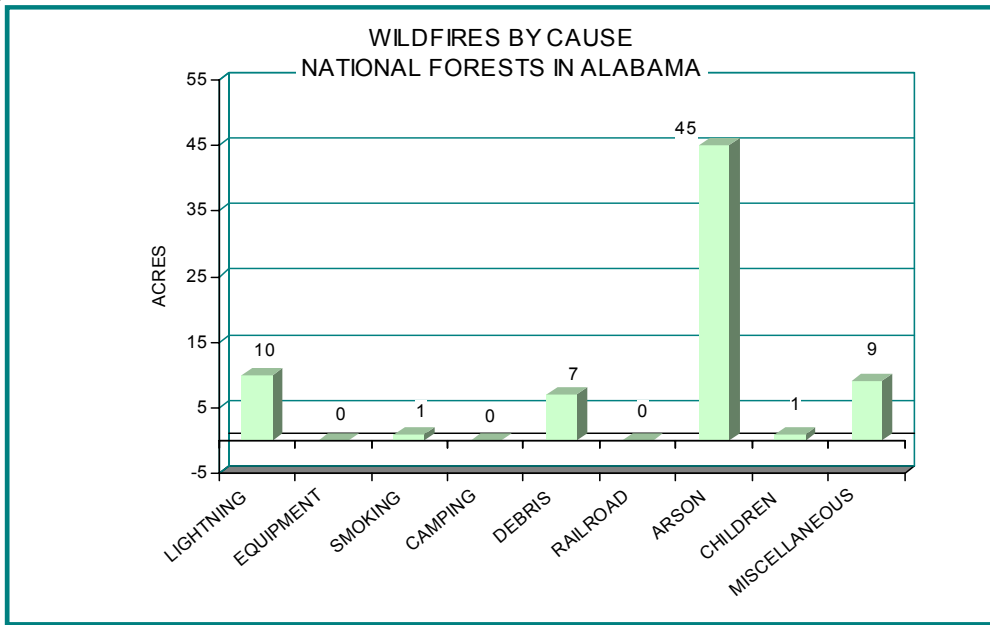
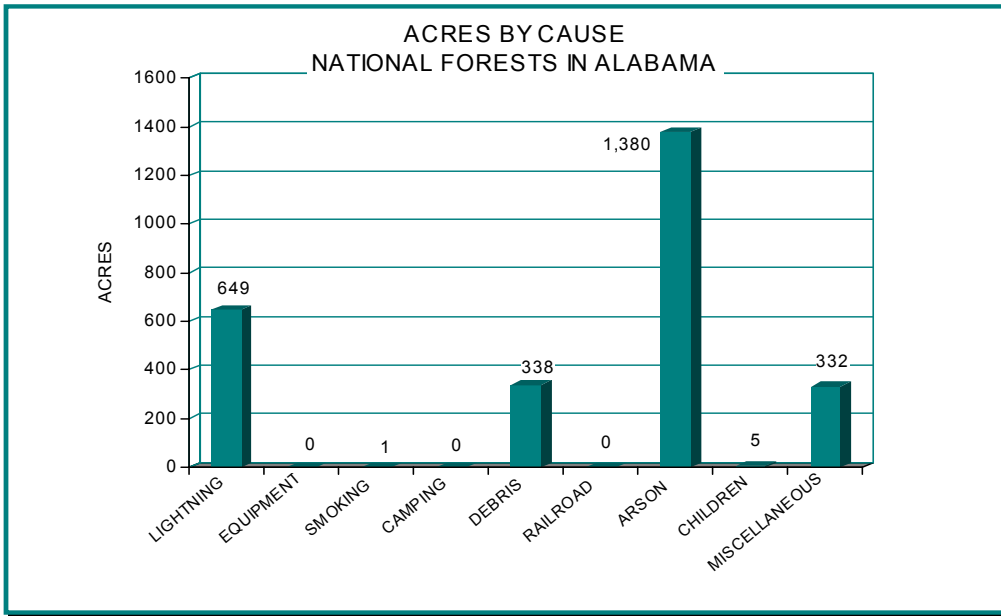
Alabama National Forests recorded 73 fires during CY 2002. The number was slightly below the 5-year average of 95 fires per year. The decrease in fire occurrence is contributed to the forests' active fire prevention program.

In CY 2002 we dispatched 264 overhead, 4 Type 2 hand crews, and 2 Type 6 Engines to off-unit assignments. The first dispatch occurred in February. The last dispatch occurred in December. The assignments included wildland fires, Homeland Security, FEMA – Urban Forestry, FEMA-Hurricane, APHIS – Avian Flu, and fire severity details.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	10	649
EQUIPMENT	0	0
SMOKING	1	1
CAMPING	0	0
DEBRIS	7	338
RR	0	0
ARSON	45	1,380
CHILDREN	1	5
MISCELLANEOUS	9	332
TOTAL	73	2,703

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	4	33	29	7	0	0	0	73
Acres	.75	38	1,083	1,482	0	0	0	2,703

NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA



NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA



HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Communities at risk have been identified and published in the *Federal Register*.

PROJECTS TO REDUCE FIRE RISK

Projects were identified. Plans were developed for implementation. The recent southern pine beetle epidemic impacted over 22,000 acres on the Bankhead Ranger District resulting in a heavy build-up of hazardous fuels over a wide spread area. The heavy build-up of fuels serves to create mobility and safety issues for firefighters.

IMPLEMENT HAZARDOUS FUELS PROJECTS

National Forests in Alabama were able to accomplish 60,792 acres of prescribed burning during CY 2002. We used the Region 8 prescribe fire helicopter and detailers from other forests to implement the burns. We had a small window of opportunity to accomplish our targets due to extreme drought conditions and the early onset of the western fire season.



The successful treatment of these areas improved fire containment lines around areas which have an excessive and hazardous accumulation of fuels.

Equipment and personnel can operate in these areas with a greater *margin of safety* in the future.

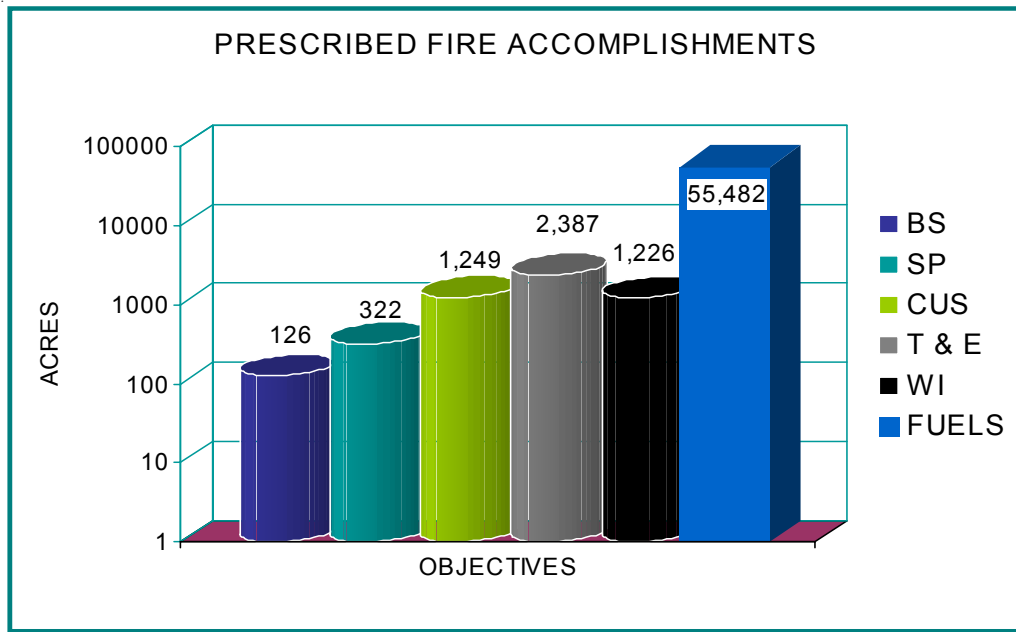
During FY 2002, a total of 75 acres (an estimated 11 linear miles) was mechanically treated along roads around the Sipsey Wilderness. The areas were treated to serve as fire containment zones for nearby private lands and residences.

A combination of mulching equipment and chainsaws were used to fell standing snags and limb material down to ground-level.

Much of the fuel treatment work was successfully accomplished in a highly sensitive cultural resource area known as the High Town Path. The project was categorically excluded under FSH 1905.15, section 31.2, 6b. The work was coordinated with the *Echota Cherokee* and *Wild Alabama*.



NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	-	Total Cost	Cost Acre
P&M	55,482	126	214	1,249	0	2,387	1,226	0	-		24.0
CWKV	0	0	108	0	0	0	0	0	-		55.5
TOTAL	55,482	126	322	1,249	0	2,387	1,226	0	-	-	-
BS	Brownspot Control			PERMANENT FIREBREAKS							
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation			Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile			
CUS	Control Understory Sp.										
R	Range Improvement			0		0		0			
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Alabama National Forests worked with the Alabama Forestry Commission and Pelham Fire Department to provide basic fire courses and related training.

Cooperation with the Alabama Forestry Commission continued to increase. As partners we have become more dependent on each other for resources. The expansion of the urban interface fire environment is one of the factors motivating agencies to cooperate ever more closely. The Alabama Interagency Wildland Fire Academy is a prime example of excellence in cooperation. The academy is a cooperative effort of the Alabama Forestry Commission, the City of Pelham Fire Department, and the National Forests in Alabama. At the Academy we train state, federal, volunteer fire department, and paid fire department personnel in wildland fire fighting techniques and wildland fire management with an emphasis on wildland fire and the urban interface.

INCREASE LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION CAPACITY

Alabama National Forests transferred two slip-on pumpers and one trailer-pumper to the Alabama Forestry Commission.

EXPAND OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS

National Forests In Alabama, in cooperaton with the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Pelham Fire Department, sponsored and taught several courses for the Alabama Wildland Fire Academy.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Alabama National Forests have a close working relationship with the state. Cooperation on wildfire suppression at the county/district level is excellent.

MUTUAL PROJECTS

CY 2002 was the second year of the Alabama Wildland Fire Academy sponsored cooperatively by the National Forests in Alabama, the Alabama Forestry Commission, and the Pelham Fire Department. This cooperative effort has proven itself a success and an example of how all agencies can benefit from mutual cooperation. Eemployees of the National Forests in Alabama filled 244 fire training slots during 2002. Courses attended ranged from *I-100* to *S-420*. The highlight of the Alabama fire training year was the *Alabama Interagency Wildland Fire Academy* that was held April 19 through May 10, 2002. This was the second year of the academy and it was a huge success.

THE DECREASE IN FIRE
OCCURRENCE IS CONTRIBUTED
TO AN ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL
PREVENTION PROGRAM



GOOD WORK

“PRESCRIBED BURNING IN THE URBAN INTERFACE IS A GROWING CHALLENGE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA”

TRAINING

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Times	Month	TRAINED
I-100	ICS Orientation	4	4, 6, 11, 12	75
S-205	Fire Operation in Urban Interface	1	4	5
S-212	Wildfire Power saws	3	4,5,11	63
S-211	Portable Pumps & Water	1	5	25
S-131	Advanced Fire Fighter	1	4	25
S-213	Advance Engine Academy (also 314)	1	5	15
S-130	Basic Firefighter	3	4,6,11	54
S-190	Introduction to Fire Behavior	3	4,6,11	54
P-151	Wildfire Origin & Cause Determination	1	4	21
P-101	Introduction to Wildfire Prevention	1	4	19
P-301	Wildland Fire Prevention Planning	1	4	19
ATV	ATV Safety	1	5	30
Safety	Annual Refresher, Shelter use, Entrapment Avoidance	3	6,8,10	200
S-110	Basic Fire Suppression Orientation	6	1,2,6	25
TOTAL		30	1,2,4,5,6,8,10, 11,12	630

AVIATION

FLIGHT HOURS			
NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	cwn	28.4
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	cwn	8.58
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing		36.98
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing	0	2
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	Exclusive use	16
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	Exclusive use	86
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		104
Total	All Aircraft	All	140.98

ENFORCEMENT

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA	
Personal Contacts With Public	55
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	3
Patrol Miles Logged	3,000
Arson Cases Investigated	6
Warnings Issued	0
Violation Notices Issued	2
Arrests	1
Convictions	0
Misdemeanor	1
Total Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	10



SAFETY REPORT

SAFETY STATISTICS							
NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA							
CATEGORY	Prescribed Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Wildfire Extended Attack		Other
	Civilian	Fire Fighter	Civilian	Fire Fighter	Civilian	Fire Fighter	
Injuries		1					
Lost Time Injuries		1					
ATV		2					
TOTAL		4					

LAND OWNERSHIP REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT										
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others	
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS		
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total			
	Fee	Offset	Reim-burse Supp	Without Reim-burse						
AL							659,430	659,430		

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

Personnel Employed On Wildland Fire Presuppression and Suppression Activities		
National Forests In Alabama		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	24	
Part-Time Fire Management	10	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	32	
Others Used On Suppression	36	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		102
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0	
Emergency Fire Fighters	28	
Total Emergency Firefighters		28
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		77
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	33	
Grand Total		207

OUACHITA, OZARK & ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

The Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests are served by a single, coordinated fire management organization. The combined fire organization is responsible for fire management on nearly 3 million acres of national forest lands in Oklahoma and Arkansas. The Ouachita National Forest has a land base of 1,777,478 acres. Nearly one fifth of the Ouachita National Forest is located in eastern Oklahoma in McCurtain and Leflore Counties. The Ozark-St. Francis has a land base of 1,158,289 acres primarily in the Ozark highlands of north central Arkansas. The St. Francis National Forest is managed as a district of the Ozark National Forest. The St. Francis National Forest lies along the Mississippi River in Eastern Arkansas.

The combined fire management organization provides administrative support, initial attack dispatch and logistical coordination to 19 ranger districts. The fire shop provides training, mobilization and logistical support to firefighters from the Ouachita and Cass Job Corp Centers. The fire shop also supports a fire training program at Arkansas Technological University in Russellville, Arkansas.

The fire management organization provides support and resource coordination services to the Arkansas Forestry Commission and the Oklahoma Division of Forestry. Cooperative agreements are used to exchange resources and training opportunities for fire suppression and prevention activities. Both state agencies actively support national fire emergencies with crews, overhead personnel and equipment.

A close working relationship is maintained with other federal agencies including the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Cooperative agreements are in effect with 8 Oklahoma Native American tribes. Two additional tribes have petitioned to be sponsored by the Forest Service. Hand crews, engines and overhead personnel are trained and mobilized under the agreements. The fire management organization also provides assistance to the Bureau of Indian Affairs with the mobilization of BIA-sponsored crews from Oklahoma.

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC) is located in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The AOICC has the responsibility for management of the Ft. Smith Staging Area. It also has dispatch responsibilities for the Ft. Smith Air Tanker Base, the Mena Helibase and the Clarksville Helibase.

The AOICC coordinates resource ordering from local, state and federal agencies for the western most states of the Southern Geographic Area.

FIRE TOOLS

The Forests increased fire suppression capability in 2002 with the addition of a new Type 1 dozer (D-6) and three new Model 52 engines. Several engine platforms received new trucks. A total of 19 engines are now in place on the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. The forests have an adequate pool of firefighters to call upon from all resource areas. Full-time firefighter positions are being filled slowly as the need arises.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TRAINING

Three separate fire academies were held for the Oklahoma Native American Firefighters in FY 2002. Each academy targeted a specific group. The basic fire academy included courses for entry-level firefighters. The second academy targeted firefighters ready to advance to the FFT1 level. The third academy targeted experienced firefighters who were ready to advance to the level of single resource crew boss. National Forest sponsored tribes, BIA sponsored tribes and regular agency personnel took part in the training.

Six basic fire classes were presented at the Cass Job Corps Center and Ouachita Job Corp Centers. Several instructors assisted with regionally sponsored courses which were hosted at separate geographic locations.

In May 2002 training coordinators from 7 cooperating agencies (National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Oklahoma Forest Service, National Forests, Native American Tribes, Corp of Engineers) conducted a joint training needs analysis. Training courses were ranked by priority. Training session dates and locations were established and hosting agencies were identified for each course.

Wildland fire courses continued to be offered at Arkansas Technological University as part of the regular curriculum (Environmental Option, Emergency Administration and Management degree program). The Forest Service participated as a cooperating agency in the prescribe fire training held at Ft. Chaffee. This training event was attended by private industry, agency contractors and regular agency personnel.



TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
Ouachita, Ozark & St. Francis National Forests				
ID	COURSE TITLE	NO. Times	MONTH	TRAINEES
0810	Basic Fire Academy	1	May	87
0810	Squad Boss Academy	1	May	132
0810	Crew Boss Academy	1	May	65
0810	Arkansas Tech University Basic Fire	2	Spring/Fall	140
0810	Arkansas Tech University S-211 Portable Pumps	1	Spring	60
0810	Wildland Urban Interface-Arkansas Tech University	1	Spring	40
0810	S-234 – Bayou Ranger District	1	April	5
0809	Ouachita Job Corps Basic Fire	3	Various	120
0810	Cass Job Corps Basic Fire	3	Various	120
0810	Basic fire S-130/S-190/I100/S110	1	July	60
TOTAL		15		829

FIRE SUPPRESSION

EIGHTH YEAR FOR WARMER TEMPERATAURES

The Weather for Arkansas and Oklahoma started with a winter storm which dumped 4 to 6 inches of snow. The year ended with significant rainfall events in December. March, which is normally the month we burn the most prescribed fire acres and have the most wildfires, was the rainiest month of the year. More than 10 inches or rain was reported for the two states. Significant rain and stormy weather continued all the way into early June. July was wetter than normal. On the other hand August was the driest month of the year; 1.21 inches of precipitation recorded for the month. Early September was dry with isolated, severe storms.

Five inches of rain fell during October. November was cool and dry. Heavy rains moved in again in late December. Arkansas received more than 8 inches of precipitation during December. The total rain for the year was 47.42 inches. This is 1.77 inches below the normal amount of 49.19 inches. It was a warm year with temperatures above normal on 202 days, below normal on 138 days, and at normal temperatures on the remaining 25 days. Calendar year 2002 tied CY 2000 for being the 8th warmest year on record. It was the 9th straight year to average above normal temperatures. The long-term drought was not over for Arkansas-Oklahoma.

FIRE OCCURRENCE

The year marked the second in a row of less than average fire occurrence on either Forest. The low fire occurrence was due in part to the amount of rainfall during the spring fire season. It was also due to an increase in law enforcement investigation and education efforts through the Forests' prevention program. The attention given to the devastating wildfires in the western states had caused an increased awareness by the public of the hazards of the careless use of fire. In CY 2002, 67 fires occurred on the Ouachita National Forest burning a total of 917.19 acres. Fifty-four fires occurred on the Ozark and St. Francis, burning a total of 932.24 acres. The number of lightning fires continued to be higher than normal due to the increased number of receptive snags created by the oak decline problem. Fires occurred on every month of the year on the Ouachita. The most fires and the most acres burned during November. The Ozark had fires on seven months of the twelve, with the most occurring in February of 2002.

Deliberate arson fires accounted for 57% of all fires on the two forests in 2002, with lightning caused fires at almost 10%. The average size fire on the Ouachita National Forest in 2002 was 14 acres and the average on the Ozark was 17 acres.

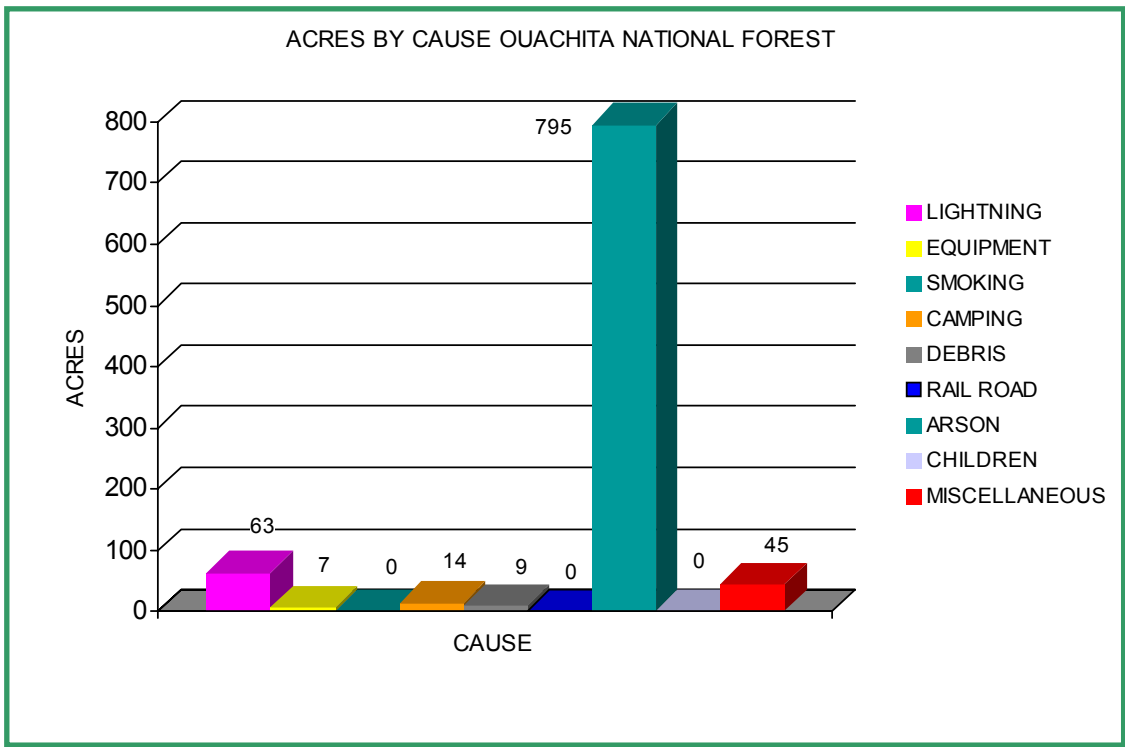
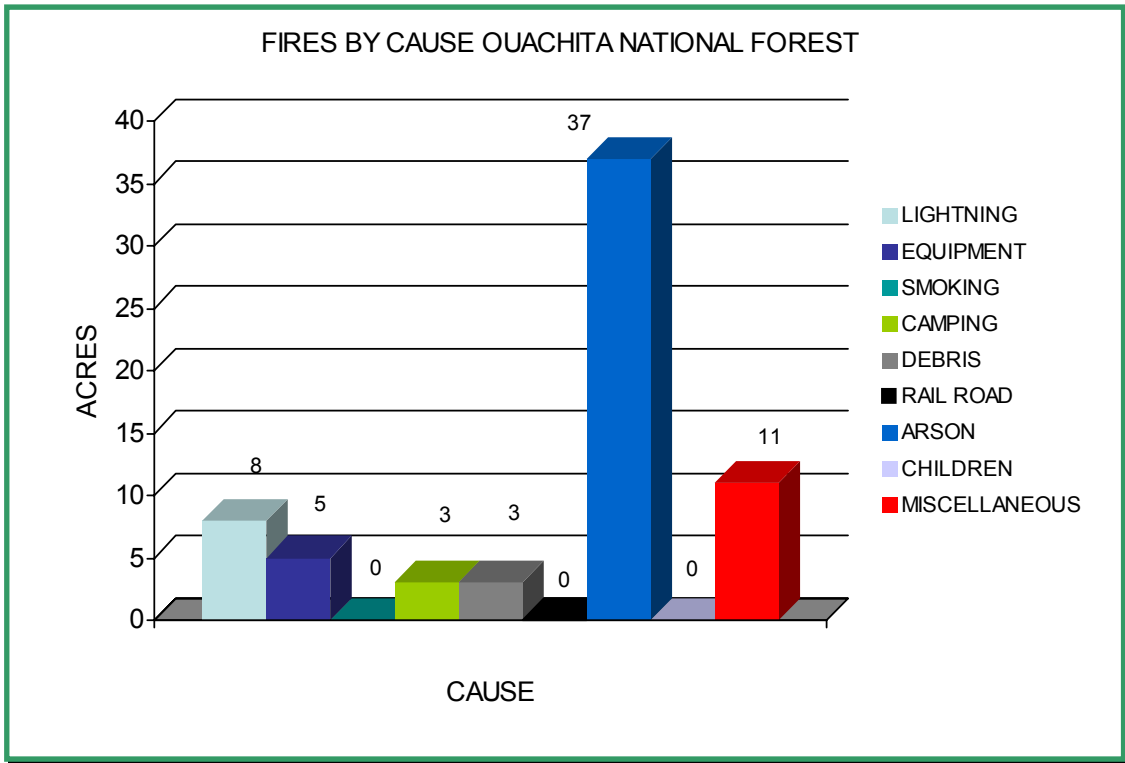
There were three large fires on the two forests last year. The largest, 288 acres, occurred on December 2, on the Buffalo Ranger District. The *Albert Pike* fire, occurring November 30, on the Caddo Ranger District, Ouachita National Forest, was the next largest for 183 acres. The final large fire occurred in March of 2002 for 130 acres on the Poteau Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST

	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	8	63
EQUIPMENT	5	7
SMOKING	0	0
CAMPING	3	14
DEBRIS	3	9
RR	0	0
ARSON	37	795
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	11	45
TOTAL	67	932

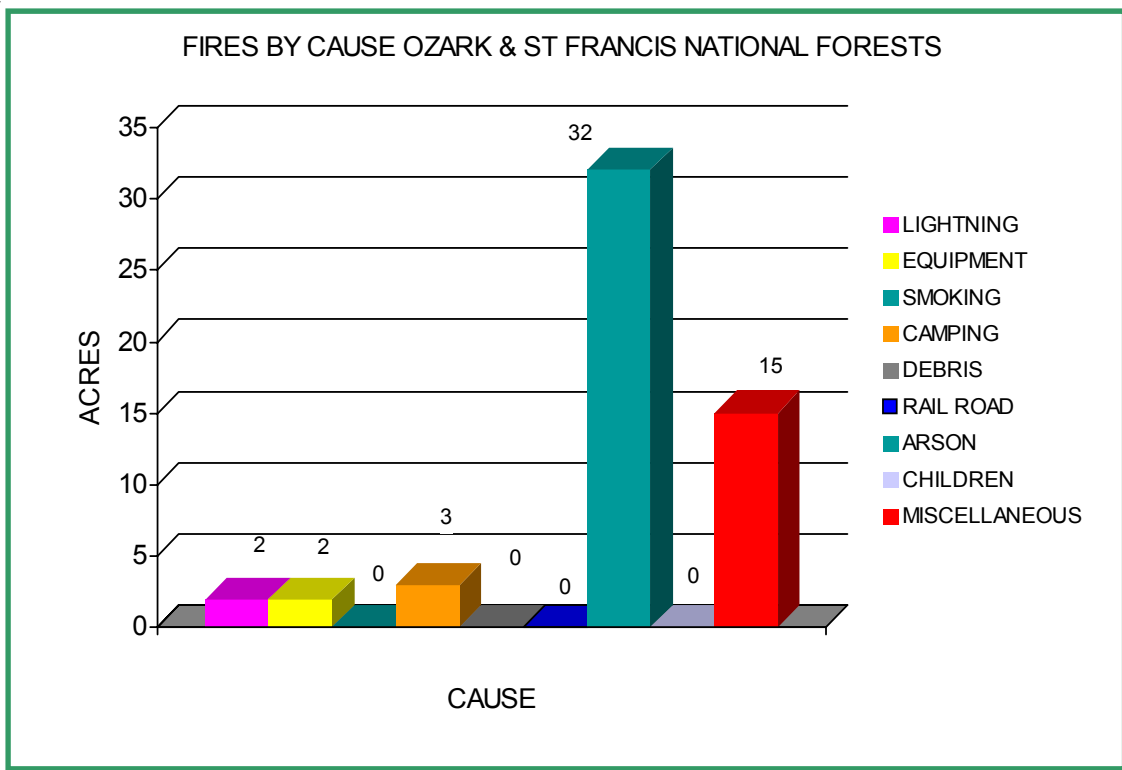
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OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

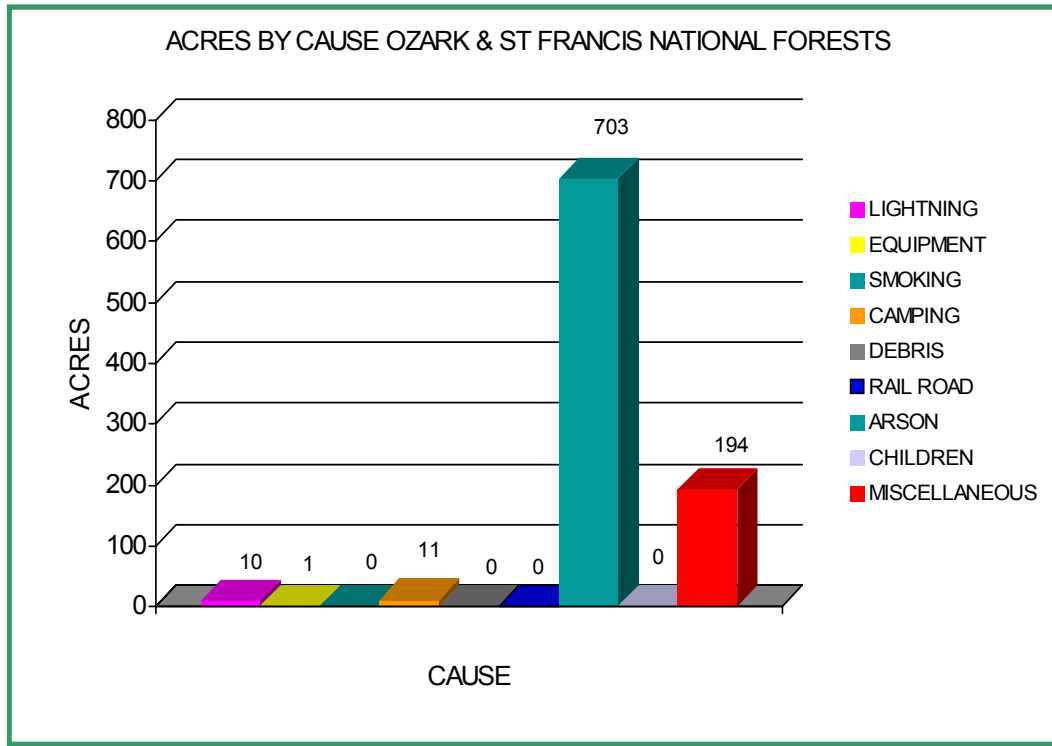


OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	2	10
EQUIPMENT	2	1
SMOKING	0	0
CAMPING	3	11
DEBRIS	0	0
RR	0	0
ARSON	32	703
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	15	194
TOTAL	54	932



OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

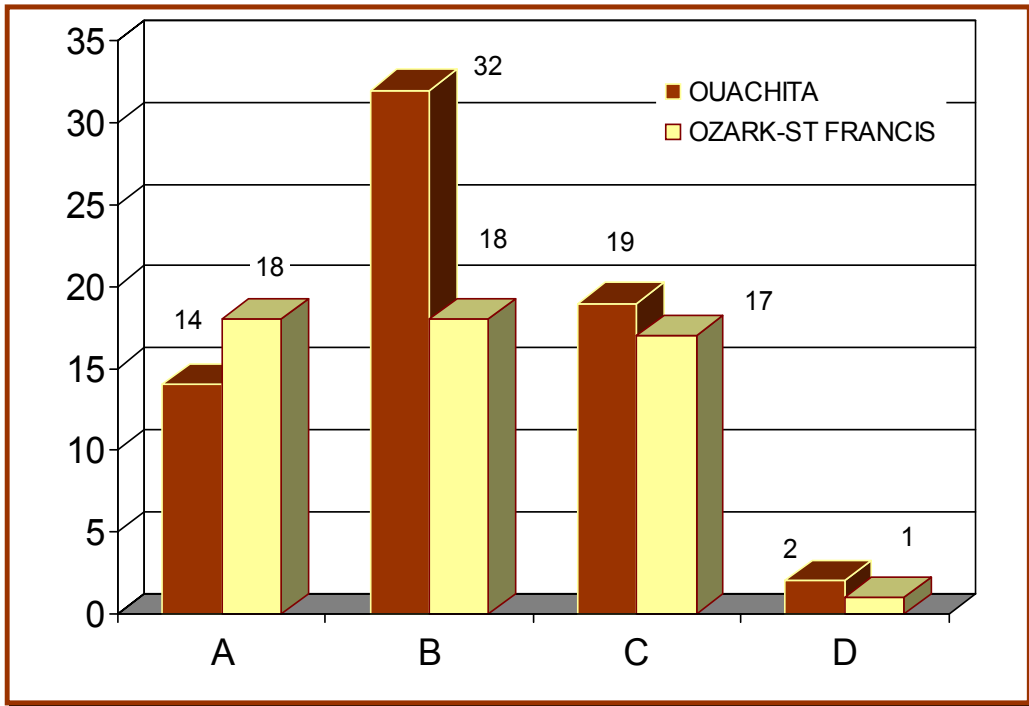


WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS – QUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	14	32	19	2				67
Acres	2.45	97.08	519.80	313				932

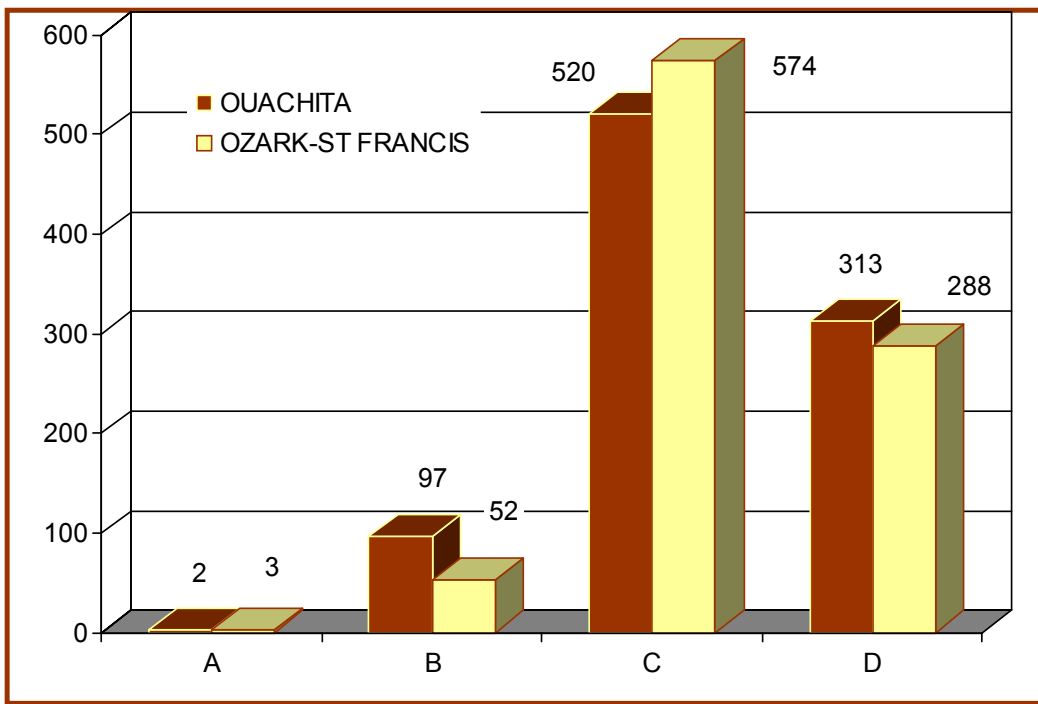
WJ,DFJRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS – OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	18	18	17	1				54
Acres	2.5	52.49	574.20	288				917

OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS



HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

OAK DECLINE

The National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma are experiencing an outbreak of oak decline due to infestation, drought and other stress factors. Severe mortality (75% crown cover) is present on over 350,000 acres on the Ozark National Forest. Moderate to light decline is evident on an additional 300,000 acres. The Ouachita National Forest has a similar problem but not on as large a scale. The Ouachita decline is confined primarily to non-commercial areas of the Forest. Current estimates in severely impacted stands are 70 snags or more per acre. It is not unusual to find hundreds of snags on small wildfires. This condition causes *significant hazards* to firefighters as well as to forest visitors.

Increased fuel loadings will inhibit fireline construction capacity and will produce long-duration smoke hazards. Fires are likely to increase in size due to difficult access, slower fireline production rates and time consuming mop-up operations. Another potential impact from snags is an increase in the lightning efficiency level. Lightning caused fire occurrence has almost doubled over the last two years. The absence of a canopy allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor, increasing the drying rate of fuels. There is little that can be done to mitigate the problem other than let it run its course. Fire suppression tactics are being altered to ensure firefighter safety and efficiency.



PRESCRIBED FIRE OPERATIONS

Even with the rainfall received during our dormant burning season, the Forests were able to accomplish most of their prescribed fire targets in 2002. Between rain periods, the fuels dried sufficiently to allow aerial ignition. On a few days we had as many as 3 helicopters conducting prescribed fire projects. The most significant event occurring in prescribed fire in 2002 was the lifting of the 30,000 acre cap imposed on the Ozark National Forest due to concerns raised about the Indiana Bat habitat. The Ozark National Forest was able to increase fuel reduction acres by almost 40% in 2002.



The Ouachita National Forest accomplished several successful growing season burns during the summer of 2002. The burning was conducted in the pine bluestem ecosystem restoration project on the Poteau Ranger District. Burn objectives were met. Results were phenomenal.

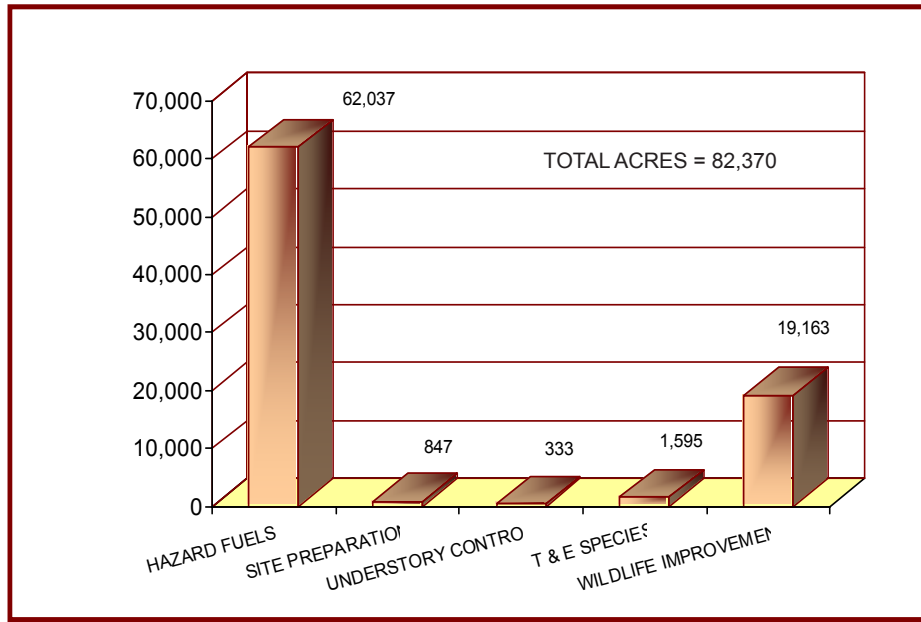
The absence of a canopy allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor, increasing the drying rate of forest fuels.

IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO FIND HUNDREDS OF SNAGS ON SMALL WILDFIRES

THIS CONDITION CAUSES SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS TO FIREFIGHTERS AS WELL AS TO FOREST VISITORS

OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

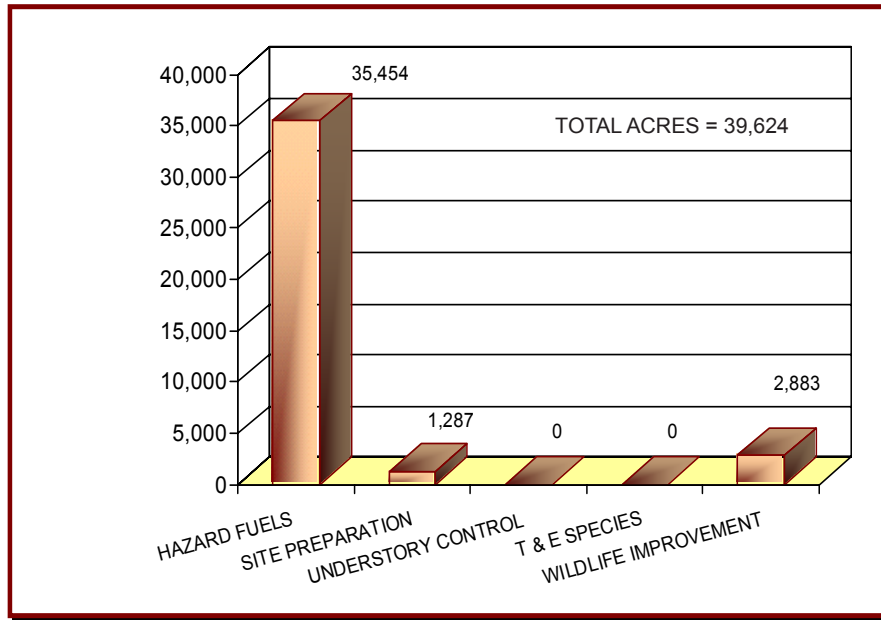
PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS										
OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST										
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Cost Acre
Approp.	62,037								62,037	25.00
CWKV			847	333		1,595	19,163		20,333	
Total	62,037		847	333		1,595	19,163		82,370	
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS					
RR	Rough Reduction									
SB	Seedbed Prep									
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile	
CUS	Control Understory Sp.									
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0	
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.									
PMB	Pre-mark Burn									
WI	Wildlife Improvement									

OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
Ozark and St Francis National Forests											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB		Total Acres	Cost Acre
Approp.	35454									35.454	25.00
CWKV			1287				2883			4,170	
Total	35,454		1,287				2,883			39,624	
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS						
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile		
CUS	Control Understory Sp.										
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0		
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The National Forest(s) participated in the activities of the *Arkansas Firewise Council*. Projects included the establishment of the Montgomery County Firewise Board which includes the Forest Service as an active member.



Oklahoma State is broken into areas with partnerships committed to developing Firewise plans to identify locations that will be designated as Firewise communities.

The National Forests and the state forestry agencies continue to maintain excellent cooperative relations in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Through reciprocal arrangements the Oklahoma Division of Forestry (ODF) is responsible for initial attack on exchange lands near Broken Bow Lake in Southeast Oklahoma. Also the ODF performs all aerial and fixed-detection for the Forest Service in Oklahoma through a reimbursable arrangement.

The Arkansas *single engine air tanker* program is available through the cooperative agreement between the Forests and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. This includes access to the state air attack platform on mutually managed fires. Plans are underway to combine the Arkansas Forestry Commission dispatch center with the Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC). The merger will provide better coordination and more efficient use of resources.

The *Ozark Forest Landowners Needs Assessment* was conducted by sending surveys to forest landowners. The intent of the survey was to determine the landowners' attitudes toward, and knowledge-awareness of, forest land management in 11 counties of the Ozark Foothills Resource Conservations and Development Council. The project is in the process of collecting, analyzing and distributing responses to the survey.

A two-year *Water Needs Feasibility Study for Fire Protection* is underway to determine the amount of water needed for fire protection for Newton, Searcy, Northern Johnson and Northern Pope Counties.

AVIATION MANAGEMENT

The *Forest Aviation Plan* was updated in 2002 to incorporate changes recommended by Region 8. Both the Mena Helibase and the Clarksville Helibase plans were updated with hazard maps indicating MTR's, tower locations and other hazards.

Airtanker operations on the Forests were limited. On the other hand the airtanker stationed at Ft. Smith was active as it supported fire suppression efforts in the eastern part of the Southern Geographic Area.

A new call-when-needed (CWN) aviation contract was established throughout the Region in 2002. Using this contract the Forests were able to support the large fire suppression operations with aircraft used for aerial attack supervision.

Aerial law enforcement operations were made possible in both Arkansas and Oklahoma by assistance from the military. More than 365 flight hours were logged for law enforcement activities during CY 2002.



An increase in education and fire prevention activities plus an increased law enforcement presence greatly contributed to the lower number of wildfires for 2002

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

FLIGHT HOURS			
Ouachita, Ozark & St Francis National Forests			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	cwn	106.06
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	cwn	877.69
Prescribed Fire	Fixed Wing		
Other: Personnel Transport Admin	Fixed Wing	cwn	6.72
Other: Ferry	Fixed Wing	cwn	38.88
Other: Airtanker	Fixed Wing	Exclusive Use	90.51
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing		1119.86
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing	0	0
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	Exclusive use	76.9
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	Exclusive use	77.2
Other: LE Operations	Rotor Wing	NG	365.5
Other: Ferry	Rotor Wing	Exclusive use	33.4
Other: ALL	Rotor Wing	Exclusive use	10.4
Other:	Rotor Wing		
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		563.4
Total	All Aircraft	All	1683.26

SAFETY REPORT

SAFETY STATISTICS							
OUACHITA, OZARK & ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS							
CATEGORY*	Prescribed Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Wildfire Extended Attack		Other Fire Related
	Civilian	Fire Fighter	Civilian	Fire Fighter	Civilian	Fire Fighter	
Threats Identified/Reported	1	1	1	1	1	1	
TOTAL:	1	1	1	1	1	1	

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FIRE

The Forest(s) experienced fewer than the average number of fires two years in a row. This has been attributed in part to the frequency of rainfall during the spring fire season and in part to the increase in law enforcement investigation and education efforts through an aggressive fire prevention program.

The activity data illustrated below does not include LEO participation in helibase activities, surveillance for arson activity and patrol for prescribed burns (on forest). Nor does it include activities in support of the Ft. Smith Staging Area.

- Personal contacts estimated at 3 people per occurrence.
- Fire prevention discussed at each Meth Lab presentation.
- Patrol miles estimated at 50 miles round trip per occurrence.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
Ouachita, Ozark St Francis National Forests	
Personal Contacts With Public	198
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	14
Patrol Miles Logged	3300
Arson Cases Investigated	34
Warnings Issued	4
Violation Notices Issued	0
Arrests	0
Convictions	0
Misdemeanor	
Felony	
Other:	11
Other:	7
Other:	10
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	66



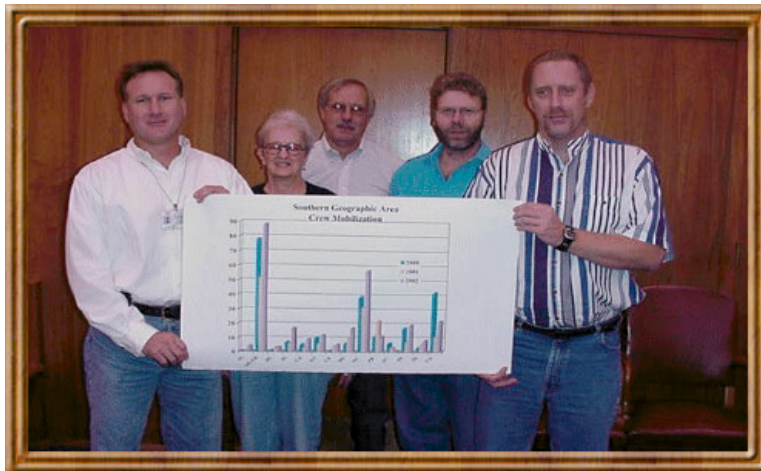
PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

Personnel Employed On Wildland Fire Presuppression and Suppression Activities		
Ouachita, Ozark & St Francis National Forests		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	25	
Part-Time Fire Management	13	
Others Used On Pre-suppression		
Others Used On Suppression		
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		38
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	250	
Emergency Fire Fighters	0	
Total Emergency Firefighters		250
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		1350
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	0	
Grand Total		1,638

LAND OWNERSHIP REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
STATE	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reim-burse Supp	Without Reim-burse					
Arkansas						2,581,858	2,581,858	949,101	
Oklahoma						350,845	350,845	372,707	

OUACHITA, OZARK & ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS



HOLDING CREW MOBILIZATION CHART
RANDY NICHOLS, ELISIE WILCOX, DEWEY WATSON, J.D. MCBAY, MARK HEPPLER



AWARDED TO ARKANSAS/OKLAHOMA INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER
FOR OUTSTANDING MOBILIZATION & LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF THE OKLAHOMA & ARKANSAS CREWS WITH EXCEPTIONAL
ATTITUDE AND "SERVICE FIRST" FOR ALL AOICC DISPATCHERS

ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA COORDINATION CENTER RESOURCE MOBILIZATIONS

October 2001 --- October 2002

AIRCRAFT	
Fixed Wing	22
Rotary Wing	52
Tanker	1
Seat	3
Total	99

Rx BURNS	
AR-OUF ACRES	79,564
AR-OZF ACRES	35,973
Total	115,537

WILDFIRES / ACRES		
AR-OUF	68	729.5
AR-OZF	52	522.75
Total	120	1252.25

OVERHEAD	
AR-ARS	53
AR-PRI	19
OK-BIA	48
OK-BLM	4
AR-AOC	0
AR-OUF	188
AR-OZF	15
ST-OUT	5
US-FWS	21
US-NPS	128
OK-OKS	74
OK-PRI	7
FSMSTAGING	217
LG FIRE SUPPORT	93
NASUPPORT	110
TOTAL	1,066

EQUIPMENT	
AR-ARS	1
AR-PRI	4
OK-BIA	18
OK-BLM	0
AR-AOC	0
OK-OUF	11
AR-OZF	5
ST-OUT	10
US-FWS	4
US-NPS	13
OK-OKS	0
OK-PRI	6
NA SUPPORT	131
Estimated Personnel	216
TOTAL	72

CREWS	
AR-ARS	2
AR-PRI	0
OK-BIA	22
OK-BLM	0
AR-AOC	62
OK-OUF	15
AR-OZF	11
ST-OUT	9
US-FWS	0
US-NPS	0
OK-OKS	1
OK-PRI	0
TOTAL	122
Estimated Personnel	2,440

Total Personnel Dispatched: 3,722

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

The National Forests in Florida along with the Florida Division of Forestry and many other federal, state and local agencies, activated a statewide unified command early in the fire season. This action made it possible to manage all state resources as a single efficient firefighting tool.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The National Forests In Florida pursued an aggressive fire training program in 2002. Fifteen (15) training courses were taught for the benefit of several fire management agencies.

Florida had a tremendous year for training and detail opportunities even though the state of Florida had a relatively low level of wildfire activity. Each district provided basic firefighter courses and annual wildfire refresher training. The National Forests in Florida hosted and/or assisted with 15 National Wildfire Coordinating Group courses. Cooperation between state and federal agencies continued to increase. The cooperation allows employees to achieve personal training goals otherwise not obtainable.

FIRE FACILITIES

Plans for a new air tanker base were revised. Changes were made which resulted in saving overall costs. Design considerations were incorporated which will make the facility a much safer working environment.

Mutually managed fire stations have been approved. Planning for implementation is continuing.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The year 2002 was a busy year for National Forests in Florida. We managed incidents within the State and mobilized large numbers of resources to other parts of the country.

National Forests in Florida seem to be slowly recovering from the drought of the past 5 years. The number of wildfires and acres burned by wildfire fell significantly from the previous 4 years. Prescribed fire accomplishments also reflect a return to pre-drought conditions. Many of the goals as identified in the *Land and Resource Management Plan* were accomplished.

Drought indices for all three forests dropped to near the 200 mark or below in March, but began a typical summer increase through the first half of the summer. The Osceola remained in a moderately dangerous level throughout the summer while the Ocala and Apalachicola districts dropped to safer drought levels. Several rain events played important roles in this drought reduction.

The National Weather Service named 12 tropical storms this year. Four of them reached hurricane status. These storms brought an abundance of rain to the Florida Panhandle and to Southern Florida. CY 2002 went out with all forests reporting low indices. This favored a positive effort toward dormant season prescribed burning on all three national forests.

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002

ID	COURSE TITLE	TIMES	MONTH	NO. TRAINEES
S-317	Helicopter Manager	1	January	30
S-130	Firefighter Training	1	January	5
S-190	Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior	1	January	5
I-100	ICS Orientation	1	January	5
Rx-310	Introduction to Fire Effects	1	February	30
Rx-300	Prescribed Fire Burn Boss	1	March	30
S-200	Initial Attack I.C. Type 4	1	April	30
S-201	Supervisory Concepts and Techniques	1	April	30
Rx-410	Smoke Management	1	April	30
S-214	Southern Area Engine Academy	3	September	90
S-234	Ignition Operations	1	October	35
S-230	Single Resource Boss	2	November	60
S-231	Engine Boss	1	November	30
S-336	Fire Suppression Tactics	1	December	30
S-443	IRIN Infrared Training	1	December	26
TOTAL		18		480

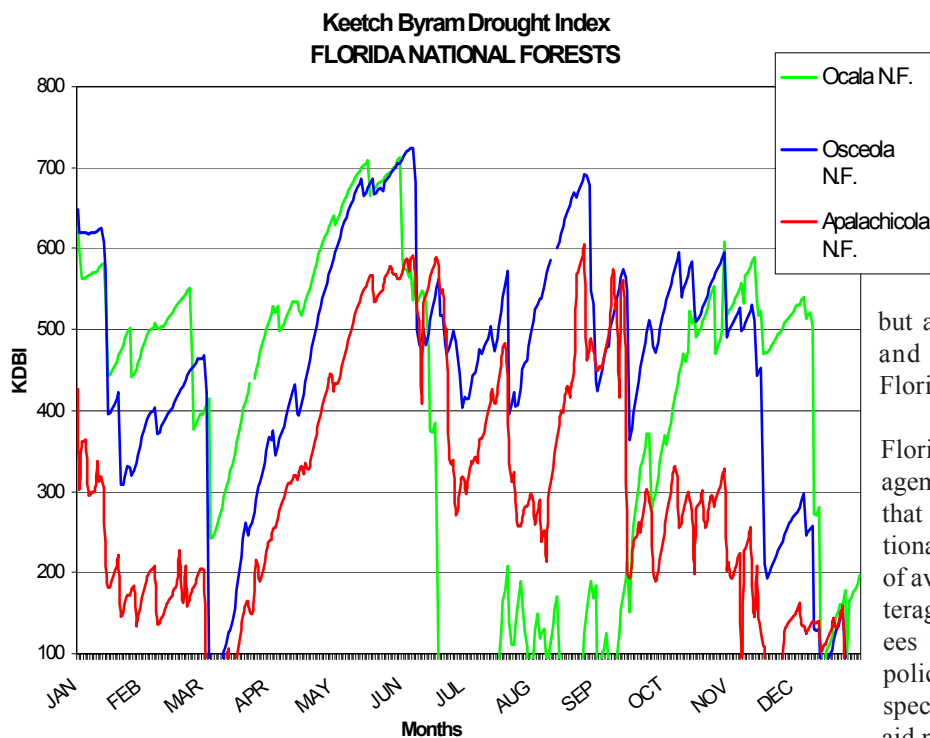


Wildfires for CY 2002 totaled 125, burning 1,800.5 acres. These numbers are significantly lower than the 227 fires that consumed 5,074 acres in CY 2001. There were only 6 fires that were larger than 100 acres and no fires grew larger than 200 acres. The largest event occurred on the Osceola Ranger District where the Florida Division of Forestry incident management team (Gold Team) assisted in managing suppression activities. The Osceola was confronted with a complex of 9 fires in late May and early June. The total number of fires was divided fairly evenly among the 5 districts.

