

*SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA*

**ANNUAL FIRE REPORT**

**2004**



Augusta Hotshots



## Preface

This document was prepared by the Southern Area Coordinating Group, Atlanta, Georgia. Wildland fire statistics were taken from agency summary reports and from the Southern Area Situation Report. Incident mobilization statistics were taken from the Resource Ordering and Status System.

### Southern Area Coordinating Group

The purpose of the Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG) is to coordinate the fire management programs of participating agencies. The Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG) is made up of the USDA Forest Service; four Department of the Interior agencies: the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Southern Group of State Foresters.

The SACG coordinates programs of the participating wildland fire management agencies to avoid wasteful duplication and to provide a means of constructively working together. SACG's goal is to provide the effective execution of each agency's fire management program. The group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions.

### Augusta Hotshots

Tempered  
through  
training,  
discipline and  
attitude . . .



. . . to  
be the  
firefighting  
cutting edge

—Hotshot  
Crew

Once again the Southern Geographic Area pays due respect to all of its outstanding Type I Crews. The Augusta Hotshot Crew was one of the busiest in the country in 2004, conducting a full season's business without incurring an injury. The Augusta Interagency Hotshots are to be commended for another *cutting edge* performance.

## Table of Contents

<b>Fire Season Highlights</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hurricane Response</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Weather Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Marietta Mobilization Center</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Statistics 2004</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Southern Geographic Area Incident Support Cache</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Southern Area Coordination Center</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Oklahoma Native American Crew Activity</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Interagency Type 1 Crews</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Region 4 Activity Summary</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Eastern Assist</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Tropical Storm Season</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Southwest and Western Assist</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Rural Fire Assistance Grants</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Awards and Commendations</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Usda Forest Service</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Fire Season Highlights</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>More Than One Million Acres Treated</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Prescribed Fire Accomplishments by Forest</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Examples of Significant Improvement in Cost Effectiveness</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Noteworthy Instances of Cooperation</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Personnel Employed on Wildfire Pre-suppression and Suppression Activities</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Land Protection</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Summary of Statistics from Wildland Fire Reports</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Statistics</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Native American Crews</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Prescribed Fire Activity</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>National Park Service</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Southeast Region Fire Management 2004 Accomplishments</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Statistics</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Prescribed Fire Activity</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>State and Private Forestry</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Fire Statistics CY 2004</b>	<b>32</b>

# ANNUAL FIRE REPORT 2004

## SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

### Fire Season Highlights

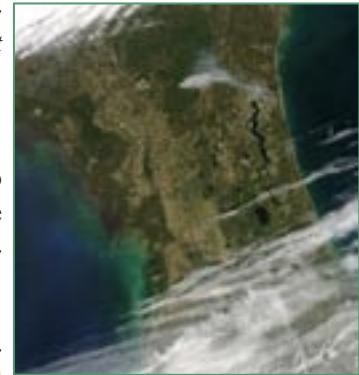
Fire occurrence levels continued to be lower than normal for the Southern Geographic Area. Even so, the number of wildfires increased over CY 2003 by approximately 25% percent. March was active enough to bring about expectations that wildland fire activity would be trending back to normal. April, on the other hand, brought heavy rains to the west keeping fire occurrence down in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. For the remainder of the Southern Geographic Area the frequency and timing of rainfall events kept fire incidents below normal.

The spring fire season, while being characterized as moderately active and less than the norm, was not without some intense localized activity. The National Forests in Florida had two large wildfires. The first occurred in March on the Osceola National Forest. The second burned on the Appalachian National Forest in April. The combined size of these two fires was 60,939 acres.

South Carolina, suffering from relative humidities in the low teens, experienced fire behavior described by seasoned fire managers as *extreme and not often seen on fires in the South Carolina Low Country*.

Western resource needs and requests were not significant during 2004. More than 200 assignments were made to Alaska incidents from June into September but this number pales in comparison to the number of resource requests originating from the tropical storm blitz that swept over the Southeastern United States beginning in early August.

It goes without saying that the fall fire season was rendered almost non-existent by a series of tropical storm events which began August 6 and lasted through November 30. In retrospect the short term damping effect of the tropical storm season was an illusionary aid to long-term wildfire suppression efforts. In real terms the tropical storm season produced significant fire management challenges for the future. Destructive winds knocked down trees on millions of acres of federal, state and private lands. Where forests stood in the summer of 2004, Southern Fire Managers now often see a non-uniform matrix of down, dead wood, to be measured in the millions of tons, as newly created hazardous fuels.



Impassable One  
National Forests in Florida  
March 12, 2004

Roughly 20 million acres were affected in Florida and Alabama. Pockets of increased fuel loading now stretch from Florida westward to Mississippi and from Florida north to the Appalachian Mountains and into Virginia. Many areas hit by storm events were made even more vulnerable to blowdown because their trees had previously suffered damage from the southern pine beetle.

### Hurricane Response

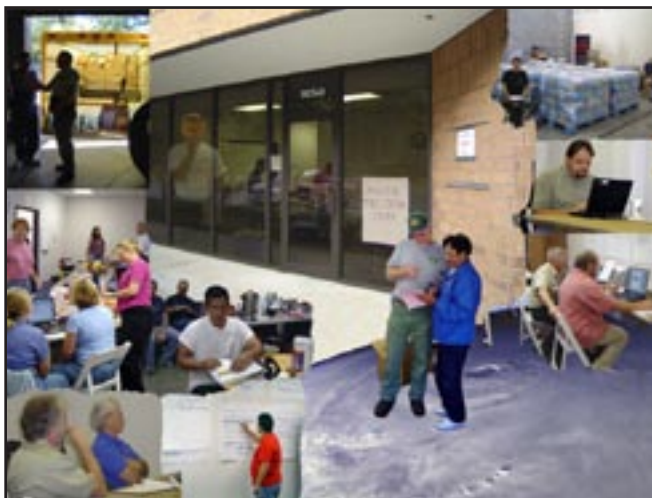
The Southern Geographic Area responded to four major hurricanes over an eight-week period at an estimated cost of more than \$25 million. The response effort represented the broadest application of the Incident Command System to a natural disaster in the nearly 30 year history of the ICS. Fourteen of the nation's seventeen Type I Incident Management Teams, all four of the nation's Area Command Teams, and all twelve national buying teams were committed to the hurricane recovery mission.



Mission assignments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) included the establishment and management of base camps, logistics staging areas and receiving and distribution centers. Assignments further included providing private home damage assessments, public relations support, coordinating the establishment of temporary emergency medical facilities, the inventory of temporary housing units, and providing disaster planning support. Approximately 1,900 personnel from the Wildland Fire community were committed to the hurricane response effort.

### Marietta Mobilization Center

In response to the demands made by hurricane recovery operations, a mobilization center was established on September 8 in Marietta, Georgia. The primary function of the Marietta Mobilization Center was to receive and house incident management teams, crews and miscellaneous single resources mobilizing and demobilizing from incidents within the Southern Geographic Area.

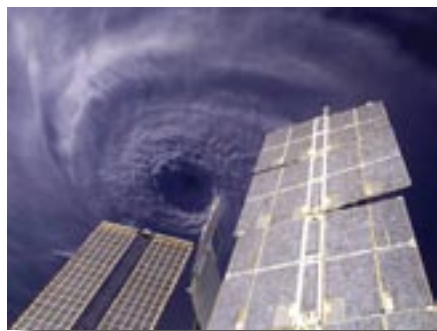


Marietta Mobilization Center -- A Very Busy Place

### Weather Summary

Periodic rain events swept across the Southeastern United States approximately every seven to ten days during the first quarter of the year. April had three distinct widespread rain events. The high frequency of rainfall contributed to the overall low fire danger and suppressed fire occurrence.

The dominant weather phenomenon of 2004 was an unusually active and destructive tropical storm season that sent four major hurricanes to landfall in Florida and along the Gulf Coast. These storms brought unusually large quantities of rainfall to the peninsula of Florida, to Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, and other Southern states to a lesser degree. The total number of land-falling systems (eight) was unusually high. Several of the storms made multiple landfalls. Florida was particularly hard hit.



Eye of IVAN and Satellite  
NASA Photo

With the passing of the tropical storm season the Southeastern US settled into a monotonous pattern of repetitious rainfall events, thanks in part to a nearly stationary low pressure off the Baja California Coast. Widespread rains, many of them heavy, fell across the Southeast every two to three days over the course of 45 days spanning October and November. Texas, particularly west Texas, saw record rainfall amounts during this time. Most of west Texas ended the year at or above the 95 percentile for precipitation received in the 12 months ending in December 2004.

The thirty-day precipitation analysis for December of 2004 showed short-term deficits beginning to affect the Southern Region. Potential problem areas were South Florida, which missed out of most of the tropical rainfall, and coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina.

