

# **SOUTHERN REGION**

## **2008 ANNUAL FIRE REPORT**



**SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER, ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

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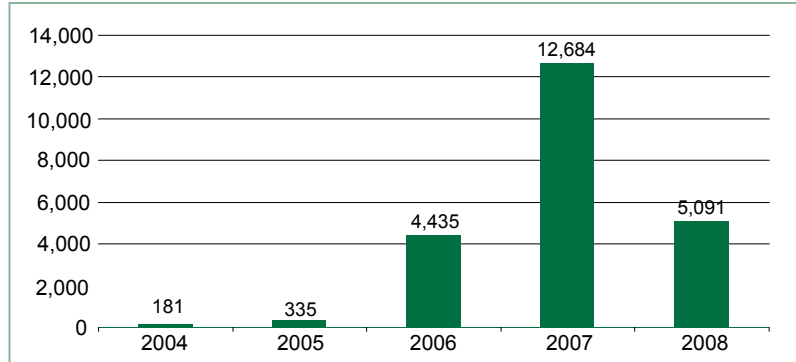
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## FIRE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Southern Region landscapes were often visited by weather extremes during 2008. In Arkansas the year began with cool, wet weather. By the end of the year, Arkansas had recorded 200 days of extreme and widely variable weather conditions. Four powerful storms hit the state, each of which delivered 10 tornadoes creating havoc and causing the loss of 21 lives. In contrast, Louisiana entered 2008 with quality prescribed burning conditions which lasted until March. The weather then became increasingly variable and so unpredictable that continued burning opportunities could not be rationally anticipated. In the Appalachian Mountain states extreme drought conditions continued to prevail as the driving force in determining the nature of the fire year. As in the previous two years, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina all experienced an increase in lightning ignitions as fuels dried and remained dry for months.



**Figure 1— Acres by Year for Lightning Caused Fires**

For the following states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

The number of wildfires occurring in 2008 decreased by 28 percent from 2007. Total acres burned decreased by six percent. The average fire size for 2008 decreased from

141 acres to 63 acres, just above the ten-year average of 61 acres per fire. National Forests in Florida (FNF)

led the Region in acres burned with 18,344 acres, 37 percent of the Region total. George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (VAF) followed with 10,748 acres burned. Wildland Fire Use strategies were used by the VAF in managing six fires which burned 1,934 acres (included in the suppression total). The Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests (OUF-OZF) also managed one naturally ignited fire (58 acres) for resource benefit under the Wildland Fire Use strategy.

**Table 1— Ten Year Fire History**

YEAR	FIRES	ACRES	Ac/FIRE
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
2008	898	48,935	63
Avg	1,185	72,260	61
Total	945	59,685	—

Both the OUF-OZF and FNF burned fewer acres in 2008 than in 2007 (96 and 86 percent respectively). The Kisatchie National Forest (KIF), National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT), and VAF all recorded significant increases in acres burned (75, 88, and 68 percent respectively).

The Cherokee National Forest (CNF) recorded an average fire size of 90 acres for the year, a number well above the norm for the Cherokee (67 for 2006; 37 for 2007). The high fire-to-size ratio is attributed to the occurrence of two large fires which ignited and burned during the unusually hot, drought-ridden summer months. Rough terrain and weather and fuels favorable to fire spread, combined to increase the size of these fires.

