Southern Region

2007 Annual Fire Report

Southern Area Coordination Center, Atlanta, Georgia

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Southern Region
2007 Annual Fire Report

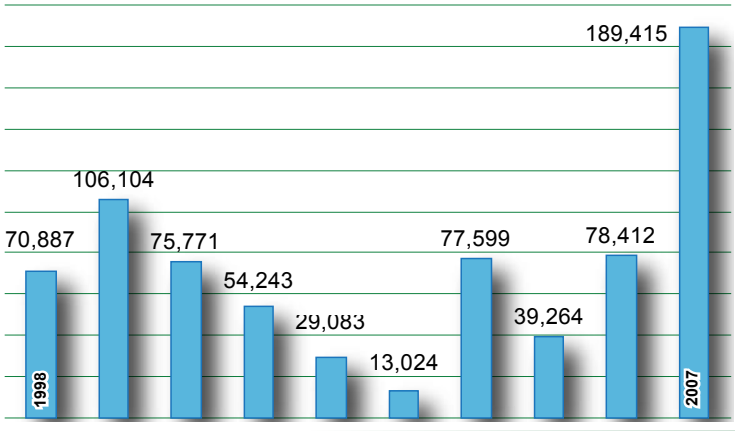
Fire Season Highlights

Climate and weather, more often than not exceeding the norm, served to create a fire year of extreme potential mitigated only by the positive effects of the Southern Regions's aggressive hazardous fuels reduction program, adequate pre-planning, and the resourcefulness of field resource managers. Driven by record drought and record high temperatures, the fire suppression workload shifted eastward to Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The number of wildfires occurring in 2007 decreased by three percent over 2006. Total acres burned increased by 142 percent, the significant increase due in large part to the 123,183 acre Florida Bugaboo fire which burned over a three week period on the Osceola National Forest. The average fire size for 2007 increased from 57 to 141 acres, placing 2007 in an average fire size category not comparable to any recent year. Discounting the Florida Bugaboo (for statistical purposes), the average size for wildland fires was 54 acres (including three wildland fire use management actions).

Year	Fires	Acres	Ac/Fire
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
2006	1,381	78,412	57
2007	1,340	189,415	141
Avg	1,217	73,380	60
Total	12,172	733,802	—

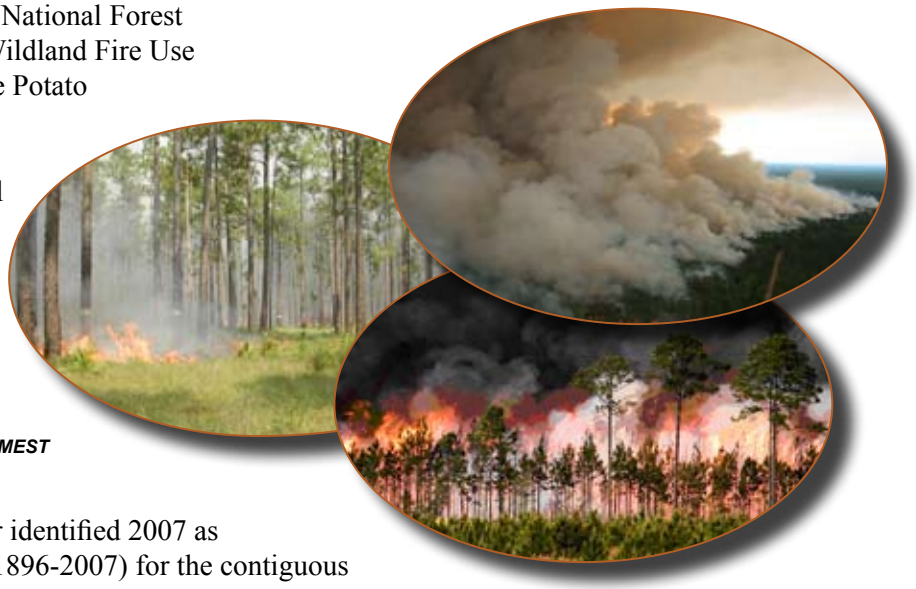
National Forests in Florida (FNF) led the Region in fire occurrence and in acres burned (198 fires or 14.8 percent of Southern Region fires; 127,354 acres burned or 67.2 percent of total). The number of new ignitions for FNF increased by only six percent over 2006. The Cherokee National Forest, on the other hand, witnessed a 182 percent increase in the number of fires suppressed. The Chattahooche-Oconee National Forest (CHF) reported 74 fires, a 24 percent increase over the number of fires reported for 2006. It should be noted that CHF reported a 47 percent increase in fire occurrence from 2005 to 2006. Fire occurrence increases for 2007 were also reported by Daniel Boone National Forest (39 percent), George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (25 percent), Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (60 percent), National Forests in Alabama (78 percent), National Forests in North Carolina (60 percent), Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests (8 percent), and by the Savannah River Site (6 percent). In contrast the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas reported an 80 percent reduction in fires from 2006. The Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests, National Forests in Mississippi, and National Forests in Louisiana also reported significant reductions in fire occurrence for 2007.



Ten Year Acres Burned

Several of these forests continued to experience significant fire challenges. National Forests in Mississippi (MNF), for example, managed to keep 151 wildfires to only 4,238 acres. Notwithstanding MNF's success in conducting fire suppression operations, much of that success can be attributed to the Forest's hazardous fuels reduction achievements.

Wildland Fire Use. The Ouachita National Forest successfully managed its second Wildland Fire Use fire (WFU). During April 2007 the Potato Hill WFU burned 3,481 acres over a three week period. The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (VAF) successfully managed two WFU fires during the spring of 2007. The VAF managed a total of 407 acres under the WFU strategy.



Weather Summary—*Ninth Warmest Year On Record*

The National Climatic Data Center identified 2007 as the ninth warmest year of record (1896-2007) for the contiguous United States. Three of the warmest years of record occurred within the current five-year period: 2005 (tied with 2007 as ninth warmest), 2006 (second warmest), and 2007.