**Wildland Fire Statistics 2004**

Fires By Cause: All Southern Geographic Area Agencies						
CY 2004		Human	Lightning	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres /Fire
Fish & Wildlife Service <sup>a</sup>	Fires	82	0	82		18
	%	100.0%	0.0%			
	Acres	1,455	0.0		1,455	
	%	100.0%	0.0%			
Forest Service <sup>c</sup>	Fires	725	49	774		100
	%	93.7%	6.3%			
	Acres	76,943	655.5		77,599	
	%	99.2%	0.8%			
Bureau of Indian Affairs <sup>ab</sup>	Fires	146	0	146		113
	%	100.0%	0.0%			
	Acres	16,563	0.0		16,563	
	%	100.0%	0.0%			
National Park Service <sup>b</sup>	Fires	82	24	106		48
	%	77.4%	22.6%			
	Acres	2,383	2,689		5,072	
	%	47.0%	53.0%			
State & Private Forestry <sup>d</sup>	Fires	32414	1,118	33,532		14
	%	96.7%	3.3%			
	Acres	383,058	71007		454,065	
	%	84.4%	15.6%			
Department of Defense <sup>ab</sup>	Fires	49	1	50		117
	%	98.0%	2.0%			
	Acres	5,871	1.0		5,872	
	%	100.0%	0.0%			
Total Fires	Fires	29,113	1,111	30,305		18
	%	%	%			
Total Acres	Acres	129,352	74,353		560,626	
	%	%	%			

<sup>a</sup>Category totals not available.  
<sup>b</sup>Data taken from SACC Situation Report, 12/31/04.  
<sup>c</sup>Data provided by agency fire report or agency database submitted for this report.  
<sup>d</sup>Data source: USDA FS-3100-8, Annual Wildfire Summary Report; unless otherwise noted

**Southern Geographic Area Incident Support Cache**

In addition to providing support to wildland fire incidents throughout the year the Southern Area Incident Support Cache responded in full support of FEMA operations during the Tropical Storm Season. Regular personnel and detailers were assigned cache duty in order to supply the needs of FEMA and other agencies.



The cache supported 14 Type 1 Incident Management Teams, 12 National Buying Teams, and 4 Area Command Teams during the hurricane recovery efforts.

Southern Area Fire Cache  
 London, Kentucky

**Southern Area Coordination Center**

<b>Southern Area Coordination Center - Workload 2004</b>				
		Winter-Spring	Summer-Fall	Total
Assignments Made - All GACCs		—	—	10,349
Assignments - SACC Incidents		—	—	8,578
Southern Area Incidents Supported		182	298	436
Wildfire		85	53	138
Natural Disaster		0	126	126
Preparedness		15	12	27
Prescribed Fire		49	27	76
Other (support, etc.)		—	—	69
Assignments by Type - All GACCs	Wildfire	Nat. Disaster	Other	Total
Aircraft (all orders, freq, etc.)	111	3,079	1,589	4,779
Crews Assigned	88	182	26	296
Equip/Supply Assigned	243	560	63	866
Overhead Assigned	695	2,431	493	3,619

ROSS database.

**Oklahoma Native American Crew Activity**

<b>BIA Sponsored Crews</b>			
Crew	Number of-Crews	Number of Personnel	Days Worked
Apache	4	44	19
Cheyenne & Arapaho	4	58	47
Chickasaw	2	23	22
Comanche	6	70	28
Creek	3	40	17
Pawnee	1	19	15
Seminole	2	30	12
<b>USFS Sponsored Crews</b>			
Caddo	4	70	33
Cherokee	1	34	7
Choctaw	2	16	25
Iowa	1	15	15
Kickapoo	0	0	0
Kiowa	4	68	28
Ponca	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>268</b>



Interagency Type 1 Crews

Southern Area Type I Crew Assignments 2004*							
	Wx	Rx	Nat Disaster	Winter-Spring	Summer	Fall	Total
Asheville Hotshots	8	5	0	13	0	0	13
Augusta Hotshots	9	0	1	1	9	1	10
Cherokee Hotshots	8	3	3	6	4	5	15
Jackson Hotshots	7	0	4	0	8	4	12
Total	32	8	8	20	21	10	50

\*Reflects assignments made by SACC only, not local assignments by home unit. Data courtesy of ROSS 2004.



## Jackson Hotshots

The Jackson Hotshots started their season in May tending to prescribed fire projects at Everglades National Park. The crew was assigned to the Nuttal Fire (AZ) in June. After Nuttal they traveled to the Northwest where they served on the McDonald Complex and the Bybee Creek fire. They ended their season in Florida providing disaster relief in the aftermath of the destructive tropical storm season of 2004. They were called upon to help remove debris, set up command centers and provide assistance to local communities. Their final tour of duty for 2004 included a detail to Lathrop Bayou and Jupiter to fell hurricane damaged trees and to prepare areas for prescribed burning.



Firewise Booth, Mississippi State Fair, 2004.

In addition to disaster relief, the Crew found time to staff *Firewise* outreach booths at several events in and around Jackson, Mississippi. Thousands of Mississippians from all over the state were provided information about fire prevention and safety.



Jackson Hotshots remove debris from a Panama City neighborhood hit by Hurricane Frances.



Hotshots remove felled trees in a Panama City neighborhood.



### Augusta Hotshots



The Augusta Interagency Hotshot Crew was one of the busiest in the country in 2004. The crew began assisting the National Forests in Florida with prescribed burning in February. Wildfires brought the Crew back to Florida in March. Prescribed Fire assignments kept them busy in Kentucky and Virginia for the remainder of the spring season. In June the crew was mobilized to the *Nuttall* fire on the Tonto National Forest, Arizona. After the Nuttall assignment they spent the remainder of the summer assigned to incidents in the Western United States. They completed their season in the Southern Geographic Area assisting with hurricane recovery efforts. Notwithstanding their busy timetable and hectic work schedule, the Crew conducted a full season's business without incurring an injury.



## U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



### Fire Activity Report 2004

#### Region 4 Activity Summary

Region 4 (Southeast Region) had 82 wildland fires covering 1,455 acres in 2004. The largest fire occurred on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge and totaled 350 acres. A total of 382 treatments were conducted for a total of 144,778 acres creating new national and regional achievement records. There were 359 prescribed burns accomplished for a total of 142,797 acres.

Extreme wet conditions in the Southeast Region affected the timing of certain prescribed burns, but the Southeast Region achieved approximately 162% of the targeted prescribed burns. The wet conditions continue to provide a management challenge to balance the prescribed burning and the wildland fire suppression programs.

The Southeast Region was moderately busy during the spring fire season. The majority of the fires took place in Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina. There was a total of 82 wildland fires of which only seven became extended attack fires. There was a slight increase in the number of fires over 2003 but a historically aggressive prescribed fire program combined with above normal precipitation kept wildfire acres down.

In previous years the southeastern states applied and received FEMA Fire Assistance grants in both the spring and fall fire seasons. This year there were no applications for fire but there were several requests for FEMA disaster assistance.

Seven stations prescribed burned over 77,169 acres even with the extreme wet conditions. These seven refuges accounted for 53% of the Refuge's Prescribed fire acreage and 47% of the number of burns, as listed in the table.

Refuge	Rx Fires	Acres
Merritt Island	24	17,002
Savannah Coastal Refuges	32	11,491
St. Marks NWR	57	11,035
Loxahatchee NWR	6	9,924
Alligator River NWR	10	9,899
Piedmont NWR	16	9,085
Okefenokee NWR	25	8,733

### Eastern Assist

The Year 2004 can be described as a year unlike any other year – fire or otherwise. Savannah Coastal Refuges firefighters assisted with 34 state fires in March. Due to the magnitude and duration of the fire season, an Interagency short team was ordered. This team consisted of personnel from Mississippi Sandhill Crane, Sabine, S. E. Louisiana Refuges, as well as the Texas Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the USDA Forest Service. The Incident Management Team was the initial attack force on the state's *Racetrack* fire. This fire consumed one home in the Levy community. Fire behavior was at times extreme and not often seen on fires in the South Carolina Low Country. The relative humidity fell to the low teens, and fire activity was strong, frequent, and violent. The last extended attack fire was *Joe's* fire. This was a 100 acre lightning fire in the Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge. This fire occurred in July. Once again, cooperation and assistance was rendered by sister refuges and the USFS Savannah River Fire Crew.

Fire Statistics Fish & Wildlife Service		
2004	NO.	Acres
Wildland Fires	82	1,455
Prescribed Fires	359	142,797
Other Treatments	23	1,981

\*Data source: FWS Region 4 Annual Fire Report, 2004

### Tropical Storm Season

As the fire season subsided the the Southeast Region fire staff turned its attention to the incredible tropical storm season. Four major hurricanes (Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne) pounded the Southeastern U.S. during August, September and October. Twelve weeks were exclusively devoted to rendering assistance to refuges impacted by the various storms. The majority of personnel time was spent in Florida. Both coasts of Florida were affected by hurricane activity. The South Carolina and North Carolina coasts were also affected.

Terri Jenkins served as the Incident Commander (IC) for the hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast of Florida. She and her team devoted approximately 5,000 hours to assist wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries and cities devastated by the hurricanes. Florida wildlife refuges were also aided by other refuge fire management Officers and refuge staff from throughout the Southeast Region and from other Fish and Wildlife Service Regions. Fire Program Management Technician Bunk Twist and Refuge Administrative Assistant Mary Duden, from Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, served on Terri Jenkins' Type 3 Team as Plans Chief and as Finance Officer.