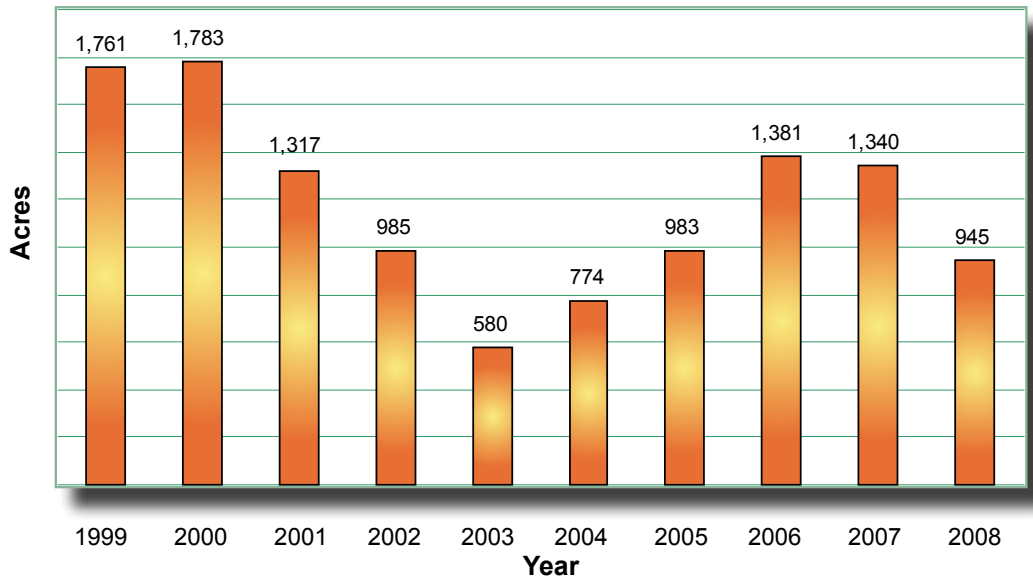


Figure 2— Ten Year Fire Occurrence

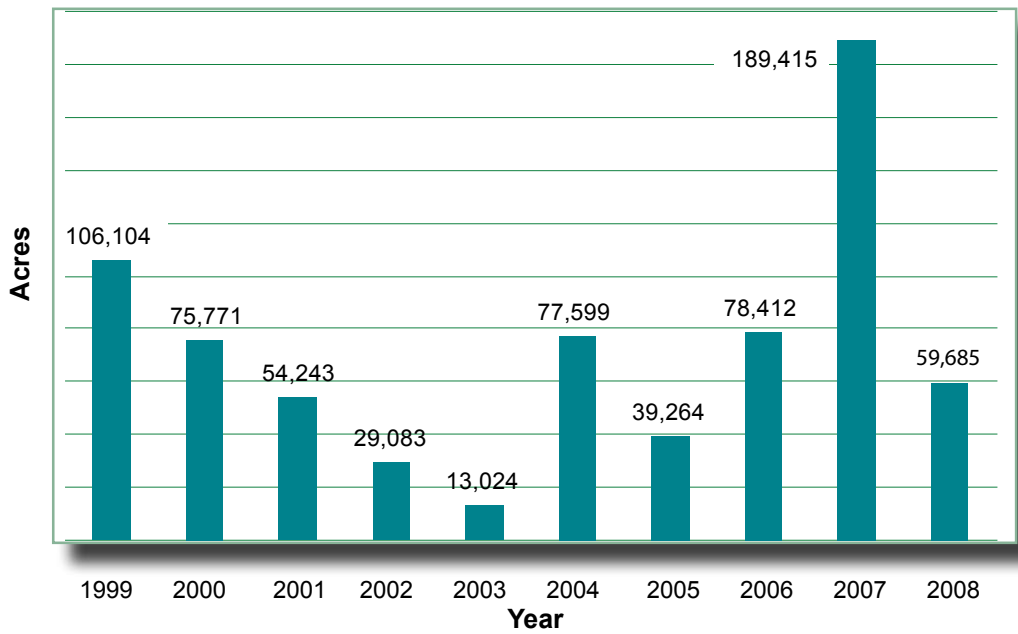


Figure 3— Ten Year Acres Burned

## WEATHER SUMMARY

Winter temperatures for 2007–2008 were warmer than average from Texas to the Southeast and along the Eastern Seaboard. Drought conditions intensified in Texas with areas experiencing drought almost doubling from 25 percent at the end of January to 45 percent at the end of February. Temperatures in February were slightly above normal in Oklahoma and in northern and central Arkansas. Elsewhere temperatures were relatively normal, except in Texas and Southern Louisiana. In the southern tip of Texas, temperatures averaged 6–8 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Along the Texas coast and slightly inland, temperatures ranged from 4–6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Similar values were also observed in southern Louisiana.

Precipitation in the Southern area was variable in February. In southwestern and central Texas, values were generally below normal and ranged from less than two percent of normal to 50 percent of normal. In central Oklahoma, precipitation was above normal with values ranging from 150 percent to over 400 percent of normal. In Louisiana, precipitation was above normal in the north, but below normal in the south. In Mississippi, precipitation was above normal in the central counties, and below normal in the northern and southern quarters of the state. Conditions were relatively dry in Tennessee, with most weather stations reporting below normal precipitation. Conversely, most stations in Arkansas received slightly above normal precipitation for February. The only exception occurred in eastern Arkansas, where values were similar to the values reported for northern Mississippi and western Tennessee (approximately 70-90 percent of normal).

On February 5, a storm system pushed through the southern United States spawning severe winds, hail, and tornadoes that resulted in over 50 fatalities. The storm system resulted from a collision of a deep trough that moved in from the west, and warm southerly winds that were rich in moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. Tornadoes were highly concentrated in Arkansas and Tennessee, however, some were reported in Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri and Kentucky. Hail events were scattered fairly evenly among the affected states.

During March nine states from Oklahoma to Vermont were much wetter than average, with Missouri experiencing its second wettest March on record. From March 7 to March 9, 8 to 12 inches of snow fell from Louisville, Kentucky to Ohio. A powerful tornado moved through downtown Atlanta on March 14, causing significant damage to many buildings. This was one of 90 tornado reports from the Southeast in March. Rainfall in the middle of March improved drought conditions in much of the Southeast, but moderate-to-extreme drought remained in more than 59 percent of the region.

April was the coolest April in 11 years for the lower 48 United States, and fell into the lowest twenty-five percent of all Aprils based on records going back to 1895. Virginia was much wetter than average for April. Arkansas experienced its sixth wettest spring. In Richmond, Virginia, heavy rains from April 20–22 brought the city's monthly total to 8.32 inches.

Twenty-one tornadoes were reported on April 4 across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, North and South Carolina. The next week, 62 tornadoes ravaged Texas and Oklahoma between April 9–11.

Rainfall across parts of the Southeast improved drought conditions, with about 43 percent of the region classified in moderate-to-extreme drought at the end of April compared to 59 percent during March 2008.



**Arkansas Motel Roof  
The White River in Flood, March 2008**

Florida and Texas were warmer than average for May. June temperatures were warmer than average across all southern and eastern states. Texas, Virginia, and North and South Carolina were much warmer than average.

From January through June, Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas were much drier than average. North Carolina experienced its eighth driest June on record. Continued lack of rainfall across much of the Southeast and parts of the southern Plains and West worsened drought conditions. Twenty-eight percent of the contiguous U.S. was classified in moderate-to-exceptional drought at the end of June. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation transitioned to a neutral phase during June.

July 2008 was Louisiana's seventh driest July. Extreme to exceptional drought continued across parts of southern Texas, the southern High Plains, and the southern Appalachians. As of July 29, 46 percent of the South, 23 percent of the High Plains, and 59 percent of the Southeast were in moderate to exceptional drought.

At the end of July, 59 percent of the Southern Area was classified in moderate-to-exceptional drought. Large fires developed in Texas, Oklahoma, and North Carolina. Temperatures across much of the eastern half of the U.S. were below normal. El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions continued neutral through July in the tropical Pacific Ocean, ending the La Niña event that began in mid-2007.

Hurricane Bertha formed in the tropical Atlantic on July 3, and although not making landfall, was the longest-lived, pre-August Atlantic tropical cyclone on record. It became extratropical on July 20. The same day, Hurricane Dolly developed in the Caribbean Sea and made landfall as a category one hurricane at South Padre Island, Texas on July 22. Heavy rain from Tropical Storm Dolly brought relief from drought across parts of the Southwest and in southern Texas.

Overall, drought conditions in the Southeast improved slightly in August, thanks to heavy rains from Tropical Storm Fay. However, the western Carolinas remained in exceptional drought and severe-to-extreme drought affected eastern Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Texas. August in Kentucky was also much drier than average, ranking as the third driest August on record.

Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida were much wetter than average for August. Mississippi had its all-time wettest August, and Florida and Alabama their second wettest August on record. Four named Atlantic tropical cyclones, Tropical Storm Edouard, Tropical Storm Fay, Hurricane Gustav, and Hurricane Hanna, developed in August. August usually sees an average of three Atlantic/Caribbean tropical storms

In September, moderate to extreme drought conditions continued across the Southeast. Exceptional drought persisted across western South Carolina. As of September 30, 17 percent of the South and 42 percent of the Southeast was in moderate to exceptional drought. The south was much cooler than average during September 2008. Below average precipitation was measured from Florida to Kentucky.

Gustav, Hanna, and Ike made landfall in the United States in September. Gustav struck as a category two storm near Cocodrie, Louisiana on September 1. Hanna came ashore near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina as a tropical storm on September 6 and moved northeast along the Atlantic coast. Hurricane Ike made landfall at Galveston, Texas on September 13 as a strong category two storm.

October gave witness to severe-to-extreme drought conditions in southern Texas and the southeastern states. Western South Carolina experienced exceptional drought. As of October 28, 16 percent of the South, 8 percent of the High Plains, and 30 percent of the Southeast were in moderate to exceptional drought.



October temperatures were cooler than average across the Southeast. The South had its seventh coolest August-October, in contrast to the western United States which had its ninth warmest August-October period on record.

