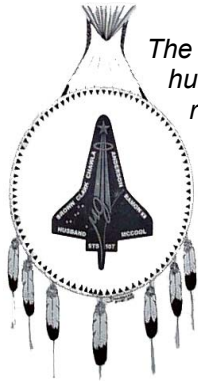


SOUTHERN REGION ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

CY 2003





The picture around the shuttle is a dedication to the seven souls that risked their lives for humanity. The circle represents the circle of life that all of us must walk. The triangle represents the path in which each of us as human beings choose to walk. The feathers represent one for each of the souls that were on board and also carry the soul back home. The Tee-Pee represents the home from which each of us originate and will someday return. These seven souls completed their walk of life with dignity and honor.

Marcus Dominguez
Putnam Crew
Shoshoni/Bannock



Columbia Shuttle Recovery

February — April 2003

The Southern Geographic Area Mobilized More than 15,000 Persons
for the Columbia Shuttle Recovery Operation

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Fire Season Highlights

The Southern Region continued a five-year downward trend in fire frequency and acres burned. The drought, which had been the dominant fire weather event since 1998, was replaced by record amounts of precipitation, caused by the El Niño Southern Oscillation of 2002.

Year	Fires	Acres	Acres/Fire
1994	1,154	49,983	43
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

While El Niño kept wildfire incidents to a minimum during the spring of 2003, the Southern Region found itself coordinating and managing resources involved in the largest search and rescue operation ever undertaken in the United States—the Columbia Shuttle Recovery.

From February 1 through April 30, the recovery incident was the dominant event occupying the time and attention of Southern Region resources. Much of the recovery operation focused on the Sabine and Angelina National Forests, Texas. Coordination of the recovery incident proved to be a challenge. More than 100 federal, state and local agencies and organizations were involved, and more than 15,000 personnel were mobilized by the Southern Geographic Area.

In contrast to other Southern Region states, both Arkansas and Oklahoma experienced an active wildfire year. (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana were slightly dry compared to their neighbors to the east). A red flag event on April 1, spawned several fires, the most significant of which occurred on Hot Springs National Park. This fire threatened a business district in the city of Hot Springs, Arkansas. An aggressive interagency response, both from the air and the ground, held the fire to 19 acres.



Wildfires were also detected in Oklahoma on April 1, and burned more than 10,000 acres of land protected by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The multiple fires of April 1, 2003, fanned by red flag winds, created a need to mobilize all available fire suppression resources. Fire managers were forced to withdraw resources, both personnel and equipment, from the shuttle recovery effort to combat the wildfires.

During the summer and fall of CY 2003 the Southern Region was heavily involved in supporting Western fires. In addition the Region continued to provide support to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the containment of Exotic Newcastle Disease in chicken populations.

Hurricane Isabel severely impacted National Forests in North Carolina (Croatan Ranger District) and several North Carolina coastal units of the National Park Service. The North Carolina State Type 2 Incident Management Team was mobilized to manage the relief effort. The Southern Region provided chainsaw teams, resource specialists, equipment and supplies to aid in the hurricane response and recovery effort.

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

The week-long *First Flight Centennial* was held in December 2003, at Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The event was held on the 100th anniversary of the first human engineered, heavier-than-air, powered flight. The North Carolina Coordination Center provided support and resources needed to make the event a success.

Quantitative Description of the Weather

Calendar Year 2003 will be remembered as one of the wettest years on record. The wet trend began with the landfall of Hurricane Isidore in late September 2002, and continued almost unabated through August 2003.

Dry periods were noted across the Southern Region in January 2003. In contrast, February showed normal to above normal rainfall across the entire Region. During March 2003, a dry signature developed from the Ohio River Valley southwestward to the middle and lower Mississippi River Valleys. The Southern Plains were dry in April and May. The tropical season began during June 2003, with most of the Southern Region states experiencing normal and/or above normal rainfall. July, August and September were generally wet months; although pockets of dryness were noted in Oklahoma in July, and across the Florida Panhandle in September. Periodic rains kept fire risks low from late summer into the fall.

The tropical season was very active. Sixteen storms were of significant intensity to warrant naming, the most notable of which was Hurricane Isabel. This massive storm, referred to as one of the stronger storm systems of modern times, made landfall on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in mid-September 2003. It then moved northwestward to West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and even areas of Eastern Michigan and Central Canada, as far north as Hudson's Bay. Damage from Isabel exceeded \$3.3 billion, and was associated with 16 of the 48 deaths attributed to Atlantic Basin storms during 2003. The photo was taken September 16, 2003, prior to landfall (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).



The wet trend that had been in place for twelve months came to an end during the last quarter of the year as a dry signature returned for the months of October, November and December. Pronounced dryness occurred across Oklahoma, Arkansas, northern Texas, Louisiana and the Appalachian Mountains during October. Fire risk remained low, however, due to the periodic rains that these areas received. During November, the driest areas were along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts from Alabama to North Carolina. Coastal Virginia and a small area in south Florida were the only areas that documented precipitation levels in excess of the norm during December. For the rest of the Southern Region, rain gauges recorded less than normal amounts of precipitation for December.