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge had an eventful summer. The Refuge employed many resources from the National Forests in Florida to manage a very busy and intense fire year. Air operations personnel were essential in managing the fires which occurred on the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Close support from the Florida Interagency Coordination Center in Tallahassee helped to make the Okefenokee *fire use management* incident a success. Several incident management teams from western states, which specialize in fire use management, were assigned to this fire through the Southern Area Coordination Center. Helicopter managers, helicopter crewmembers, helibase managers, tankerbase managers, mixmasters and

engine operators from Florida National Forests were assigned to this incident throughout the summer months.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
National Forests In Florida		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	48	886.2
EQUIPMENT	5	5.8
SMOKING	2	121.5
CAMPING	9	47
DEBRIS	12	114.9
RR	1	139
ARSON	11	152.4
CHILDREN	5	1.6
MISCELLANEOUS	32	332.1
TOTAL	125	1800.5



COOPERATION

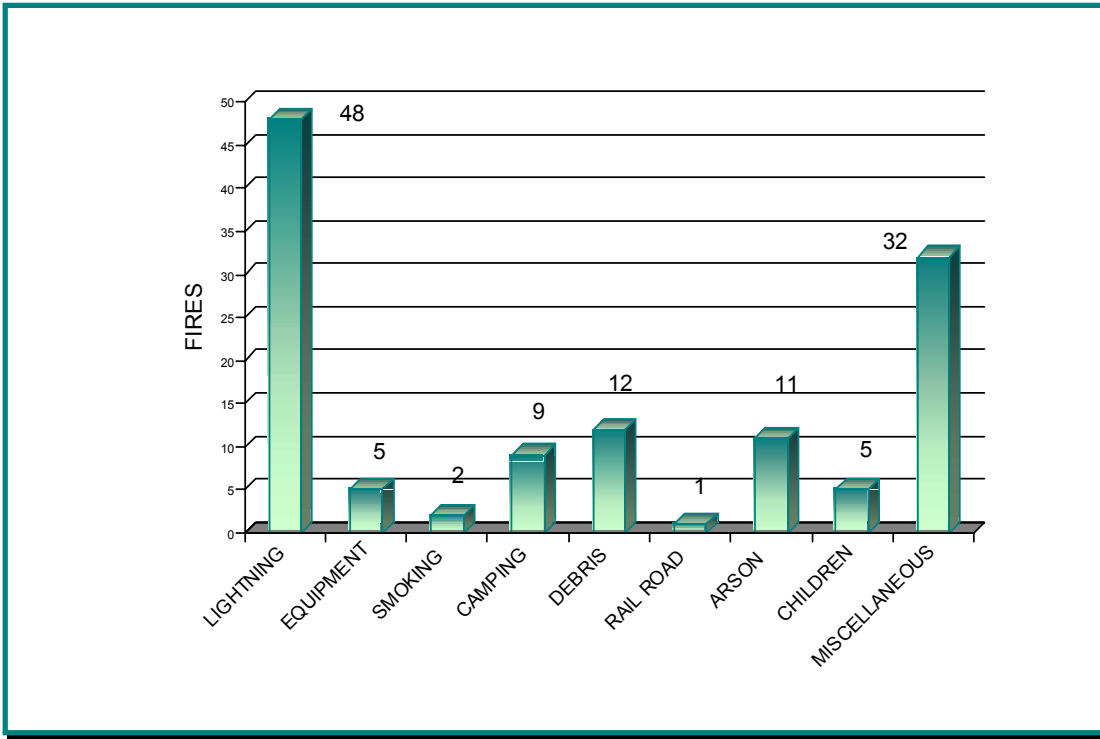
National Forests In Florida provided resources to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for the management of the Blackjack Complex for approximately 5 months. This level of mutual aid, support and cooperation is the norm for wildland fire operations not only with the Okefenokee but also with the many different agencies and landowners within Georgia and Florida.

National Forests In Florida used a Florida Division of Forestry Incident Management Team to manage a complex of fires that occurred in June on the Osceola National Forest. The success of this wise use of available resources served to solidify interagency trust and cooperation. Employees gained a better understanding of the policies of other agencies and gained respect for the capabilities of their mutual-aid partners.

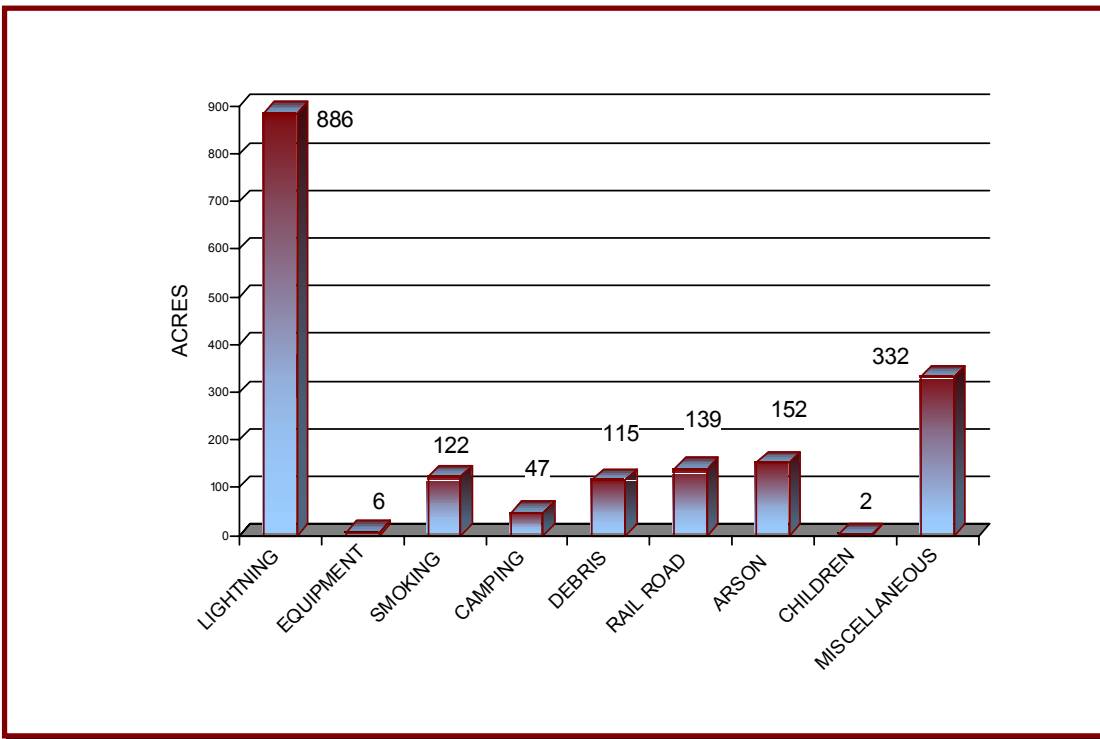
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	48	48	23	6	-	-	-	125
Acres	5.5	92.7	796.3	906	-	-	-	1800.5

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

FIRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

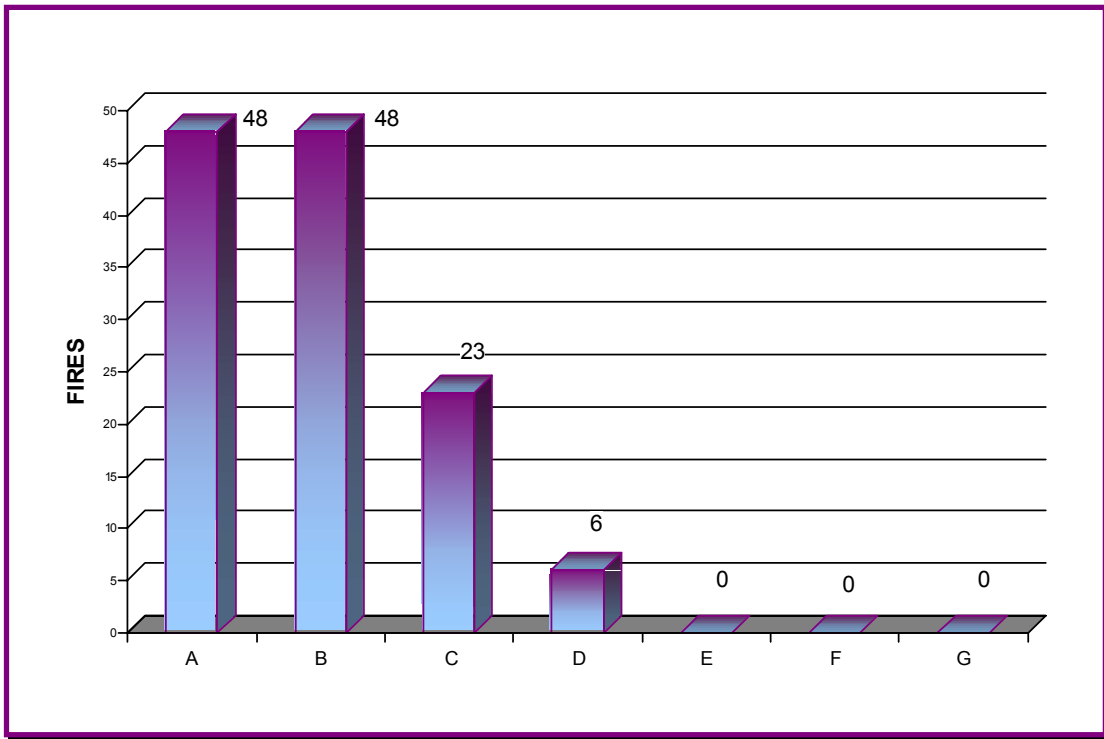


ACRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

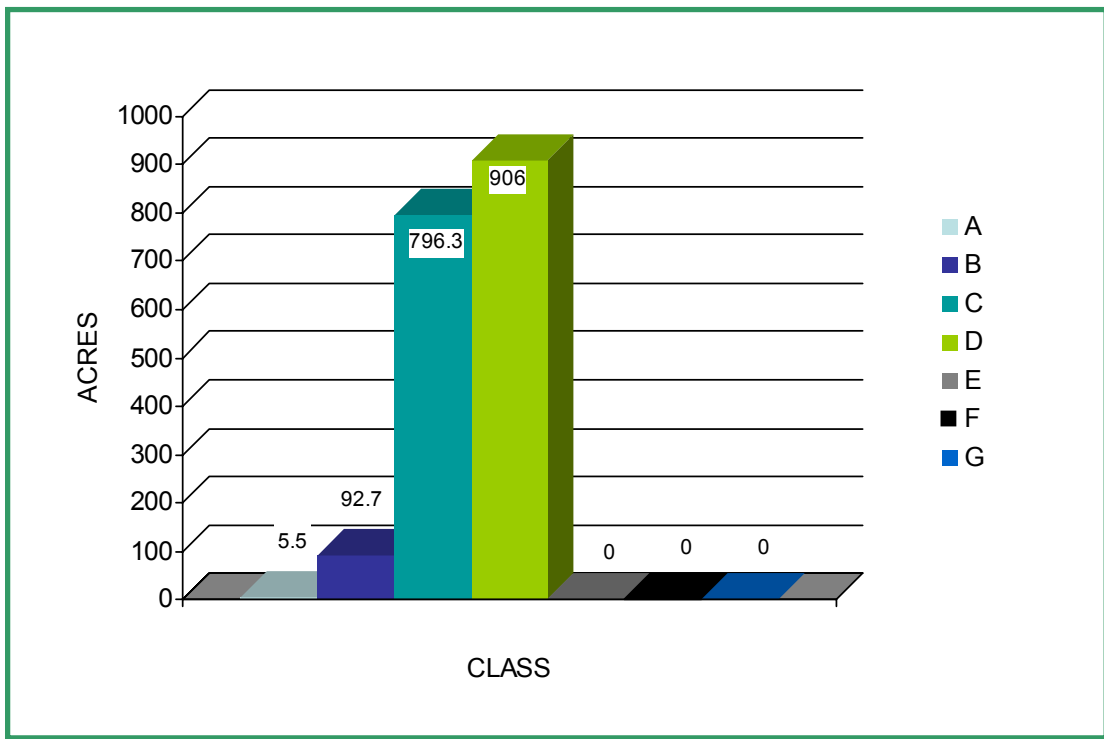


NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA



HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

MILESTONE EVENT FOR FLORIDA FIRE MANAGEMENT

Florida has three Prescribed Fire Councils, the South Council, the Central Council and the North Council. The three councils hosted a joint prescribed fire meeting in Ocala, Florida in November. Prescribed fire practitioners from all levels of government and private industry attended the meeting to exchange the latest information pertaining to prescribed fire. Notable speakers gave praise to the attendees for their efforts in using prescribed fire to effectively reduce fuel loading and to perpetuate ecosystems. Cooperation between agencies was also lauded as one of the key elements of past successes in the prescribed fire arena.

COOPERATION BETWEEN AGENCIES THROUGHOUT FLORIDA

The Forest worked closely with the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge on the Blackjack Fire. The Blackjack burned for 5 months, at times threatening to spread to the Osceola Forest. The Osceola National Forest maintained daily contact with the fire overhead team and supplied human resources, supplies and equipment for the management of the Blackjack Fire.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Prescribed fire operations are returning to the pre-drought level of activity. CY 2002 does not truly reflect what we could have accomplished because the western fires monopolized most of our prescribed fire resources. Had it not been for the severe western fire season the National Forests In Florida would have accomplished approximately ten thousand more acres. This would have been possible because of the return of *more normal* weather late in the year. The Osceola Forest continues to be the Forest most impacted by the long-term drought. It will take the Osceola longer to return to pre-drought prescribed fire accomplishments than some of the other national forests. Even so the Osceola's prescribed fire accomplishments for CY 2002 reflect a trend toward normal weather patterns as opposed to drought.



With the return of more normal weather the Forests' prescribed fire accomplishments reflect an effort to achieve the goals established in the *Land and Resource Management Plan*. The Forests' accomplished 65% of the targeted acres in the dormant season and 35% of the targeted acres in the growing season. The goals for prescribed fire in the *Land and Resource Management Plan* allow for an achievement of 50% burned acres in both seasons.

The Forests' are working diligently to accomplish the objective of the *National Fire Plan* in reducing hazardous fuels to protect communities and maintain ecosystems. More than 75% of the total acreage burned in CY 2002 provided protection for at-risk communities in and around the National Forests In Florida. The Forests worked with many private landowners in reducing hazardous fuels. In some cases agreements were obtained to include adjacent parcels of privately owned land in official prescribed burns.

The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center completed another successful year of training and burning in the southeastern states. One hundred and twelve (112) students and 19 field coordinators treated a total of 52,576 acres over 5 different training sessions. Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee received assistance from the training center this year. New to this year's agenda was the addition of three NWCG prescribed fire courses. Rx 300, 310, and 410 were offered between sessions. The addition of these courses helped 105

trainees gain essential knowledge about prescribed fire management. The same courses will be repeated in CY 2003.

MORE THAN 75% OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE BURNED IN CY 2002 PROVIDED PROTECTION FOR AT-RISK COMMUNITIES IN AND AROUND THE NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
National Forests In Florida											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB		Total	Cost Acre
P & M	137,532		3,177		400						17.65
BS	Brownspot Control			PERMANENT FIREBREAKS							
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation			Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile			
CUS	Control Understory Sp.										
R	Range Improvement			310		54,250		175			
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACTIVITY
NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA



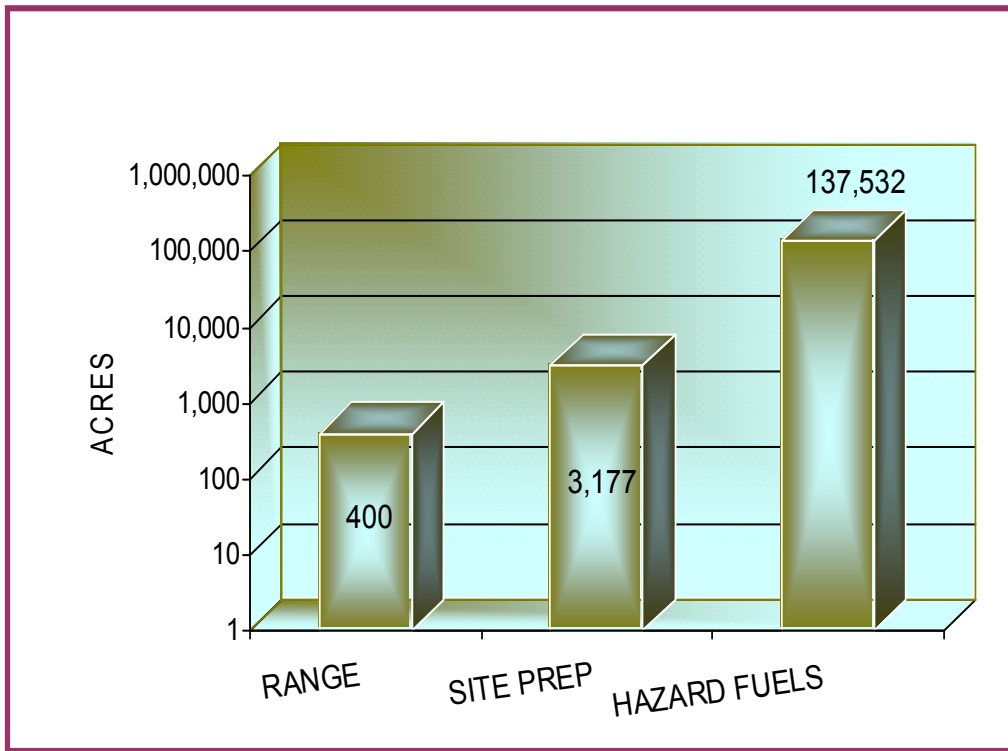
NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACTIVITY
NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The National Forests in Florida held public meetings to involve communities in the discussion of issues affecting forest management. Firewise meetings were held in two communities.

A pilot project was initiated in the high-risk and historically fire-frequented area of Lake Wales Ridge, Florida. The purpose of the project was to demonstrate strategies for reducing hazardous fuels and alternatives for the economic recycling of hazardous fuels. The project also provided instruction on the the art of living successfully in a fire-oriented environment (FIREWISE).

INCREASE LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION CAPACITY

National Forests In Florida provided basic wildland fire training to approximately 20 volunteer firefighters.

FEPP SUCCESS

Several items were transferred to the Florida Division of Forestry through the Federal Excess Personal Property program during CY 2002. (Details on the transfers can be found in the Florida State section of the *Southern Geographic Area Annual Fire Report, 2002*).



The Florida Division of Forestry's fire protection capacity was significantly enhanced.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

A Florida Interagency Wildfire Prevention Team was established at the Emergency Operations Center in Lake City, Florida in May. The team's goal was to provide fire prevention and fire danger awareness information to the public. The team made contacts with local, state and federal agencies, district rangers, fire management officers, city officials, county officials and Florida state officials. The team orchestrated successful partnerships in fire prevention activities. They worked with information officers on Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge's Black-jack complex to communicate directly with homeowners about the current fire situation and the potential for emergency evacuation. The Team also provided valuable Firewise information and tips for protecting property and homes from wildfire. **GOOD WORK**



The Interagency Wildfire Prevention Team also assisted the Florida Division of Forestry Incident Management Team (Gold Team) which was assigned to the Osceola National Forest.

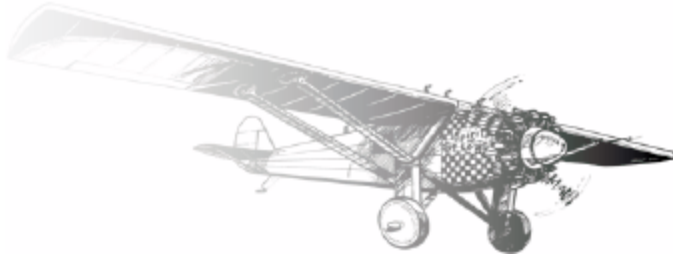
Prevention teams such as the one established in CY 2002 have proven their effectiveness. They continue to make great strides in developing interagency partnerships in the effort to prevent wildfires and to educate property owners about the principles and practices of successful living in or near an environment frequented by wildfire.



FEPP SUCCESSES TRANSLATE DIRECTLY INTO SAVINGS.....THE FEPP DOLLAR-VALUE KEEPS ON GROWING AND....

AVIATION

The year 2002 was relatively quiet for aviation operations in Florida due to the absence of large-acre fires. The Apalachicola National Forest maintained a shared helicopter contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Ocala National Forest retained its shared helicopter with the U.S. Navy (bombing range). The Ocala Type 3 helicopter was involved in an accident at the base landing pad in May after returning from a search and rescue mission. The pilot and crew received minor injuries. Unfortunately the helicopter was destroyed. The accident was caused by a combination of faulty brakes and pilot error.



FLIGHT HOURS			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	Exclusive	579.63
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	CWN	114.64
Prescribed Fire	Fixed Wing		
Other:	Fixed Wing		20.99
Other:	Fixed Wing	CWN	15.51
Other:	Fixed Wing		.90
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing		731.67
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing		
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing		153.3
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing		34.8
Other:	Rotor Wing		8.9
Other:	Rotor Wing		7.3
Other:	Rotor Wing		43.7
Other:	Rotor Wing		1.5
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		249.50
Total:	All Aircraft		981.17

SAFETY REPORT

All fire suppression incidents were conducted safely with no major impacts to communities or to the public.

SAFETY							
National Forests In Florida							
CATEGORY	Prescribed Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Extended Attack		Other
	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Fire Related
Injuries				2		8	3
Lost Time Injuries							3
Vehicle Accidents		4					
ATV		2					
Smoke/Visibility	2						
TOTAL:	2	6	0	2	0	8	7

FIRE RELATED LAW ENFORCEMENT

The National Forests in Florida Law Enforcement unit documented 18 fire related incidents for CY 2002; a notable decrease from 51 incidents in CY 2001. In CY 2003 one law enforcement officer from the Ocala National Forest will be transferred to the Apalachicola National Forest. The Ocala National Forest will fill the vacancy left after the transfer.



LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
National Forests In Florida	
Arson Cases Investigated	15
Warnings Issued	2
Violation Notices Issued	1
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	18

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburs e					
FL		37,758			0	1,154,736	1,192,494	520,610	0

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED

Personnel Employed On Wildland Fire Presuppression and Suppression Activities		
National Forests In Florida		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	49	
Part-Time Fire Management	29	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	10	
Others Used On Suppression	40	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		128
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)		
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work		
Emergency Fire Fighters		
Total Emergency Firefighters		138
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		55
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	15	
Grand Total		321

NATIONAL FORESTS IN GEORGIA

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

PREPAREDNESS REESOURCES

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest has a total land base of 865,143 acres. The Chattahoochee lies in the mountainous country of North Georgia and consists of 749,689 acres. The Oconee lies in middle Georgia and consists of 115,354 acres.

The fire management organization provides initial attack services, administrative and logistical support and training to 7 ranger districts and to the Forest Supervisor's office.

The two National Forests are served by the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center located in Gainesville, Georgia. The coordination center has dispatch responsibilities for the Forest Service Regional Office, 3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuges, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional Office, 8 field units of the National Park Service, the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, and the Georgia Forestry Commission.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

During CY 2002 the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests offered the following classes: I-100, I-200, S-130, S-190, S-290, S-211, S-270, hosted S-390 and S-490.

The above training courses were a cooperative effort with the Georgia Forestry Commission, which provided instructors for some of the classes. The training was open to other agencies as well as to local fire departments.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee also worked with the Bureau of Land Management in coordinating the first aircraft dispatcher training course to be held in the Southern Geographic Area.

The Forests are losing experienced personnel to retirement. Within 5 years most of our high-level overhead positions (Incident Commander Type 3, Safety Officer, Division Supervisor) will be lost to retirement. These losses will decrease our ability to staff large fires around the clock during initial and extended attack without requesting external resources.

FIRE FACILITIES

Sites are being surveyed for a new helibase for our exclusive-use helicopter. The helibase design concept includes facilities for aviation training.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

During CY 2002 the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest managed 87 fires, which burned 1,217.2 acres of National Forest and 286.4 acres of private land, for a total of 1,503.6 acres. This was a decrease from 2001 by 36 fires.

WEATHER

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests began 2002 with a rainfall deficit of 10 inches. Temperatures were warmer and the humidity was generally lower than normal throughout the spring and summer. Showers and thunderstorms occasionally interrupted the pattern although without substantial or long enduring effect.

KBDI's ranged from 350 into the 700's while temperatures ranged well above normal. The combination of weather conditions and heavy fuel concentrations created the potential for a very demanding wildfire season.

In October the weather pattern changed. Rains were not heavy but they occurred about every 5-7 days. This kept fire activity low for the fall fire season.

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests provided more personnel for fire details this year than in past years. The increase was due in part to the participation, in the national mobilization effort, by the Georgia Mutual Aid Group (GMAG).

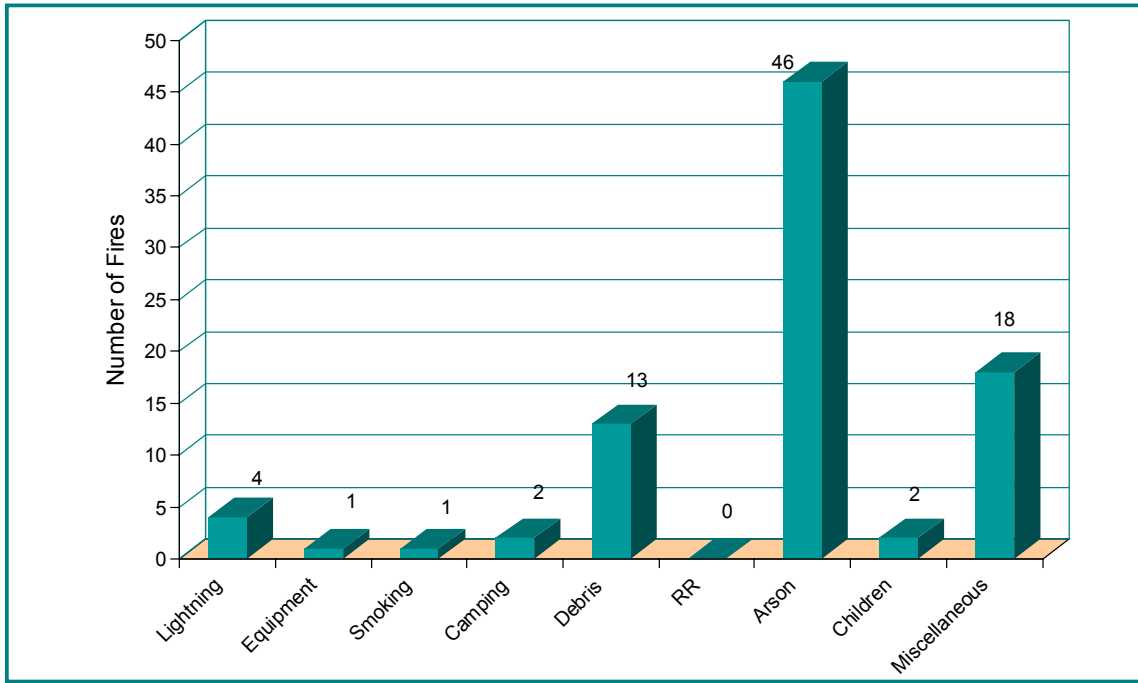
Pocket cards were developed and certified for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests during CY 2002.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE

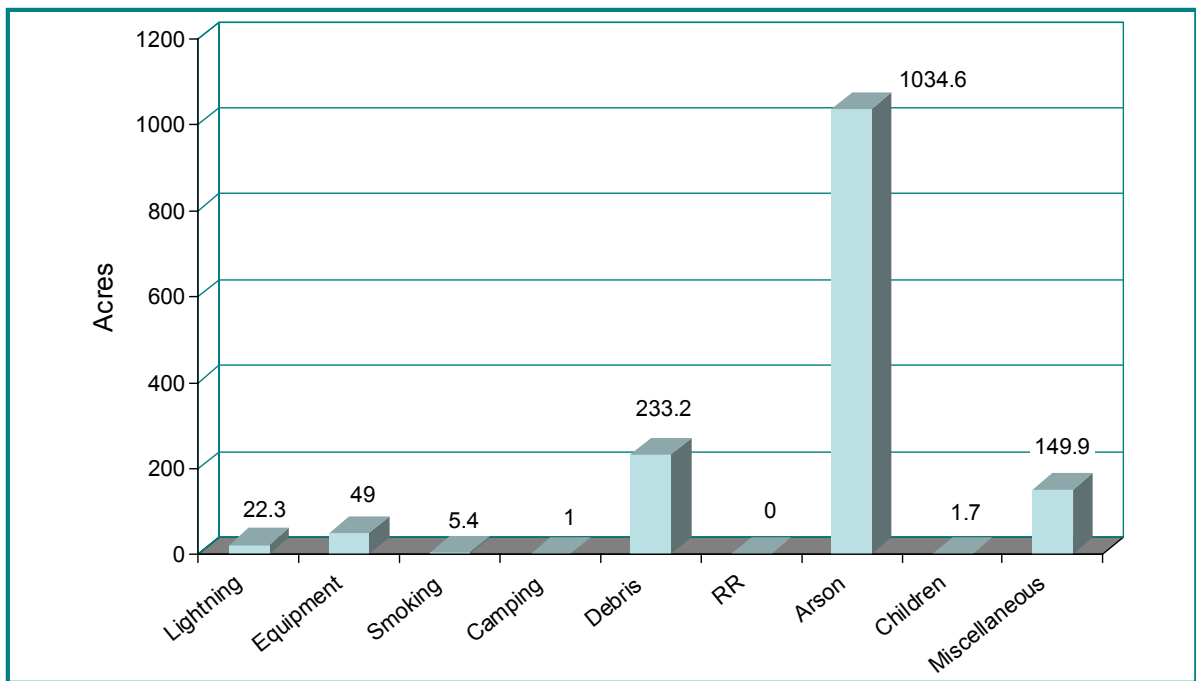
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	4	22.3
EQUIPMENT	1	49
SMOKING	1	5.4
CAMPING	2	1.0
DEBRIS	13	233.2
RR	0	0.0
ARSON	46	1034.6
CHILDREN	2	1.7
MISCELLANEOUS	18	149.9
TOTAL	87	1503.6

NATIONAL FORESTS IN GEORGIA

FIRES BY CAUSE
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST



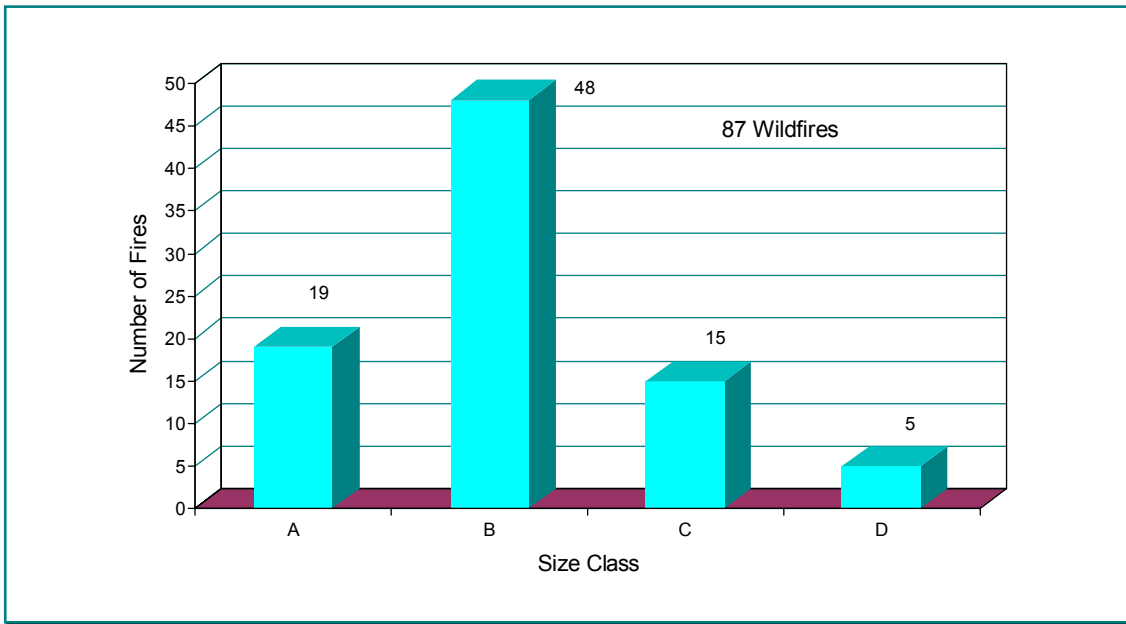
ACRES BY CAUSE
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS



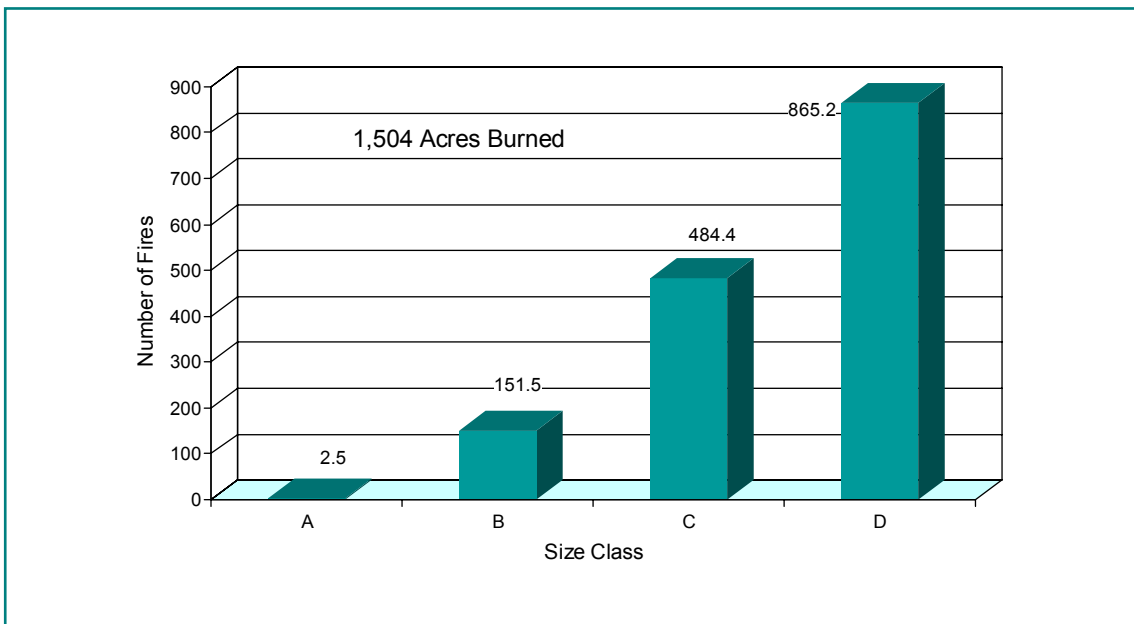
NATIONAL FORESTS IN GEORGIA

WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	19	48	15	5	0	0	0	87
Acres	2.5	151.5	484.4	865.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1503.6

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS



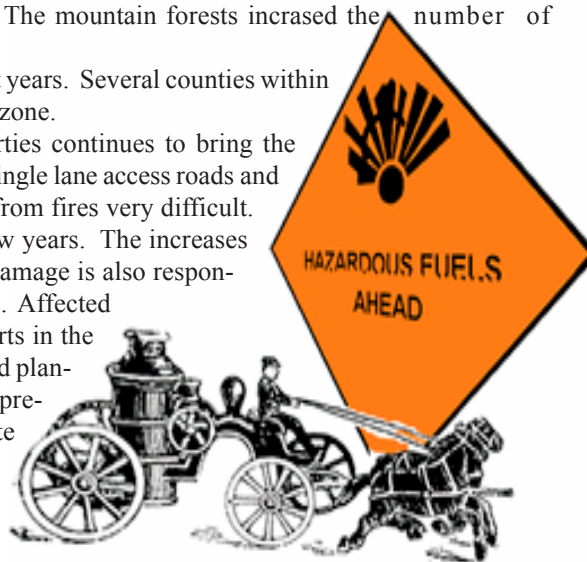
HAZARDOUS FUELS

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest treated a combined 17,630 acres for fuels reduction with prescribed fire during CY 2002. Most of the burning took place on the Oconee. The mountain forests increased the number of acres burned over previous years.

Smoke management has become an increasing concern in recent years. Several counties within the forest boundary lie within the 45-county air quality containment zone.

Rapid and unchecked development of rural mountain properties continues to bring the urban interface to the edge of the National Forest boundary. Narrow single lane access roads and limited water supplies are factors that make protecting these homes from fires very difficult.

Forest fuel loading has increased significantly over the past few years. The increases are due primarily to infestation by the southern pine beetle. Storm damage is also responsible for a significant increase in hazardous fuel loading in some areas. Affected sites will present a significant challenge to wildfire suppression efforts in the future. Prescribed fire treatment of the sites will require more detailed planning, additional pre-ignition preparation and enhanced safeguards to prevent accidental escape. The hazardous fuel loadings will tend to create larger fire sizes, on the average, than we have had in the past.



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS										
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS										
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre
WFHF						1084		1084	27,100	25.00
WFHF	17,630							17,630	440,750	25.00
NFWF							10	10	250	25.00
Total	17,630					1,084	10	18,724	468,100	25.00
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS					
RR	Rough Reduction									
SB	Seedbed Prep									
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Acre	
CUS	Control Understory Sp.									
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0	
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.									
PMB	Pre-mark Burn									
WI	Wildlife Improvement									

NATIONAL FORESTS IN GEORGIA

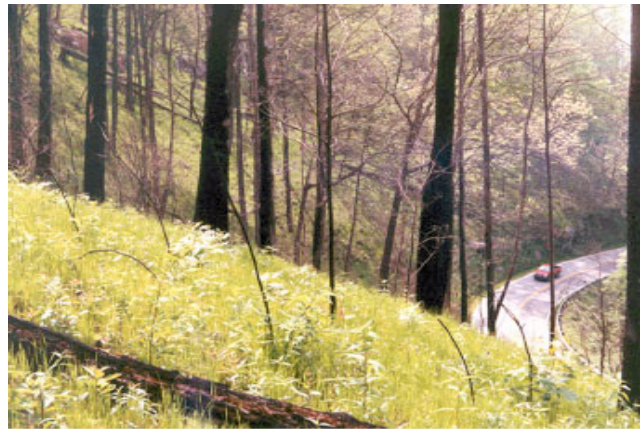
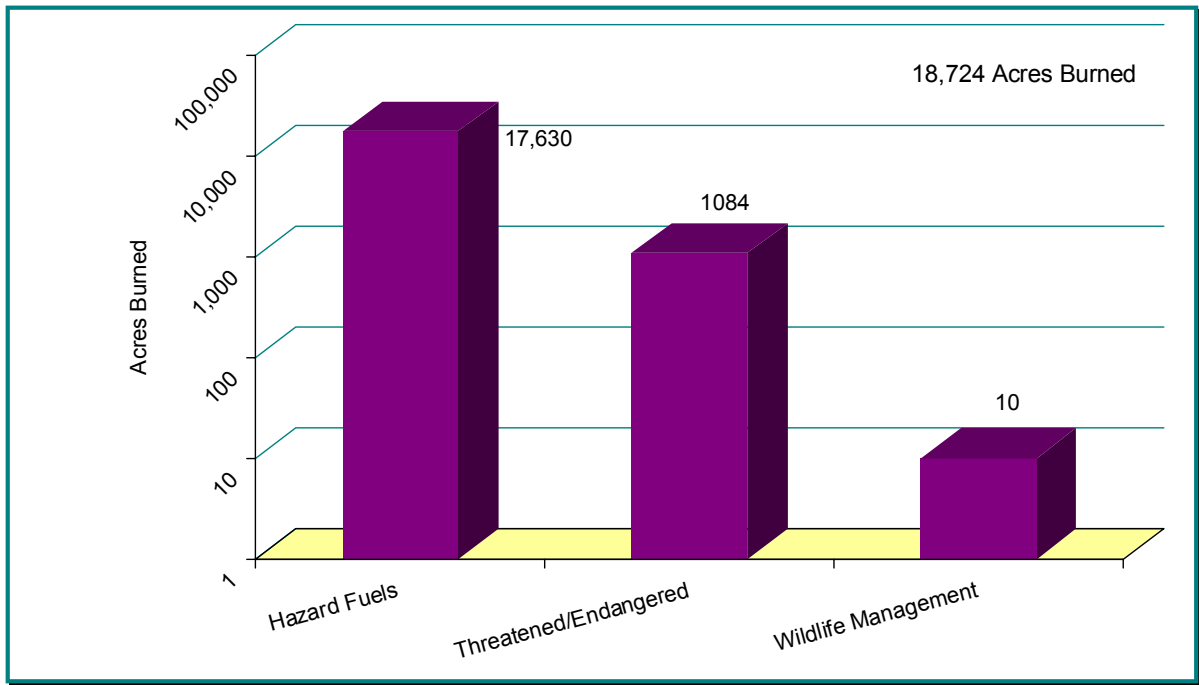


POST-BURN EFFECTS MONITORING



POST-BURN EFFECTS MONITORING

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS



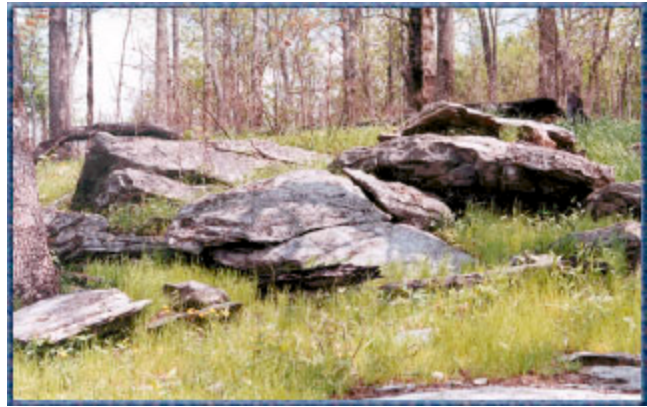
POST-BURN EFFECTS MONITORING

NATIONAL FORESTS IN GEORGIA

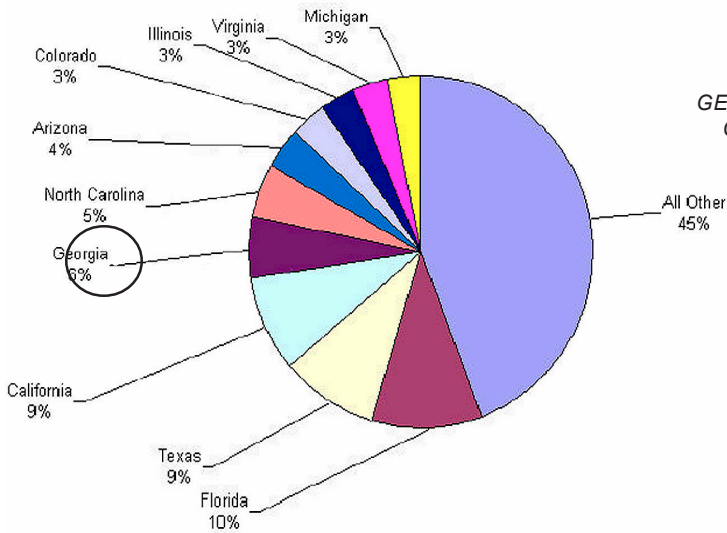


POST BURN EVALUATIONS
DEMONSTRATED THAT MOST
PRESCRIBED FIRES FULLY
ACHIEVED BURN PLAN
OBJECTIVES

PRESCRIBED FIRE
EFFECTS ARE MONITORED
WITH PHOTO POINTS



Percent of U.S. Total Housing Units Authorized by State: 2001



GEORGIA HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST "NEW HOME
CONSTRUCTION" RATES IN THE UNITED STATES

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, 2001

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN
HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION FUNDING
HELPS PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF DWELLINGS IN THE
WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Fire management personnel worked to involve county leaders to ensure their communities are provided adequate protection from wildfires. Forest personnel worked closely with rural fire departments to coordinate and share fire training opportunities.

Fire management officers and district fire management officers worked with schools, county and city planners, home owner associations, and private individuals to provide information and guidance about hazardous fuel management and fire prevention. FIREWISE was used to educate and develop positive working relationships.

Through expanded prevention efforts and programs the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests reduced the number of wildland fire starts by 30% from 2001.

The Georgia Forestry Commission assisted with wild-fire suppression across the forest and throughout the nation in CY 2002. GFC employees participated on local and national incidents with a variety of qualifications including incident commander, operations section chief, prevention team member and information team member. Commission employees served as crew members on 8 fire crews that were dispatched through the Southern Area Coordination Center to fires across the nation.

The Georgia Forestry Commission detection plane provided much needed assistance to forest fire personnel on the ground. On many occasions the aircraft located fires, estimated their spread potential and guided the ground crews to the fires oftentimes in remote locations.

The Georgia Forestry Commission routinely provides personnel and equipment to assist with prescribed fire projects on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Personnel from the Chattahoochee National Fish Hatchery, a field station of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, assisted on wildfires throughout nation. They also assisted with prescribed fire projects on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Rural volunteer fire departments and GMAG personnel assisted with structure protection during initial attack on several fire incidents. Several volunteer fire department personnel served on details to western fires through the inter-agency dispatch system.



ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement officers investigated 43 fires in 2002 on National Forest lands. A total of 87 fire related incidents and investigations were logged by forest law enforcement personnel.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests	
Personal Contacts With Public	1,200
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	0
Patrol Miles Logged	25,000
Arson Cases Investigated	43
Warnings Issued	32
Violation Notices Issued	11
Arrests	0
Convictions	0
Misdemeanor	11
Felony	0
9 LEOs logged 1,320 hours on fire investigations	1,320
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	87

SCENIC VISTA

RAPID AND UNCHECKED DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES CONTINUES TO BRING THE URBAN INTERFACE TO THE EDGE OF THE NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY

TRAINING

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Times Taught	MONTH	TRAINEES
I-100	ICS ORIENTATION	2	NOV/JAN	36
I-200	PRINCIPLES AND FEATURES OF ICS	1	APRIL	18
S-211	PORTABLE PUMPS AND WATER USE	1	APRIL	19
	AIRCRAFT DISPATCHER	1	FEB	25
S-130	BASIC FIGHTER	2	NOV/JAN	36
2-190	INTRODUCTION TO FIRE BEHAVIOR	2	NOV/JAN	36
2-270	BASIC AIR OPERATIONS	1	JAN	30
S-290	INTERMEDIATE WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR	1	MAY	20
S-390	INTRODUCTION TO WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR CALCULATIONS	1	SEPT	30
S-490	ADVANCED WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR CALCULATIONS	1	NOV	25
	ENTRAPMENT AVOIDANCE TRAINING	4	SEP/OCT	110
	FIREFIGHTER REFRESHER	8	MAR/SEP	220
TOTAL		25		605

SAFETY REPORT

SAFETY							
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests							
CATEGORY	Prescribed Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Extended Attack		Other
	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Fire Related
Injuries						1	
TOTAL:						1	

AVIATION

The Chattahoochee-Oconee has an active aviation program. The forest has two CWN helicopter contracts and one exclusive-use helicopter contract. We also host two fixed wing aircraft contracts. These are used for crew transport and aerial attack platforms.

Sites are being surveyed for a new helibase for our exclusive use helicopter. The plans include accommodations for aviation training.



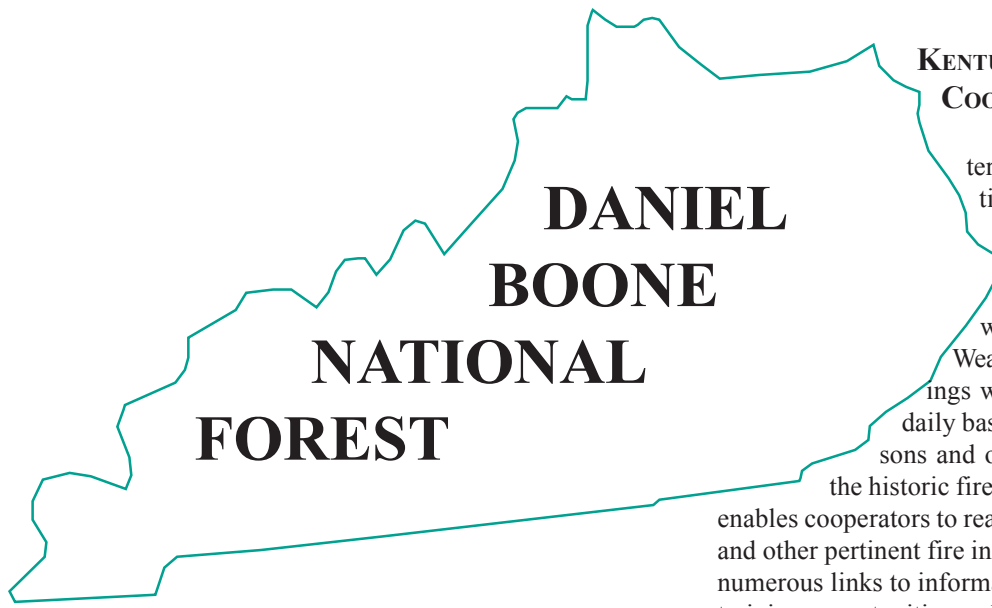
FLIGHT HOURS			
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	0	0
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	0	0
Prescribed Fire	Fixed Wing	0	0
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing	0	0
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing	0	0
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	18.2
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	CWN	7.8
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	56.2
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	CWN	13.9
Other:	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	4.6
Other:	Rotor Wing	CWN	8.4
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	79.0
	Rotor Wing	CWN	30.1
Total	All Aircraft		109.1

LAND OWNERSHIP REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse					
GA					0	685,032.89	685,032.89	87,530	180,010.41

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

Personnel Employed On Wildland Fire Presuppression and Suppression Activities		
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	14	
Part-Time Fire Management	0	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	15	
Others Used On Suppression	50	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		79
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0	
Emergency Fire Fighters	0	
Total Emergency Firefighters		0
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		0
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time		
Grand Total		79



**KENTUCKY INTERAGENCY
COORDINATION CENTER**

During 2002 the Kentucky Interagency Coordination Center continued to update and improve the delivery of fire prevention, fire weather and fire safety information through its WEB site. Fire weather information including Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings were posted on the web site on a daily basis during spring and fall fire seasons and on an as-needed basis outside of the historic fire hazard seasons. This technology enables cooperators to readily access critical daily weather and other pertinent fire information. The site also provides numerous links to information on fire activity, fire danger, training opportunities and employment information.

The Kentucky Interagency Coordination Center held its 10th annual cooperators' meeting on May 29 and 30 at the Southern Interagency Support Cache, London, Kentucky.

The following table reflects a total of all resource dispatches of overhead personnel outside the state of Kentucky in support of incidents within the Southern Area and to other Geographic Areas throughout the United States.

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

FIRE SUPPORT AND MOBILIZATION

The Forest experienced one of the lowest fire occurrence fall fire seasons on record. Firefighters responded to only 2 fires involving 10 acres. A pattern of precipitation that brought showers and rain to eastern Kentucky on an average of every 3-4 days kept fuels moist and fire occurrence at a minimum level.

The battle against wildland fires took on another look during the fall of 2002. The Kentucky Division of Forestry, along with the Daniel Boone National Forest and other partners, sponsored the *Governors Summit on Wildland Fire and Arson*. The summit was held on October 9 and 10, at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, near Prestonsburg. The Summit was attended by state, county and local officials, concerned citizens and landowners, and a broad spectrum of land managers. The Summit provided a forum for the attendees to examine Kentucky's fire problems. It provided the opportunity for interested parties to begin formulating strategies to bring an end to arson fires in Kentucky. Presentations at the Summit demonstrated that the cost of arson fires is measured not only in burned acres and fire suppression costs but also by the increased risk of harm to firefighters and to the public; by the degradation of air quality and other natural resources; by the disruption of public services such as the closing of schools; and by the impact on public health services. A former member of the Plumas Interagency Hotshot Crew who was injured while fighting an arson fire in Eastern Kentucky in October of 2001 was a featured speaker. Kris Evans, speaking along with his mother, proved a powerful witness to the human cost of arson fires.

OVERHEAD RESOURCES DISPATCHED	
National Park Service	32
Kentucky State	10
Forest Service	116
AD Employees (Hired At Daniel Boone)	18
Department of Defense	4
National weather Service	6
US Fish & Wildlife Service	1
TOTAL	187

HAND CREWS DISPATCHED	
KENTUCKY INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER	
Job Corps	4
Kentucky State	7
Interagency	5
National Forest	1
TOTAL	17

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Interagency training sessions and seminars offered by the Daniel Boone NF during 2002 included:

- S-234 Ignitions Operations
- Automatic Weather Station Maintenance

Forest Service employees also assisted the Kentucky Division of Forestry with the instruction of 4 courses:

- I-200 Basic Incident Command System
- S-205 Wildland Fire in the Urban Interface
- S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior
- S-420 Command and General Staff

Forest personnel assisted other units hosting wildland fire courses including:

- S-130 Firefighter Training
- S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior

The Daniel Boone National Forest, the Cherokee National Forest, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the Tennessee Department of Forestry and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park combined efforts to plan a *Wildland Fire Training Academy*. The two-week Academy was designed to offer twelve training courses in the areas of operations, finance/administration, and plans. An early and intense start to the western fire season forced the cancellation of the academy. Plans were made to hold another academy in January 2003.

One of the Forest's senior firefighters worked as a member of the Redding Interagency Hotshot Crew from April through October. Another employee completed a detail with the Lewis and Clark Interagency Hotshot Crew from May through October. The Forest's Developmental Fire Prevention Specialist completed the Basic Academy of Wildland Firefighter Apprentice Program (Forest Service Region 5).

FIRE SUPPRESSION

During CY 2002 the level of fire activity on the Daniel Boone National Forest was well below the 10-year average of 118 fires and 5,516 acres burned. Between January 1 and December 31, 2002, only 61 wildland fires were reported. The number acres burned was 1,878. Each of the six ranger districts reported fire activity. The largest number of fire suppression responses were made on the London Ranger District. This district took action on 20 fires (33% of total fires).

During 2002, 97% of all fires were human caused. Arson remained the primary cause. Arson accounted for 46 fires (75% of all fires) and 1,599 burned acres (85% of all burned acres).

During the calendar year there were 29 days on which fires occurred. Fourteen days were multiple fire days, i.e., more than one suppression action taken. Fire activity on these days accounted for 46 fires (75% of total) and 1,744 burned acres (93% of total).

Kentucky's spring fire season runs from February through May. A steady procession of weather systems marched through the state during the 2002 spring fire season. Upper level troughs repeatedly developed along the central California coast, then moved eastward. These systems generally brought above normal temperatures and near normal to above normal precipitation to the lower Ohio Valley.

For the four months ending in May 2002, Jackson Kentucky recorded 18.54 inches of rain (1.53 inches above normal). Jackson also recorded temperatures around 1 degree above normal. During the same period Lexington recorded 18.52 inches of rain (2.39 inches above normal). Temperatures in Lexington also averaged around 1 degree above normal.

During the summer the Bermuda High developed over the Southeastern United States. This forced weather systems to stay well north of Eastern Kentucky. For the three months ending in August, Jackson, Kentucky's average precipitation was 4.5 inches below normal. Lexington, Kentucky averaged nearly 6 inches below normal. Temperatures across Eastern Kentucky ranged from 6 to 9 degrees above normal.

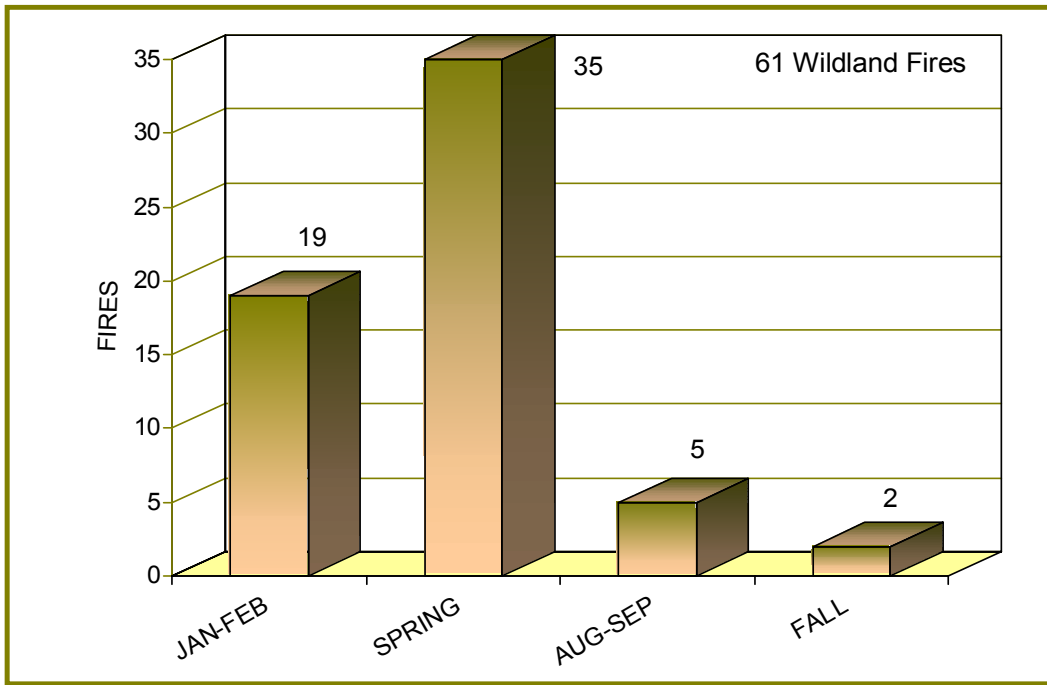
At the beginning of the fall fire season much of Kentucky was in a mild to moderate drought. Above normal rainfall was recorded during the months of September, October, and November. Jackson recorded 13.48 inches of rain (2.33 inches above normal) while Lexington received 16.95 inches of rain (7.7 inches above normal). Temperatures during the fall fire season averaged near normal with September around 4 degrees above normal and November nearly 4 degrees below normal.