Persistent dryness resulted in the fifth driest August-October on record for Kentucky and ninth driest for West Virginia. As for drought conditions, only slight improvements were seen in the northern Plains and parts of the Southeast. In the intervening time, minor worsening occurred in parts of the Tennessee Valley and southern Texas. At the end of October extreme-to-exceptional drought conditions persisted in the western Carolinas, northeast Georgia, eastern Tennessee, and southern Texas.

In November 2008 severe to extreme drought conditions were present in southern Texas and the southeastern states. Western South Carolina, southwestern North Carolina, and northeastern Georgia had exceptional drought. As of November 18, 29 percent of the Southeast was in moderate to exceptional drought.

November temperatures were cooler than average across the Southeast. The West region had its fourth warmest November on record. This contrasted with the Southeast, which was much below normal.

November was drier than normal across much of the South. At the end of November, 22 percent of the contiguous United States was in moderate-to-exceptional drought, about the same as October.

Several periods of strong northwesterly winds during the month resulted in mountain-enhanced snowfalls across the mountains of western Virginia, North Carolina, and extreme northern Georgia. Severe storms affected eastern North and South Carolina on November 15.

During December, warmer-than-average temperatures were experienced in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic States. South Carolina and Georgia had their sixth and eighth, respectively, warmest December on record. Above-average precipitation fell during December across the Mississippi Valley. On December 11, a rare snowstorm swept across parts of south Louisiana and Mississippi. Nearly eight inches of snow fell over parts of Louisiana. (Source for the Weather Summary: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Climatic Data Center, January 20, 2009. 2008 Annual Climate Review, U.S. Summary. [<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2008/ann/us-summary.html>])

### **SOUTHEAST DROUGHT—2008**

Conditions in the Southeast were especially dry. The year started with low stream flows across much of the region. Voluntary and mandatory water restrictions continued in many communities.

April 2007-March 2008 was the driest April-March on record for North Carolina. Beneficial April rains improved conditions slightly, but dry weather returned in the summer. By the end of June, more than half of the topsoil in several southeastern states was in dry to very dry condition, and pasture and range land was in poor to very poor condition across one-third of North Carolina, 44 percent of Georgia, and two-thirds of South Carolina. Upstate South Carolina experienced the driest August-July in its 115-year record. Although its duration was not a record, the intensity of the 2008 drought reached record low levels for Upstate South Carolina, according to the Palmer Drought Index. By October, river levels and well levels in the North Carolina-South Carolina-Georgia border area were at all-time record low levels or approaching these levels.

By August, topsoil was dry to very dry across 70 to 80 percent of Kentucky. Half of the pastures and range land of Kentucky were in poor to very poor condition. By the end of September, the percentages had reached 93 percent (for topsoil) and 77 percent (for pastures and range land) in Kentucky, which had the second driest August-September on record.

## SIGNIFICANT PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Long term drought, record high temperatures, and other weather extremes continued to challenge prescribed fire managers in 2008. Partner arrangements, innovative planning, and resourceful thinking came to the forefront to accomplish prescribed fire goals and objectives.

The National Forests in Alabama (ALF) treated 93,369 acres with prescribed fire marking a significant increase in acres burned in comparison to the extreme drought years of 2006 and 2007.

The Arkansas Smoke Management Program was fully implemented in 2008. The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests (OZF) worked diligently to conduct prescribed fires in full compliance with the new smoke management program. Both modeling and monitoring efforts were effective in helping identify and mitigate smoke impacts.

The OZF deployed portable smoke monitoring equipment to assess smoke concentrations. Satellite uplinks made possible the observation of real-time and archived data. Recent enhancements to the OZF smoke management program proved very effective as evidenced by a reduction in the number of smoke related questions received about smoke during the 2008 burning season(s).



**Adams Gap Prescribed Fire  
National Forests in Alabama**

**Table 2— 2008 Prescribed Fire Activity**

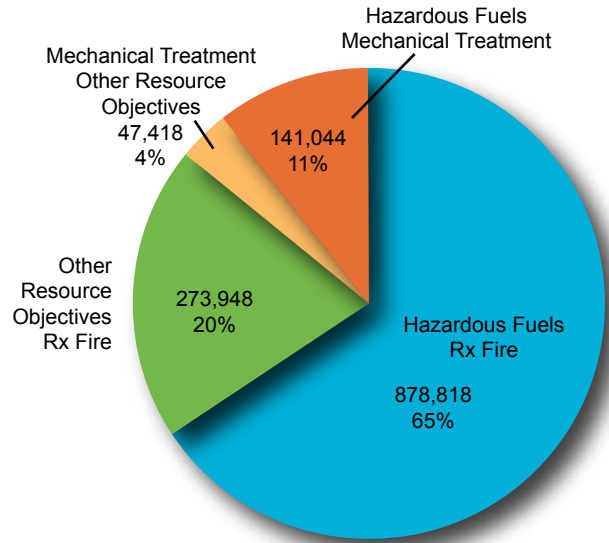
2008 PRESCRIBED FIRE ACTIVITY						
FOREST*	HAZARDOUS FUELS TREATMENT		OTHER RESOURCE TREATMENT		TOTAL PRESCRIBED FIRE ACRES	TOTAL ACRES TREATED
	PRESCRIBED FIRE	MECHANICAL	PRESCRIBED FIRE	MECHANICAL		
ALF	88,325	0	5,044	0	93,369	93,369
AR-OK OZF	57,738	0	4,526	23,207	62,264	85,470
AR-OK OUF*	89,168	0	27,852	18,869	117,020	135,889
FNF	176,464	0	854	239	177,318	177,557
CHF	0	0	14,915	0	14,915	14,915
DBF	15,459	0	535	0	15,994	15,994
LBL	0	0	408	0	408	408
KIF	124,561	0	15,280	2,663	139,841	142,504
MNF	214,034	141,044	14,082	0	228,116	369,160
NFC	0	0	18,051	1,777	18,051	19,828
FM&S	56,261	0	3,923	0	60,184	60,184
SRS	0	0	26,555	0	26,390	26,555
CNF	21,995	0	293	0	22,288	22,288
NFGT	14,992	0	141,630	663	156,573	157,285
VAF	19,821	0	0	0	19,821	19,821

Data Source: Individual Forest Annual Fire Reports, CY2008. Data does not reflect NFPORS reporting format. Total not shown.

After dodging thunder storms, tornadoes, and tropical rainfall for several months, fire managers on the Kisatchie National Forest (KIF) again found good burning conditions in November 2008. They took full advantage of the “great burning weather” and pushed hard to get acres treated. By dusk of the year’s last good burn day, the KIF had accomplished 139,000 acres in dormant season, growing season, and KV burning. The Forest also accomplished 15,450 acres of non-fire target burning. The Kisatchie National Forest surpassed prescribed fire accomplishments for recent years and significantly increased the number of acres treated during 2008.

