

Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module

2008 Annual Report



South Barker WFU, Sawtooth NF / Aug. 2008

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN/NC

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Sparks Lane Prescribed Burn, GRSM NP / April 2008

Executive Summary

The 2008 season began with the module at less than half strength due to employee turnover. Nationally, the average length of time personnel remain on modules is about two to three years due to the amount of travel involved. The Great Smoky Mountains FUM average at this time was approximately 4.5 years. Early in the season, the module assistant, two lead crewmember positions and two module crewmembers were hired. A total of 95 applicants made the certificates for these positions which allowed the module to select a number of highly motivated, skilled fire staff. These persons trickled onto the module as the season progressed.

Climatically, 2008 saw the continuation of severe drought across much of the Southeast Region. This condition brought challenges in meeting ecological burn objectives and prescription implementation windows. Regionally, this drought condition still persists despite some improvements due to rainfall associated with tropical systems. Specifically, as the 2008 season ends and we gear up for 2009, seven states in the Southeast Region remain in either: severe, exceptional, or extreme drought condition. Only Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana, are near normal for precipitation.

The Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module's (GRSM FUM), main focus is and remains prescribed fire operations supporting wildland urban interface hazardous fuels treatments in numerous parks throughout the Southeast Region. The module's role in these efforts is somewhat unique from other modules in that GRSM FUM provides multiple parks with out year planning and budget requests through National Fire Plan Operational Reporting (NFPORS); multi-year landscape level burn planning; strategic scheduling between parks; obtaining additional resources to meet tactical needs; operational implementation of prescribed fires; as well as accomplishment reporting in NFPORS.

When not engaged in prescribed fire activities, the FUM is available nationally to support both wildfire and wildland fire use efforts. The Smokies module is staffed with Fire Use Managers so that we are able to provide all management functions associated with wildland fire use. This season, GRSM FUM either managed or staffed wildland fire use events in Virginia, Tennessee, and Idaho. In the summer of 2008, as fires stretched national resources, Great Smoky Mountain FUM deployed for an extended period (45 days), supporting fire operations in Northern California and Idaho. Additionally, three module members also supported national efforts by detailing to other western based modules for extended periods (120 days).

The Smokies module provides membership to the following national committees: NPS Fire Management Mentoring Program Steering Committee, Fire Use Module Steering Committee, and the Fire Equipment Working Team's Ground Ignition Working Group.

Activity Summary

Month	Significant Events
October	Site Visit and burn unit needs assessment at LIRI. Landscape Burn Planning for six parks continues (GUIS, HOBE, LIRI, RUCA, GRSM, KIMO). Burn Unit recon and prep, GRSM.
November	Landscape Burn Planning for six parks continues (GUIS, HOBE, LIRI, RUCA, GRSM, KIMO). Burn unit recon and prep, GRSM.
December	Landscape Burn Planning for six parks continues (GUIS, HOBE, LIRI, RUCA, GRSM, KIMO).
January	Module members instructed multiple sessions of RT130/190. Module conducts annual refresher and required training. Landscape Burn Planning for six parks continues (GUIS, HOBE, LIRI, RUCA, GRSM, KIMO). Burn unit recon and prep, GRSM.
February	Wrote park Aviation Plans for 5 parks supported by the module in anticipation of aerial ignition operations. Prescribed fire operations at Davis Bayou in Mississippi (GUIS). Prescribed fire operations at NATR, Mississippi. Prescribed fire operations at Naval Live Oaks, Florida (GUIS).
March	Prescribed fire operations continued in GUIS, Florida. Prescribed fire operations in KIMO, South Carolina. Prescribed fire operations in HOBE, Alabama.
April	Prescribed fire operations in KIMO, South Carolina. Prescribed fire operations in LIRI, Alabama. Site visit and prep work in RUCA, Alabama. Prescribed fire operations in GRSM, TN Wildfire Support, GRSM / Ogle Hollow WF
May	Wildfire support, GRSM / Ogle Hollow WF Andrew Page details to Groveland FUM (USFS), as module leader. William Evans details to Lewis and Clark FUM (USFS),