December was wetter than normal. Kentucky ended the year with above average precipitation totals.

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

WILDLAND FIRES BY SEASON				
Daniel Boone National Forest				
	Spring Fire Season 3/1-5/15	Fall Fire Season 10/15-12/15	Off-Season Jan-Feb	Off-Season Aug-Sept
Fires	35	2	19	5
Percent of Total Fires	58%	3%	31%	8%
Acres	1,501	10	355	19%
Percent of Total Acres	80%	<1%	19%	<1%

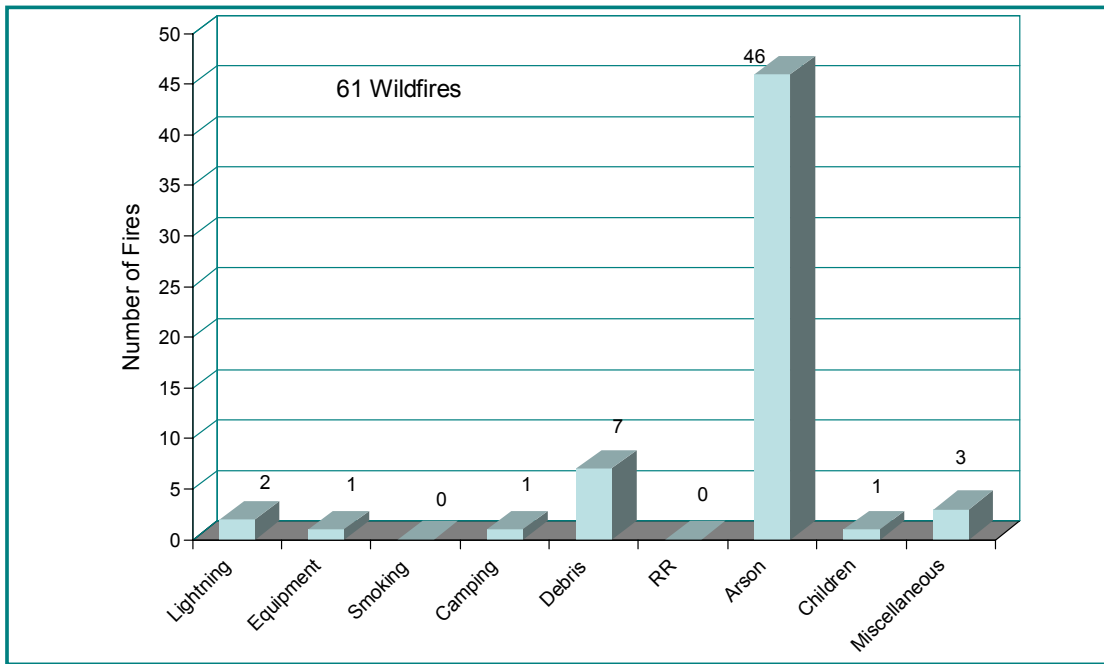
WILDLAND FIRES BY SEASON
DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST



DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

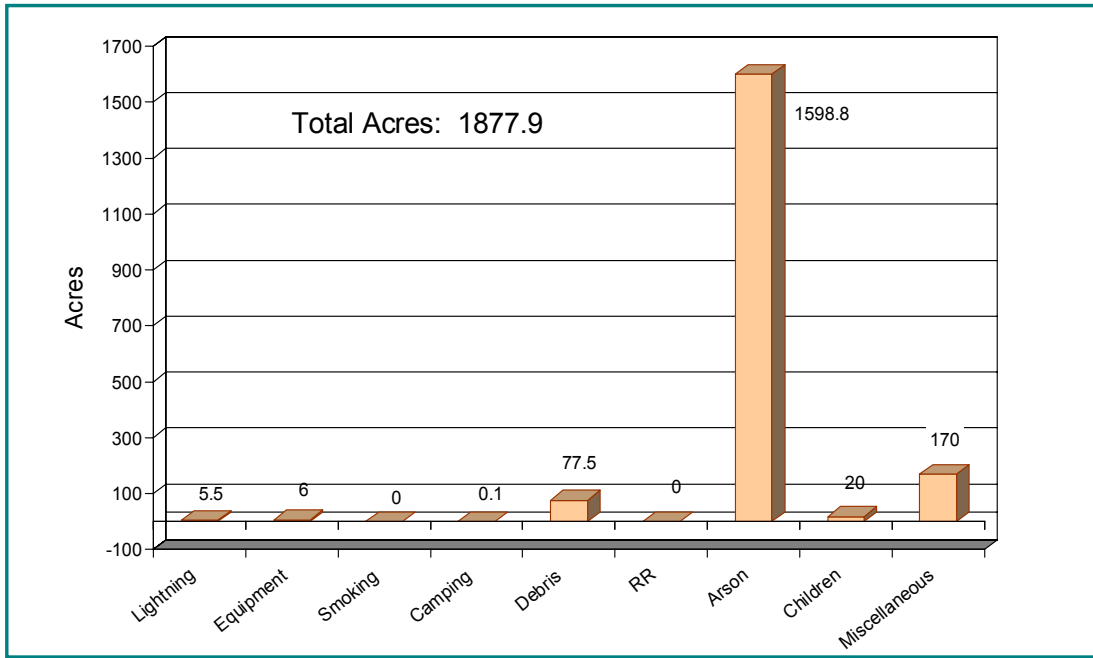
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
Daniel Boone National Forest		
	Fires	Acres
LIGHTNING	2	5.5
EQUIPMENT	1	6
SMOKING	0	0
CAMPING	1	.1
DEBRIS	7	77.5
Railroad	0	0
ARSON	46	1598.8
CHILDREN	1	20
MISCELLANEOUS	3	170
TOTAL	61	1877.9

FIRES BY CAUSE
DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST



DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

ACRES BY CAUSE
DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

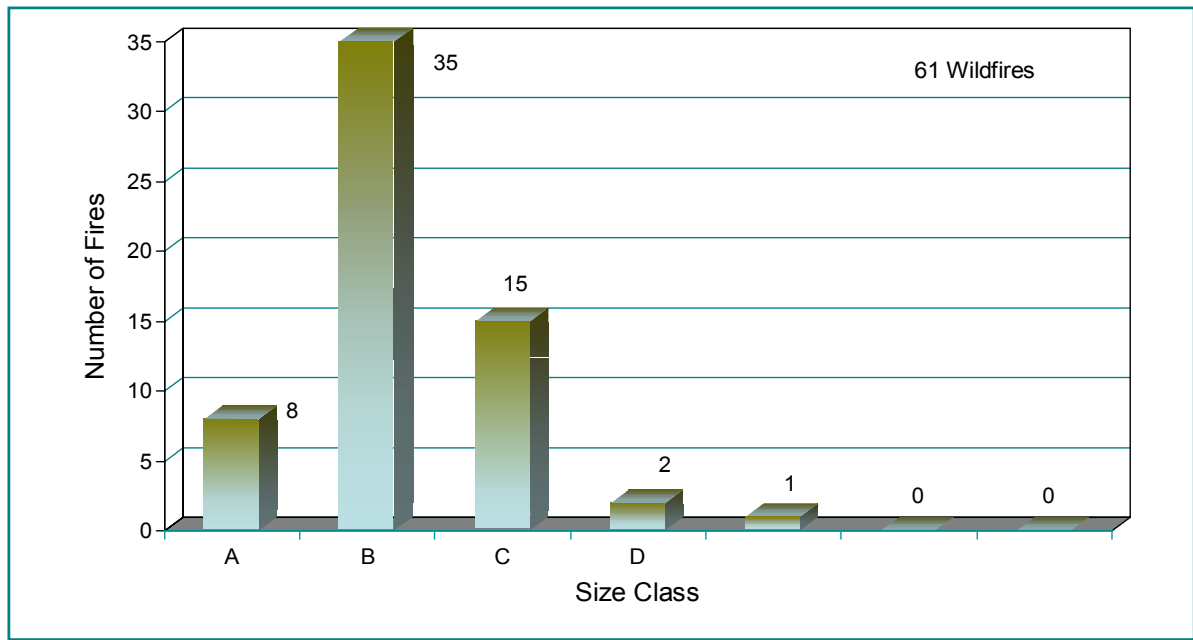


WILDLAND FIRES BY DETECTION METHOD		
Daniel Boone National Forest		
	NO.	%
FS Lookout	0	0
Other Lookout	0	0
FS Patrol	1	<2%
Other FS Employee	11	18%
Planned Cooperator	19	31%
FS Permittee	1	<2%
FS Aircraft Observer	1	<2%
Other A/C Observer	2	3%
Others	26	43%
TOTAL	61	100%

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

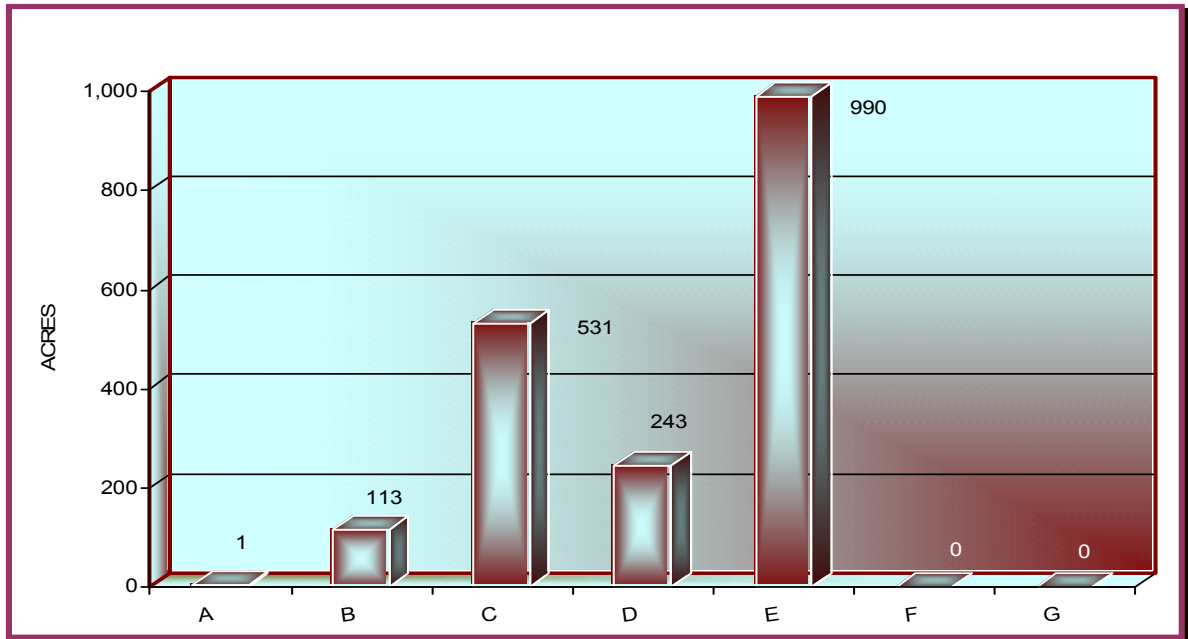
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
Daniel Boone National Forest								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	8	35	15	2	1	0	0	61
Acres	1.1	112.8	531	243	990	0	0	1877.9

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST



DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

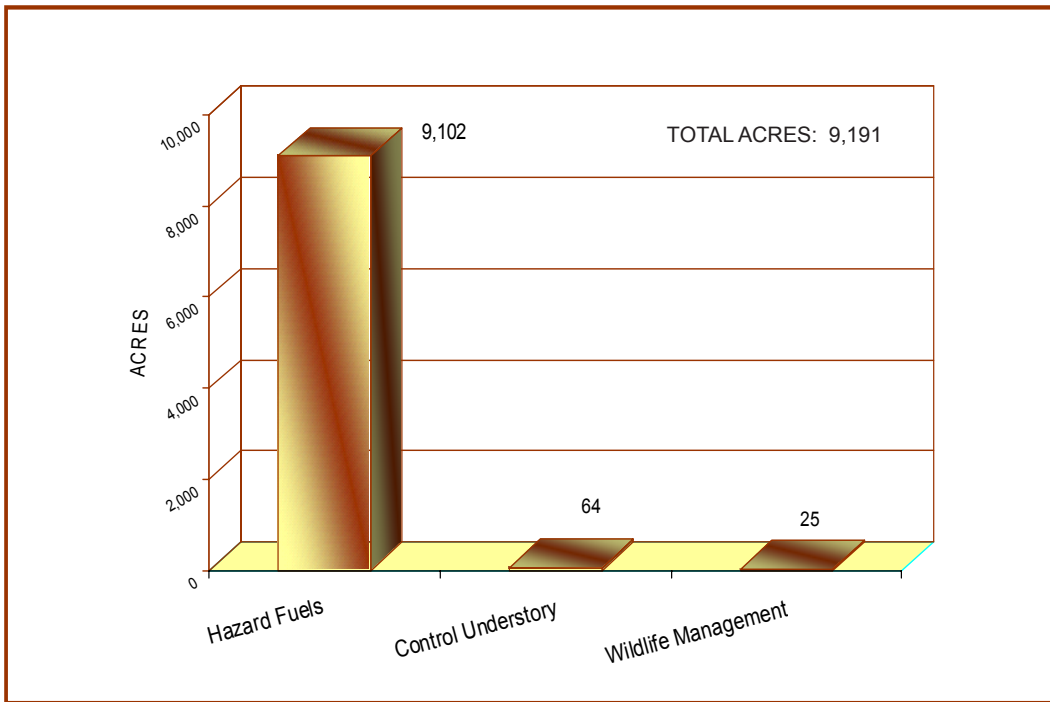
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS										
Daniel Boone National Forest										
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre
Total	9,102			64			25	9,191	-	-
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS					
RR	Rough Reduction									
SB	Seedbed Prep									
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost	Cost Per Mile		
CUS	Control Understory Sp.									
R	Range Improvement									
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.				0		0	0		
PMB	Pre-mark Burn									
WI	Wildlife Improvement									

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The McCreary County Firewise Council continued to serve as a model for Kentucky. Daniel Boone National Forest partnered with state, county and local officials (Kentucky Division of Forestry lead) on the Governors *Summit on Wildland Fire and Arson*.

LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION CAPACITY

District personnel continued to work with key volunteer fire departments on skills development and ICS familiarity.

GRASSROOTS IDEAS

Daniel Boone National Forest is working with the Kentucky Division of Forestry and Kentucky Conservation personnel to address hazardous fuels and arson-caused fires. A prevention team was assigned in Eastern Kentucky at the beginning of the fall fire season during a critical drought cycle.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Arson fire prevention messages were given to school systems and local groups throughout the year. A fire academy was planned with interagency participation. Forest personnel worked with UK-Lees Community College to train and use student as firefighters.

PREVENTION

The *Robert E. Browning, Jr. Award* for CY 2001 (for excellence in wildland fire prevention activities) was given to Marie Walker, Forest Public Affairs Officer, and to Gwen Hensley, Visual Information Specialist. This dynamic team was recognized for their efforts to prepare and present creative and effective prevention campaigns through the use of a broad array of media and communications resources.

The award honors the memory of Robert E. Browning, Jr., of South Carolina. Robert E. Browning died on Storm King Mountain, July 6, 1994.



NOTABLE EVENTS, COOPERATORS

Mammoth Cave National Park initiated a prescribed fire program and completed the first prescribed fire in the park's history. Two projects were completed for a total of 100 acres. The Cumberland Gap Fire Use Module directed the operation. Assistance was provided by the Great Smoky Mountain National Park Fire Use Module, Big South Fork National Recreation Area, the Daniel Boone National Forest, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Arson fire occurrences were down significantly for CY 2002. Several factors are believed responsible for the downward trend. Significant amounts of rainfall occurred frequently throughout the fall fire season. The excess fuel moisture aided in slowing the rate of fire spread. Aggressive law enforcement activity contributed to the reduction of arson fires in 2002.

Law Enforcement personnel investigated several arson fires that occurred on the Redbird Ranger District during 2002. Law enforcement officers and special investigators developed leads associated with the deliberate burning of a Forest Service vehicle. A suspect was identified and later confessed to the vehicle arson. The subject also confessed to the attempted arson of a business and a residence. The vehicle arson case is scheduled for federal court. The attempted arson of the business and residence will be handled by the State of Kentucky.

During the same week law enforcement personnel investigated the burning of a log-loader parked on a Forest Service timber sale. The loader was completely destroyed. Two other pieces of equipment received minor damage. No leads or suspects have been identified to date.

Law Enforcement personnel investigated the burning of a Forest Service portal sign on the Redbird Ranger District. The investigation of this incident carried over into CY 2003.

Forest Service fire personnel assigned to a helitack crew were being flown to a fire when they observed a suspicious vehicle in the vicinity. Closer observation revealed that someone had set a sequence of fires alongside a roadway. The helitack crew reported the suspicious activity and continued aerial surveillance of the subject until law enforcement personnel arrived. The Kentucky State Police presented the case in state court. The subject received a two-year pre-trial diversion.

Law Enforcement personnel investigated a fire that occurred on the London Ramger District. The investigation produced 2 juveniles who admitted setting the fire. Federal Officers presented the case in state court. The older juvenile received 60 days confinement and 2 years probation. The younger juvenile received 150 hours of community service and two years probation.

The arson-caused Mud Lick fires that occurred in 2001 proved to be very costly. A firefighter was severely injured when a burning tree struck him as it fell. A very intense and exhaustive investigation failed to uncover the person responsible for the fires. On the other hand the investigation produced 3 juveniles and 2 adults who were responsible for other arson fires in the same area. All are

awaiting trial.

Aggressive law enforcement, with public involvement, and support by the Courts, will continue to be a major deterrent to arson related fires across the Daniel Boone Nation Forest.

LAND OWNERSHIP REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse					
KY		1,090				699,575	700,665		882



BLACK BEAR SEEKS REAL ESTATE

The black bear is expanding its territory in Eastern Kentucky to include Daniel Boone National Forest

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES		
Daniel Boone National Forest		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	13	
Part-Time Fire Management	23	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	30	
Others Used On Suppression	39	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		105
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	11	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0	
Emergency Fire Fighters	0	
Total Emergency Firefighters		11
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		190
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	50	
TOTAL		306

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

FIRE SUPPRESSION

Rainfall was intermittent throughout the calendar year. Significant rain events during the spring and fall prevented conditions that warranted high fire danger days.

As in years past, a drought during the summer months was severe enough for area farmers to qualify for drought relief. The calendar year ended with an ice storm event in early December. The storm caused scattered damage to the forest

resource, but not to the scale that would constitute a heavy buildup of hazardous fuels.

Due primarily to opportune rain events during the spring and fall fire seasons, LBL had only two small fires.

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

Land Between The Lakes is a National Recreation Area located in western Kentucky and Tennessee. Encompassing approximately 170,000 acres, LBL emphasizes outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities and receives over 2 million visitors each year.

As the newest unit to the Forest Service, LBL continued to develop its fire management program during CY 2002. The number of acres treated by prescribed fire and the number of fire qualified personnel were both increased during the year.

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

Calendar year 2002 was LBL's second year in the hazardous reduction program. LBL successfully completed 6 fuel reduction burns totaling 524 acres. As personnel become more experienced and projects become approved, more acres are expected to be treated annually.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The Woodlands Nature Station presented three programs pertaining to fire ecology and fire prevention. Smokey Bear made several appearances at our recreation facilities throughout the year. Three fire related incidents were investigated. The investigations pertain to the two wildland fires and a hay barn fire that occurred this past calendar year.

COOPERATION

LBL continues to contract primary fire suppression duties with the state forestry agencies in both Kentucky and Tennessee. LBL has also entered into a cooperative agreement with the East Golden Pond Volunteer Fire Department. The agreement provides structural fire protection for Forest Service facilities in Trigg County, Kentucky. In calendar year 2003, LBL will enter into additional cooperative agreements with adjacent volunteer fire departments. This will provide structural fire protection for facilities located in Lyon County, Kentucky and in Stewart County, Tennessee.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NRA		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING		
EQUIPMENT		
SMOKING	1	2
CAMPING	1	1
DEBRIS		
RR		
ARSON		
CHILDREN		
MISCELLANEOUS		
TOTAL	2	3



WILDLAND FIRE

WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NRA								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acres	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

PRESCRIBED FIRE

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NRA											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre
Approp.	524								524	-	-
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS						
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile		
CUS	Control Understory Sp.										
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0		
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

SAFETY

Land Between The Lakes NRA did not have a fire related safety incident during CY 2002.

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES		
LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NRA		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	0	
Part-Time Fire Management	1	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	0	
Others Used On Suppression	15	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		17
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0	
Emergency Fire Fighters	3	
Total Emergency Firefighters		3
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		3
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	3	
TOTAL		23

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The fire management staff officer position was filled during CY 2002. Five engine operator positions were filled. A developmental assistant district fire management officer position was also filled.

TRAINING

The Forest conducted, for the first time, joint fire training courses with Fort Polk (U.S. Army). The Forest also assisted with fire training at Louisiana State Technical College.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

We continued to support the Western fire effort in both personnel and administration services.

The Kisatchie National Forest experienced an unusual weather year. The winter and early spring months were wetter than normal. This kept the wildfire occurrence below normal. It also reduced the number of days for prescribed burning. The summer was drier than normal and the KBDI higher than normal. The growing season burning was almost non-existent. Tropical Storm Isadore and Hurricane Lili arrived early in the fall. The forest was able to resume prescribed burning activities in November and continued burning into December.

WILDLAND FIRE

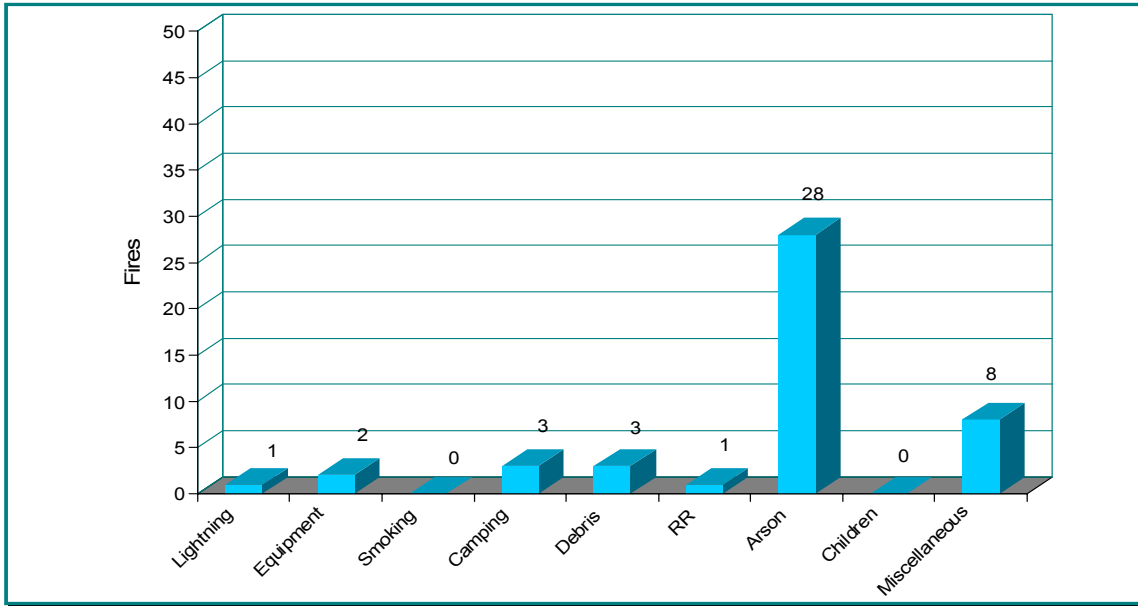
Wildfire occurrence was below normal due to a wetter than average spring. There were 46 wildland fires in CY 2002 which burned 1,633 acres. The average fire year has an average of 98 fires burning 5,099 acres. The average fire size for CY 2002 was 35.5 acres compared to the annual average fire size of 52.0 acres.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	1	6
EQUIPMENT	2	31
SMOKING	0	0
CAMPING	3	181
DEBRIS	3	39
RAILROAD	1	15
ARSON	28	1202
CHILDREN	0	159
MISCELLANEOUS	8	0
TOTAL	46	1,633

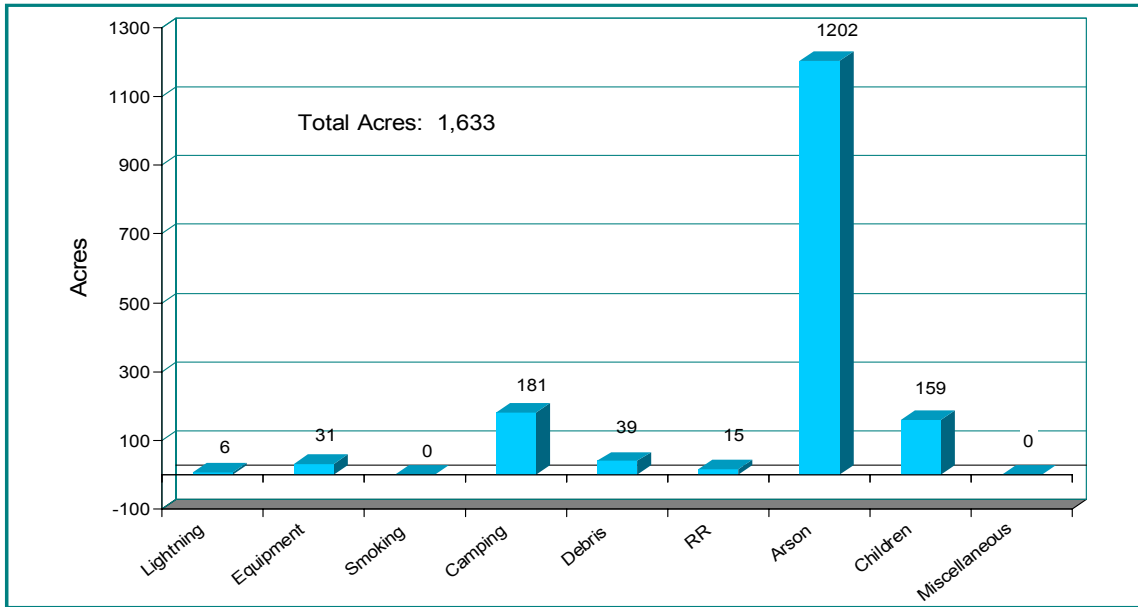
TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Times Taught	MONTH	TRAINEES
130/190	Basic FF and Introduction to Fire Behavior	1	MAY	20
130/190	Basic FF and Introduction to Fire Behavior	1	October	15
TOTAL		1		35

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

FIRES BY CAUSE KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

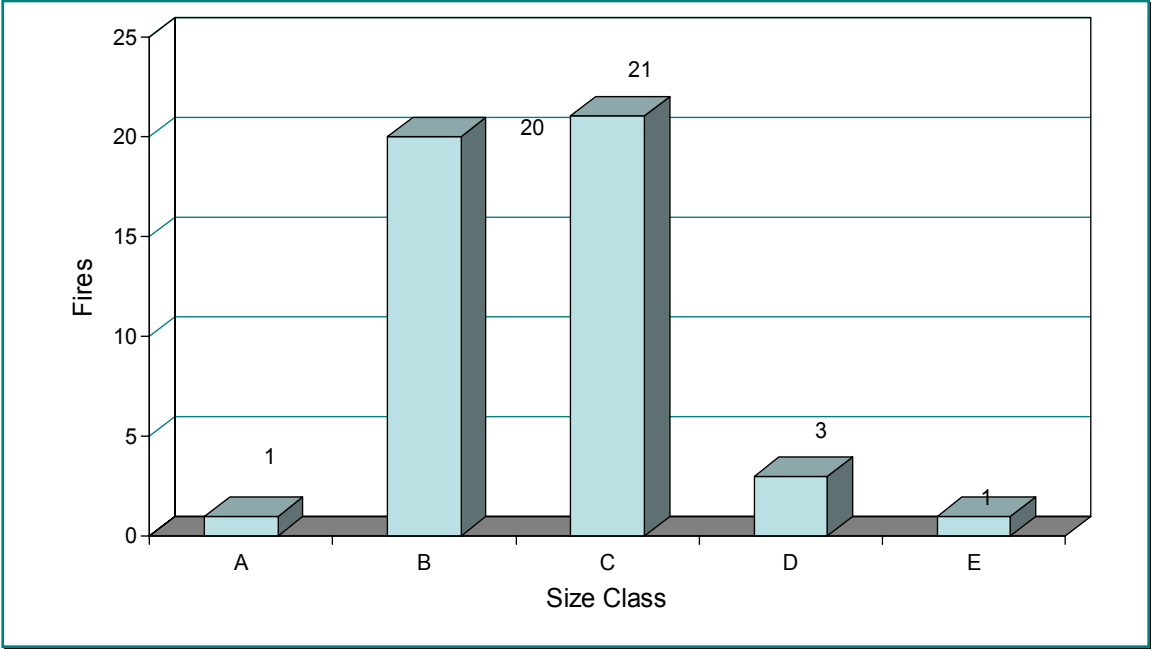


ACRES BY CAUSE KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

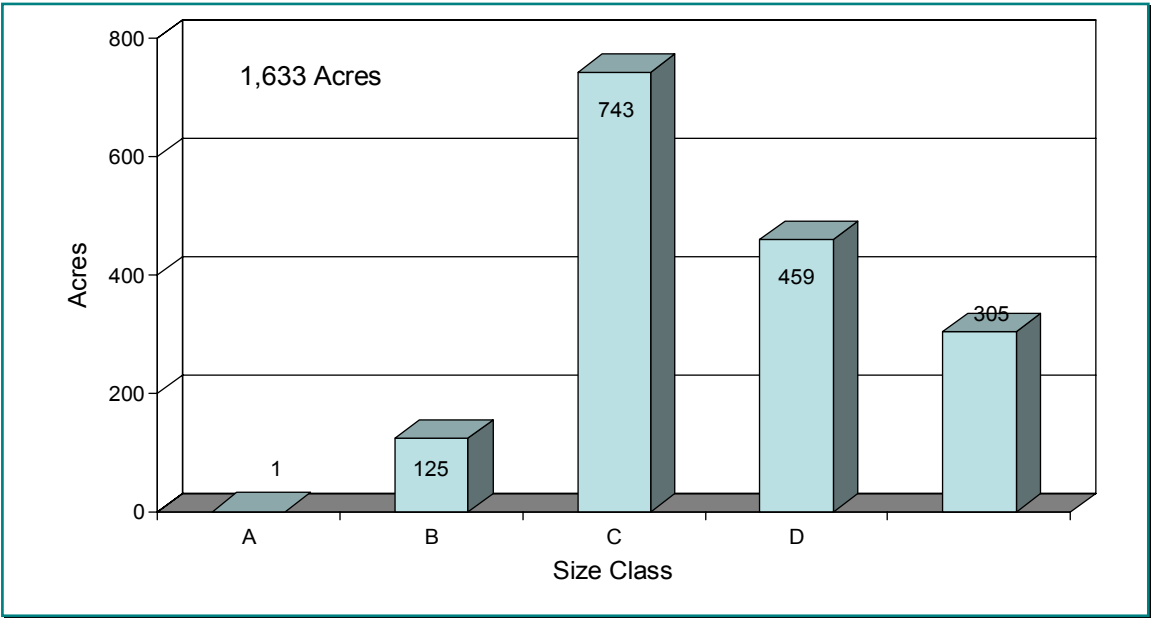


WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	1	20	21	3	1			46
Acres	.25	125	743	459	305			1633

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre
DETAILS NOT AVAILABLE									112,083		-

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

The Kisatchie National Forest treated 87,100 acres of hazardous fuels with prescribed fire during CY 2002. This was 76 percent of the planned target.

A total of 16 detailers from Region 6 assisted with our prescribed burning. This is the fifth year we have used the Region 6 detailers.

The chart illustrates total acres burned for CY 2002.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS

The Kisatchie National Forest continued cooperative efforts with the Louisiana Office of Forestry. Cooperative agreements were in place for CY 2002. The Louisiana Office of Forestry conducts aerial detection flights for the Kisatchie National Forest and has primary responsibility for wildfire control on the Caney Ranger District.

The forest continued working closely with the Twin Valley Rural Conservation District on interface issues.

Firefighting resources from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, the State of Louisiana and the Forest Service were dispatched through the Louisiana Interagency Coordination Center.

Cooperation continued to grow with many of local volunteer fire departments. Volunteer fire departments have provided services, equipment and personnel for initial attack and prescribed fire on many incidents.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement personnel patrolled the districts during periods of high fire danger. They also assisted with traffic control during prescribe burns. All wildland fire incidents were investigated.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES		
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST		
Personal Contacts With Public		
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given		
Patrol Miles Logged		
Arson Cases Investigated		17
Warnings Issued		7
Violation Notices Issued		6
Arrests		
Convictions		
Misdemeanor	6	
Felony		
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents		30

AVIATION

The forest once again hosted a Region 8 fuels helicopter administered under an exclusive use contract. The Forest also used local CWN helicopters for fire management purposes.

FLIGHT HOURS			
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing		
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing		
Prescribed Fire	Fixed Wing		
Other: Forest Health		CWN	8
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing		8
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing		
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing		
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	Exclusive & CWN	155.4
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		155.4
Total	All Aircraft		163.4

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT										
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries									National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service								S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total			
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse						
LA							604,278	604,278		

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

Personnel Employed On Wildland Fire Presuppression and Suppression Activities		
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	15	
Part-Time Fire Management	4	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	65	
Others Used On Suppression	7	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		91
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0	
Emergency Fire Fighters	0	
Total Emergency Firefighters		0
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		0
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	0	
TOTAL		91

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

INTRODUCTION

The National Forests in Mississippi are dispersed throughout the state covering parts of 33 different counties. These National Forest lands, administered by the Forest Supervisor, total 1.1 million acres and are managed as 7 separate ranger districts. The ranger districts are scattered from the Appalachian foot hills to the Gulf Coast. Intermingled throughout the forests are privately owned lands. From farms to cities and plantations and to interstates the National Forests in Mississippi cover a wide range of land uses and values. In many cases National Forest lands are crowded by urban development. The wildland/urban interface resulting from the development is creating a new and complex fire management environment. As the urbanization of rural lands progresses, the number and complexity of wildland fires will continue to increase.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Forest met all goals in workforce development. There were 2 developmental district fire management officer positions in Mississippi. The 2002 fire season offered an opportunity for numerous off-forest details. We took full advantage of the opportunities by mobilizing 19 handcrews for dispatch through the Southern Area Coordination Center. This allowed the newly hired employees to participate and gain valuable experience. (See Training, later in the MS section).

FIRE FACILITIES

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is building a training center in Pearl, Mississippi. When the center is completed and functioning there will be more opportunities for higher level training.

- Preliminary construction on a helibase at the Bude Work center, Homochitto Ranger District, was completed in 2002. The helibase was activated. The center includes fire management offices, fire equipment storage facilities, and a fire cache.
- Six GOES-linked automated weather stations were installed on the Forest.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The official fire season for the Forest runs Oct. 1 to May 30. Most of the fires occur during the spring. During periods of drought the Forest's fire season runs throughout the year.

Fire detection needs were handled on the Forest through two regional fixed-wing contracts. Most cooperators also used fixed winged aircraft as their primary detection method.

WEATHER

The National Forests in Mississippi have an excellent working relationship with the National Weather Service. In the spirit of interagency cooperation the National Weather Service has designated a Special Program Meteorologist (SPM) for Forestry whose main function is the collection, calculation, assimilation, and interpretation of weather data.

Each ranger district monitors a local weather station. During inclement weather district offices keep field crews informed on weather related WATCHES OR WARNINGS.

Guidelines and operating procedures are provided by the Forestry Meteorology Operations plan for Mississippi. The plan is reviewed annually by the National Weather Service, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, and the National Forests in Mississippi.

The weather across the Forest is generally influenced by two weather systems. High pressure dominates the weather in the summer causing hot and humid conditions. The area of high pressure continues for some time causing the KDBI to climb well above 600. We are also influenced by low warm humid air that comes from gulf sea breezes. These fronts can influence weather as early as March. They may continue until late October or early November.

Beginning about mid-November Mississippi is influenced by cold front passages which normally occur every 2-4 days. Strong cold fronts come through dropping humidity well into the 20% range. The passage of these fronts makes prescribed burning very difficult by reducing the prescribed fire window of opportunity. Temperatures can be in the 70's one day and in the 30's the next day.

During CY 2002, Mississippi rainfall was more than 20 inches above normal. Notwithstanding the excess rainfall Mississippi National Forests accomplished its burning target for the year.

The Southwestern area of the state, as measured by the Keech-Byrum Drought Index, experienced abnormally dry conditions. Dry spring weather, combined with a regional helicopter incident, limited plans to complete a prescribed burning program during the growing season. The drought continued throughout the summer. A hurricane and a tropical depression brought more than 24 inches of rain to Southwestern Mississippi during the months of September and October.

WILDLAND FIRE

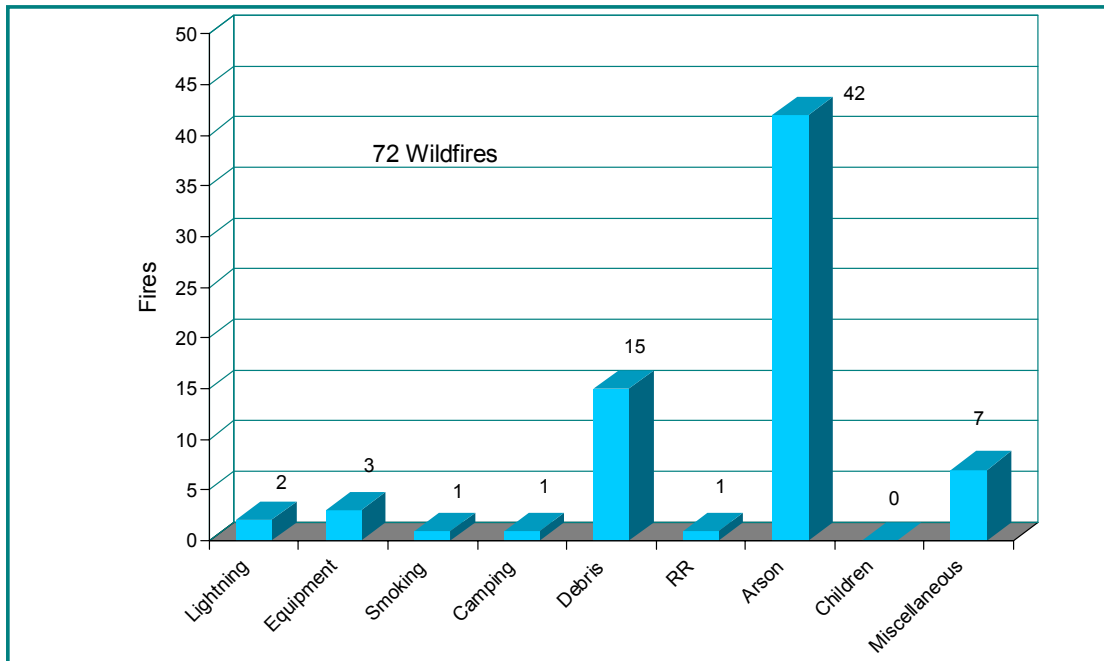
The National Forests in Mississippi fire suppression objective is to suppress all wildfires in the safest, most cost effective and least resource damaging manner while adhering to the guidelines in the *Forest Management Plan*.

There are a number of considerations that require fire managers to continually evaluate their on-the-ground suppression alternatives. Mississippi National Forests contain threatened and endangered species, wilderness areas, and a wild and scenic river. These specially designated resource areas and resource types require that fire management decisions be made based on careful and thoughtful analysis of resource impacts.

During CY 2002 the Forests suppressed a total of 72 wildfires, totaling 2,354 acres. The number of fires is a reduction from CY 2001. The reduction can be contributed to aggressive fire prevention programs and to an increase in the large number of acres treated each year by the prescribed fire program. The aggressive prescribed fire program decreased the fuel loading over the forest. The reduction in fuels helped to decrease the number of acres burned by wildland fires and in so doing helped to decrease the amount of damage caused by wildfires.

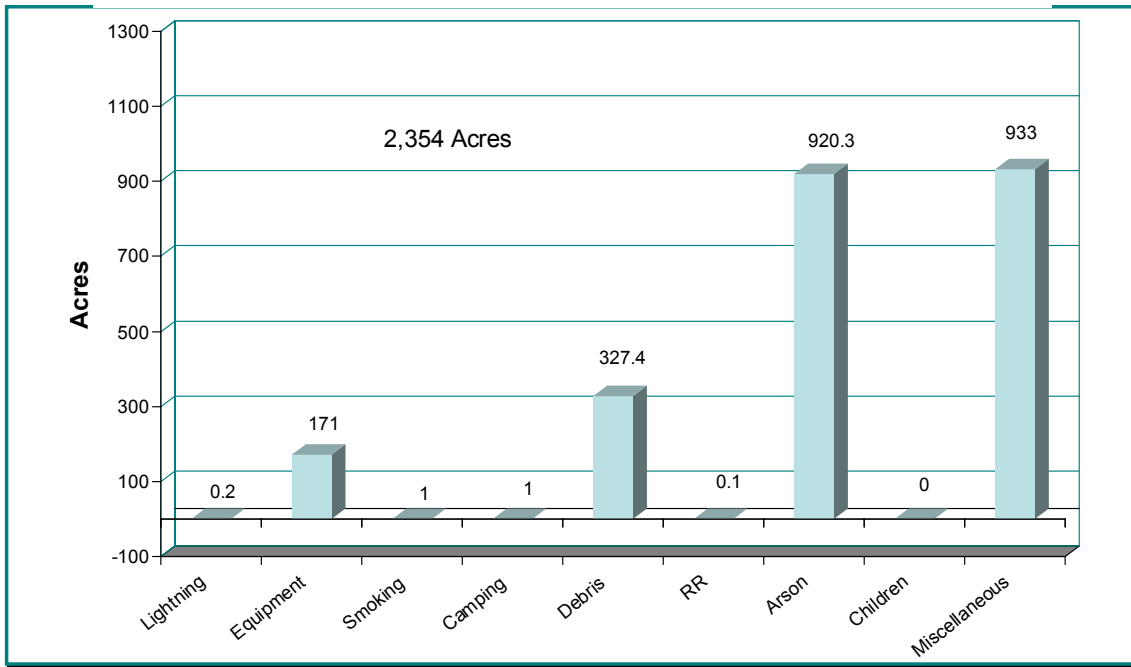
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	2	.2
EQUIPMENT	3	171
SMOKING	1	1
Camping	1	1
DEBRIS	15	327.4
RAILROAD	1	.1
ARSON	42	920.3
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	7	933
TOTAL	72	2,354.0

FIRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI



NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

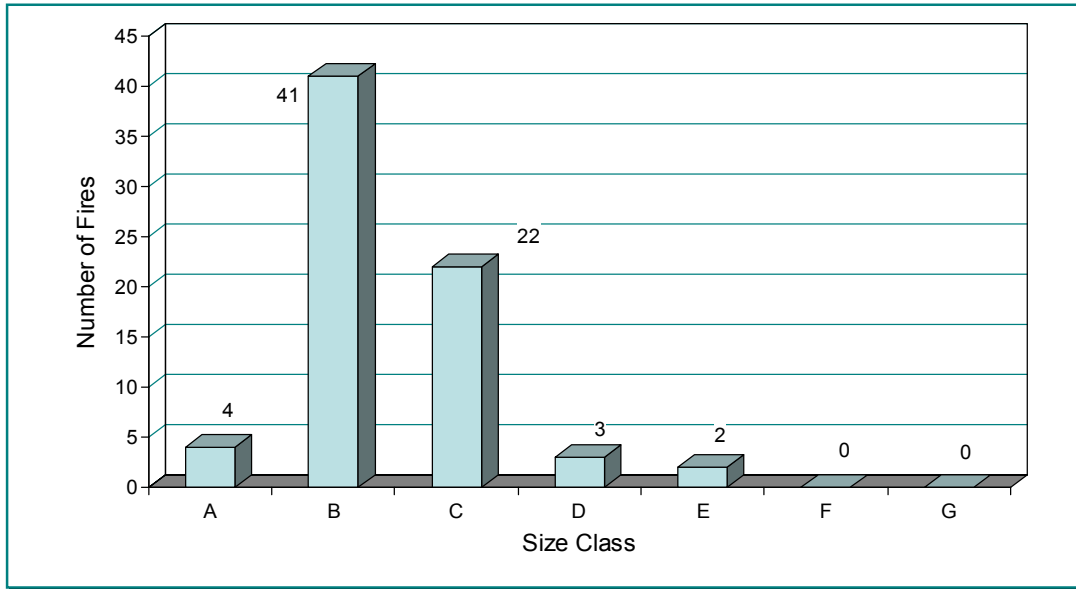
ACRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI



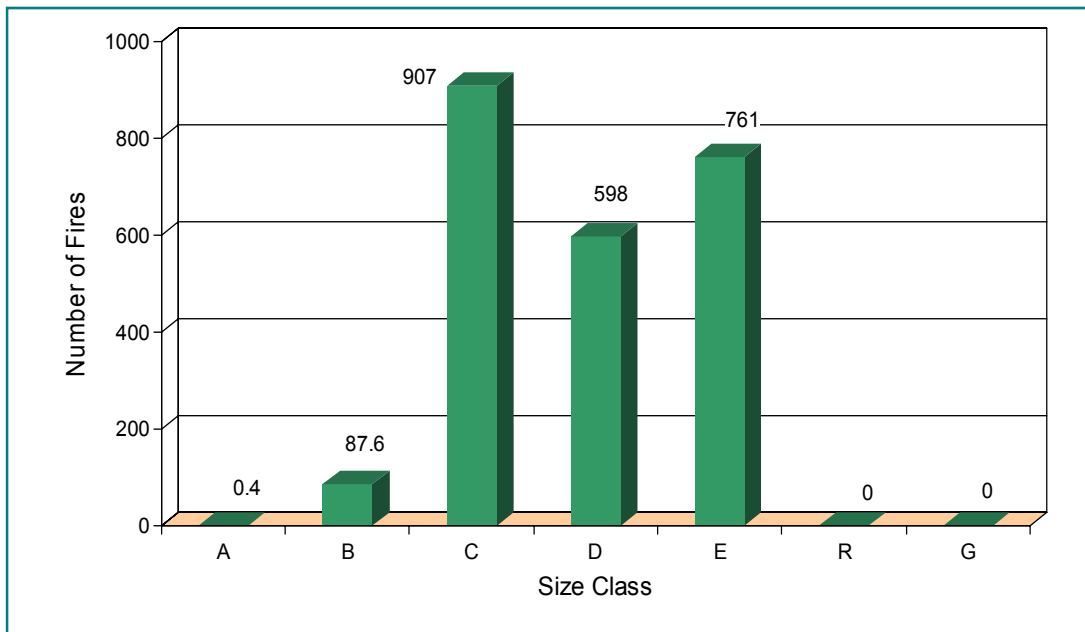
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	4	41	22	3	2	0	0	72
Acres	.4	87.6	907	598	761	0	0	2,354

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI



HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

THE HAZARDOUS FUEL PROGRAM

The National Forests in Mississippi completed the largest prescribed fire program in the nation, totaling 214,832 in FY 2002.

Prescribed fire is implemented as a management tool for wildlife management, site prep, timber stand improvement, fuels management, recreation management, T&E management and grazing management because it is very efficient and cost effective.

The 214,832 acres of prescribed burning for hazardous fuel reduction is especially impressive when one considers the complex land ownership-mosaic that prescribed fire practitioners must work in, around and through. The wildland-urban interface, intense recreational use activity, and the high level of military special use operations at Camp Shelby (De Soto Ranger District) further add to the complexity of prescribe fire operations in Mississippi.

The 2002 prescribed fire program has generated 2 National Fire Plan success stories. An earnest team effort involving district employees and 42 detailers from Region 1 accomplished the task. The Forest contracted 3 Type III helicopters to assist in accomplishing the burning goal. The goals could not have been achieved without the helicopters.

REDUCE FIRE RISK

Over 50 projects were identified to reduce fire risk. Projects ranged from public meetings to educating communities through FIREWISE to hazardous fuel burning around communities at risk.

IMPLEMENT HAZARDOUS FUEL PROJECTS

214,000 acres were treated in CY 2002. Prescribed burning continued to be the most cost effective means of hazardous fuel reduction in Mississippi.



SIGNIFICANT AND NOTEWORTHY

The National Forests in Mississippi manages the most intense prescribed fire program in the nation. Each year the Forest burns about 180,000 to 220,000 acres of land. Prescribed fire is an integral part of the Forest's land management program. Prescribed fire is used to improve timber and to enhance wildlife, recreation, range, and watershed resources.

The Oyster wildfire on the Chickasawhay Ranger District burned on an area that had been treated with prescribed fire, a three-year rough. The three-year rough was largely responsible for preventing the Oyster fire from becoming a major incident. The fire burned 232 acres in two days before being discovered. During the suppression action, the fire made a major run. Due to the fact that it was burning in a three-year rough, the fire did not develop into a crown fire. Spotting did not occur and there was no damage to timber values.

The Crown Tree wildfire occurred on the Holly Spring Ranger District and grew to 90 acres. The fire burned intensely and made several runs. It was difficult to control. A landowner had ignited the fire as a prescribed burn on private land. Control lines were not planned or constructed for the burn. The burn escaped and developed into the Crown fire. Eventually the Crown fire spread onto Forest Service lands. Suppression action was taken by both the Forest Service and the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

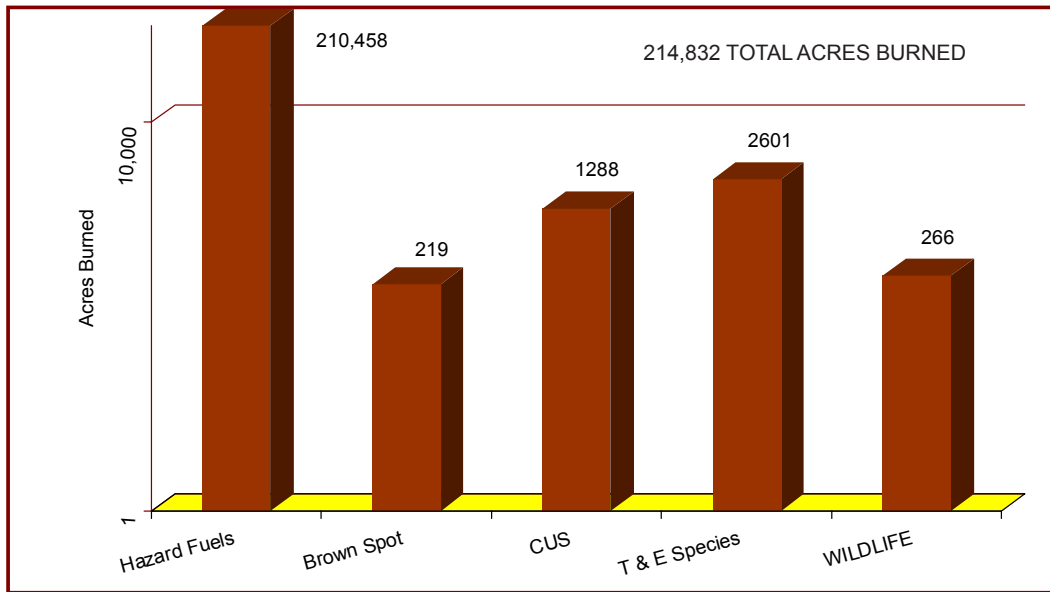
During CY 2002 Forest fire personnel spent a great deal of time supporting district operations in Mississippi, supporting Forest Service units in other states in the Southern Region, and supporting western wildfire suppression efforts.

Fire personnel played a key role in accomplishing Forest projects such as landline maintenance, recreation operations, wildlife management activities, and plow-line rehabilitation. Fire personnel were instrumental in the renovation, and in facilitating the grand opening, of the Chewalla Lake Recreation area.



NATIONA FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI



MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL FORESTS TREATED 214,832 ACRES WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE DURING CY 2002. THIS IS MORE THAN 100,000 ACRES GREATER THAN ANY OTHER SOUTHERN AREA FOREST SERVICE UNIT

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Cost	Cost Acre
KVT105		219		1,288					1507		
KVTT05						2,601			2601		
Approp.	210,458								210,458		
CWKV							266		266		
TOTAL	210,458	219		1,298		2,601	266		214,832		15.00
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS						
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation										
CUS	Control Understory Sp.				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile		
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0		
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

INTRODUCTION

During CY 2002 personnel from the National Forests in Mississippi worked with news media (radio, newspaper, television) to generate community interest and participation in fire protection. Goals were established to measure progress for CY 2002. All goals were met.

Cooperative agreements with all partners were updated for 2002.

EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

More than 40 outreach and education projects were conducted in 2002. Efforts include participation in job fairs, contacts with newspapers, television stations, and personal contacts with community groups.

Fire prevention and fire ecology messages were presented to a variety of publics in CY 2002. These diverse groups were reached through a variety of methods including demonstrations for school children and parade appearances. The *Smokey* character remains popular with children and was used on several occasions across the Forest.

Local authorities and affected parties are contacted prior to each prescribed fire ignition. This includes the County Sheriff, adjacent landowners and agency cooperators. These contacts are made by burn bosses, law enforcement officers and/or forest dispatchers.



COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Cooperative relationships with other agencies and organizations were strengthened in CY 2002 in several ways.

1. The Homochitto National Forest sponsored entry-level firefighter training in October 2002. The training attended by a variety of federal, state, and local volunteer firefighters. During this training, instructors from both the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) and the Forest Service presented instructional material and in the process interagency working relationships were enhanced. During the year suppression efforts at the National Forest/private interface were often coordinated with state forces. Our relationship with local MFC crews and the Southwest Mississippi District personnel continued to grow stronger. Finally, the Homochitto is sponsoring a number of red-carded state and local fire fighters for availability on fire assignments in other parts of the country.

Goals for FY 2003 include an expanded cooperative protection zone with the MFC and the implementation of agreements with local volunteer fire departments to supply water to Forest Service engines that are engaged in firefighting activities.

2. The De Soto Ranger District developed a new partnership. The district signed an memorandum of understanding with *Harrison County Project Impact*. HCPI is involved in all forms of disaster assistance for 3 Mississippi coastal counties. Wildfire defense, preparedness and prevention are some of the organization's major emphasis areas. Co-partners include hundreds of local businesses and agencies.

3. The Tri-County Fire Management Cooperative was formed in 2002. District Fire Management Officer Jay Boykin is a member of the steering committee. This cooperative was formed to promote the use of prescribed fire and to increase cooperation and communication, for all aspects of prescribed fire, wildland fire and prevention, among organizations in the three coastal counties. Participating organizations include: the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the Nature Conservancy, the Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and all three County Fire Coordinators.

4. The Mississippi Interagency Fire Training Committee (MIFTC) meets each year to identify fire training needs within member agencies. The committee is made up of representatives from the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the Natchez Trace Parkway, Vicksburg National military Park, Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, Sandhill Crane Refuge, Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, and the National Forests in Mississippi.

AVIATION

The National Forests in Mississippi used two Regional exclusive-use helicopter contracts for the purpose of conducting aerial ignition on the Forest. The third exclusive-use aircraft was used on the De Soto Ranger District to support the district in fire suppression and prescribed fire aerial ignition. The aviation capabilities of the Forest were expanded this year with the construction and activation of a new helibase/work center complex on the Homochitto Ranger District. Additional projects for FY 2003 include a concrete landing pad and improved approach and departure paths.



