



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION ONE

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

In reply refer to: *CS*
Y2619 *LSW*

Schreiber - action

Memorandum

FEB 2 1954

To: Superintendent, Acadia National Park

From: Regional Forester, Region One

Subject: Annual Forestry Report, 1953

The 1953 Annual Forestry Report for Acadia National Park has been reviewed and is acknowledged herewith with the following comments.

We are pleased with the effective fire control work which resulted in such a favorable fire record for the year. Good attention appears to have been given other fire control activities also, including protection of buildings.

In the comprehensive section on forest insects we note the reference to the possible need for Forest Pest Control funds between now and April for Gypsy moth control. Advance notice regarding this was given the Washington Office by copy of your memorandum of December 4 on the subject and of our reply dated December 8. Should it be found that funds for control work will be needed, in order to obtain them for use before April it will be necessary to estimate the amount required and submit a request at the earliest date possible.

The subjects included in the report appear to be covered adequately, with the possible exceptions that (1) there may have been more recommendations as to future needs and plans which it would have been desirable to record, and (2) the extent, in aggregate area, of woods cleanup and cutting activities in the park would have been appropriate information to include.

We thank you for this good report and for furnishing us two extra copies of the sections on insects and diseases as requested.

Fred H. Arnold

Fred H. Arnold
Regional Forester

Copy to: The Director

File
2619
In reply refer to:
Y2619

Acadia National Park
Bar Harbor, Maine

ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT

Report 6a1

- (a) Fire Season. Generally speaking, Acadia's 1963 fire season was very good. Fire danger remained reasonably low during most of the fire season because of ample, well spaced precipitation. There were a few short periods during April, May and July when dry conditions produced moderately high burning indices.

Unusually heavy precipitation during the pre-season months undoubtedly contributed substantially toward making our season a good one. The post-season months of September, October and November produced a total precipitation of almost 20", and at the time of this writing there is little likelihood of the occurrence of any late fall or winter fires.

In all, there were but six fires, one of which threatened, but did not burn on park land, and the total area of park land burned amounted to a very small fraction of one acre.

- (b) Fire Suppression.

- (1) Fire prevention posters furnished us by higher headquarters were prominently displayed at both Black Woods and Seawall campgrounds, as well as in the information station and Chief Ranger's office.

Fire danger boards with changeable glass day numbers were again displayed by most of the Island fire departments, both of the Acadia campgrounds, and at the information station at the Bar Harbor Municipal Pier. These boards are owned by Acadia National Park, and are loaned to the above agencies in order to keep the thousands of people who view them aware of the daily fire situation on the Island. In addition to the small boards mentioned above, we also have two large boards in color which tell at a glance what the day's fire danger happens to be. The large boards are located, one at Thompson's Island at the entrance to Mount Desert Island, and the other one, newly constructed this year by the rangers, is located at the entrance to the Schoodic section of the park. Fire danger information on the above boards is obtained from the park's fire danger station, and disseminated daily to all board locations.

The park naturalist, during the course of his winter speaking engagements with civic, school and church groups, takes good advantage of the opportunities of emphasizing the need for safe camping practices, particularly with reference to forest fire prevention. The Superintendent and rangers also have been able to get across fire prevention information to public groups during the course of routine talks or lectures.

(2) Training - The 1953 fire control training program was held on July 6-7. Training was given to everyone in the protection, interpretation and maintenance divisions, with a total of twenty in attendance.

All phases of fire control activity, as they apply at Acadia, were gone over quite thoroughly. One day was devoted to lecture and seminar-type of training, and one day was spent in the field on the use of power pumps, hand tools, mock fire, and other related activities.

We were fortunate in having with us Assistant Chief Forester Jack S. Dodd, and Forester E. T. Campbell of Region One office. Messrs. Campbell and Dodd added much to the program, and offered many helpful suggestions.

(3) Physical Improvements - Trail crews of the maintenance division cleared most of the primary foot trails, and the road crews cleared and regraded all of the fire truck trails during the spring and summer months.

A radio aerial mast was installed on the Beech Mountain fire lookout tower. This installation was made to extend the range and improve clarity of reception and transmission of the pack set used in the tower.

(4) Planning and Studies - None.

(5) Fire Hazard Reduction Activities - Forest fire hazard in all reductions accomplished during the year are as follows:

I. Rockefeller's woods crews disposed of practically all of the slash piles and blowdowns in the Sargent Mountain and Southwest Valley areas.

II. Messrs. Goodwin, Stanley and Black removed all slash incident to their logging operation adjacent to park boundaries in the Rio area.

III. Mr. Henry Dunbar removed all slash incident to his logging operation adjacent to land on St. Sauveur Mountain.

IV. Mr. Edward McFarland removed all slash incident to his logging operation adjacent to Black Woods campground.

V. All slash adjacent to park land in the Schoodic section of the park was removed by Mr. Francis Chase.

VI. The remainder of the slash on the lot bordering on Pretty Marsh picnic area was burned by Mr. Arnold Allen.

(b) Equipment - The following items were purchased during the year.