Calendar Year 2008 was an exceptionally good year for burning in Texas. The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT) treated more than 156,000 acres with prescribed fire—more than in any previous year. The NFGT also treated 15,732 acres through grazing. Most of the acres burned on the forests were targeted for hazardous fuels reduction but also benefited threatened and endangered species and wildlife habitat.

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (VAF) took advantage of favorable burning windows in both the spring and fall seasons. Prescribed fire program adjustments also contributed to the successful burn year. VAF exceeded its prescribed burn target. The 19,821 acres burned by the VAF in 2008 was the highest ever achieved in one year by the Forest.

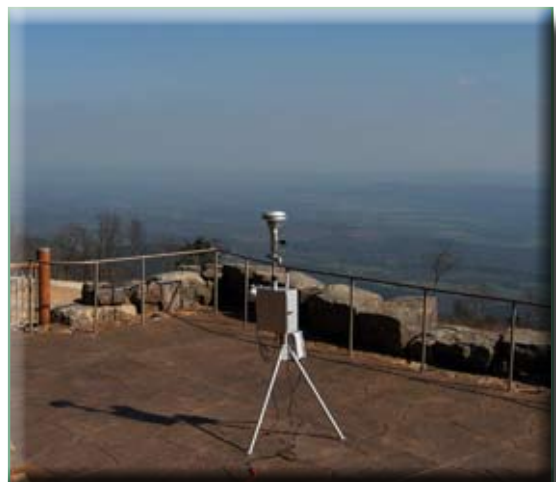


**Figure 4— Prescribed Fire Acres Burned**



**Effects Monitoring**  
**Moderate Intensity Prescribed Fire, Spring 2007**  
 Photo—Spring 2008, Land Between the Lakes NRR

**Air Quality Monitor, Mount Magazine, Arkansas**



## EXAMPLES OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN COST EFFECTIVENESS

**National Forests in Alabama (ALF)**—ALF continued to control costs by reducing dependence on plowed firelines in favor of using natural and human made features for firelines. The increased use of landowner agreements has reduced the need for installation of some dozer firelines. This helps build a positive relationships with our neighbors.

The ALF requests off-forest personnel to augment local personnel in accomplishing prescribed fire goals. Interagency Hotshot Crews, prescribe fire modules, and fire suppression modules are routinely provided by the Southern Region. Off-season firefighters and smoke jumpers from western forests are brought in as part of a mutually benefitting cooperative effort with their home units. Economic efficiency is gained as some modules, crews, and detailers provide their own funding. Detailers can be acquired, rescheduled, reassigned, or released on an as-needed basis.

**Ouachita and Ozark-St Francis National Forests (OUF-OZF)**—OUF-OZF successfully implemented the Southern Region's third Wildland Fire Use incident of 58 acres. The burned acreage was held at 656.6 acres on both forests while 62 wildfires were suppressed. All targets for Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels (WFHF) reduction were met on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest. Nearly 100 percent of WFHF targets were met on the Ouachita National Forest.

**National Forests in Florida (FNF)**—FNF consistently maintains good coordination between fire and other resources in preparing for and prioritizing fuel treatments. FNF has always managed a very cost-effective fire program. The use of natural and other existing features to maximize burn block sizes has made prescribed burning very cost effective. The practice of using natural and developed features as fire lines has made possible the redirection of funding to areas which are not in desired rotation or which are more difficult to burn.

**The Kisatchie National Forest (KIF)**—KIF continued to contract a second exclusive-use helicopter to accomplish prescribed burning in an effort to reduce aviation costs by not having to utilize call-when-needed contract helicopters. This was very productive and proved very beneficial. KIF continued to make an effort to enhance the fire qualifications of its employees. In order to reduce the cost of detailer salaries, travel, and per diem KIF has filled vacant firefighter positions. KIF also used prescribed fire modules from other forest regions to assist in prescribed fire projects.

KIF accomplished the following Succession Planning goals:

- Filled a Forester Trainee position.
- Converted one of several Job Corps student positions to a permanent fire position.
- Recruited five temporary seasonal employees into the fire program.
- Established four wage grade positions.
- Pursued the establishment of one full-time helicopter manager position to ensure program safety and oversight.

**National Forests in Mississippi (MNF)**— Fuels reduction, suppression, and prescribed burn program activities continue to reduce the threat of wildfire intensity throughout National Forest lands in Mississippi. The Jackson Hotshots (BLM) assisted with prescribed burning activities on all ranger districts. The crew was self-sufficient with regard to per diem, transportation, and equipment costs. In past years, MNF has paid the crews per diem, transportation, and equipment costs.

**National Forests in North Carolina (NCF)**— NCF remains prudent in staffing and in providing coverage by working with districts to provide for the most efficient use of resources. The NCF has a multi-agency cooperative wildland fire management agreement which facilitates the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds. Each agency is responsible for initial attack resource costs in the first operational period (24 hours). Forest resources suppressed 95 fires using this agreement thus improving cost efficiency for the respective agencies. In addition, the fire management organization supported and monitored training assignments in the local area to reduce the overall costs associated with travel. The *appropriate management response* is applied to most day-to-day decision processes.

**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests (FMF) (South Carolina)**—The FMF improved operational cost-effectiveness by the following:

- Used limited-use-staffing for exclusive use helicopters.
- Reduced extended stand-by staffing of flight crews at helibases.
- Reduced detailer travel costs by negotiating longer term assignments (30 day).
- Reduced flight time between fuel cycles by using established helispots for aerial ignition.
- Combined helicopter missions for maximum efficiency.
- Used the Zone Concept on the Sumter National Forest to more efficiently use existing resources for prescribed fire operations. Resources from three districts were made available for prescribed fire projects on all districts. The districts planned together and cooperated on projects, saving time and money.

**Savannah River Site (SRS) (South Carolina)**—Effectively used the Southern Region helicopter, 106Z, on a call-when-needed basis. After being assigned to SRS, the helicopter remained on-site and the pilot returned to regular duties unless the SRS was in a burning window. This arrangement reduced ferry flight costs and travel expenses. Cost-per-acre was also reduced by increasing burn block size, using multiple cut-off points, and by burning road to road.

**Cherokee National Forest (CNF)**—CNF has made an effort to complete multiple prescribed burns on single days to make more efficient use of aerial resources. The newly implemented zone organization also proved to be very cost effective in allowing resources to be shared across district boundaries. This practice also provided forest personnel with additional training opportunities.

CNF has a well established Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT3). The IMT3 is comprised of highly skilled individuals from throughout the forest. It was activated on several fires during the 2008 season. The CNF has 24 employees who serve on one of the Southern Area Type I and/or Type II IMTs. Many of these employees also serve on the CNF IMT3. The Cherokee has adequate depth in personnel qualified in planning, finance, and aviation overhead positions. There is a shortage of qualified personnel to fill these positions both regionally and nationally. CNF has identified the Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3) position as another shortage and has worked diligently to develop individuals in this capacity. CNF now has six qualified ICT3s and two ICT3 trainees. These individuals have been used to fill incident management positions both on the CNF and on other Southern Region Forests.

