

Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module

2007 Annual Report

Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Gregory Ridge Rx Burn Great Smoky Mountains NP April 20th 2007

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Executive Summary

The 2007 "season" was a very successful one in terms of project accomplishment for the Great Smoky Mountain Fire Use Module (GRSM FUM). The module was assigned five parks for primary support this season (GUIS, HOBE, LIRI, GRSM, and KIMO). The module provided project planning, burn implementation, NFPORS accomplishment reporting, and 2008 NFPORS project funding requests for these parks. For the year, these parks realized a combined 170% of their planned hazardous fuel treatment goals. Much of this success is due to two significant factors: 1st) The GRSM FUM though short staffed this year, was composed of a core group of highly skilled and qualified fire professionals. 2nd) The Southeast Regional Office funded a fuels dedicated T3 helicopter for the first time. The module capitalized on these two factors and accomplished a total of 8571 acres of fuels treatments on 8 Park Service units; supported 4 Wildland Fire Use incidents (1829 acres), for 3 different land managers; and assisted with suppression efforts on 10 wildfires that ultimately burned almost 63,000 acres.

Activity Summary

October / November 2006 Module members entered on duty for the season in October. The primary focus of module members in October and November was to place equipment in service, attend annual refresher training, pack testing, perform site visits to assess burn unit preparation needs, and burn plan writing.

- Prescribed Fire Plans were written by the module for three Parks (GRSM, KIMO, LIRI).
- Technical reviews of Prescribed Fire Plans were accomplished for four Parks (BICY, NATR, GUIIS, HOBE).

November / December 2006 Module members in non-pay status. Planning activities continued.

January 2007 Site visits and crew training resumed. Fuels treatment activities also began in January with burning conducted at both KIMO in South Carolina and GUIIS in Florida.

- KIMO 25 acres of burn piles completed.
- GUIIS 90 acre broadcast burn.
- HOBE 2 broadcast burns for 158 acres.

February 2007 Fuels treatment efforts began in earnest with the plan of beginning in Florida and following the weather window northward as opportunities presented themselves. One of the modules strengths and keys to its success was the ability to monitor fuels and weather conditions and react quickly to burn windows without layers of oversight. A FIRB was sent to assist Cumberland Gap FUM with an prescribed burn. The fuels funded helicopter came in service, stationed at Glasgow, KY.

- GUIIS 190 acres, 4 broadcast burns.
- GRSM 2 acre wildfire.
- CUGA 17 acre broadcast burn.

March 2007 Module remained focused on hazardous fuels treatment activities. The module implemented a personnel

exchange with Everglades NP during March and April. This exchange provided Engine Boss training for 3 module members and exposed 3 Everglades personnel to different fuels types and prescribed burning in Fuel Model 9. During March we also provided personnel to assist the Cumberland Gap module with burns in Congaree Swamp. The T3 helicopter temporarily relocated to Ft. Payne, AL to support prescribed fire operations at LIRI.

- GRSM 2 wildfires for 325 acres.
- GRSM 539 acre broadcast burn.
- HOBE 80 acre broadcast burn
- LIRI 3 broadcast burns for 1771 acres.
- LIRI 1 wildfire for 498 acres.
- KIMO 5 broadcast burns for 477 acres.
- COSW 2 broadcast burns for 384 acres.

April 2007 In late April, the module completed the remainder of planned fuels treatment efforts associated with our primary parks. Again in April, the module provided qualified helicopter personnel to support the fuels helicopter for operations in Great Smokey Mountains and to assist CUGA FUM for burning at Mammoth Cave NP.

- GRSM 5 broadcast burns for 2650 acres.
- MACA 1 broadcast burn for 1540 acres.

May 2007 The module provided staff for suppression efforts in two states. Some members began their furlough periods in May. The helicopter contract ended in early May with the ship assigned to the Smith Wildfire in North Carolina. One crewmember was assigned to the ship at that time as a HELB.

- Cherokee BIA 1 wildfire for 300 acres.
- EVER 1 wildfire for 2 acres.
- EVER staffing for 2 engines.
- GRSM 1 wildfire for 970 acres.

June 2007 Module staff underwent new medical screenings and therefore were out of service for most of this month.

July 2007 The first part of July was again spent awaiting medical clearance and pack testing.

- 2 FEMOs sent to Virginia in support of a WFU on USFS lands.

August 2007 Summer lightning picked up igniting fires in the drought stricken Appalachians.

- GRSM 2 Wildland Fire Use fires for 215 acres.
- GRSM 2 Wildfires for 78 acres.
- 1 FEMO detailed to YELL FUM in support of WFU and WF.