During the last quarter of 2002, the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) signature in the Central Pacific Ocean transitioned from the persistent La Niña that had been in place for the previous four years to a very weak El Niño. El Niño events are typically associated with wet winters in the Southeastern United States, while La Niña events typically lead to dry conditions. The ENSO signature remained as a weak El Niño during the spring and summer of CY 2003. By the last quarter of the year, the ENSO signature had transitioned to a near-neutral state, generating a trend toward drier conditions for most of the Southern Region.

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Significant Prescribed Fire Accomplishments

Southern Region prescribed fire managers were presented with challenges throughout CY 2003. Rainfall events were so persistent and repetitive in some areas that finding a prescription window was close to impossible. The Columbia Shuttle Recovery incident, western fires, and Hurricane Isabel, while deserving of the allocation of resources, also took a heavy toll on the Southern Region prescribed fire program.

The challenges notwithstanding, Southern Region fire managers aggressively pursued prescribed burning and fuels reduction targets, taking advantage of every burning opportunity. As a result, Southern Region Forests treated more acres than in CY 2002. Furthermore, several Forests exceeded their annual burning targets. Overall the Region treated 1,327,085 acres; a significant increase over CY 2002 prescribed fire accomplishments.

The National Forests in Mississippi continued to lead the Nation in prescribed burning. This feat required careful planning and a complex interagency coordination effort due to an intricate land ownership mosaic, the proximity of urban centers, intense recreational use and military special use activity. Three Type 3 helicopters were the primary ignition tool. *Without the helicopters the burning goals could not have been met* (Annual Fire Report CY 2003, National Forests In Mississippi).



**Ignition in Progress
National Forests In Mississippi**

Prescribed fire detailers from other regions proved to be an invaluable asset in accomplishing burning objectives and acre-targets in the Southern Region during CY 2003. Detailers played a significant role in the prescribed burning successes of the National Forests in Mississippi. They also proved their value in furthering Southern Region prescribed fire programs in Alabama and South Carolina.



The National Forests in Florida exchanged detailers with the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. Florida fire managers also worked very closely with the National Interagency Fire Center to integrate an understanding of Florida's inherent prescribed burn needs into the national fire perspective. Florida National Forests were prohibited from prescribed burning by national planning priorities for only a brief period of time. Florida exceeded its CY 2003 targets and burned approximately 50,000 acres more than accomplished in CY 2002.

Prescribed Fire Activity

Ouachita, Ozark & St Francis National Forests, Arkansas

**Southern Region
Annual Fire Report CY 2003**

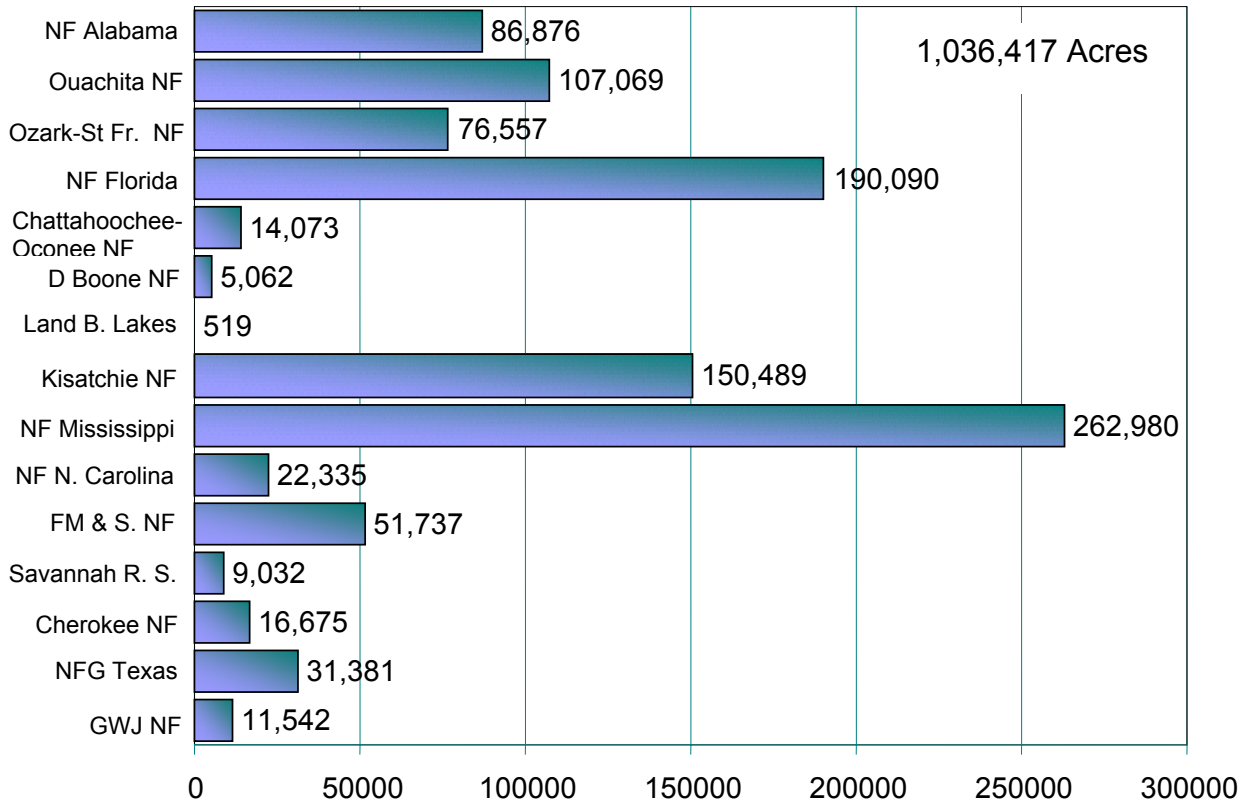
Prescribed Fire Accomplishments CY 2003											
Forest*	Fuels Fire	Fuels Mech	BS*	SP	CUS	R	T&E	WI	Total Acres	Total Cost	Cost Acre
National Forests In Alabama	75,670	0	410	—	951	—	9,541	304	86,876	—	—
Ouachita National Forest Arkansas-Oklahoma	107,066	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	107,069	—	—
Ozark-St Francis National Forests, Arkansas	48,239	0	—	1,651	94	—	11,830	14,743	76,557	—	—
National Forests In Florida	188,654	0	—	—	—	—	350	1,086	190,090	2,907,645	15
Chattahoochee—Oconee NF—Georgia	14,068	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,073	—	—
Daniel Boone National Forest—Kentucky	4,951	0	—	—	—	—	—	111	5,062	—	—
Land Between The Lakes NRRRA—Kentucky	519	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	519	28,834	55
Kisatchie National Forest—Louisiana	111,923	340	—	260	—	—	—	37,966	150,489	1,662,300	18
National Forests In Mississippi	259,314	125	1,125	—	—	—	2,416	—	262,980	—	—
National Forests In North Carolina	22,335	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	22,335	—	—
Francis Marion & Sumter NF—South Carolina	51,367	0	—	—	—	220	150	—	51,737	1,423,288	28
Savannah River Site—South Carolina	8,267	0	—	765	—	—	—	—	9,032	—	—
Cherokee National Forest—Tennessee	16,100	335	—	240	—	—	—	—	16,675	682,042	42
National Forests & Grasslands In Texas	24,149	0	—	1,472	—	—	4,360	1,400	31,381	—	—
George Washington & Jefferson NF—Virginia	9,864	0	—	—	—	—	98	1,580	11,542	333,350	34
Total Including Savannah River	942,486	808	1,535	4,388	1,045	220	28,745	57,190	1,036,417	—	—
Total Forest Service Only	934,219	808	1,535	3,623	1,045	220	28,745	57,190	1,027,385	—	—