The Southern Area received more than its share of warm temperatures during 2007. All time high temperatures were documented throughout the Southeastern United States. Paducah, KY recorded its highest all time high-minimum temperature range for the month of March: 66° high, 62° low (Fahrenheit). London, KY recorded a high of 87° on March 25, 2007, an all time single day record. Crossville, TN also recorded its warmest March day of record on March 25, 2007, with a high of 82°. Fort Smith, AR experienced its fourth warmest March of record. On March 25, 2007, Pinson, AL recorded a high of 91°, the highest (documented) daily temperature of record for the month of March in that city. The Raleigh-Durham, NC area experienced its third warmest March of record with an average temperature of 45°. March 2007 was the warmest March of record for Roanoke, VA; Bluefield, VA; Paducah, KY; and Little Rock, AR.

March 2007 brought record rainfall to parts of Texas and Oklahoma. March was the all time wettest month for San Antonio, TX as well as for Oklahoma City, OK. In contrast the driest March of record was recorded for Pinson, AL; Fort Smith, AR; and Jackson, MS.

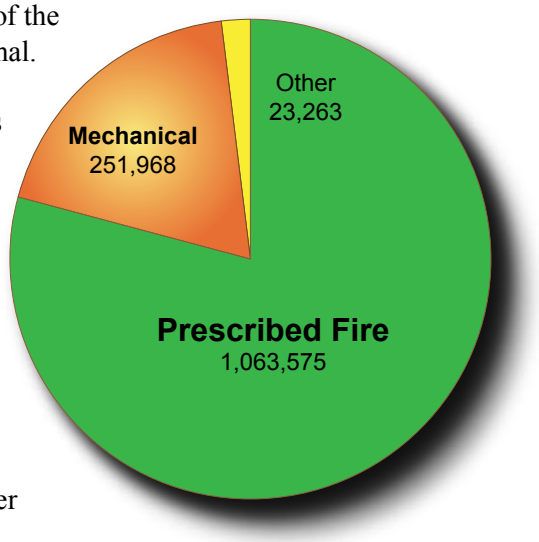
Warmest Years

1.	1998	55.00
2.	2006	54.91
3.	1934	54.91
4.	1999	54.59
5.	1921	54.59
6.	1931	54.38
7.	2001	54.32
8.	1990	54.27
9. tie	2005	54.26
9. tie	2007	54.26

Source: 2007 Annual Climate Review U.S. Summary, National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina, February 22, 2008

The temperature for the 2006-2007 winter season (December-February) was the 39th warmest such period on record (1896-2007), with warmer than average temperatures along the Eastern Seaboard and the northern tier of states. Winter temperatures were below normal in Texas. Spring (March-May) temperatures were 8th warmest for the contiguous U.S. No states were record warmest or coldest during the spring. Warm temperatures persisted into the Summer (June-August), as the nation ranked sixth warmest in the last 113 years. Above average temperatures were in evidence in parts of Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida. Many locations in the Southeastern U.S. broke records for the most days above 90°F and 100°F during a heat wave in August. Over 70 all-time record high temperatures were set or tied in the drought-plagued Southeast, breaking records which had stood as long as 83 years.

During October, unseasonably warm temperatures affected most of the Southeast. November temperatures were somewhat closer to normal. The 2007 fall season (September-November) ranked 6th warmest on record. Much warmer than average temperatures affected parts of the East during 2007. This was the 9th warmest January-December in the 113-year record. Both Kentucky and Tennessee had the fourth warmest years on record.



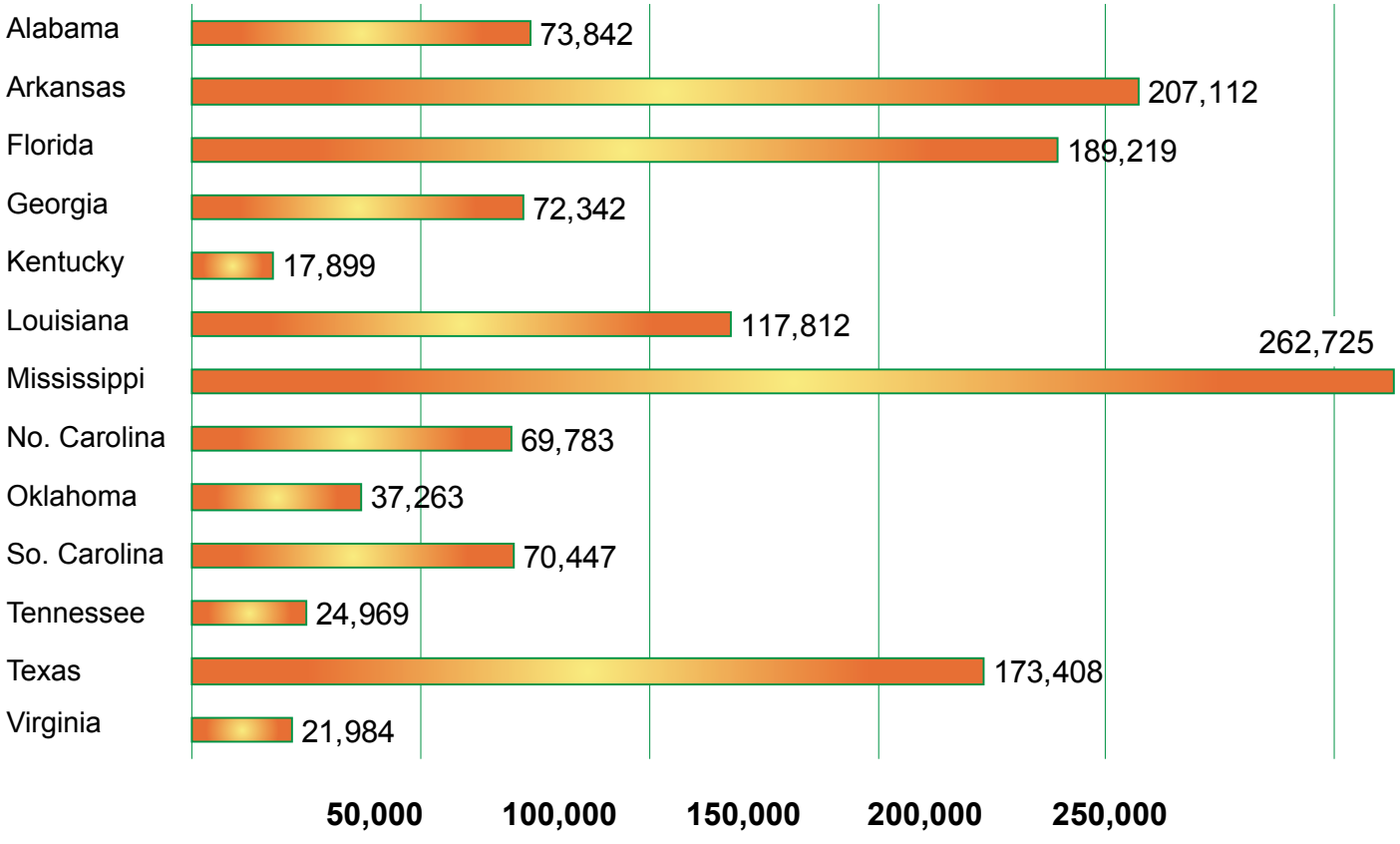
Hazardous Fuels Acres
Rx Fire—Mechanical—Other

