

**SOUTHERN REGION
ANNUAL FIRE REPORT
2005**



Cherokee Hotshots

**SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

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YEAR OF THE GREEN PANTS

ANNUAL FIRE REPORT 2005

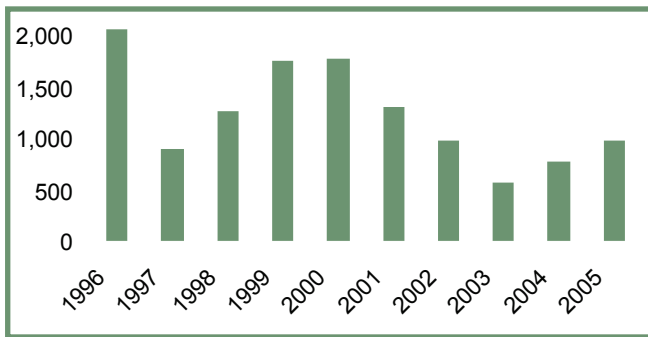
SOUTHERN REGION

FIRE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Wildfire occurrence increased over CY 2004 by 21 percent. In contrast the number of acres burned decreased by 49 percent. Notwithstanding the reduction in acres burned, the 2005 fire season continued a post-2003 trend toward increasing fire frequency, fire size, and average acres burned per fire. The number of wildfires for 2005 more closely parallels the averages extracted from ten years of wildfire occurrence data than did 2004. The ten year data table (1996-2005) produces an average frequency of 1,241 wildfires per year; 52,278 wildfire acres burned; and generates an average fire size of 42 acres per year.

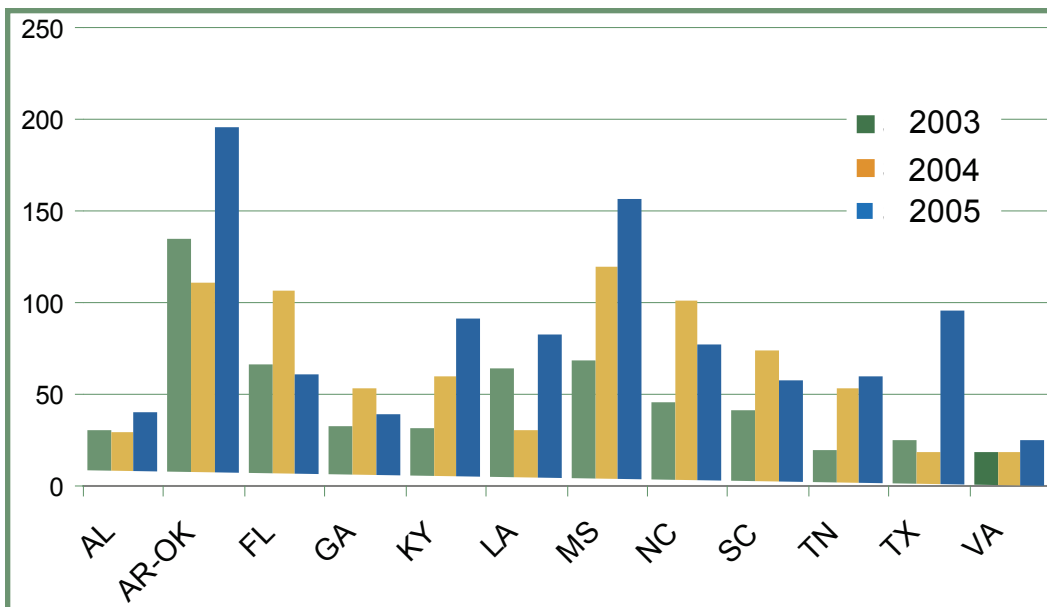
The number of Class B, C, D, E, and F wildfires increased over 2004. The single Class G wildfire that occurred in 2005 was controlled at 5,300 acres.

Year	Fires	Acres	Acre/Fire
1996	2,062	36,100	18
1997	896	20,711	23
1998	1,268	70,887	56
1999	1,761	106,104	60
2000	1,783	75,771	42
2001	1,317	54,243	41
2002	985	29,083	30
2003	580	13,024	22
2004	774	77,599	100
2005	983	39,264	40
Sum	12,408	522,784	n/a
Avg	1,241	52,278	42



Ten Yer Wildfire History

Three Year Fire History by State: Southern Region Forests



WEATHER SUMMARY —NEAR WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD

The 13th warmest year on record for the United States, 2005, sizzled at 1.2°F (0.7°C) above the 1895-2004 mean, and finished close to the long-term mean for precipitation for the nation. The last five 5-year periods, 2001-2005, 2000-2004, 1999-2003, 1998-2002, 1997-2001, were the warmest five year periods in the last 111 years of national record keeping.

The temperature for the 2004-2005 winter season (Dec-Feb) was warmer than average. Spring (March-May) was near average (55th coldest, 57th warmest out of 111 years of records) for the nation with much below average temperatures along the Eastern Seaboard.

The 2005 fall fire season (September-November) was the fourth warmest on record, with all but three contiguous states having above average warmth. Only five Southeastern states remained near average for 2005.

Data collected by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellites indicate that temperatures in the lower half of the atmosphere over the U.S. were warmer than the 20-year (1979-1998) average for the 8th consecutive year. 2005 was the 6th warmest year since satellite record keeping began.



TROPICAL STORM SEASON

2005 was a record-making year for the Atlantic Basin. Twenty-seven named storms occurred including 14 hurricanes, and including seven major hurricanes. Three storms reached category five status. A fourth storm reached the greatest possible windspeed within category four of the Saffir-Simpson scale. Hurricane Katrina, at one stage a category five hurricane, and which hurricane was one of the most costly storms in United States history, made landfall during the last days of August. Katrina struck the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi at category three strength. Other hurricanes that impacted the Southeast in 2005 were major Hurricanes Rita, Wilma, and Dennis. Hurricane Emily made landfall in Mexico and produced rain in Texas.



Hurricane Katrina

Major Hurricanes Rita, Wilma, and Dennis. Hurricane Emily made landfall in Mexico and produced rain in Texas.