Rx Fire + Mech Reduction = 935,027

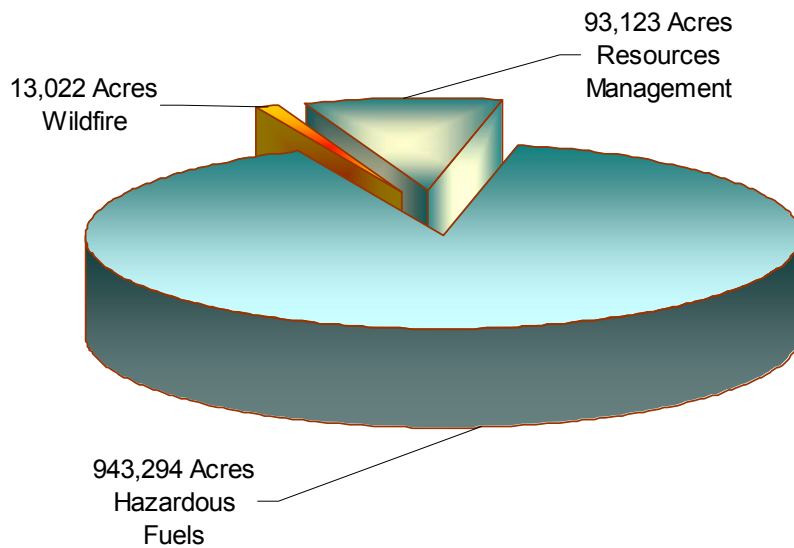
*See page 21 for explanation of terms and acronyms.

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Prescribed Fire Accomplishments



Prescribed Fire Acres Compared to Wildfire Acres



Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Examples of Significant Improvement in Cost Effectiveness

National Forests In Alabama

- 📄 Established new policies to guide fireline location and construction. Fewer dozer lines will be constructed. Crews will take advantage of existing roads and creeks when possible. Greater care will be taken in locating dozer lines to prevent erosion problems. Firelines constructed along slopes will be designed in a fashion that will reduce the amount of post-fire rehabilitation work.
- 📄 Combined burning objectives (brownspot, T & E, wildlife, range, rough reduction) into single operational burns. This tactic helped save personnel time and money by reducing the amount of dozer lines needed to safely conduct prescribed burns.
- 📄 Increased the use of aerial ignition tactics. This increased the number of acres burned while decreasing the number of personnel required during the peak burning period.
- 📄 Used all terrain vehicles (ATV) to increase the number of acres burned. ATVs allow fewer personnel to ignite larger areas in less time.
- 📄 Requested and used off-forest prescribed fire detailers to implement fire management projects for little or no cost.