Significant Prescribed Fire Accomplishments

Prescribed Fire Managers overcame factors of weather and nature to accomplish the critical job of reducing hazardous fuels. Partner arrangements, innovative planning, and resourceful thinking came to the fore to accomplish prescribed fire goals and objectives. Long term drought, record high temperatures, and other weather extremes continued to challenge resource managers.

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests were set back in their burning goals by an extremely dry year. The VAF was unable to accomplish any prescribed fires during the fall season. Wildfire suppression operations demanded the attention of all available fire personnel.

Hazardous Fuels Treatments by State — 1,338,805



Hazard Fuels Reduction
NFPORS Data FY2007

	Wildland Urban Interface				Non-Wildland Urban Interface				
	Fire Actual Acres	Mech Actual Acres	Other Actual Acres	Total Actual Acres	Fire Actual Acres	Mech Actual Acres	Other Actual Acres	Total Actual Acres	Total Acres
AL	18,214	0	0	18,214	41,805	13,823	0	55,628	73,842
AR	65,970	8,815	1,739	76,524	101,228	29,056	304	130,588	207,112
FL	84,575	6,274	344	91,193	75,346	22,680	0	98,026	189,219
GA	26,859	48	0	26,907	3,403	42,032	0	45,435	72,342
KY	6,611	0	0	6,611	4,317	6,971	1	11,288	17,899
LA	87,185	6,259	0	93,444	20,273	4,095	0	24,368	117,812
MS	212,850	18,988	3,848	235,686	17,572	9,440	27	27,039	262,725
NC	31,367	608	0	31,975	4,859	32,949	0	37,808	69,783
OK	30,139	573	0	30,712	5,648	903	0	6,551	37,263
SC	46,140	3,861	0	50,001	15,896	4,550	0	20,446	70,447
TN	17,854	0	0	17,854	4,615	2,500	0	7,115	24,969
TX	127,454	7,234	17,000	151,688	3,703	18,017	0	21,720	173,408
VA	8,092	3,002	0	11,094	1,600	9,290	0	10,890	21,984
SUM	763,310	55,662	22,931	841,903	300,265	196,306	332	496,902	1,338,805

National Forsts in Mississipi
Prescribed Fire

Examples of Significant Improvement in Cost Effectiveness

National Forests in Alabama (ALF). After losing the use of ATVs for prescribed fire projects, the ALF explored alternative techniques for reducing costs and improving overall efficiency. It was determined that, through more detailed planning, both natural and developed features (creeks, trails, roads) could be used to contain, restrain, or otherwise manage prescribed fires; thus allowing a significant reduction in the number of firelines required to be constructed with heavy equipment. The more detailed planning effort also lead to better location of firelines with regard to preventing (future) erosion problems and with regard to reducing the volume of post-burn rehabilitation work.

ALF has long been a faithful user of the Wyden Amendment in reducing prescribed fire costs. The Wyden Amendment allows ALF to integrate private lands into prescribed fire projects. This allows for a reduction in dozer line construction on forest lands and provides benefits to private land owners as well. During 2007, in contrast to previous years, the ALF used more off-forest detailers (including several out of region detailers) for prescribed fire operations.

Ouachita and Ozark-St Francis National Forests (OUF-OZF). Although the following examples are discussed elsewhere (in some detail), examples of significant improvement include:

- Successful implementation of the Region's second WFU of 3,481 acres.
- Successful suppression on 119 wildfires covering 18,340.2 acres on both forests.
- Target attainment in WFHF of 100 percent on the OUF and near 100 percent on the OZF.

National Forests in Florida (FNF). Overall, the FNF has always had a very cost-effective fire program, both in the arenas of prescribed fire and in wildland fire suppression.

Much of FNFs acreage is on an average three year rotation for prescribed burning. Natural and existing features are used whenever possible to maximize burn block size. These large blocks, located in areas where fuel loadings are low, make prescribed burning very cost effective and allows FNF to spend more money on the areas which are not in the desired rotation or which are more difficult to burn due to smoke sensitive issues or due to urban-interface conflicts.

Similarly, with the adoption of the concept of appropriate management response (AMR), FNF has been encouraged to manage unplanned ignitions for resource benefit and to use some of the APR features as control lines, rather than construct new plow lines which then have to be restored. Whenever possible, FNF is striving to manage the unplanned ignitions with maximum flexibility; to the point of conducting suppression efforts at the time of day which is more likely to be in prescription, thus enhancing the resource benefit. The FNF may delay active suppression, or burn-out operations, until later in the day when humidity rises; or monitor the fire for a day or two until optimum burning conditions can be exploited.

Fire behavior and potential do not always permit flexibility in suppression action, yet again, the APR philosophy allows managers to expend maximum suppression funds only when needed.

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (CHF)**.** The CHF made an effort to accomplish multiple burns on a single day using the regional helicopter. Although logistically challenging due to the limited number of resources the effort proved to be more cost effective than past efforts.

CHF's long standing cooperative relationship with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) proved itself invaluable during 2007. GFC assistance and close cooperation made possible the accomplishment of CHF's 2007 prescribed burning program and fire prevention program.

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL). The fire staff continued to grow in size and experience. Two aerial ignition prescribed fire operations helped reduce costs for the prescribed fire program.

The Kisatchie National Forest (KIF)**.** The KIF continued to contract a second exclusive use helicopter to accomplish prescribed burning in an effort to reduce aviation costs by not having to use call when needed contract helicopters.

The KIF continued to reduce costs associated with paying external detailer salaries, travel expenses, and per diem by diligently filling vacant firefighter positions. The KIF also used prescribed fire modules from other Regions. The use of these modules has proven to be very beneficial (and should be continued).

