

2006
Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module
Accomplishment Report



Executive Summary

Fiscal year 2006 proved to be a year in transition for the Great Smokies module, this transition process will likely carry over into 2007. The module lead position was filled in early July by Dave Loveland, previously the prescribed fire specialist at Everglades National Park. The assistant module position is currently being filled by Travis Neppel in a temporary promotion capacity. Previously, Jennifer Ward detailed into this critical position.

The module worked a split season in an effort to take advantage of unit preparation opportunities in the fall. The season is split between three pay periods in October / November and ten pay periods beginning in January. While the split season has aided burn unit preparation efforts, it has hampered crew availability to support national wildland fire use needs. With continued prescribed fire support during the winter months being a regional priority, support for WFU incidents may best be addressed if crew staffing is increased to an 18 and 8 pay period configuration from the current 13 and 13 structure.

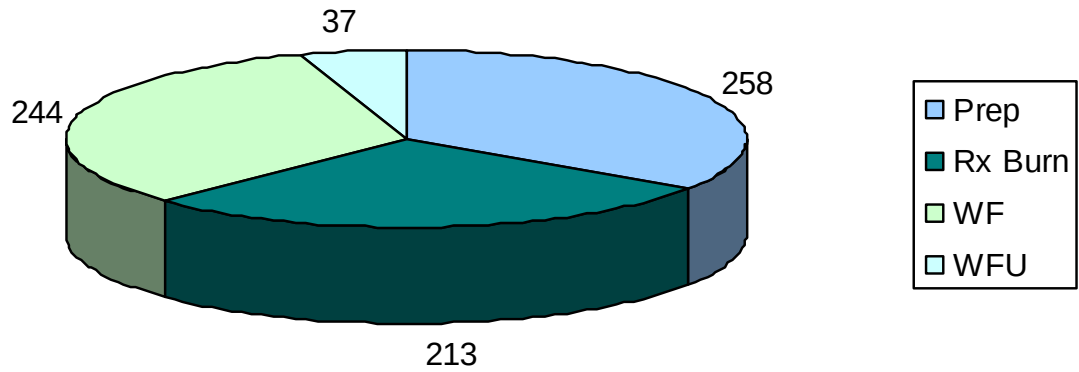
The module continues to work closely with the Cumberland Gap Fire Use Module during the fall and winter fire seasons. This working partnership is necessary due to the limited pool of available qualified resources. Efforts are being undertaken to establish standing lists of qualified individuals throughout the Southeast Region who are available to assist in prescribed fire projects on short notice. If successful, this effort should allow the two modules to eventually undertake simultaneous fuel treatment projects and increase productivity. This effort would also lead to the development and training of a number of collateral duty firefighters throughout the region as well as provide varied operational experience and WUI burning opportunities to carded fire staff in the region.

The Great Smoky Mountains Fire Use Module assisted in the treatment of 9919 acres of hazardous fuels in 10 park units. Module members also responded in various capacities to 31 wildfires that burned over 375,000 acres. The module also staffed 3 Wildland Fire Use fires that ultimately led to the fire treatment of over 64,543 acres in three states.