After the fourth hurricane (Jeanne) slammed Florida another incident management team was mobilized. Mark Ruggerio was assigned as IC for this Type II Team.

Tony Wilder and Jim Durrwatcher were assigned as incident commanders to manage recovery operations for wildlife refuges devastated by Hurricane Ivan. The team was activated on September 15 and consisted of approximately 50 people from various wildlife refuges within the Region. Over a two week period the team remove thousands of cubic yards of debris from Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and cleaned downed trees from several miles of refuge roads on the Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge.

Wildlife refuge employees from the Southeast Region logged 20,000 work hours to the 2004 hurricane recovery effort.

### **Southwest and Western Assist**

The Western and Southwest fire season was very minimal. The state that needed the most assistance this year was Alaska. Fred Wetzel, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Fire Management Officer (FMO), assisted Region 7 on a 10-day detail in Fairbanks, Alaska. Region 4 provided several other overhead personnel and firefighters to Alaska who served on 14-day assignments. Additionally refuge employees served on 14-day assignments and/or details to Montana, South Dakota, and Idaho. Tony Wilder, MS Sandhill Crane's FMO went to Cape Romain on an extended attack as ICT3. Brian Schaffler was assigned as trainee ICT3. From Cape Romain Tony Wilder responded, as a member of the Southern Area Type I Red Team, as OSC1 to an incident on the Apalachicola National Forest. Bailey and Brock saw activity on both fires with a Type 6 engine.

Fewer Southeast Region employees served on western assignments than did so in previous years because of the need for personnel to be assigned to hurricane recovery operations within the Southern Geographic Area.

### **Rural Fire Assistance Grants**

Fifty-one fire departments were awarded Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grants for a total of \$188,075 in 2004. Seven states and Puerto Rico received funding from this program in the Southeast Region. The RFA funding was targeted to pay for personal protective gear and basic wildland fire training.

### **Miscellaneous**

The annual Southern Area Fire Management Officer's meeting took place in January in Savannah, Georgia. Structured as a meeting-workshop the event was attended by Southern Geographic Area Fire Management Officer's from the USDA Forest Service, from the National Park Service as well as from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Jennifer Adams transferred from Savannah Coastal Refuges to the Regional Office where she is presently a SCEP student working on a Master of Forestry degree at the University of Georgia. She serves as a GIS specialist and is the Southeast Region's Fire Program Analysis representative.

Ginger Corbin came to Savannah Coastal Refuges in June as a Career Seasonal Forestry Tech.

Kenneth Powell was hired at Pocosin National Wildlife Refuge as Forestry Tech/firefighter.

Larry Wade from Pocosin National Wildlife Refuge transferred to California in a non-fire Wage Grade position.

Donald J. Schrieber was hired at St Vincent National Wildlife Refuge on a six-month temporary position.

Barton Rye transferred to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge from the Florida Department of Forestry.

Greg Suszek transferred from St Marks National Wildlife Refuge to Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in November as Prescribed Fire Specialist (PFS).

Jeremy Loney, St Marks National Wildlife Refuge, was called to active military duty during 2004. He is currently serving in Iraq.



Dave Cann, MS Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Specialist, resigned in March; returning to work in the private sector.

Greg Askins, Mississippi Sandhill Crane Prescribed Fire Specialist, transferred to the Savannah Coastal Refuges in July, as Prescribed Fire Specialist.

Brian Schaffler left his Wildland Fire Specialist position at Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge in July, transferring to the Huron-Manistee National Forest as Assistant Fire Management Officer.

Sami Gray transferred from the Southeast Louisiana Refuges to the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge where she received a promotion to the position of Prescribed Fire Specialist.

Anthony Snow transferred from the San Juan National Forest in Colorado to the MS Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge as Wildland Fire Specialist.

Jeremy Keller, Regional WUI Specialist, transferred back to the field where he will be replacing Dave Cann as the WUI Specialist at Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge. Jeremy is presently in the U.S. Navy Reserve unit that was activated in August 2004; his orders carry him through April 2005.

Pat Boucher, FWS Assistant Area Coordinator, continued to serve as the ROSS coordinator for the Southeast Region. Pat was extremely busy during the fall months tracking FWS resources assigned to hurricane recovery operations. She also assisted the regional finance office in tracking items and resources related to FEMA reimbursable accounts. Pat processed 4 FEMA hurricane orders, 16 Type I teams, 6 catering and shower units, 16 buying teams and IBAs, and other resources in support of hurricane recovery operations. Pat also served as lead instructor for Dispatch Recorder D-110 training in November at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

During the Hurricane season, 15 FWS Refuge Managers and regional office employees were assigned to a Community Response program for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The participants handed out flyers at FEMA distribution centers, provided bereavement information and counseling, and assisted those who were applying for FEMA aid.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge hosted S-215 *Fire in the Urban Interface* course in March.

Pocosin Lakes hosted the S-212 *Wildland Power Saws* course and the D-110 Dispatch Recorder training.

The Southeast Region continued to support the National Incident Management Teams (IMT) and has several employees that are on the two Southern Area Type I IMT's. The individuals that serve on these teams are: Bob Eaton, DIVS and SOF1(T); Tony Wilder OSC1 and ICT2; Jim Durrwachter OSC1; Glen Stratton DIVS; Dave Brownlie SITL and PSC1(T).

### **Awards and Commendations**

In closing, there were three individuals that were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Southeast Region's Fire Management Program during 2004. The following Regional Awards were presented at the annual FMO Meeting in February 2005:

Tony Wilder - Regional Fire Management Leadership Award; Terri Jenkins - Regional Prescribed Fire Management Award; Kelley Van Druten - Regional Fire Prevention Award.



**USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**SOUTHERN REGION**



**2004 THE FIRST ONE MILLION ACRE PRESCRIBED FIRE YEAR**

**Fire Season Highlights**

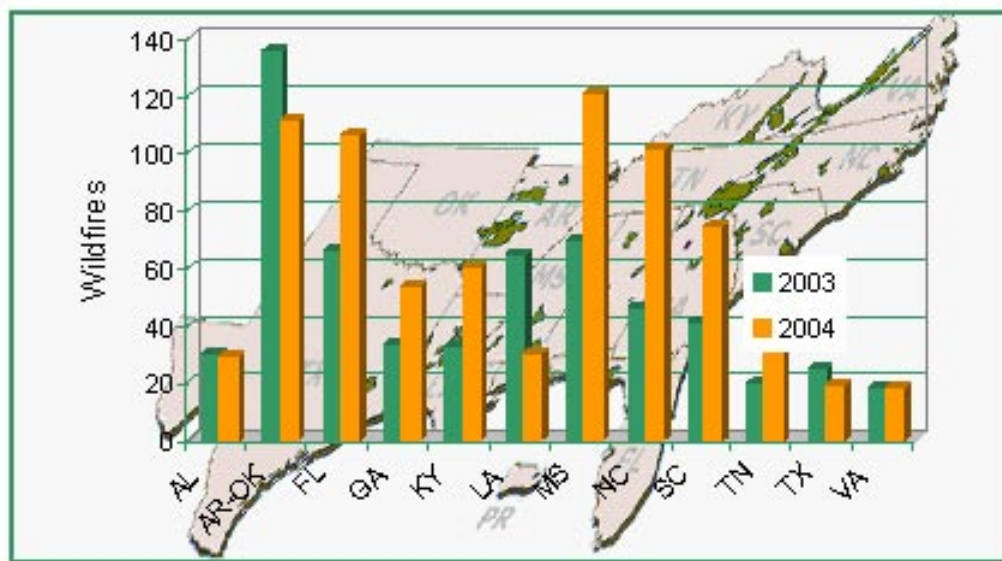
The number of wildfires increased over CY 2003 by 25 percent. An even greater increase was observed in acres burned. Two Class G fires accounted for the sharp increase in acres. These fires had a combined size of 60,939 acres. They occurred in March and April, one on the Osceola National Forest, the other on the Appalachian National Forest. The 2 fires also increased the Regional average fire size to 100 acres. The average acres per fire for all other Southern Region wildfires was 22.

Wildfire activity in March and early April was moderately intense in some locations. Heavy precipitation in the west in late April plus repetitive rainfall events elsewhere helped to keep overall fire occurrence down.

The fall fire season was rendered almost non-existent by the 2004 tropical storm season which began August 6 and lasted through November 30, bringing a devastating series of hurricanes and tropical storm events to the Southeastern States.