FLIGHT HOURS			
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	Exclusive Use	212.92
SPB Detection		Exclusive Use	209.56
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing		422.48
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	Exclusive Use	157.8
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	Exclusive Use	398.8
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		556.6
Total	All Aircraft		979.08

PREVENTION & ENFORCEMENT

The fire program on the National Forests in Mississippi was able to communicate a fire prevention and fire ecology message to a variety of publics in CY 2002. These diverse groups were reached through a variety of methods including demonstrations (for school children) and parade appearances. The *Smokey* character remains popular with children and was used on several occasions across the Forest.

Before each prescribed burn contacts are made with local authorities, sheriff's dept, adjacent landowners and cooperators, advising of burn location. These contacts are made by burn bosses, law enforcement officers and/or dispatchers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI	
Personal Contacts With Public	3,091
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	62
Patrol Miles Logged	4,015
Arson Cases Investigated	29
Warnings Issued	2
Violation Notices Issued	
Arrests	
Convictions	
Misdemeanor	
Felony	
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	66

TRAINING

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Time s This Year	Mont h	Number Trained
S-212	Wildland Power saws	1	11	32
S-234	Ignition Specialist	1	11	30
MSSC	Mississippi Rx Fire Short Course	2	4, 10	50
I-100	Introduction to ICS	1	5	20
I-200	Basic ICS	1	1	20
P-151	Wildfire Origin & Cause Determination	1	6	25
S-110	Basic Fire Suppression Orientation	1	5	25
S-130	Firefighter Training	1	5	20
S-131	Advanced Firefighter Training	1	1	25
S-190	Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior	1	5	20
S-200	Initial Attack ICType 4 (ICT4)	1	5	30
S-234	Ignition Specialist	1	2	25
S-290	Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior	1	3	30
S-356	Supply Unit Leader	1	2	20
S-211	Portable Pumps	1	10	25
S-217	Interagency Helicopters	1	11	30
S-281	Supervisory Concepts & Techniques	1	11	25
S-300	Incident Commander Extended Attack	1	11	25
M-410	Facilitative Instructor	1	11	20
TOTAL	(19 different trainee courses)	20		497

LAND OWNERSHIP REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT										
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others	
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS		
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total			
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse						
MS							1,152,898	1,152,898		

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES		
NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI		
Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	25	
Part-Time Fire Management	3	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	81	
Others Used On Suppression	87	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		196
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	7	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	3	
Emergency Fire Fighters	2	
Total Emergency Firefighters		12
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		178
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	10	
TOTAL		386

NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

Wildfire suppression activities in North Carolina are coordinated through an Interagency Dispatch Center located in Asheville, NC. The Dispatch Center provides the following agencies with dispatch services: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Defense, North Carolina State Division of Forestry, and National Forests in North Carolina.

There are two defined fire seasons in North Carolina, spring and fall. Fires may also occur in the summer months (June through September); but the summer months do not normally constitute a wildland fire season. The two defined fire seasons run from February 15th to May 15th, and from October 15th to December 15th. Generally the spring fire season has the highest fire occurrence.

The fuel types in North Carolina range from mixed conifer and hardwoods in the mountains, to pine plantations with a mixed hardwood understory in the Piedmont, to swampy areas consisting of a pine overstory and a brushy understory along the coast.

North Carolina has a tanker base that is operational throughout the spring fire season. Two exclusive-use Type 3 helicopters are available during the fire season. One helicopter is based at Woodlawn Helibase on the Grandfather Ranger District in the mountains of Western North Carolina. The other helicopter is based on the Croatan Ranger District on the Atlantic coast. During the fall fire season the Type 3 helicopter returns to the Woodlawn Helibase. Each ranger district has ground resources, cooperators, contract engines and dozers available for initial attack.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The mountains of North Carolina ended the year with a rainfall deficit of 2.60 inches. All of North Carolina experienced a severe drought which started around the 1st of March and lasted through September. North Carolina experienced 1 hurricane in 2002, which caused only minor damage. On the other hand North Carolina was affected by 2 hurricanes in late September that came ashore via the Gulf Coast. Significant amounts of rain fell throughout the state. This rainfall helped eliminate drought conditions.

The fall season was a *more normal* season. A weather pattern settled in whereby several wet/overcast days were followed by a few dry/clear days. This pattern continued through the remainder of the year and prevented fuels from drying enough to support normal fall fire activity.



The National Forests in North Carolina had a total of 105 fires for approximately 2,057 acres. The spring season had 82 fires from January 1 thru May 28th for a total of 1,966 acres. This year, due to the drought conditions experienced in the late spring through the summer months, North Carolina had a “summer fire season”. From June 10th through September 13th, there were 18 fires for 139 acres. The past 3 years, the spring fires seasons, (January 1 through May 30): 2001 – 70 fires for 1,365 acres, 2000 – fires for 1,811 acres, 1999 – 79 fires for 1,317 acres.

The fall season was wetter than normal with only 5 fires reported, for 3.25 acres. The past 3 years, the fall fires season, (October 1 through December 30) had: 2001 – 75 fires for 4,300 acres, 2000 – 30 fires for 6,138 acres, 1999 – 43 fires for 2,572 acres.

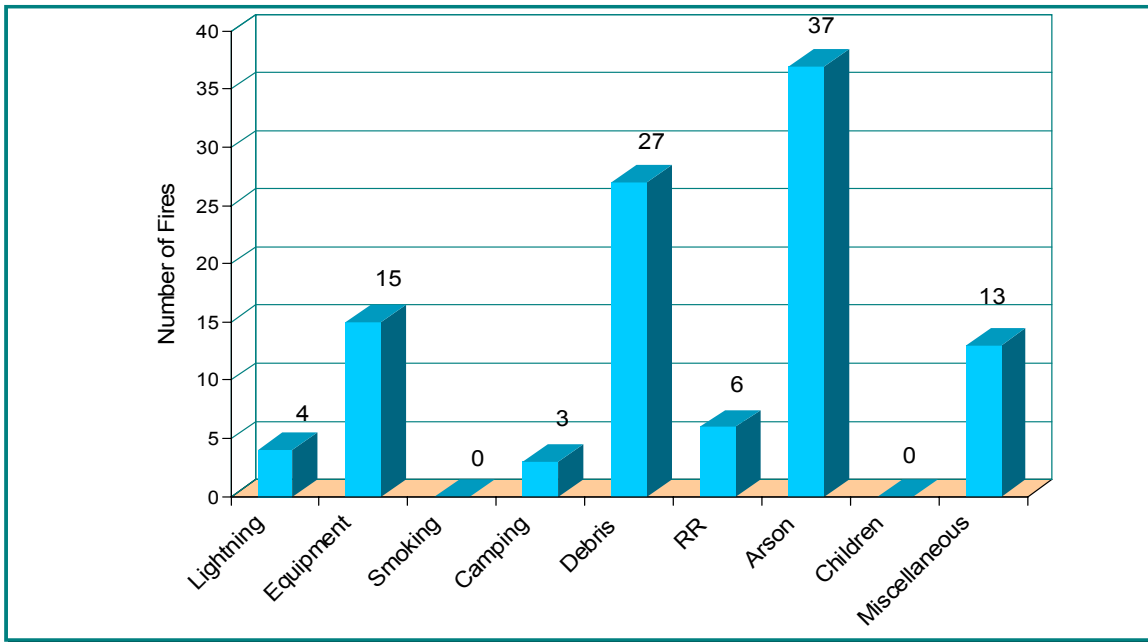
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE

NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

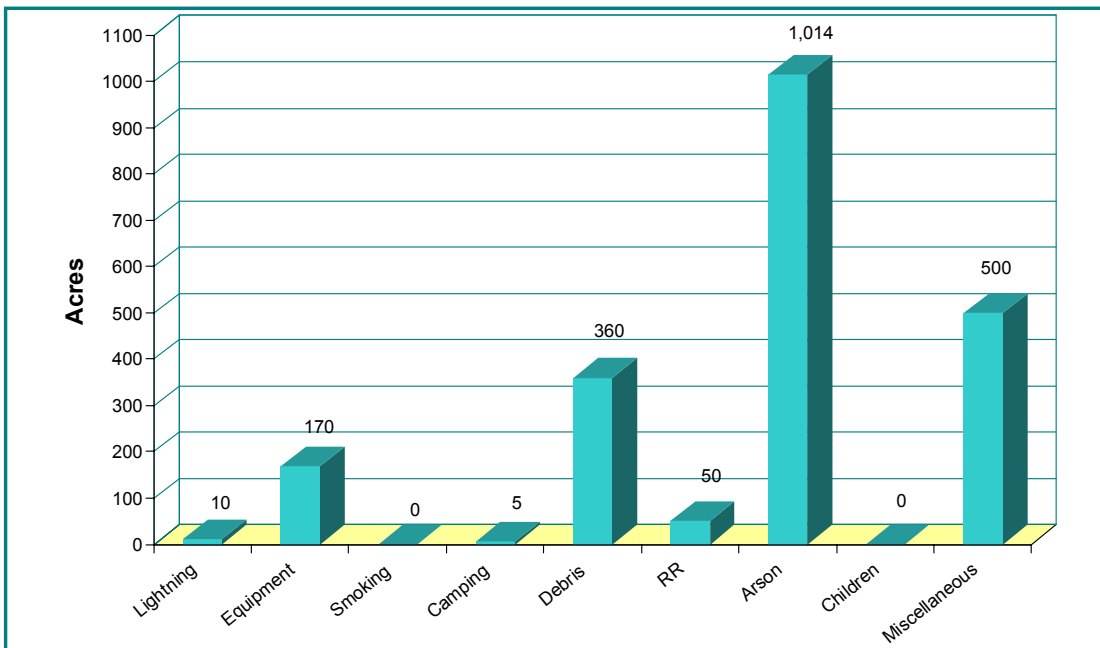
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	4	10
EQUIPMENT	15	170
SMOKING	0	0
CAMPING	3	5
DEBRIS	27	360
RAILROAD	6	50
ARSON	37	1,014
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	13	500
TOTAL	105	2,109

NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

FIRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA



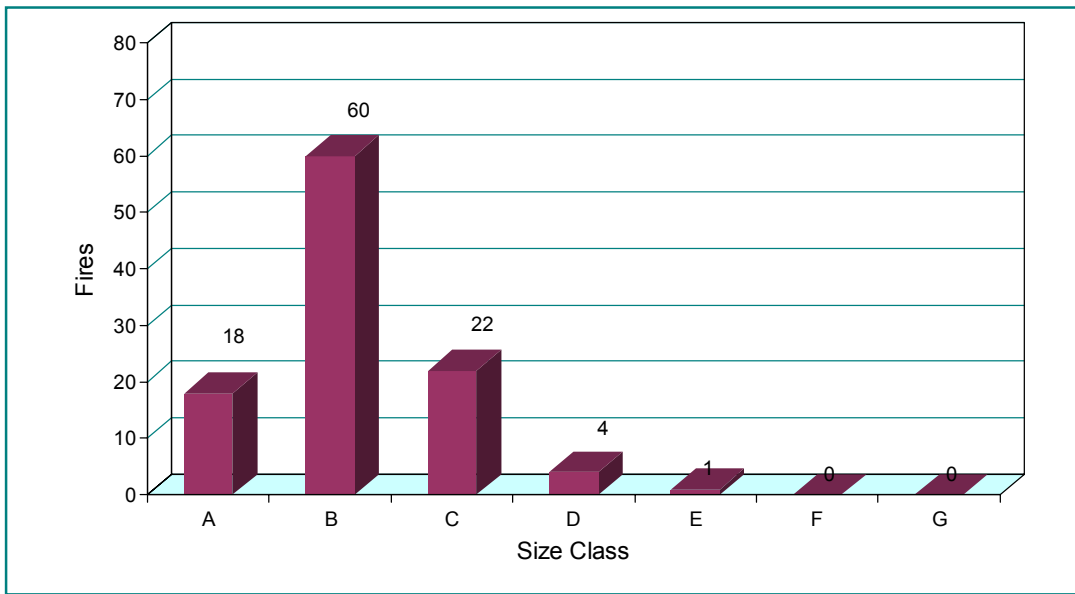
ACRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA



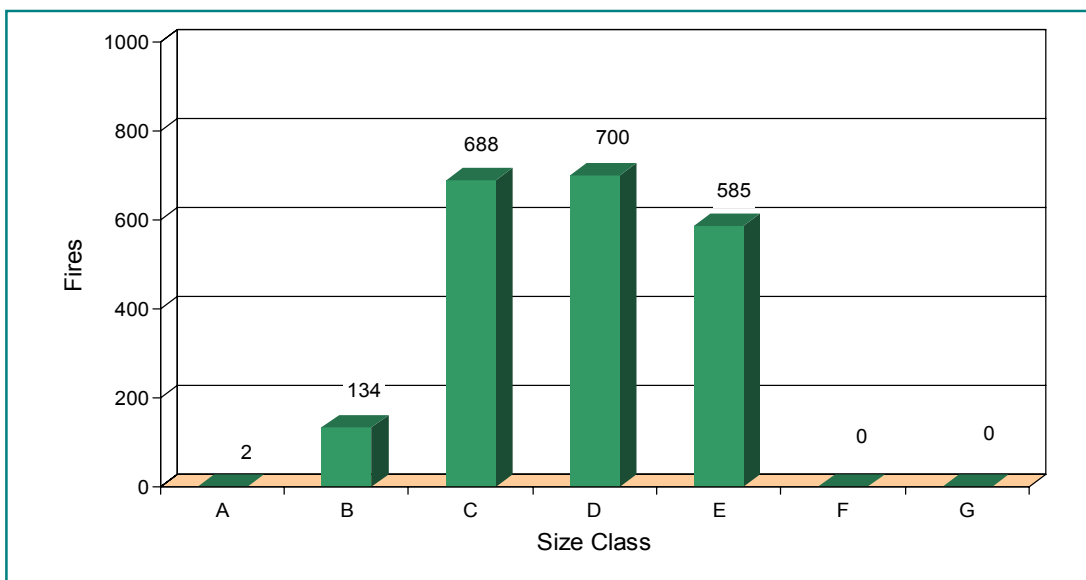
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	18	60	22	4	1	0	0	105
Acres	2	134	688	700	585	0	0	2,109

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA



PRESCRIBED FIRE

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS													
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA													
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre		
Total	Details Not Available								19,240				
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS								
RR	Rough Reduction												
SB	Seedbed Prep												
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile				
CUS	Control Understory Sp.												
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0				
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.												
PMB	Pre-mark Burn												
WI	Wildlife Improvement												

TRAINING

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Times Taught	MONTH	TRAINEES
I-100	Basic ICS			
I-200	Intermediate ICS			
S-270	Basic Air operations			
2-260	Fire Business Management			
S-234	Ignition Methods			
S-230	Single Resource Boss			
S-200	Initial Attack IC			
S-131	Advanced Fire Fighter			
D-110	Dispatch Recoder			
	Estimated:	9	Estimated: 20/class	180

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The National Forests in North Carolina continued to increase the exchange of personnel and equipment with Camp Lejeune and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife for wildfires and prescribed burns. The Forest also utilized NC State aircraft including the CL-215 airtanker for numerous fires. The Forest assisted the State on 3 fires with the federal airtankers from Asheville and Knoxville.

The coop meetings with local Districts this year included State Forest Service, State wildlife, Volunteer Fire Departments, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The 2002 meetings included discussions on coop agreements, refreshers in safety and standards for survival, *Fire Pocket Card* training, and 30-mile review and discussions. The coop discussions also covered the topic of fire situation problems in and around the urban interface. These coop meetings/fire schools have been very beneficial in keeping the local districts, parks, refuges, counties and state agencies up-to-date on the latest changes in tactics, strategy and technology.

North Carolina put together 51 crews for fire assignments during CY 2002. The Job Corp Crews (Schenck and Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corp) put together a total of 27 crews. Out of these Schenck produced 22 crews and LBJ produced 5 crews. The state of North Carolina sent out 8 crews, the BIA sent out 7 crews. A mixture of government agencies (Forest Service, National Park Service, and Department of Defense) sent out 9 crews.

ENFORCEMENT

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA	
Personal Contacts With Public	500
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	0
Patrol Miles Logged	30,762
Arson Cases Investigated	4
Warnings Issued	0
Violation Notices Issued	3
Arrests	2
Convictions	2
Misdemeanor	3
Felony	0
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	n/a

AVIATION

FLIGHT HOURS			
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	CWN	5.0
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	CWN	30.67
		Agency Owned Exclusive	
Sub-total Fixed Wing			35.67
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	5.0
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	Exclusive/CWN	60.8
Prescribe Fire	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	38.7
Sub-total Rotor Wing	Rotor Wing		104.5
Total			140.17

SAFETY

SAFETY STATISTICS							
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA							
CATEGORY	Prescribe Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Extended Attack		Other
	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Fire Related
Injuries	Data Not Available						
Lost Time Injuries	Data Not Available						
Passenger Vehicle							
TOTAL:							

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES	
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA	
Regular Appointed Personnel	
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	8
Part-Time Fire Management	50
Others Used On Pre-suppression	60
Others Used On Suppression	175
Total Regular Appointed Personnel	293
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel	
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0
Emergency Fire Fighters	0
Total Emergency Firefighters	0
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression	1,150
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	275
	1,443

LAND OWNERSHIP REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
NC	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse					
							1,247,264	1,247,264	

CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST



THE CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST RECEIVES OVER A MILLION VISITORS ANNUALLY, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST VISITED UNITS IN THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

PUERTO RICO OVERHEAD

Overhead personnel from Puerto Rico contributed to the mobilization effort in 2002. Efforts were made to expand participation in both overhead and crew resources.

PUERTO RICO CREWS

Hand crews were organized and mobilized from June through August during the 2002 fire season. Puerto Rican crews served on 11 major wildland fire incidents.

PUERTO RICO CREW MOBILIZATION RECORD CY 2002

Name	Incident Name	Incident Number	Checkin Date	Release Date
PR IA #101	MARBLEYARD	VA-VAF-02033	6/13/2002	6/22/2002
PR IA #102	MARBLEYARD	VA-VAF-02033	6/13/2002	6/22/2002
PR IA #103	WST CREW MOBIL	GA-SAC-233	6/13/2002	6/13/2002
PR IA #104	WST CREW MOBIL	GA-SAC-233	6/13/2002	6/13/2002
PR IA #104	WALKER	AZ-CNF-198	6/14/2002	7/1/2002
PR IA #103	WALKER	AZ-CNF-198	6/14/2002	7/1/2002
PR #202	WST CREW MOBIL	GA-SAC-233	7/1/2002	7/2/2002
PR #201	WST CREW MOBIL	GA-SAC-233	7/1/2002	7/2/2002
PR #201	SPRINGVILLE	UT-UIF-18027	7/2/2002	7/12/2002
PR #202	SPRINGVILLE	UT-UIF-18027	7/2/2002	7/12/2002
PR IA #301	ONC JULY SPT	CA-ONC-000017	7/26/2002	8/12/2002
PR IA #302	ONC JULY SPT	CA-ONC-000017	7/26/2002	8/12/2002
PR IA #303	WST CREW MOBIL	GA-SAC-233	7/30/2002	8/1/2002
PR IA #303	BISQUIT COMPLX	OR-SIF-003	8/1/2002	8/17/2002
PR IA #304	SPRING PREPOSIT	GA-SAC-226	8/8/2002	8/23/2002
PR #402	WST CREW MOBIL	GA-SAC-233	8/22/2002	9/1/2002
PR #401	WST CREW MOBIL	GA-SAC-233	8/22/2002	9/1/2002
PR #401	LARGE FIRE SPT	NM-SWC-035	8/27/2002	9/1/2002
PR #402	LARGE FIRE SPT	NM-SWC-035	8/27/2002	9/1/2002

OVERHEAD RESOURCES HOME BASE PUERTO RICO CY 2002

Name	Agency	Home Unit	Position	Incident Name	Checkin Date	Release Date
VALENTINE, JAIME	FS	PRCAF	BUYING TEAM MEMBER	RODEO	6/22/02	7/7/02
BAEZA, JOSE	PRI	PRPRI	DISPATCH REC EXP DSP	SACC SUPPORT	6/15/02	7/15/02
ALEDO, FREDDIE	NPS	PRSAP	SECURITY SPCL LEVEL 1	BOSTON	6/22/02	7/14/02
BAEZA, JOSE	PRI	PRPRI	DISPATCH REC EXP DSP	SACC SUPPORT	7/23/02	8/7/02
MILLER, JEFFERY	FS	PRCAF	SUPPORT DISPATCHER	NICC DSPCH SPT	7/25/02	8/9/02
BAEZA, JOSE	PRI	PRPRI	DISPATCH REC EXP DSP	LARGE FIRE SPT	8/16/02	9/3/02
MATOS, ANDRE	NPS	PRSAP	SECURITY SPCL LEVEL 1	INDEPENDENCE	9/28/02	10/20/02

**RESOURCE NOTE
CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST**

The Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) is one of the ten most rare birds in the world and is only found on the Island of Puerto Rico. From an island-wide population that once numbered in the hundreds of thousands, it dropped to an all time low of 13 birds in 1975. After this date the population climbed to an estimated 47 birds in the wild. The population declined to 23 after Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Currently the wild flock is multiplying. Survival challenges are many. The flock's future is uncertain. There are a total of 79 adult birds in captivity in the aviaries of the Caribbean National Forest and Rio Abajo State Reserve. The surviving parrots and their nesting habitat are constantly monitored and managed. The Caribbean National Forest, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Puerto Rican Department of Natural Resources cooperate to protect the Puerto Rican Parrot.



REMARKABLE

The Caribbean National Forest is one of the smallest forests in the National Forest system (28,000 acres, roughly 11,300 hectares). This smallest of National Forests is, remarkably, the most biologically diverse forest that the agency manages. The Forest maintains over 240 species of native trees, of which 88 are rare and found only within the Caribbean National Forest. The Forest includes 50 species of native orchids and over 150 species of ferns. This relatively small land area also supports 127 species of terrestrial vertebrates and 10 species of aquatic invertebrates.

FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

INTRODUCTION

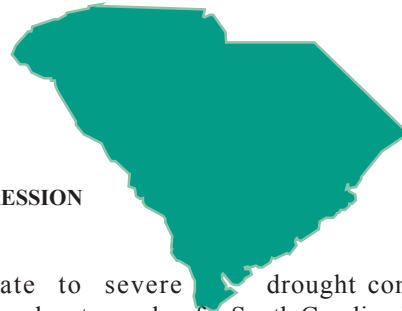
The Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests is comprised of four ranger districts with a combined land area of 621,025 acres. The Francis Marion NF is located in the coastal region just north of Charleston, South Carolina. The Sumter National Forest is located in the piedmont (central) and mountain region of the state. The Francis Marion NF experiences more wildland fires than the Sumter NF. Arson has been attributed as the leading cause of wildland fires on the Francis Marion NF. Historically on the Sumter NF, arson-caused fires are not as prevalent as on the Francis Marion. The fire cause distribution on the Sumter is much more diversified although total annual fire numbers are considerably less.

Large fires may occur on any one of the four ranger districts given the right conditions and time of year. The two areas with the greatest potential for large fire occurrence are located in the mountains on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Francis Marion NF. The Andrew Pickens District has steep terrain. It consists of relatively remote areas with poor vehicular access. Fuels in the Andrew Pickens District are comprised primarily of hardwood litter and south-slope stands of pine. The Sumter National Forest is flat, with good access to most areas. Fires are often unsheltered by terrain and are wind driven. Fuels on this Forest are comprised of longleaf and loblolly pine stands and Carolina bays. When conditions are right fires are very difficult to suppress. It is very difficult to use machinery in these fuels.

Both Forests have an active prescribed fire program. The average annual accomplishment for both Forests is approximately 50,000 acres. The prescribed fire season generally begins early in February and runs through May. It is often disrupted by the wildfire season in April. Some growing season burning is accomplished in the month of June during periods when meteorological conditions are within prescription. Aerial ignition is the primary method used to ignite prescribed burns on both Forests.

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

Five temporary firefighters were hired from the National Fire Plan program. Five Type 6 engines were ordered and delivered. A prevention technician position is scheduled to be filled in the near future.



FIRE SUPPRESSION

WEATHER

Moderate to severe drought conditions existed throughout much of South Carolina in 2002. As 2001 came to a close a moderate drought condition already existed for much of the state, conditions progressively became more severe as the year progressed until mid-September. Drought relief began during the month of September and carried through November. During this period, precipitation was received throughout much of the state on a regular basis.

- Year-end cumulative rainfall received from reporting stations in the mountains was above normal, the piedmont near normal, and the coastal region slightly above normal.

- For the Coast (near Moncks Corner, SC), the highest KBDI's occurred from mid-April to the end of June, reaching a peak of 656 on June 15.

- In the Piedmont (near Union, SC) the KBDI's consistently remained in the 500 & 600 range from early June through the end of August. The highest KBDI of 702 was calculated on August 24. Moderate to severe drought conditions continued through the month of September.

- For the mountains (near Mountain Rest, SC) the highest KBDI's occurred from early July through mid-September, reaching a peak of 575 on August 25. Measurable precipitation began to be received on a regular basis from the end of August through October lowering drought and fire danger indices for the remainder of 2002.

WILDFIRE OCCURRENCE

Forest-wide, 102 wildland fires occurred which burned 4,480 acres on Forest Service Lands. This activity met the annual average of 103 fires per year. There were no extended attack fires on the Sumter NF. Most of the fires which occurred on the Sumter NF were contained on initial attack at approximately 1-3 acres in size. Of the 102 total fires, 78 occurred on the Francis Marion NF. The remaining 24 fires occurred on the Sumter NF. The majority of the fires were contained on initial attack with the exception of those listed below on the Francis Marion. These fires required extended attack operations and ranged from 70 to 1,922 acres in size. Existing drought conditions and arson contributed to the major cause, number, and size of these fires.

FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

PRECIPITATION DURATION			
STATION	PRECIPITATION AMOUNT	NORMAL AMOUNT	DEPARTURE
Andrew Pickens AWS	70.05" (inches)	51.54"	+18.51"
Whitmire AWS	50.09"	49.78"	+00.31"
Witherbee AWS	56.43"	51.53"	+04.90"

EXTENDED ATTACK/LARGE FIRES			
FIRE NAME	DATE	ACRES BURNED	COMPLEXITY LEVEL
Bad Timing	2/1/02	70	III
Dante	2/4/02	278	III
Kennedy	2/18/02	159	III
Green Z	2/26/02	325	III
Big Orange	2/25/02	187	III
Big Ocean	6/4/02	524	III
Monkey Face	2/26/02	1,922	III

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS		
	Fires	Acres
LIGHTNING	11	.60.3
EQUIPMENT	5	.92
SMOKING	2	2
CAMPING	2	.2
DEBRIS	12	299.9
RAILROAD	1	.1
ARSON	50	3,703.1
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	19	213.9
TOTAL	102	4,280.4

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

- 2/18/02 Presidents Day: multiple fires (arson caused) Francis Marion NF, six wildland fires reported simultaneously on the Francis Marion NF. Five of the six fires were contained on initial attack between 1-12 acres. One fire (Kennedy) went into an extended attack situation and was contained at 159 acres. These fires were managed together with a type III Incident Management Team.

- 2/25/02 On the Francis Marion NF: initial attack resources committed to four fires (3 escaped debris burns, 1 equipment caused). These fires were contained on initial attack and ranged .5 to 1 acre in size.

- 2/26/02 On the Francis Marion NF: initial attack resource took action on two fires (arson caused), the Green Z Fire 325 acres, extended attack fire managed by a type III Incident Management Team. 1,922 acres of the Monkey Face

Fire were managed by a Type II Incident Management Team (Ruggerio). Both fires received multiple aerial retardant drops. Smoke mitigation required the cooperation of local agencies, which included; the South Carolina Forestry Commission, Berkeley County Law Enforcement, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, and the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

- 2/27/02 Francis Marion NF: initial attack of four fires, which were contained between 2-27 acres in size. Ruggerio’s Type II IMT assumed the management of these fires.

- 3/15-30/02 Francis Marion NF: resources initial attacked 12 fires for the period. The fires ranged .10 to 187 acres in size. The largest (Big Orange) was an extended attack fire, managed by a Type III Incident Management Team. The Big Orange Fire required additional outside resources and multiple air tanker drops which totaled 20,125 gallons from the Charleston Air Tanker Base for suppression and structure protection. No structures were lost on this incident. For the months of April through June, wildfire activity on the Francis Marion NF decreased due to a few rain events and increasing live fuel moisture and green up. During this period initial attack was taken on nineteen fires, eighteen of which ranged from .10 to 20 acres. The largest fire for this period was the Big Ocean Fire at 524 acres. This fire occurred on June 4, requiring outside resource support and was managed as a Type III incident.

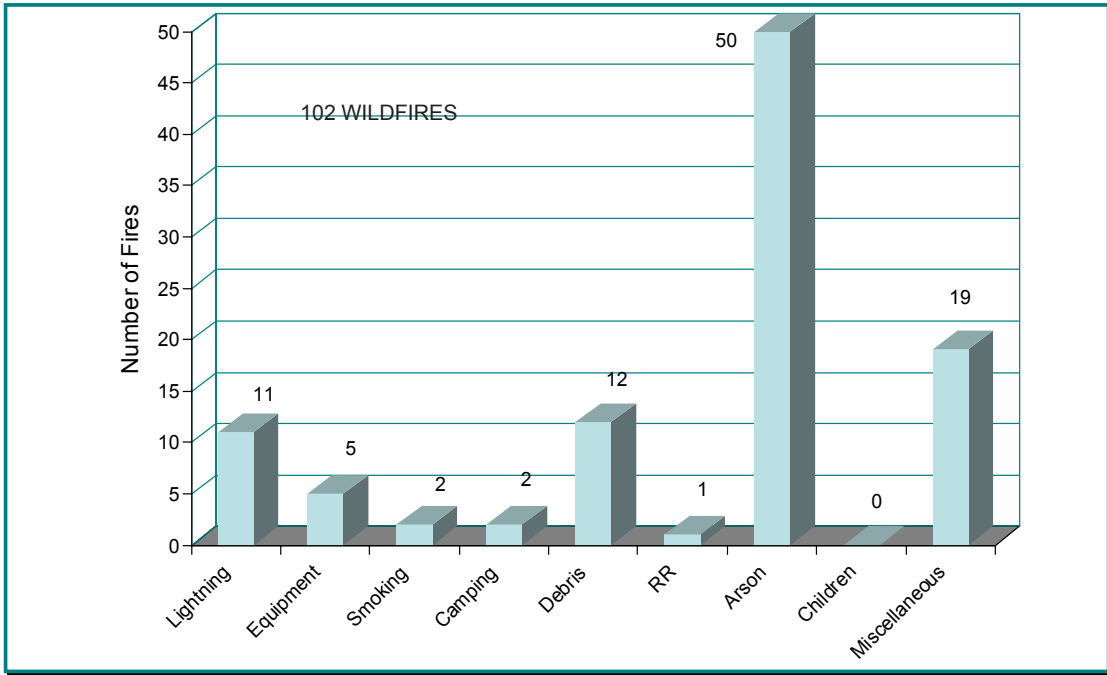
- July-November: five additional wildland fires occurred on the Francis Marion NF. During this period intermittent to regular precipitation was received for this period lowering fire danger and initial attack activity. Other activity experienced during this period was the Southern Pine Beetle infestation of the Francis Marion & Sumter NF’s. The management of the beetle infestation required the use of aviation resources for infestation spot detection, general reconnaissance, and mapping for 96.2 hours of flight time.

- 2002 initial attack activity on the Sumter NF was typically low in comparison to the Francis Marion NF. There were no extended attack fires for the year on this Forest. Resources available from the Sumter NF provided much needed assistance on the Francis Marion during periods of high fire occurrence.

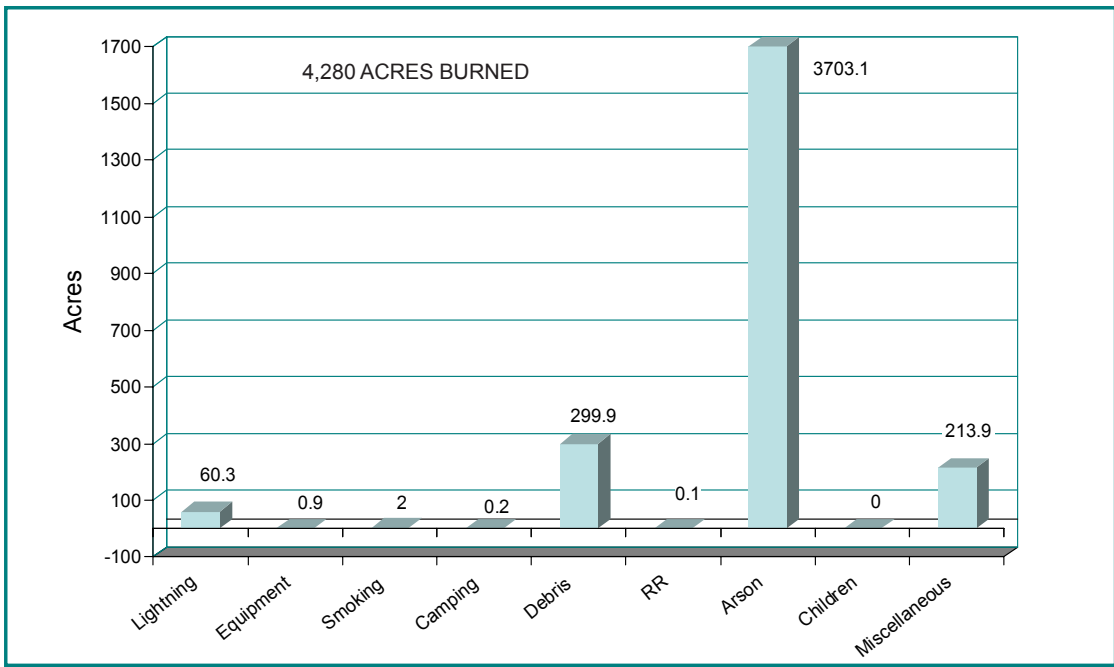
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	19	52	25	3	2	1	0	102
Acres	2.4	132.3	750.7	624	849	1,922	0	4,280

FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

FIRES BY CAUSE
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

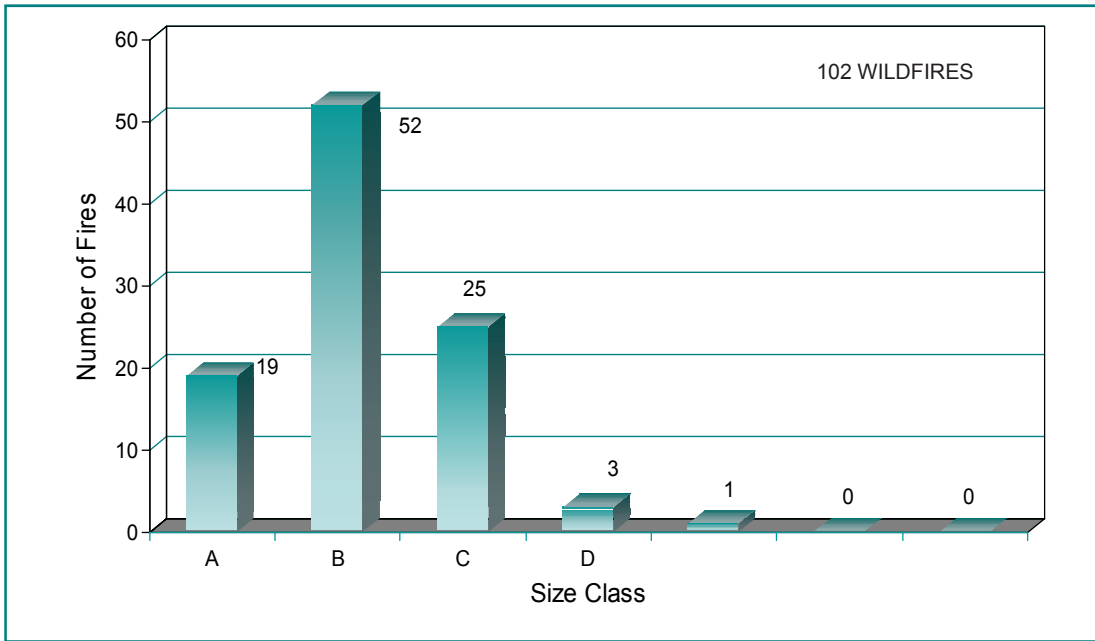


ACRES BY CAUSE
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

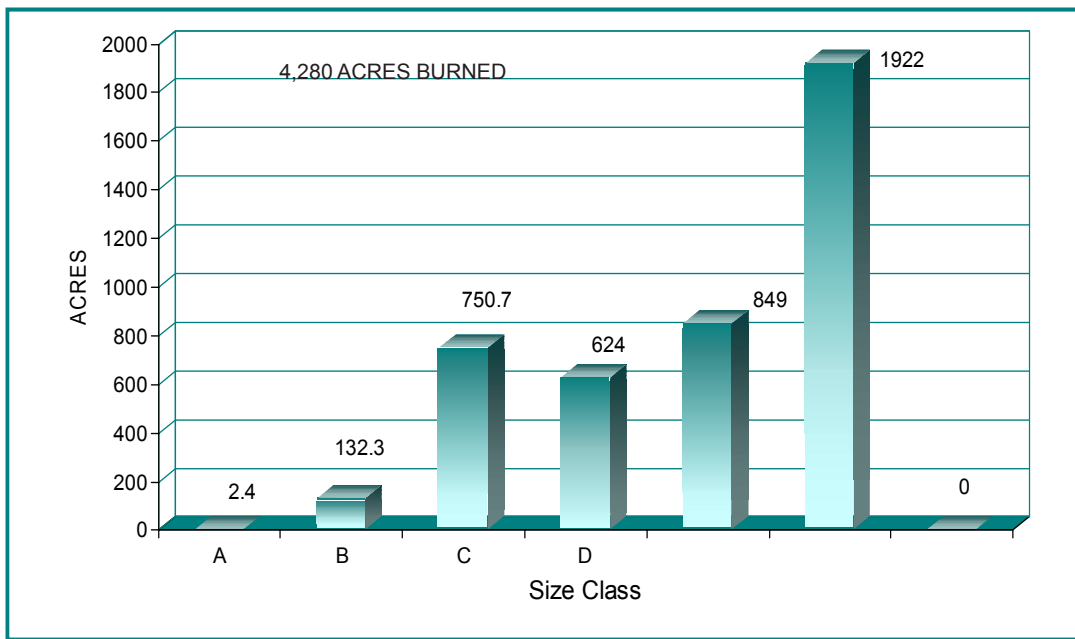


FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS



REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION

The Sumter National Forest has developed a research proposal to determine the effects of frequent and high intensity prescribed fire on soil productivity and erosion potential. Plans are also underway to fund and research the effects of prescribed fire on the nutrient capital in the forest floor and in the surface mineral soil, and to assess prescribed fire effects on nutrient loss in the forest floor and in the surface mineral soil.

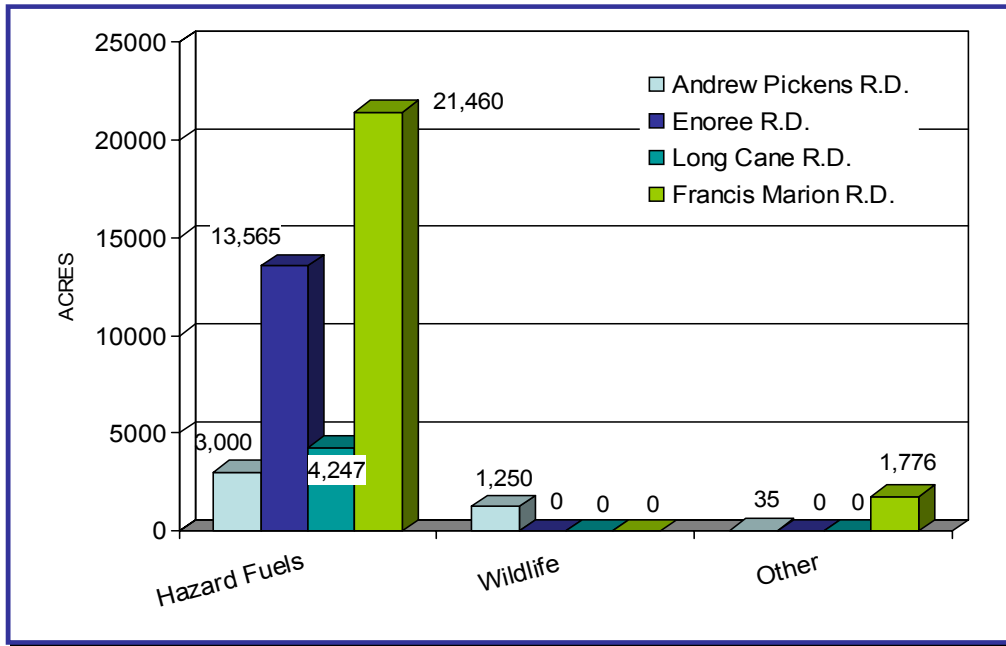
HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

Due to drought and wildland fire activity during the winter/spring months prescribed fire accomplishments on the Forests' were considerably less than in previous years. Throughout the course of the prescribed fire season detailers from the Huron Manistee NF (R9) assisted in prescribed fire operations on the Enoree, Long Cane, and Andrew Pickens Ranger Districts. While on the Francis Marion, detailers from the NW Area assisted in prescribed fire and initial attack operations. The majority of prescribed fire acres accomplished on the Forest were burned through the use of aerial ignition. Type III helicopters which were used for prescribed fire operations included the Forests' exclusive-use ship, call-when-needed helicopters, and the Region 8 exclusive-use prescribed fire ship based in Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre
P & M	13,565								13,565		26.00
	21,460			1,776					23,236		18.00
	3,000					35	950		3,985		25.00
Approp	4,247								4,247		20.00
CO-OP							300		300		20.00
Total	42,272			1,776		35	1,250		45,333		22.00
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS						
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile		
CUS	Control Understory Sp.										
R	Range Improvement				5.5 mi.		\$8,250.00		\$1,500.00		
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS



TRAINING

The Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests hosted 17 training and/or workshop events during 2002.

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS				
ID	Title	Times Taught	MONTH	NO. Trainees
-	Interagency Rx Fire Workshop	1	Jan	27
S-130	Basic Firefighter Training	1	Jan	15
S-190	Introduction to Fire Behavior	1	Jan	15
-	Standard for Survival	6	On-going	120
-	Firefighter Refresher Training	6	On-going	120
S-214	Engine Academy	1	Feb	30
D-110	Expanded Dispatch Recorder	1	Nov	3
TOTAL		11		330

COOPERATION

Work is continuing toward developing an interagency fire management memorandum of understanding between the Francis Marion National Forest, Savannah River Forest, and the Ft. Jackson Training Center (DOD). Authorities of the DOD at Ft. Jackson are currently considering approval of the MOU. This agreement will provide the framework for Interagency cooperation at the local level for wildland fire suppression, prescribed fire operations and training. The Mou will also include guidelines for the mobilization of DOD civilian employees during national mobilization campaigns. Continued cooperation by employees on the Francis Marion NF with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has proven successful in maintaining SCDOT assistance in prescribed and wildland fire smoke mitigation efforts. Through the MOU established with the SCDOT in 2001, the SCDOT has installed approximately 150 permanent road signs throughout the Francis Marion National Forest. These signs are designed to display two messages. The first is a general motorist safety message. The second is a *caution smoke ahead* message, to be activated by the Forest Service when smoke is present along county and state roads in Charleston and Berkeley Counties. The 2002 maintenance of these signs by the SCDOT has been a challenge for them because of state budget constraints and other priorities. Sign maintenance is a significant workload for the SCDOT. The Forest Service is working to assist the DOT as much as possible.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

While the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests continue to experience a large number of wildland fires each year, USFS Law Enforcement Officers and Agents continue to investigate those fires in an attempt to identify the origin, cause and responsible persons. While the exact numbers are not presently available, USFS Law Enforcement Officers have issued numerous citations to persons responsible for setting the fires/or allowing fires to escape. Also, numerous felony investigations were opened and resulted in at least three persons, including two juveniles, being found responsible for the fires. The juveniles paid restitution while the adult pled guilty as to his role in setting the fires. He was fined and ordered to pay restitution by the court. In all arson cases where a suspect is identified, law enforcement investigations aggressively pursue restitution.

A marked decrease in the number of fires was observed during the second half of 2002. Reasons for the decrease are not definitely known. On the other hand experience compels us to acknowledge that contributing factors include aggressive high-visibility patrols, increased public awareness and covert law enforcement operations. These enforcement actions focus on deterring arson fires and on the apprehension of arsonists. Provided that resources and funding are available, these types of law enforcement activities will continue in the future in an effort to further limit the number of arson related fires.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS	
Personal Contacts With Public	-
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	-
Patrol Miles Logged	-
Arson Cases Investigated	75
Warnings Issued	11
Violation Notices Issued	5
Arrests	0
Convictions	5
Misdemeanor	5
Felony	-
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	101

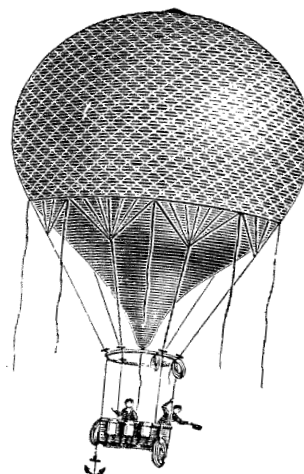
AVIATION

Fire detection needs for the Francis Marion & Sumter NF's have been accomplished with the use of the Southern Area CWN fixed wing contract, Forest Service ground patrols, and reports from the general public. Primary helicopter use on the Forest has been acquired through an exclusive-use contract with a mandatory availability period of approximately 183 days.

Due to the number of extended attack fires and persistent drought conditions through much of the year, the need for aerial support was significant. From March 1 to May 2, 2002 a portable airtanker base was established at Charleston International Airport. This location provided quick initial attack capability for aerial support to the Francis Marion NF, to the Croatan NF in North Carolina, and to other Atlantic coastal areas located within the Southern Region. During the period of operation in Charleston, SC 46,086 gallons of retardant were delivered to wildland fires in North Carolina and in South Carolina.

Other aviation related activities on the Forest include the inventory and cataloging of helispots and dip-site locations. Progress has been made in reducing the number of helispots located on private property. The few helispots and dip-sites remaining in use on private property are documented on land use agreements with the landowners. All sites on Forest Service and private property have main-

nance and improvement schedules which are kept at the Seed Orchard Helibase.



FLIGHT HOURS			
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	CWN	247.6
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	CWN	43.7
Lead Plane	Fixed Wing	AO	7.8
Air Tanker	Fixed Wing	EU	16.5
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing		315.6
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing	EU	11.1
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	EU	139.7
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	EU	132.8
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	CWN	33.7
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	CWN	23.0
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		340.3
Total	All Aircraft		655.9

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse					
SC	0	0	0	0	0	621,025	621,025	0	0

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES	
FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS	
Regular Appointed Personnel	
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	17
Part-Time Fire Management	13
Others Used On Pre-suppression	154
Others Used On Suppression	190
Total Regular Appointed Personnel	374
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel	
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	10
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	25
Emergency Fire Fighters	33
Total Emergency Firefighters	68
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression	33
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	6
TOTAL	475

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Cherokee National Forest is comprised of approximately 650,000 acres in East Tennessee that covers an area from Georgia to Virginia. Great Smoky Mountains National Park divides the Forest into north and south divisions. Private land parcels are intermingled within the Forest boundary.

The number of wildland fires occurring annually for the past 15 years would be in a range between 30 and 90. Calendar year 2002 wildland fire occurrence is in the upper end of this range. The Forest utilizes prescribed fire on an average of about 16,000 to 18,000 acres each year. The Forest supports both regional and national mobilization efforts by providing resources for the incidents and by providing a mobilization center for distributing resources throughout the region or country. The Knoxville Tanker Base, which is managed by the Cherokee National Forest, provides aerial attack needs throughout the region during times of high fire occurrence. The Cherokee also hosts the Cherokee Hotshots, one of 4 hotshot crews based within the Southern Geographic Area.

For the past three years the Cherokee has experienced a significant southern pine beetle epidemic. Due to safety concerns posed by the great number snags this epidemic has created, the size of wildland fires on the Cherokee will probably increase. The predicted increase in size is due to the lack of ability, in some cases, to direct-attack fires at night, and to direct-attack fires during those times when high winds make direct attack (against heavy accumulations of fuels) unsafe.

DUE TO HAZARDOUS FUEL
CONDITIONS CREATED BY
THE PINE BEETLE
EPIDEMIC, THE SIZE OF
WILDFIRES ON THE
CHEROKEE WILL INCREASE



FIRE SUPPRESSION

WEATHER SUMMARY

Weather conditions experienced on the Cherokee during the Spring of 2002 should be considered normal. Frontal passages were frequent, allowing for near normal rainfall. In June the rain events ended, setting the summer up to be less than normal in rainfall--and allowing for extremely dry burning conditions. Frontal passages provided very little moisture. On the other hand they provided a significant amount of lightning. Dry dead snags, having been produced by the southern pine beetle epidemic, provided great receptors for lightning strikes. The dry pattern continued through mid-September. The Forest accumulated a rainfall deficit of 8-10 inches. The fall rains began in mid-September with very wet frontal passages occurring at least every 7 days, and more frequent at times. Rainfall for the year ended at or slightly above average for the entire Forest. Except for a few isolated days in November, there were no significant wind events throughout the entire year. High summer temperatures were considered to be more near normal than during the summers of years-past. There were very few extremely hot days during the summer. Winter temperatures were close to normal in the northern division of the Forest.

WILDLAND FIRE

Calendar year 2002 started out to be a *normal year*. Fire occurrence in the spring was not at a high level due to the fact that the number of days of drying between frontal passages was not very high. The Cherokee's official fire season is from October 15 to December 1, and from February 15 to April 30. This year approximately 1/2 of the wildland fires occurred during our normal fire season. The summer drought allowed fuels to continue to dry and stay dry from June to mid-September. Wildland fires caused by arsonists and lightning from dry storm fronts produced most of the fires for the summer months. From mid-September through the end of the year, the Cherokee responded to only one wildland fire. This was a response to assist the Tennessee Division of Forestry on a fire which occurred on private land.

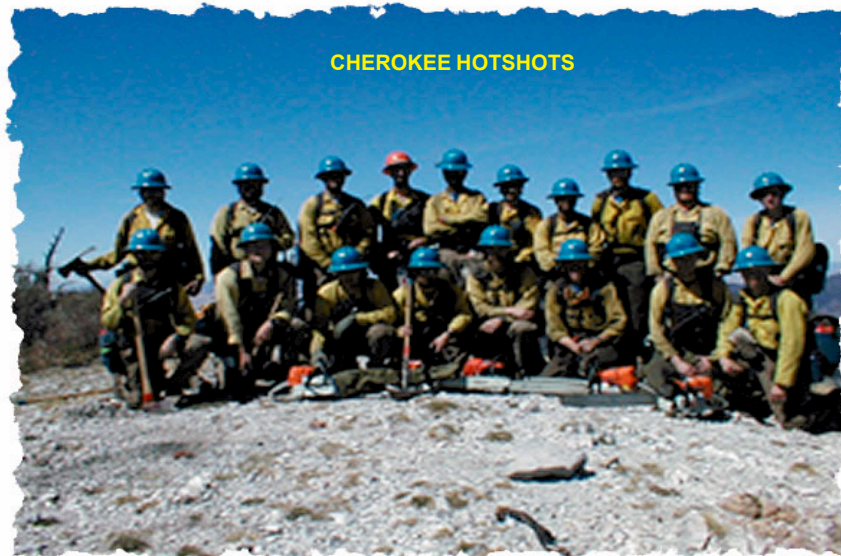
CHEROKEE HOTSHOTS

The Cherokee hotshots had another busy year. The hotshot crew is a permanent 18/8 hotshot crew. Their tour began in February and ended in early December with 4 payperiods off in June and July. The crew was assigned to incidents for most of March, April, May, August and September. The fall weather patterns in the east resulted in no assignments for the crew for October and November.

The crew quarters have been completed this year and will hopefully be ready for occupancy when the crew returns in February.

One of the hotshot crew members had the privilege of being assigned as a smokejumper during June and July. The busy fire season in the western states during this time provided some valuable training and experience for this individual.

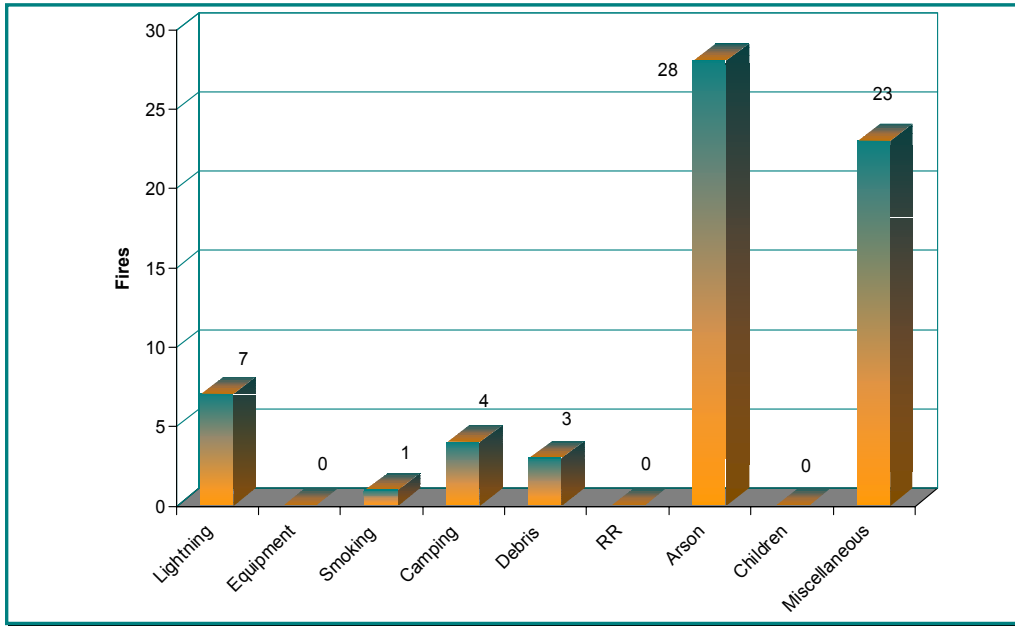
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	7	563
EQUIPMENT	0	0
SMOKING	1	5
CAMPING	4	10
DEBRIS	3	170
RAILROAD	0	0
ARSON	28	1,382
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	23	685
TOTAL	66	2,815



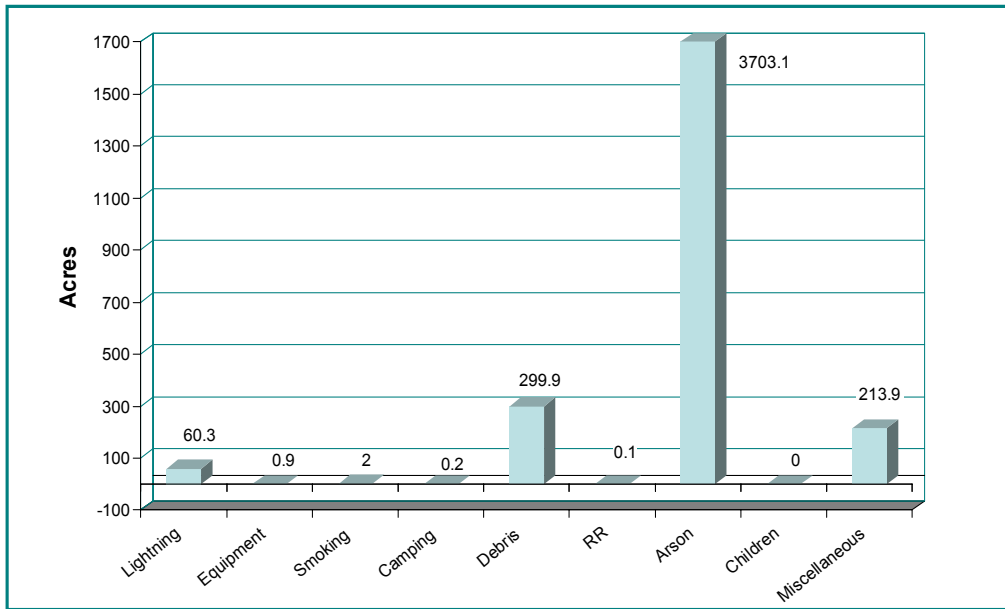
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	14	32	16	1	2	1		66
Acres	2	90	529	216	953	1025		2815

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

FIRES BY CAUSE CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

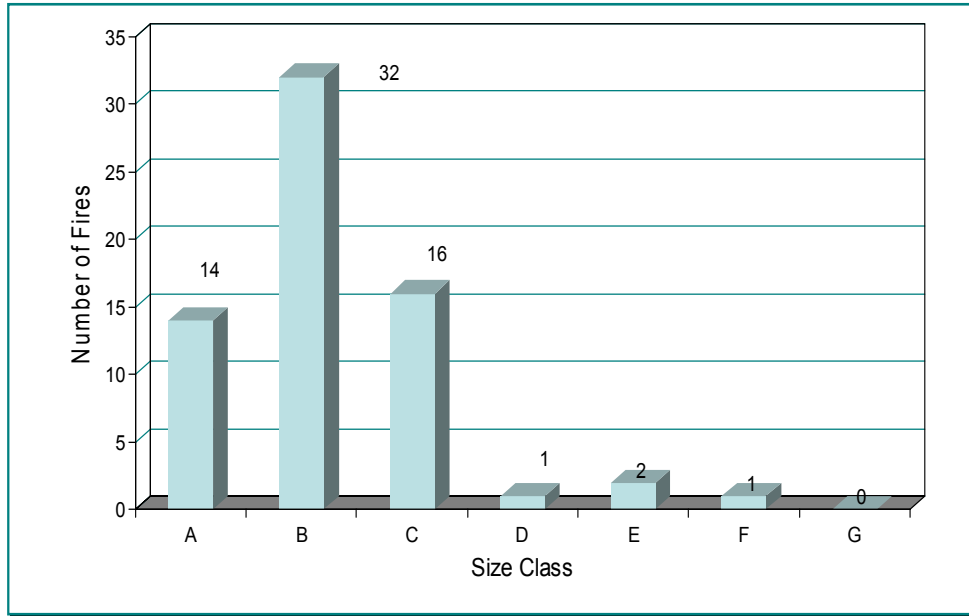


ACRES BY CAUSE FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

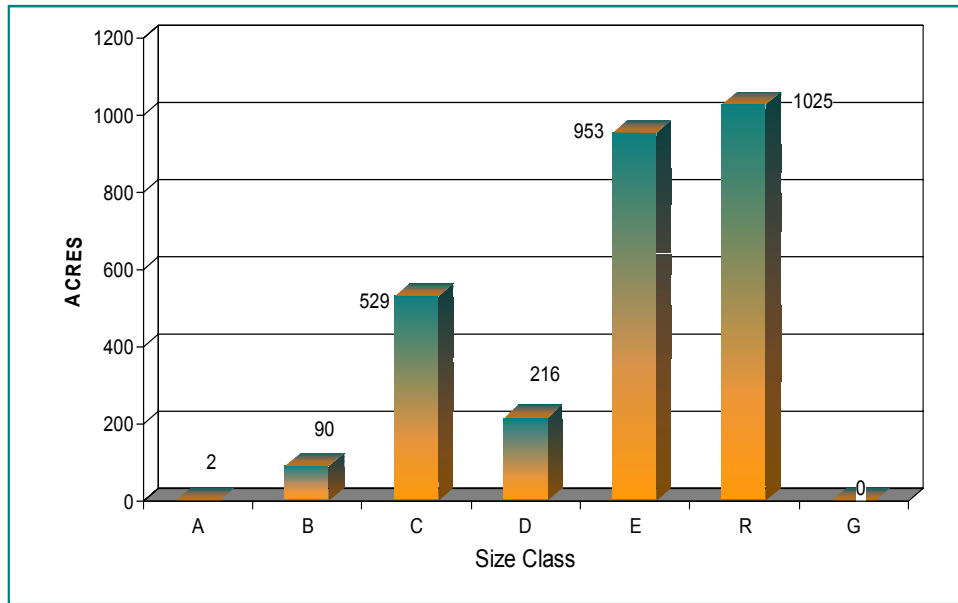


CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST



HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION

The Forest identified and approved projects for CY/ FY 2003 fuel reduction-prescribed burning.