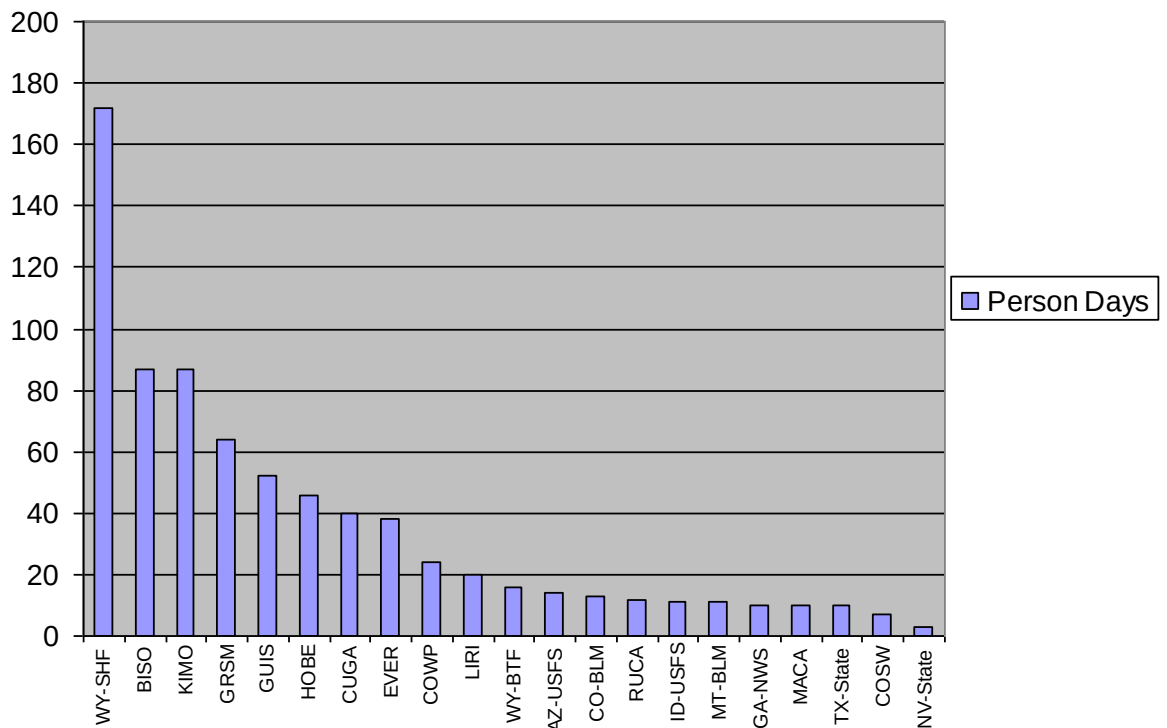
Activity Summary

The 2006 season was a busy and productive one for the Smokies Module with nearly 60% of the available days spent in the field performing work. Burn unit preparation and subsequent burn operations accounted for 471 person-days or 37% of available work days. An additional 244 person-days were spent in support of ongoing wildfire operations, or nearly 19% of the available time. Three percent of available crew days were spent in support of three wildland fire use incidents.

Person Days by Project Type



Person Days by Supported Unit



Support by Unit:

Unit	Project / Fire Name	Project Type	Project Size (ac)	Person Days
BISO	Darrow Ridge	Prep	536	45
BISO	Darrow Ridge	Rx Burn	536	14
BISO	Newtie King	Rx Burn	127	10
BISO	Mitchell Field	Rx Burn	44	12
COSW	Harry Hampton VC and RCW	Rx Burn	335	7
COWP	Battlefield	Rx Burn	55	12
COWP	North Scruggs	Rx Burn	64	12
CUGA	Tiprell A & B	Prep	149	25
CUGA	Tiprell A & B	Rx Burn	149	15
EVER	Sweet Bay	Rx Burn	129	3
EVER	HID	Rx Burn	435	6
EVER	Chekika Rx	Rx Burn	225	3
EVER	Chekika WF	WF	1067	6
EVER	Microburn	Rx Burn	2	3
EVER	Boy Scout	Rx Burn	207	2
EVER	Pine Island Housing	Rx Burn	100	3
EVER	Block Y	Rx Burn	20	2
EVER	Block C	Rx Burn	1100	2
EVER	Block E	Rx Burn	1420	2
EVER	Block G	Rx Burn	785	2
EVER	Block H	Rx Burn	890	2
EVER	North Pines	Rx Burn	285	2
EVER	Key McLaughlin II	Rx Burn	1314	3
EVER	Lostman's River	Rx Burn	62	2
EVER	Alligator Bay	Rx Burn	368	3
GRSM	Mids Branch	Prep	500	5
GRSM	Stony Arbutus	Planning		5
GRSM	Stony Arbutus	Prep	1500	47
GRSM	Chilly Springs	WFU	913	7
GUIS	Naval Live Oaks Unit 8	Prep	70	24
GUIS	Naval Live Oaks Unit 7B	Prep	60	6
GUIS	Naval Live Oaks Unit 6	Prep	64	12
GUIS	Naval Live Oaks Unit 4D	Prep	70	6
GUIS	Naval Live Oaks Unit 8	Rx Burn	30	4
HOBE	NW 1, NW 2, NW 4	Prep	98	11
HOBE	NW 1, NW 2, NW 4	Rx Burn	98	12
HOBE	NE 1, NE 2, NE 5, NE 6	Prep	168	11
HOBE	NE 1, NE 2, NE 5, NE 6	Rx Burn	168	12
KIMO	Aster	Prep	217	12
KIMO	Aster	Rx Burn	217	18
KIMO	Swale	Prep	180	6
KIMO	Swale Burn Piles	Rx Burn	6	12
KIMO	Swale	Rx Burn	180	12
KIMO	Garner Creek	Prep	353	6
KIMO	Garner Creek	Rx Burn	353	3