**National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT)**—The burn blocks in 2008 were large. On April 12, 2008, over 10,000 acres were burned on a single day. On several other days, NFGT burned over 6,000 acres per day. Large burn blocks such as described are not the norm, but NFGT took full advantage of good weather to burn large units in 2008. NFGT also improved cost effectiveness by sharing resources between districts. Available resources were sent to the district that was capable of burning on a given day. Bartering for detailers was also a cost effective strategy. NFGT recruited detailers who were funded in part by home units in exchange for the training opportunities provided by NFGT.



**George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (VAF)**— VAF continued to manage large fires with an emphasis on cost containment. Management practices were incorporated into management and incident objectives which were specifically designed to increase firefighter & public safety and reduce unnecessary expenses. In addition, significant savings resulted from the use of WFU strategies in managing six lightning fires.



**Air Tanker Base, Lovell Field, Chattanooga, TN**

**Prescribed Fire  
Chattahooche-Oconee National Forests**



## NOTEWORTHY INSTANCES OF COOPERATION

**National Forests in Alabama**— The Alabama Wildland Fire Academy was held in April 2008. It was sponsored cooperatively by the ALF, the City of Pelham Fire Department, and the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC). The 10-day academy offered 22 National Wildfire Coordinating Group courses. Twenty-three ALF personnel served as instructors and contributors. Certificates of Completion were issued to 371 students.

The ALF has a close working relationship with the AFC. Cooperation with the state on wildfire suppression at the county and forest district level was excellent in 2008. Federal and state personnel and equipment regularly provided each other with mutual aid and assistance. Forest personnel worked with the AFC and local community groups to accomplish fire prevention education and to provide training in fire hazard reduction. In order to increase local fire protection capability, miscellaneous surplus federal property was transferred to local volunteer fire departments through the AFC.

ALF also accomplished the following:

- Compiled a fire assessment for the Department of Defense, Anniston Army Depot.
- Participated in forming the Alabama Prescribed Fire council.
- Assisted Cleburne County Search and Rescue on various searches.
- Participated in smoke management discussions with the Gulf Coastal Plains Ecosystem Partnership and the Whiting Naval Base to prevent prescribed burn smoke from impacting military training flight routes.
- Participated in forming the Cleburne County Emergency Services Association which includes local volunteer fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and ambulance companies.
- Assisted Cleburne County (Alabama Forestry Commission) to provide wildland fire training to local volunteer fire departments.
- Presented education programs, such as Open Air Classroom and Forestry Awareness Now to hundreds of students in Escambia, Covington, Talladega, and Winston counties. Smokey Bear made his appearance at numerous parades and schools.

**Ouachita and Ozark-St Francis National Forests**—Seventeen Arkansas communities were recognized for Firewise efforts in 2008. Both the Ouachita Job Corps and the Cass Job Corps Centers provided Job Corps enrollees for local and off-forest suppression and prescribed fire assignments. Two Enrollees from Cass Job Corps were accepted into the Schenk Job Corps advanced wildland fire program in 2008.

Native American Tribe members in Oklahoma were provided with training, equipment, and mobilization support. Qualified tribal leadership candidates were certified at the squad boss and crew boss level. Tribal fire crews served as heritage resource technicians. They have provided many hours of on-the-ground survey work for district resource management projects.

Wildland fire training is an interagency effort. All Arkansas and Oklahoma wildland fire agencies are involved in the training effort. OUF-OZF continued a partnership with Arkansas Tech University in 2008. OUF-OZF provided wildland fire training to students in the emergency management, fish and wildlife, and recreation and parks departments.

The fourth annual Arkansas River Valley Wildland Fire Academy was hosted by Lake Point Conference Center at Arkansas Tech University. Over 375 participants registered to attend the Academy. Approximately 100 agency instructors and support personnel provided professional training and mentoring to the trainees.

Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) prescribed burning activities were significantly affected by the drought of 2005-06. The state completed over 12,000 acres in 2005, more than 4,300 acres in 2006, and 9,430 acres in 2007. In 2008, AFC completed almost 2,564 acres under the Stevens Act.

The National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma maintain a close working relationship with a variety of agencies and organizations including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (Forestry Services Division), several field units of the National Park Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Weather Service, the Department of Defense (Corps of Engineers), the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, Weyerhaeuser Company, Deltic Timber Company, and The Nature Conservancy.

**The National Forests in Florida**— A Cooperative Harvest and Utilization of Woody Biomass study was conducted on the Osceola National Forest in cooperation with The Langdale Company, Supertrak, Inc., Université Laval, and the Southern Research Station. The study objectives were to compare the efficacy of two different harvesting systems to mulch and bale small diameter, multi-branched woody shrubs and grasses. Mulching and baling would have multiple benefits including reduced fuel loading and catastrophic fire risk for communities and landowners, facilitate the reintroduction of prescribed fire, offer opportunities for alternate source of fuel for energy production, offer opportunities to generate forest products and to increase employment opportunities at the local level.

**The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests**—Firewise curriculums were presented to educators in Gilmer, Union, and Towns Counties. Several hundred children were reached through these programs. Student homework assignments included risk assessments of their homes. Feedback received from teachers indicates that the program was widely accepted and generated much interest.

Libraries in six counties on the Blue Ridge Ranger District worked together with the CHF to promote Firewise by making material available to the public. The district donated Firewise DVDs and VHS tapes for public use.

Public service announcements were used in a number of counties across north Georgia. These included wildfire prevention announcements on ten radio stations and Firewise announcements on six cable television stations. A Firewise trailer message on a local cable TV station is provided by the local ranger district in Towns County. The Weather Channel displays a campfire restriction banner throughout the day at no cost to CHF.

Local business electronic sign boards have been used by one district to advertise Firewise and other fire prevention messages.

In an effort to get the message out, districts set up stand-alone fire displays at courthouses and businesses throughout the CHF area. Information regarding Firewise, fire prevention, and prescribed fire were displayed. Handouts were also provided.

The Blue Ridge Ranger District worked with the Georgia Forestry Commission at the Georgia Mountain Fair to help staff Smokey's Cabin in Hiawassee, Georgia. The theme was Firewise. The cabin attracted 3,800 visitors.

The Blue Ridge Ranger District continued to purchase advertisement time with the Fieldstone Cinema Six in Young Harris, Georgia. The prevention message ran for three-month segments on six screens during high periods of drought. The theater averages 250,000 ticket sales a year.



**Firewise Students  
Chattahoochee-Oconee  
National Forests**



Georgia's first county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed for Towns County. This was accomplished with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC). Working in cooperation with GFC, county-wide CWPP's were initiated for Chattooga and Fannin Counties.