The Cherokee NF completed over 13,000 acres of prescribed burning for fuel reduction. The burning program focuses on those areas with a history of frequent arson fires.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

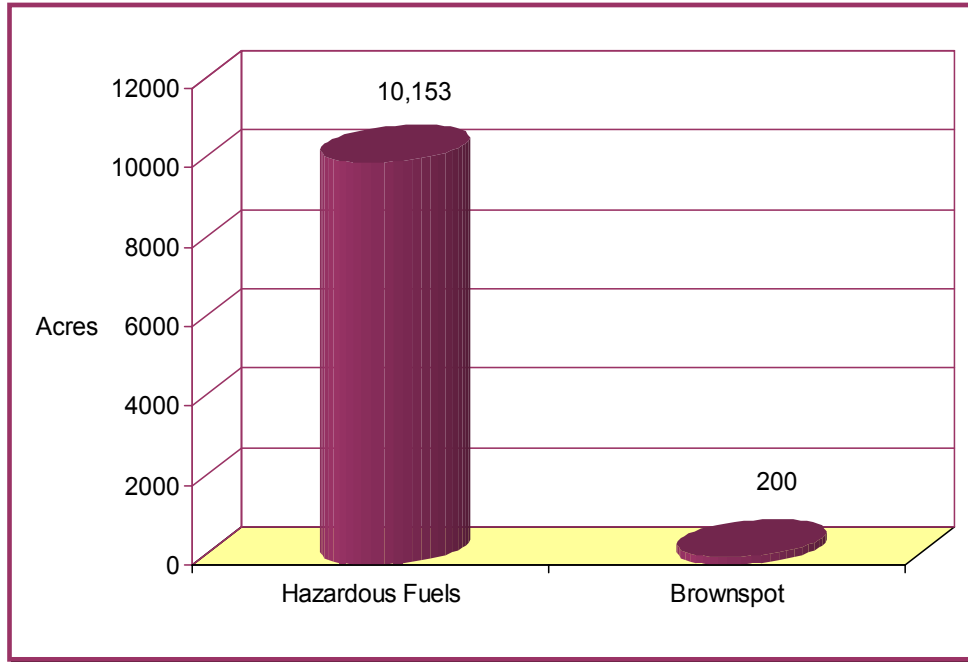
The weather patterns during calendar year 2002 were not very conducive to accomplish prescribed burning needs for the Cherokee National Forest. Every opportunity to burn was taken advantage of during the year. During the spring, we had regular frontal passages that created enough moisture to keep prescribed burning capabilities to a minimum. All fuel reduction burning on the Forest has to be accomplished during the dormant season. The fall of 2002 was unusually wet and allowed only one possible day to burn. Attempts to burn a 300 acre block on this day was not successful; only 100 acres was accomplished.



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS												
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST												
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre	
Appropriated	10,153		200						10,353		-	
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS							
RR	Rough Reduction											
SB	Seedbed Prep											
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile			
CUS	Control Understory Sp.											
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0			
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.											
PMB	Pre-mark Burn											
WI	Wildlife Improvement											

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The Cherokee NF worked with the Tennessee Division of Forestry and other partners on obligating funds for firewise projects and rural development projects. The Forest partnered with the Forest Products lab, located at the University of Tennessee, to use National Fire Plan funding to research potential uses of juvenile wood in smaller diameter trees that are being removed for silviculture and/or fuel reduction purposes.

The Forest initiated a project to develop a *firewise* video.

COOPERATION

Cooperation with other federal agencies and state agencies continues to be considered very successful. The Cherokee works very closely with the Tennessee Division of Forestry in suppressing wildland fires both on private and federal lands.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has developed a great number of resources that are available both locally and nationally. These resources include not only firefighters but ICT3s, Operation Section Chiefs, Crew bosses and Safety Officers.

The National Park Service provides fire resources for prescribed burning and wildland fire suppression. The Great Smokey Mountain National Park also staffs the Knoxville Tanker Base when it is activated.

The Cherokee also uses a number of AD hires that are qualified at various levels in the ICS system.

In the past year, the FIA has moved to their new office in Knoxville. We have worked very closely with this group to develop a very good working relationship. This group has participated with fire suppression agencies both within and outside the state of Tennessee.

Each of these other agencies team up with the Cherokee to provide training that will benefit all agencies. Our working relationship with each one of these agencies and AD personnel has been and continues to be a great part of the success of the Cherokee National Forest.

PREVENTION

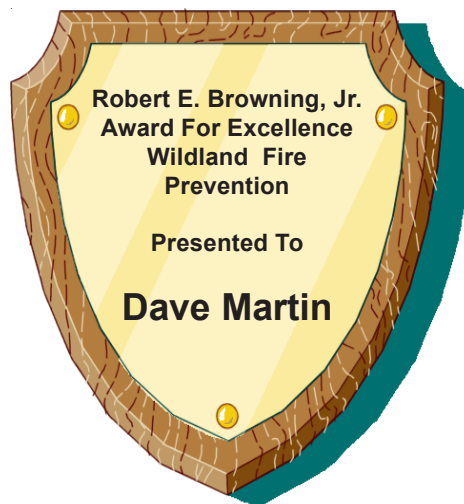
In calendar year 2002 there was an extra emphasis placed on fire prevention. Most fires on the Cherokee are caused by escaped debris-burns or by arson. A rash of arson fires on the southern end of the Cherokee combined with the anticipation of a potentially active fall fire season prompted the Cherokee to mobilize 2 separate prevention teams.

The teams worked to convey messages to make the public aware of the high level of arson activities across the state. The teams worked with state agencies and with other federal agencies. The teams produced flyers containing the arson hotline number that were placed in local businesses throughout East Tennessee. Public service announcements were produced that can be shared with local radio stations throughout the state.

Although weather patterns prohibited an active fire season for the fall, the ground work has been established to initiate a good prevention program in the spring.

Each ranger district continues to present the fire prevention message in parades, schools and county fairs throughout the year.

Dave Martin received the Robert E. Browning Jr. Prevention award for his work in 2001 for sponsoring a *Smokey Bear Night* at one of the Chattanooga Lookouts baseball games. Fire prevention material was made available at the main entrance to the stadium and a Smokey Bear baseball was given to the first 1,000 children who passed through the gate. Smokey Bear threw out the first pitch of the game and a special fire prevention message was broadcast throughout the game. Dave continued this effort in 2002 and hopes to make this an annual event.



ACCOUNTABILITY

The Cherokee National Forest initiated a fuel reduction burn project with the National Forests in North Carolina that is planned for completion in CY 2003. The Cherokee National Forest initiated the development of permanent monitoring plots to evaluate accomplishments and to monitor prescribe fire effects on vegetation. Two plots were established in CY 2002.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

A defendant pleaded guilty in federal court for “allowing a fire to escape”. The fire occurred on the Ocoee/Hiwassee District on April 4, 2002. The Forest Service received \$5,000 in restitution from the guilty person.

A second defendant pleaded guilty in federal court for setting arson fires on the Watauga District in the fall of 2001. The defendant was sentenced to six months home detention, three years probation, mental health treatment, 150 hours of community service, and he was banned from National Forest land.

TRAINING

The Cherokee National Forest took a new approach to training this FY. The Forest, along with the Daniel Boone NF, the Tennessee Division of Forestry, Great Smokey Mountains National Park, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry partnered together to provide a training academy in Kentucky to offer all classes that would be needed to meet the training requirements of a single resource boss. The academy was scheduled for in July 2002. Due to the severe fire season in the West, the academy had to be rescheduled to the first quarter of calendar year 2003.

The Cherokee National Forest also provided a number of instructors to regionally sponsored training events such as S-490 and S-420.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES		
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST		
Personal Contacts With Public		500
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given		
Patrol Miles Logged		3,450
Arson Cases Investigated		46
Warnings Issued		0
Violation Notices Issued		4
Arrests		0
Convictions	5	
Misdemeanor	3	
Felony	2	
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations		52

TRAINING

TRAINING				
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Times Taught	MONTH	TRAINEES
D-110	Dispatch Recorder	3	July/August	49
S-130	Firefighting Training	2	June/October	44
S-190	Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior	2	June/October	44
S-131	Advanced Firefighting Training	1	December	20
S-212	Wildfire Powersaws	1	November	30
I-100	Introduction to the Incident Command System	2	June/October	44
S-217	Interagency Helicopter Training Guide	1	February	25
TOTAL		12		256

SAFETY REPORT

SAFETY INCIDENTS							
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST							
CATEGORY	Prescribed Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Extended Attack		Other
	Civilian	Fire fighter	Civilian	Fire fighter	Civilian	Fire fighter	Fire Related
Near Misses/Close Calls				2			
Occurred On Highway				1			
TOTAL:				2			

AVIATION

The aviation program continues to be of vital importance for both Forest and Regional activities. The Knoxville Tanker base had a very slow year with less than 10 loads of retardant flown out of the base. Over the past several years the tanker base had to be activated in the fall. This year there was no use during the fall fire season. The Forest had two exclusive-use ships on board during the spring fire season. One ship was a Type II located on the southern division of the Forest and the other was a Type III ship located on the northern division of the Forest. Both ships were used for suppression and prescribed burning activities.



FLIGHT HOURS			
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	CWN	95
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	CWN	35
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing		130
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	58
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	Exclusive	42
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wng	CWN	100
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		200
Total	All Aircraft		330

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT										
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries									National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service						S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS			
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land		Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse						
TN						650,000	650,000			

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES	
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST	
Regular Appointed Personnel	
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	15
Part-Time Fire Management	21
Others Used On Pre-suppression	65
Others Used On Suppression	20
Total Regular Appointed Personnel	121
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel	
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0
Emergency Fire Fighters	0
Total Emergency Firefighters	0
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression	205
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	12
TOTAL	326



NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas is composed of 637,475 acres in four National Forests and 38,100 acres in two National Grasslands. There are approximately 177 permanent employees in the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, of which 155 are red-carded resources.

Eleven Type 3 tractor/plows and 5 Type 6 engines were available for fire duty during CY 2002.

While things were relatively quiet for a majority of our fire season, the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC) was very busy during the summer. Employees of the National Forests and Grasslands filled 189 resource orders for western fire season details.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC) sponsored 52 courses which were attended by 1,195 trainees. TICC is a cooperative effort between the State of Texas and various federal agencies.

FIRE FACILITIES

The Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC) moved into a new facility near Lufkin, Texas in December.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

WEATHER

The year 2002 was normal most of the year, then became little drier than normal by late summer and fall before finishing out wetter than usual. The KBDI (drought index) was normal from January through June. The index then moved into higher than normal ranges from July until September, and was normal for October through December. Rainfall for the year, as recorded at Lufkin, TX was 50.34 inches compared to the 5-year average (1997-2001) of 53.59 inches.

WILDLAND FIRE

The total number of fires and acres burned on the National Forests was well below the 5-year average. There were 41 wildland fires in 2002 that burned a total of 752.2 acres (278.4 acres occurred on National Forest/Grassland and 473.8 acres were on private lands). The individual average fire size was 18.3 acres. This compares to a 5-year average (1997-2001) of 63 fires per year burning a total of 858 acres, for an average of 13.6 acres per fire.

WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS		
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS		
	FIRES	ACRES
A	7	.8
B	20	49.4
C	12	440
D	2	262
E	0	0
F	0	0
G	0	0
TOTAL	41	752.2

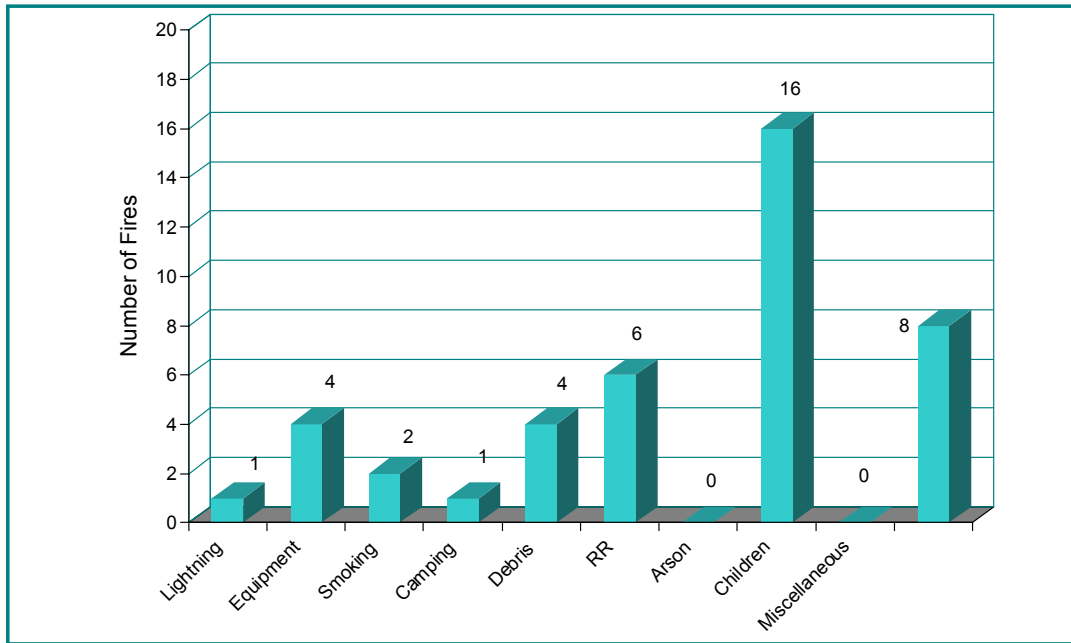
88% OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS ARE RED CARDED

NATIONAL FORESTS & GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	4	4.4
EQUIPMENT	2	8
SMOKING	1	.6
CAMPING	4	23.6
DEBRIS	6	41
RAILROAD	0	0
ARSON	16	158.6
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	8	42.2
TOTAL	41	278.4

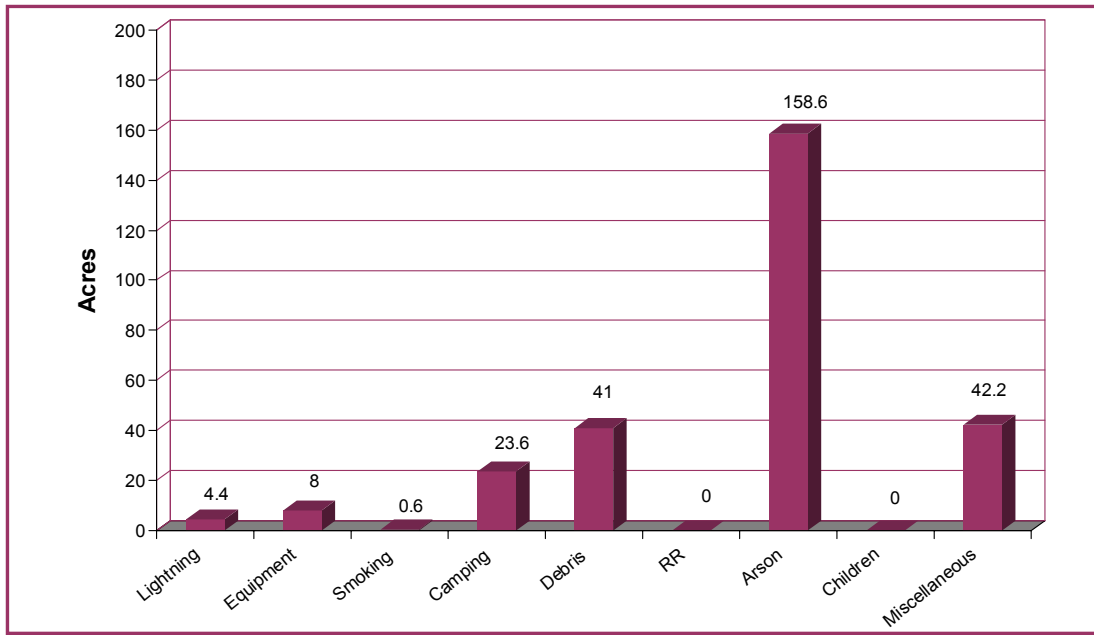
“THE NUMBER OF FIRES
AND ACRES WAS WELL
BELOW THE
5-YEAR AVERAGE”

**FIRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS**



NATIONAL FORESTS & GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

ACRES BY CAUSE
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

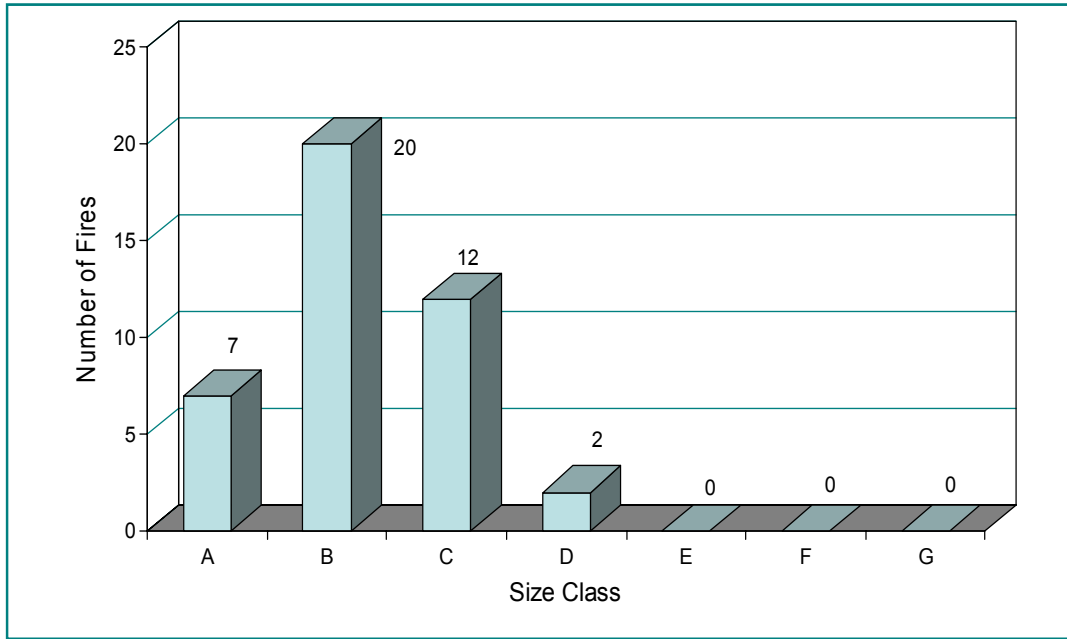


WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	7	20	12	2	0	0	0	41
Acres*	.8	49.4	440	262	0	0	0	752.2

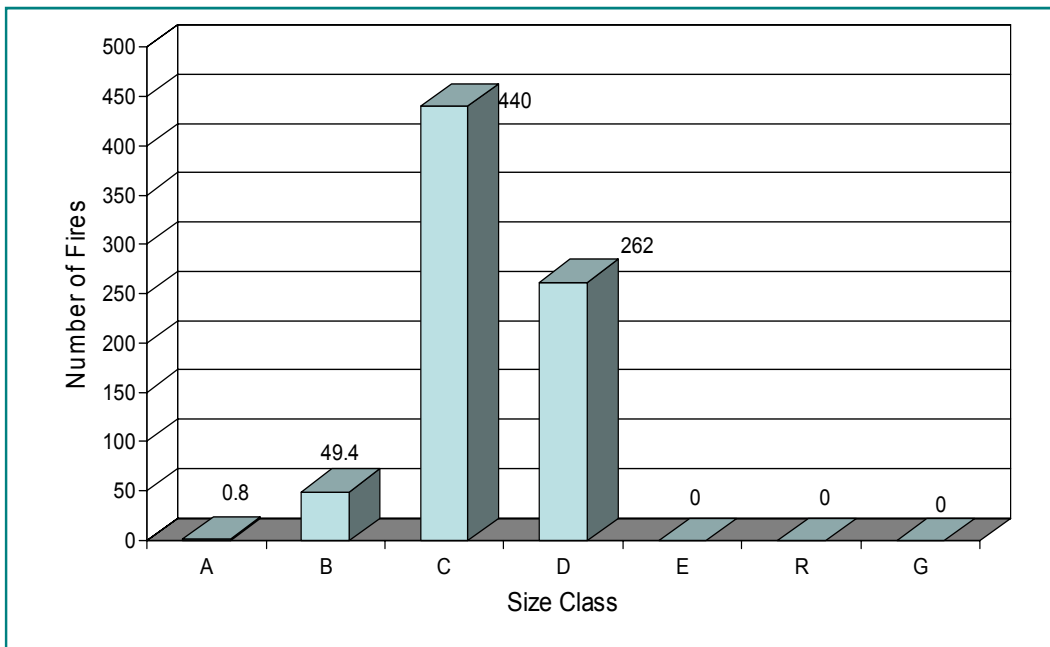
*Includes 473.8 private acres.

NATIONAL FORESTS & GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS



NATIONAL FORESTS & GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

HAZARDOUS FUELS

COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Several communities, hundreds private residences, several historic structures, and a large acreage of sensitive wildlife habitat were identified to be at risk. The high risk to these resources is due to the fact that they ly in close proximity to 10,000 acres of young pine stands which were devastated by a southern pine beetle epidemic.

There has been considerable public support for hazardous fuels reduction since the disastrous 2000 fire season.

REDUCE FIRE RISK

Ten thousand acres of young pine plantations have been consolidated into the *Four Notch Healthy Forest Initiative*. This effort will include thinning and burning the young pine stands in order to reduce hazardous fuels accumulations in the wildland urban interface.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Forests and Grasslands accomplished 76,045 acres of prescribed burning in 2002. Fourteen detailers were used from various forests in Regions 2 and 9 to assist with the burning. Several crews rotated in and out from the first of February until the end of March. This is the 4rd year that detailers from Forest Service Region 2 have assisted with prescribed burning in Texas.

76,045 ACRES

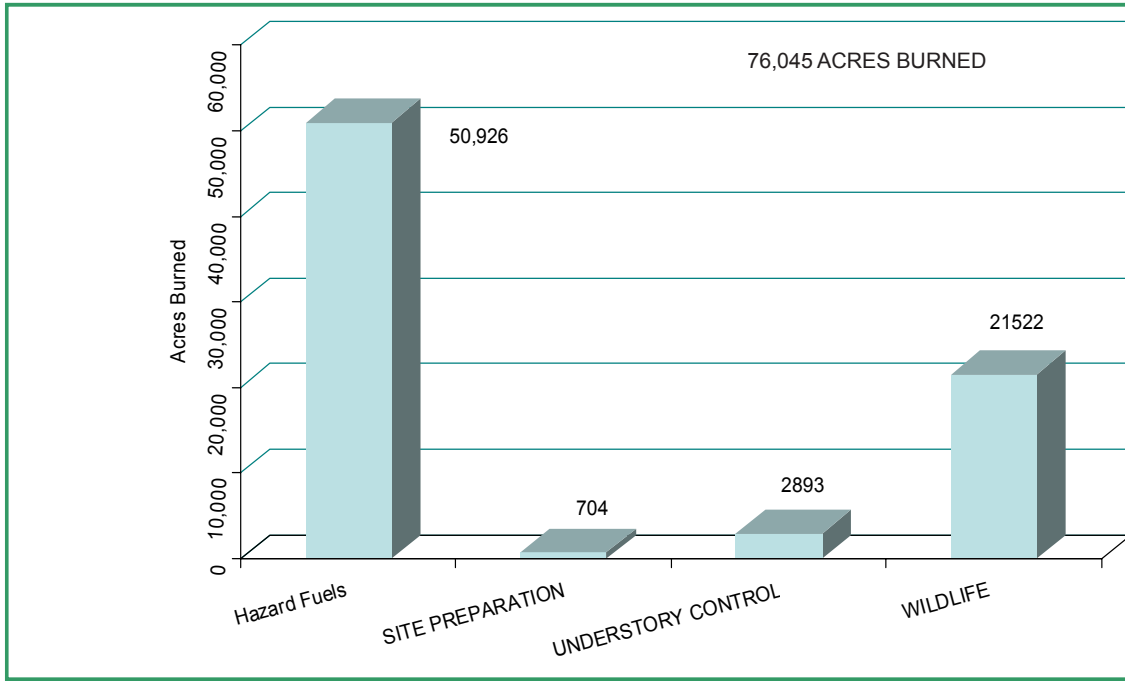
WERE TREATED WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE

CY 2002

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	PMB	Total Acres	Total	Cost Acre
Appropriated	50,926		704	2,893					54,523	-	-
CWKV							16,726		16,726	-	-
CO-OP							4,796		4,796	-	-
TOTAL	50,926		704	2,893			21,522		76,045	-	-
BS	Brownspot Control				PERMANENT FIREBREAKS						
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation				Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile		
CUS	Control Understory Species										
R	Range Improvement				0		0		0		
T&E	Threatened & Endangered Sp.										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

NATIONAL FORESTS & GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



COOPERATION

The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas enjoys a close working relationship with the State of Texas and other federal agencies across Texas. We cooperate with the State and with numerous Volunteer Fire Departments in fire suppression. In December we moved into a newly constructed facility that we share with the State and USDI at the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC) near Lufkin. We coordinate with all state and federal agencies in sponsoring two wildland fire training academies each year in Texas.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas initiated a partnership with local communities, the Texas Forest Service, private and commercial landowners and Stephen F. Austin State University. The partnership's goal is to re-introduce prescribed fire into wilderness areas of East Texas.

A fuels specialist position was added to the fire management organization in CY 2002. A significant part of the duties of the new position includes the implementation of a viable monitoring and evaluation program for prescribed fire.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement personnel patrolled the districts during periods of high fire danger. They also assisted with traffic control during prescribed burning. The Officers regularly make personal contacts for fire management during high fire danger days, during prescribed fire activity, or during Law Enforcement presentations for civic groups and schools; the number of personal contacts related to fire cannot be exactly identified but is estimated to be in the hundreds.

TRAINING

The National Forests and Grasslands In Texas coordinated two wildland fire training academies with the State of Texas and other federal agencies. The Lufkin academy in east Texas was held in May. The Austin academy was held in central Texas in October. These academies attract trainees from many state and federal agencies from all across the United States. This year 1,195 trainees attended 52 courses sponsored in whole or in part by the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS	
Personal Contacts With Public	-
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	1
Patrol Miles Logged	-
Arson Cases Investigated	12
Warnings Issued	6
Violation Notices Issued	12
Arrests	1
Convictions	13
Misdemeanor	12
Felony	1
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	19

TRAINING STATISTICS

TABLE 1 OF 2

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002 (TABLE 1 OF 2)				
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Times Taught	MONTH	TRAINEES
I-100/ S-130/190	Intro to ICS/Basic Firefighter/Intro to Fire Behavior	4	May/Oct	147
S-131	Advanced Firefighter	4	May/Oct	97
S-200	Initial Attack IC	2	May/Oct	50
S-211/214	Basic Wildland Engine Academy	2	May/Oct	59
S-212	Wildland Power Saws	2	Ma/Oct	38
S-215	Fire Operations in the Urban Interface	2	May/Oct	59
S-230	Crew Boss	2	May/Oct	51
S-234	Ignition Operations	2	May/Oct	36
S-260/261	Incident Business Management	2	May/Oct	96
S-270	Basic Air Ops.	2	May/Oct	41
S-281	Supervisory Concepts	1	May	17
S-290	Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior	2	May/Oct	79
S-330	Task Force/Strike Team Leader	2	Ma/Oct	28
S-336	Fire Suppression Tactics	2	May/Oct	32
S-339	Division/Group Supervisor	2	May/Oct	23
S-390	Intro. To Fire Behavior Calculations	2	May/Oct	34
S-404	Safety Officer	2	May/Oct	28
	Dozer Operations/Maint.	2	May/Oct	47
	BEHAVE and RX windows	1	May	5
			--CONTINUED--	
TOTAL				

NATIONAL FORESTS & GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

TABLE 2 OF 2

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS				
ID	COURSE TITLE	TIMES OFFERED	MONTH	TRAINEES
S-203	Information Officer	1	Oct	15
S-211	Portable Pumps and Water Use	1	Oct	12
S-231	Engine Boss	1	May	16
S-231/314	Advanced Engine Academy	1	Oct	30
S-244	Field Observer	1	Oct	11
S-300	Extended Attack IC	1	Oct	10
S-355/ J-255	Ground Support Unit Leader	1	Oct	15
I-200	Intermediate ICS	1	Oct	30
I-300	Advanced ICS	1	Oct	25
D-110	Dispatch Recorder	1	Oct	25
S-270/271	Basic Air Ops./Interagency Helicopters	1	Oct	24
S-271	Interagency Helicopters	1	May	15
TOTAL		52		1,195

AVIATION

The Forest is host to one Region 8 prescribed burn helicopter. The helicopter is managed under an exclusive-use contract. The Forest also uses local CWN (call when needed) contracts. Total flight time for prescribed burn helicopters in 2002 was 215.6 hours.

FLIGHT HOURS			
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Detection	Fixed Wing	-	-
Wildfire Suppression	Fixed Wing	-	-
Prescribed Fire	Fixed Wing	-	-
Other: Forest Health		-	-
Subtotal Fixed Wing:	Fixed Wing	-	-
Wildfire Detection	Rotor Wing	-	-
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	R8 Contract	6.2
Prescribed Fire	Rotor Wing	R8 Contract & CWN	192.0
		R8 Contract	17.4
Subtotal Rotor Wing:	Rotor Wing		215.6
Total	All Aircraft	-	215.6

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service						S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS		
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land			
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse					
TX						675,572	675,572		

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES	
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS	
Regular Appointed Personnel	
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	16
Part-Time Fire Management	4
Others Used On Pre-suppression	44
Others Used On Suppression	0
Total Regular Appointed Personnel	64
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel	
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0
Emergency Fire Fighters	0
Total Emergency Firefighters	0
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression	8
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	0
TOTAL	72

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

INTRODUCTION

Drought conditions, which began in 1998, continued into October of 2002. As a result, Eastern Virginia experienced a 30 inch moisture deficit. State of Virginia agricultural authorities compared the current situation to the drought of 1930. Many cities and towns across Virginia began water restrictions in mid-spring. The restrictions remained in effect into the month of December. Rural areas suffered from a record number of dry water wells. Wildland fires burned with high rates of spread and burning intensity. Large fires, ignited by lightning, continued burning through the



GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The training schedule for the forests was interrupted by the long spring and summer fire seasons. Priority was placed on refresher training such as *Look Up, Look Down, Look Around*, and I-100, S-130 and S-190. The emphasis was placed on safety for the individual firefighter. A training schedule for Calendar Year 2003 was developed through cooperative effort with the National Park Service, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Forest Service. (For a detailed list

of training courses offered during CY 2002 see the Training Table, this section).

summer months into August. Wildfires of such intensity experienced in the summer of 2002, are rare in the deciduous forests of Virginia. Precipitation events, attributed to El Nino, began to appear over Virginia in October. They continued into late December. The fall fire season was without significance. Only two wildfires occurred, burning less than 8 acres.

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

Overall 2002 was an extremely demanding year for fire personnel. Many long hours were put in both for the purpose of staffing high fire danger days and for working on the fireline. As Virginia's high fire danger came down to manageable levels, forest fire personnel were mobilized to the western states for duty. George Washington and Jefferson National Forest employees worked thousands of hours on and off the fireline during 2002--- without a single lost time accident.

The forests supported both the Red and Blue Incident Management Teams by contributing 14 team members. Highly trained and professional, these employees devoted countless hours of service away from their duty stations and families for the purpose of suppressing wildland fires across the United States.

An outbreak of avian flu in Northern Virginia created an additional workload impact on the forests. The avian flu incident was managed by the Agriculture, Plant, Health, and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. More than 3 million infected domestic fowl were destroyed over a 3-month period. Forest personnel, along with personnel from several other agencies, supported the incident during the entire time.

AWARD

Bill Damon, Forest Supervisor for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, received the *Line Officer of the Year* award for the commitment of Human Resources to fire management, for leadership by example, for dedication, and for many long hours working as a member of the Southern Area Interagency Incident Management Blue Team.



FIRE SUPPRESSION

WEATHER SUMMARY

From October of 1998 to the beginning of the 2002 spring fire season, the Jefferson NF was 10 inches short of rainfall and the George Washington NF short as much as 30 inches of rain. A persistent high-pressure system lodged in place during the middle of October 2001 and prevented any significant moisture from reaching the area into the spring of 2002. The winter months of December 2001 through February 2002 were one of the driest on record. Drought conditions were comparable to 1930, which was a record drought year. Many cities and towns across Virginia began water restrictions and a record number of wells went dry. January and February were dry. The spring fire season started out slow. Periodically, small amounts of rain fell across the Jefferson NF with very little to none across the George Washington NF for the periods of March through October. Temperatures were above normal for much of the period. Rains began in early October and continued through December, bringing much needed relief to drought stricken areas. It is too soon to determine if the drought has been broken for the state of Virginia. In the meantime, water tables are being replenished; soil moisture has increased setting the stage for a more normal winter.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS		
	FIRES	ACRES
LIGHTNING	28	4,844
Equipment	5	38
Smoking	0	0
Camping	3	33
DEBRIS	1	1
RAILROAD	0	0
ARSON	6	52
CHILDREN	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	18	458
TOTAL	61	5,426

WILDLAND FIRE

The past drought conditions set the stage for fires from January through the end of August. Extreme fire behavior was exhibited on pre-season fires. Fires occurring in February and early March on south and west facing slopes, regardless of fuel type, had rapid rates of spread, crowning and torching.

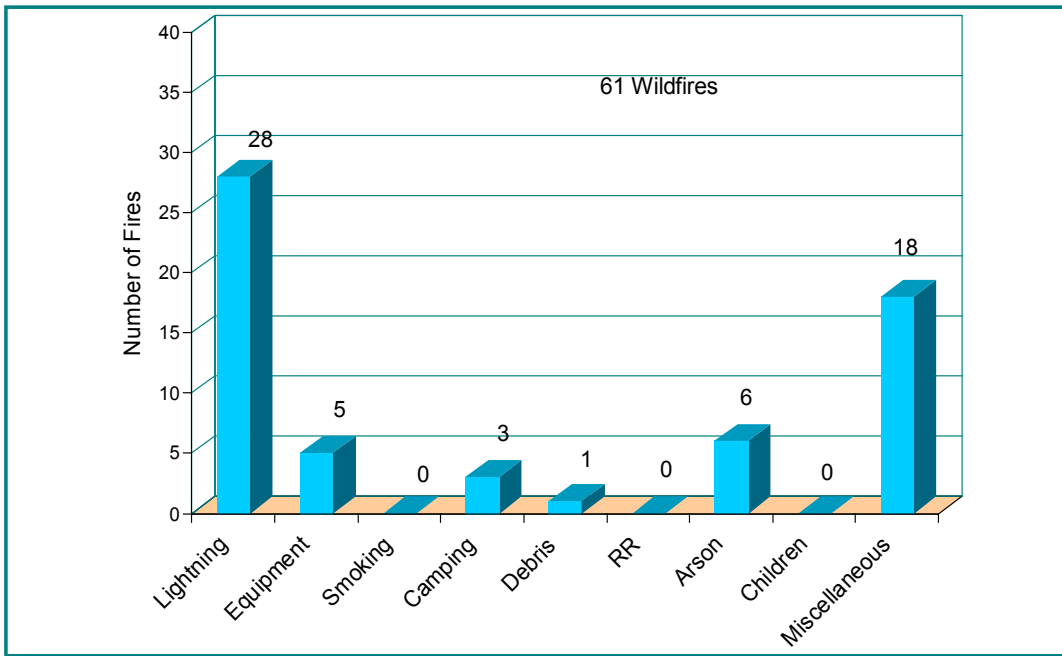
Fire behavior was comparable to that of April setting the stage for a severe spring fire season. Conditions were aggravated by dry fuel conditions in hundreds of acres of trees that had been killed by the gypsy moth and the southern pine beetle. Record KDBIs were reached early in the year and continued building to 500 plus through the summer months. One-thousand hour fuel moisture readings were far below historic minimum recordings. Periods of extremely low relative humidities often associated with wind events continued throughout the spring.

WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS		
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS		
Class	FIRES	ACRES
A	19	3
B	26	68
C	8	349
D	5	739
E	2	1,333
F	1	2,934
G	0	0
TOTAL	61	5,426

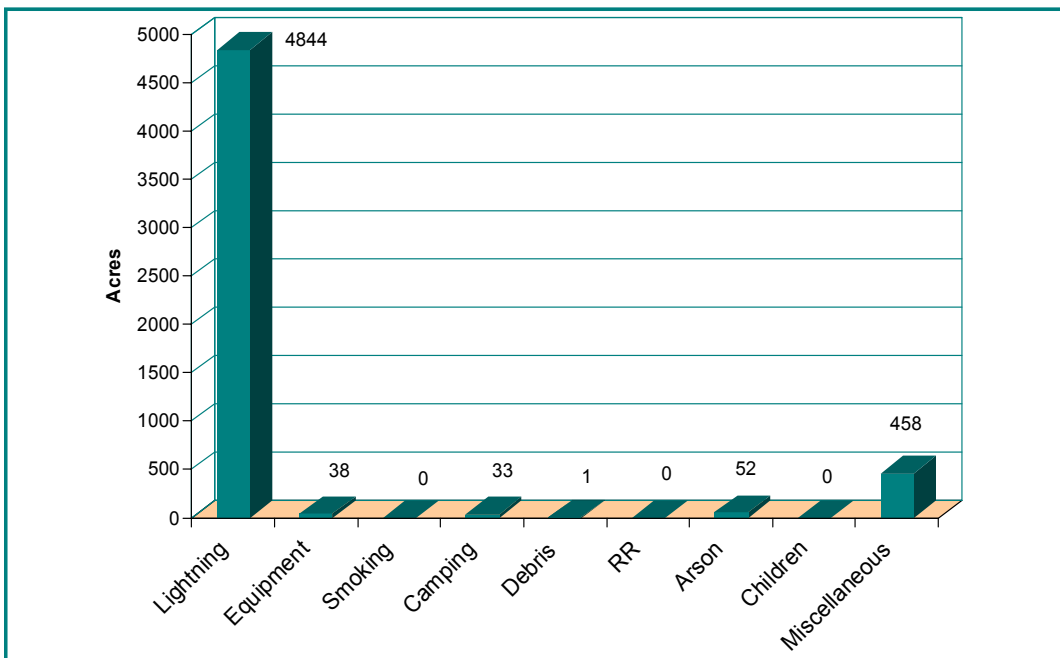
The burning index and the energy release component remained high into the summer months. Control efforts were hampered by dry fuel conditions. Control and mop-up, even on smaller fires became troublesome. Firefighters gravitated toward using indirect methods of attack. Natural and human-made barriers such as roads and creeks were used to confine wildfires. The average fire size was larger as a result. Most of the spring fires occurred prior to late April. Small amounts of precipitation from periodic rains provided short term relief from new starts. Lightning caused fires continued from the spring into the summer months---an uncommon pattern. By mid-May, the number of fires increased. From May 25th through July 31st, there were 26 fires, 18 of which were lightning caused. During this period, there were three class C, one class E, and one class F fire. On July 13th, the Blue Team was mobilized to the Marbleyard Complex. The complex consisted of five fires totaling 3,723 acres. During the last part of July, the Stumphole Fire on the Lee Ranger District burned 180 acres. Early October rains brought the fall fire season to a halt. For the entire wet, fall fire season only 2 fires were logged for a total burned area of 8 acres.

GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS

FIRES BY CAUSE
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS



ACRES BY CAUSE
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS

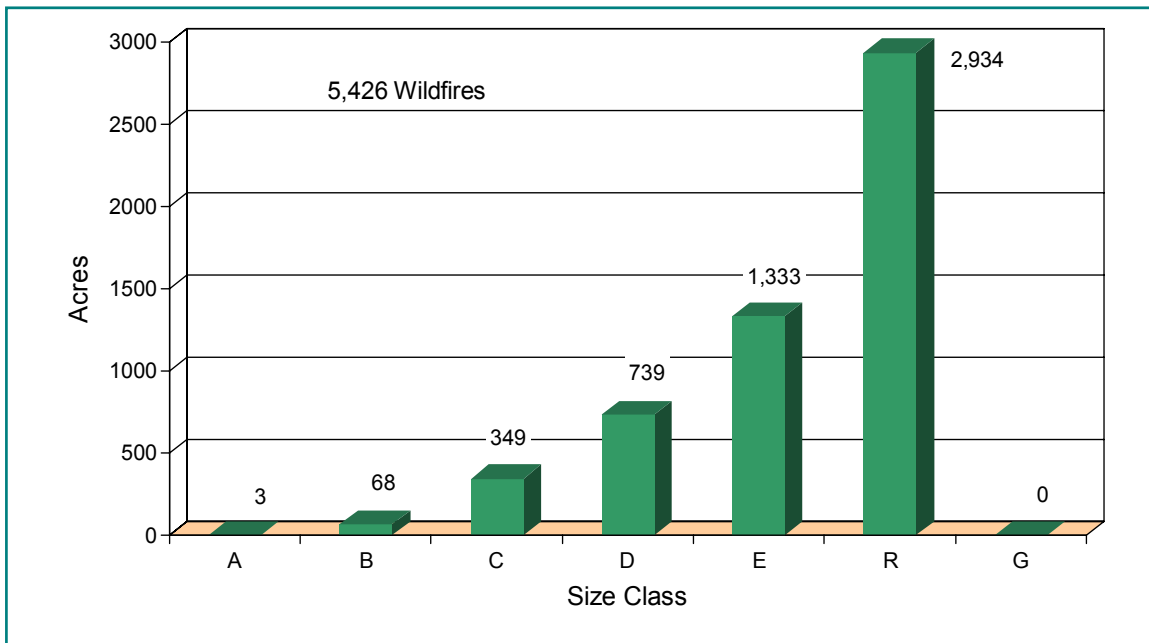


GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS



HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

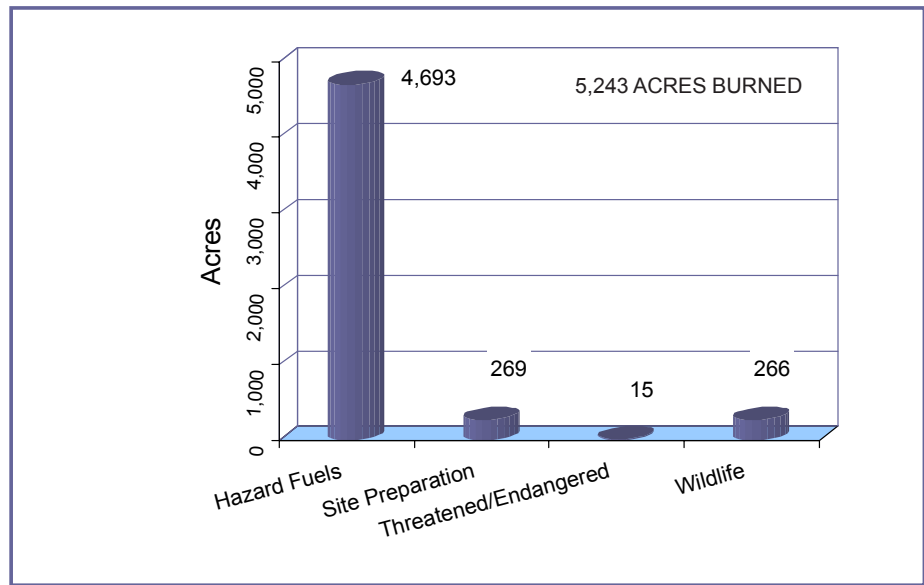
PRESCRIBED FIRE

Drought conditions severely limited opportunities for prescribed burning this year. Twenty-six prescribed burns were completed for 5,243 acres. Burn sizes ranged from 9 acres to 1,500 acres. Burn objectives determined the total acreage for each burn.

Prescribed fire continues to be used as an efficient management tool and plays a very important role in eco-system management and in hazardous fuel reduction on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Prescribed fire has been used to enhance the habitat of threatened and endangered species such as the sword-leaf phlox, the smooth green snake, box huckleberry, variable sedge, and several other plants.

The Forest Service continues to work closely with the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy on the use of prescribed fire.

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS											
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS											
Fund	Fuels	BS	SP	C U S	R	T&E	WI	P M B	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acres
WFHF	4,693								4,693		\$28
NFWF						15	266		281		-
CWKV			269						269		-
Total	4,693		269			15	266		5,243		-
BS	Brownspot Control			PERMANENT FIREBREAKS							
RR	Rough Reduction										
SB	Seedbed Prep										
SP	Site Prep Reforestation			Miles Established		Total Cost		Cost Per Mile			
CUS	Control Understory Sp.										
R	Range Improvement			0		0		0			
T&E	Threatened & Endangered										
PMB	Pre-mark Burn										
WI	Wildlife Improvement										

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The Virginia Multi-Agency Coordination Group is composed of the Virginia Department of Forestry, Shenandoah National Park, National Capital Parks, Great Dismal Swamp (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. This group oversees the Virginia Interagency Coordination Center (VICC) located in Charlottesville, Virginia. VICC is the coordination center for Virginia involved in all risk incident management. A large amount of time was spent in support of the avian flu outbreak in Northern Virginia, mobilization of the Blue Incident Management Team to the Marbleyard Complex, and support of both local and western fire suppression efforts. More than 400 resource requests were processed by VICC.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The goals of our fire prevention program are to cooperate with other land management and fire suppression agencies in a public awareness program for wildland fire prevention. The Virginia Department of Forestry is our primary partner in this effort. Prevention is a vitally important program given the fact that our area has suffered a prolonged drought, and homes are dispersed throughout forested areas in Southwest Virginia. Prevention specialists worked closely with homeowners and communities in high risk areas. Homeowners were educated about fire prevention strategies which could help them protect lives and property from wildfires. The goal of the prevention effort is to reach individuals of all ages in adjacent communities.

Successful cooperative programs in the vicinity of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest included:

- ◆ Smokey at *Salem Avalanche Night*, August 2002: This was a program staffed by DOF and USFS, where handouts were given to 3,100 attendees, and Smokey threw the first game ball.

- ◆ Fire Science outreach program: Cooperators provided resource boxes to teachers. The cooperators are GW/JNFs, VA DOF and the Science Museum of Western Virginia. There is currently a collaboration to produce a document that ties the Virginia Standards of Learning to the Fire Science resource materials mentioned. We anticipate that this document will have statewide distribution.

Smokey's fire prevention message is presented in schools and at public events. This is an ongoing federal and state campaign.

Successful outreach techniques were:

- ◆ Public service announcements, billboards and posters, and educational presentations.

- ◆ *Stickerizing* people at campgrounds, recreation areas, and visitor information centers (Providing Smokey face stickers and prevention flyers).

- ◆ Annual poster contest for public school children.

The USFS and State Garden clubs conduct annually a Smokey and Woodsy poster contest. This year it resulted in 250 poster entries. Teachers entered the *Symbols.gov* website to gain information. There has been limited media coverage of the competition.

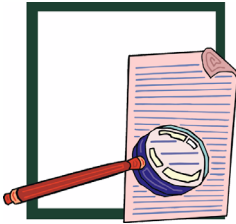
We have a very close working relationship with the news media and with the Virginia Department of Forestry. The public affairs staff conveyed the potential for public use-closers to the media when drought conditions were in the extreme.



POSTER COMPETITION

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Long hours of surveillance and good law enforcement skills were rewarded with the conviction of an arsonist. The individual received 8 years in prison and was ordered to pay \$200,000 in restitution. Since the conviction, no arson fires have occurred in that area. Law enforcement officers spent 10% of their time on fire related activities.



LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRE RELATED ACTIVITIES	
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS	
Personal Contacts With Public	2,693
Education/Fire Prevention Programs Given	9
Patrol Miles Logged	26,550
Arson Cases Investigated	4
Warnings Issued	24
Violation Notices Issued	7
Arrests	1
Convictions	1
Misdemeanor	
Felony	1
TOTAL Fire Related Incidents & Investigations	184

TRAINING

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED DURING CY 2002				
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS				
ID	COURSE TITLE	Times Taught	MONTH	TRAINEES
I-100	Introduction to ICS	9	Throughout the year	239
S-130	Introduction Firefighter Training	9	Throughout the year	239
S-190	Introduction to Fire Behavior	9	Throughout the year	239
-	Incident Commander Refresher	1	October	92
S-230	Crew Boss	1	October	10
S-231	Engine Boss	1	October	10
S-260	Fire Business Management	1	March	23
S-270	Intermediate Air Operations	1	May	20
-	Annual Fire Refresher	15	Throughout the year	300
TOTAL		47		1,172

AVIATION

The Forest has 2 Type III exclusive-use helicopters during the spring fire season. One Bell 206 L-III is based at Weyers Cave. The contractor is Southern Helicopter, operating out of Sunshine, Louisiana. This helicopter is an interagency ship financed through the Virginia Department of Forestry, Shenandoah National Park and George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

A second helicopter, located at Abingdon, VA, is a Bell 407. The contractor is Crescent, operating out of Hollywood, Florida. This is a regional helicopter. Crew modules are provided by the forests. The helicopter is often shared with the Virginia Department of Forestry in the southwestern part of the state. The exclusive use contract for this helicopter is shared with Forest Service Region 5.

Type II CWN helicopters were staged during periods of high fire danger during late spring and summer. The immediate availability of this resource proved its value by keeping several fires small during initial attack.

The Weyers Cave Reload Base was quite busy this year. Both heavy and medium type air tankers delivered over 68,000 gallons of retardant to Virginia State, National Park Service, and National Forest protected lands. The reload base is an efficient facility, located in central Virginia. Air tankers operating from this facility have been credited with saving numerous homes in the area in past years.

Law enforcement, in cooperation with the U.S. Marine Corp, carried out a successful marijuana eradication program on the forests. Forest law enforcement officers flew in Marine Corp helicopters in search of marijuana plants growing on the forests.

The high point of the Forest's aviation activities for CY 2002---No aircraft accidents.



AIR TANKER
WEYERS CAVE RELOAD BASE



FLIGHT HOURS			
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS			
Purpose	Aircraft Type	Use Type	Hours
Wildfire Suppression	Rotor Wing	Exclusive Use	52
Military	Rotor Wng	Military	65
Total			117

SAFETY REPORT

The safety record for both firefighters and aircraft was outstanding. Supervisors managed their fire personnel very closely. Work-rest ratios were followed. The *10 Standard Fire Orders* and the *18 Watch Out Situations* were strictly enforced. Daily safety briefings were mandatory. The result was a no-lost-time accident record for the year for fire related activities. In addition there were no aircraft accidents related to fire activities.

DAILY SAFETY BRIEFINGS
 THE 10 STANDARD FIRE ORDERS
 THE 18 WATCH OUT SITUATIONS
 "WERE REINFORCED DAY IN AND DAY OUT"
 RESULTING IN
 NO LOST TIME ACCIDENTS

SAFETY STATISTICS							
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS							
CATEGORY	Prescribe Fire		Wildfire Initial Attack		Extended Attack		Other
	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Fire Related
Injuries						8	
Lost Time Injuries						3	
Passenger Vehicle		1					
TOTAL:		1				11	

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse					
VA, KY, WVA						1,781,449	1,781,449	1,654,489	

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED REPORT

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDLAND FIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES	
GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS	
Regular Appointed Personnel	
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	20
Part-Time Fire Management	41
Others Used On Pre-suppression	60
Others Used On Suppression	304
Total Regular Appointed Personnel	425
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel	
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	0
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	0
Emergency Fire Fighters	0
Total Emergency Firefighters	0
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression	205
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	100
TOTAL	630

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



FIRE REPORT

SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

2002

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides for effective wildland fire protection, fire use and hazardous fuels management, and timely emergency rehabilitation on Indian forest and range lands held in trust by the United States of America, based on fire management plans approved by the Indian landowner. Preparedness is based on the most efficient level of meeting tribal goals and objectives for the program, using Indian resources, and a cooperative, inter-agency approach to meet local, regional and national resource needs, and an effective fire prevention program focusing on human-caused fires. Implementation of tribal management of the program is facilitated under Indian Self-Determination, as requested by tribal government.

WILDLAND FIRES BY STATE			
Bureau of Indian Affairs			
	Fires	Acres	Acres/fire
Florida	14	1,325	95
North Carolina	3	21	7
Oklahoma	105	16,490	157
Total Fires*	122	17,836	146

*Data Source: Southern Area Situation Report, 2002

NATIVE AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

The BIA began the fire crew program in the Southwest in the late 1940s and early 1950s. One of the first crews established was the Mescalero Red Hats from Mescalero, New Mexico. They were initially used to control fires on the reservation and the adjacent Lincoln National Forest. The program caught on quickly as there was usually a large pool of unemployed men available on reservations throughout the west.