National Forests in Mississippi (MNF)**.** Fuels reduction, suppression, and prescribed burn program activities continued to reduce the threat of wildfire intensity. The Desoto Ranger District continued to mitigate fuel conditions from Hurricane Katrina (August 2005). An increase in efficiency and effectiveness of fire suppression efforts has occurred as the result of providing pre-established control lines. Enhanced firefighter safety is provided by establishing control lines and escape routes for firefighters. Fuels mitigation projects have proven to be cost-effective in managing threatened and endangered species habitat, cultural resources, and recreation areas. Due to the large amount of wildland urban interface surrounding the Desoto Ranger District, the hazardous fuels reduction program will ensure that communities at risk will have a better measure of protection from wildland fires.

National Forests in North Carolina (NCF)**.** The NCF remains prudent in staffing and coverage by working with Districts to provide the most efficient use of resources across the NCF. A cooperative agreement with North Carolina Division of Forest Resources allows each agency to fund initial attack resources for the first 24-hrs before interagency billing becomes necessary. NCF resources suppressed 95 fires under this agreement, saving a tremendous amount of funding. In addition, the fire management shop provided oversight in monitoring training assignments and ordering off-forest resources. The new ideology of using the appropriate management response is being applied to most day to day decision processes.

El Yunque National Forest. The Forest's newly established interagency approach to training was implemented in 2007. The use of other agencies to assist in conducting firefighter refresher training was an immediate benefit of the interagency approach. Rather than having the Forest Service administer three refresher courses, several courses were scheduled island-wide. The agency closest to a training site coordinated and taught the the course. Firefighters from all agencies were eligible to attend.

Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests (FMF). The FMF took the following measures to reduce costs:

- Limited use staffing on both exclusive use helicopters.
- Reduction of mandatory availability days on the Seed Orchard Helicopter contract (30 day savings of approximately $ 48,700.00).
- When possible, the mandatory availability on the Greenwood Helicopter should be changed to begin on March 1, rather than February 22 (to increase efficiency in use of helicopter time).
- Filled a zone fire management officer (FMO) position. Reorganized the fire oganization on the three districts into a single organization to accomplish preparedness and prescribed fire activities as a single unit. This zone concept will improve operational efficiency and ultimately increase production in the field.
- Established additional helispots on the Sumter Districts in order to reduce helicopter flight time on prescribed burns.
- Reduced extended standby staffing of helicopter flight crews.
- Combined missions for aircraft use on prescribed burns and aerial detection.

Savannah River Site (SRS)**.** The USFS-SR *Preparedness & Incident Response Plan* was revised and updated by the FMO using fire and weather data from the previous fifteen years. The last time it was updated was in 2006. The staffing guide update divides the year into two fire season planning periods. The first period (mid-January through July) is considered high fire season and requires seven-day staffing at all planning levels.

The second period (August through mid- January) is considered low fire season and allows for limited to zero staffing during Planning Level 1. By developing reduced staffing levels during the low fire season, USFS-SR has reduced overtime costs and provided more opportunities for USFS-SR firefighters to participate in off-unit assignments, without reducing the suppression capabilities at USFS-SR.

Cherokee National Forest (CNF)**.** Due to the reduction of resources on the CNF, looking for cost effective efforts is a top priority. The districts are working in zones to accomplish their objectives. Every district on the CNF works together to incorpoate cost effective solutions to reach targets. A good example is utilizing the Type 3 exclusive use contract helicopter to accomplish multiple burns on the CNF in one day. The CNF used a local Type 3 incident management team (IMT) to manage an extended attack incident. The incident exceeded the capabilities of the district, however, the CNF was able to assemble the team skills needed for a Type 3 IMT. This saved the cost of mobilizing a Regional Type 2 IMT. The CNF currently has 16 employees on the Region's Type 1 or Type 2 IMT.

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (TXF). More emphasis continued to be placed on burning larger units or burning multiple units each day. This has resulted in more efficient use of helicopters and ground resources.

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (VAF)**.** The VAF continued to manage large fires with an appropriate management response (AMR), which significantly reduced suppression costs. This included the first implentation of managing wildfire for resource benefits (WFU), which was done with two fires.

Noteworthy Instances of Cooperation with other Federal Agencies

National Forests in Alabama. Although the ALF had no fire academy in CY2007, planning began for the seventh year of the Alabama Wildland Fire Academy to be held in the spring of 2008 and to be sponsored cooperatively by the National Forests in Alabama, the City of Pelham Fire Department, and the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC). The 10-day academy will offer 21 fire courses with students expected from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as from volunteer fire departments. A number of ALF personnel will serve as instructors.

The ALF worked with the AFC and local community groups to accomplish fire prevention education and training in fire hazard reduction. Working through the AFC, surplus federal property was transferred to local volunteer fire departments.

National Forests in Alabama has a close working relationship with the AFC. Cooperation on wildfire suppression at the county-district level was excellent during 2007.

Ouachita and Ozark-St Francis National Forests. Both the Ouachita Job Corps and the Cass Job Corps Centers provided Job Corps enrollees for local and off-forest suppression assignments.

The OUF-OZF continued to work in cooperation with Native American Tribes in Oklahoma for the purpose of training, equiping, and mobilizing emergency fire crews. A concentrated effort is being made to train and certify leadership candidates from the tribes.

Wildland fire training is a planned interagency effort involving all wildland agencies in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The OUF-OZF continued to partner with Arkansas Tech University in providing wildland fire training to future resource managers in the emergency management, fish and wildlife, and recreation and parks departments at the college. This cooperative effort produced the state's first Fire Academy. The Arkansas Fire Academy was hosted by Arkansas Tech with instructors provided by both the OUF-OZF and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The third two-week session in April 2007 provided a variety of entry and intermediate-level wildland firefighter training to federal and state wildland firefighters from Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Missouri.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) was unable to accomplish prescribed fire targets under the Stevens Act because of the effect of the extensive drought of 2005-2006. The AFC treated more than 12,000 acres in 2005, just over 4,300 acres in 2006, and 9,430 acres in 2007.

Other wildland firefighting public agencies and/or companies with which the OUF-OZF maintains a close working relationship include the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Oklahoma, various offices and refuges of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (in both Arkansas and Oklahoma), the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (Food and Forestry) Forestry Services Division, units of the National Park Service in both states, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Weather Service, the Department of Defense, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, Weyerhaeuser Company, Deltic Timber Company, the Nature Conservancy, and others in varying extent.