Ouachita, Ozark & St Francis National Forests—Arkansas and Oklahoma

- 📄 Conducted fire management reviews to analyze cost containment issues. The theme for the annual district fire management officers meeting this year was incident business management: a review of the costs associated with initial attack; and the efficient use of resources.
- 📄 Combined Arkansas-Oklahoma fire organizations into one fire team (on-going). The consolidation of duties eliminates duplication of effort. Personnel efficiency is maximized.
- 📄 Incorporated other resource area personnel, that is, non-fire personnel, into the initial attack organization. In return, fire personnel were made available to assist other resource programs as needed.
- 📄 Reduced training costs by integrating multiple agency training programs into *training academies*.

National Forests In Florida

- 📄 Initiated a time saving budget planning process whereby each district's total fire management costs are computed based on an analysis of projected program activities. Funds are distributed based on individual district targets, special projects, equipment acquisition needs, transfer of station, and more. During the budget planning process the cost of each district's fire management program is reviewed and discussed by all fire managers. This creates an open and smooth flowing procedure for allocating funds. While the process may not yet have saved significant dollar amounts in the fire program, it has proven itself to be a cost-effective planning process.
- 📄 Combined two separate helicopter contracts into a single contract. A single helicopter is now shared between the Apalachicola and Ocala Forests. The cost savings were significant.

Chattahoochee-Oconee NF—Georgia

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

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

National Forests In Mississippi

Treated more than one-quarter million acres (259,439 acres) of hazardous fuels with prescribed fire—more than all other Forest Service regions combined, outside of Region 8. The Mississippi prescribed fire program is an outstanding example of commitment to program goals through efficient and wise use of available tools and resources.

Developed a partnership with the Wild Turkey Federation whereby the Federation provides funding for aerial ignition operations on prescribed burn projects.

National Forests In North Carolina

Developed an open dialogue with Camp Lejeune and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cooperative efforts included the mutual sharing of personnel and equipment for both wildfire suppression and prescribed fire projects. The Forest also used North Carolina State aircraft for wildfire suppression activities, an on-going practice with annual cost-savings that should not be forgotten.

Coordinated cooperative meetings with local districts. Meetings were attended by state forest service and wildlife agencies, volunteer fire departments, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The 2003 meetings included discussions on cooperative agreements, safety refresher training, standards for survival and urban-interface fire problems. The cooperative meetings/fire schools have been very beneficial in keeping the local districts, parks, refuges, counties and state agencies up to date on changes taking place within the wildland fire community.

Provided crews for fire and non-fire assignments. The State of North Carolina, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Forest Service each mobilized crews. The Forest Service crews were composed of personnel from different federal agencies. The State of North Carolina also mobilized its Type 2 overhead team.

Caribbean National Forest—Puerto Rico

Reduced overhead expenditures by 20%. The dispatch operation at San Juan airport was restructured for the purpose of reducing travel costs.

Cherokee National Forest—Tennessee

Established the Kentucky-Tennessee annual wildfire academy. The new academy involves 5 state and federal agencies: Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee Division of Forestry, National Park Service, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Daniel Boone National Forest. Seven training courses were offered during a one week period in CY 2003.



**Wildland-Urban Interface Burn
Cherokee National Forest**

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests—Virginia

Improved the cost effectiveness of the prescribed fire program by conducting larger burns when and where possible.

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Noteworthy Instances of Cooperation

National Forests In Alabama

Worked in close cooperation with local educators in promoting fire prevention programs. Provided classroom training, marched in parades, staffed information booths at public events, and provided hands-on field training to eager elementary school students.

Alabama Student Thanks Smokey



Ouachita, Ozark and St. Francis National Forests—Arkansas and Oklahoma

- Revised the existing agreement with the Arkansas Forestry Commission to reflect an expanded level of cooperation on wildland fire suppression operations.
- Established cooperative relationships with several state parks in Arkansas and Oklahoma for the purpose of planning hazardous fuel reduction projects both within and adjacent to park properties and facilities.
- Continued work on the *Fire Planning and Analysis* project with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service.
- Managed a significant wildfire incident on lands within the boundaries of Hot Springs National Park, at the request of the National Park Service. The fire burned within the most critical wildland-urban interface in the state and quickly grew into a high-priority incident.
- Organized *Firewise* councils across the State in cooperation with the Arkansas Forestry Commission.
- Provided training and equipment for Native American Tribes in Oklahoma. Supported mobilization of Native American crews. Focused on training and certifying leadership candidates from the tribes.
- Provided fire training to Arkansas Technological University students; future resource managers in the fish and wildlife, recreation and park management departments.

National Forests In Florida

- Initiated and/or maintained partnerships and cooperative relationships with many different agencies and local governments during CY 2003.
- Established a shared position with the Florida Division of Forestry. The position is located in the Florida Interagency Coordination Center. The new position will assist in dispatching and will serve as intelligence coordinator for Florida resources.
- Committed financial support to the State of Florida Division of Forestry for the construction of a permanent fire exhibit at the annual Tampa State Fair. The exhibit is a powerful and cost-effective venue for extending the wildland fire safety message to a large and diverse audience.
- Assisted Moody Air Force Base in South Georgia with a fuel loading analysis project. The analysis was conducted on a 1,000 acre tract of land owned by the Department of Defense.
- Cooperated with the Florida Division of Forestry in the construction of a permanent multi-agency air tanker base at the Lake City Airport. Additionally, an interagency fire station received funding and will be located northeast of Lake City. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Division of Forestry, several volunteer fire departments and the National Forests in Florida will each maintain resources at the station, as wildfire danger dictates.
- Constructed two volunteer fire stations west of Tallahassee in partnership with Leon County. The area has experienced a fast pace of urban-interface development and badly needed locally based fire suppression resources.