During the 1960s and 70s, training and fitness testing became a requirement for the Indian crews. There was a downturn in the use of Indian crews for several years. There were several years during this period when there was little need for additional firefighters for control efforts.

During the 1980s, the Forest Service and other federal agencies began cutting back on the number of employees. In the latter part of the decade there were a series of

major fire-years when there was a serious shortage of firefighting crews. The Bureau of Indian Affairs increased the recruitment of Indian Firefighters. The program was extended to the Eastern U.S. where there had not been a need for firefighters in the past. Several crews were formed in Oklahoma and in Cherokee, North Carolina.

Today the Tribes and BIA work together to develop firefighting crews. A great deal of honor comes with serving as a member of an Indian fire crew. Serving on a crew provides an opportunity for self-development of individual crew members. It also provides seasonal income for the members of the crews and for the local economy. An additional benefit to the members of a crew is the opportunity to see parts of the country that they may never have had the opportunity to visit. In a few cases, it provides the individual with enough experience and desire to apply for regular employment on fire crews either on the reservation or with other federal agencies.

The Native American Firefighter program has, in some cases, motivated individuals to further their education to become professionals in the natural resources management field. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Forest Service sponsor programs through Haskell Indian School that provides scholarships for Native Americans to attend various colleges and universities to earn degrees in Forestry, Wildlife Management, Geology, Geographic Information Services and Fire Science.

NUMBERS EXCEED ALL PREVIOUS YEARS

A total of 59 crew assignments were made by Native American Crews during the 2002 fire season. Eight (8) of these crews were mobilized from North Carolina. Fifty-one (51) crews were mobilized from Oklahoma. The Eastern Band of the Cherokee mobilized 8 crews for dispatch through the **North Carolina** Coordination Center during CY 2002. Native American crews from North Carolina served on fires in Arizona, California, Oregon and Utah. They responded to the first summer crew request--May 25--and continued responding to crew requests throughout the summer fire season.

There were changes in sponsorship of some tribes in **Oklahoma**, with the Chickasaw and Creek nations switching over to being BIA sponsored crews, but with the recruitment of the Iowa crews, the number of Native American firefighters trained and used on fires in FY02 exceeded any previous year. There continues to be good participation of personnel to fulfill crew commitments. Steps are being taken to ensure that qualified individuals will be given opportunities to be trained as crew supervisors. The academy training concept is being used to facilitate Native American training needs in Oklahoma.

Another new concept to crew management is the training and use of tribal employees as crew representatives on Native American crews. One firefighter was selected for the Asheville Hotshot program for the Spring 2003 season. The total earnings contributed to Oklahoma community economies in 2002 is over 1.75 million dollars. The total earnings from 1987 to the present are estimated to be over \$15 million dollars.



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2002 DAVID FITZGERALD

Native American wildland fire fighting crews continued to play a significant role in supporting the Southern Geographic Area's mobilization efforts.

Seventy-three percent of all crews dispatched through the Arkansas-Oklahoma Coordination Center were Native American. Ten Oklahoma tribes provided the fire fighters as well as overhead personnel. The tribes of Oklahoma also provided 73% of all wildland fire engines dispatched through the Arkansas-Oklahoma Coordination Center.

NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION*
CY 2002 ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA MOBILIZATION EFFORT

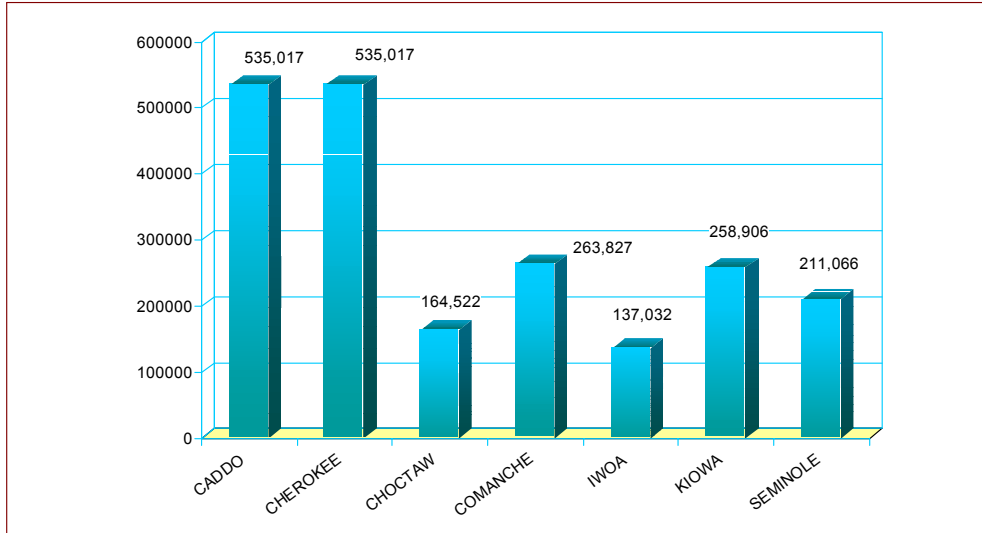
Crews	<p>95 Crews were dispatched through the Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC)</p> <p>22 Native American crews participated in the 2002 mobilization effort</p> <p>51 crew assignments were made by Native American crews</p> <p>Native American support comprised 77% of Arkansas-Oklahoma crew activity</p>
Engines	<p>203 engines (with personnel) were mobilized through the AOICC</p> <p>18 BIA engines were available and mobilized</p> <p>131 engine requests were filled by Native American resources</p> <p>Native Americans filled 73% of requests for engines made to AOICC</p>
Overhead	<p>1,066 overhead requests were filled through AOICC</p> <p>48 BIA personnel were mobilized</p> <p>110 overhead requests were filled by BIA personnel</p> <p>15% of all overhead mobilized through the AOICC were BIA</p>

*Tribal information and data provided by Forrest Blackbear, Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

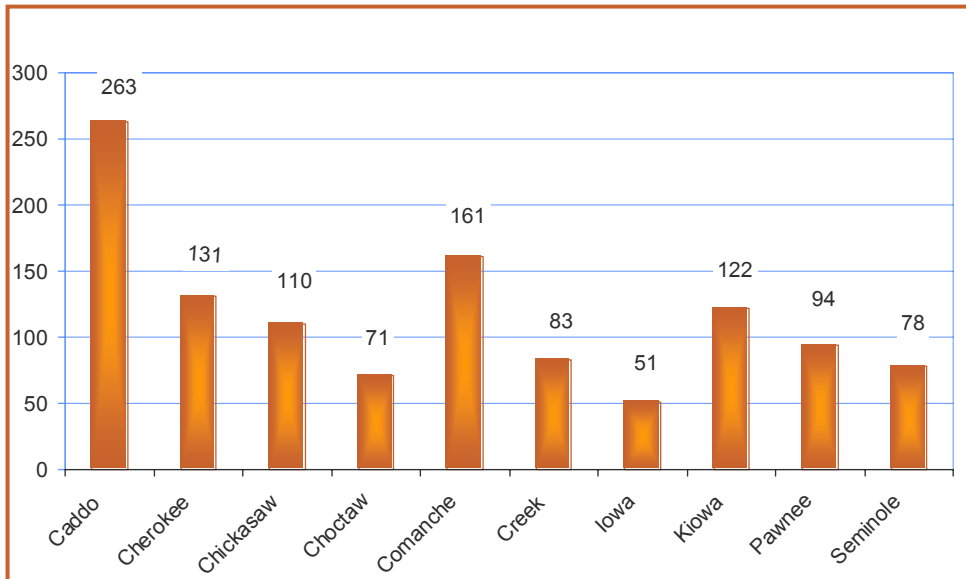
DATA PERTAINS TO CREWS DISPATCHED THROUGH THE ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA COORDINATION CENTER

TRIBAL EARNINGS 2002*



*DOES NOT REFLECT EARNINGS OF BIA SPONSORED CREWS.

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL DISPATCHED PER TRIBE

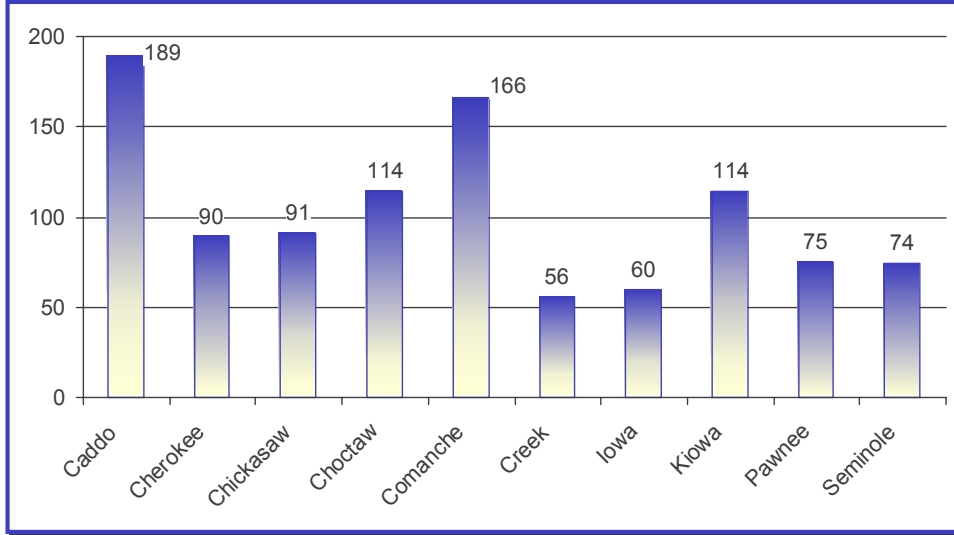


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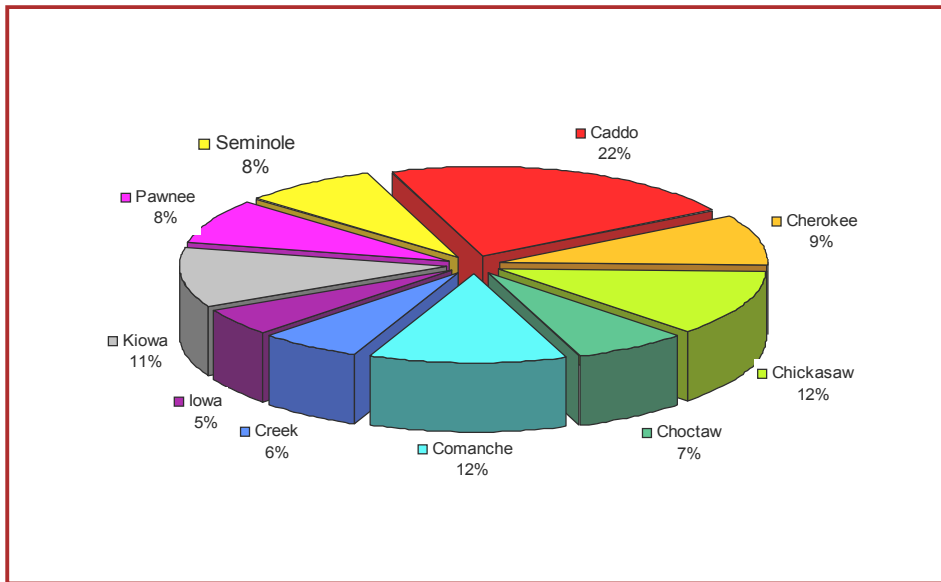
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

DATA PERTAINS TO CREWS DISPATCHED THROUGH THE ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA COORDINATION CENTER

NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED 2002



PERCENTAGE OF DAYS WORKED BY CY 2002

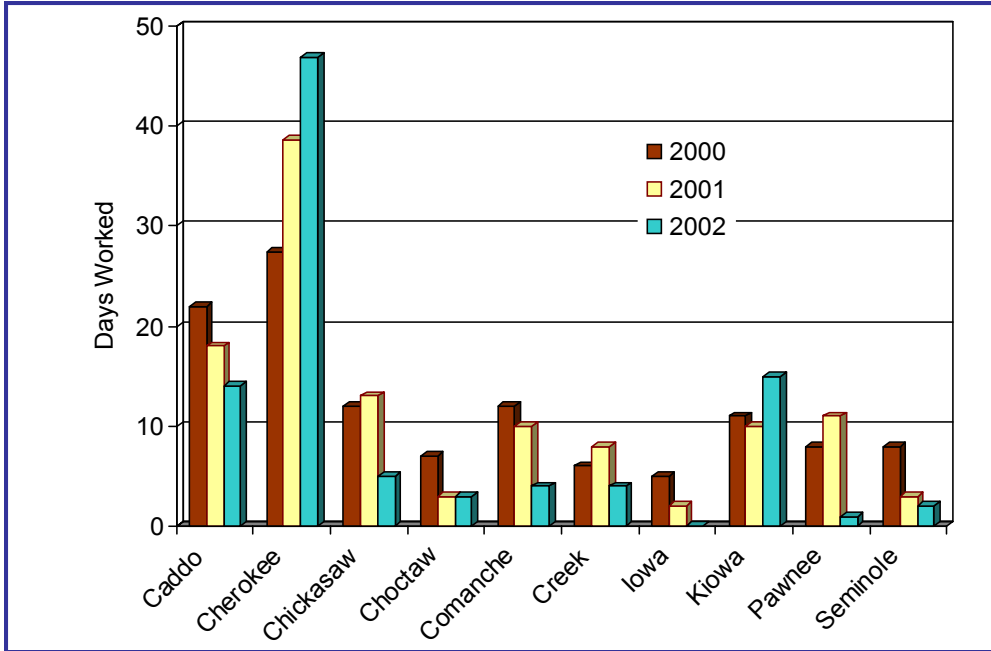


*Tribal information and data provided by Forrest Blackbear, Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

DATA PERTAINS TO CREWS DISPATCHED THROUGH THE ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA
COORDINATION CENTER

THREE YEAR COMPARISON CREW ACTIVITY



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



SOUTHEAST REGION

THE SOUTHEAST REGION DOES NOT INCLUDE THE STATES OF ARKANSAS, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS AND VIRGINIA. THIS REPORT INCLUDES FIRE OCCURRENCE DATA FOR THESE STATES. IT INCLUDES MORE IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FIELD UNITS WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE SOUTHEAST REGION.

2002 ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

SOUTHEAST REGION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



OIL WELL FIRE
OBED WILD & SCENIC RIV ER

SUMMARY OF FIRE ACTIVITY 2002 CALENDAR YEAR

SUMMARY OF ALL FIRE ACTIVITY		
SOUTHEAST REGION PARKS		
ACTIVITY	NUMBER FIRES/PROJECTS	NUMBER ACRES
SUPPRESSION	116	2,135.4
SUPPORT ACTION	214	---
NATURAL OUTS	21	73.2
PRESCRIBED FIRES		
PLANNED IGNITION	85	107,182.8
UNPLANNED IGNITION	3	309.0
TOTAL PRESCRIBED FIRE	88	97,938.8
FALSE ALARMS	14	
MECHANICAL REDUCTION		4,608

FIRE ACTIVITY BY PARK

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

The Big Cypress Fire and Aviation Division accomplished over 77,000 acres of prescribed fire treatment for the calendar year. Much of this years burning was accomplished during the growing season (March - July). The Preserve had 21 wildland fires for 818 acres.

We responded to a number of mutual assistance fires with the Florida Division of Forestry and Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve. Also assisted these cooperators on prescribed burns. Most of the fire staff participated in Western fire assignments with most doing several tours to western fires. Two of the staff were detailed to Hotshot crews for the summer to increase their fire knowledge and experience.

Members of the Division participated in the South-west Florida Urban Interface committee, the South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council and with the local inter-agency fire prevention committee.

We provided basic aviation safety training, Fire Business Management, squad boss and engine boss training. We also provided an annual fire refresher course.

Prescribed fire personnel and suppression overhead personnel moved into the new Fire Operations Center on Highway 29.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The year 2002 brought an end, at least temporarily, to the several-year drought that the park has been experiencing. While the winter and spring were more normal in terms of precipitation, the summer was marked by a significant shortfall in precipitation. The dry summer set things up for an unprecedented dry fall fire season. As fate may have it, toward the end of the summer frequent rains returned to the park and continued throughout the fall.

SAFETY

One regular fire staff employee and one AD (emergency hire) were involved in serious accidents this past year. A Fire Effects employee was hit by a falling snag and the AD suffered a back injury while on a Western fire assignment.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE INITIATIVE

As in past years, significant progress was made at lowering the wildland fire risk adjacent to the city of Gatlinburg. The mechanical portions of the FY02 projects were completed resulting in approximately 2.0 miles of boundary being treated. Several hundred slash piles remain to be burned. Due to the vacant (term) fuels technician position, the Fuels Management Specialist spent significant amounts of time coordinating this project. The project was accomplished via seasonal employees and the use of many AD hires. It was hoped the project could be contracted. This was not possible given all the other time consuming activities. More than likely, if either the term fuels technician or the term fuels management specialist positions are not filled early in CY 2003, the scheduled FY03 projects will not get done due to lack of personnel to supervise them.

WILDLAND FIRES

The Park experienced 11 fires for a total of 62.5 acres. Only one was lightning caused. It was not managed for resource benefits because it was in the suppression zone. As mentioned previously, the fall season was wet. On one of the few dasy that vegetation would support combustion, the Park had five arson fires. The Park pursued the recovery of suppression and rehabilitation costs under federal statutes for the first time in recent history. The case is pending.

PRESCRIBED BURNING

The Park conducted five burns for a total of 838 acres in CY02. The Park also cooperated with the National Prescribed Fire Training Center to host a team of trainees to help conduct the burn.

Summer burning opportunities were missed due to the moratorium imposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service due to potential impacts to the federally endangered Indiana Bat. Formal consultation is continuing to clarify burning constraints. Western fire emergency responsibilities greatly impacted the park's ability to conduct burns in late summer. Air quality impacts also became an issue in late summer, raising questions about the effects this constraint may have on burning in the future. As mentioned previously, late summer brought a season of frequent rains that persisted until the end of the year. There were no burning opportunities during the fall season.

STAFFING

Filling vacancies and being unable to fill vacancies pretty much sums it up for the year. The first Fire Use Management (FUM) Clerk, Jim Phillips, was hired. This position has proved to be a great help. Two new FUM crewmembers were added, one in January and one in December. The term Fuels Management Specialist was vacated at the end of summer and due to length of time left in the term it may not be filled. Three individuals were hired for the term WUI Fuels Technician position. All three resigned to take permanent jobs before their EOD. Will Headrick was hired to fill the Assistant Knoxville Tanker Base Manager position.

RURAL FIRE ASSISTANCE

This was the second year of this program. The emphasis this year was placed on purchasing items that the departments identified as needs. Ten fire departments received a total of \$30,000. Items such as PPE, prevention materials, and tools, trailer to haul tools, chain saw, and portable pump were donated.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A contract was awarded to Mangi Corporation to have the Fire Management Plan updated by July 1, 2003.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

OVERVIEW

In calendar year 2002, Everglades National Park had 45 fires totaling 20,069 acres within the Park. The Park also provided assistance to the Florida Division of Forestry with 32 fires in or near the cooperative mutual threat zone along the eastern park boundary. In addition we had 41 external support actions for fire assignments starting in May in Georgia, extending through the western summer fire season and ending in September when the last of the park resources returned from fires in Oregon. Several of those 41 support actions involved multiple single resources on assignment. These support actions totaled 11,350 workhours on the part of Everglades NP staff.

Included in these support actions were two Type 6 and one Type 3 Everglades engines that were on assignment and staffed by Everglades fire personnel. They served on the Missionary Ridge fire, Dinosaur National Monument, at Zion National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park and Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area. The assignments in the NPS units were to provide severity incident support.

This was a pretty busy fire year for Everglades NP. Human caused suppression fires were relatively routine, but we had higher than average prescribed fire activity. Wildland fire use had relatively small numbers in occurrence and acreage, but one natural start that had the potential to become a large fire was suppressed at small acreage due to drought condition prescription constraints and potential threats to Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow habitat.

The greatest overall acreage by fire management dimension was in prescribed fire where we had 24 prescribed burns totaling 18,735 acres.

Generally we had a mild winter suppression season, both in weather and fire activity. Although we got pretty dry in late April and May we did not reach “severity” conditions for the first year in four.

We activated pre-suppression accounts due to continued *Very High* staffing class days in late April and May. Weather parameters during that time remained within prescribed fire prescription levels during most of the driest parts of the season. As a result during May and early June the staff was very busy conducting prescribed burns, while still maintaining initial attack readiness.

CY 2002 was the first year in seven when we did not require the assistance of a fire use module to complete all planned prescribed burning projects. This was due to the fact that we were quite successful in filling most of our *new* positions.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The 2 largest suppression fires of the year occurred in the East Everglades District. Both were human caused fires and both lasted about a week before being declared out. The Florida Department of Forestry 168b fire started on February 25 and burned 353 acres of park lands. The Tag 221 Fire started on March 23 and burned 337 acres of park lands.

WILDLAND FIRE USE

Although a total of 11 fires were ignited by lightning, only 8 were candidates for wildland fire use. Their total acreage of 406 acres amounted to a small acreage year for natural fires in the Park. Three of these 8 fires were natural outs.

The most significant lightning fire was the Ingraham fire that started on May 15 and burned a total of 3.5 acres. It is significant from the fact that it was a naturally occurring fire that occurred during the peak of drought.

The Ingraham fire was suppressed because conditions exceeded the WFU parameters. The fire also threatened occupied Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow habitat at the peak of the nesting season.

The Park is in the process of updating its fire use parameters as part of the update of the *Fire Management Plan*, with a focus on maximizing opportunities for natural events and processes.

The Fire Management staff is working closely with the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Interagency working group to establish guidelines for the management of natural fires occurring in the endangered species' habitat.

It should be noted that, given the extant burning conditions at ignition time for the Ingraham fire, the fire would probably have burned up to 10,000 acres, if it had not been suppressed. Also, the fire would have burned in a habitat that has been unburned for the most part since the Ingraham Fire of 1989, another natural event. The future should allow for natural fire to fulfill its role as a vital natural process.

Notwithstanding its remote location the Ingraham fire was quickly suppressed because fire managers had used pre-suppression funds to stage a single engine air tanker (SEAT) in Homestead, Florida. The fire would have been difficult to control had the SEAT not been available for rapid response.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

The largest single prescribed burn this year was the Broad River Rx, ignited on June 1, which burned 8,052 acres over the course of several days. This fire was a unit of the “Coastal Prairies” prescribed fire project, which is follow-up fire treatments of areas that have been aerially herbicided for Old World Climbing Fern abatement. The Old World Climbing Fern (the Kudzu of the tropics!) is a tremendously aggressive exotic plant species that has been invading shrubby areas embedded in large, tall grass prairies in some of the most remote parts of the Everglades. The treatment zones are relatively small acres, but the areas are so embedded in high volume grass fuels that the entire area must be burned to effect the treatment. Most of the largest prescribed fires we had this year were in this zone.

The largest prescribed burn in the pineland areas of the Park was the Pinelands North of A burn of the “Pinelands prescribed fire project,” which burned 1,149 acres. That fire was ignited June 5.

Issues surrounding Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow habitat management precluded several other planned prescribed burns from occurring this year. Meetings were conducted with the USFWS and cooperative researchers regarding the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (CSSS). One of these was an annual follow up to the “Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Fire Management Symposium” that was held last November. That meeting updated the five year fire and research management strategy for the CSSS that had been developed last year.

Prescribed burns that had been tentatively planned in the East Everglades area of the park were postponed due to private landowner issues and the need for pre-burn treatment of exotic plants.

Everglades Fire & Aviation assisted the Florida Division of Forestry with a hazardous fuel reduction prescribed burn adjacent to the Park in the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area. This project was substituted for some of the targeted acres mentioned above that could not be accomplished this year.

We are also in the final stages of drafting a memorandum of agreement between the Park and Miami-Dade County Parks and Miami-Dade County Department of Resource Management. The purpose of the agreement is to provide assistance in conducting prescribed burns on their lands in the future.

As stated previously this was the first year in seven that we did not call on the fire use modules to assist us in burning. CY 2002 was the first year with NFP staffing positions filled. With adequate staffing there was no need to call on the fire use modules for assistance.

These staffing levels enabled us to do conduct multiple burns on a single day, independently managed and staffed, which allowed us to take advantage of favorable burn windows. On June 3 the Park ignited 4 independent prescribed fires simultaneously!

SEVERITY AND STATEWIDE COORDINATION

For the first year in four statewide severity conditions moderated in the state of Florida. FMO Bob Panko remained as the statewide NPS Liaison to the statewide Unified Command, but the UC never had to be activated. Panko attended several meetings of the Southern Wildland Interface Fire Team (SWIFT) that represents the senior fire leadership on an interagency basis statewide.

NFP staffing levels did permit Everglades Fire & Aviation to support the early onset and extended national fire emergency that commenced in mid June. As stated earlier we had 41 support assignments, assigned and staffed engines to multiple western park severity incidents and performed 11350 workhours on these assignments. These assignments varied from single resource firefighters to command staff assignments on numerous national level fires.

The fire effects monitoring program continued throughout the year, established numerous new plots in the park and monitored other post burn plots. The fire effects crew traveled to Gulf Islands National Seashore to monitor plots post burn and to establish new plots. Furthermore the crew established plots in Canaveral National Seashore and established photo points in Timucuan Preserve near Jacksonville, Florida.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The *Everglades National Park Fire Management Plan* is being updated. Five scoping sessions were held from January through March of 2002.

Contract work continued with Mangi Associates to update the Plan and it's environmental assessment. Fire & Aviation staff met about 8 times in early summer and fall to work on drafts of the Plan received from the vendor. The task was complicated by recent changes to FMP format revised in Reference Manual 18. Progress is being made and the F&A staff has several additional workdays planned in January and February of 2003. The Fire Ecologist has been working with the Everglades Planning and Compliance staff, as well as Mangi Associates to coordinate the collection of data and complete the processes needed for the Environmental Assessment. The Fire Ecologist attended NEPA training in November, which greatly enhanced the overall F&A staff knowledge of the process. The Fire Ecologist and other staff members have been working closely with USFWS who has drafted most of the requisite Biological Opinion.

We are cautiously optimistic that the updated draft FMP and associated Environmental Assessment will be completed by spring 2003, will be forwarded for appropriate agency review, will be returned in time for early summer public review sessions, followed by finalization of the Plan in fall 2003.

STAFFING

Overall the recruitment and staffing situation in Everglades F&A was quite successful this year. We are closing out 2002 at near full staffing in all areas of the program. Some of the highlights of the year included:

- Recruitment of 3 new STEP employees and retention for second season of another STEP employee.

- Continued work with Denver Franchise allowing NPS based directed hiring authority for fire positions. Denver Franchise is continuing to manage our announcements as "open until filled" which in essence has created open positions continuous registers for many of the positions.

- Approval of an interim housing plan which allows lower graded and subject to furlough staff members into permitted government housing as available. ENP Housing Management Plan in the past has severely restricted permitted housing for permanent/STF employees, but this represented a stumbling block to recruitment of many fire positions.

- Current expectation is that we should retain an 80% or higher staffing level through the coming year. A number of positions throughout the organization have been filled at developmental levels, and there is an expectation that employees will be less likely to "move on" to other fire jobs since career development plans are being established and enacted. These career development plans call for training and detail opportunities that seem to promote a stable, goal oriented work environment beneficial to all parties.

The biggest staffing problem continues to be our inability to retain a Fire Program Assistant. Both of the last two transferred to GS-7 positions within the past 3 years. The fire management program also desires to pull its funded Fire Dispatcher position from the Everglades NP Communications Center and bring that position down to the Fire Management offices. The position would then function primarily in performing fire intelligence and expanded dispatch roles. This would consolidate various duties that are presently fragmented among numerous fire staff members and the EVER Communication Center. The move would provide a single person to manage the internet based Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). To be implemented successfully, ROSS requires a dedicated staff member who is in close operational contact with the FMO. The entire Southern Geographic Area is scheduled to implement ROSS in CY 2003.

TRAINING

This was a very successful training year in Everglades Fire & Aviation. The following courses were held in / and or sponsored by F&A.

- Annual FF Refresher (x3)
- S270 -Intermediate Air Ops
- S130-Basic Firefighter
- S190-Intro to Fire Behavior
- B3 (x4)-R/FWAviation Safety
- M3- Aviation Mgt for Supervisors
- S200-Initial Attack IC
- I200-Basic ICS
- I300-Intermediate ICS
- S211-Pumps

Everglades National Park staff completed 20 Position Task Books this year, and 25 new PTB's were initiated. The completed task books varied from Firefighter Type 2 to Operations Section Chief Type 2.

We took advantage of a number of training academies that were offered throughout the nation in the spring and fall. Employees were able to attend multiple training courses in a week or more, minimizing training costs.

In summary 29 Fire & Aviation personnel attended 103 training courses during CY 2002.

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION

The Park experienced 12 wildfires during 2002 with a total acreage of 20.9 acres burned in the Park and an additional 301.8 acres burned within the protection zone. The number of wildfires increased 20% and acreage increased 863%. The 322.7 acres burned within the Park and its protection zone during the year are summarized below.

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY	
FIRES BY SIZE CLASS	
CLASS A	5
CLASS B	4
CLASS C	2
CLASS D	1
TOTAL	12

OUT-OF-PARK INTERAGENCY INCIDENT DISPATCHES

A total of 20 Park personnel were dispatched to 10 interagency wildland fire incidents in seven states. These dispatches were Missionary Ridge Fire in Colorado; Rodeo Fire in Arizona; East Fork Fire in Wyoming; Mustang Fire in Utah; 747, Sour Biscuit, Tiller Complex, and Southwest Florence Fires in Oregon; Deer Point Fire in Washington; and Lakes Fire in New Mexico.

A total of 20 Park personnel were dispatched to 36 Department of Interior Homeland Security details in six states. These dispatches were to the Department of Interior Watch Office and Main Office Building in Washington, D.C.; Boston National Historical Park in Boston, Massachusetts; Fort McHenry National Monument and Historical Shrine in Baltimore, Maryland; Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Boulder City, Nevada; and Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area in Whiskeytown, California.

Interagency cooperation continued during 2002. One Park employee served as Supply Unit Leader on the Southern Area Type I Overhead team. Two Park employees served on a National Park Service Special Event Team.

TRAINING

There were a total of 9 wildland fire training opportunities in 2002 involving 21 attendances by 15 employees.

Basic firefighter training was provided for 64 Mississippi Forestry Commission employees. Supply Unit Leader training was also provided for 10 Mississippi Forestry Commission employees.

One park employee is a trainee in the national fire management mentoring program.

ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS

Renovation and occupation of the fire suppression and fire effects office space was completed.

The monthly newsletter emphasizing fire safety concerns continued.

Under the Rural Fire Assistance initiative additional personal protective equipment and training materials were purchased for eight additional cooperating volunteer fire departments. The total number of cooperators benefiting from this initiative increased to 51.

Fire effects monitoring and prescribed fire support were provided to Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi and Florida; Little River National Preserve in Alabama; and Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky.

FUELS MANAGEMENT

On Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) projects, 247 acres were burned with prescribed burning operations; 231 acres were mechanically treated; and 642 acres of hazardous fuels reduction was accomplished.

FIRE USE MODULES

**CUMBERLAND GAP
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

SUMMARY

The Cumberland Gap Fire Use Module began the season on January 14, 2002. After two weeks of orientation and training, we were on the go and beginning to accomplish the Southeast Region’s prescribed fire objectives. The module accomplished all projects assigned, in Mammoth Caves National Park, Congaree Swamp National Monument, and Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. We assisted the Great Smokies Module in accomplishing their projects in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Little River National Monument, and Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Nine classes were attended and 5 task books signed. Early in the season 4 members of the module participated in the Prescribed Fire Training Center program in Tallahassee, Florida. They obtained invaluable experience and helped to burn 8,420 acres for a variety of agencies in Florida and Georgia. After completing a full prescribed fire season, the module assisted in a very active fire season in the West. Module members were able to gain fire experience in a variety of fuel types in Colorado, Oregon, California, New Mexico, Idaho, Tennessee, and North Carolina.



FIRE USE FIRES

CUMBERLAND GAP FIRE USE MODULE

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Acres(at DEMOB)</i>	<i>Dates on Fire</i>	<i>FUM Members on Incident</i>
Coal Seam	CO	12,209	6-23 to 7-1	Sturgill, Nagle, Brusselback, Headrick
Wolf Complex	CA	580	8-12 to 8-26	Brusselback, Nagle
Big Fish	CO	15,000	8-16 to 8-21	Barton
Little Soldier	ID	220	8-22 to 9-1	Barton

PRESCRIBED FIRES			
CUMBERLAND GAP FIRE USE MODULE			
Project name	Host Unit	Dates	Accomplishments
Davis Bayou*	GUIS	2-10to12	7 acres
Brooks Branch*	LIRI	2-13 to19	178 chains of line prepped
NLO-6*	GUIS	3-7 to 11	60 acres
Wondering Woods	MAC A	3-12 to 15 and 3- 19-21	80 chains of line prepped
Temple Hill and Job Corps	MAC A	3-25 to 28 and 4-1 to 4, 9-12	99 chains of line prepped
Howser*	KIMO	4-15 to 17	95 acres
Units 1,2,3,4	COS W	4-18to 21	198 chains of line prepped
Temple Hill and Job Corps	MAC A	4-22 to 25	30 acres and 80 acres
Battlefield*	KIMO	5-9 to 10	
Units 1,2,3,4	COS W	5-11 to 12	576 acres
Coneflower*	KIMO	5-24 to 26	190 acres
Brooks Branch 01/103 7 and 8*	LIRI	6-3 to 14	198 chains of line prepped 730 acres (total)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY			
CUMBERLAND GAP FIRE USE MODULE			
Project Type	# of Assignments	Days on Assignment	Accomplishments
RX Fire	9	22	1768 acres
Fire Use	4	40	28,009 acres
RX Preparation	5	42	753 chains prepped
Planning	4	20	4 plans completed
WUI	1	1	.5 acres
Suppression	9	79	4 task books signed off

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

CUMBERLAND GAP FIRE USE MODULE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Pay grade</i>	<i>Dates at Position</i>
Diane Gercke	Module Leader	GS-7-04(PFT)	4-9-01 to 10-19-02
Shane Sturgill	Assistant Module Leader	GS-6-02(PFT)	4-9-01 to present
Shawn Nagle	Lead Crew Member	GS-5-02(18/8)	5-21-01 to present
Will Headrick	Crew Member	GS-5-02(13/13)	4-23-01 to present
William Brusselback	Crew Member	GS-5-01(13/13)	6-4-01 to present
Kerry Barton	Crew Member	GS-5-01(13/13)	6-7-02 to 9-30-02
Marilyn Rowland	FUM Clerk	GS-4-03 (13/13)	5-1-01 to present



QUALIFICATIONS

CUMBERLAND GAP FIRE USE MODULE

Name	Qualifications
Diane Gercke	CRWB, ENGB, RXI2, FOBS, ICT4, HEMG, FELB, FALB, EMTB, RXB2, STCR, STEN, TFLD
Shane Sturgill	FFT1, FALB, ENGB(t), FEMO(t), RXI2(t), ICT4(t)
Shawn Nagle	FFT1, FALB, FEMO, ENGB(t), ICT5(t), RXI2(t)
Will Headrick	FALB, FEMO, ICT5(t), FFT2
Will Brusselback	FALB, FEMO, ICT5(t), FFT1
Kerry Barton	FFT2, FALA, FEMO(t), ICT5(t), FFT1(t)

TRAINING

CUMBERLAND GAP FIRE USE MODULE

<i>Class</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Employees Attending</i>
Fire Refresher and Crew Orientation	CUGA	1-14/24-02	Gercke, Sturgill, Headrick, Nagle, Brusselback
Human Factors on the fireline	CUGA	1-17-02	Gercke, Sturgill, Headrick, Brusselback, Lanshe, Wiley
Prescribed Fire Training Center	Tallahassee, FL	January or February '02	Sturgill, Nagle, Brusselback, Gercke
S-317 HEMG	Withlacoochee ,FL	1-28/2-1-02	Gercke
EMT refresher	Richmond, KY	4-5/7-02	Gercke
S-330	Alamosa, CO	6-4/6-02	Gercke
I-200	London, KY	9-9-02	Sturgill, Headrick, Nagle, Brusselback, Barton
S-205	London, KY	9-10/11	Sturgill, Brusselback, Barton
S-230	Long Island, NY		Sturgill, Nagle

TRAINEE ASSIGNMENTS

CUMBERLAND GAP FIRE USE MODULE

<i>Crew Member</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Position</i>
Sturgill	PFTC	RX12, FEMO
Gercke	PFTC	RXB2
Nagle	PFTC	RX12
Brusselback	PFTC	FEMO
Sturgill	MACA, KIMO	RX12, CRWB
Nagle	MACA, COSW, GUIS, KIMO	RX12, CRWB
Brusselback	MACA, COSW, GUIS, KIMO	FEMO, FFT1, RX12
Headrick	MACA, COSW, GUIS, KIMO	FEMO, FFT1
Gercke	MACA, COSW	RXB2 (completed)
Gercke	Durango, CO	HEMG (completed)
Gercke	Norwood, CO	TFLD (completed)
Sturgill		CRWB
Brusselback		FFT1(completed)
Headrick		FFT1(completed)

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIRE USE MODULE

This was the fifth year of existence for the Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module and we had a successful season (Jan 6 – Jul 6). Projects were completed in our assigned parks and in support of the Cumberland Gap Fire Use Module. Our interagency assists tailed off this year in the effort to attain NPS fuels targets, but we were able to start the season at Eglin Air Force Base in northern Florida. Also, going to planning level V so early we were not able to make a trip to the Everglades this year.

We had four detailers this past season. Two were able to complete taskbooks for Ignition Specialist. All were able to get good experience burning in a variety of fuels. Two of the detailers assisted with burn plan development. It was good to have an outside perspective of the way we run our shop.

Continued support was given by the Great Smokys Fire Management leadership. Kings Mountain provided an engine and personnel to assist on several of our burns. The Midwest Region (NPS) provided the Buffalo Fire Use Module to assist us at Little River Canyon National Preserve, Alabama. Southeast Region Prescribed Fire Specialist Kevin Walsh supported us on many fires as a Helicopter Manager.

Following our core season fire use management team members took various assignments to develop skills and attain qualifications. One member completed her HECM taskbook. The Great Smokys and Cumberland Gap Fire Use Modules combined to staff confine-contain fires in Colorado. Outside of the Wolf Complex in Yosemite National Park we were assigned to suppression efforts near existing fire use incidents.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITS ASSISTED

- Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)
- Little River Canyon National Preserve (LIRI)
- Kings Mountain National Military Park (KIMO)
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)
- Mammoth Cave National Park (MACA)
- Congaree Swamp National Monument (COSW)
- New River Gorge National River (NERI)

INTERAGENCY ASSISTS

Department of Defense, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

SUPPRESSION ASSIGNMENT			
Name	Location	Acres	Positions Filled
B75	Eglin AFB	25	FFT1, ENGB

BURN PLANS

Burn plans were written or updated for 9 units at GUIS, LIRI, KIMO and NERI



WILDLAND FIRE USE			
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIRE USE MODULE			
Incident	Location	Acres	Positions Filled
Wolf Complex	YOSE	580	CRWB, FEMO

PRESCRIBED FIRES

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIRE USE MODULE

Prescribed Fires	Location	Acres	Positions Filled
1002	Eglin AFB	100	FFT2
101A	Eglin AFB	118	RXB2(T), ENGB, FEMO, RX12, FFT2
905A	Eglin AFB	148	ENGB, FFT1, FFT2, FEMO
104B	Eglin AFB	1,300	ENGB, FEMO, FFT1, FFT2
Gopher Tortoise	GUIS	19.2	HLDG Spec, ENGB, FEMO, FFT1, FFT2
South Savanna	GUIS	7	RXB2(T), RX12, FEMO, ENGB, FFT2
NLO-6	GUIS	64	HLDG Spec, RX12(T), ENGB, FEMO, FFT1(T)
Battlefield	KIMO	193	RXB2, RX12, RX12(T), FFT2
Howser House	KIMO	95	RXB2, RX12(T), RX12, FFT2, FEMO(T),
South Y-S Road	KIMO	58	RXB2(T), RX12, RX12(T), FFT2
Coneflower	KIMO	190	RXB2, RXB2(T), RX12, FFT2, FEMO
01-103	LIRI	363	RXB2, RX12, FFT2, PLDO
Brooks Branch	LIRI	34	RXB2, RX12, FFT2
07-08	LIRI	333	RXB2, RX12, FFT2
RCW 1,2,3,4	COSW	575	FEMO, FFT2, ENGB, HLDG Spec.
Job Corps	MACA	80	HLDG Spec, FFT1, FFT2
Temple Hill	MACA	30	HLDG Spec, FFT2
Cades Cove Fields	GRSM	805	RXB2(T), RXB2, FEMO, RX12, RX12(T), FFT2, ENGB
Total Acres		4,51	



SOUTHEAST REGION FIRE EFFECTS MONITORING PROGRAM

The increased amount of prescribed fire activity in the Southeast Region resulted in another busy year for the fire effects staff. Excellent coordination with the Fire Use Modules from CUGA and GRSM enabled the traveling monitoring crews from GRSM and NATR to assist with numerous prescribed burns and allowed for cross training between the two groups. In addition to cross training with the fire use modules, the Southeast Region hosted an RX-80 (Preburn Inventory Techniques) course at Gulf Islands National Seashore in May. The course included cadre and instructors from the USFWS, USFS, TNC, and Eglin AFB. Many of the instructors were lead monitors from parks within the region and they all did an excellent job.

Northeast Region personnel joined the Southeast Region in hosting a workshop in September to provide training in field validation techniques for the Normalized Burn Ratio (NBR) data derived from satellite imagery. The workshop included plot installation in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Shenandoah National Park and all indications are that this technology can be successfully applied in eastern forests. As a result, our crews have begun installing Composite Burn Index (CBI) plots while doing post-burn FMH reads in some larger prescribed fires. Additionally, the EVER staff is experimenting with preburn CBI plots at CANA to enhance our ability to interpret fire severity effects at the plot level. We also intend to begin the development of fire history atlases for several parks this coming year using NBR data.

In addition to field work fire ecologists have been providing input to fire management plan development, monitoring plan development, and burn plan development.

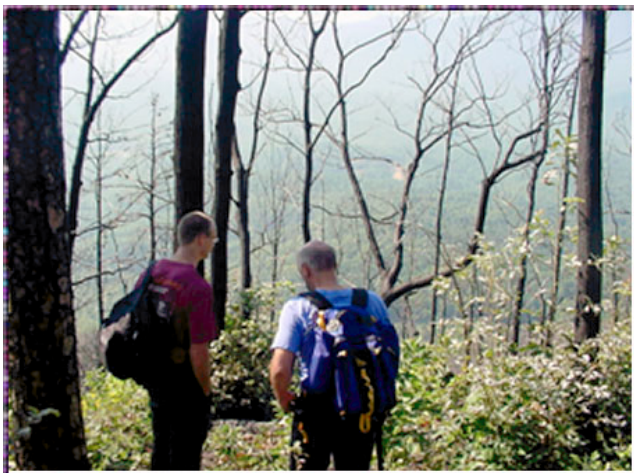
Several research projects are either ongoing or in the proposal/development phase including a dendrochronology study at EVER and a pre-settlement fire regime study at Great Smokys NP. Plans for next year include the continued development of fire monitoring plans and evaluation of alternative monitoring techniques. This includes preburn CBI and cover board density photo plots.



PREBURN INVENTORY TRAINING
GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE



FIRE SEVERITY COMPOSITE BURN INDEX WORKSHOP
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK



FIRE SEVERITY WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

PLOT TOTALS FISCAL YEAR 2002

Park Unit	02 Plots Installed	02 Plots Remeasured	Total # of Plot Monitoring Types as of December 02	Total # of Plots Installed as of December 02	Total # of Photo Points Installed as of December 02	Total # of CBI Plots as of December 02
*BICY	0	5	3	120	62	12

EVERLADES Team

CANA	4	0	2	6	0	5
EVER	20	42	6	67	0	0
TIMU	0	0	0	0	5	0
Team Totals	24	42	8	73	5	5

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS TEAM

BISO	0	0	2	6	0	9
COSW	3	3	1	6	0	0
GRSM	12	16	7	65	6	14
KIMO	16	16	2	23	0	0
Team Totals	41	35	12	100	6	23

NATCHEZ TRACE Team

GUIS	5	17	3	22	0	2
LIRI	12	17	3	18	0	0
MACA	7	4	4	7	0	0
NATR	13	9	2	16	16	0
VICK	0	0	0	0	12	0
Team Totals	37	47	12	63	28	2

Regional Totals

REGION	102	129	35	356	101	42
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OIL WELL BLOWOUT

On Friday, July 19, 2002, in Morgan County, Tennessee, oil and gas drillers labored on a bluff high above the confluence of Clear Creek and White Creek of the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The crew was ill prepared for what they found – a high-pressure, high flow rate oil zone. Oil surged into their well from 2500 feet below the surface. The surging oil quickly filled a holding pit that had been prepared on the surface. Workers scrambled to contain the spill volume with vacuum trucks and hurriedly constructed pits and dikes. They could not stop the stream of oil from seeping into the ground, breaching dikes, and cascading down the cliffs into the near pristine waters of Tennessee's only National Wild and Scenic River.

On Saturday morning, a single spark grew into a huge fireball and rolled off the hill consuming the volatile vapors rising from the oily waters below. After the fireball had consumed the vapors it retreated leaving pools and streaming trails of burning oil.

One of those *threats* to park resources that managers fear the most had become reality.

By Saturday afternoon, the emergency response was in full swing. Local, state and federal emergency responders converged on the site. The National Park Service and other natural resource custodians provided important resource information to help guide the response.

The Obed River and its tributaries form a rugged landscape of wild land and water giving home to a wealth of plant and animal life including four threatened and endangered species. The environment provides a haven for outdoor recreation enthusiasts who visit the area to canoe, fish, hunt, hike, swim, camp and picnic.

Firefighters suppressed the incidental fires. Oil well firefighters were mobilized from Texas to fight the well fire. Much of the new oil flowing from the well burned before it reached the once pristine waters of the Obed Wild and Scenic River. On the otherhand an untold volume of oil seeped through the thin soils around the well into the highly fractured sandstone bedrock and slowly oozed from an underground pathway into Clear Creek at the waterline. Booms were placed in Clear Creek

to collect oil and prevent the oil from moving further downstream. The Texas oil well firefighters snuffed out the drill head fire and secured the well on day 7 of the incident. In the interim responders continued to remove oil from the soils and waters in the vicinity. A long-term containment/recovery plan was developed to manage the ongoing oil seep at the bank of Clear Creek.

No incident response of this nature is without glitches, but overall the response ran smoothly.

It goes without saying that the incident taxed the human resources of the park and directed them away from other important functions. Approximately five miles of Clear Creek remained closed to public use for months. Concern for the resource is paramount, knowing that some time remains before the consequences of the spill are fully understood.

A damage assessment team attended to the natural resource concerns by helping direct a damage assessment.

Under the Oil Pollution Act, the company responsible for the spill is liable not only for all oil removal costs, but is also liable for damage caused by the spill, including compensation for natural resource damages.



OIL WELL BLOWOUT
OIL POURS INTO THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER
SCORCHED TREES BEAR EVIDENCE OF THE FIREBALL
THAT ROLLED DOWN THE SLOPE HOURS EARLIER

The measure of natural resource damage includes the cost of restoring, rehabilitating, replacing, or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged natural resources.

Response and damage assessment are critical elements of a common challenge: balancing the rights and needs of the extractive mining industry while ensuring protection of a park's natural resources, which often are the last vestiges of critical habitat for threatened and endangered species.

In the aftermath of the Obed Oil Well incident the State of Tennessee quickly took steps to head off a repeat disaster.

Within days of the incident oil and gas drill operators were given redirection on the use of blowout prevention equipment. Additionally the State initiated a review of their oil and gas management program. On the down side news of the *gusher* sent waves of excitement through the oil and gas production community. New wells were drilled in the vicinity soon after the Obed oil well incident.

The Obed Wild and Scenic River and its companion park, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, are located on the Cumberland Plateau which sits atop the richest oil and gas deposits within Tennessee.



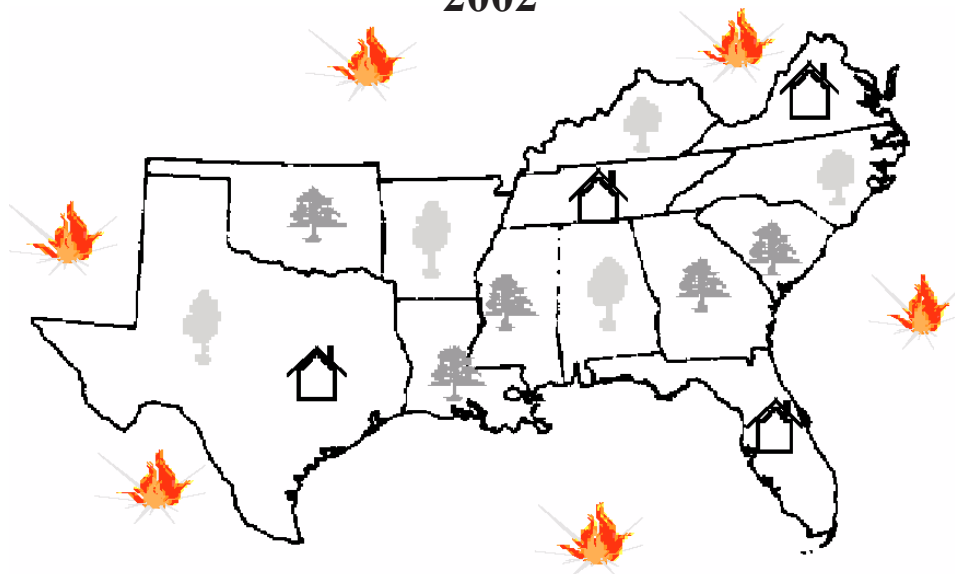
FIREFIGHTERS WORKING THE OBED OIL WELL FIRE
JUNE 2002



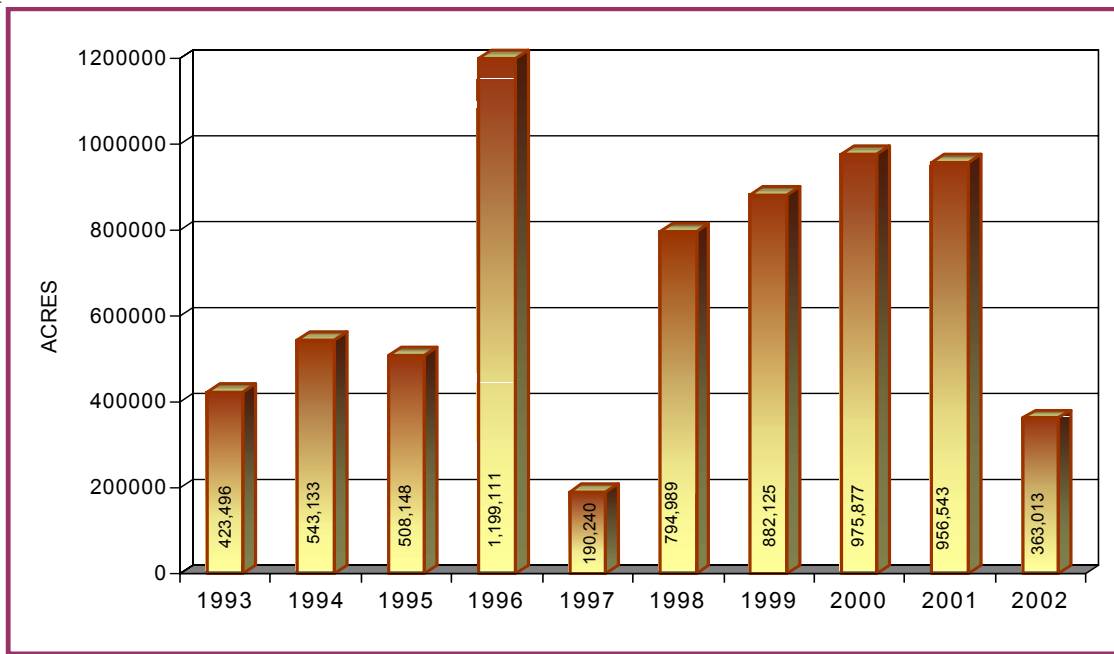
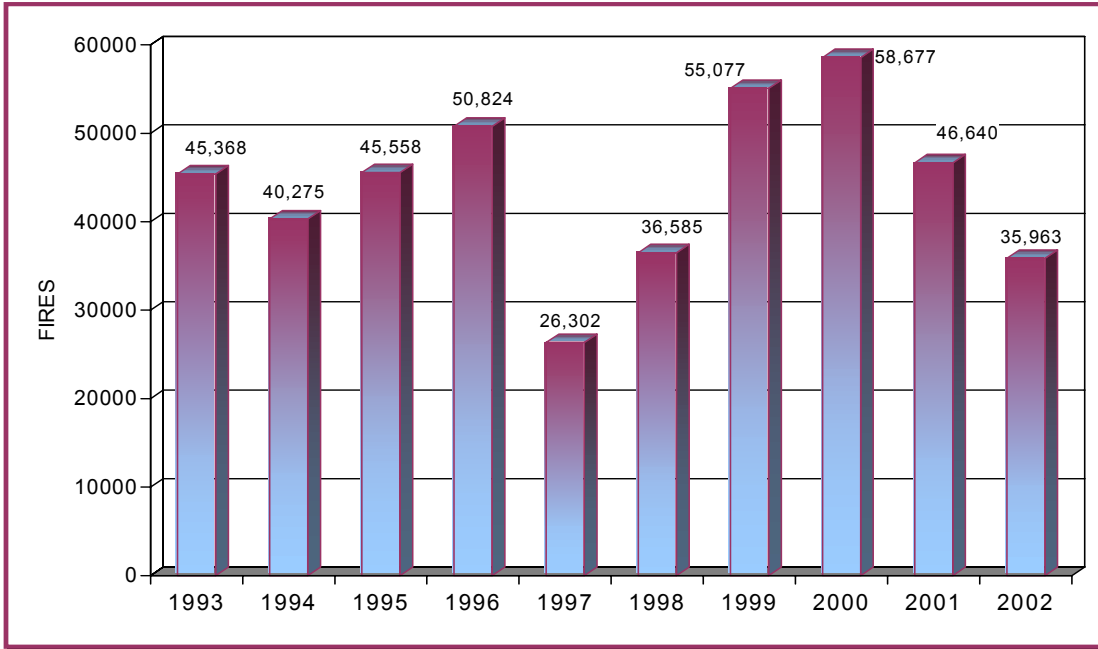
SOUTHERN AREA STATES

ANNUAL FIRE REPORTS

2002

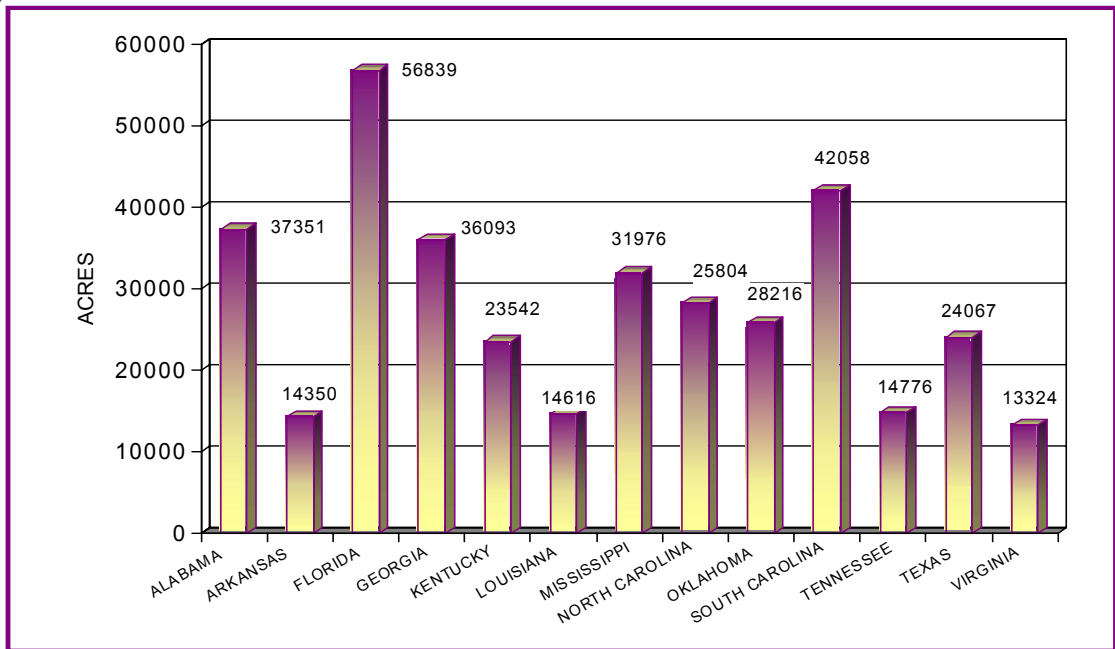
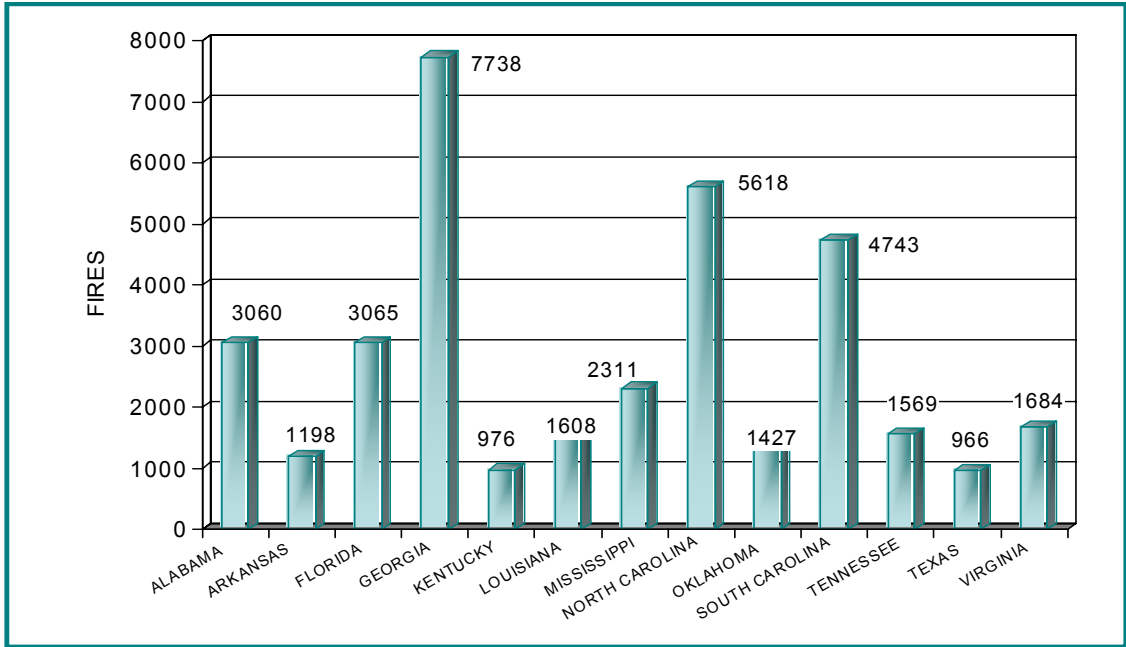


SUMMARY CHARTS SOUTHERN AREA STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES



SOURCE TABLES: APPENDIX A

SUMMARY CHARTS SOUTHERN AREA STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES



SOURCE TABLES: APPENDIX A

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

The Alabama Forestry Commission partners with Alabama’s Volunteer Fire Departments to provide protection from wildfires. The Commission initiates suppression actions quickly and effectively to keep losses at a minimum.