Hurricane Ophelia brushed the North Carolina coast before losing hurricane status and drifting further offshore and northward, gradually losing strength.

Hurricane Katrina affected approximately 60 million acres. Most of the affected acres are state and private lands. Recovery and mitigation costs are estimated at well over two-hundred million dollars. Wildfire prevention, preparedness, and fuel treatment challenges will require additional funding. Wildfire suppression costs are expected to increase in the affected areas in direct proportion to the amount of down-dead and standing-dead material prematurely added to the existing fuel inventory.

Hurricane Damage, DeSoto Ranger District National Forests In Mississippi



The added fuel loadings will increase flame length and intensity. The increase in flame lengths and fire line intensity will significantly change fire fighting tactics. In the moderate to severely damaged areas, fire line intensities, under *normal* fuel moisture conditions, will be too high for direct attack due to the large amount of dead and down material available to burn. An indirect attack will most likely be needed in the moderate to severely damaged areas. Fires will generally become more fuel-driven. This will increase the likelihood of extreme fire behavior under moderate fuel moisture conditions.

Spot-fire ignition frequency will increase due to the abundance of firebrands. Mop-up will be more difficult, more complex, and all the more important in suppression strategy. The percentage of holdover incidents will increase. Commitment times for wildland fire crews will be extended. Initial attack resources will (inversely) decrease in number. Health and safety concerns will arise from the inherent increase in smoke production. Aerial operations will be faced with additional challenges. Surviving overstory will be marked by increased scorch, torching, and mortality —extending the damage caused by the hurricanes of 2005 well into the future.

FEMA SUPPORT

The Southern Region worked directly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in delivering resources needed to manage FEMA's response to Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma. FEMA tasked the Forest Service to provide emergency response services under the *National Response Plan*. Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005 on the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Rita made landfall on September 24, on the coasts of Louisiana and Texas. Hurricane Wilma made landfall on the southwest coast of Florida on October 24, 2005.

The Southern Region provided FEMA the services requested by engaging management systems and technologies verified and proven through hard-won experience in suppressing wildfires through interagency cooperation and coordination. The core technologies used in the response are the Incident Command System, the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS), the National Incident Cache System, and the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS).

The Southern Interagency Coordination Center (SACC) successfully implemented the overall response for the Southern Region. The interagency response peaked on October 1, 2005. On this date 28 Incident Management Teams were assigned to FEMA incidents.

Approximately 19,000 people were mobilized. This included 464 crews and 12,000 management and support personnel. Additionally, 1,090 pieces of equipment, and 33 helicopters and fixed-winged aircraft were mobilized and tracked. Incident management teams managed all agency communications, coordinated the receipt and distribution of supplies, provided evacuees with food, shelter, and clothing; and supported emergency medical operations at the New Orleans base camp.

Incident Management Teams provided base camp operations, support to emergency responders, and support to mortuary operations at numerous locations in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Florida.



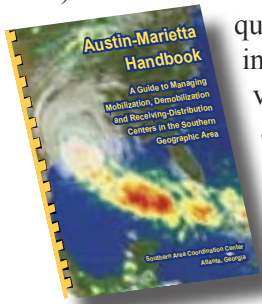
Photos by Mobilization Center Staff, Austin, TX



The participating agencies, working within the incident management system, were able to adjust to the challenges with which they were faced. Fall wildfire suppression actions were successfully managed in tandem with hurricane recovery operations.

Initial response operations were concluded in November. Interagency teams continued to work with state authorities in planning for long range fuel mitigation, fire readiness, prevention, and fire suppression activities.

A handbook was developed by mobilization center staff over a two year period (two tropical storm seasons). The *Austin-Marietta Handbook* was designed to provide the guidance and knowledge needed to quickly and efficiently establish and manage mobilization, demobilization, and receiving-distribution centers in the Southern Geographic Area. The Handbook's greatest value is that it shares knowledge earned in hard fashion by seasoned center managers and their subordinates who broke new ground when they established the first round of mobilization centers during the intense tropical storm seasons of 2004 and 2005. The most independent and battle-hardened veterans of coordination center management can benefit from having this pre-attack tool at their disposal.



A large graphic collage with a light green background and a brown border. At the top center, the words "GREEN PANTS" are written in a large, stylized, green font. Below this, the text "AFFECTIONATE NICKNAME COINED BY HURRICANE VICTIMS FOR HURRICANE RESPONDERS, 2005" is centered. On the left side, there is a small illustration of a pair of green pants. The collage contains several photographs with white scalloped borders: a person in a white shirt pointing at a whiteboard; a group of people sitting at a table with laptops; a person in a red shirt standing in a room with boxes; a person in a dark shirt sitting in a chair; a large group of people sitting in a circle on the floor; and a person in a red shirt pointing at a map on a wall. The text "Photos by MOB Center Staff" is centered in the lower middle of the collage.

SIGNIFICANT PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prescribed Fire Managers in the Southern Region struggled to overcome factors of weather and nature to accomplish their job. Nevertheless, a total of 976,176 acres of hazardous fuels were reduced during 2005. Few ignition opportunities were passed. Managers used partner arrangements, innovative planning, and resourceful thinking to get the job done.