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Chattahoochee-Oconee NF—Georgia

- 📄 Worked closely with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) which agency provided assistance with wildfire suppression operations throughout the National Forests. GFC employees participated on local and national incidents and provided a variety of qualified personnel ranging from firefighter to incident commander. The GFC mobilized one crew to an Idaho wildfire incident. Coordinated smoke chasing and initial attack operations with the GFC fire detection plane. GFC provided personnel and equipment to assist with prescribed fires on the Chattahoochee National Forest.
- 📄 Mobilized personnel from Chattahoochee River Park and from Fort Stewart military reservation to serve on multi-agency crews mobilized to western wildfire incidents.
- 📄 Provided coordination and support to Fish and Wildlife Service personnel stationed at the Chattahoochee Fish Hatchery to facilitate their assistance on prescribed fire projects on the Chattahoochee National Forest, and to mobilize them to western wildfire incidents.
- 📄 Developed supportive relationships with rural volunteer fire departments to enhance their ability to provide badly needed structural fire protection during wildland fire incidents.
- 📄 Completed a 600 acre wildland urban-interface prescribed burn on the Chattooga Ranger District. Personnel from 7 different federal, state, county and city agencies were involved. The burn, first of its kind in Georgia, proved to be a model for interagency coordination and teamwork. The incident command system (ICS) was used to coordinate and manage the operation. Notwithstanding the fact that some participants lacked ICS training, all participants were motivated to communicate and to work together—creating a successful outcome. Feedback from local landowners was very positive.

Kisatchie National Forest—Louisiana

- 📄 Exchanged prescribed fire detailers with Region 6. Result was a significant savings in project costs.

National Forests In Mississippi

- 📄 Initiated an effort to develop a cooperative agreement with the Nature Conservancy for the purpose of using Nature Conservancy resources on prescribed fire and wildfire suppression operations.
- 📄 Developed a partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation. The Federation will provide funding for the prescribed fire aerial ignition program.
- 📄 Developed a joint wildfire operations plan with the Mississippi National Guard.
- 📄 Conducted joint prescribed burns with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). DOD owns tracts of land within the Forests.
- 📄 Renewed memoranda of understanding with the Tri-County Fire Management Cooperative and with the Harrison County Project Impact.
- 📄 Exchanged personnel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, for fire suppression and prescribed fire operations.
- 📄 Exchanged personnel with the National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway, for fire suppression and prescribed fire operations.
- 📄 Coordinated a wide range of fire related projects and activities with the Mississippi Forestry Commission. These included the day-by-day coordination of wildland fire suppression and prescribed burning operations, planning and conducting fire prevention programs, maintaining and operating weather stations, and developing and coordinating wildland fire training courses.

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

National Forests In North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia

☒ Restructured the boundaries of the state interagency coordination centers by placing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Savannah Coastal Refuges Fire Management District 2 (includes lands in southeast North Carolina, South Carolina and coastal Georgia) under the control of the South Carolina Interagency Coordination Center. The change improved efficiency in dispatch operations and reduces confusion generated by the previous dispatch organizational structure. The change allows for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fire management staff to coordinate fire suppression and prescribed fire operations with a single state coordination center as opposed to three state centers. The change affected the following refuges in Georgia and North Carolina: Pee Dee (located in SE North Carolina), Wassaw, Black Beard, Harris Neck and Wolf Island (located along the Georgia coast).

Caribbean National Forest—Puerto Rico

☒ Maintained a close working relationship with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER). Trained 25 DNER employees as firefighters. DNER employees participate in providing annual refresher training and are available for dispatch on interagency firefighting crews. Two DNER employees are certified as crew boss. Additional seven employees participated in the 2003 Squad Boss Academy.

☒ Provided DNER with equipment to stock a wildland fire cache, significantly improving the crew mobilization process.

National Forests and Grasslands In Texas

☒ Provided coordination and mobilization services to the Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery incident. Coordinated resources from more than 100 federal, state and local agencies and organizations at all levels of the civil infrastructure. This was the largest search and recovery project ever undertaken in the United States. The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFTG) played a vital role in directing and supervising search crews mobilized from outside Texas. This project dominated NFTG's daily activities from February 1 until the end of April.

☒ Coordinated the staffing of the Texas Interagency Coordination Center with the Texas Forest Service and other federal agencies.

☒ Coordinated two wildland fire academies with partner agencies. Hosted and coordinated S-420 in December 2003.

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests—Virginia

☒ **Received Pulaski Award.** In February 2003, VMAC was presented with the Pulaski Award. The award is presented annually on the recommendation of the National Interagency Fire Center *...for a group's outstanding contribution to wildland firefighting and America's wildland firefighters.* The Virginia Multi-agency Coordinating Group (VMAC) is composed of representatives of the Virginia Department of Forestry, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the USDA Forest Service. VMAC was recognized for its efforts in coordinating suppression and prevention activities during the 2001 fall fire season, during which more than 1,000 fires burned 11,000 acres in the State of Virginia.