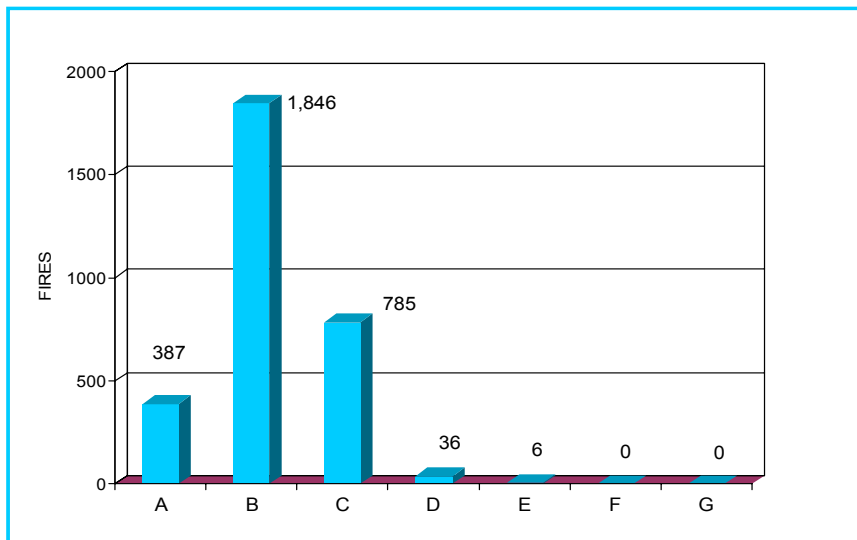
By reducing the amount of woody debris and leaf litter on the forest floor through prescribed burning, the chances of a harmful wildfire are lessened. Prescribed burning can also be used to control unwanted plant growth and to improve wildlife habitat. Close to 1 million acres of land is prescribed burned by landowners in Alabama each year.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Prescribed burning is a service the Forestry Commission offers to landowners. Prescribed burning is the controlled use of fire to achieve forest management objectives.

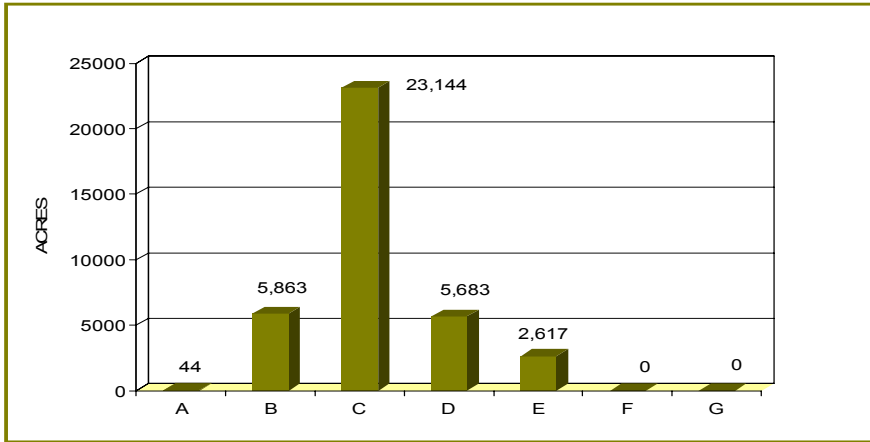
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	387	1,846	785	36	6	0	0	3,060
Acres	44	5,863	23,144	5,683	2,617	0	0	37,350

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



STRUCTURES SAVED AND LOST

ALABAMA

Houses Destroyed	18
Other Structures Destroyed	74
Houses Damaged	11
Other Structures Damaged	17
Houses Saved	978
Other Structures Saved	312

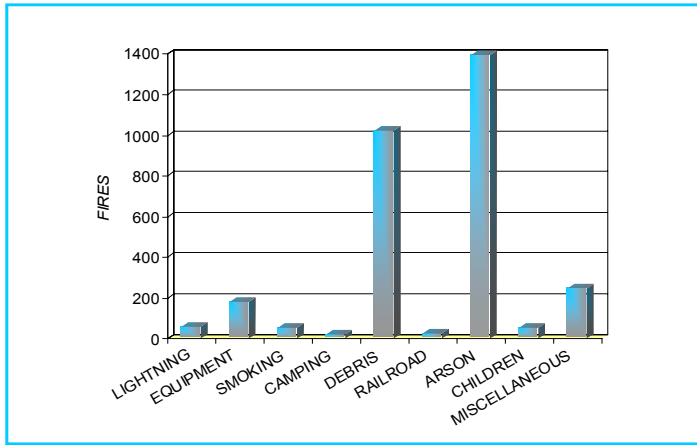
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

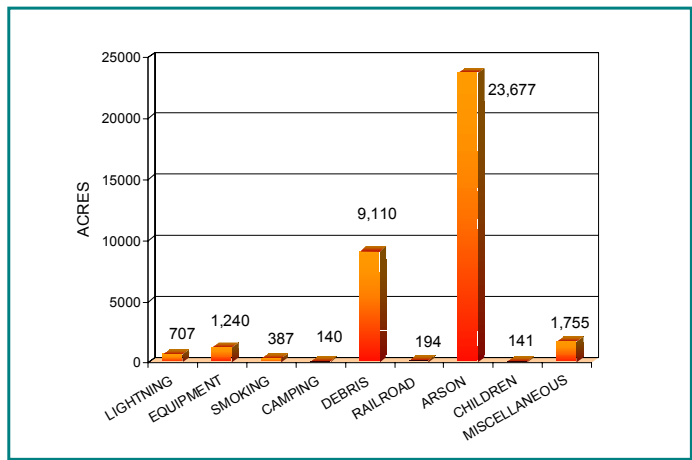
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	59	707
Equipment	183	1,240
Smoking	56	387
Camping	19	140
Debris	1,023	9,110
RR	24	194
Arson	10,394	23,677
Children	54	141
Miscellaneous	248	1,755
Totals	3,060	37,350

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

THE FIRE YEAR

Arkansas did not experience any abnormal wildfire occurrence this year. Sufficient rainfall assisted Arkansas in closing out CY 2002 with the lowest wild fire occurrence in the last 10 years. Arkansas still has a tremendous amount of fuel on the forest floor from the two ice storms that hit in December of 2000. This heavy fuel loading creates the potential for catastrophic wildfires for the next 3 to 4 years.

EQUIPMENT / NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

Arkansas was successful in obtaining supplemental federal funding to purchase and place in service fifteen D5G and three D4G caterpillar dozers.

These larger dozers were instrumental in safely and efficiently suppressing wildfires occurring in these ice-storm damaged areas. Efforts continue to improve and to update wildfire suppression equipment in Arkansas.

Arkansas' Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) program was successfully utilized this year.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission successfully prescribed burned 4,477 acres during CY 2002.

FEMA FLOOR COSTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Total 5-year Cost	\$323,941
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STRUCTURES SAVED AND LOST

ARKANSAS

Houses Destroyed	7
Other Structures Destroyed	0
Houses Damaged	1
Other Structures Damaged	0
Houses Saved	132
Other Structures Saved	0

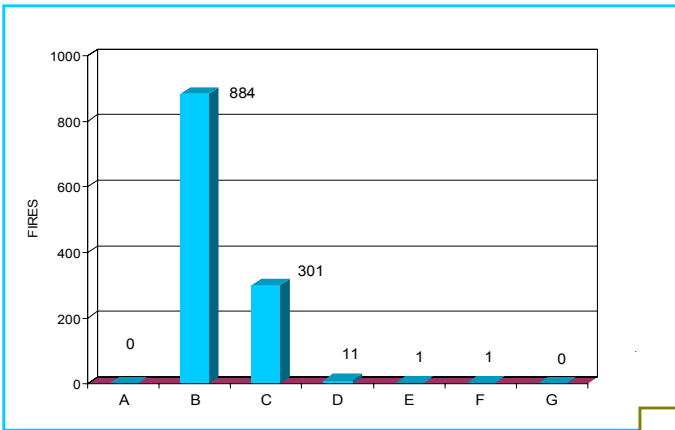
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

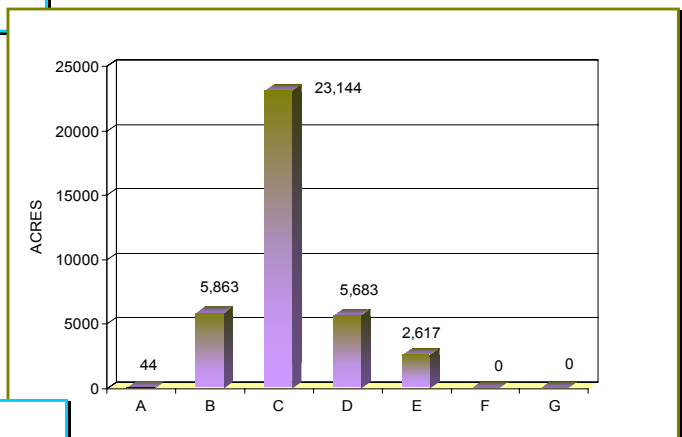
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	0	884	301	11	1	1	0	1,198
Acres	0	2,260	8,442	1,494	375	1,779	0	14,350

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

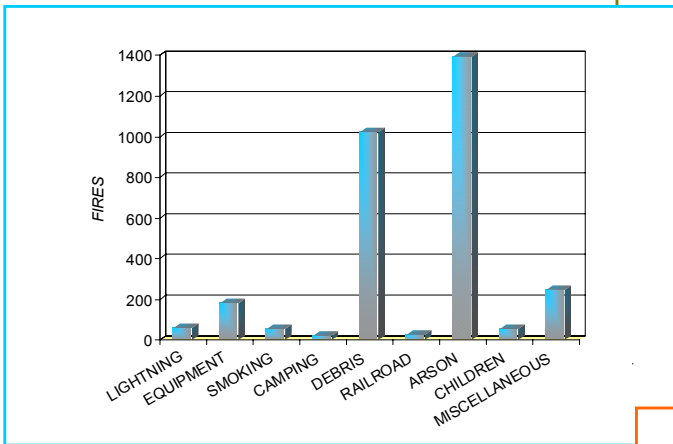
FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



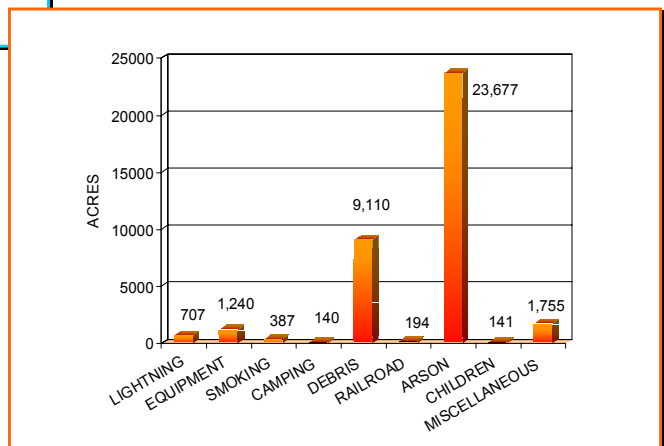
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

WILDFIRE SEASON



The Division of Forestry had its best wildfire season in almost a decade. This enabled the Division to provide substantial wildfire resources and support to other states and to federal agencies during 2002. The Division received three National Awards for Fire Prevention and

Suppression from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management). The awards recognized the Division for its Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program, Federal Excess Property Program, and the State Fire Assistance Program, for exemplary outreach to under-served communities. The awards highlighted Florida's expanded support of fire programs to local and rural communities. The Division also received two *Golden Smokeys* for work in Fire Prevention and Firewise Communities Program.

FIRE WEATHER

Drought conditions that had persisted across the state for the past several years were finally alleviated in 2002. The average Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) began the year at 454 and ended the year at 75. With the exception of a very dry May, the state received normal to above normal rainfall every month in 2002, resulting in decreased fire activity for the year. An active tropical storm season produced plentiful rainfall in early fall. A developing El Nino resulted in above normal precipitation for the end of the year (November-December).

For the first time in four years the State of Florida had no major fire declarations and managed fire operations within existing budgeted funds. The Division of Forestry supported fire operations for the Dead End Fire on the Osceola National Forest by sending its Gold Incident Management Team to manage the incident. The division also provided fire suppression and support assistance for the Blackjack Fire Complex on the Okefenokee National Wildfire Refuge. Over 600 single resources and crew personnel supported western fires in several states. This included an assignment on the Hayman Fire in Colorado wherein the Division's Green IMT managed a Burned Area Rehabilitation effort in Colorado on the Hayman fire.

PREVENTION

During 2002, the Division of Forestry continued to place emphasis on public education in wildfire prevention and wildfire hazard mitigation.

The Division of Forestry's interactive *Florida Wildfire Prevention* CD-ROM and *Instructor's Guide* was distributed to 5,000 elementary school and middle school teachers. Another 5,000 are targeted for distribution during Calendar Year 2003. This educational package is designed to teach basic wildfire prevention, fire ecology and home fire safety to Florida students in Grades 4-6. The training materials are correlated with the Florida Sunshine State Teaching Standards and include FCAT testing samples.

Forestry personnel participated in a number of Fire Prevention Strike Team assignments again this year. The Division of Forestry supported a National Interagency Fire Prevention Strike Team in the Ocala area. In addition, four team members from Florida were sent to Kentucky for team assignment, as well as a team member and leader to the Washington/Oregon area for team assignment.

In a continuing effort to deal with the wildland/urban interface fire problem, Florida hosted eight local Firewise Communities workshops as well as two Firewise Facilitator training sessions. Since August of 2000, nineteen one-day Firewise Communities workshops and three Facilitator Training Sessions have been held in Florida to an audience of over 1,000 individuals.

Six Wildfire Mitigation Specialists continued to work closely with the state's print and broadcast media as part of the Division's statewide wildfire prevention campaign. Ninety-one news releases and 3,344 media contacts were made by the Mitigation Specialists during 2002.

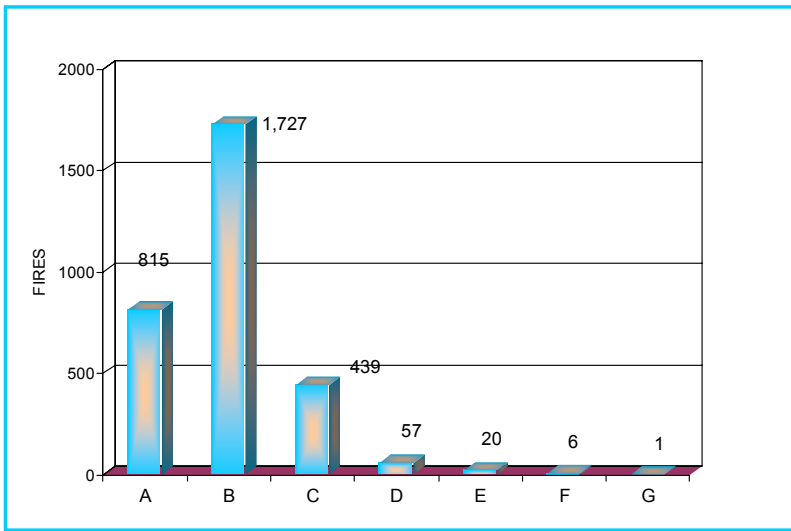
In recognition of the Division of Forestry's leadership role in Fire Prevention at both the regional and national level, the agency was presented the Golden Smokey Bear Award by the U.S. Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters and The Advertising Council.

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY		
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	625	17644
Equipment	205	2023
Smoking	47	127
Camping	60	1106
Debris	717	6934
RR	46	1320
Arson	457	10683
Children	164	7261
Miscellaneous	744	9741
Totals	3065	56829

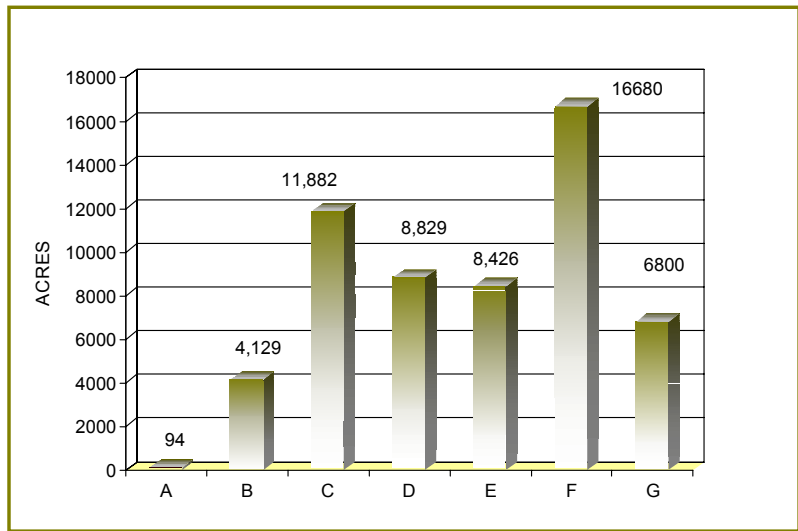
FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	815	1727	439	57	20	6	1	3065
Acres	94	4129	11882	8829	8426	16680	6800	56839

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FIRE MANAGEMENT

The two-year project, *Fire Risk Assessment System*, was completed and approved by the Division in December of 2002. The Environmental Control Section managed the project ensuring a product that would be useful to the Division of Forestry and other state, federal and private agencies. The FRAS provides a graphic depicting the potential wildland fire hazards that can be shared with Florida's decision makers.

Fire in Florida's Ecosystem, a middle school curriculum, was also completed. Pandion Systems, the contractor, met the goal of training 1200 teachers. The teachers were provided instructional kits which allowed them to begin teaching lessons immediately. The curriculum was matched to the Florida grade level standards.

The first *Fire and Climate Workshop* was held in Florida. The workshop brought the land management and meteorological communities together in hopes of opening a dialog that would lead to climatological products that better meet the needs of land/fire managers in the future.

TRAINING

The Center for Wildfire and Forest Resource Management Training provided sessions in 24 different ICS courses for 451 Division employees and 252 cooperators. Center staff taught additional (3) ICS courses to a total of 54 cooperators at the Great Florida Fire School. An additional 450 volunteer firefighters received Basic Firefighter training through the Division's local units.



BURNING AUTHORIZATION SUMMARY

Florida Division of Forestry		
Type Burn	Authorized Fires	Authorized Acres
Agriculture	64,297	888,034
Silviculture	7,231	1,149,494
Land Clearing	42,599	46,965
TOTAL	114,127	2,084,493

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE

The Division administered the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program to volunteer fire departments that serviced communities with a population of 10,000 or less. Approximately \$240,271 was awarded to 92 fire departments. This was a 50% matching fund, which enabled the fire departments to purchase approximately \$480,542 of equipment and supplies.

AVIATION EQUIPMENT

The Division presently has nine helicopters: 3 Super Hueys, 3 Cobras, 2 OH-58s, and 1 UH-1. The Division has obtained over \$100,000,000 in Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) for the long-term support of the Super Hueys and Cobras. The Cobras are currently being modified to include a 360-gallon capacity snorkel-filled drop tank. The 2 OH-58s have been modified to be used primarily for controlled burning efforts. The outdated UH-1 will be replaced with an additional Super Huey later this year. The nineteen fixed-wing aircraft flew a total of 2,702 hours; rotor-wing aircraft flew a total of 762 hours.

As part of a test program for the U.S. Forest Service, the Division provided one Cobra to be tested and evaluated in performing aerial management supervision on the southern California fires. The evaluation was a success and the U.S. Forest Service is moving forward with plans to move this type of modified aircraft into their inventory.

FEPP SUCCESS



GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) managed 7,738 wildland fires which burned 36,093 acres during CY 2002. Fire numbers were down somewhat in CY 2002 due to fairly wet conditions with no significant long lasting drought conditions. The Georgia Forestry Commission did experience a large incident in the spring of 2002 with the Blackjack Bay Complex. Three fires within the complex burned a total of 124,104 acres. This was a large multi-agency incident concerning several cooperators: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Florida Division of Forestry, local forest industry cooperators, local fire departments and private contractors.

The Georgia Forestry Commission assisted 2,210 landowners in prescribed burning for CY 2002. A total of 96,854 acres were prescribed burned.

In 2002 the Georgia Forestry Commission deployed approximately 75 firefighters to the western states for assignments on large incidents. In addition to GFC personnel approximately 20 rural fire department firefighters were deployed.

WILDLAND FIRE ACTIVITY	
FIRES	7,910
ACRES	36,329

THE GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION
ASSISTED PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WITH
PRESCRIBED BURNING 96,854 ACRES
DURING CY 2002

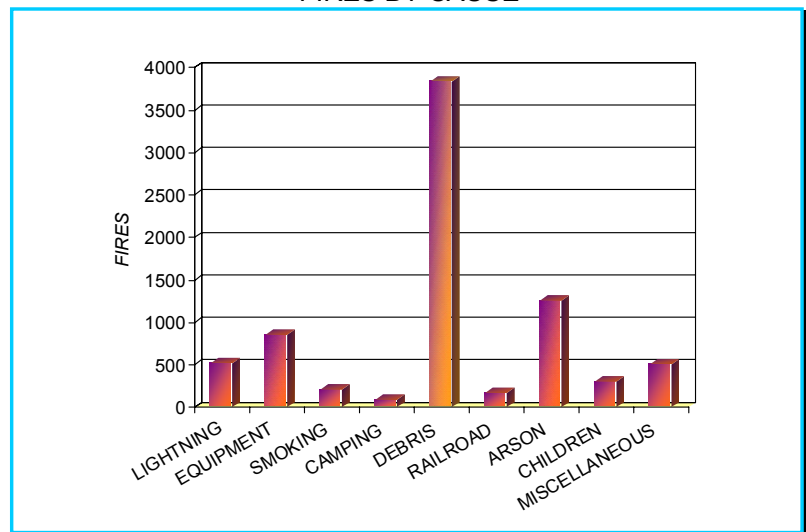
FIRE SAFETY YEARLY REPORT CY 2002						
Forest Fire Related Fatalities	GFC Personnel	0	Fire Dept	0	Civilian	0
Lost Time Injuries	GFC Personnel	3	Fire Dept	0	Civilian	0
Traffic Accidents-Visibility Related	Highway Accidents	6	Injuries	9	Fatalities	0
	Other Accidents	0	Injuries	0	Fatalities	0
Firefighter Safety Threat	Firefighters Trapped	0	Fire Shelter Used	0	Abandon Work Area	0

STRUCTURES SAVED AND LOST		
GEORGIA		
Houses Destroyed or Damaged	64	\$1,576,045
Other Structures Destroyed	178	\$1,909,165
Homes/Outbuildings Threatened	1,255	\$101,939,899
Motorized	214	\$710,311
Cash Crops Lost		\$40,961
Homes, Outbuildings Threatened	1,255	\$15,340

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION		
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	520	-
Equipment	854	No
Smoking	211	Data
Camping	90	-
Debris	3838	-
RR	171	-
Arson	1254	-
Children	296	-
Miscellaneous	504	-
Totals	7738	36,093

FIRES BY CAUSE



KENTUCKY DIVISION OF FORESTRY ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

FIRE SEASON

The fall fire season was the lightest on record for Kentucky. The spring fire season was fairly busy yet no fire emergencies were declared. For the first time since 1997 we did not have to activate our overhead teams. For the first time since 1999 we did not have to order an outside team.

A major highlight for us was our Wildland Fire and Communities-at-Risk Summit held in October. The summit was an interagency effort funded by a National Fire Plan grant. The summit focused on arson as a local community responsibility.

Another area of interagency cooperation was our work with the McCreary County Firewise Council. The council completed a fire mitigation assessment and initiated use of the mitigation practices which were identified in the plan. The council's activities were also funded by national fire plan grants.

STRUCTURES SAVED AND LOST

State of Kentucky	
Houses Destroyed	2
Other Structures Destroyed	20
Houses Damaged	2
Other Structures Damaged	15
Houses Saved	104
Other Structures Saved	62

FIVE YEAR AVERAGE FIRE COST

STATE OF KENTUCKY	
Average Fiscal Year Fire Cost	\$3,994,188.04
State Floor Cost	\$199,709.40

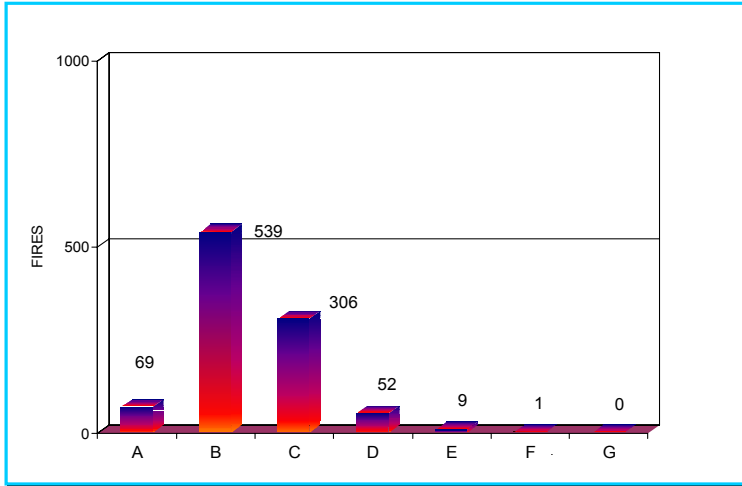
FEMA FLOOR COSTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

STATE OF KENTUCKY	
FISCAL YEAR	FIRE COSTS
1996	2,790,726
1997	3,380,004
1998	4,212,741
1999	4,704,234.24
2000*	1,552,464.01
2001	4,883,234.24
2002*	7,155,898.13
Total 5-year Cost	19,970.940.18

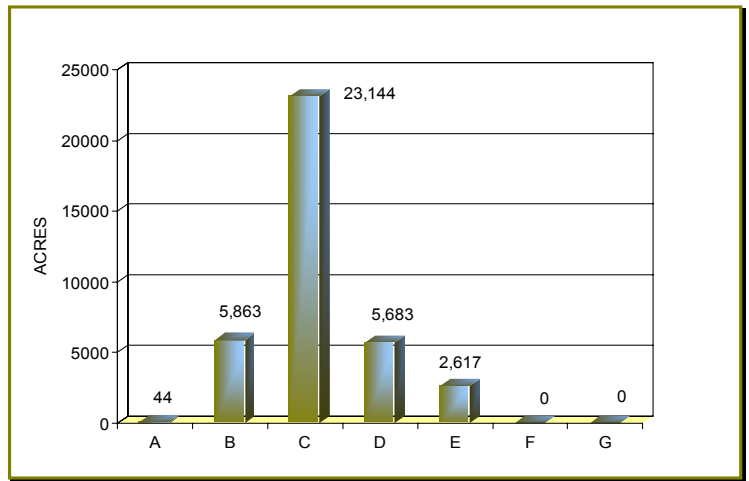
*Highest and lowest fiscal year expenditures deleted in computing 5-year average.

WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS								
KENTUCKY DIVISION OF FORESTRY								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	69	539	306	52	9	1	0	976
Acres	18	1,405	9,341	7,662	3,916	1,200	0	23,542

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FEPP SUCCESS

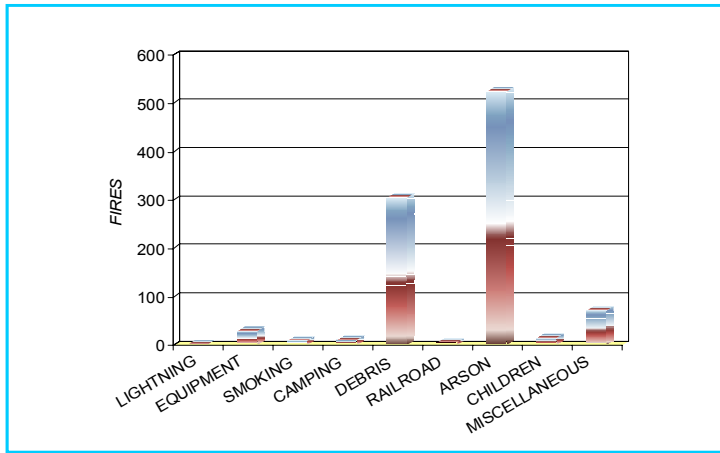
An excess HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) or as it is affectionately known....HUMVEE. A rare find. Now put to good use on the Kentucky fire line.



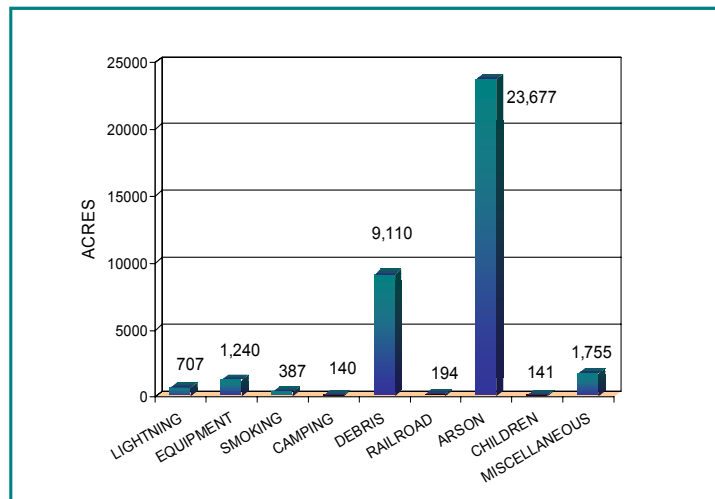
KENTUCKY DIVISION OF FORESTRY

WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE		
Kentucky Division of Forestry		
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	2	1
Equipment	30	465
Smoking	10	250
Camping	11	317
Debris	305	5,915
RR	6	60
Arson	524	15,786
Children	16	70
Miscellaneous	72	678
Totals	976	23,542

FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



LOUISIANA DIVISION OF FORESTRY ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

ANNUAL WILDFIRE SUMMARY REPORT (FS-3100-08)

LOUISIANA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

CY 2002

Total Acres Protected: 18,831,000

WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE

Cause	Fires	Acres
Lightning	7	78
Equipment	3	13
Smoking	69	858.5
Camping	494	3,684.75
Debris	615	6008.5
RR	41	231.5
Arson	22	29.75
Children	131	2,004.5
Miscellaneous (410+111 & 725.5+982)	226	1,707.5
Other (Included with Miscellaneous)		
Total	1,608	14,616.0

WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS

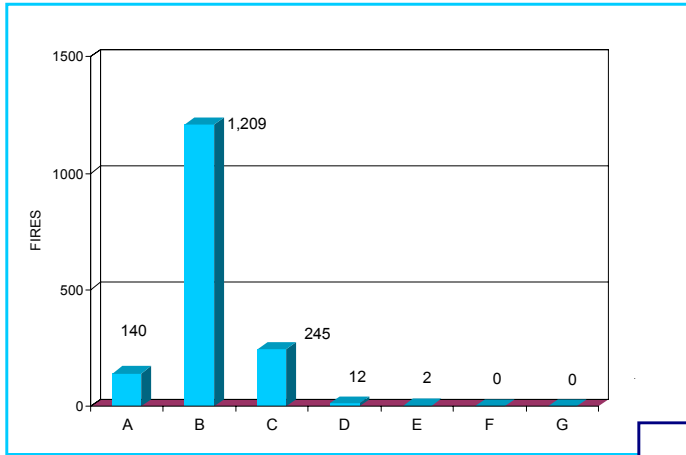
Class	Fires	Acres
Class A	140	32.25
Class B	1,209	3,863.75
Class C	245	7,640
Class D	12	2,108
Class E	2	9,720
Class F	0	0
Class G	0	0
TOTAL	1,608	14,616

STRUCTURES SAVED, DAMAGED, LOST

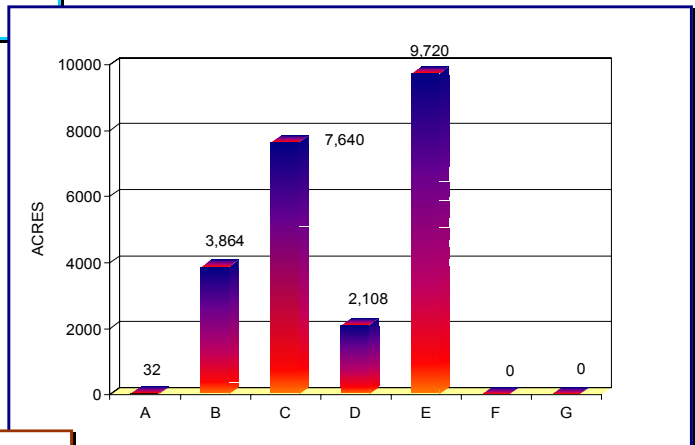
Houses Destroyed	0
Other Structures Destroyed	0
Houses Damged	18
Other Structures Damaged	27
Houses Saved	422
Other Structures Saved	416

LOUISIANA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

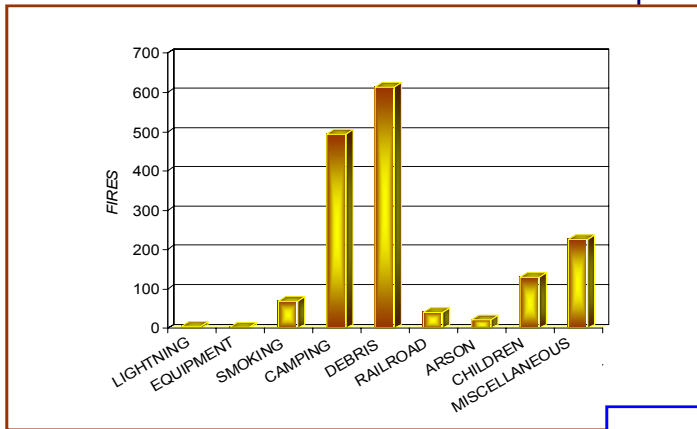
FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



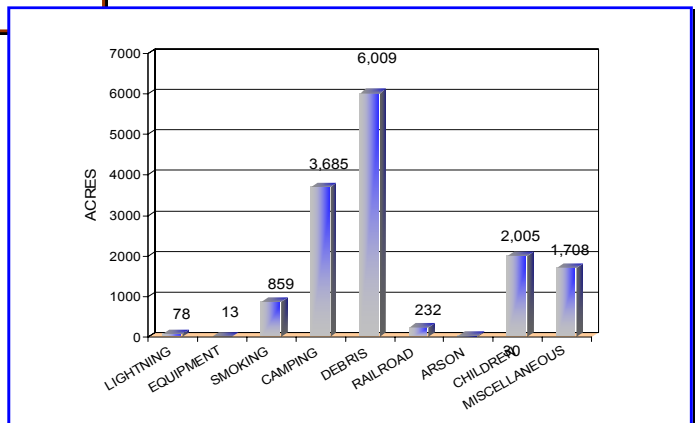
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE

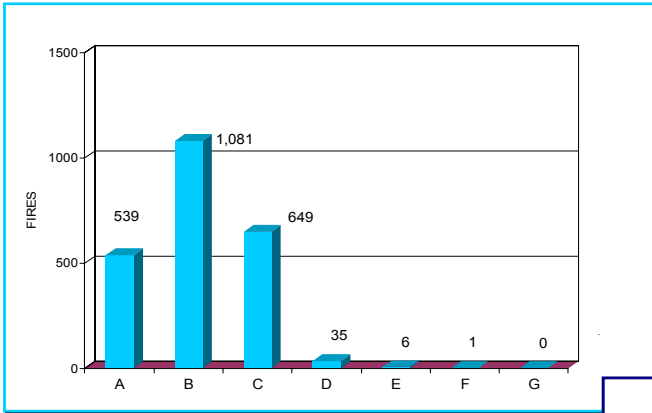


MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

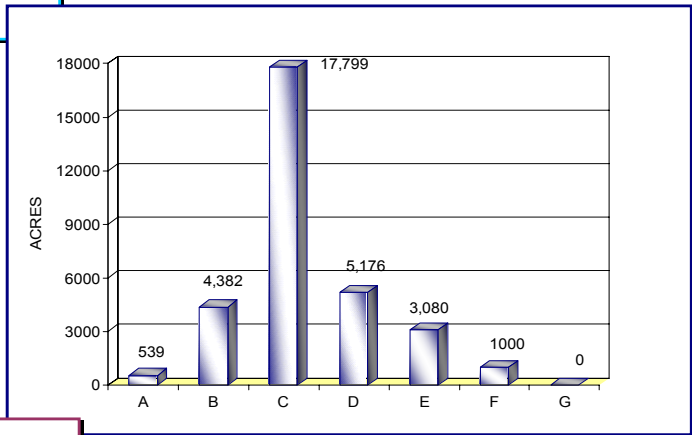
ANNUAL WILDFIRE SUMMARY REPORT (FS-3100-08)		
MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION		CY 2002
Total Acres Protected: 18.6 MILLION		
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE	Fires	Acres
Lightning	10	126
Equipment	5	21
Smoking	21	181
Camping	900	8446
Debris	1138	19967
RR	46	384
Arson	4	9
Children	17	65
Miscellaneous (410+111 & 725.5+982)	118	2348
Other (Included with Miscellaneous)	52	429
Total	2,311	31,976
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS		
Class	Fires	Acres
Class A	539	539
Class B	1081	4382
Class C	649	17799
Class D	35	5176
Class E	6	3080
Class F	1	1000
Class G	0	0
TOTAL	2,311	31,976
STRUCTURES SAVED, DAMAGED, LOST		
Houses Destroyed		12
Other Structures Destroyed		1
Houses Damged		8
Other Structures Damaged		8
Houses Saved		-
Other Structures Saved		-

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

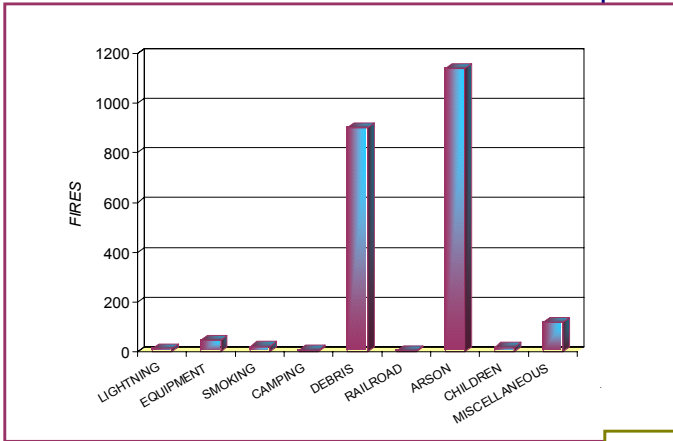
FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



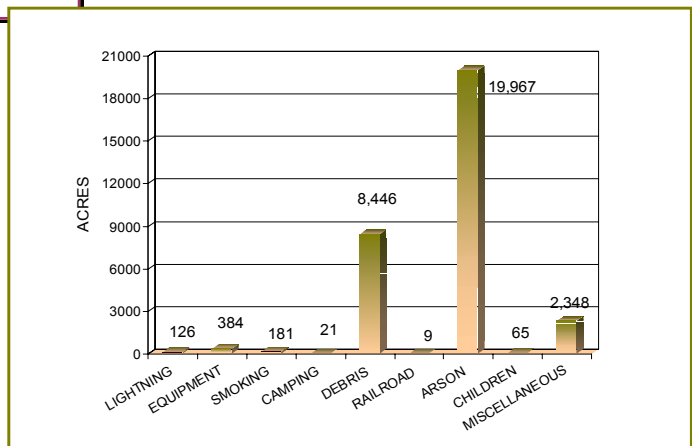
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

The Division continues to be an active participant in implementation of the National Fire Plan administered by the US Departments of Agriculture and Interior in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters. Federal grants available through the National Fire Plan are being utilized to increase fire preparedness and mitigate hazards in North Carolina. Newly developed risk assessment and mitigation strategies such as Firewise are being utilized.

WILDLAND FIRE ACTIVITY

The Division of Forest Resources has the responsibility for protecting 17 million acres of state and privately owned forestland in North Carolina from forest fires. Wildfires for CY 2002 totaled 5,480, which remarkably was a decrease from the extensive fire season in CY 2001 of 8,128 fires. Though North Carolina experienced a decrease in the number of fires, more acres were lost in 2002 than the prior year.

WEATHER SUMMARY

Over the past 10 years North Carolina has been hit with several hurricanes, ice storms and wind storms. These events have left behind a large amount of fuel, particularly within urban interface areas. The fuel has cured over the years creating a hazard for citizens living in the affected areas. Fires have been occurring not only during the normal fire season, but also during dry summer months. In addition, much of the state was under a moderate to severe drought throughout 2002, not allowing the precipitation that was received to overcome the rainfall deficiency.

FIRE HISTORY		
Year	Fires	Acres Burned
1992	5,625	23,952
1993	4,701	25,304
1994	5,721	26,625
1995	5,286	21,253
1996	4,264	15,960
1997	4,539	16,274
1998	4,317	15,699
1999	6,244	28,298
2000	4,949	25,146
2001	8,128	28,691
2002	5,480	28,769

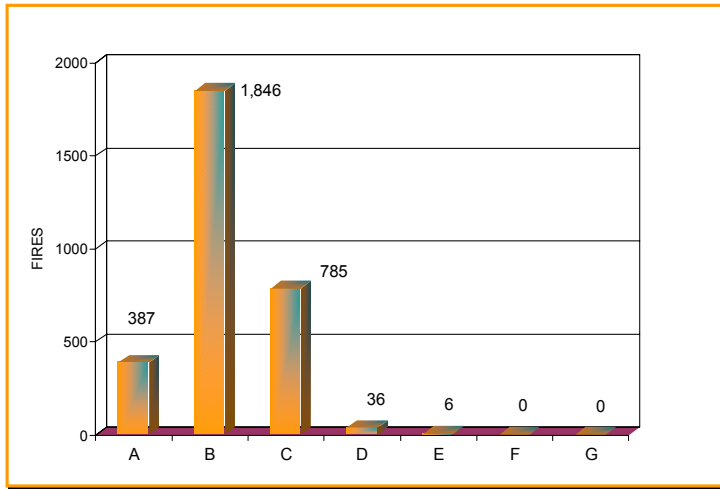
WILDFIRES & ACRES BY SIZE CLASS

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

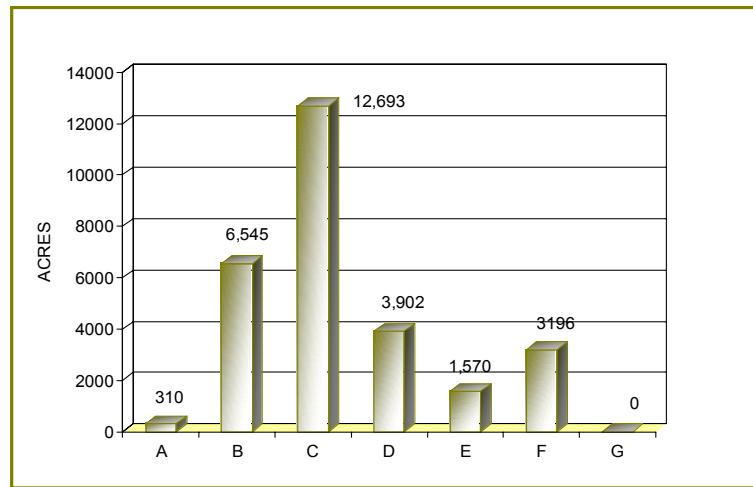
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Fires	1984	3120	480	29	3	2	0	5,618
Acres	310	6545	12693	3902	1570	3196	0	28,216

NORTH CAROLINA NATURAL RESOURCES

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



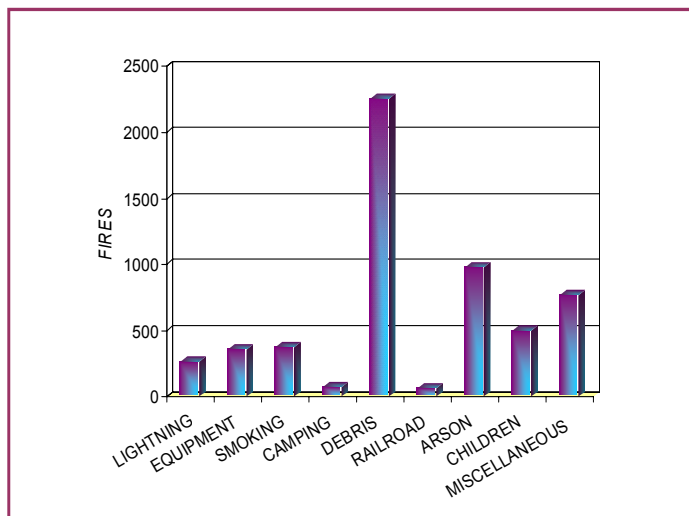
WILDLAND FIRES BY CAUSE

NORTH CAROLINA

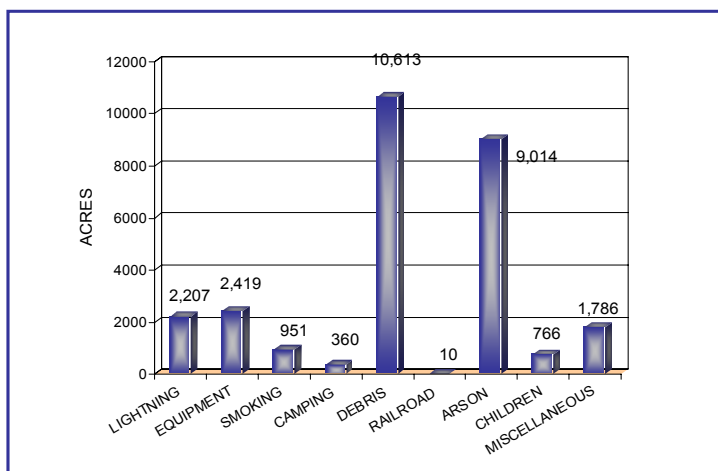
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	261	2207
Equipment	360	2419
Smoking	370	951
Camping	73	360
Debris	2250	10613
RR	65	100
Arson	975	9014
Children	500	766
Miscellaneous	764	1786
Totals	5,618	28,216

NORTH CAROLINA NATURAL RESOURCES

FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



HAZARD FUELS REDUCTION

The burning of brush, grass, and pine litter in pine forests under controlled conditions has been an accepted practice to reduce or eliminate losses from destructive forest fires in the South for generations. This type of prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools in fire prevention and very effective in reducing fire hazards in the wildland fire urban interface where homes and other structures may be threatened. Days suitable for this kind of burning are very limited because of the weather conditions needed to protect the forest from excessive damage from the prescribed burns.

The Division established a Landowner Hazard Reduction Prescribed Burning Program to encourage forest landowners to prescribe burn their forestland in an effort to reduce the losses from forest fires. In addition to providing protection from forest fires, prescribed burns eliminate undesirable vegetation and improve wildlife habitat for quail, deer and wild turkeys.

The Division trains landowners how to burn; plow control lines, and advises when weather conditions are suitable to burn.

HAZARD REDUCTION BURNING

CY	Acres Burned
1991	105,500
1992	89,153
1993	107,968
1994	93,201
1995	98,948
1996	142,989
1997	128,344
1998	75,633
1999	69,864
2000	54,623
2001	58,614

TRAINING

The NC Division of Forest Resources has placed a great deal of emphasis on wildland fire training for a number of years. This emphasis has focused on advanced level and Incident Team training during this calendar year. Budget restrictions have created many hardships for the Division, but our management and membership has had the vision to continue promoting training from a division program standpoint. They have recognized that training must continue despite recent budget restrictions, so the Division may be able to respond to incidents efficiently, effectively, and safely.

ADVANCED LEVEL TRAINING

I-400	Advanced ICS
S-400	Incident Commander
S-440	Planning Section Chief
S-450	Logistics Section Chief
S-460	Finance Section Chief
S-470	Air Ops Branch Director
CIMC	Complex Incident Management

The advanced level courses, identified above, were presented either solely by the Division or in cooperation with other fire related agencies.

The Division has also reached out to other agencies to provide training and Incident Team support. An agreement was signed with the NC Department of Agriculture to provide Incident Management Teams in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak. Division personnel are continuously and actively providing ICS training to state and local emergency response agencies.

PLANNED FOR CY2003

ADVANCED LEVEL TRAINING

S-491	NFDRS
S-403	Information Officer
S-404	Safety Officer
S-430	Operations Section
CIMC	Complex Incident Management

OUT-OF-STATE DISPATCH

The Division provides the Federal Land Management agencies and other states with fire suppression resources through a mutual aid, shared resource agreement. During periods of extreme fire occurrence, the Division provides trained personnel and equipment for dispatch to virtually any location within the United States.

In 2002, the NC Division of Forest Resources sent 368 personnel west to assist with the critical fire situation in the Western US. Eight 20 person crews were included in this number as well as 45 personnel on a Type II Fire Team, which managed the Mule Fire in Wyoming. Task forces of six-tractor plow units were also sent to Florida in May of 2002.

STATE OWNED AIRCRAFT

Service Year	Number of Fires	Structures Threatened/Saved	Value Threatened/Saved
Contract CL-215 * 1999-2000	30	546	\$16,350,000
State Owned CL-215 1999-2000	47	572	\$37,385,000
State Owned CL-215 2001-2002	36	218	\$17,617,500
Total	113	1,336	\$71,352,500

* Contract CL-215 numbers from both spring of 1999 & 2000

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources provides assistance to the 1600+ fire departments in N.C. through several programs. These programs offer a variety of fire training courses, grants, equipment by loan agreements, and equipment and supplies for purchasing by fire departments.

NCDFR awarded 141 fire departments with grants totaling \$155,697 for Wildland PPE this past fiscal year. In addition NCDFR completed 1,116 hours of training to 1,574 firemen throughout the state.

In addition, NCDFR had 125 orders placed for GSA purchasing which totaled close to \$76,000. Ninety-five fire departments in the state also purchase more than 4,200 gallons of Class -A Foam for wildland fire suppression use this year.

Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, the N.C. Division of Forest Resources is allowed to obtain Federal Excess Personnel Property from the federal government and loan it to fire departments. This past year the Division loaned 21 vehicles, 7 generators and a 500-gallon tank and skid unit.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Division's four full-time Law Enforcement Officers coordinate the enforcement activities of the 580 Forest Rangers in the state. They provide specialized training in arson investigation, fire cause and origin determination and forest laws to the forest rangers. They assist the rangers with court cases and handle the difficult cases themselves. These officers also provide a coordination function with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Other collateral functions handled by the DFR Law Enforcement Section include: facility security, debt collection and safety.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

North Carolina Natural Resources

Warnings Issued	1,854
Court Cases	145
Total Law Enforcement Actions	1,199

FIRE PREVENTION

Over the past three years the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources has done extensive "Fire Prevention Education Team Training" for the Southern Region at NCDFR's Crossnore Training Facility. This has allowed the division to put a greater emphasis on using prevention teams throughout the state in times of potentially high fire danger. North Carolina has also produced a shorter Southern version of the "Living With Fire" publication. The tabloid will be inserted in over a million newspapers this year. A copy is being made available to the SGSF to be modified to become state specific. Division personnel are presently mapping critical areas, pre-planning attack on critical areas, coordinating response directives, training with local VFDs, preparing public awareness campaigns, and assisting with the establishment of local homeowners and landowners protection associations.



OKLAHOMA DIVISION OF FORESTRY ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

The 2002 Fire Season was only remarkable in that it represented a return to near normal fire activity --when compared to the previous seven years. The panhandle counties were in a severe drought episode for about 8 months of the year. The panhandle counties were under an outdoor burning ban from July 2001 to August 2002. Texas County, located in the panhandle, reported less than 10 inches of rain for the period.

Floor costs – Oklahoma’s Floor Costs are \$329,013. According to information received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on May 7, 2002, Floor Costs are no longer being used by FEMA. Individual Fire Cost Threshold and Cumulative Fire Cost Thresholds have replaced them. Using the most recent official population estimate for Oklahoma of 3,460,097 people, Oklahoma’s Individual Fire Cost Threshold would be \$185,115 and our Cumulative Fire Cost Threshold would be \$555,345.

Oklahoma experienced its first year with a new limited liability law for prescribed burning. The new law was confusing. Efforts are underway to revise it.

COOPERATION

Forestry Services designed, developed and presented a joint federal/state aviation training exercise with the Army National Guard. We involved Federal agencies from DOI, USDA, and military personnel in addition to the State personnel in both the development and presentation of the session.

Forestry Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs co-hosted a National/Regional Firewise workshop in Norman, Oklahoma in October. Local, State and Federal cooperators participated.

We hosted a S420, Command and General Staff, training course. The session was designed specifically for USDA APHIS personnel and State Emergency Management & Animal Industry cooperators. In conjunction with this workshop we also designed, developed and presented a separate simulation exercise for animal health response incidents. Patterned after the S420 exercise, this training hosted local and National USDA APHIS personnel and state animal industry personnel.

We developed and presented a *remembrance* NYC World Trade Center disaster program. The program identified local efforts in assisting the World Trade Center disaster incident. It was presented to high school programs in September of 2002 in both Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Forestry Services firefighters supported national mobilization to the severe western fire season by accepting over 70 missions as overhead and firefighters.