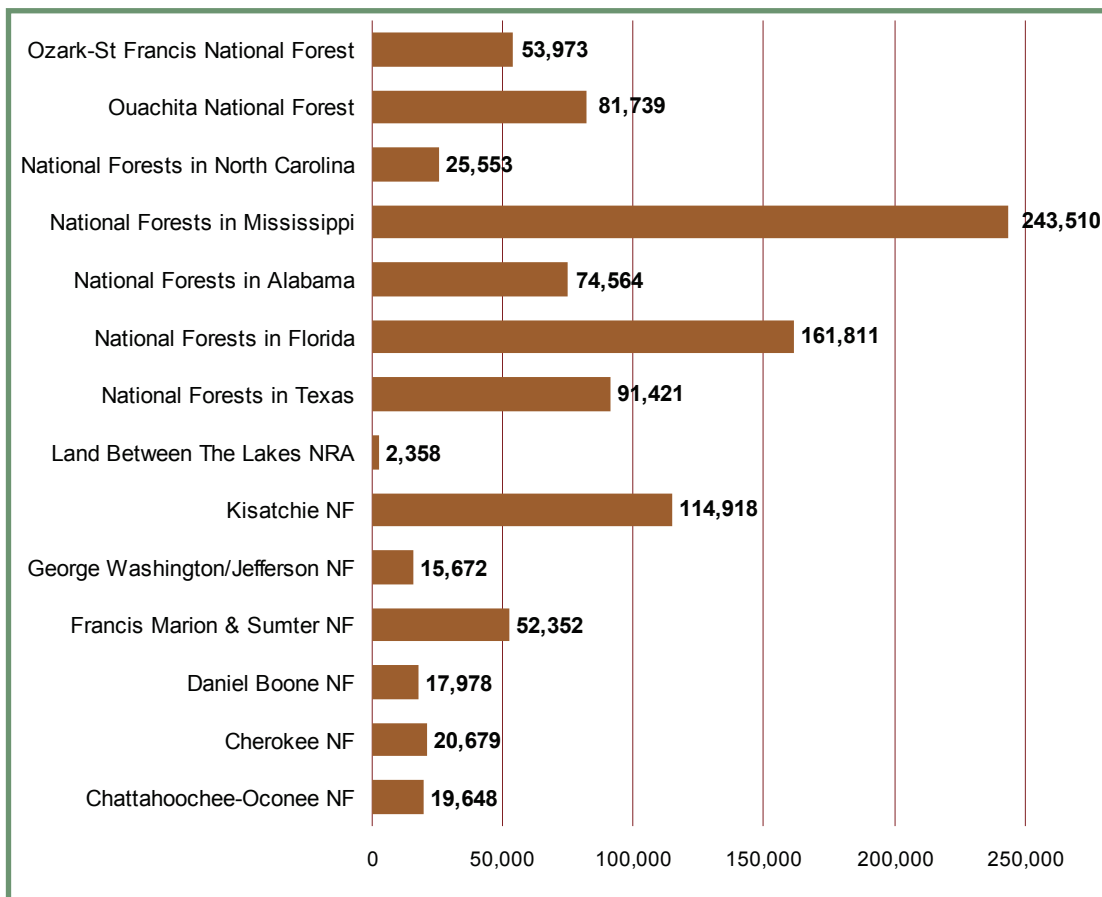


Ignition -- Night Firing
National Forests in Mississippi

Hazardous Fuels Treatments: 976,176 Acres

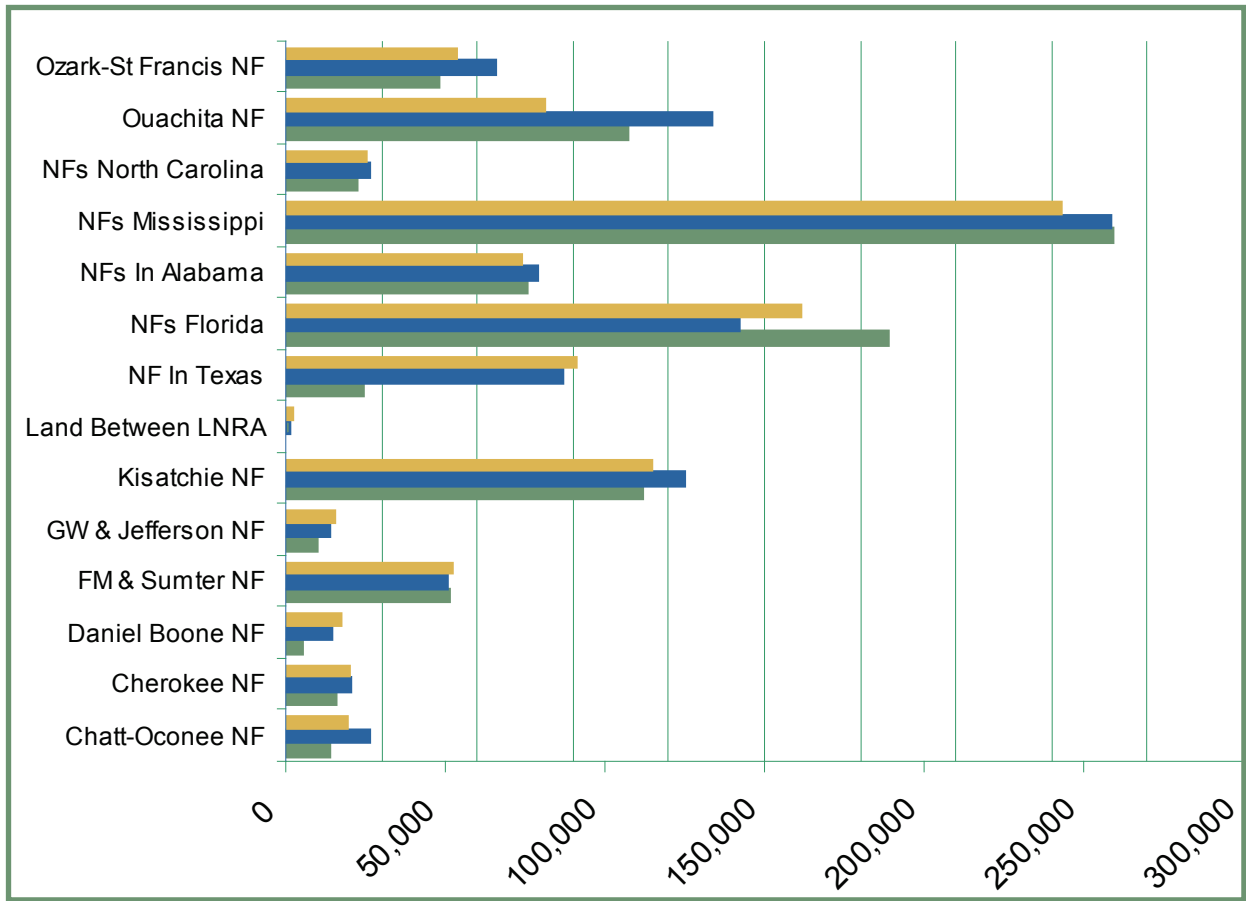
Hazardous Fuels Reduction FY 2005			
Wildland Urban Interface and All Other Reductions			
Organization	Acres		
	WUI	Other	Total
Chattahoochee-Oconee NF	13,939	5,709	19,648
Cherokee NF	19,588	1,091	20,679
Daniel Boone NF	14,858	3,120	17,978
Francis Marion & Sumter NF	47,855	4,497	52,352
George Washington/Jeff. NF	11,652	4,020	15,672
Kisatchie NF	79,285	35,633	114,918
Land Between The Lakes NRA	1,317	1,041	2,358
National Forests in Texas	54,804	36,617	91,421
National Forests in Florida	102,636	59,175	161,811
National Forests in Alabama	74,564	0	74,564
National Forests in Mississippi	241,934	1,576	243,510
National Forests in N. Carolina	24,193	1,360	25,553
Ouachita National Forest	63,601	18,138	81,739
Ozark-St Francis N. Forest	53,428	545	53,973
Total	803,654	172,522	976,176