Virginia Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

**Southern Region
Annual Fire Report CY 2003**

Fire Related Safety Incidents Reported by Southern Region Forests								
CY 2003	Rx Fire		Wx Initial Attack		Extended Attack		Other Fire Related	Total Incidents
	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter	Civilian	Firefighter		
Injuries	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Lost Time Injuries	-	7	-	2	-	4	3	16
Fatalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Safety Zone Used	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Shelter Deployed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Near Misses/Close Calls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Abandoned Area or Fireline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Threats Identified/Reported	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	3
Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Passenger Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
ATV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Equipment	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Occurred On Highway	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Smoke/Visibility Related:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Incidents/Near Misses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Aviation Accidents:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Rotor Wing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Fixed Wing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Safety Threats Identified	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Safety/Fire Incident	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Incidents	0	14	0	3	0	7	10	34

**Southern Region
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Land Protection Report									
State	Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries							S&P Land Prot'd By State and FS	National Forest Land Protected By Others
	Protected By Forest Service								
	State & Private				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee	Offset	Reimburse Supp	Without Reimburse					
AL						665,981	665,981		
AR						2,581,858	2,581,858		
FL		37,758				1,158,273	1,196,031		
GA						866,079	866,079	520,610	
KY DBF		1,090				702,030	703,120	87,530	180,115
KY LBL						171,000	171,000		882
LA						604,000	604,000		71,000
MS						1,152,898	1,152,898		
NC						1,247,264	1,247,264		
OK						350,845	350,845	372,707	
PR						28,004	28,004		
SC					198,344	620,751	819,095		
TN						639,889	639,889		
TX						675,572	675,572		
VA						1,781,449	1,781,449	1,654,489	
Total		38,848			198,344	13,245,893	13,483,085	2,635,336	251,997

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Personnel Employed on Wildland Fire Presuppression and Suppression Activities

Regular Appointed Personnel		
Full-Time Fire Management (20 Pay Periods Or More)	276	
Part-Time Fire Management	177	
Others Used On Pre-suppression	445	
Others Used On Suppression	1,084	
Total Regular Appointed Personnel		1,982
Seasonal Or Short-Term Personnel		
Regular Fire Control (Crew, Firefighters, Patrol, Lookouts)	29	
Others Who Spend Time On Fire Control Work	390	
Emergency Fire Fighters	1,750	
Total Emergency Firefighters		2,169
Total Number Of Casuals Employed On Fire Suppression		2,971
Number Of Casuals Employed For First Time	420	
Total		7,122

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Summary of Statistics from Wildland Fire Reports

Fires by Size Class									
Page 1 of 2	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total Fires	Total Acres
ALABAMA National Forests In Alabama	Fires	4	18	8	0	0	0	0	30
	Percent	13%	60%	27%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Acres	0.6	62.3	385.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	448.3
	Percent	0%	14%	86%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
ARKANSAS Ouachita, Ozark- St Francis National Forests	Fires	22	69	41	1	1	1	0	135
	Percent	16%	51%	30%	1%	1%	1%	0%	
	Acres	3.5	193.4	1,417.0	124.0	545.0	1,550.0	0.0	3,832.9
	Percent	0%	5%	37%	3%	14%	40%	0%	
FLORIDA National Forests In Florida	Fires	28	29	7	2	0	0	0	66
	Percent	42%	44%	11%	3%	0%	0%	0%	
	Acres	3.0	53.0	226.2	320.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	602.2
	Percent	0%	9%	38%	53%	0%	0%	0%	
GEORGIA Chattahoochee— Oconee NF	Fires	6	22	4	1	0	0	0	33
	Percent	18%	67%	12%	3%	0%	0%	0%	
	Acres	0.7	72.4	98.7	150.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	321.8
	Percent	0%	22%	31%	47%	0%	0%	0%	
KENTUCKY Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	5	15	10	0	0	0	0	30
	Percent	17%	50%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Acres	0.5	68.5	164.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	233.0
	Percent	0%	29%	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
KENTUCKY Land Between The Lakes NRA	Fires	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Percent	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Acres	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
	Percent	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
LOUISIANA Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	0	43	18	1	2	0	0	64
	Percent	0%	67%	28%	2%	3%	0%	0%	
	Acres	0.0	96.0	552.0	285.0	931.0	0.0	0.0	1,864.0
	Percent	0%	5%	30%	15%	50%	0%	0%	
MISSISSIPPI National Forests In Mississippi	Fires	8	34	23	3	0	1	0	69
	Percent	12%	49%	33%	4%	0%	1%	0%	
	Acres	0.9	93.9	678.0	463.0	0.0	1,090.0	0.0	2,325.8
	Percent	0%	4%	29%	20%	0%	47%	0%	