Year	Fires	Acres	Ac/Fire
1995	1,278	30,876	24
1996	2,062	36,100	18
1997	896	20,711	23
1998	1,268	70,887	56
1999	1,761	106,104	60
2000	1,783	75,771	42
2001	1,317	54,243	41
2002	985	29,083	30
2003	580	13,024	22
2004	774	77,599	100
Average	1,270	51,440	42

**Southern Region Wildfires By State  
2003 and 2004**



**More Than One Million Acres Treated**

**—And Other Significant Accomplishments in Prescribed Fire**

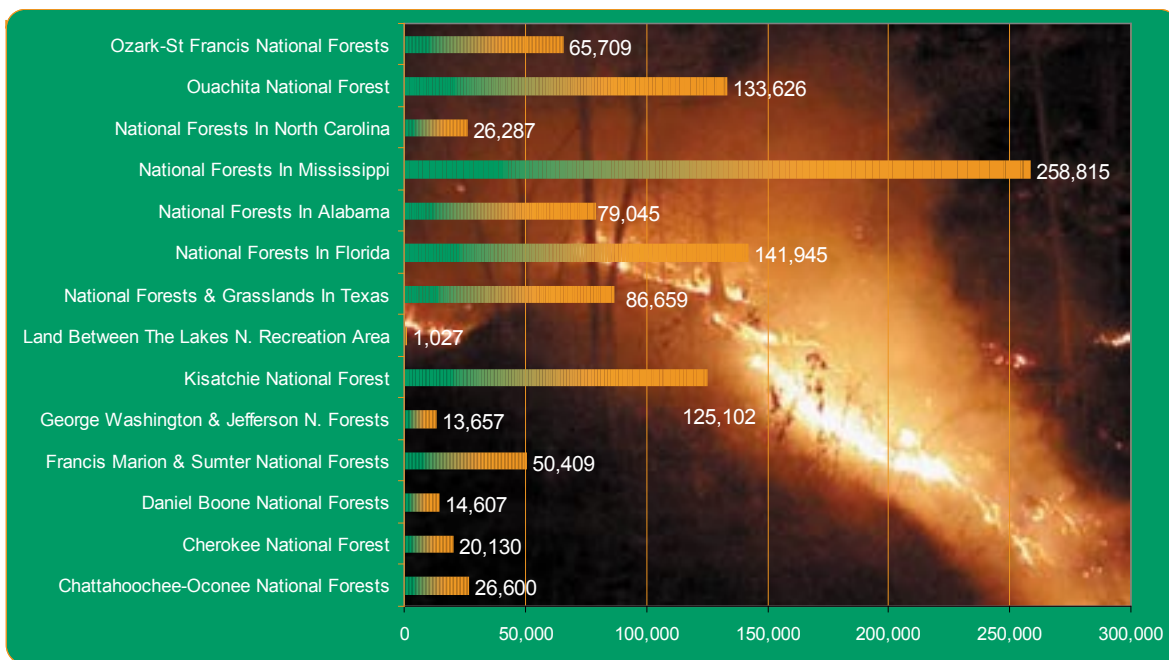
Southern Region prescribed fire managers were presented with significant challenges throughout CY 2004. Rainfall events were so persistent and repetitive in some areas that prescription windows were rare events. Challenges notwithstanding Fire Managers aggressively pursued prescribed burning and fuels reduction targets, taking advantage of every burning opportunity, and becoming ever more resourceful in their use of shared resources, partnering opportunities, and innovative planning. The hard work resulted in a hazardous fuels acreage increase of ten percent over CY 2003. More significantly the Southern Region breached the One Million acre mark and accomplished the treatment of **1,043,618 acres** of hazardous fuels.



The National Forests in Mississippi continued to lead the Nation in prescribed burning. In recognition of sustaining this achievement on a multi-year basis the National Forests in Mississippi received the Secretary of Agriculture’s National Fire Plan Award in Hazardous Fuels Reduction.

Section 1 Prescribed Fire  
National Forests In Mississippi

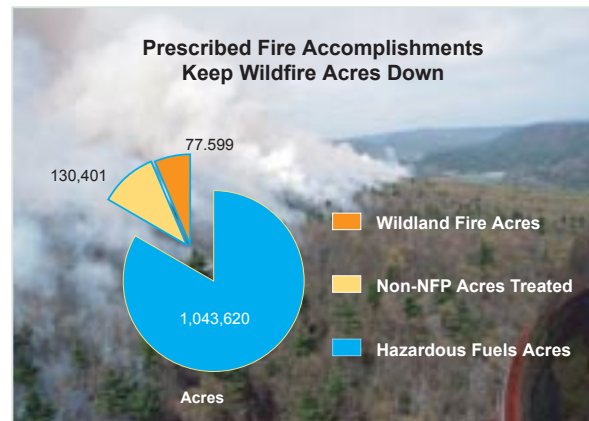
**Hazardous Fuels Treatments  
NFPORS 2004 — 1,043,618 Acres**



## Prescribed Fire Accomplishments by Forest

### National Forests in Alabama

- The National Forests in Alabama accomplished a total of 79,045 acres of prescribed burning for hazardous fuels reduction in 2004. This was 105.4% of our 75,000 acre-target (WFHF hazardous fuels). All of these acres were in the wildland-urban interface. The Forest used an exclusive-use helicopter for aerial ignition on many of the larger burn units on the Conecuh and Talladega National Forests.



- The Forest also accomplished 8,672 acres on non-NFP treatments through other resource management programs. This work included such treatments as mechanical thinning, mid-story removal in RCW habitat, site preparation burning, mechanical release in young pine stands, and brownspot burning in young longleaf stands.

### Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

- The National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma reduced hazardous fuel loadings on a total of 199,335 acres in 2004 (NFORS FY2004 Treatment Acres Report). Both prescribed burning and mechanical treatments were used. The Forests continue to work with partners to accomplish landscape-level ecosystem restoration projects. Fuel treatment work on private forest lands immediately adjacent to Federal ownership was facilitated through use of the Wyden Amendment. The Stevens Act provided the authority for working with state forestry agencies.

- Regional mid-scale assessment of Fire Regime and Condition Class was completed in 2004. Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, lands were identified at 2,090,691 acres.

- The Forest Plan revision process identified Wildland Urban Interface/Intermix (WUI) areas and helped to define criteria for prioritizing hazardous fuels mitigation projects. Thirty-three communities at risk have been identified near Forest Service lands in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Over 1,000,000 acres of Forest Service WUI lands have been identified as lying within 1/2 mile of private lands.

### National Forests in Florida

- The National Forest in Florida, in addition to managing a busy spring wildfire season and a record breaking tropical storm season, managed to treat 145,387 acres with prescribed fire. Another 4,215 acres were treated by mechanical methods.

- The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center completed another successful year of training and prescribed burning in the Southeastern States. A total of 122 students and 18 field coordinators treated 47,175 acres in four different 3-week sessions (January-April).

- Within the Wildland Urban Interface 27,025 acres were successfully burned. Cooperators within Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina received assistance from the Training Center in 2004.

- A total of 30 students received five credit hours from Tallahassee Community College for successful completion of the 3-week PFTC session. The earned credit hours can be used to meet the new IFPM requirements for GS-401 series positions.
- The Center continued a series of one-week workshops designed to build support for prescribed fire and fuels management programs among agency administrators, fire program managers, and decision makers. The Agency Administrators Workshop was linked as a sequel to the Fuels Management for Agency Administrators Seminar conducted by the Southwest Fire Use Training Academy. There were 12 agency administrators, 13 fire program managers, 6 field coordinators, and 11 mentors and agency specialists in attendance at two workshops. The Center utilized qualified contractors and agency specialists as instructors.

#### Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

- The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest treated a combined 27,253 acres for fuels reduction, T&E habitat improvement, wildlife habitat improvement, site preparation, and white pine understory control. Most of the burning took place on the Oconee, giving the mountain forests an increase in their targets over previous years.
- Smoke management has become an increasing concern in recent years. Several coterminous counties lie in the air quality containment zone.
- Work continues on the Chattahoochee-Oconee to develop plots to monitor the effects of prescribed fire. The goal is to develop two plots per ranger district per year to monitor before and after effects of fire.

#### Daniel Boone National Forest

- Accomplished largest prescribed burning program to date. Close inter-district coordination, timely communication of resource needs, flexible staffing policies, and the selective use of off-unit resources coupled together to provide an operational framework in which it was possible to successfully conduct multiple burns on several days.

#### Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

- Accomplished 1,017 acres, the largest number of acres burned in the history of federal ownership. One 260 acre burn represented the largest single prescribed fire accomplished under federal ownership.

#### Kisatchie National Forest

- The Kisatchie continues to be a leader in acres accomplished—Especially when accomplishments are expressed as a percentage of the total forest acres burned (22%) each year. The Kisatchie also maintains some of the lowest cost per acre ratios for fuels treatment in the nation.
- The Kisatchie is a national leader in accomplishing fuels treatments that are not funded by fuels (HF-other). Looking ahead the Forest is innovating new mechanical treatment methods that utilize biomass as an energy product.



National Forests in Mississippi

- The National Forests in Mississippi received the Secretary of Agriculture National Fire Plan Award in Hazardous Fuels Reduction.
- This was the eighth year for Region 1 detailers to assist during the dormant season. The Forest had two Regional fuels helicopters as well as a dedicated fuels ship from the De Soto Ranger District.

Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests

- Aerial ignition was used to accomplish most of the acres treated with prescribed fire during 2004. The Forests' exclusive-use helicopter was on contract from January 15 through June 15, and from November 1 through November 30. In addition call-when-needed helicopters were used on the forest during the late winter months.
- The Long Cane Ranger District utilized a stewardship contract to burn approximately 1,328 acres in 2004. Operational success demonstrated that stewardship contracts are a viable alternative to conventional burning by Forest Service personnel. The contract required that a Forest Service advisor be on site, minimally qualified as a RXB2. The Forest Service advisor made go/no-go burn decisions, conducted project briefings, and approved/disapproved on-going burning operations being conducted by the contractor.
- The Enoree District hired a full-time fire management officer in January 2004. The district has since demonstrated increased production and efficiency in the areas of burn plan preparation, burn unit preparation, and personnel training and qualifications.
- Francis Marion prescribed fire operations continued to require the use of personnel to monitor smoke conditions along roadways during night hours. Smoke patrol operations require close coordination between district personnel, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, and local law enforcement agencies.



Gopher Frog Pond Rx Burn  
National Forests in Mississippi



Burn Boss  
Bringing It All Together  
National Forests in Mississippi

### Savannah River Forest

- A KBDI limited burning opportunities from mid-December 2003 to the third week of January 2004. A major ice storm hit the area on January 22, 2004, resulting in significant damage to timber. Fallen trees blocked many roads. Prescribed burning operations were delayed until the first week in February because of the urgent need for fire management personnel to help with clean up efforts. Additionally 1/3 of the control lines on all prescribed fire units had to be replowed, further delaying prescribed burning operations. The ice storm, with it's 2.5 inches of precipitation, lowered the KBDI to 200.
- The Asheville Hotshots were assigned to Savannah River in February and March and helped in the burning of 6,000 acres. Multiple burn days were made possible only by the participation of the Hotshots. Savannah River personnel were assigned to aerial ignition burns while the Hotshots were assigned to conduct hand-ignition operations on other burns.

### Cherokee National Forest

- Prescribed fire continues to be an essential element of wildfire prevention and ecosystem management. Most prescribed fire activities were not conducted until March and April of 2004. The number of acres treated with fire was historically the second highest accomplished. The final accomplishment for fuels burning was 20,130 acres.

### National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

- The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas accomplished a total of 127,211 acres of prescribed burning in 2004. This is the highest total ever achieved in Texas. Weather was generally favorable for burning throughout the entire burning season. Fall burning accomplished over 26,000 acres. The majority of the burning took place during the traditional periods of February through April.

### George Washington-Jefferson National Forests

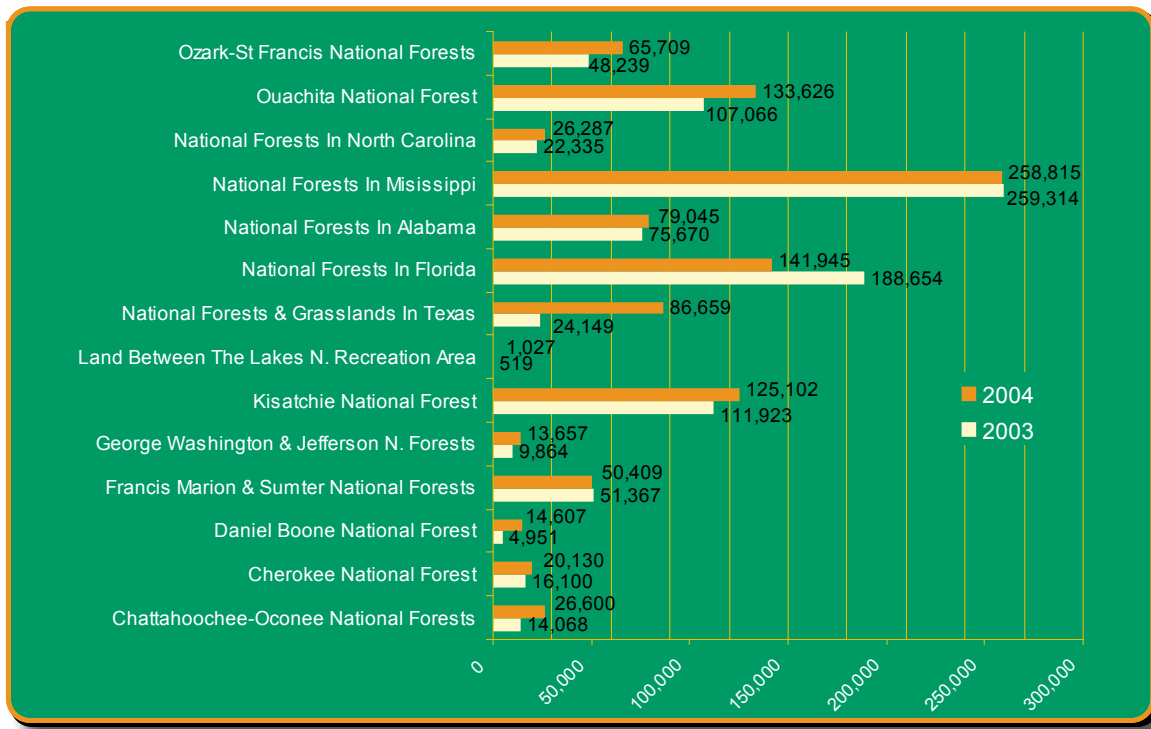
- Notwithstanding another late winter and wet spring, the GWJNF was able to complete 27 prescribed fire projects totaling 13,619 acres, an all-time high for the forest. Most of this burning was accomplished in April, where crews took advantage of nearly every prescription window available. The largest burn of the year was 2,336 acres.

**Round Mountain Prescribed Fire 2004  
National Forests in Virginia**





**Hazardous Fuels Treatments  
2003 and 2004**



**Helitac Crew, Prescribed Fire Operations  
Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests  
South Carolina**



### Examples of Significant Improvement in Cost Effectiveness

#### National Forests in Alabama

- Improved prescribed fire cost effectiveness by focusing on planning details. Reduced length of dozer lines by using roads and creeks as firelines when possible. Increased oversight of fire line location with special care taken to reduce erosion problems and reduce the amount of post-burn rehabilitation work.

#### Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

- Continued to use the Sister Forest program with the Black Hills NF (SD). Exchanged prescribed fire personnel and equipment (engines). Black Hills NF provided personnel and equipment to Arkansas-Oklahoma during March. During September, similar resources were sent to Black Hills NF.
- Enhanced overall program efficiency through continued use of district fire management reviews to analyze incident cost-containment issues.
- Reduced cost of the aviation program (2 helibases, 1 air tanker) by using local district personnel to manage operations. Strong in-house support enabled the Forests to achieve significant cost savings through reducing per diem, overtime, and travel costs.

#### National Forests in Florida

- Enhanced program efficiency by closely coordinating treatment priorities between fire management and resources management programs.
- Shared helicopter costs with other agencies, significantly reducing overall cost for the Forests.

#### Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

- Continued cooperation between the Forest Service and other agencies. Examples include training, cooperation on wildland fire incidents, and cooperation on prescribed fire projects.

#### Daniel Boone National Forest

- Used detailers and hotshot crews to facilitate the accomplishment of prescribed fire targets.
- Coordinated the KY-TN Fire Academy. Created training opportunities for a greater number of candidates, maximizing the use of training funds.

#### Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

- Enlarged the size of burn blocks to increase the cost-effectiveness of hazard fuels treatments.

#### Kisatchie National Forest

- Achieved high cost-benefit ratio for hazard fuels treatments; documented some of the lowest cost-per-acre projects in the Nation.
- Reduced cost of mechanical treatments. Devised new methods for utilizing biomass as energy source.

- Accomplished nationally significant number of fuels treatments not funded by fuels (HF-other).
- Coordinated effort to adjust wilderness boundary for the purpose of reducing potential for catastrophic wildfire occurrence in a wildland-urban interface zone.

#### Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests

- Reduced helicopter program costs with the authorization of Limited Use Operations for Type III helicopter during lower preparedness levels.
- Increased efficiency of training program by establishing the South Carolina Interagency Training Committee.
- Shared a fire planner position with the Savannah River Forest.
- Developed several cost-saving alternatives for meeting prescribed fire objectives through the use of a combination of detailers, temporaries, cooperators and contractors.

#### Savannah River Forest

- Transitioned from ATVs to utility vehicles early in the year.
- Established a shared fire planner position with the Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests

#### National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

- Increased cost-effectiveness of aerial ignition program by planning larger burn units and by accomplishing multiple burns on each burn day.

### **Noteworthy Instances of Cooperation**

#### National Forests in Alabama

- Co-sponsored the Alabama Wildland Fire Academy with the Alabama Forestry Commission and the City of Pellham Fire Department. During 14 days, 646 individuals attended 24 courses. This was the fourth highly successful and productive year for the Academy.
- Accomplished fire prevention and fire hazard reduction training in cooperation with the Alabama Forestry Commission and local community groups.
- Transferred surplus property to volunteer fire departments, worked in cooperation with the Alabama Forestry Commission.
- Achieved and maintained a close and mutually successful working relationship with the Alabama Forestry Commission. Additionally, cooperation on wildfire suppression operations between ranger districts and local counties was outstanding.

#### Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

- Organized several Firewise councils across the State of Arkansas in close cooperation with the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

- Focused on training leadership candidates representing Oklahoma Native American Tribes. Continued to train, equip and mobilize Native American firefighters.
- Partnered with Arkansas Tech University to provide wildland fire training to college students.