Hazardous Fuels Treatments: 976,176 Acres (NPORS)



HazFuel Rx Fire Acres	2003	2004	2005
Chatt-Oconee NF	14,068	26,600	19,648
Cherokee NF	16,100	20,130	20,679
Daniel Boone NF	4,951	14,607	17,978
FM & Sumter NF	51,367	50,409	52,352
GW & Jefferson NF	9,864	13,657	15,672
Kisatchie NF	111,923	125,102	114,918
Land Between LNRA	519	1,027	2,358
NF In Texas	24,149	86,659	91,421
NFs Florida	188,654	141,945	161,811
NFs In Alabama	75,670	79,045	74,564
NFs Mississippi	259,314	258,815	243,510
NFs North Carolina	22,335	26,287	25,553
Ouachita NF	107,066	133,626	81,739
Ozark-St Francis NF	48,239	65,709	53,973
	936,222	1,043,618	976,176

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Acres: 2003-2004-2005
NFPORs Acres



Augusta Interagency Hotshot Crew
Mill Creek Prescribed Fire
George Washington and Jefferson
National Forests, Virginia



One of the Hardest Working Crews in the Nation
In Transition, Time Enough for a Brief Pose
Augusta IHC, Alaska

PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY FOREST**NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA**

The National Forests in Alabama accomplished a total of 74,564 acres of prescribed burning for hazard fuels reduction in 2005. This was 100.3% of the 74,377 acre hazardous fuels target. All burned acres were in the wildland urban interface. The Forest used an exclusive-use helicopter for aerial ignition on some of large burn units on the Conecuh and Talladega National Forests. The Forest also accomplished 22,342 acres on non-NFP treatments in other non-fire resource areas.

OUACHITA AND OZARK-ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS — ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

The National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma reduced hazardous fuel conditions on 204,982 acres in 2005 (NFPORS Treatment Acres). The burned acreage includes all fire and non-fire treatments. Additionally 12,619 acres were treated by the Arkansas Forestry Commission under authority of the Stevens Act. The Forests continued to work with partners to accomplish landscape-level ecosystem restoration projects. Fuel treatment work on private forest lands lying immediately adjacent to Federally owned lands was accomplished under authority of the Wyden Amendment.

Additional Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas were identified as a by product of efforts to revise the *Forest Plan*. This aided in developing priorities for hazardous fuels mitigation projects and activities. Thirty-three communities at risk have been identified near Forest Service lands in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Over 1,000,000 acres of WUI lands have been identified under Forest ownership lying within 1/2 mile of private lands.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

The Forest had a very good year in 2005 accomplishing 164,862 acres of prescribed fire treatments. Mechanical treatments were also significant for the Forest with 9,326 acres treated. The Forest continued the practice of treating 30 to 40% of its prescribed fire acres during the growing season.

The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC) completed another successful year of training and prescribed burning in the southern states. From January through March 2005, 98 students received training in prescribed fire. The participants came from state and federal agencies, private organizations, and one foreign country. Five trainees came from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, five from the Bureau of Land Management, 64 from the Forest Service, nine from the Fish and Wildlife Service, four from the National Park Service, five from state agencies, four from private organizations, and two from Portugal. The trainee teams burned with Federal and State Agencies as well as The Nature Conservancy throughout Florida. The PFTC assisted in burning 36,590 acres, of which 18,211 acres were classified as wildland-urban interface. Thirty-eight (38) task books were completed for various prescribed fire positions.

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST — KENTUCKY

The Forest accomplished its largest prescribed burning program to date. Success was made possible by close coordination between all districts. Accurate and timely communication of resource needs, flexible staffing policies, and the use of off-unit resources to supplement local resources, proved invaluable in accomplishing multiple burns on several separate days.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA — KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE

The Land Between the Lakes NRA conducted its first aerial ignition for prescribed fire operations in 2005. The Cemetery Ridge prescribed fire (2,625 acres as reported in NFPORS) was intended to reintroduce fire into a project area scheduled for woodland restoration. Initial monitoring indicates that the burn was successful. The total prescribed fire acreage for the year was 3,340 acres.

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST — LOUISIANA

Weather and drought conditions prevented the Forest from achieving its annual prescribed fire target. The Forest extended the helicopter contract through the end of May. Without the helicopter the acres-burned number would be far short of the original target.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

The National Forests in Mississippi prescribed burn program was *placed on hold* due to Hurricane Katrina salvage and recovery efforts. Resources from other districts were detailed to work on assignments in the Wiggins area during what would normally be considered the Forest's prescribed burning window of opportunity. The National Forests in Mississippi successfully accomplished 243,510 acres in prescribed burning for 2005. Prescribed burning accomplishments have caused a decrease in wildfire occurrence. Fire intensity levels have also been reduced.



Down Dead Fuels
National Forests in Mississippi

FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS
— SOUTH CAROLINA

Aerial ignition was used on the majority of acres accomplished in 2005. The Forest Service exclusive-use helicopter was used in addition to call-when-needed helicopters. The total accomplishment on the Forest was 53,143 acres. Approximately 15-20% of the burning occurred during the growing season.

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE — SOUTH CAROLINA

The Savannah River Fire organization won the *National Fire Plan Excellence Award for Research*. The Fire Management and Research organizations have cooperated on several research projects relating to smoke dispersion, smoke effects on prescribed fire crew members, fuel loading, and fire effects.