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Fires by Size Class										
Page 2 of 2		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total Fires	Total Acres
NORTH CAROLINA National Forests In North Carolina	Fires	15	25	6	0	0	0	0	46	
	Percent	33%	54%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
	Acres	2.15	62.75	155	0	0	0	0		219.9
	Percent	1%	29%	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
PUERTO RICO Caribbean National Forest	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
SOUTH CAROLINA Francis Marion & Sumter NF	Fires	6	14	2	1	0	1	0	24	
	Percent	25%	58%	8%	4%	0%	4%	0%		
	Acres	0.9	35.9	70.2	151.0	0.0	1,784.0	0.0		2,042.0
	Percent	0%	2%	3%	7%	0%	87%	0%		
SOUTH CAROLINA Savannah River Site*	Fires	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	17	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
	Acres	0.2	21.25	0	0	0	0	0.0		21.5
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
TENNESSEE Cherokee National Forest	Fires	3	6	11	0	0	0	0	20	
	Percent	15%	30%	55%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
	Acres	0.45	23	236	0	0	0	0		259.5
	Percent	0%	9%	91%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
TEXAS National Forests & Grasslands In Texas	Fires	4	14	5	1	1	0	0	25	
	Percent	16%	56%	20%	4%	4%	0%	0%		
	Acres	0.4	31.5	123.0	150.5	417.0	0.0	0.0		722.4
	Percent	0%	4%	17%	21%	58%	0%	0%		
VIRGINIA George Washington & Jefferson NF	Fires	4	8	6	0	0	0	0	18	
	Percent	22%	44%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
	Acres	0.4	34.7	92.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		127.1
	Percent	0%	27%	72%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Total Fires	Fires	109	312	141	10	4	3	0	579	
	Percent	19%	54%	24%	2%	1%	0.5%	0%		
Total Acres	Acres	16	849	4,198	1,644	1,893	4,424	0		13,022
	Percent	0.1%	6.5%	32.2%	12.6%	14.5%	34.0%	0.0%		

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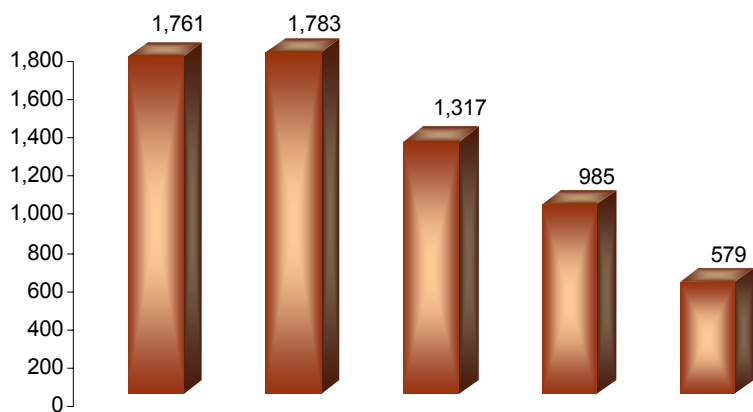
Fires by Cause													
Page 1 of 2		Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
ALABAMA National Forests In Alabama	Fires	0	0	0	1	4	0	19	0	6	30		15
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	0%	63%	0%	20%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0	12.6	0.0	251.6	0.0	162.1		448.3	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	5%	3%	0%	56%	0%	36%			
ARKANSAS Ouachita, Ozark-St Francis National Forests	Fires	18	5	0	8	11	2	61	0	30	135		28
	Percent	13%	4%	0%	6%	8%	1%	45%	0%	22%			
	Acres	167.3	560.7	0.0	21.1	103.8	17.0	1,088.0	0.0	1,875.0		3,832.9	
	Percent	4%	15%	0%	1%	3%	0%	28%	0%	49%			
FLORIDA National Forests In Florida	Fires	12	1	2	5	4	0	8	2	32	66		9
	Percent	18%	2%	3%	8%	6%	0%	12%	3%	48%			
	Acres	154.6	0.1	1.1	4.0	31.5	0.0	4.8	0.2	405.9		602.2	
	Percent	26%	0%	0%	1%	5%	0%	1%	0%	67%			
GEORGIA Chattahooche- Oconee National Forests	Fires	1	0	0	0	5	2	9	0	16	33		10
	Percent	3%	0%	0%	0%	15%	6%	27%	0%	48%			
	Acres	3	0	0	0	29.4	5	52.9	0	231.5		321.8	
	Percent	1%	0%	0%	0%	9%	2%	16%	0%	72%			
KENTUCKY Daniel Boone National Forest	Fires	0	0	0	1	1	0	27	0	1	30		8
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%	90%	0%	3%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	12.0	0.0	204.0	0.0	4.0		233.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	6%	5%	0%	88%	0%	2%			
KENTUCKY Land Between The Lakes NRA	Fires	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2		1
	Percent	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%			
	Acres	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		2.0	
	Percent	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%			
LOUISIANA Kisatchie National Forest	Fires	1	32	0	1	3	0	22	0	5	64		29
	Percent	2%	50%	0%	2%	5%	0%	34%	0%	8%			
	Acres	99	956	0	1	16	0	747	0	45		1,864.0	
	Percent	5%	51%	0%	0%	1%	0%	40%	0%	2%			
MISSISSIPPI National Forests In Mississippi	Fires	0	5	1	3	9	0	44	0	7	69		34
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
	Acres	0.0	1,100.0	0.1	22.1	218.1	0.0	957.9	0.0	27.6		2,325.8	
	Percent	0%	47%	0%	1%	9%	0%	41%	0%	1%			