CHF used sand tables for training both ICT4s and prescribe burn bosses. Participants included the Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel. The sand table exercise proved to be a valuable training tool.

**Daniel Boone National Forest (DBF)**—The Daniel Boone National Forest collaborated with the Cherokee National Forest, Land Between The Lakes NRA, the Big South Fork NRR, Region 4 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and the Tennessee Division of Forestry to present a week-long fire training academy at Bell Buckle, Tennessee.

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

**Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL)**—LBL assisted in the development of three fire management plans for National Guard installations in Tennessee.

**Kisatchie National Forest**—Continued to work in close cooperation with the Louisiana Office of Forestry (LOF). The LOF conducts aerial detection for the Kisatchie National Forest and has the primary responsibility for wildfire control on the Caney Ranger District.

The KIF Staff Officer for Fire, Lands, and Minerals continued to assist with the coordination and development of the newly formed Louisiana Prescribed Fire Council. The council has been promoting prescribed fire on all land ownerships in Louisiana and allows federal, state, and private entities to work cooperatively in all aspects of prescribed fire operations.

The KIF filled one forester trainee position on the Calcasieu Ranger District.

Forest Regions 1, 4, and 6 continued to provide personnel to assist with the Prescribed Burn and Wildland Fire efforts throughout the fall and winter months. KIF treated 139,220 acres during 2008. KIF would have not accomplished the burning without assistance from western detailers. Between the months of November 2007 and May 2008, approximately 30 western detailers worked on the KIF.

The KIF public information office continued to keep the fire prevention program busy by scheduling a number of activities. These included school programs and presentations for community organizations.

**National Forests in Mississippi**— The MNF continued to work in close cooperation with the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) to uphold a cooperative fire protection agreement through which initial attack is made by first-arrival suppression resources, without regard to agency affiliation. MNF continued to assist on many fires within cooperative boundaries.

Interagency cooperation exists with other federal agencies such as the National Park Service (Natchez Trace Parkway), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, MS Sandhill Crane Refuge, St. Catherines Wildlife Refuge), and the Bureau of Land Management. These agencies interact with MNF on national budget planning activities and the sharing of fire resources to accomplish prescribed fire treatments, fuels reduction treatments, and training goals.

MNF has a number of participating agreements with private landowners. These agreements allow portions of private land to be included within agency managed prescribed fire treatments for economic efficiency and benefit. MNF continued to work with the MFC to schedule fire prevention and education activities at state-wide events and functions. Due to dry fuel conditions across the state of Mississippi, wildfire averages for both MNF and MFC increase every year.

**National Forests in North Carolina**—NCF is a partner in the Fire Learning Network group which facilitates training and discussion to further interagency cooperation in natural resources management.

NCF continued to support its state cooperators through training activities, the mobilization of resources, and through paying per diem, transportation, and lodging expenses of participants. These practices have made it possible for a number of state employees to attend fire training courses at the 300, 400, and 500 series level.

NCF has provided representation by participating in cadres, committees and teams. A number of employees have been involved in the North Carolina Fire Environment Working Group, North Carolina Firewise Council, North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council and other interagency working groups established to deal with fire management issues throughout the state.

NCF and the State of North Carolina are in the process of developing an interagency training calendar. A two week training academy, to be offered annually, is being proposed.

NCF participated in the first ever Strategic Wildfire Planning Meeting during 2008. This is an interagency effort to develop a long range plan of action for the response and suppression of wildfires in North Carolina.

**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests (South Carolina)**—FSM cooperative efforts during 2008 are as follows:

- Provided active representation on the South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council steering committee.
- Used a Gyrotrac, owned and operated by the Kings Mountain National Military Park for maintenance of take-off and departure paths at the Seed Orchard helibase.
- Established a new Interagency All Hazard Cooperative Agreement between the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the South Carolina Forestry Commission.
- Cooperated and coordinated with other federal agencies and the South Carolina Forestry Commission dispatch centers to obtain daily prescribed fire smoke management authorizations.
- Participated in district fire prevention programs held at local elementary schools, holiday parades, and county fairs.
- Provided opportunities for National Weather Service forecasters to participate in prescribed fire briefings and to observe prescribed fire operations.
- Used other agency personnel as instructors for local fire training sessions.

**Savannah River Site (South Carolina)**—Used the South Carolina Forestry Commission's Fire Wise education trailer at the 2008 Savannah River Site Safety Conference. The exhibit was favorably received by the community. Approximately 1,000 personal contacts were made.

**Cherokee National Forest**—The Cherokee National Forest continued to work closely with all Tennessee state and federal agencies. An outstanding example of cooperation is the success of the Tennessee-Kentucky Wildfire Academy. The first academy was held in CY2000. The 2008 academy successfully trained 343 students. The interagency academy provided a unique training opportunity for personnel who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to attend quality training sessions. The academy is predominately attended by Southern Area employees. However, a considerable number of students from other geographic areas also attended the Academy.

The ranger districts continued to work with local universities to offer basic fire classes. These classes supply CNF with qualified firefighters and provide students with college credit. The Cherokee National Forest and the National Wild Turkey Federation continued to work closely together in providing habitat improvement through the fuel reduction program.

CNF hosted an interagency cooperators meeting. It was attended by the Tennessee Division of Forestry, the National Weather Service, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Southern Region Office, and the Cherokee National Forest.

The Chattanooga Air Tanker Base was completed in late 2008 and is fully operational. Management of the facility is the responsibility of the Forest Service. This facility replaces the former tanker base at the Tennessee Air National Guard base at McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, Tennessee.

**National Forests and Grasslands in Texas**— NFGT has an agreement with Stephen F. Austin University (SFA) through which SFA students assist with prescribed burning in exchange for training and experience. NFGT also worked with The Nature Conservancy under a reciprocal agreement for cooperative efforts in prescribed burning. NFGT participated in many education and prevention programs throughout the year.

**George Washington and Jefferson National Forests**—The VAF continued to have a good working relationship with its partners. The Virginia Multi-Agency Coordinating Group reestablished a Type 3 Incident Management Team which was used on several fires during the year. VAF personnel assisted in presenting the Virginia Interagency Wildland Fire Academy at Longwood University. More than 400 firefighters attended nearly a dozen courses at the 2008 Academy.