September 2007 Module supplied personnel to BICY in support of prescribed fire efforts.

- BICY 1 broadcast burn for 657 acres.
- BICY 1 wildfire for 272 acres.

October 2007 Module personnel conducted site visits to 3 Park Service units in Alabama to determine burn unit preparation needs. Prescribed Fire planning underway for 2008 season.

National Park Service Assists

NPS Unit	Dates	Project	Project Type	Days on Site
KIMO	1/15 - 1/17	Midway Piles	Rx	3
GUIS	1/23 - 1/27	NLO 9	Rx	5
HOBE	1/29 - 1/31	NE3 NE4	Rx	3
GUIS	2/15 - 2/22	NLO6 NLO7b NLO8 NLO10	Rx	7
CUGA	2/23	Fern Lake	Rx	1
GRSM	2/24	129	WF	2
GRSM	2/2007	Wash Ridge	Mech. And Rx	3
GRSM	3/1 - 3/2	Cove Mtn.	WF	2
GRSM	3/3	Smokemont	WF	1
HOBE	3/5 - 3/8	I-1	Rx	4
LIRI	3/5 - 3/6	Wildcat Branch	WF	2
LIRI	3/8 - 3/14	02 / 103 Canyon Mouth Park Field School	Rx	7
KIMO	3/21 - 3/28	Headquarters Cplx Midway Howser Mineshaft Triangle	Rx	8
GRSM	3/24 - 3/25	Wash Ridge	Rx	2
COSW	3/28 - 3/30	Red Bluff 1 and 2	Rx	3

National Park Service Assists (continued)

NPS Unit	Dates	Project	Project Type	Days on Site
GRSM	4/8 - 4/14	Stony Ridge Arbutus Ridge	Rx	7
GRSM	4/17 - 4/19	Cable House Old Field	Rx	3
GRSM	4/20 - 4/25	Gregory Ridge	Rx	6
MACA	4/21 - 4/26	Big Woods	Rx	6
EVER	5/15 - 5/31	Severity	WF	16
EVER	5/24	DOF L31/152	WF	1
GRSM	5/19 - 5/20	Buck Shank	WF	2
YELL	7/30 - 8/28	YELL FEMO Detail	WF / WFU	30
GRSM	8/6 - 8/17	Cattail 2	WFU	12
GRSM	8/18 - 9/1	Big Medicine	WFU	14
GRSM	8/24	MM19 Truck	WF	1
GRSM	8/25 - 8/27	Eagle Rock	WF	3
BICY	9/5 - 9/14	Raccoon Point	Rx	9
BICY	9/7	Lone Chicken	WF	1

Interagency Assists

Bureau	Unit	Dates	Project	Project Type	Days on Site
BIA	Cherokee	5/6 - 5/9	Smith	WF	4
USFS	GW & Jefferson	7/17 - 7/20	Straw Pond	WFU	4

Module member detailing with YELL FUM also participated in interagency assists to the USFS on one WFU (Beaver Dam) and one WF (Fool Creek).

Employee Development

Position	Name	Current Quals	Trainee Quals	Notes
Module Leader	Loveland	FUM2, RXB2, FIRB, ENGB, HELB, FEMO, ICT4, PLDO, FALB, FFT1, ATVO		
Assistant	Vacant			(1)
Lead Crewmember	Neppl	RXB2, FOBS, FEMO, HECM, ICT4, CRWB, ENGB, FFT1, ATVO, FALC	PLDO	(2)
Lead Crewmember	Ward	ICT5, FIRB, ENGB, FALB, FEMO, HECM, PLDO, ATVO	ICT4, CRWB	(3)
Crewmember	Seagle	FFT1, HECM, ICT5, FEMO, FALA, ATVO	ENGB, FALB CRWB, FIRB	(4)
Crewmember	Worthington	FFT1, FALB, FEMO, ATVO	ENGB, ICT5	(5)
Crewmember	Derstine	ICT5, FFT1, FEMO, HECM, FALB, ATVO	PLDO, ENGB	(6)

Notes:

- (1) Assistant Lead position has been vacant for an extended period. Position has been announced and closed 10/31/07.
- (2) Nepp1 completed RXB2 and FALC this season, he has since resigned from the module and taken an engine module leader (GS 7), position at Carlsbad Caverns.
- (3) Ward completed PLDO this season and has resigned and taken an engine module leader (GS 7), position with the BLM in New Mexico.
- (4) Seagle initiated ENGB and FIRB this season.
- (5) Worthington initiated ENGB this season.
- (6) Derstine completed ICT5 and HECM this year. He initiated ENGB and PLDO.