#### National Forests in Florida

- Managed a large incident with the Florida Division of Forestry Incident Management Team.
- Achieved unprecedented level of cooperation with state and local partners, and with FEMA, during the hurricane blitz of August-September 2004.
- Pursued fire prevention goals in cooperation with state and local partners.
- Assisted FEMA with community relations efforts during hurricane clean-up operations. Prevention specialists from other Forest Regions were mobilized to assist in this effort.

#### National Forests In Georgia

- Mobilized Georgia Forestry Commission employees to serve on emergency incidents within Georgia and on incidents throughout the United States.
- Utilized local volunteer fire departments for structural fire protection during initial attack operations in wildland-urban interface zones.

#### Daniel Boone National Forest

- Supported FEMA hurricane recovery operations by providing personnel to manage a staging area at the Bluegrass Army Depot, KY.
- Provided essential air support to the first prescribed burn to be conducted at Mammoth Cave National Park. Both the Eastern Area and the Southern Area supported the Mammoth Cave burn project.
- Coordinated fire program through a newly established Kentucky State liaison position. Significant improvements were realized in coordinating training and suppression operations. Clear and reliable communications were established with state district operations.
- Managed active Firewise programs on both the Stearns and the Redbird Ranger Districts.
- Cooperated with the multi-agency drug task force to provide aerial observation and communication support.

#### Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

- Used Kentucky Division of Forestry personnel on several prescribed fire projects.
- Kisatchie National Forest
- Participated in a review of the Louisiana Office of Forestry Fire Program. Identified methods to improve operations and interagency cooperation.

- Worked in close cooperation with Fort Polk Forestry in providing fire protection and fire management for National Forest lands used by the U. S. Army under Special Use Permit.
- Hosted, in cooperation with the Louisiana Office of Forestry, a Firewise workshop.
- Developed a Type 3 Incident Management Team in cooperation with the Office of Forestry and in cooperation with other local cooperators.
- Assisted Sabine NWR prescribed burning program and staffing needs; received same in return.

#### National Forests in Mississippi

- Achieved high level of cooperation with the Mississippi National Guard on Camp Shelby surface use areas in suppressing wildland fires started by military activity.
- Developed MOU with Harrison County Project Impact for purpose of providing disaster assistance to 3 Mississippi coastal counties.
- Developed MOU with the Tri-County Fire Management Cooperative. The Cooperative was established to promote cooperation and communication, the use of prescribed fire, and to promote wildland fire prevention programs in the three coastal counties of Mississippi.



Interagency Burn Boss Workshop  
Mississippi National Forests

#### National Forests in North Carolina

- Served as host to test new fire management software which is designed to assist managers in determining support organization staffing requirements.
- Provided administrative, technical and personnel time to support cooperators in various activities: annual cooperative meetings, training, civil war battle re-enactments, wild pony round-ups on coastal parks and islands.
- Coordinated several training courses through the Asheville Hotshot crew program. Offered several 100-200 level courses. Hosted one 300 level and one 400 level course in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, the NC Division of Forest Resources and the Southern Region, Forest Service.
- Mobilized Schenck Job Corps Center crews in support of wildland fire suppression and in support of hurricane relief efforts. Job Corps crews assisted cooperators as well as the Forest Service.
- Hosted the Asheville Tankerbase, a national resource. Hosted one Southern Region prescribed fire helicopter.

#### Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests

- Eliminated duplication of effort through continued participation on the South Carolina Interagency Training Committee.

- Established website dedicated to providing information on wildland fire training opportunities in South Carolina.
- Used Fire Planning Analysis (FPA) during interagency meetings with favorable results.
- Used Interagency Fire Prevention and Education Teams during the spring fire season.
- Established cooperative and interagency fire management agreements with Savannah River Forest and Ft. Jackson (DOD).

#### Savannah River Forest

- Established a shared fire planner position with the Francis Marion-Sumter NFs. Used Wackenhut Services, Inc., Aviation Operations Division, for fire suppression and aerial detection.
- Provided numerous instructors for wildland fire training courses, primarily on the FM-S NFs.
- Instructed three separate wildland firefighter refresher sessions for the Savannah River Fire Department. Provided fire shelter use and deployment training to Wackenhut Services pilots.
- Initiated the process for developing a MOA with Wackenhut Services Inc., for the use of the Department of Energy helicopter for prescribed fire, fire suppression, and detection.

#### Cherokee National Forest

- Provided coordination, in cooperation with partners, for the second annual KY-TN Wildfire Academy. Involved five federal and state agencies. Ten training courses were offered; more than 220 students received instruction.
- Provided I-402 training (ICS for Executives) for the annual Tennessee veterinarian convention. Introduced the ICS system to more than 50 veterinarians from throughout Tennessee.

#### National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

- Coordinated staffing of the Texas Interagency Coordination Center with the Texas Forest Service and other federal agencies.
- Coordinated (with partners) two wildland fire academy sessions.

#### George Washington-Jefferson National Forests

- Participated with Virginia Department of Forestry on several fire prevention projects including Smokey's 60th Birthday celebration(s), and Smokey Night with the Salem Avalanche (professional) baseball team.
- Participated as a member of the Shenandoah Valley Interagency Wildfire Prevention and Education Team along with the National Park Service and the Virginia Department of Forestry.



**Personnel Employed on Wildfire Pre-suppression and Suppression Activities**

Personnel Employed on Wildfire Presuppression and Suppression Activities		Southern Area CY 2004	
Item NO.	Item	Number	
		Sub-total	Total
Regular Appointed Personnel			
a	Full-time fire management (20 pay periods or more)	314	1,838
b	Part-time fire management	220	
c	Others used on pre-suppression	358	
d	Others used on suppression (exclude those reported under a, b, or c)	946	
e	Total regular appointed personnel (a+b+c+d)		
Seasonal or Short-term Personnel			
a	Regular fire control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	95	390
b	Others who spent time on fire control work (BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.)	75	
c	Emergency firefighters	220	
d	Total emergency firefighters (a+b+c)		
Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression			1,551
Number of casuals, included in Item 3, employed for first time		292	
Remarks			
Total			3,779



Prescribed Burning  
Ship Landing 2004

George Washington  
& Jefferson National  
Forests, Virginia

**Land Protection**

Land Protection Report CY 2004										
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries								S&P Land Prot'd By State and Forest Service	National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service									
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total			
	Fee	Offset	Reim-burse Supp	Without Reim-burse						
AL						656,101	656,101		10,000	
AR						2,591,709	2,591,709			
FL		37,758				1,159,381	1,197,139	520,610		
GA						866,499	866,499	87,530	180,015	
KY DBF						704,629	704,629			
KY LBL						172,000	172,000			
LA						571,924	571,924		32,354	
MS						1,183,436	1,183,436			
NC					40,740	1,252,021	1,292,761	752,000	327	
OK						354,196	354,196	372,707		
PR						28,004	28,004			
SCFM						624,075	624,075			
SCSR					198,334	0	198,334			
TN						650,000	650,000			
TX						675,572	675,572			
VA						1,781,449	1,781,449	1,654,489		
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,758</b>			<b>239,074</b>	<b>13,270,996</b>	<b>13,547,828</b>	<b>3,387,336</b>	<b>222,696</b>	



Spheres Falling



Igniting

Photos: National Forests In Alabama 2004

Summary of Statistics from Wildland Fire Reports

Fires and Acres by Cause - USDA FS Southern Region - CY 2004												
Page 1 of 2	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres / Fire
National Forests In Alabama	Fires	2	0	0	3	5	3	9	0	7	29	35
	%	7%	0%	0%	10%	17%	10%	31%	0%	24%		
	Acres	75.5	0.0	0.0	78.1	17.2	93.0	35.3	0.0	704.8	1,003.9	
	%	8%	0%	0%	8%	2%	9%	4%	0%	70%		
Ouachita, Ozark-St Francis National Forests	Fires	3	5	0	9	10	0	66	0	18	111	27
	%	3%	5%	0%	8%	9%	0%	59%	0%	16%		
	Acres	4.6	1.4	0.0	81.1	199.7	0.0	2,579.0	0.0	143.9	3,009.7	
	%	0%	0%	0%	3%	7%	0%	86%	0%	5%		
National Forests In Florida	Fires	27	3	0	13	11	3	13	4	32	106	598
	%	25%	3%	0%	12%	10%	3%	12%	4%	30%		
	Acres	379	352	0.0	12.1	17.8	1.4	26,795	65.2	35,786	63,408	
	%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	42%	0%	56%		
Chatt- Oconee National Forests	Fires	3	0	0	1	14	8	18	0	9	53	12
	%	6%	0%	0%	2%	26%	15%	34%	0%	17%		
	Acres	8	0	0	0.5	72.5	70.8	371	0	114.4	637	
	%	1%	0%	0%	0%	11%	11%	58%	0%	18%		
Daniel Boone Na- tional For- est	Fires	1	0	0	3	5	0	45	0	4	58	21
	%	2%	0%	0%	5%	9%	0%	78%	0%	7%		
	Acres	6.0	0.0	0.0	87.0	95.0	0.0	916.0	0.0	94.0	1,198	
	%	1%	0%	0%	7%	8%	0%	76%	0%	8%		
Land Be- tween The Lakes NRA	Fires	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	158
	%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%		
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	271.0	316	
	%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	86%		
Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	0	8	0	1	5	0	9	0	7	30	0
	%	0%	27%	0%	3%	17%	0%	30%	0%	23%		
	Acres	0.0	166.0	0.0	7.0	20.0	0.0	184.0	0.0	78.0	455	
	%	0%	36%	0%	2%	4%	0%	40%	0%	17%		
National Forests In Mississippi	Fires	1	5	1	2	19	0	63	0	29	120	18
	%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%		
	Acres	3	9.7	0.5	30.6	332.3	0	1036	0	799.5	2,213	
	%	0%	0%	0%	1%	15%	0%	47%	0%	36%		
National Forests In North Caro- lina	Fires	1	0	1	0	19	1	19	0	60	101	15
	%	1%	0%	1%	0%	19%	1%	19%	0%	59%		
	Acres	5	0	4	0	176.95	0.3	206.75	0	1137.6	1,531	
	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%	14%	0%	74%		