The National Forests in Florida. During the 2007 fire season Aviation and other firefighting resources were organized under a state-wide unified command system. Participating agencies included the U.S. Forest Service, the Florida Division of Forestry, and agencies of the Department of the Interior. Approximately 264 Aircraft, 503 Crews, 1,787 overheard, 1,170 pieces of equipment, and 559 supply items were mobilized through the Florida Interagency Coordination Center.

Also of note, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the community of Taylor near Lake City was implemented. The positive effects of this plan, along with community support for the program, was fully realized during the Florida Bugaboo, when the Taylor community was spared by the fire. The Taylor community was threatened during the Bugaboo. Had it not been for the actions identified through the CWPP, many homes might have been lost.

Again this year, a representative from FNF sits on an interagency committee to plan for statewide training through the Florida Division of Forestry's Withlacoochee Training Center out of Brooksville, Florida. The FNF again took part this past year in the Florida State Fair in Tampa where prevention and education messages were provided to thousands of visitors.

In an effort to increase the fireline qualifications of the fire personnel in Florida, the FNF hosted a number fire courses in the S, L ,and Rx series. The FNF also worked with the human resources office to identify methods for ensuring that employees are meeting all requirements under the Integrated Fire Program Management standards.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. The Conasauga Ranger District received funding from a Quail Unlimited Call grant to enhance the ecosystem with fire on 2,700 acres.

The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council is a group of 16 interagency groups whose mission is to encourage the use of prescribed fire and to promote public understanding of prescribed fire. Smoke Management was the group's largest issue in 2007. Working with all agencies and all aspects of prescribed fire, changes were made to increase the awareness of smoke management efforts and practices. The council took the lead in developing a state-wide smoke management plan. Leaders of the Prescribed Fire Council are now working with the state to develope parameters for the management of prescribed fire and smoke management for the entire state.

The Appalachian Fire Learning Network (FLN) engages federal, state, and private land management agencies in a collaborative effort to enhance capacity to implement ecological fire management in the Central Appalachian Forest, Southern Blue Ridge, Western Allegheny Plateau, the Cumberland Mountains, the Southern Ridge, and Valley eco-regions. These eco-regions cover nine states. The CHF is embracing the FLN by having CHF and district fire personnel assume lead positions on the FLN team.

Daniel Boone National Forest. The Daniel Boone once again collaborated with the Cherokee National Forest, the Big South Fork NRRA, Region 4 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and the Tennessee Division of Forestry for the purpose of presenting a week-long fire training academy at Bell Buckle, TN.

The Cumberland Ranger District continued to work with the University of Kentucky to conduct prescribed burn research on the DBF. Several students involved in this study have completed basic firefighter training, and are qualified for assignments on local wildfires.

The prevention team that was in place on the Redbird Ranger District during the fall provided an excellent training opportunity for DBF employees working toward certification as Prevention Team members.

During December, DBF employees presented basic firefighter training at Eastern Kentucky University. More than 20 students came through the training qualified as firefighters.

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. LBL has been working closely with Fort Campbell (U.S. Army), Kentucky state agencies, Tennessee state agencies, Shawnee National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, and Murray State University by hosting a number of National Wildfire Coordinating Group training courses.

Kisatchie National Forest. The Kisatchie Fire Management staff participated in the Louisianna Office of Forestry's (LOF) Firewise Review in September in assistance to the Regional Review Team.

The KIF continued its cooperative relationship with the Louisiana Office of Forestry. LOF conducts aerial detection for the Kisatchie National Forest and has the primary responsibility for wildfire control on the Caney Ranger District.

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

Cooperation with Fort Polk continued on both wildfire suppression and prescribed burning activities under the Special Use Permit with the U. S. Army for the Intensive Use Area.

The staff officer for the fire, lands, and minerals team assisted with the coordination and development of the newly formed Louisiana Prescribed Fire Council. This council's mission is to promote prescribed fire on all ownerships in Louisiana. Achieving its goals will allow federal, state, and private entities to work in close cooperation in all aspects of prescribed fire. The KIF staff officer currently serves as vice-chairman on the council. The KIF Public Information Officer was very instrumental in facilitating the first Prescribed Fire Council meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana.

The KIF, in cooperation with the Catahoula Ranger District, sponsored three 1890 students during the summer of 2007. The students were fully qualified as Type 2 firefighters when they arrived on the KIF to work on prescribed burn projects. The students also served as crewmembers on the KIF Type II 20-person crew which deployed to assist in suppressing western fires.

Cooperation with units of the U.S. Forest Service in Regions 1, 4, 5, and 6 continued to provide personnel resources to assist with prescribed burn and wildland fire suppression activities through the fall and winter months. During 2007, the KIF was able to accomplish the burning of 107,107 acres. The KIF could not have accomplished this without assistance from western detailers. Between the months of November 2006 and May 2007, 30 western detailers worked on the Kisatchie National Forest.

The KIF's Public Information Officer kept the fire prevention program very busy over the year with a number of activities which included the Alexandria Aces, Smokey Bear Day, and a number of programs at local schools and civic organizations.

National Forests in Mississippi. The MNF continued to work in cooperation with the Mississippi Forestry Commission to uphold a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement that allows for initial attack to be made by suppression forces that arrive at the fire first, regardless of agency. The MNF continued to assist on many fires occurring within cooperative boundaries to which the MFC would normally have responded.

Interagency cooperation exists with other federal agencies such as the National Park Service (Natchez Trace Parkway) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, MS Sandhill Crane Refuge, St. Catherine's Wildlife Refuge). These agencies interact with the MNF in budget planning activities and in sharing fire personnel and resources for prescribed fire treatments, fuels reduction treatments, and training.

The MNF has a number of participating agreements with private landowners allowing portions of their land to be included within agency and managed prescribed fire treatments for economic efficiency and benefit.

Following the success of the Mississippi Interagency Fire Prevention and Education Team during the response to Hurricane Katrina (2005), the MNF has continued to work in close cooperation with the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) in scheduling fire prevention and education activities at state-wide events and functions. Due to dry fuel conditions, wildfire occurrence averages for both the MNF and the MFC have increased steadily, year after year. Through the development of national fuels assessment programs, both the MNF and MFC work together to determine the best strategies in reducing fire risk through fuels reduction analysis.