Unit	Project / Fire Name	Project Type	Project Size (ac)	Person Days
KIMO	WTP	Prep	115	6
KIMO	WTP	Rx Burn	115	12
LIRI	East Side Complex	Prep	100	20
MACA	Floating Mill	Prep	830	10
BISO	Red Dog	WF	5	1
BISO	Worley05	WF	15	5
RUCA	Cave Unit	Prep	100	6
RUCA	Cave Unit	Rx Burn	100	6
AZ-USFS	Warm	WFU	58,630	14
CO-BLM	Suttles Basin	WF	26	4
CO-BLM	Divide	WF	3200	1
CO-BLM	Gold	WF	0.1	1
CO-BLM	Sombrero	WF	0.1	2
CO-BLM	Spring Creek	WF	4	1
CO-BLM	Google	WF	0.1	1
CO-BLM	Colt	WF	0.1	1
CO-BLM	Solace	WF	0.1	1
CO-BLM	Twin	WF	0.1	1
GA-NWS	Blackbeards Revenge	WF	80	10
ID-USFS	Potato	WF	18,200	11
MT-BLM	Snowy Bench	WF	5	1
MT-BLM	Hutchinson Coulee	WF	400	1
MT-BLM	Careless Creek	WF	7	1
MT-BLM	North Bar	WF	5	1
MT-BLM	French	WF	150	1
MT-BLM	Big Warm	WF	1	1
MT-BLM	Twinkie / Dove Tail	WF	4700	1
MT-BLM	South Bench	WF	0.1	1
MT-BLM	Elk	WF	52	1
MT-BLM	Emerald Hills	WF	4000	1
MT-BLM	Derby Mountain	WF	208,000	1
NV-State	Basco	WF	106,000	3
TX-State	Agnes	WF	50	2
TX-State	Paluxy	WF	38	2
TX-State	Burwick	WF	4400	6
TX-State	Lone Star 2	WF	80	2
WY-BTF	Purdy	WFU	5000	16
WY-SHF	Purdy	WF	25000	172

Employee Development

Employee development continues to be both a major emphasis and a source of pride for the module. Module members attended a number of fire courses and professional meetings in order to further their knowledge of fire science. In addition to details as the module assistant which were filled by both Ward and Neppl, Travis Neppl detailed into the prescribed fire specialist position at Everglades National Park for thirty days. Module members completed six task-books during the course of the season. Employee development will continue to be a foundation upon which the module can build.