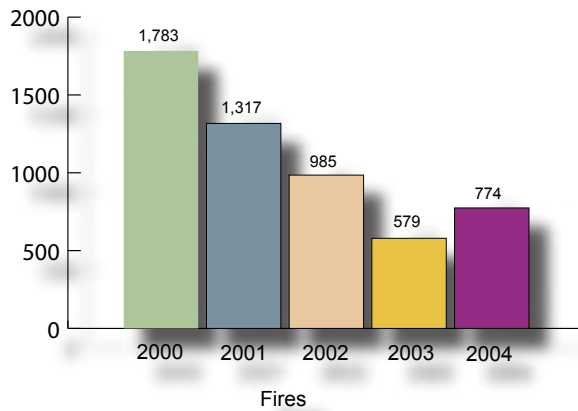
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Fires and Acres by Cause												
Page 2	Lightning	Equip- ment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc	Fires	Acres	Acres/Fire
Francis Marion & Sumter N. Forests	Fires	1	4	1	3	11	0	30	0	14	64	44
	%	2%	6%	2%	5%	17%	0%	47%	0%	22%		
	Acres	0.5	7.5	55.0	52.0	477.0	0.0	1,509.8	0.0	726.6	2,828	
	%	0%	0%	2%	2%	17%	0%	53%	0%	26%		
Savannah River Site	Fires	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	10	1
	%	10%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	30%		
	Acres	6.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	2.2	13	
	%	46%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	19%	0%	17%		
Cherokee National Forest	Fires	1	0	0	1	0	0	51	0	0	53	9
	%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	96%	0%	0%		
	Acres	69.8	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	417.2	0.0	0.0	494	
	%	14%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	84%	0%	0%		
National Forests & Grasslands In Texas	Fires	4	2	0	3	2	0	6	0	2	19	15
	%	21%	11%	0%	16%	11%	0%	32%	0%	11%		
	Acres	89.2	21.2	0	26.2	13.5	0	120.3	0	8.5	279	
	%	32%	8%	0%	9%	5%	0%	43%	0%	3%		
George Washington & Jefferson NFs	Fires	4	0	1	2	2	0	5	0	4	18	12
	%	22%	0%	6%	11%	11%	0%	28%	0%	22%		
	Acres	9.0	0.0	0.0	126.0	34.0	0.0	18.0	0.0	26.0	213	
	%	4%	0%	0%	59%	16%	0%	8%	0%	12%		
Fires	Fires	49	32	4	42	103	15	335	4	190	774	100
	%	6%	4%	1%	5%	13%	2%	43%	1%	25%		
Acres	Acres	656	560	60	553	1,456	166	34,192	65	39,892	77,599	
	%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%	44%	0%	51%		

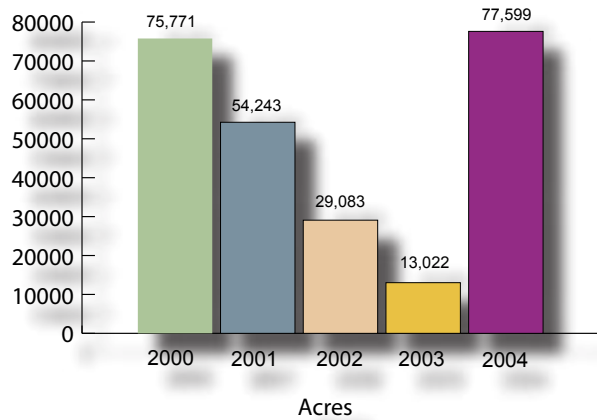
**Five Year Averages --- 2000 Through 2004**

Five Year Averages 2000–2004												
2000-2004	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres/Fire
2000	274	64	16	78	148	35	926	11	233	1,783	75,771	42
2001	114	46	33	50	129	63	607	13	258	1,317	54,243	41
2002	142	46	10	39	109	10	424	9	196	985	29,083	30
2003	38	62	8	24	64	8	257	3	115	579	13,022	22
2004	49	32	4	42	103	15	335	4	190	774	77,599	100
2000-04	772	248	90	284	611	137	3,061	41	1,179	6,425	278,223	43
5 yr avg	154	50	18	57	122	27	612	8	236	1,285	55,645	43
Percent	12%	4%	1%	4%	0	2%	48%	1%	18%	—	—	—

**Fires Per Year - 5 Year Averages**  
Average Fires Per Year = 1,285



**Acres Per Year - 5 Year Averages**  
Average Acres Burned Per Year = 55,645



## BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



## United States Department of Interior

## Wildland Fire Statistics

Wildland Fires By Cause - Bureau of Indian Affairs 2004*									
Park Unit	Human		Lightning		Total		Wildfire Use		
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	
FL- Seminole Agency	15	67	0	0	15	67	0	0	
NC-Eastern Cherokee Agency	16	303	0	0	16	303	0	0	
OK-Anadarko Agency	77	2,098	0	0	77	2,098	0	0	
OK-Choctaw Agency	3	1,303	0	0	3	1,303	0	0	
OK-Cherokee Nation Agency	10	562	0	0	10	562	0	0	
OK-CO Agency	1	40	0	0	1	40	0	0	
OK-Miami Agency	2	195	0	0	2	195	0	0	
OK-Ocmulgee Agency	5	1,688	0	0	5	1,688	0	0	
OK-Osage Agency	11	6,852	0	0	11	6,852	0	0	
OK-Pawnee Agency	1	45	0	0	1	45	0	0	
OK-SPO Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OK-Tule River Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OK-Wewoka Agency	5	3,410	0	0	5	3,410	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>16,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>16,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

\*Data source: SACC Situation Report, 2004



**Native American Crews**

## 2004 Native American Crew Activity

<b>BIA Sponsored Crews</b>			
Crew	NO. Crews Dispatched	Crewmembers	Days Worked
Apache	4	44	19
Cheyenne & Arapaho	4	58	47
Chickasaw	2	23	22
Comanche	6	70	28
Creek	3	40	17
Pawnee	1	19	15
Seminole	2	30	12
<b>USFS Sponsored Crews</b>			
Caddo	4	70	33
Cherokee	1	34	7
Choctaw	2	16	25
Iowa	1	15	15
Kickapoo	0	0	0
Kiowa	4	68	28
Ponca	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>268</b>

**Prescribed Fire Activity**

<b>Prescribed Fires - Bureau of Indian Affairs 2004*</b>		
Agency	Fires	Acres
FL- Seminole Agency	18	4,995
OK-Choctaw Agency	3	337
OK-Cherokee Nation Agency	10	10
OK-CO Agency	8	1,796
OK-Miami Agency	1	30
OK-Osage Agency	4	500
OK-SPO Agency	2	120
OK-Tule River Agency	4	595
OK-Wewoka Agency	1	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>8,503</b>

\*Data source: SACC Situation Report, 2004

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE****United States Department of Interior****Southeast Region Fire Management 2004 Accomplishments**

In FY-04, the Southeast Region Fire Management Program continued the tradition of making significant contributions to National Park Service accomplishments in support of the National Fire Plan.

## Accomplishments:

- Exceeded the region's wildland-urban interface target acres by 128%.
- Exceeded the region's mandated fuels contracting target by 127%
- Completed writing all fire management plans by the national deadline of September 30, 2004. Final compliance review is underway for: BISC, EVER, BICY, TIMU, BLRI, CALO, CUIS, LIRI, and VIIS. Note: Compliance was delayed in the Southeast due to interruptions brought about with the active hurricane season. The public review process (30 days) was delayed due to hurricane/storms.
- Distributed \$414,000 in Rural Fire Assistance funding to 152 rural fire departments adjacent to Southeast Region parks.
- Provided \$30,600 for fire training for Southeast Region parks.
- Provided Regional Fire Program Personnel to teach or assist with 50 midlevel to advanced level fire courses.
- Provided \$112,000 for fire cache and personal protective equipment (PPE) for 33 parks.
- Secured \$25,000 to finish Big South Fork NRA fire facility construction project.
- Provided mapping software programs to 18 wildland fire prone parks in the Southeast. Mapping software will help parks better identify and map locations of wildland fires as required by the National Fire Plan.