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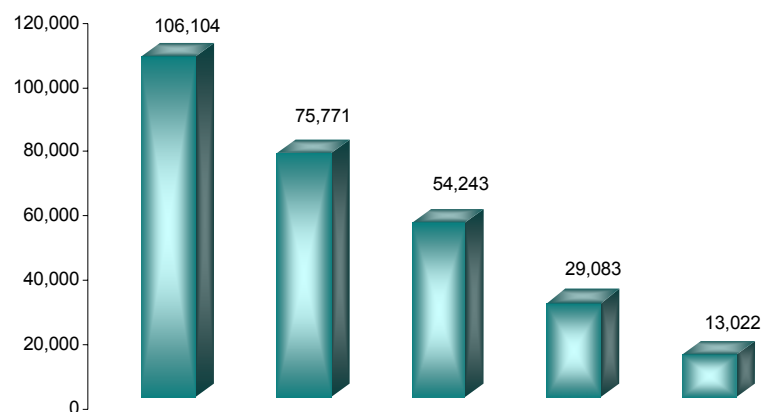
Fires by Cause													
Page 2 of 2		Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Total Fires	Total Acres	Acres Per Fire
NORTH CAROLINA National Forests In North Carolina	Fires	3	2	0	0	18	3	20	0	0	46	5	
	Percent	7%	4%	0%	0%	39%	7%	43%	0%	0%			
	Acres	14	2.15	0	0	96.75	42	65	0	0		219.9	
	Percent	6%	1%	0%	0%	44%	19%	30%	0%	0%			
PUERTO RICO Caribbean National Forest	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Percent	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	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
SOUTH CAROLINA Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests	Fires	0	1	2	1	1	0	15	0	4	24	85	
	Percent	0%	4%	8%	4%	4%	0%	63%	0%	17%			
	Acres	0.0	0.1	0.4	5.0	0.1	0.0	236.6	0.0	1,799.9		2,042.0	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%	88%			
SOUTH CAROLINA Savannah River Site	Fires	2	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	17	1	
	Percent	12%	59%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%	12%			
	Acres	11	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	2		21.5	
	Percent	49%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%	7%			
TENNESSEE Cherokee National Forest	Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	20	13	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%			
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	259.5	0.0	0.0		259.5	
	Percent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%			
TEXAS National Forests & Grasslands In Texas	Fires	1	0	3	4	5	0	5	1	6	25	29	
	Percent	4%	0%	12%	16%	20%	0%	20%	4%	24%			
	Acres	417.0	0.0	0.7	9.0	170.1	0.0	67.0	1.0	57.6		722.4	
	Percent	58%	0%	0%	1%	24%	0%	9%	0%	8%			
VIRGINIA George Washington & Jefferson NF	Fires	0	5	0	0	3	1	4	0	5	18	7	
	Percent	0%	28%	0%	0%	17%	6%	22%	0%	28%			
	Acres	0.0	13.8	0.0	0.0	33.0	9.0	17.5	0.0	53.8		127.1	
	Percent	0%	11%	0%	0%	26%	7%	14%	0%	42%			
Total Fires	Fires	38	62	8	24	64	8	257	3	115	579	22	
	Percent	7%	11%	1%	4%	11%	1%	44%	1%	20%			
Total Acres	Acres	865.4	2,639.3	2.3	97.2	723.3	73.0	3,955.6	1.2	4,665.0		13,022	
	Percent	7%	20%	0%	1%	6%	1%	30%	0%	36%			

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Five Year Averages 1999–2003												
1999-2003	Lightning	Equipment	Smoking	Campfire	Debris	Railroad	Arson	Children	Misc.	Fires	Acres	Acres Fire
1999	204	30	23	93	161	21	847	5	377	1,761	106,104	60
2000	274	64	16	78	148	35	926	11	233	1,783	75,771	42
2001	114	46	33	50	129	63	607	13	258	1,317	54,243	41
2002	142	46	10	39	109	10	424	9	196	985	29,083	30
2003	38	62	8	24	64	8	257	3	115	579	13,022	22
99-03	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	—
Percent	12%	4%	1%	4%	10%	2%	48%	1%	18%	—	—	—



1999.....2003
Wildfires



1999.....2003
Acres



**USDA Forest Service
Southern Region**

Southern Region Annual Fire Report CY 2003

Terms and Acronyms Used in this Report

BS	– Brown spot (prescribed fire tables)
CUS	– Clear understory (prescribed fire tables)
CWN	– Call when needed: aircraft that have a call when needed contract
DOD	– U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	– U.S. Department of Energy (Savannah River Site)
FEMA	– Federal Emergency Management Agency
Fuels	– Hazardous fuels reduction by prescribed fire (used in tables)
Fuels Mech	– Hazardous fuels reduction by mechanical methods (used in tables)
GACC	– Geographic Area Coordination Center
Hazardous Fuels	– Combustible material in a wildland environment that, by its inherent qualities, qualities, provides the potential for an uncontrollable fire event
Hotshot	– Interagency Type 1 Fire Crew, 20 persons
IHC	– Interagency Type 1 Fire Crew, 20 person, IHC = Interagency Hotshot Crew
NICC	– National Interagency Coordination Center
R	– Range improvement (prescribed fire tables)
RR	– Rough reduction (prescribed fire tables)
SACC	– Southern Area Coordination Center
SB	– Seedbed Prep
SP	– Site prep (prescribed fire tables)
T&E	– Threatened and endangered species (prescribed fire tables)
WI	– Wildlife improvement (prescribed fire tables)