This season the module initiated an exchange program with Everglades National Park for the purpose of developing Engine Boss qualified module members. Three crewmembers detailed to the Everglades as ENGB(T). Everglades reciprocated by detailing 2 FFT1s as FEMO trainees and an FALC Certifier to the module for exposure to new fuel types and burning in the wildland urban interface. All participants gained new knowledge and the program may continue in future seasons.

Training

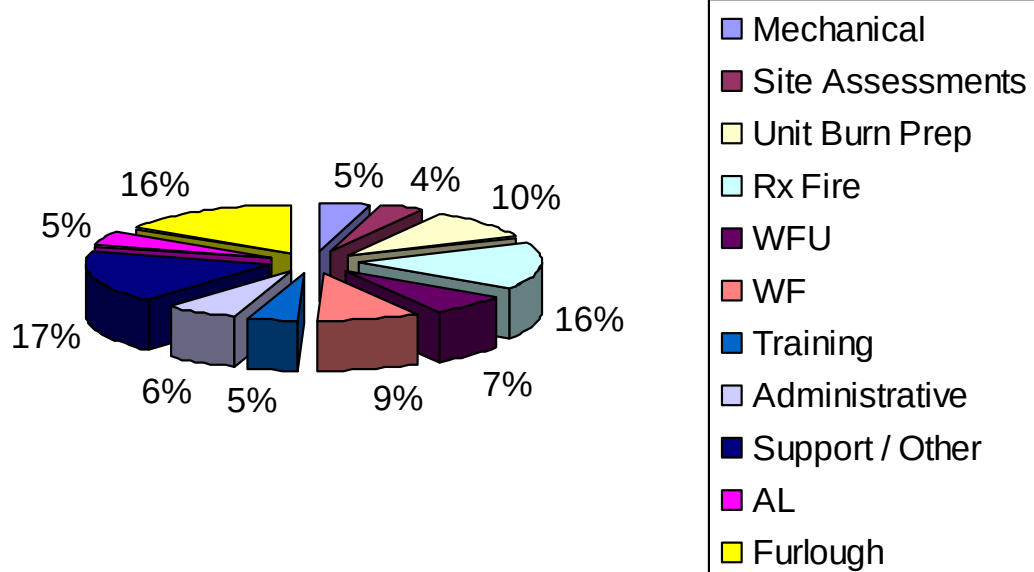
Crewmember	Courses Completed in 2007
Loveland	Rx-510, S330, RT271, PLDO refresher
Neppl	S330, PLDO
Ward	PLDO, WFR
Seagle	WFR
Worthington	S230, S231, PLDO, WFR
Derstine	S230, S231, RT271, PLDO

Seagle, Worthington and Derstine took part in the previously noted personnel exchange with Everglades National Park to gain experience in engine operations.

Work Summary

Activity	Person Days	% of Available Days
Mechanical	65	5
Site Assessments	54	4
Unit Preparation	144	10
Prescribed Fire	225	16
WFU	98	7
WF	130	9
Training	65	5
Administrative and Fire Planning	90	6
Support / Other	255	18
Annual Leave	64	5
Furlough	230	16

Work Summary



Budget

	Authorized Budget	Committed Dollars	Δ Authorized
Pay & Benefits	\$284,549.00	\$258,978.45	\$25,570.55
Training	\$0.00	\$5,711.21	(\$5,711.21)
Supplies	\$0.00	\$11,839.00	(\$11,839.00)
Travel	\$0.00	\$9,535.95	(\$9,535.95)
Cell Phones	\$0.00	\$721.30	(\$721.30)
Support	\$9,409.00	\$0.00	\$9,409.00
subtotal	\$293,958.00	\$286,785.91	\$7,172.09

The above table is a best effort by the module to track authorizations and expenditures through the fiscal year. The stated amounts may vary slightly from AFS reports. Continuing resolutions and delays in budget information dispersal to the unit level hampered budget tracking this season. "Supplies" includes consumables, vehicle maintenance and miscellaneous crew support materials.

Mileage

Vehicle	Beginning Miles	2007 Miles	Ending Mileage
2005 Ford F450 Crew Rig	16,482	18,784	35,266
2003 Ford Van	36,720	11,015	47,735
1992 Dodge Van	114,315	1,431	115,746
400 Honda ATV	N/A		
500 Polaris ATV	N/A		
Transport Trailer	N/A		