**Table 3—Personnel Employed on Wildfire Presuppression**

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDFIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES			Southern Area CY2008	
No.	Item	Values		
		Sub-Total	Total	
1. Regular Appointed Personnel				
a	Full-time fire management (20 pay periods or more)	341		
b	Part-time fire management	121		
c	Others used on pre-suppression	343		
d	Others used on suppression (exclude those reported under a, b, or c)	435		
e	Total regular appointed personnel (a+b+c+d)		1240	
2. Seasonal or Short-term Personnel				
a	Regular fire control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	88		
b	Others who spent time on fire control work (BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.)	146		
c	Emergency firefighters	114		
d	Total emergency firefighters (a+b+c)		348	
3. Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression			2,316	
4. Number of casuals, included in Item 3, employed for first time		473		
5. Remarks				
Total			3,904	



**Prescribed Fire Activity  
Savannah River Site**



**Table 4—Land Protection Report for Calendar Year 2008**

<b>Land Protection Report CY2008</b>									
Southern Area by 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						657,416	657,416		11,252
AR-OK				1,101,567	94,293	2,953,154	4,149,014	1,092,928	132,816
FL		37,758				1,185,117	1,222,875	520,610	
GA						865,670	865,670	87,530	180,015
KY DBF						707,763	707,763		
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	1,504,000	327
PR						28,004	28,004		
SCFM						630,153	630,153		
SCSR					199,334		199,334		
TN						650,000	650,000		
TX						637,621	637,621		
VA						1,781,449	1,781,449	1,654,489	
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,758</b>		<b>1,494,788</b>	<b>334,367</b>	<b>13,608,095</b>	<b>13,608,095</b>	<b>4,859,557</b>	<b>356,764</b>

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FROM WILDLAND FIRE REPORTS

Table 5—Fires and Acres by Cause

Fires and Acres by Cause - Southern Region - CY2008													
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	8	3	0	4	3	2	20	0	6	46		50
	%	17%	7%	0%	9%	7%	4%	43%	0%	13%			
	Acres	368.35	26.25	0	160	13	80	1286.3	0	344.75		2,278.7	
	%	16%	1%	0%	7%	1%	4%	56%	0%	15%			
Arkansas Ouachita, Ozark- St Francis Na- tional Forests	Fires	4	3	0	3	4	1	41	0	6	62		11
	%	6%	5%	0%	5%	6%	2%	66%	0%	10%			
	Acres	82.5	5.2	0.0	0.9	71.2	2.0	485.3	0.0	9.5		656.6	
	%	13%	1%	0%	0%	11%	0%	74%	0%	1%			
Florida National Forests In Florida	Fires	73	12	2	7	3	0	15	0	39	151		121
	%	48%	8%	1%	5%	2%	0%	10%	0%	26%			
	Acres	1570	1181	1	50	52	0	523	0	14967		18,344.0	
	%	9%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	82%			
Georgia Chattahoochee- Oconee National Forest	Fires	12	0	0	1	11	0	14	0	15	53		28
	%	23%	0%	0%	2%	21%	0%	26%	0%	28%			
	Acres	363.22	0	0	1.5	696.17	0	377.4	0	31.67		1,470.0	
	%	25%	0%	0%	0%	47%	0%	26%	0%	2%			
Kentucky Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	2	1	0	7	6	1	51	0	11	79		37
	%	3%	1%	0%	9%	8%	1%	65%	0%	14%			
	Acres	165.0	0.8	0.0	668.8	67.5	2.0	1,901.9	0.0	89.1		2,895.0	
	%	6%	0%	0%	23%	2%	0%	66%	0%	3%			
Kentucky Land Between The Lakes NRA	Fires	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4		0
	%	25%	25%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
	Acres	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		1.1	
	%	9%	68%	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
Louisiana Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	3	6	0	2	3	0	36	0	18	68		41
	%	4%	9%	0%	3%	4%	0%	53%	0%	26%			
	Acres	52	48	0	28	66	0	1308	0	1259		2,761.0	
	%	2%	2%	0%	1%	2%	0%	47%	0%	46%			

continued next page

Table 5 (page 2)—Fires and Acres by Cause

Fires and Acres by Cause - Southern Region - CY2008													
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	4	1	4	11	0	30	0	34	89		92
	%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%			
	Acres	28.54	24.7	36.94	18	64.45	0	618.91	0	7435.01		8,226.6	
	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	8%	0%	90%			
North Carolina National Forests in North Carolina	Fires	24	2	8	11	46	3	26	1	25	146		34
	%	16%	1%	5%	8%	32%	2%	18%	1%	17%			
	Acres	1027.7	0.2	3.4	103.65	670.25	65.25	771.4	2	2278.6		4922.45	
	%	21%	0.00%	0.07%	2%	14%	1.33%	16%	0%	46%			
Peurto Rico El Yunque 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			
South Carolina Francis Marion & Sumter NFs	Fires	14	6	2	0	3	1	32	0	7	65		11
	%	22%	9%	3%	0%	5%	2%	49%	0%	11%			
	Acres	209.4	33.1	8.5	0	37.4	17.2	329.8	0	48.9		684.3	
	%	31%	5%	1%	0%	5%	3%	48%	0%	7%			
South Carolina Savannah River Site	Fires	6	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	8	19		8
	%	32%	5%	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	11%	42%			
	Acres	118.5	0.1	0	0	34	0	0.1	1.1	7.6		161.4	
	%	73%	0%	0%	0%	21%	0%	0%	1%	5%			
Tennessee Cherokee National Forest	Fires	9	0	0	2	16	0	30	0	2	59		90
	%	15%	0%	0%	3%	27%	0%	51%	0%	3%			
	Acres	2838	0	0	3	635.85	0	1837.1	0	10		5,324.0	
	%	53%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%	35%	0%	0%			
Texas National Forests & Grasslands in Texas	Fires	6	4	0	5	9	0	19	1	13	57		21
	%	11%	7%	0%	9%	16%	0%	33%	2%	23%			
	Acres	414	10.3	0	43.6	109.5	0	399.3	15	217.9		1,209.6	
	%	34%	1%	0%	4%	9%	0%	33%	1%	18%			
Virginia George Washing- ton & Jefferson National Forests	Fires	10	3	0	6	0	1	7	0	20	47		229
	%	22%	2%	0%	20%	0%	2%	22%	0%	31%			
	Acres	2332	1304	0	4	0	95	39	0	6976		10,750.0	
	%	16%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	6%	0%	74%			
Total Wildfires Total Acres Burned	Fires	177	46	15	52	116	9	322	4	204	898		54
	%	19%	5%	2%	6%	12%	1%	34%	0%	22%			
	Acres	9,569	2,634	50	1,081	2,517	261	9,878	18	33,675		59,685	
	%	16%	4%	0%	2%	4%	0%	17%	0%	56%			