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST — TENNESSEE

The prescribed fire season on the Forest exceeded expectations as far as acres accomplished. Good teamwork between the districts made this possible. The Cherokee Hotshots were available for prescribed burns on both the northern division and the southern division of the Forest.



Cherokee Hotshots
Photo Location: Hells Canyon

NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

The National Forests & Grasslands in Texas accomplished 100,790 acres of prescribed burning in 2005. Weather was generally favorable for burning. Approximately 70% of the burning took place after the growing season had begun. This technique enables effective control of understory brush.

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS — VIRGINIA

In spite of another late winter and a wet spring, the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests completed 28 prescribed fire projects, totalling 16,067 acres — an all-time high for the forest. Most of this burning was accomplished in April. Crews took advantage of nearly every prescription window available.

EXAMPLES OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN COST EFFECTIVENESS**NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA**

Through careful planning, roads and creeks have been used as firelines in an effort to reduce the amount of dozer lines required for prescribed fire projects. Great care has been used in locating and building firelines for the purpose of preventing erosion problems and for reducing the amount of rehabilitation work required.

OUACHITA AND OZARK-ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS — ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

The Sister Forest program proved very beneficial. Personnel and equipment resources from the Black Hills National Forest were used to accomplish prescribed burning objectives. Twelve personnel and four Type-6 engines assisted with prescribed fire operations during the month of March. In return the Ouachita and Ozark-St Francis National Forests supported the Black Hills National Forest with personnel and equipment during the month of September.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

The Lake City Tanker Base was completed in late 2005. Florida tanker base operations are now centralized. This should prove to be a more cost-effective way of doing business for both the Forest and the State of Florida.

The Forest combined two district fire management programs. A zone fire management program was organized and should be more cost-effective for both districts and the Forest.

Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area — KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE

The unit's programmed prescribed fire target was 1,500 acres. The target was exceeded. This was accomplished in part by integrating several conservation group partners into project execution.

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST — LOUISIANA

The Forest's exclusive-use-helicopter contract was extended for 60 days. This action reduced the need for hiring call-when-needed helicopters. Aviation costs were reduced. Vacant firefighter positions were filled. This reduced the need for detailers, and resulted in saving travel and per diem costs.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

The Forest's ability to conduct a prescribed fire program was negatively impacted by the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Katrina. In recent years the Desoto Ranger District had burned between 60,000 and 94,000 acres per year. Future years, in light of the effects of Hurricane Katrina, will not allow for prescribed burning on such a large scale. Prescribed burning costs will be greatly increased. Smaller blocks will be burned due to an extensive timber salvage program aimed at recovering trees knocked down by hurricane winds.

FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS — SOUTH CAROLINA

The Forest has economically benefitted through the use of limited-status helicopters. The Seed Orchard Helibase Manager position was filled in August 2005. Costs associated with the use of detailers to staff the helibase will be reduced for future operations.

SAVANNAH RIVER FOREST — SOUTH CAROLINA

The Savannah River Forest has adopted a project monitoring program wherein spreadsheets and charts are used to track the number of days available for burning in real-time for the entire year. The spreadsheet accounts for every day.

Each day is given a verbal description explaining why that day was, or was not, classified as a burn day. Smoke day categories, fuel moisture, temperature, precipitation, and other related parameters are used as qualifiers. Implementation of this system, as a planning tool, has reduced overhead and other costs associated with planning and coordinating prescribed fire activities.

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

The program focus has shifted. The emphasis is now on achieving success through close coordination of all forest resources. A large number of forest based resources have been eliminated or reduced in number in recent years, making the emphasis on cost-effective efforts a top priority. Districts have worked together to accomplish goals. North zone and south zone districts have worked to integrate planning and implementation operations in a more cost-effective manner. During 2005, on one burn day, the Forest was able to accomplish three successful prescribed burns in separate districts and separate zones by using a single helicopter.

NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

More emphasis continues to be placed on burning larger units and on burning multiple units each burn day. These practices have resulted in more efficient use of helicopters and ground resources.

NOTEWORTHY INSTANCES OF COOPERATION

NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

The Alabama Wildland Fire Academy had a very successful fifth year. The Academy is sponsored annually by three agencies: the National Forests in Alabama, the City of Pelham Fire Department, and the Alabama Forestry Commission. More than 250 individuals attended 13 separate fire courses. The students were employees from federal, state, city, and volunteer fire departments.

The Forest and Districts worked with the Alabama Forestry Commission and local community groups to accomplish fire prevention education and training in fire hazard reduction. Surplus federal property was transferred to local volunteer fire departments in an effort to increase local fire protection capabilities.

The Alabama Interagency Coordination Center assumed dispatch responsibilities for the state of Mississippi for approximately three months during the late summer and fall. The Mississippi Interagency Coordination Center had been disabled by hurricane activity beginning late August 2005.

OUACHITA AND OZARK-ST FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

Both forests continue to work with the Arkansas Forestry Commission to organize *Firewise* councils across the state.

The Forest continued to work with Native American Tribes in Oklahoma for the purpose of training, equipping, and mobilizing Native American emergency fire crews. The focus for 2005 was on training and certifying candidates for leadership positions.

Wildland fire training is a planned interagency effort involving all wildland agencies in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Forests provide wildland fire instruction at Arkansas Technological University. Arkansas' first wildland fire academy was hosted by Arkansas Technological University. Instructors were provided by the National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma, and by the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The first two-week training even took place in April 2005, and provided a variety of entry level and intermediate level wildland firefighter training opportunities. Federal and state wildland firefighters from Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee attended the training.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA

Cooperation with many different Federal and State agencies is an ongoing and daily activity for the National Forests in Florida. Resources are routinely shared with the U.S. Navy, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, the State of Florida, and other organizations for which a partner relationship is beneficial to managing wildfire in Florida. Two good examples of cooperation are the shared aviation contracts with the U.S. Navy, and with Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Another example is the soon to be completed *shared* fire station located in the Pinhook area of the Osceola National Forest. A third example is the continued sharing of resources with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Air Division. This sharing arrangement makes possible the operation of two Air Monitors which provide important base line data to the prescribed fire program.

CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS

The Chattahoochee-Oconee continues to have a strong relationship with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and local volunteer fire departments. GFC provides local support on wildland fires and on prescribed burns. Through a reciprocal agreement the Forest provides wildland fire suppression in Rabun county while the Georgia Forestry Commission provides coverage on the Oconee National Forest.

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST — KENTUCKY

Hurricane activity led to an unprecedented demand for support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Fire resources were used to accomplish multiple FEMA requests beginning in late summer and continuing to the end of the calendar year.



The Daniel Boone National Forest (DBNF) and the Kentucky Division of Forestry worked cooperatively during the fall to field and support a fire prevention team. The team focused its fire prevention and education activities on southeastern counties which have, historically, experienced significant arson activity and high fire occurrence.

Prescribed burns that were accomplished on the north end of the DBNF were used to collect data for an ongoing research project by the University of Kentucky.

Forest personnel traveled to Puerto Rico to conduct four fire training classes over a two-week period. The objective was to develop candidates for fireline leadership positions and to develop fire business management skills in crew personnel. Students from the Caribbean National Forest, local fire departments, and other natural resource agencies participated.

The Kentucky and Tennessee Fire Academy was successful. The success was made possible by close coordination and cooperation with two state forestry agencies (Kentucky and Tennessee), with the Cherokee National Forest, with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and with the National Park Service.



Cadre for Puerto Rico Training

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA — KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE

The units programmed prescribed fire target was 1,500 acres. The target was exceeded by nearly an order of magnitude. This was accomplished in part by developing partnerships with several NGO conservation groups.

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

Extending the exclusive-use-helicopter contract for 60 days reduced the need for call-when-needed helicopters and therefore reduced aviation costs. Several firefighter positions were filled. This action reduced the need for detailers and resulted in saving on travel and per diem costs.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

The National Forests in Mississippi and the Mississippi Forestry Commission have a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement which allows for initial attack to be made by the suppression resource that first arrives on the scene of the fire, regardless of the employing agency. Due to a recent decrease in budget many Mississippi Forestry Commission employees have been released from their positions. In the absence of those firefighters, the Forest has assisted on many fires within cooperative boundaries that would otherwise have been suppressed by the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

The Forest has strong cooperative ties with the National Park Service (Natchez Trace Parkway), and with several Fish and Wildlife Service refuges. These two agencies assist with prescribed burning operations and share resources when available.

The Forest has a number of participating agreements with private landowners which allow portions of their lands to be included within managed prescribed burns for economic efficiency and benefit.

After the impact of Hurricane Katrina, the Mississippi Interagency Fire Prevention and Education team was assembled to promote fire prevention and to educate landowners about local burn-bans. This team was lead by Forest Service Fire Staff. The team consisted of fire prevention personnel from the Mississippi Forestry Commission and other state forestry division personnel. Forest Service severity funds were used to fund team projects. Following the hurricane events of 2005, dry fuel conditions pervaded all of Mississippi. Wildfire averages were the highest on record for state, private, and federal lands. The prevention effort was successful in bringing attention to the extreme fire potential.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

During the 2005 season the North Carolina Interagency Dispatch office encountered many challenges associated with wildfires, floods and hurricanes. Due to the magnitude of the tasks faced, in combination with a shortage of staff in the dispatch office and in the agency, none of the pre-planned goals and objectives could have been met were it not for help received from other federal agencies, cooperators, emergency firefighters, and contractors.

During the tropical storm season resources from the Department of Defense, the Fish & Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the Southern Research Station, the National Park Service, the Job Corps, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the North Carolina Department of Forest Resources, and emergency firefighters and contractors all came together in a cooperative effort to provide support to the hurricane recovery effort. Each of the agencies provided support in the form of overhead resources for incident management teams. They provided handcrews, camp crews, and heavy equipment. Cooperators managed staging areas and provided logistic, finance, administrative, planning, air operations, prevention, and dispatch support.

FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS — SOUTH CAROLINA

Cooperation with many different Federal and State agencies is an ongoing and daily process, a way of doing business. Interagency Fire Prevention Teams were formed in February and worked through April. The teams consisted of Forest Service and State Forestry Commission personnel. The teams met with local business owners, students, civic leaders, and local government officials in delivering the fire prevention message.

Interagency fire training and fire planning are two program areas that continue to move forward because of a deep commitment by all partners to cooperation, coordination, and mutual support.

SAVANNAH RIVER FOREST — SOUTH CAROLINA

Savannah River provided mutual aid on 11 fires, both within the threat zone and on specific request. Fire detection for Savannah River was provided by the Aviation Operations Division, Wackenhut Services, Incorporated.

Savannah River provided instructors for wildland fire training courses. The instructors provided instruction at training events co-sponsored by the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, and the South Carolina Forestry Commission. In addition, Savannah River personnel instructed three separate sessions of the Wildland Firefighter Refresher course to the Savannah River Site Fire Department (U.S. Department of Energy and Contractors). Savannah River personnel also provided fire shelter training for Wackenhut Services pilots.

Savannah River fire management personnel serve as subject matter experts at safety meetings for the U. S. Department of Energy and for Washington Savannah River Corporation. Safety meeting topics cover wildland fire management, prescribed fire prevention, and safety oriented topics such as heat stress, personal protective gear, and aviation operations.

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST — TENNESSEE

The Cherokee National Forest worked very closely with state, federal, and private partner agencies and organizations. One of many noteworthy examples of cooperation was the successful coordination and execution of the annual Kentucky-Tennessee Wildfire Training Academy. The Academy trained over 300 individuals in January of 2005. This event could not have happened without the strong bonds of cooperation that exist between the Forest and its cooperators.

Forest Districts have begun working with neighboring universities in offering basic wildland fire classes. This provides the forest with a pool of fire-qualified job applicants while providing college level credit hours to students.

The Cherokee National Forest and the National Wild Turkey Federation continued working closely together on habitat improvement projects in conjunction with the Forest's fuel reduction program. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) continued to be an active partner as well. TVA provided fire qualified individuals for local incidents as well as for national assignments. TVA also provided quality instructors to help with the Kentucky-Tennessee Fire Academy.

NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS

The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT) sponsored two wildland fire training academies during 2005. NFGT shared the overall staffing responsibilities at the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC). Throughout 2005 the greater part of Texas was in fire severity status. The 2005 hurricane response presented a host of challenges to the interagency incident management system; all of which challenges were managed successfully through cooperation and coordination with the interagency emergency response community.



Boarding Aircraft
Knoxville Mobilization Center

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS — VIRGINIA

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests participated with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) on a number of fire prevention projects. Forest personnel also worked closely in coordinating prevention work with the Shenandoah Valley Interagency Wildfire Prevention and Education Team, and with the National Park Service.

During the fall fire season, the Forest hosted a Wildfire Prevention Team that included Forest Service and VDOF personnel. The team concentrated its efforts in Southwest Virginia, which geographical location had experienced the highest fire danger to date.

Big Branch Prescribed Fire
George Washington and Jefferson NFs



S260 Trainees -- Puerto Rico
Instructor Cadre provided by
Daniel Boone National Forest

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDFIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES

Personnel Employed on Wildfire Presuppression and Suppression Activities		Southern Area CY 2005	
No.	Item	Values	
		Sub-total	Total
1.	Regular Appointed Personnel		
a	Full-time fire management (20 pay periods or more)	282	
b	Part-time fire management	166	
c	Others used on pre-suppression	292	
d	Others used on suppression (exclude those reported under a, b, or c)	1,551	
e	Total regular appointed personnel (a+b+c+d)		2,291
2.	Seasonal or Short-term Personnel		
a	Regular fire control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	43	
b	Others who spent time on fire control work (BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.)	30	
c	Emergency firefighters	1,104	
d	Total emergency firefighters (a+b+c)		1,177
3.	Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression		1,058
4.	Number of casuals, included in Item 3, employed for first time	173	
5.	Remarks		
	Total		4,524

LAND PROTECTION

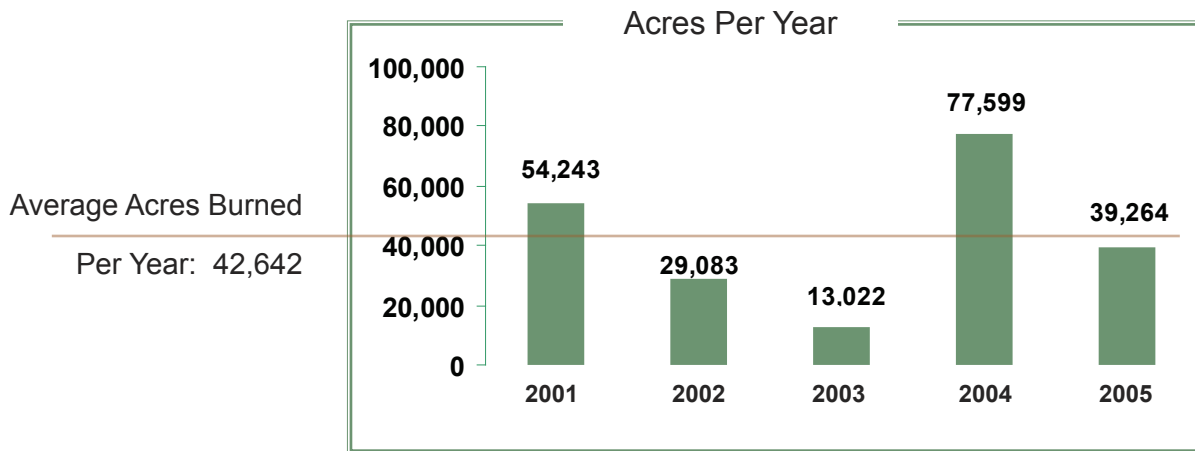
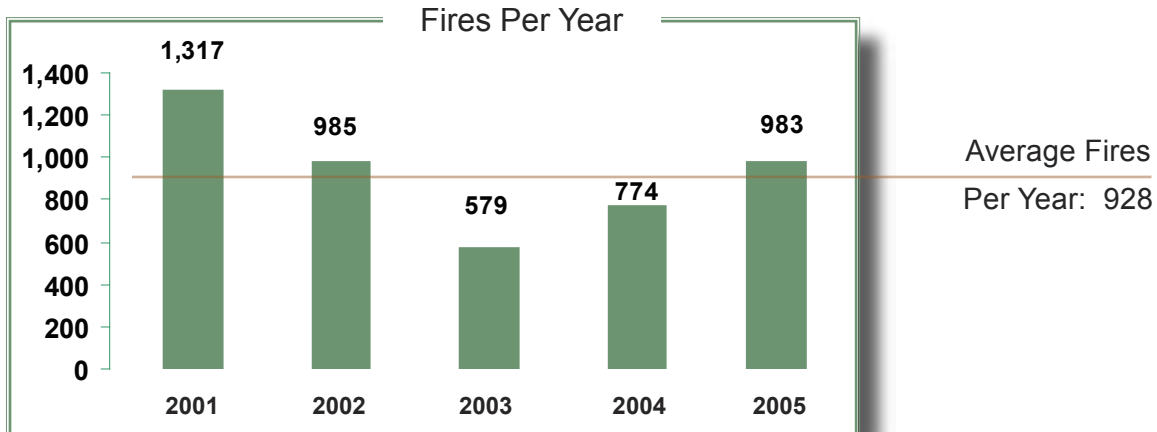
Land Protection Report CY 2005									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd By State and Forest Service	National Forest Land Protected By Others
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reim- burse Supp	Without Reim- burse					
AL						656,101	656,101		10,000
AR						2,591,709	2,591,709		
FL		37,758				1,159,381	1,197,139	520,610	
GA						866,499	866,499	87,530	180,015
KY DBF						704,629	704,629		
KY LBL						172,000	172,000		
LA						571,924	571,924		32,354
MS						1,183,436	1,183,436		
NC					40,740	1,252,021	1,292,761	752,000	327
OK						354,196	354,196	372,707	
PR						28,004	28,004		
SCFM						624,075	624,075		
SCSR					198,334	0	198,334		
TN						650,000	650,000		
TX						675,572	675,572		
VA						1,781,449	1,781,449	1,654,489	
Total		37,758			239,074	13,270,996	13,547,828	3,387,336	222,696