**Wildland Fire Statistics**

<b>Wildland Fires By Cause - National Park Service 2004*</b>									
Park Unit	Human		Lightning		Total		Wildfire Use		
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	
Buffalo National River	6	20	0	0	6	20	0	0	
Fort Smith National HS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hot Springs National Park	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Pea Ridge National MP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Big Cypress National Pres	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	
Everglades National Park	43	2,121	19	2,653	62	4,774	1	3,007	
Cumberland Islands NS	0	0	3	36	3	36	0	0	
Mammoth Cave NP	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	
Cape Lookout NS	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Chickasaw National RA	3	6	0	0	3	6	0	0	
Congaree Swamp NM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kings Mountain NMP	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	
Big South Fork NRRRA	2	6	0	0	2	6	0	0	
Great Smoky Mtns. NP	3	216	0	0	3	216	0	0	
Obed Wild & Scenic River	1	10	0	0	1	10	0	0	
Fredricksburg/Spots. NMP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sheanandoah National P.	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>5,072</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,007</b>	

\*Data source: SACC Situation Report, 2004

**Prescribed Fire Activity**

<b>Prescribed Fires - National Park Service 2004*</b>		
Park Unit	Fires	Acres
Buffalo National River	16	20,142
Fort Smith National HS	3	508
Pea Ridge National MP	4	766
Big Cypress National Pres	33	76,651
Everglades National Park	34	12,870
Mammoth Cave NP	3	1,917
Chickasaw National RA	4	1,340
Congaree Swamp NM	2	770
Kings Mountain NMP	6	1,091
Great Smoky Mtns. NP	3	520
Fredricksburg/Spots. NMP	3	67
Sheanandoah National P.	2	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>116,782</b>

\*Data source: SACC Situation Report, 2004

## STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

## Fire Statistics CY 2004

Fires & Acres By Cause --- State & Private Forestry CY 2004													
Page 1 of 2		Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
AL	Fires	8	9	55	1126	1585	144	17	64	290	3,298	41,450	12.6
	%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Acres	61	55	232	10567	27339	552	137	669	1838			
	%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
AR	Fires	10	10	14	555	492	97	23	14	141	1,356	22,145	16
	%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Acres	895	147	139	6897	12066	584	63	96	1258			
	%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
FL	Fires	820	181	42	80	816	32	489	166	695	3,321	158,229	48
	%	25%	5%	1%	2%	25%	1%	15%	5%	21%			
	Acres	64914	18293	432	1575	41248	117	15664	571	15415			
	%	41%	12%	0%	1%	26%	0%	10%	0%	10%			
GA	Fires	178	108	240	4484	1264	936	161	347	513	8,231	35,127	4
	%	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0			
	Acres	1489	716	569	19063	8863	2073	477	534	1343			
	%	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0			
KY	Fires	1	13	17	470	825	40	2	20	82	1,470	26,916	18
	%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
	Acres	115	144	88	6035	19300	210	2	188	834			
	%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
LA	Fires	2	4	8	405	859	20	13	5	148	1,464	13,802	9
	%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
	Acres	1	9	19	2606	9774	151	42	15	1185			
	%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
MS	Fires	2	41	8	4	1050	15	1305	11	147	2,583	39,028	15
	%	0%	2%	0%	0%	41%	1%	51%	0%	6%			
	Acres	2	512	89	10	11393	181	25223	119	1499			
	%	0%	1%	0%	0%	29%	0%	65%	0%	4%			

Fires & Acres By Cause --- State & Private Forestry CY 2004													
Pg 2 of 2		Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
NC	Fires	29	295	255	49	2046	36	693	335	626	4,364		3
	%	1%	7%	6%	1%	47%	1%	16%	8%	14%			
	Acres	457	1425	499	220	5617	65	4684	628	1127		14,722	
	%	3%	10%	3%	1%	38%	0%	32%	4%	8%			
OK	Fires	2	65	5	13	419	8	973	1	50	1,536		30
	%	0%	4%	0%	1%	27%	1%	63%	0%	3%			
	Acres	4	231	12	26	7297	18	34394	4	3553		45,539	
	%	0%	1%	0%	0%	16%	0%	76%	0%	8%			
SC	Fires	42	9	90	1456	668	140	10	183	294	2,892		7
	%	1%	0%	3%	50%	23%	5%	0%	6%	10%			
	Acres	621	21	915	9261	6456	672	93	515	1519		20,073	
	%	3%	0%	5%	46%	32%	3%	0%	3%	8%			
TN	Fires	7	14	19	746	588	81	10	26	74	1,565		9
	%	0%	1%	1%	48%	38%	5%	1%	2%	5%			
	Acres	32	40	68	4322	9203	378	44	103	323		14,513	
	%	0%	0%	0%	30%	63%	3%	0%	1%	2%			
TX	Fires	11	7	10	354	57	31	8	10	95	583		29
	%	2%	1%	2%	61%	10%	5%	1%	2%	16%			
	Acres	2402	133	129	5988	2058	493	84	61	5842		17,190	
	%	14%	1%	1%	35%	12%	3%	0%	0%	34%			
VA	Fires	6	12	50	361	134	82	6	40	178	869		6
	%	1%	1%	6%	42%	0%	9%	1%	5%	20%			
	Acres	14	694	100	1708	1857	213	77	160	508		5,331	
	%	0%	13%	2%	32%	35%	4%	1%	3%	10%			
Total Fires	Fires	1118	768	813	10103	10803	1662	3710	1222	3333	33,532		14
	%	3%	2%	2%	30%	32%	5%	11%	4%	10%			
Total Acres	Acres	71007	22420	3291	68278	162471	5707	80984	3663	36244		454,065	
	%	16%	5%	1%	15%	36%	1%	18%	1%	8%			

Five Year Averages --- State and Private Forestry 2004												
Year	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres/ Fire
1990	2881	3240	2479	501	16850	678	23385	1775	9026	60,815	663,545	10.9
1991	730	2363	2364	497	15337	469	21673	1562	7099	52,094	530,988	10.2
1992	895	1875	1704	427	13904	443	17768	1558	3352	41,926	403,470	9.6
1993	2395	2204	1562	405	13887	488	18846	1630	3951	45,368	423,496	9.3
1994	1147	1760	1357	413	14606	448	15467	1579	3498	40,275	543,133	13.5
1995	1048	2244	1623	479	17661	497	16345	1912	3749	45,558	508,148	11.2
1996	1018	2303	1500	470	22020	619	16893	1911	4090	50,824	1,199,111	23.6
1997	442	1612	833	242	10243	412	9308	1105	2105	26,302	190,240	7.2
1998	2526	2254	1252	326	11734	481	13305	1398	3309	36,585	794,989	21.7
1999	2609	3429	1802	624	20084	716	18971	2017	4825	55,077	882,125	16.0
2000	3503	3,666	1591	472	19003	954	20286	1882	7320	58,677	975,877	16.6
2001	1522	1892	1251	326	11778	381	12345	1573	3701	46,640	956,543	20.5
2002	1,984	2,146	1,050	2,897	13,547	744	8,123	1,590	3,882	35,963	363,013	10.1
2003	571	1,546	449	212	8,229	320	7,029	629	2,341	21,326	260,506	12.2
2004	1,118	768	813	10,103	10,803	1,662	3,710	1,222	3,333	33,532	454,065	13.5
96-2000	10,098	2,134	6,978	2,134	8,3084	3,182	78,763	8,313	21,649	227,465	4,042,342	18.7
5 yr avg	2,020	427	1,396	427	16,617	636	15,753	1,663	4,330	45,493	808,468	—
Percent	4%	1%	3%	1%	37%	1%	35%	4%	10%	—	—	—
97-01	10,602	12,853	6,729	1,990	72,842	2,944	74,215	7,975	21,260	223,281	3,799,773	18.0
5 yr avg	2,120	2,571	1,346	398	14,568	589	14,843	1,595	4,252	44,656	759,955	—
Percent	4%	5%	3%	1%	28%	1%	29%	3%	8%	—	—	—
98-02	12,144	13,387	6,946	4,645	76,146	3,276	73,030	8,460	23,037	232,942	3,972,547	17.1
5 yr avg	2,429	2,677	1,389	929	15,229	655	14,606	1,692	4,607	46,588	794,509	—
Percent	5%	6%	3%	2%	33%	1%	31%	4%	10%	—	—	—
99-03	10,189	12,679	6,143	4,531	72,641	3,115	66,754	7,691	22,069	217,683	3,438,064	16
5 yr avg	2,038	2,536	1,229	906	14,528	623	13,351	1,538	4,414	43,537	687,613	—
Percent	5%	6%	3%	2%	33%	1%	31%	4%	10%	—	—	—
2000-04	8,698	10,018	5,154	14,010	63,360	4,061	51,493	6,896	20,577	196,138	3,010,004	15
5 yr avg	1,740	2,004	1,031	2,802	12,672	812	10,299	1,379	4,115	39,228	602,001	—
Percent	4.4%	0.3%	2.6%	7.1%	32.3%	2.1%	26.3%	3.5%	10.5%	—	—	—