Training

Course	Location	Dates	Employee
Annual Refresher	Gatlinburg, TN	1/30-31	Ross, Ward, Neppl, Derstine, Worthington, Seagle
Saw Refresher	Gatlinburg, TN	2/1	Ross, Ward, Neppl, Derstine, Worthington, Seagle
Professional 1 st Aid and CPR	Gatlinburg, TN	2/2	Ross, Ward, Neppl, Derstine
SC Burn Certifier	Columbia, SC SC Forestry Comm.	1/20-21	Ross
S234	Black Mountain, NC	2/6-9	Derstine, Worthington
S231	Savannah River FS	5/24-26	Ward, Neppl, Seagle
S211	Cherokee, NC	5/1-3	Derstine, Worthington
RX-300	Garnett, SC	5/1-7	Neppl
S-200	Columbia, SC	6/2006	Ward
L-280	Virginia DOF	9/2006	Worthington

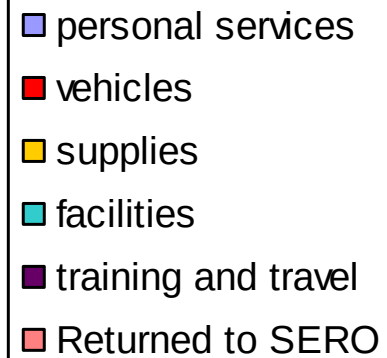
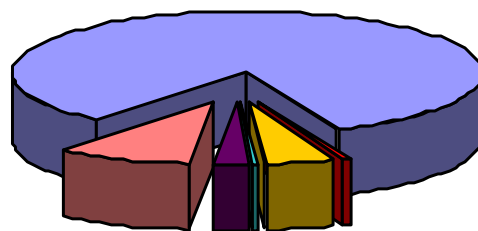
Qualifications and Taskbooks

Employee	Position	Qualified	Attained	Trainee
Dave Loveland	Module Leader	FUM2, RXB2, FIRB, FEMO, HECM, ICT4, ENGB, HELB, FALB, ATVO, PLDO	FUM2	CRWB, FALC
Susan Ross	Assistant Module Leader (vacant 8/06)	RXB2, FIRB, FEMO, FOBS, HECM, PLDO, ICT4, CRWB, ENGB, FALB, ATVO, 1 st Aid/CPR		EDRC, TFLD, STCR, STEN, FUM2
Jennifer Ward	Lead Crewmember	FIRB, FEMO, ENGB, HECM, ICT5, FALB, ATVO, WFR	FIRB	ICT4, CRWB, EDRC
Travis Neppl	Lead Crewmember	FIRB, FOBS, FEMO, HECM, ICT4, CRWB, ENGB, HRAP, FALB,		RXB2, FALC

		ATVO, WFR		
Eric Worthington	Crewmember	FFT1, FEMO, FALB, ATVO, WFR	FFT1	ICT5
Misty Seagle	Crewmember	FEMO, ICT5, HECM, FALA, ATVO, WFR		ENGB, CRWB, FALB, COMT, PTRC
Matt Derstine	Crewmember	FFT1, FALB, FEMO, 1 st Aid/CPR	FFT1, FALB	HECM, ICT5
Matt Wood	AD (Detailer)	FFT2, FALA	FALA	FEMO, FALB

Budget

GRSM FUM 2006 Budget



Object Class:	Total:
Appropriation	\$286,905.00
Travel/Training	\$7141.26
Vehicles	\$1643.30
Facilities/Utilities	\$624.45
Supplies/Materials	\$13,681.53
Salaries & Benefits	\$236,604.95
Returned to SERO	\$27,209.51

Module Vehicle Report

In June, the module transferred the 1999 Ford Crew vehicle to the Zion Fire Use Module to replace their vehicle destroyed in a fire. Two of the module vehicles continue to be concerns, the 4x4 Ford van due to handling and stability issues; and the 1992 Dodge van due to accumulated mileage, wear and a moldy degraded interior. Water infiltration continues to be problematic in the fiberglass compartments of the crew rig. Extra effort is required to minimize water damage to vehicle contents. The wet environment is also responsible for the mold concerns mentioned above with the Dodge van. Both vans should be replaced at the earliest opportunity.

Mileage Report

Vehicle	Beginning Miles	FY06 Miles	Total Miles
1992 Dodge Van	112,297	2,018	114,315
1999 Crew Rig	5,970	Transferred to Zion	
2003 4x4 Ford Van	20,101	16,619	36,720
2005 Crew Rig	1,718	14,764	16,482
400 Honda ATV	N/A		
500 Polaris ATV	N/A		