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FROM WILDLAND FIRE REPORTS

Fires and Acres by Cause - Southern Region - CY 2005												
Page 1 of 2	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres per Fire
National Forests In Alabama	Fires	1	1	1	5	5	2	20	0	5	40	39
	%	3%	3%	3%	13%	13%	5%	50%	0%	13%		
	Acres	6.0	0.5	10.0	251.4	44.2	38.8	935.7	0.0	282.8	1,569.4	
	%	0%	0%	1%	16%	3%	2%	60%	0%	18%		
Ouachita, Ozark-St Francis Nat. Forests	Fires	25	8	3	13	10	2	121	0	14	196	26
	%	13%	4%	2%	7%	5%	1%	62%	0%	7%		
	Acres	641.6	165.5	15.0	168.4	59.4	50.0	3,656.1	0.0	413.8	5,169.8	
	%	12%	3%	0%	3%	1%	1%	71%	0%	8%		
National Forests in Florida	Fires	6	2	3	3	13	1	10	2	21	61	87
	%	10%	3%	5%	5%	21%	2%	16%	3%	34%		
	Acres	29.6	1.1	6.9	2.7	14.9	400.0	4,786.0	2.4	52.4	5,296	
	%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	90%	0%	1%		
National Forests in Georgia	Fires	0	1	0	2	11	1	14	1	9	39	5
	%	0%	3%	0%	5%	28%	3%	36%	3%	23%		
	Acres	0	0.1	0	19	38.3	1.5	108	0.2	27.1	194.2	
	%	0%	0%	0%	10%	20%	1%	56%	0%	14%		
Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	1	2	0	4	8	2	65	0	4	86	76
	%	1%	2%	0%	5%	9%	2%	76%	0%	5%		
	Acres	1.0	0.2	0.0	36.1	55.8	8.0	6,329.9	0.0	90.0	6,521.0	
	%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	97%	0%	1%		
Land Between The Lakes NRA	Fires	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	25
	%	60%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%		
	Acres	121.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	126.3	
	%	96%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	3	11	2	5	7	1	32	0	22	83	64
	%	4%	13%	2%	6%	8%	1%	39%	0%	27%		
	Acres	273.0	107.0	23.0	633.0	37.0	48.0	2,002.0	0.0	2,148.0	5,271.0	
	%	5%	2%	0%	12%	1%	1%	38%	0%	41%		
National Forests in Mississippi	Fires	2	4	3	3	29	0	69	1	46	157	70
	%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%		
	Acres	8.0	26.7	12.2	15.4	662.0	0	1861.9	1.5	8406.0	10,994.0	
	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	17%	0%	76%		

Fires and Acres by Cause - Southern Region - CY 2005												
Page 2 of 2	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres Per Fire
National Forests in North Carolina	Fires	1	2	1	4	26	4	12	3	24	77	12
	%	1%	3%	1%	5%	34%	5%	16%	4%	31%		
	Acres	0.1	0.0	0.0	47.1	163	2.5	264.7	63	373.7	914.3	
	%	0%	0%	0%	5%	18%	0%	29%	7%	41%		
Caribbean National Forest	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	%	0%	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	0.0	
	%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Francis Marion & Sumter NFs	Fires	1	5	0	0	8	0	27	0	1	42	8
	%	2%	12%	0%	0%	19%	0%	64%	0%	2%		
	Acres	10.0	11.7	0.0	0.0	108.8	0.0	199.7	0.0	3.8	334.0	
	%	3%	4%	0%	0%	33%	0%	60%	0%	1%		
Savannah River Site	Fires	1	7	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	16	3
	%	6%	44%	0%	0%	38%	0%	6%	0%	6%		
	Acres	5.0	10.6	0.0	0.0	25.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	41.5	
	%	12%	26%	0%	0%	62%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Cherokee National Forest	Fires	1	1	0	2	3	0	23	0	30	60	23
	%	2%	2%	0%	3%	5%	0%	38%	0%	50%		
	Acres	158.0	1.0	0.0	3.0	99.0	0.0	522.0	0.0	623.0	1,406.0	
	%	11%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	37%	0%	44%		
National Forests & Grasslands in Texas	Fires	8	5	2	11	8	0	48	1	13	96	11
	%	8%	5%	2%	11%	8%	0%	50%	1%	14%		
	Acres	308.2	92.5	27.3	43.4	227.8	0	296.7	0.1	48	1,044.0	
	%	30%	9%	3%	4%	22%	0%	28%	0%	5%		
George Washington & Jefferson Nat. Forests	Fires	1	0	1	3	1	0	9	0	10	25	15
	%	4%	0%	4%	12%	4%	0%	36%	0%	40%		
	Acres	33.0	0.0	2.0	10.0	3.0	0.0	305.0	0.0	29.0	382.0	
	%	9%	0%	1%	3%	1%	0%	80%	0%	8%		
Total Fires	Fires	54	49	16	56	135	13	451	8	201	983	40
	%	5%	5%	2%	6%	14%	1%	46%	1%	20%		
Total Acres	Acres	1,595	417	96	1,235	1,539	549	21,268	67	12,498	39,264	
	%	4%	1%	0%	3%	4%	1%	54%	0%	32%		

Five Year Averages --- 2001 Through 2005



Five Year Averages 2001-2005												
2001-2005	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres/Fire
2001	114	46	33	50	129	63	607	13	258	1,317	54,243	41
2002	142	46	10	39	109	10	424	9	196	985	29,083	30
2003	38	62	8	24	64	8	257	3	115	579	13,022	22
2004	49	32	4	42	103	15	335	4	190	774	77,599	100
2005	54	49	16	56	135	13	451	8	201	983	39,264	40
2001-05	397	235	71	211	540	109	2,074	37	960	4,638	213,211	47
5 yr avg	79	47	14	42	108	22	415	7	192	928	42,642	46
Percent	8.6%	5.1%	1.5%	4.5%	11.6%	2.4%	44.7%	0.8%	20.7%	—	—	—