**Table 6—Fires and Acres by Size Class**

<b>Fires and Acres by Size Class - Southern Region CY2008</b>										
<i>Page 1 of 2</i>		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total Fires	Total Acres
Alabama National Forests in Alabama	Fires	5	16	19	5	1	0	0	46	
	%	10.9%	34.8%	41.3%	10.9%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	0.8	52.35	885	1004.5	336	0	0		2278.7
	%	0.2%	2.3%	38.8%	44.1%	14.7%	0.0%	0.0%		
Arkansas Ouachita, Oark- St Francis Nat'l Forests	Fires	11	34	16	1	0	0	0	62	
	%	17.7%	54.8%	25.8%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	1.3	67.6	403.7	184	0	0	0		656.6
	%	0.0%	0.2%	61.5%	28.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Florida National Forests in Florida	Fires	52	63	24	5	5	2	0	151	
	%	34.4%	41.7%	15.9%	3.3%	3.3%	1.3%	0.0%		
	Acres	9	191	1417	984	4132	11611	0		18344.0
	%	0.0%	1.0%	7.7%	5.4%	22.5%	63.3%	0.0%		
Georgia Chattahoochee- Oconee National Forest	Fires	19	19	11	2	2	0	0	53	
	%	35.8%	35.8%	20.8%	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	3.05	38.41	353.3	222.2	853	0	0		1470.0
	%	0.2%	2.6%	24.0%	15.1%	58.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Kentucky Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	13.0	29.0	28.0	7.0	2.0	0.0	0	79	
	%	16.5%	36.7%	35.4%	8.9%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	3.2	107.3	746.5	1171.0	867.0	0.0	0		2895.0
	%	0.1%	3.7%	25.8%	40.4%	29.9%	0.0%	0.0%		
Kentucky Land Between the Lakes NRA	Fires	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	4	
	%	100.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		1.0
	%	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Louisiana Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	0.0	40.0	21.0	4.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	68	
	%	0.0%	58.8%	0.0%	5.9%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	0.0	127.0	622.0	595.0	1417.0	0.0	0.0		2761.0
	%	0.0%	4.6%	22.5%	21.6%	51.3%	0.0%	0.0%		
Mississippi National Forests in Mississippi	Fires	15.0	51.0	18.0	2.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	89	
	%	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%	16.9%		
	Acres	2.4	167.4	546.6	328.0	0.0	7168.0	0.0		8226.6
	%	0.0%	2.0%	6.7%	4.0%	0.0%	87.3%	0.0%		

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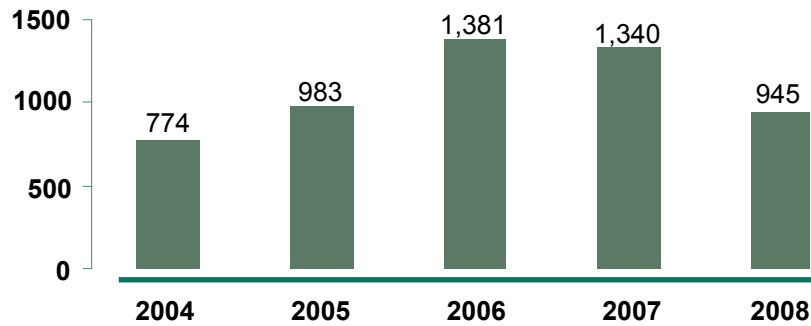


**Table 6 (page 2)—Fires and Acres by Size Class**

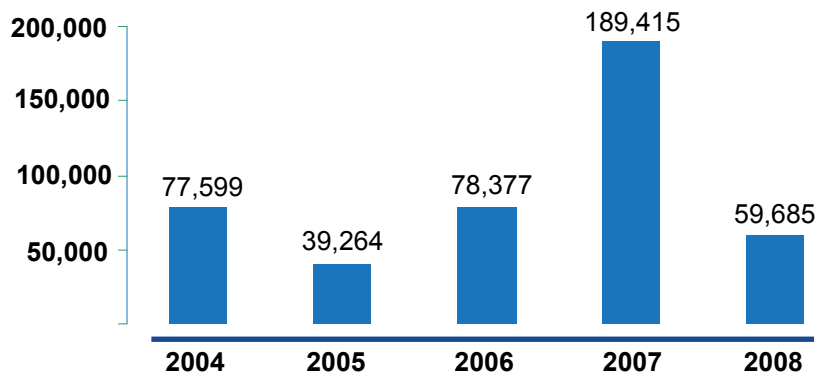
Fires and Acres by Size Class - Southern Region CY2008										
<i>Page 2 of 2</i>		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total Fires	Total Acres
North Carolina National Forests in North Carolina	Fires	33.0	69.0	35.0	7.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	146	
	%	22.6%	47.3%	24.0%	4.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%		
	Acres	5.8	146.2	1231.5	1094.0	440.0	2005.0	0.0		4922.5
	%	0.1%	3.0%	25.0%	22.2%	8.9%	40.7%	0.0%		
Puerto Rico El Yunque National Forest	Fires	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%	0.0%		
	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%	0.0%		
South Carolina Francis Marion & Sumter NFs	Fires	17.0	31.0	16.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	65	
	%	26.2%	47.7%	24.6%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	3.3	87.4	290.6	303.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		684.3
	%	0.5%	12.8%	42.5%	44.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
South Carolina Savannah River Site	Fires	8	7	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19	
	%	42.1%	36.8%	21.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	1.4	9	151	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		161.4
	%	0.9%	5.6%	93.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Tennessee Cherokee National Forest	Fires	2.0	42.0	10.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	0.0	59	
	%	3.4%	71.2%	16.9%	3.4%	1.7%	3.4%	0.0%		
	Acres	0.2	258.95	334.8	411	419	3900	0.0		5324.0
	%	0.0%	4.9%	6.3%	7.7%	7.9%	73.3%	0.0%		
Texas National Forests & Grasslands in Texas	Fires	12	33	7	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	57	
	%	21.1%	57.9%	12.3%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Acres	1.7	85.9	268	854	0.0	0.0	0.0		1209.6
	%	0.1%	7.1%	22.2%	70.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Virginia GW & Jefferson National Forests	Fires	8	23	6		4	3	3	47	
	%	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0		
	Acres	.95	49	291	465	1,917	8,027	0.0		10,750.0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0		
Fires	Fires	199	457	215	44	19	11	0.0	945	
	%	21.1	48.4	22.8	4.7	2.0	1.2	0.0		
	Acres	49.1	1676.6	11266.5	10693.6	14893.6	13567.0	137269.0		59,685
	%	0.1	2.3	12.6	12.8	17.4	54.8	0.0		

**Table 7—Five Year Averages: 2004–2008**

Five Year Averages: 2004–2008												
2004-2008	Lightning	Equip-ment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres/Fire
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
2008	177	46	15	52	116	9	322	4	204	945	59,685	63
<b>2004-08</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>5,423</b>	<b>444,340</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>5 yr avg</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>96,164</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Percent</b>	14.3	4.1	1.2	5.1	13.1	1.3	39.3	0.6	20.9	—	—	—



**Figure 5—Fires Per Year 2004–2008**



**Figure 6—Acres Per Year 2004–2008**