	as module crewmember / lead crewmember.
June	Wildfire Support, GRSM / Rocky Face WF Wildland Fire Use Management, GRSM / Tarkiln Ridge Wildland Fire Use Management, USFS, Virginia / Stone Coal Eric Worthington details to Southern Appalachian Fire Effects Team. John Fry details to Bandalier FUM as the Assistant Module Leader.
July	Wildland Fire Use Management, GRSM / Mitchell Branch Wildfire Support, GRSM / Chimney Tops WF Wildfire Support, USFS, California / Bear Wallow Complex
August	John Fry ends Bandalier FUM detail, details to Fire Use Training Academy as the Lead Field Coordinator. Wildfire Support, USFS, California continues / Bear Wallow Complex. Module stages at NIFC, assists RAWs cache. Wildland Fire Use support, USFS, Idaho / South Barker WFU.
September	Returned to GRSM from western fire support. Module members attend Communicating Smoke Management workshop. Wildfire Support, GRSM / Flint Gap WF Evans and Page details end. Site visit, begin landscape level planning efforts for CANA and TIMU Florida. Site visit FOFR, Georgia.
October	Page begins fall session of Fire Use Training Academy. CANA burn planning efforts continue. Fire Management Plan revision for GRSM begins.

National Park Service Assists

Note: days on site include travel.

Month	Park Unit	Project Name	Project Type	Days on Site
October	LIRI	Edna Hill	Rx prep	2
	LIRI	Kralls Complex	Rx prep	2
	GRSM	Canadian Top	Rx prep	4
	GRSM	Beardcane	Rx prep	7
November	GRSM	Wear Cove Gap	Rx prep	3
January	GRSM	Canadian Top	Rx prep	4
February	GUIS	Davis Bayou	Rx	4
	NATR	Holly Hill, Myrick Crk	Rx	3
	GUIS	Naval Live Oaks	Rx	4
March	GUIS	Naval Live Oaks	Rx	4
	KIMO	Dellingham, No. Brushy	Rx	5
	HOBE	NE5, NW1, NW2, W1, W2	Rx Prep	2
	HOBE	NE5, NW1, NW2, W1, W2	Rx	6
	GRSM	Tipton Oliver	Rx	2
April	KIMO	Partner, Eastline	Rx	6
	GRSM	Sparks Lane	Rx	1
	LIRI	Edna Hill	Rx prep	3
	LIRI	Kralls	Rx	5
	RUCA	Montegue	Rx prep	2
	GRSM	Beardcane	Rx	3
	GRSM	Ogle Hollow	WF	6
May	GRSM	Ogle Hollow	WF	2
June	GRSM	Rocky Face	WF	3
	GRSM	Tarkiln Ridge	WFU	5
June - August	BAND	Employee Detail to BAND FUM	other	46
July	GRSM	Mitchell Branch	WFU	4
	GRSM	Chimney Tops	WF	2
August	NIFC NPS	Misc.	other	3
September	GRSM	Flint Gap	WF	4
	CANA	Site Visit – 2009 Planning	Rx plan	3
	TIMU	Site Visit – 2009 Planning	Rx plan	1
	FOFR	Site Visit – 2009 Planning	Rx plan	1

Interagency Assists

Note: days on site include travel.

Month	Bureau	Unit Name	Project Name	Project Type	Days on Site
May - September	USFS	Stanislaus NF (R5)	Employee detail to Groveland FUM Leader	other	130
May – September	USFS	Lewis & Clark NF (R1)	Employee detail to L&C FUM	other	128
June	USFS	GW&J NF Virginia (R8)	Stone Coal	WFU	12
July – August	USFS	Klamath NF (R5)	Bear Wallow Complex	WF	21
August - November	Multiple	FUTA	Employee detail to FUTA Field Coordinator	other	120
August – September	USFS	Sawtooth NF (R4)	South Barker	WFU	20

Employee Development

All module personnel continued to work on professional development this year, with 7 task books completed. At least six other task books were initiated by module members in 2008. Module members also served as mentors or trainers for numerous other fire staff and collateral fire duty personnel throughout the region during 2008.