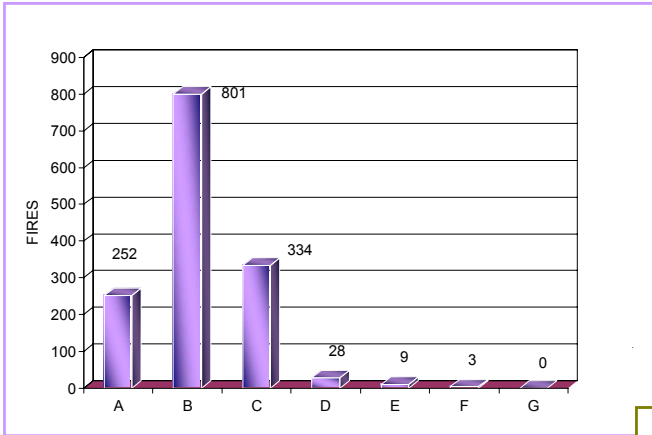
Oklahoma Floor Cost Calculations	
Year	Qualifying Fire Expenses
1996	\$6,047,839
1997	\$5,340,380
1998	\$5,634,006
1999	\$7,362,070
2000	\$7,060,277
2001	\$6,863,281
2002	\$7,295,847
Sum	\$45,603,701
High and Low	\$12,702,450
5 yr. Totals	\$32,901,250
Avg. Costs	\$6,580,250.03
Floor Costs	\$329,013

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

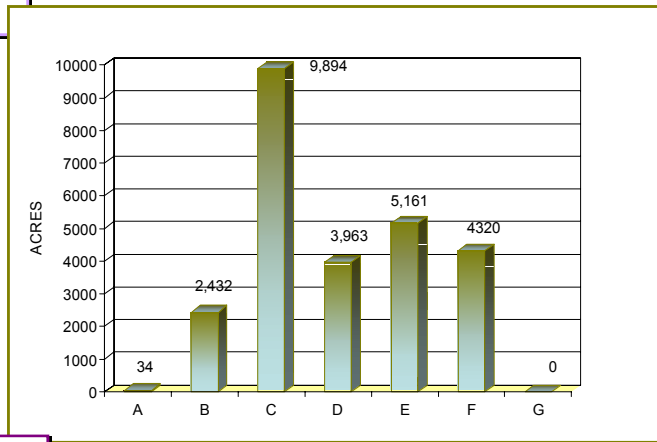
ANNUAL WILDFIRE SUMMARY REPORT (FS-3100-08)		
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		CY 2002
Total Acres Protected: Not Available		
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE	Fires	Acres
Lightning	13	215
Equipment	103	699
Smoking	0	0
Camping	7	52
Debris	339	7340
RR	23	18
Arson	908	16791
Children	6	31
Miscellaneous	28	658
Total	1427	25804
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS		
Class		
Class A	252	34
Class B	801	2432
Class C	334	9894
Class D	28	3963
Class E	9	5161
Class F	3	4320
Class G	0	0
TOTAL	1427	25804
STRUCTURES SAVED, DAMAGED, LOST		
Houses Destroyed		2
Other Structures Destroyed		35
Houses Damaged		3
Other Structures Damaged		15
Houses Saved		3
Other Structures Saved		15

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

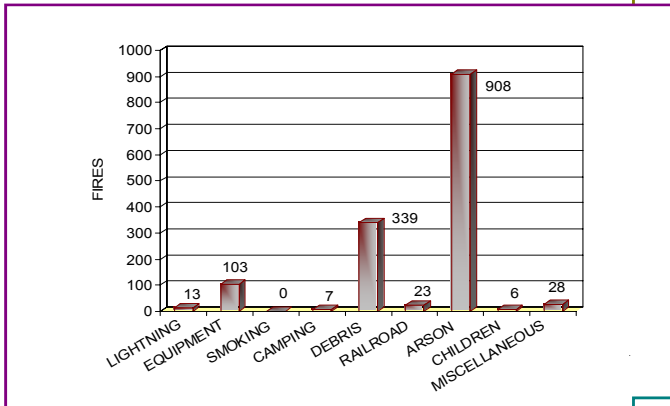
FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



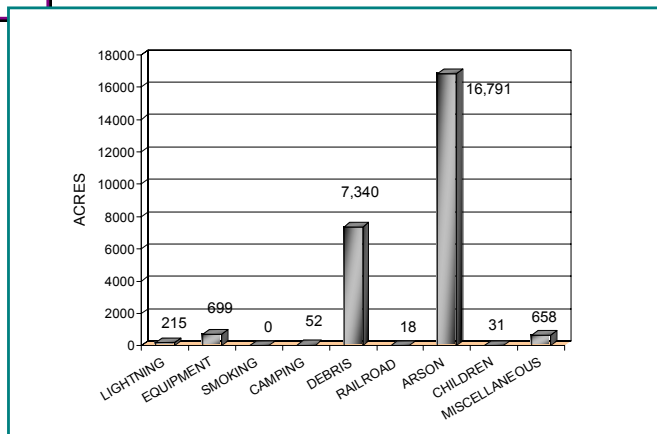
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Commission is a 500-employee state agency charged with protecting and enhancing South Carolina's forest resources. Forest firefighters are based in every county for quick response to wildfires. Project foresters are available to assist landowners throughout the state. Three regional dispatch centers coordinate statewide forest protection. The Commission operates three state forests, and a modern forest nursery and greenhouse which grows over 17 million containerized and bareroot seedling species for S.C. landowners. The Commission provides a range of educational programs to better inform the state's citizens concerning the wise use and management of South Carolina's forest resources.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

During CY 2002 South Carolina had several difficult wildland-urban interface fires that required a response from multiple fire departments and agencies. Approximately 12,000 homes were directly threatened by these fires.

South Carolina experienced extreme drought conditions but managed to hold losses to a respectable level.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission, through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, had one FEMA Fire Management Assistance declaration on a wildland urban interface fire (Legends Fire) near Myrtle Beach. The fire burned in June and July which was the peak tourist season. There were 3,000 dwellings, 25 businesses, and two utilities threatened and 1,200 persons evacuated. The fire was managed under a unified command with the Horry County Fire and Rescue Department.

TRAINING

The SC Forestry Commission trained 514 volunteer fire fighters in wildland fire fighting courses: S-190, S-130, and S-205.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Approximately 470,000 acres were treated for a total of 21,000 prescribed fires. Burn objectives were: forest management, wildlife management and agricultural management. The Forestry Commission has trained and certified 903 prescribed fire managers since the state legislature passed the *Prescribed Fire Act* of 1994.

COOPERATION

Cooperators assisting in suppressing the Legends Fire were the South Carolina National Guard with Blackhawk helicopters and bambi buckets; SC Department of Transportation; SC Highway Patrol; Horry County Law Enforcement; SC Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation - Fire and Life Safety; and 20 Fire Departments from Coastal South Carolina communities.

The Commission continues to cooperate with the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service on fire prevention and suppression activities. Cooperative agreements are in place. Close working relationships are also maintained with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the Army National Guard (helicopter operations).

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE - TITLE II

The Commission received 100 applications for \$194,065. Fifty-one (51) fire departments were funded a total of \$78,270. Items purchased: breathing Apparatus, fire hose and nozzles, protective equipment, communication equipment, wildland firefighting equipment and supplies, water/foam applications.

One hundred and thirteen (113) applications, for a total of \$221,934, were received from 76 fire departments. The Commission funded \$105,482 of the requests. Items Purchased: skid pumper units, forestry hose and nozzles, dump tanks, portable pumps, communication equipment, chain saws, hand tools, wildland PPE, foam proportioners, foam.

FEDERAL EXCESS PROPERTY:

During 2002 the Commission acquired \$3,211,304 in Federal Excess Property. This brings the total acquisition inventory to \$42,234,246.

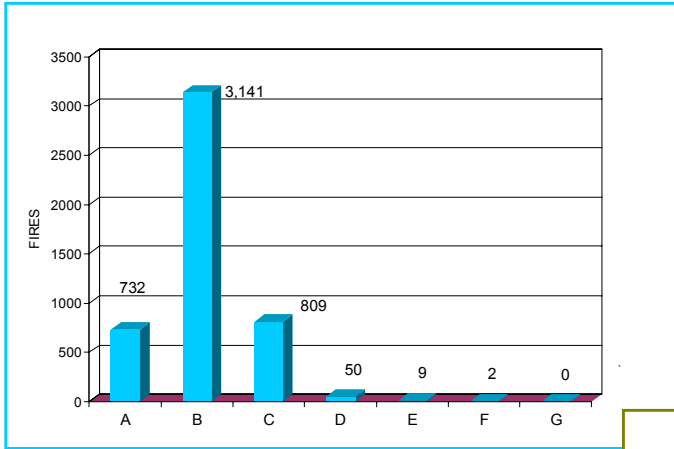
FEPP ACQUISITIONS	
South Carolina Forestry Commission	
Acquired in 2002	\$3,211,304
Items Assigned To Fire Departments	1,433
Departments Receiving Assistance	444

SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION

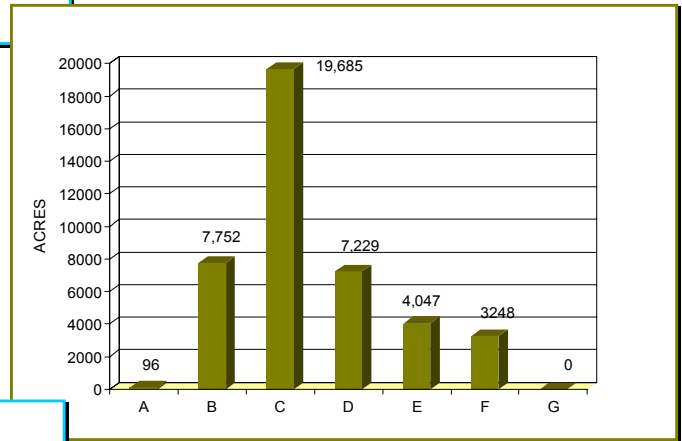
ANNUAL WILDFIRE SUMMARY REPORT (FS-3100-08)			
SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION		CY 2002	
Total Acres Protected: 18,831,000			
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE		Fires	Acres
Lightning	250	2961	
Equipment	288	1372	
Smoking	119	439	
Camping	33	2044	
Debris	2078	17465	
RR	29	362	
Arson	1263	14502	
Children	273	879	
Miscellaneous	410	2034	
Total	4743	42,058	
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS			
Class	Fires	Acres	
Class A	732	96	
Class B	3141	7752	
Class C	809	19685	
Class D	50	7229	
Class E	9	4047	
Class F	2	3248	
Class G	0		
TOTAL	4,743	42,058	
STRUCTURES SAVED, DAMAGED, LOST			
Houses Destroyed		49	
Other Structures Destroyed		100	
Houses Damged		33	
Other Structures Damaged		121	
Houses Saved		-	
Other Structures Saved		-	

SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION

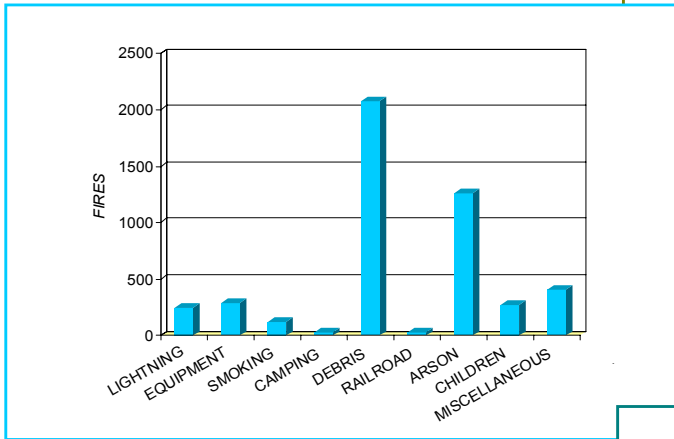
FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



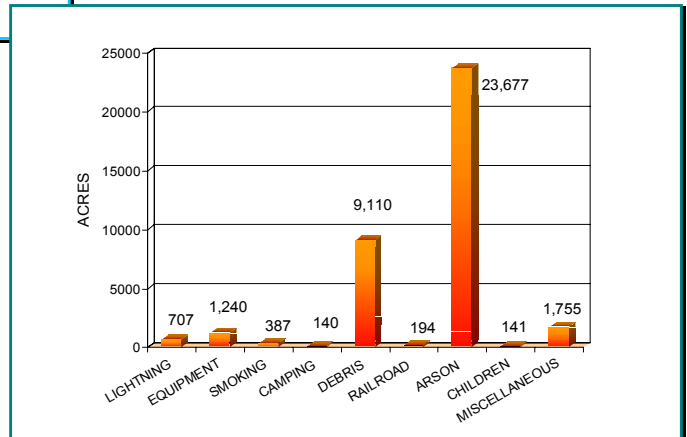
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



TENNESSEE DIVISION OF FORESTRY ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

2002 FIRE YEAR

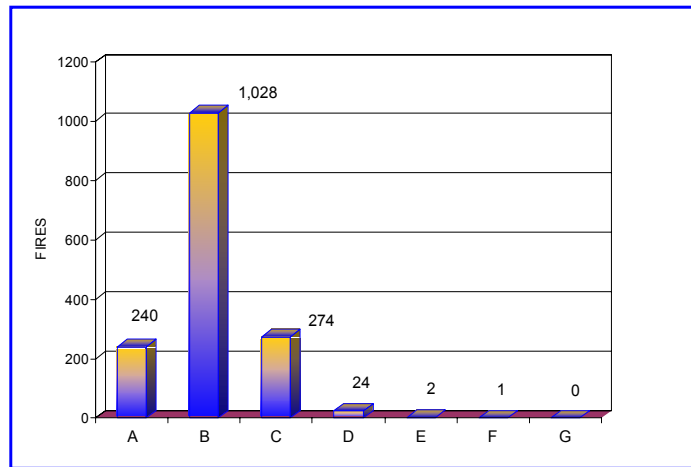
The 2002 fire activity can best be described as well below normal. 1,567 fires burned 14,776 acres for an average of 9.4 acres per fire. Primary causes for the low fire activity were precipitation and prevention.

Debris burning (46%) and arson (36%) were the leading causes. Percentage of acres lost by debris fires (31%) increased while acres lost by arson (49%) decreased when compared to the last three years.

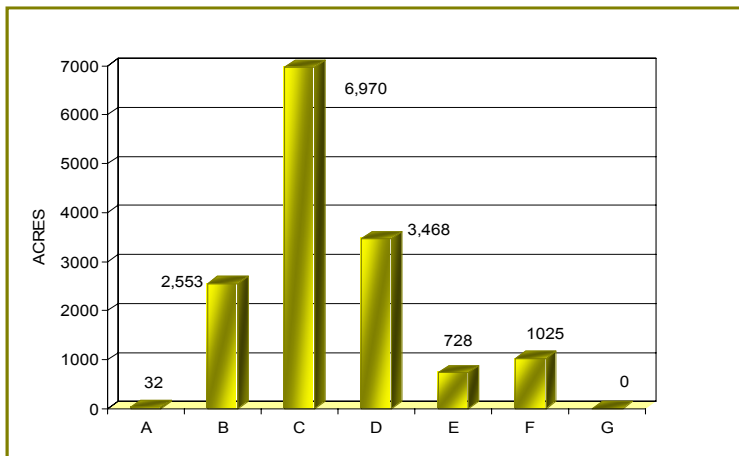
Eighty-three percent (83%) of fire occurrence fell into either Class B or Class C. Class B (0.26 to 9 ac) fires make up 66% of the total fires and 17% of the acres lost. Class C (10 to 99 ac) were 17% of the total number, while accounting for 47% of acres burned.

Two Division of Forestry Incident Management Teams were trained for response to in-state activations.

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



ANNUAL WILDFIRE SUMMARY REPORT (FS-3100-08)

TENNESSEE DIVISION OF FORESTRY

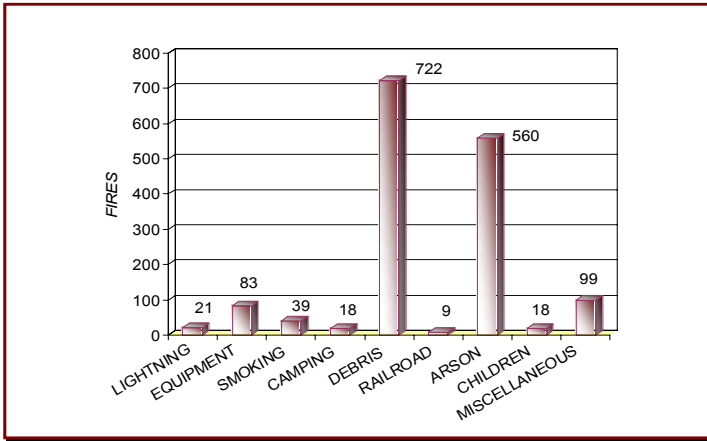
Total Acres Protected: 25,668,400

WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE		
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	21	249
Equipment	83	616
Smoking	39	166
Camping	18	146
Debris	722	4580
RR	9	103
Arson	560	7266
Children	18	64
Miscellaneous	99	1586
Total	1,569	14,776
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS		
Class	Fires	Acres
Class A	240	32
Class B	1028	2553
Class C	274	6970
Class D	24	3468
Class E	2	728
Class F	1	1025
Class G	0	0
TOTAL	1,569	14,776
STRUCTURES SAVED, DAMAGED, LOST		
Houses Destroyed	9	
Other Structures Destroyed	38	
Houses Damged	0	
Other Structures Damaged	0	
Houses Saved	551	
Other Structures Saved	290	

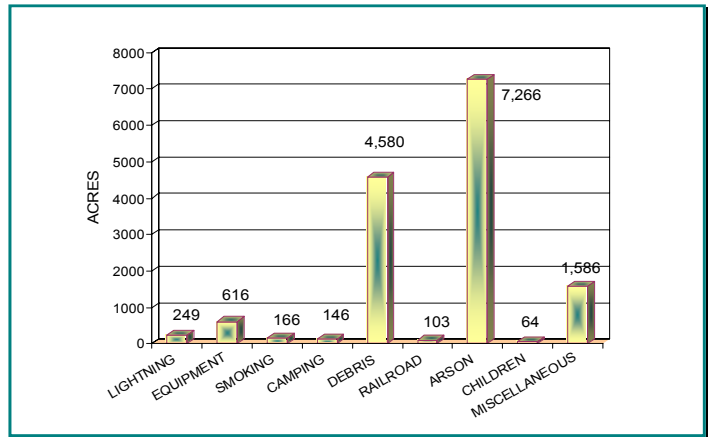


TENNESSEE DIVISION OF FORESTRY

FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



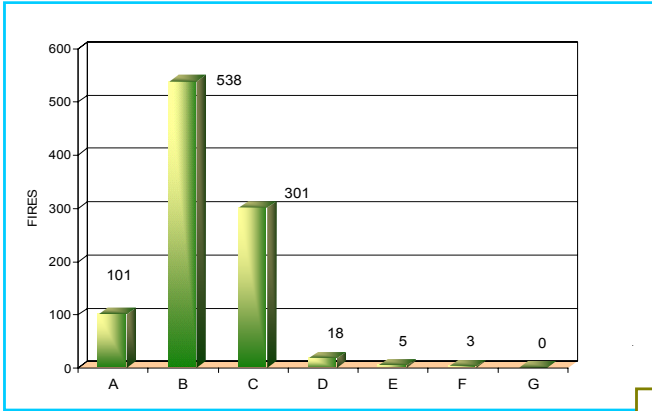
HOT NIGHT IN TENNESSEE FORESTRY

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

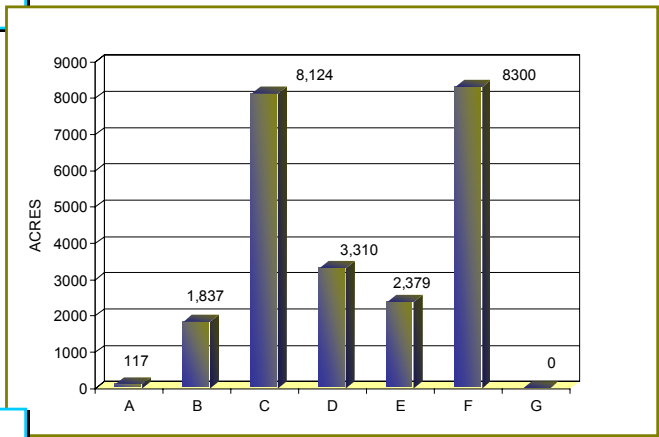
ANNUAL WILDFIRE SUMMARY REPORT (FS-3100-08)			
TEXAS FOREST SERVICE		CY 2002	
Total Acres Protected: 166,000,000			
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE		Fires	Acres
Lightning		29	1596
Equipment		35	3050
Smoking		7	195
Camping		8	77
Debris		567	10367
RR		11	357
Arson		147	3607
Children		15	60
Miscellaneous		147	4758
Total		966	24,067
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS			
Class	Fires	Acres	
Class A	101	117	
Class B	538	1837	
Class C	301	8124	
Class D	18	3310	
Class E	5	2379	
Class F	3	8300	
Class G	0	0	
TOTAL	966	24,067	
STRUCTURES SAVED, DAMAGED, LOST			
Houses Destroyed		13	
Other Structures Destroyed		32	
Houses Damged		0	
Other Structures Damaged		0	
Houses Saved		293	
Other Structures Saved		1,143	

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE

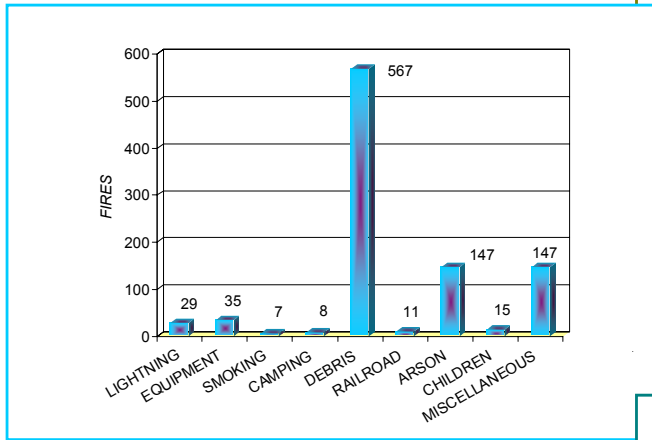
FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



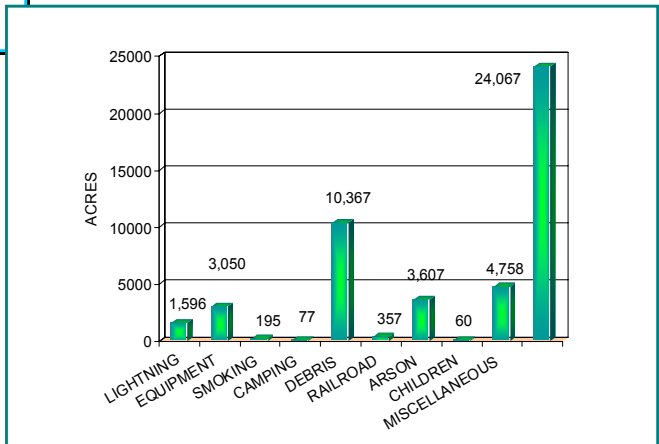
ACRES BY SIZE CLASS



FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

WILDFIRE SUMMARY

In 2002, the Department of Forestry managed 1,684 wildfires, which burned 13,325 acres. Though drought conditions caused the spring fire season to begin early, recurring rain events in late March and April limited wildfire activity during the traditional peak spring burning period. Wildfire activity increased during the summer months as drought returned. By June extreme drought conditions existed statewide. The 2002 summer was one of Virginia's busiest wildfire summer seasons in the last ten years.

Drought conditions were predicted for the remainder of the calendar year. This prompted a great deal of planning and preparation at all organizational levels to handle what was developing into an extreme fire year, potentially one of the worst in recent history.

Fortunately, the predictions did not hold true. By early fall and the start of the normal fall wildfire season, recurring rainfall events brought an end to the wildfire activity for the year.

It is important to note that in spite of the fact that only minimal wildfire activity occurred during the time frames of the traditional spring and fall wildfire seasons, the calendar year totals for wildfires and acreage still exceeded the 10-year averages. In Virginia 2002 is noted to be the fourth busiest year in the last 15 years, illustrating the severity of the abnormal summertime wildfire season.

NATIONAL INCIDENT RESPONSE

2002 developed into yet another disastrous wildfire season in the western United States. Several records were set during 2002 regarding the length and level of severity of the summer wildfire season. The Department of Forestry was able to provide 166 incident management and firefighter personnel for voluntary out-of-state wildfire assignments in support of this effort. These assignments are valuable to Virginia. They help develop the overall experience level and incident management skills of agency personnel. Employees are then better able to manage wildfire situations on their home territory.

TRAINING

2002 marked the second annual statewide Wildfire Training Academy. The statewide academy, along with several smaller academies, supports the agency's commitment to train and use part-time firefighters and volunteer fire department resources. The training will help provide prompt and effective wildfire suppression resources for the Commonwealth



TRACTOR-PLOW OPERATIONS COURSE 2002
WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

In 2002, the Department of Forestry provided 32 wildland fire training courses to almost 1,000 wildland firefighters (in addition to numerous other localized training for county VFDs.) All training efforts included the participation and assistance of the state's cooperative federal wildfire partners. All training met the curriculum requirements of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

In November 2000 national guardsmen were trained as wildland firefighters. An additional 14 helicopter pilots and crew personnel received refresher type safety training in preparation for what was predicted to be an especially bad fall wildfire season. National guard resources are important to Virginia for wildfire use in times of emergency.

YEAR OF CONTRASTS

- MINIMAL FIRE ACTIVITY OCCURRED DURING THE TRADITIONAL SPRING AND SUMMER FIRE SEASONS
- 2002 WAS THE FOURTH BUSIEST FIRE SEASON IN 15 YEARS
- CALENDAR YEAR TOTALS FOR FIRES AND ACRES EXCEEDED THE TEN YEAR AVERAGES



VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN
S-130/S-190 TRAINING
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

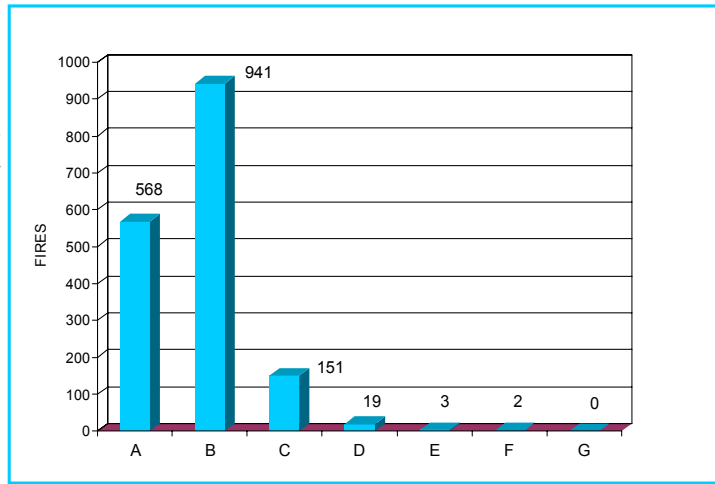
VFD ASSISTANCE

Two hundred and thirty-six (236) rural volunteer fire departments received grants from the \$245,856 in Volunteer Fire Assistance funds made available to Virginia. Grants were awarded for organizing, training, and equipping rural fire departments. This program continues to be an important tool for developing the capacity of volunteer fire departments in Virginia.

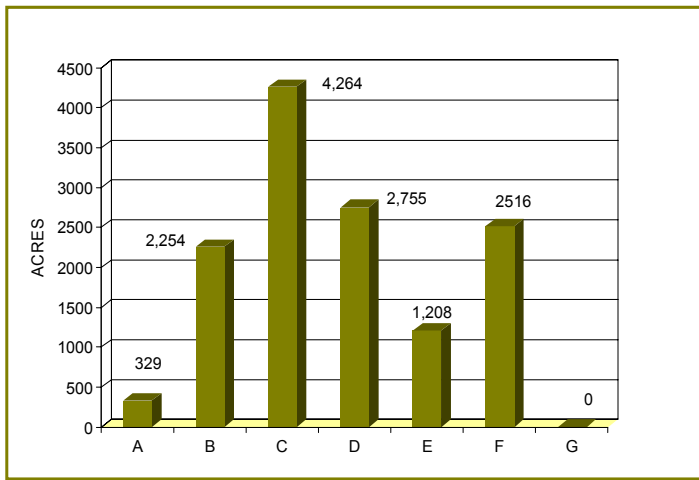
PRESCRIBED BURNING

The summer drought had a significant impact on reducing prescribed burning accomplishments for the year. During the summer the Governor issued an executive order urging citizens to refrain from outdoor burning. The Department of Forestry, along with other state agencies, stopped all prescribed burning activity while the order was in place. The burning limitations remained in effect through late November. There was no prescribed fire activity during the normally busy late summer/fall site preparation season. During 2002 the Department of Forestry prescribe burned 6,891 acres.

FIRES BY SIZE CLASS



ACRES BY SIZE CLASS

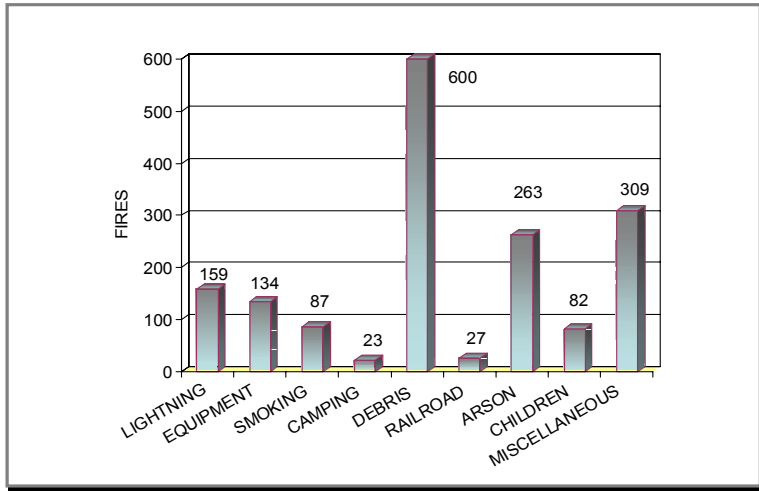


VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

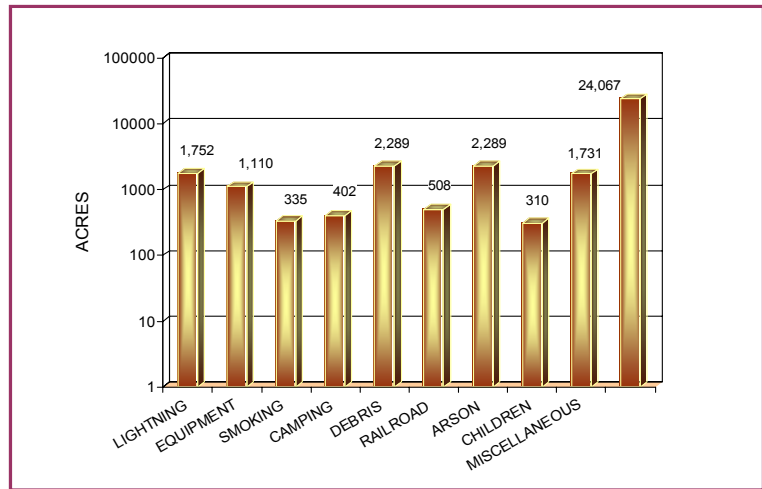
ANNUAL WILDFIRE SUMMARY REPORT (FS-3100-08)		
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY		CY 2002
Total Acres Protected: 13,458,062		
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE	Fires	Acres
Lightning	159	1751.6
Equipment	134	1109.8
Smoking	87	334.6
Camping	23	402.1
Debris	600	2288.8
RR	27	508.4
Arson	263	4888.1
Children	82	310.1
Miscellaneous	309	1731.4
Total		
WILDFIRES AND ACRES BY SIZE CLASS		
Class	Fires	Acres
Class A	568	328.5
Class B	941	2253.8
Class C	151	4263.6
Class D	19	2755.0
Class E	3	1208.0
Class F	2	2516.0
Class G	0	0
TOTAL	1,684	13,324.9
STRUCTURES SAVED, DAMAGED, LOST		
Houses Destroyed or Damaged		6
Other Structures Destroyed or Damaged		44
Houses Saved		514
Other Structures Saved		44

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

FIRES BY CAUSE



ACRES BY CAUSE



APPENDIXES

A. STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY SUMMARY TABLES

B. FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE FOR EACH STATE; ALL AGENCIES

APPENDIX A

STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

SUMMARY TABLES

STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY
SUMMARY TABLES

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY --- 5 YEAR AVERAGES													
Year	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres/Fire	
1993	2395	2204	1562	405	13887	488	18846	1630	3951	45,368	423,496	9.3	
1994	1147	1760	1357	413	14606	448	15467	1579	3498	40,275	543,133	13.5	
1995	1048	2244	1623	479	17661	497	16345	1912	3749	45,558	508,148	11.2	
1996	1018	2303	1500	470	22020	619	16893	1911	4090	50,824	1,199,111	23.6	
1997	442	1612	833	242	10243	412	9308	1105	2105	26,302	190,240	7.2	
1998	2526	2254	1252	326	11734	481	13305	1398	3309	36,585	794,989	21.7	
1999	2609	3429	1802	624	20084	716	18971	2017	4825	55,077	882,125	16.0	
2000	3503	3,666	1591	472	19003	954	20286	1882	7320	58,677	975,877	16.6	
2001	1522	1892	1251	326	11778	381	12345	1573	3701	46,640	956,543	20.5	
2002	1,984	2,146	1,050	2,897	13,547	744	8,123	1,590	3,882	35,963	363,013	10.1	
94-98	6181	1930	6565	1930	76264	2457	71318	7905	16751	199,544	3,235,621	16.2	
5 yr avg	1236	386	1313	386	15253	491	14264	1581	3350	39,909	647,124		
Percent	3%	1%	3%	1%	38%	1%	36%	4%	8%				
95-99	7643	2141	7010	2141	81742	2725	74822	8343	18078	214,346	3,574,613	16.7	
5 yr avg	1529	428	1402	428	16348	545	14964	1669	3616	42,869	714,923		
Percent	4%	1%	3%	1%	38%	1%	35%	4%	8%				
96-2000	10098	2134	6978	2134	83084	3182	78763	8313	21649	227,465	4,042,342	18.7	
5 yr avg	2020	427	1396	427	16617	636	15753	1663	4330	45,493	808,468		
Percent	4%	1%	3%	1%	37%	1%	35%	4%	10%				
97-01	10602	12853	6729	1990	72842	2944	74215	7975	21260	223,281	3,799,773	18.0	
5 yr avg	2120	2571	1346	398	14568	589	14843	1595	4252	44,656	759,955		
Percent	4%	5%	3%	1%	28%	1%	29%	3%	8%				
98-02	12,144	13,387	6,946	4,645	76,146	3,276	73,030	8,460	23,037	232,942	3,972,547	17.1	
5 yr avg	2,429	2,677	1,389	929	15,229	655	14,606	1,692	4,607	46,588	794,509		
Percent	5%	6%	3%	2%	33%	1%	31%	4%	10%				

FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE: STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY -- CY 2002

Page 1 of 2	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc	Fires	Acres	Acres Fire
ALABAMA	Fires	59	183	56	19	1,023	24	1,394	54	248	3,060	12.2
	Percent	2%	6%	2%	1%	33%	1%	46%	2%	8%		
	Acres	707.0	1,240.0	387.0	140.0	9,110.0	194.0	23,677.0	141.0	1,755.0		37,351.0
ARKANSAS	Percent	2%	3%	1%	0%	24%	1%	63%	0%	5%		
	Fires	28	77	14	11	408	29	452	18	161	1,198	12.0
	Percent	2%	6%	1%	1%	34%	2%	38%	2%	13%		
FLORIDA*	Acres	407.0	449.0	59.0	118.0	3,331.0	229.0	7,567.0	166.0	2,024.0		14,350.0
	Percent	3%	3%	0%	1%	23%	2%	53%	1%	14%		
	Fires	625	205	47	60	717	46	457	164	744	3,065	18.5
GEORGIA	Percent	20%	7%	2%	2%	23%	2%	15%	5%	24%		
	Acres	17,644.0	2,023.0	127.0	1,106.0	6,934.0	1,320.0	10,683.0	7,261.0	9,741.0		56,839.0
	Percent	31%	4%	0%	2%	12%	2%	19%	13%	17%		
KENTUCKY	Fires	520	854	211	90	3,838	171	1,254	296	504	7,738	4.7
	Percent	7%	11%	3%	1%	50%	2%	16%	4%	7%		
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36,093.0		36,093.0
LOUISIANA	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%		
	Fires	2	30	10	11	305	6	524	16	72	976	24.1
	Percent	0.2%	3.1%	1.0%	1.1%	31.3%	0.6%	53.7%	1.6%	7.4%		
MISSISSIPPI	Acres	1.0	465.0	250.0	317.0	5,915.0	60.0	15,786.0	70.0	678.0		23,542.0
	Percent	0%	2%	1%	1%	25%	0%	67%	0%	3%		
	Fires	7	3	69	494	615	41	22	131	226	1,608	9.1
NORTH CAROLINA	Percent	0%	0%	4%	31%	38%	3%	1%	8%	14%		
	Acres	78.0	13.0	858.5	3,684.8	6,008.5	231.5	29.8	2,004.5	1,707.5		14,616.0
	Percent	1%	0%	6%	25%	41%	2%	0%	14%	12%		
MISSISSIPPI	Fires	10	46	21	5	900	4	1,138	17	170	2,311	13.8
	Percent	0%	2%	1%	0%	39%	0%	49%	1%	7%		
	Acres	126.0	384.0	181.0	21.0	8,446.0	9.0	19,967.0	65.0	2,777.0		31,976.0
NORTH CAROLINA	Percent	0%	1%	1%	0%	26%	0%	62%	0%	9%		
	Fires	261	360	370	73	2,250	65	975	500	764	5,618	5.0
	Percent	5%	6%	7%	1%	40%	1%	17%	9%	14%		
MISSISSIPPI	Acres	2,207.0	2,419.0	951.0	360.0	10,613.0	100.0	9,014.0	766.0	1,786.0		28,216.0
	Percent	8%	9%	3%	1%	38%	0%	32%	3%	6%		

FIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

Page 2 of 2	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
OKLAHOMA	Fires	13	103	0	7	339	23	908	6	28	1,427	18.1
	Percent	1%	7%	0%	0%	24%	2%	64%	0%	2%		
	Acres	215.0	699.0	0.0	52.0	7,340.0	18.0	16,791.0	31.0	658.0	25,804.0	
	Percent	1%	3%	0%	0%	28%	0%	65%	0%	3%		
SOUTH CAROLINA	Fires	250	33	119	2,078	1,263	288	29	273	410	4,743	8.9
	Percent	5%	1%	3%	44%	27%	6%	1%	6%	9%		
	Acres	2,961.0	2,044.0	439.0	17,465.0	14,502.0	1,372.0	362.0	879.0	2,034.0	42,058.0	
	Percent	7%	5%	1%	42%	34%	3%	1%	2%	5%		
TENNESSEE	Fires	21	83	39	18	722	9	560	18	99	1,569	9.4
	Percent	1%	5%	2%	1%	46%	1%	36%	1%	6%		
	Acres	249.0	616.0	166.0	146.0	4,580.0	103.0	7,266.0	64.0	1,586.0	14,776.0	
	Percent	2%	4%	1%	1%	31%	1%	49%	0%	11%		
TEXAS	Fires	29	35	7	8	567	11	147	15	147	966	24.9
	Percent	3%	4%	1%	1%	59%	1%	15%	2%	15%		
	Acres	1,596.0	3,050.0	195.0	77.0	10,367.0	357.0	3,607.0	60.0	4,758.0	24,067.0	
	Percent	7%	13%	1%	0%	43%	1%	15%	0%	20%		
VIRGINIA	Fires	159	134	87	23	600	27	263	82	309	1,684	7.9
	Percent	9%	8%	5%	1%	0%	2%	16%	5%	18%		
	Acres	1751.6	1109.8	334.6	402.1	2288.8	508.4	4888.1	310.1	1731.4	13,324.9	
	Percent	13%	8%	3%	3%	17%	4%	37%	2%	13%		
Total State Fires	1,984	2,146	1,050	2,897	13,547	744	8,123	1,590	3,882	35,963	10.1	
Percent	6%	6%	3%	8%	38%	2%	23%	4%	11%			
Total State Acres	27,942.6	14,511.8	3,948.1	23,888.9	89,435.3	4,501.9	119,637.9	11,817.6	67,328.9	363,012.9		
Percent	8%	4%	1%	7%	25%	1%	33%	3%	19%			

APPENDIX B

FIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE

FOR EACH STATE

ALL SOUTHERN AREA AGENCIES

ALABAMA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		13
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7		12.7	
NATIONAL FORESTS	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Fires	10	0	1	0	7	0	45	1	73		37
	Percent	14%	0%	1%	0%	10%	0%	62%	12%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Acres	648.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	337.5	0.0	1,379.9	5.0		2,702.6	
	Percent	24%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%	51%	12%			
	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
NATIONAL PARKS	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Fires	59	183	56	19	1,023	24	1,394	54	3,060		12
	Percent	2%	6%	2%	1%	33%	1%	46%	2%			
TOTAL	Acres	707.0	1,240.0	387.0	140.0	9,110.0	194.0	23,677.0	141.0		37,351.0	
	Percent	2%	3%	1%	0%	24%	1%	63%	0%			
	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
TOTAL	Fires	69	183	57	19	1,030	24	1,439	55	3,134		13
	Percent	2%	6%	2%	1%	33%	1%	46%	2%			
	Acres	1,355.6	1,240.0	387.1	140.0	9,447.5	194.0	25,056.9	146.0		40,066.3	
Percent	3%	3%	1%	0%	24%	0%	63%	0%	5%			

ARKANSAS: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE												
Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5		17
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	86.6		86.6	
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL FORESTS*												
Fires	10	7	0	6	3	0	69	0	26	121		15
Percent	8%	6%	0%	5%	2%	0%	57%	0%	21%			
Acres	73.0	6.9	0.0	24.7	9.1	0.0	1,497.7	0.0	238.2		1,849.5	
Percent	4%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	81%	0%	13%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS												
Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
NATIONAL PARKS												
Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7		4
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.0		29	
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY												
Fires	28	77	14	11	408	29	452	18	161	1,198		12
Percent	2%	6%	1%	1%	34%	2%	38%	2%	13%			
Acres	407.0	449.0	59.0	118.0	3,331.0	229.0	7,567.0	166.0	2,024.0		14,350	
Percent	3%	3%	0%	1%	23%	2%	53%	1%	14%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE												
Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0	
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
TOTAL												
Fires	38	84	14	17	411	29	521	18	199	1,331		12
Percent	3%	6%	1%	1%	31%	2%	39%	1%	15%			
Acres	480.0	455.9	59.0	142.7	3,340.1	229.0	9,064.7	166.0	2,377.8		16,315	
Percent	3%	3%	0%	1%	20%	1%	56%	1%	15%			

FLORIDA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19		21
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	394.4		394.4	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires	48	5	2	9	1	11	5	32	125		14
	Percent	38%	4%	2%	7%	1%	9%	4%	26%			
	Acres	886.2	5.8	121.5	47.0	139.0	152.4	1.6	332.1		1,800.5	
	Percent	49%	0%	7%	3%	8%	8%	0%	18%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	14		95
	Percent	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	86%			
	Acres	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,322.0		1,325.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	625	205	47	60	46	457	164	744	3,065		19
	Percent	20%	7%	2%	2%	2%	15%	5%	24%			
	Acres	17,644.0	2,023.0	127.0	1,106.0	1,320.0	10,683.0	7,261.0	9,741.0		56,839.0	
	Percent	31%	4%	0%	2%	2%	19%	13%	17%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	78		155
	Percent	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	92%			
	Acres	5,156.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6,938.0		12,094.0	
	Percent	43%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	57%			
TOTAL	Fires	681	210	49	69	47	468	169	879	3,301		22
	Percent	21%	6%	1%	2%	1%	14%	5%	27%			
	Acres	23,689.2	2,028.8	248.5	1,153.0	1,459.0	10,835.4	7,262.6	18,727.5		72,452.9	
	Percent	33%	3%	0%	2%	2%	15%	10%	26%			

GEORGIA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	GEORGIA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES													Acres Per Fire	
	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres				
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	14,728				
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%						
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	117,821.9	0.0	117,821.9				
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%						
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires	4	1	1	2	13	46	2	18	87	17				
	Percent	5%	1%	1%	2%	15%	53%	2%	21%						
	Acres	22.3	49.0	5.4	1.0	233.2	1,034.6	1.7	156.4	0.0	1,503.6				
	Percent	1%	3%	0%	0%	16%	69%	0%	10%						
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%						
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%						
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%						
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%						
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	520	854	211	90	3,838	1,254	296	504	7,738	5				
	Percent	7%	11%	3%	1%	50%	16%	4%	7%						
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36,093.0	36,093.0					
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%						
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	16				
	Percent	86%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%						
	Acres	36.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	111.0					
	Percent	32%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	68%						
TOTAL	Fires	530	855	212	92	3,851	1,300	298	531	7,840	20				
	Percent	7%	11%	3%	1%	49%	17%	4%	7%						
	Acres	58.3	49.0	5.4	1.0	233.2	1,034.6	1.7	154,146.3	155,529.5					
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	99%						

KENTUCKY: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES													
CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire	
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires 2	1	1	2	7	0	46	1	3	63		30	
	Percent 3%	2%	2%	3%	11%	0%	73%	2%	5%				
	Acres 5.5	6.0	2.0	1.1	77.5	0.0	1,598.8	20.0	170.0		1,880.9		
	Percent 0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	85%	1%	9%				
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	Acres 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	Acres 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires 2	30	10	11	305	6	524	16	72	976		24	
	Percent 0%	3%	1%	1%	31%	1%	54%	2%	7%				
	Acres 1.0	465.0	250.0	317.0	5,915.0	60.0	15,786.0	70.0	678.0		23,542.0		
	Percent 0%	2%	1%	1%	25%	0%	67%	0%	3%				
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	Acres 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent %	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
TOTAL	Fires 4	31	11	13	312	6	570	17	75	1,039		24	
	Percent 0%	3%	1%	1%	30%	1%	55%	2%	7%				
	Acres 6.5	471.0	252.0	318.1	5,992.5	60.0	17,384.8	90.0	848.0		25,422.9		
	Percent 0%	2%	1%	1%	24%	0%	68%	0%	3%				

LOUISIANA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	28		523
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14,634.3		14,634.3	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires	1	2	0	3	1	28	0	8	46		36
	Percent	2%	4%	0%	7%	2%	61%	0%	17%			
	Acres	6.0	31.0	0.0	181.0	15.0	1,202.0	159.0	0.0		1,633.0	
	Percent	0%	2%	0%	11%	2%	74%	10%	0%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	7	3	69	494	41	22	131	226	1,608		9
	Percent	0%	0%	4%	31%	3%	1%	8%	14%			
	Acres	78.0	13.0	858.5	3,684.8	231.5	29.8	2,004.5	1,707.5		14,616.0	
	Percent	13%	859%	3685%	6009%	41%	0%	14%	12%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
TOTAL	Fires	8	5	69	497	42	50	131	262	1,682		18
	Percent	0%	0%	4%	30%	2%	3%	8%	16%			
	Acres	84.0	44.0	858.5	3,865.8	246.5	1,231.8	2,163.5	16,341.8		30,883.3	
	Percent	0%	0%	3%	13%	20%	4%	7%	53%			

MISSISSIPPI: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires 0 Percent 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%	3		73
	Acres 0.0 Percent 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	220.0 100%		220.0	
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires 2 Percent 3%	3 4%	1 1%	1 1%	15 21%	1 1%	42 58%	0 0%	7 10%	72		33
	Acres 0.2 Percent 0%	171.0 7%	1.0 0%	1.0 0%	327.4 14%	0.1 0%	920.3 39%	0.0 0%	933.0 40%		2,354.0	
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires 0 Percent %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %		0.0	
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires 0 Percent %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %		0.0	
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires 10 Percent 0%	46 2%	21 1%	5 0%	900 39%	4 0%	1,138 49%	17 1%	170 7%	2,311		14
	Acres 126.0 Percent 0%	384.0 1%	181.0 1%	21.0 0%	8,446.0 26%	9.0 0%	19,967.0 62%	65.0 0%	2,777.0 9%		31,976.0	
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires 0 Percent %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %		0.0	
TOTAL	Fires 12 Percent 1%	49 2%	22 1%	6 0%	915 38%	5 0%	1,180 49%	17 1%	180 8%	2,386		14
	Acres 126.2 Percent 0%	555.0 2%	182.0 1%	22.0 0%	8,773.4 25%	9.1 0%	20,887.3 60%	65.0 0%	3,930.0 11%		34,550.0	

NORTH CAROLINA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18	209	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,764.3		3,764.3	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires	4	15	0	3	27	37	0	13	105	20	
	Percent	4%	14%	0%	3%	26%	35%	0%	12%			
	Acres	10.0	170.0	0.0	5.0	360.0	1,014.0	0.0	500.0		2,109.0	
	Percent	0%	8%	0%	0%	17%	48%	0%	24%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	7	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.0		21.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	261	360	370	73	2,250	975	500	764	5,618	5	
	Percent	5%	6%	7%	1%	40%	17%	9%	14%			
	Acres	2,207.0	2,419.0	951.0	360.0	10,613.0	9,014.0	766.0	1,786.0		28,216.0	
	Percent	8%	9%	3%	1%	38%	32%	3%	6%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	32	55	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,772.0		1,772.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
TOTAL	Fires	265	375	370	76	2,277	71	500	830	5,776	6	
	Percent	5%	6%	6%	1%	39%	1%	9%	14%			
	Acres	2,217.0	2,589.0	951.0	365.0	10,973.0	150.0	10,028.0	7,843.3		35,882.3	
	Percent	6%	7%	3%	1%	31%	0%	28%	22%			

OKLAHOMA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

Agency	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
CY 2002												
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	21		41
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	870.6		870.6	
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL FORESTS (SEE ARKANSAS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	105		157
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16,490.0		16,490.0	
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL PARKS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10		47
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	467.4		467.4	
Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	13	103	0	7	339	23	908	6	28	1,427		18
Percent	1%	7%	0%	0%	24%	2%	64%	0%	2%			
Acres	215.0	699.0	0.0	52.0	7,340.0	18.0	16,791.0	31.0	658.0		25,804.0	
Percent	1%	3%	0%	0%	28%	0%	65%	0%	3%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
TOTAL	13	103	0	7	339	23	908	6	164	1,563		28
Percent	1%	7%	0%	0%	22%	1%	58%	0%	10%			
Acres	215.0	699.0	0.0	52.0	7,340.0	18.0	16,791.0	31.0	18,486.0		43,632.0	
Percent	0%	2%	0%	0%	17%	0%	38%	0%	42%			

SOUTH CAROLINA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	8	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.1		39.1	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires	20	5	2	12	1	50	0	31	123	38	
	Percent	16%	4%	2%	10%	1%	41%	0%	25%			
	Acres	80.3	0.9	2.0	299.9	0.1	3,703.1	0.0	639.9		4,726.4	
	Percent	2%	0%	0%	6%	0%	78%	0%	14%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	250	288	119	2,078	29	1,263	273	410	4,743	9	
	Percent	5%	6%	3%	44%	1%	27%	6%	9%			
	Acres	2,961.0	1,372.0	439.0	17,465.0	362.0	14,502.0	879.0	2,034.0		42,058.0	
	Percent	7%	3%	1%	42%	1%	34%	2%	5%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	9	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.0		36.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
TOTAL	Fires	270	293	121	2,090	30	1,313	273	450	4,875	10	
	Percent	6%	6%	2%	43%	1%	27%	6%	9%			
	Acres	3,041.3	1,372.9	441.0	17,764.9	362.1	18,205.1	879.0	2,749.0		46,859.5	
	Percent	6%	3%	1%	38%	1%	39%	2%	6%			

TENNESSEE: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire	
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires	7	0	1	4	3	0	28	0	23	66	43	
	Percent	11%	0%	2%	6%	5%	0%	42%	0%	35%			
	Acres	563.0	0.0	5.0	10.0	170.0	0.0	1,382.0	0.0	685.0		2,815.0	
	Percent	20%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	49%	0%	24%			
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires	21	83	39	18	722	9	560	18	99	1,569	9	
	Percent	1%	5%	2%	1%	46%	1%	36%	1%	6%			
	Acres	249.0	616.0	166.0	146.0	4,580.0	103.0	7,266.0	64.0	1,586.0		14,776.0	
	Percent	2%	4%	1%	1%	31%	1%	49%	0%	11%			
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent												
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	Percent												
TOTAL	Fires	28	83	40	22	725	9	588	18	122	1,635	11	
	Percent	2%	5%	2%	1%	44%	1%	36%	1%	7%			
	Acres	812.0	616.0	171.0	156.0	4,750.0	103.0	8,648.0	64.0	2,271.0		17,591.0	
	Percent	5%	4%	1%	1%	27%	1%	49%	0%	13%			

TEXAS: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE --- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires 0 Percent 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	63 100%	63		220
	Acres 0.0 Percent 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	13,890.2 100%		13,890.2	
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires 4 Percent 10%	2 5%	1 2%	4 10%	6 15%	0 0%	16 39%	0 0%	8 20%	41		7
	Acres 4.4 Percent 2%	8.0 3%	0.6 0%	23.6 8%	41.0 15%	0.0 0%	158.6 57%	0.0 0%	42.2 15%		278.4	
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires 0 Percent 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%		0.0	
NATIONAL PARKS	Fires 0 Percent 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	64 100%	64		18
	Acres 0.0 Percent 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	1,141.0 100%		1,141.0	
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires 29 Percent 3%	35 4%	7 1%	8 1%	567 59%	11 1%	147 15%	15 2%	147 15%	966		25
	Acres 1,596.0 Percent 7%	3,050.0 13%	195.0 1%	77.0 0%	10,367.0 43%	357.0 1%	3,607.0 15%	60.0 0%	4,758.0 20%		24,067.0	
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires 0 Percent %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %		0.0	
TOTAL	Fires 33 Percent 3%	37 3%	8 1%	12 1%	573 51%	11 1%	163 14%	15 1%	282 25%	1,134		35
	Acres 1,600.4 Percent 4%	3,058.0 8%	195.6 0%	100.6 0%	10,408.0 26%	357.0 1%	3,765.6 10%	60.0 0%	19,831.4 50%		39,376.6	

VIRGINIA: FIRES & ACRES BY CAUSE -- ALL AGENCIES

CY 2002	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	Fires 0 Percent 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%	1		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.2 100%		0.2	
NATIONAL FORESTS	Fires 28 Percent 46%	5 8%	0 0%	3 5%	1 2%	0 0%	6 10%	0 0%	18 30%	61		89
	Acres 4,844.0 Percent 89%	38.0 1%	0.0 0%	33.0 1%	1.0 0%	0.0 0%	52.0 1%	0.0 0%	458.0 8%		5,426.0	
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	Fires 0 Percent %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %		0.0	
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Fires 0 Percent 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	22 100%	22		276
	Acres 0.0 Percent 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	0.0 0%	6,066.7 100%		6,066.7	
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY	Fires 159 Percent 9%	23 1%	87 5%	600 36%	263 16%	134 8%	27 2%	82 5%	309 18%	1,684		8
	Acres 1,751.6 Percent 13%	1,109.8 8%	334.6 3%	402.1 3%	2,288.8 17%	508.4 4%	4,888.1 37%	310.1 2%	1,731.4 13%		13,324.9	
DEPT OF DEFENSE	Fires 0 Percent %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0		0
	Acres 0.0 Percent %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %		0.0	
TOTAL	Fires 187 Percent 11%	28 2%	87 5%	603 34%	264 15%	134 8%	33 2%	82 5%	350 20%	1,768		14
	Acres 6,595.6 Percent 27%	1,147.8 5%	334.6 1%	435.1 2%	2,289.8 9%	508.4 2%	4,940.1 20%	310.1 1%	8,256.3 33%		24,817.8	