The MNF continued to help fund and conduct training events and activities associated with the Southern Region Fire Training Center in Pearl, Mississippi.

National Forests in North Carolina. The NCF hosted a Fire Learning Network training and meeting to facilitate more cooperative and interagency information sharing under the umbrella of natural resource management.

The NCF continued to support state cooperators through identifying training, providing mobilization services, and through paying per diem, transportation, and lodging expenses. These support practices have enabled a number of state employees to attend fire training courses at the 300, 400, and 500 level.

The NCF has provided representation by participating on committees and teams. A number of employees have been involved in the North Carolina Fire Environment Working Group, the North Carolina Firewise Council, the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council, and other interagency working groups.

The NCF participated in the first ever Strategic Wildfire Planning Meeting for North Carolina. This is an interagency approach working toward developing a long range plan of action for responding to, and suppressing wildfires in North Carolina.

El Yunque National Forest. Federal and state agencies joined forces and formed a training board which was implemented during 2007. The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and the Puerto Rico Fire Department were the participating agencies. Immediate identified needs were the teaching of ICS 200 and ICS 300. These courses were scheduled for August of 2007, but were postponed due to nationwide Planning Level 5. These courses were rescheduled for February of 2008. Fireline refreshers were completed through interagency cooperation, with instructors coming from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, as well as from the MNF.

Six individuals were sent to Florida to participate in Fire Prevention Team Member training with the intentions of establishing an island based prevention team. Two trainees were placed with hotshot crew training programs. One individual was hired on the Midewin Hotshots. A second was hired for the Augusta Hotshot crew.

The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. The FMF coordinated prescribed fire activities with Kings Mountain National Military Park (National Park Service). The park's Gyrotrac apparatus (with operator) was used to reduce fuels and potentially hazardous vegetation encroaching on the Seed Orchard Helibase. This maintenance action has ensured that the helibase take off (and departure) flight path will remain safe for many years to come.

- The FMF provided active representation on the South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council steering committee.
- The U.S. Forest Service, South Carolina Forestry Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service are currently working together to establish an Interagency Fire and All Hazard Cooperative Agreement.
- District Fire Prevention programs included participation in local holiday parades, school visits with Smokey Bear, and fire equipment demonstrations.
- Daily cooperation occurs between the South Carolina Coordination Center and the South Carolina Forestry Commission dispatch center for the purpose of obtaining prescribed fire burn authorizations and for the purpose of coordinating initial attack resources.
- The U.S. Forest Service and South Carolina Forestry Commission have worked jointly to provide interagency training courses for participating agencies.
- The FMF provided assistance to the National Weather Service to update that agency's annual *Interagency Operating Plan*.

Savannah River Site. Savannah River personnel participated in U.S. Department of Energy (and Washington Savannah River Corporation) safety meetings as subject matter experts on topics such as wildland fire, prescribed fire, fire prevention, and health and safety issues.

In a cooperative effort with Energy Solutions, SRS treated 160 (plus) acres with prescribed fire. Sixty-five acres were on SRS lands.

The Cherokee National Forest The CNF continued to work very closely with all partner state and federal agencies. One of the most significant examples of cooperation was the success of the Tennessee-Kentucky wildfire academy. Through joint efforts almost 300 individuals were trained in January of 2007. The Districts continued working with the University of Tennessee to offer basic fire classes for students. This practice not only provides potential fire qualified individuals to state and federal agencies but also provides college credit to the students. The CNF and the National Wild Turkey Federation continued to work closely together to implement habitat improvement projects in conjunction with our fuel reduction program.

The CNF hosts biannual cooperator meetings involving the Tennessee Division of Forestry, the National Weather Service, Great Smokey Mountain National Park, and the CNF.

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. The TXF continued its cooperation with the State of Texas and other federal agencies. Once again the TXF sponsored two wildland fire training academies, and shared in staffing the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC). In 2007 the cooperative agreement with the state was re-written using the new national template which includes Stafford Act cooperation.

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. The VAF continued to have a good working relationship with its partners. The Virginia Multi-agency Coordinating Group re-established a Type 3 IMT, which was used on several fires during the year. The Virginia Incident Management Team managed the Straw Pond WFU under the guidance of a Type 2 Fire Use Manager. VAF personnel again assisted with the Virginia Interagency Wildland Fire Academy at Fort Pickett, where over 400 firefighters attended nearly a dozen courses.

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDFIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES			Southern Area CY 2007
No.	Item	Values Sub-Total	Total
1. Regular Appointed Personnel			
a	Full-time fire management (20 pay periods or more)	307	
b	Part-time fire management	111	
c	Others used on pre-suppression	367	
d	Others used on suppression (exclude those reported under a, b, or c)	475	
e	Total regular appointed personnel (a+b+c+d)		1260
2. Seasonal or Short-term Personnel			
a	Regular fire control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	31	
b	Others who spent time on fire control work (BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.)	19	
c	Emergency firefighters	2,351	
d	Total emergency firefighters (a+b+c)		2,401
3. Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression			2,312
4. Number of casuals, included in Item 3, employed for first time		807	
5. Remarks			
Total			5,973

Land Protection

Land Protection Report 2007									
Southern Area by State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								National Forest Land Protected by Others
	Protected By Forest Service							S&P Land Prot'd by State and Forest Service	
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reim-burse Supp	Without Reim-burse					
AL						656,060	656,060		11,252
AR				1,101,567	94,293	2,946,037	4,141,897	1,092,928	182,816
FL		37,758				1,179,709	1,217,467	520,610	
GA						865,670	865,670	87,530	180,015
KY DBF						707,000	707,000		
KY LBL						170,000	170,000		
LA				393,221		571,924	965,145		32,354
MS						1,183,436	1,183,436		
NC					40,740	1,252,021	1,292,761	752,000	327
OK						354,444	354,444		
PR						28,004	28,004		
SCFM						629,727	629,727		
SCSR					199,334		199,334		
TN						650,000	650,000		
TX						675,572	675,572		
VA						1,781,449	1,781,449	1,654,489	
Total		37,758		1,494,788	334,367	13,671,053	13,985,420	4,107,557	356,764