Employee	Qualified / Trainee	IQCS Positions
Loveland	Qualified	FUM2, RXB2, FIRB, ICT4, ENGB, HELB, HECM, PLDO, FEMO, FALB, FFT1, ATVO
	Trainee	TFLD, FUM1
Mendonca	Qualified	RXB2, ICT4, TFLD, FIRB, CWRB, ENGB, HECM, PLDO, FEMO, FALB, FFT1, EMTB, ATVO
	Trainee	FUM2, ICT3, HELM
Fry	Qualified	RXB3, ICT4, CRWB, ENGB, FIRB, HECM, FFT1, FEMO, ATVO
	Trainee	RXB2, DOZB, FOBS, TFLD, PLDO
Derstine	Qualified	ICT5, FEMO, FALB, FFT1, ATVO
	Trainee	ENGB
Page	Qualified	FIRB (comp. '08), ICT4, CRWB, DOZB, FALB, FFT1, HECM(comp. '08), ATVO
	Trainee	RXB2, ENGB, TFLD, FOBS, FEMO, FALC
Worthington	Qualified	ICT5 (comp. '08), FEMO, FALB, FFT1, ATVO
	Trainee	ENGB
Evans	Qualified	FEMO (comp. '08), FFT2, ATVO (comp. '08)
	Trainee	ICT5, FFT1

Module Training

The tables below reflect only formal training and not informal, in-house periodic training sessions.

Formal Training Attended by Module Personnel			
Course Number	Course Name	Number of Module Personnel Attending	
RT130	Annual Refresher	7	
	GPS for Fire Management	2	
	Effective Communication for Smoke Management	2	
RT271	HECM & PLDO refresher	4	
Rx 310	Introduction to Fire Effects	1	
Rx 410	Smoke Management Techniques	1	
	Prescribed Fire Implementation	1	
ATVO	ATV Operator Safety	1	
Training Instructed by Module Personnel			
Course Number	Course Name	Number of Module Instructors	Number of Students
RT130	Annual Refresher (x 4)	3	120
S130/S190	Basic Firefighter / Wildland Fire Behavior	1	20
S211	Portable Pumps and Water Use	1	12
S212	Wildlanf Fire Chainsaws	1	10
S234	Ignition Operations	1	12
	Prescribed Fire Implementation	1	35
S390	Fire Behavior Calculations	1	35

Work Summary

Project Type	Person Days	% of Total
WF	196	14
WFU	170	12
Rx	250	18
Site Visits for Planning Efforts	12	1
Prep / Mechanical	108	8
Training (formal / informal)	63	5
Administrative Days Off	10	1
Sick Leave (includes family medical)	49	4
Annual Leave	40	3
Details to other FUMs	286	21
Detail to FUTA staff	120	8
Detail to Fire Effects Team	90	6
total	1394	

FUM 2008 Budget

Figures reported below are as documented in AFS for 30 Sept. 2007 through 1 Oct. 2008.

Object Class	Budget	Committed	Balance
Personnel Services	225,835.00	215,550.00	10,282.00
Moving Expenses (Mendonca)	0.00	11,244.00	(11,244.00)
Travel	5,135.00	5,337.00	(202.00)
Vehicle Costs	3,131.00	3,129.00	2.00
Equipment	3,887.00	5,413.00	(1,526.00)
Supplies and Materials	31,483.00	28,092.00	3,391.00
Utilities / Phones	640.00	639.00	1.00
Totals:	270,111.00	269,405.00	706.00

FUM Vehicle Mileage Report

This year module acquired a new support vehicle, a 2008 Ford F-450, funded through Working Capital Fund. The vehicle was picked up at the S&S plant in Indiana in March. The Southeast Regional Office purchased a slip-on tank and pump assembly with year end funds in 2007 intended for use with this vehicle. The vehicle was then outfitted for use as a T6 engine to support hazardous fuels treatment efforts by the module.

Equipment Issues: The Polaris ATV is coming up on being 9 years old and is in need of replacement in the near future. Due to the tenuous nature of ATV use in the Park Service at this time, it would probably be prudent to replace this vehicle with a UTV. If a UTV is ultimately purchased as a replacement, a new transport trailer would also be required.

Vehicle Year	Vehicle Type	Beginning Mileage	2008 Miles	Ending Mileage
2003	E350 Econoline Van	47,735	8,181	55,916
2005	F450 Crew Rig	35,266	15,936	51,202
2008	F450 T6 Engine	00,002	13,350	13,352
2006	Honda 400	n/a		
2000	Polaris 500	n/a		
	Transport Trailer	n/a		