Summary of Statistics from Wildland Fire Reports

Fires and Acres by Cause ▪ Southern Region ▪ CY 2007

Page 1 of 2		Lightning	Equip-ment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres per Fire
Alabama National Forests In Alabama	Fires	29	6	1	4	9	3	56	0	15	123		35
	%	24%	5%	1%	3%	7%	2%	46%	0%	12%			
	Acres	1173.1	62.4	0.7	37.2	255.4	36	2044.5	0	688.6		4,297.9	
	%	27%	1%	0%	1%	6%	1%	48%	0%	16%			
Arkansas Ouachita, Ozark-St Francis National Forests	Fires	13	1	0	7	16	8	58	0	16	119		154
	%	11%	1%	0%	6%	13%	7%	49%	0%	13%			
	Acres	4,174.2	0.0	0.0	31.7	9,310.5	74.7	4,328.3	0.0	420.8		18,340.2	
	%	23%	0%	0%	0%	51%	0%	24%	0%	2%			
Florida National Forests In Florida	Fires	111	0	1	5	8	0	17	2	54	198		643
	%	56%	0%	1%	3%	4%	0%	9%	1%	27%			
	Acres	12,5911	0	230	5.7	7.6	0	329.6	3.1	866.9		127,353.8	
	%	99%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%			
Georgia Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest	Fires	11	3	2	10	11	0	38	0	17	92		43
	%	12%	3%	2%	11%	12%	0%	41%	0%	18%			
	Acres	1348	16	6	380	185	0	577	0	1400		3,912.0	
	%	34%	0%	0%	10%	5%	0%	15%	0%	36%			
Kentucky Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	14	2	0	7	1	1	90	0	6	121		63
	%	12%	2%	0%	6%	1%	1%	74%	0%	5%			
	Acres	409.6	120.1	0.0	72.7	0.1	0.1	6,937.8	0.0	140.3		7,680.5	
	%	5%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	90%	0%	2%			
Kentucky Land Between The Lakes NRA	Fires	4	1	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	12		3
	%	33%	8%	8%	33%	0%	0%	17%	0%	0%			
	Acres	6.0	1.0	1.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0		30.0	
	%	20%	3%	3%	60%	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%			
Louisiana Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	3	3	0	2	5	6	19	0	14	52		14
	%	6%	6%	0%	4%	10%	12%	37%	0%	27%			
	Acres	13	63	0	2	39	47	492	0	49		705.0	
	%	2%	9%	0%	0%	6%	7%	70%	0%	7%			

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FIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE ▪ SOUTHERN REGION ▪ CY 2007

Page 2 of 2	Fires	Lightning	Equip-ment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres Per Fire
Mississippi National Forests in Mississippi	Fires	5	10	1	1	26	1	79	1	27	151		28
	%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%			
	Acres	17	327.86	0.1	0.1	376.53	47	2689.41	1.2	778.59		4,237.8	
	%	0%	8%	0%	0%	9%	1%	63%	0%	18%			
North Carolina National Forests in North Carolina	Fires	21	8	2	16	71	1	37	2	29	187		70
	%	11%	4%	1%	9%	38%	1%	20%	1%	16%			
	Acres	6865.4	29.5	0.6	303.5	2069.8	0.5	844	2,419	596.3		13,128.4	
	%	52%	0.22%	0.00%	2%	16%	0.00%	6%	18%	5%			
Peurto Rico El Yunque National Forest	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		0
	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
	Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3		3.0	
	%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
South Carolina Francis Marion & Sumter NFs	Fires	7	4	2	3	3	3	32	0	11	65		14
	%	11%	6%	3%	5%	5%	5%	49%	0%	17%			
	Acres	63.8	26.9	65	2.3	15.7	12	701.1	0	43.1		929.9	
	%	7%	3%	7%	0%	2%	1%	75%	0%	5%			
South Carolina Savannah River Site	Fires	4	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	8	17		4
	%	24%	6%	12%	0%	6%	0%	6%	0%	47%			
	Acres	37.2	0.1	0.35	0	7	0	0.1	0	27.45		72.2	
	%	52%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%	38%			
Tennessee Cherokee National Forest	Fires	19	2	2	6	22	0	66	1	20	138		37
	%	14%	1%	1%	4%	16%	0%	48%	1%	14%			
	Acres	2228	28	2.1	590.06	90.6	0	1164.65	0.4	992.29		5,096.1	
	%	44%	1%	0%	12%	2%	0%	23%	0%	19%			
Texas National Forests & Grasslands in Texas	Fires	0	0	0	2	7	0	8	0	2	19		8
	%	0%	0%	0%	11%	37%	0%	42%	0%	11%			
	Acres	0	0	0	0.2	23.9	0	123.3	0	2.2		149.6	
	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	16%	0%	82%	0%	1%			
Virginia George Washing-ton & Jefferson National Forests	Fires	10	1	0	9	0	1	10	0	14	45		77
	%	22%	2%	0%	20%	0%	2%	22%	0%	31%			
	Acres	553	1	0	140	0	2	205	0	2578		3,479.0	
	%	16%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	6%	0%	74%			
Total Wildfires Total Acres Burned	Fires	251	42	14	76	180	24	513	6	234	1,340		141
	%	19%	3%	1%	6%	13%	2%	38%	0%	17%			
	Acres	142,799	676	306	1,583	12,381	219	20,441	2,424	8,586		189,415	
	%	75%	0%	0%	1%	7%	0%	11%	1%	5%			

Fires and Acres by Size Class - Southern Region CY 2007

Page 1 of 2

		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total Fires	Total Acres
Alabama National Forests in Alabama	Fires	22.0	56.0	34.0	8.0	3.0	0.0	0	123	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0		
	Acres	2.3	131.9	1178.7	1236.0	1749.0	0.0	0		4297.9
	%	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0		
Arkansas Ouachita, Oark-St Francis Nat'l Forests	Fires	16.0	50.0	41.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	1	119	
	%	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
	Acres	1.2	151.3	1206.7	681.0	1576.0	5653.0	9071		18340.2
	%	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0		
Florida National Forests in Florida	Fires	84.0	73.0	30.0	7.0	3.0	0.0	1	198	
	%	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
	Acres	23.4	161.5	847.7	1467.6	1670.6	0.0	123183		127353.8
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1		
Georgia Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest	Fires	19.0	44.0	19.0	7.0	3.0	0.0	0	92	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0		
	Acres	3.0	131.0	570.0	1104.0	2104.0	0.0	0		3912.0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.0	0		
Kentucky Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	25.0	40.0	42.0	6.0	7.0	1.0	0	121	
	%	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0		
	Acres	4.0	105.5	1871.0	1061.0	3339.0	1300.0	0		7680.5
	%	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0		
Kentucky Land Between the Lakes NRA	Fires	0.0	11.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	12	
	%	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	0.0	20.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		30.0
	%	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Louisiana Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	0.0	39.0	12.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.0	
	%	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	0.0	102.0	387.0	216.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		705.0
	%	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Mississippi National Forests in Mississippi	Fires	14.0	77.0	49.0	10.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	151.0	
	%	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
	Acres	2.5	271.3	1742.1	1859.0	363.0	0.0	0.0		4237.8
	%	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0		

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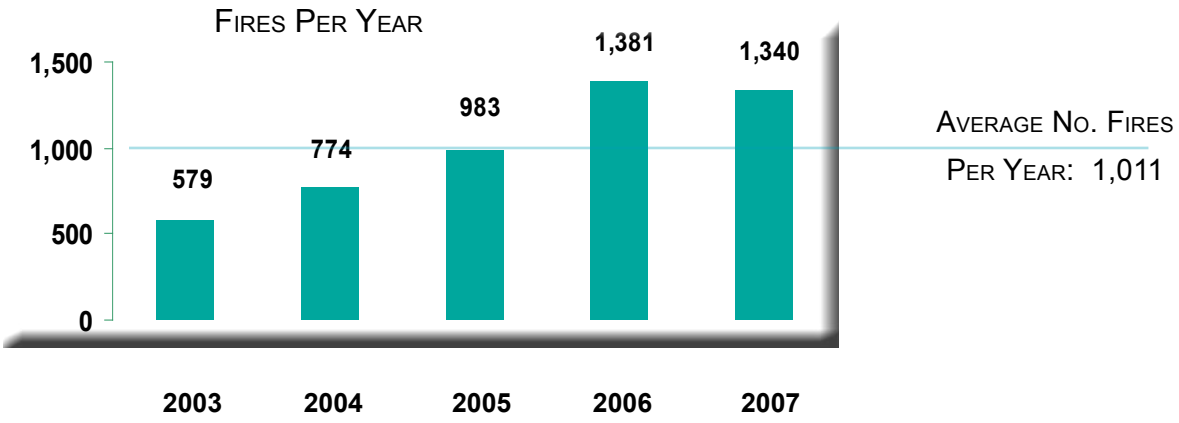
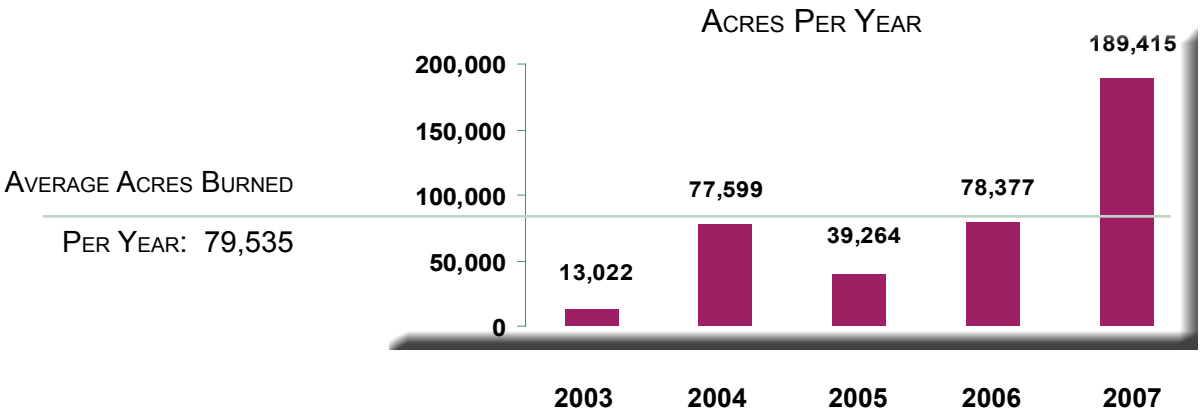
Fires and Acres by Size Class - Southern Region CY 2007

Page 2 of 2		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total Fires	Total Acres
North Carolina National Forests in North Carolina	Fires	29.0	100.0	43.0	9.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	187.0	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	4.7	177.8	1648.0	1484.0	2395.0	2404.0	5015.0		13128.4
	%	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4		
Puerto Rico El Yunque National Forest	Fires	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	4.7	177.8	1648.0	1484.0	2395.0	2404.0	5015.0		13128.4
	%	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4		
South Carolina Francis Marion & Sumter NFs	Fires	17.0	31.0	16.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	85.0	
	%	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	2.2	86.3	529.4	0.0	312.0	0.0	0.0		929.9
	%	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0		
South Carolina Savannah River Site	Fires	11.0	4.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	
	%	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	1.7	14.5	56.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		72.2
	%	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Tennessee Cherokee National Forest	Fires	25.0	63.0	42.0	6.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	138.0	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	2.1	234.1	1021.9	1153.0	570.0	2115.0	0.0		5096.1
	%	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.0		
Texas National Forests & Grasslands in Texas	Fires	6.0	10.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.0	
	%	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	1.2	30.4	118.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		149.6
	%	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Virginia GW & Jefferson National Forests	Fires	11.0	21.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	0.0	45.0	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	1.0	56.0	80.0	432.0	815.0	2095.0	0.0		3479.0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0		
Fires	Fires	279.0	620.0	339.0	62.0	30.0	7.0	3.0	1,340	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Acres	Acres	49.1	1676.6	11266.5	10693.6	14893.6	13567.0	137269.0		189,415
	%	0.0	0.009	0.059	0.056	0.079	0..072	0.725		

Five Year Averages --- 2003 Through 2007





FIVE YEAR AVERAGES 2003–2007

2003-2007	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres/Fire
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
2006	243	55	16	53	178	11	508	11	306	1,381	78,377	57
2007	251	42	14	76	180	24	513	6	234	1,340	189,415	141
2003-07	635	240	58	251	660	71	2,064	32	1,046	2,336	397,677	170
5 yr avg	**127**	**48**	**12**	**50**	**132**	**14**	**413**	**6**	**209**	**1,011**	**79,535**	**79**
Percent	27.2%	10.3%	2.5%	10.7%	28.3%	3.0%	88.4%	1.4%	44.8%	—	—	—