Twelve 1 qt. soda-acid fire extinguisher charges.....	\$8.64
Shipping charges for above.....	1.78
Wire, telephone, #9, 3 coils @ $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. ea.....	46.36
(for Beech Mt. Fire Lookout Tower)	
Wire, guy, 100 ft. coil (for radio mast, Beech Mt.)	1.40
Drafting tape, 12 rolls (for covering cutting edges of hand tools).....	2.28
Total.....	\$60.46

The following item of equipment was deleted from the inventory: Truck, fire, International, 1936. Serial No. C306-36186, \$1,291.74. (This truck was transferred to Boston Naval Shipyard for the U. S. Naval Radio Station at Schoodic.)

(c) Fire Suppression

The suppression of four out of Acadia's six fires this year was credited, either wholly or in part, to cooperating agencies. The Seal Harbor Fire Department put out two fires on park land unassisted by park protection forces, and aided park protection forces in suppressing another fire on park land. The Tremont Fire Department extinguished a fire that threatened park land. This fire was reported to the Tremont Fire Department by our Beech Mountain Lookout. In all cases tank trucks were used by the cooperating fire departments.

The two remaining fires were suppressed by park protection and maintenance forces, unassisted by outside fire departments.

No new innovations in fire suppression operations were employed.

(d) Building Fire Protection

As a result of the annual building fire inspection made by the Chief Ranger, the following corrective measures were taken: Black Mt. Woods campground - oil stove in ranger cabin cleaned, leveled, and leaky fittings replaced; defective light switch repaired in B loop comfort station. Girl Scout camp, Echo Lake - new cook stove and new stove pipe installed. Carpenter Shop, CCC Camp - new stove pipe installed. Hulls Cove ranger residence - defective light switches repaired.

On August 14, 1953 at 1:20 p.m., a fire occurred at the Jordan Pond House, concessioner-operated government building, causing a loss of \$200 in damages. The fire was caused by a spark from the charcoal broiler in the kitchen landing on dry interior wood shingles. The fire was suppressed by the concessioner and the Seal Harbor fire department.

(e) Forest Insects

European spruce sawfly occurrence has neither increased nor decreased. The occurrence is general and damage is not negligible. The annual survey of forest insects was made during May and October by Dr. A. E. Brower, Collaborator, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. (See Superintendent's memorandum dated December 4, 1953 for report.) Members of the ranger staff assisted Dr. Brower in the survey, and the following conditions were found regarding our most important destructive insects:

This year there was an infestation of Gypsy moth which caused considerable defoliation to oaks and other hardwoods in two localized portions of the park. The two areas attacked were both very small, but defoliation was very severe in these spots, namely a short patch along the Kebco Mountain road and a small patch at the north end of the Tarn, a small pond near Saur de Monts Spring. The threat from the disease in the relatively few pine stands in the park, as future recommendations for control. In recent years no control measures have been taken here to control the Gypsy moth, but with an apparently increasing status of this insect, control measures may be deemed advisable. Defoliation by the Gypsy moth will very likely be severe during the summer of 1954 unless we have winter temperatures sufficiently low to kill the numerous egg masses laid this year. Should the winter be mild, control measures should be enacted sometime before April, 1954, and since this treatment would involve expense far beyond our means, a special appropriation for this work would be required.

Attacks by the Mt. Ash sawfly continue generally throughout the park, causing partial to complete defoliation of untreated trees. The Mt. Ash trees along the Cadillac Summit Road and Lower Mountain road were sprayed this year with a lead arsenate solution and raw linseed oil sticker. The results of this year's spraying were very gratifying, as practically no defoliation was observed on the sprayed trees, while untreated trees outside the park were almost completely stripped. Two fire control aids sprayed the Mt. Ash trees during a day of low fire danger at a total cost of \$12.40 (this includes labor and materials). Approximately 200 trees were treated. Future recommendations - Continue spraying roadside Mt. Ash trees each spring.

The European Beech Scale continues general in beech areas, with continuing injury on part of old trees and attacking some young ones. The killing effect of the scale and Nectria seems to be over in the eastern sections of the State. Future recommendations - None.

Attacks by the Balsam woolly aphid are generally lighter, killing some trees in localized spots. Future recommendations - None. A layer of sand and gravel was laid inside each European spruce and white pine approximately 2' in width. Spruce gall aphids, which render spruce and white pine unsightly, continue as an important forest pest, particularly in the central general part of the park. No future control measures are recommended. Spruce were removed from along the lower part of Black Dog's campground.

Reforestation-No artificial reforestation work was done, but is of interest as with that natural regeneration as the burned areas is progressing very satisfactorily. Spruce and pine growth is becoming more and more apparent each year, even in spots where there was 100% kill.

The European Spruce sawfly occurrence has neither increased nor decreased. Its occurrence is general, and damage is not noticeable. No future control measures are recommended.

Professor A. E. Quahar, of the University of
Infection from fall canker worms in oak areas is very low, with no damage resulting. No future recommendations.
of the war will probably take another year's time, at which time we will
(f) Tree Diseases completed copies of this valuable work.

No tree diseases of any importance were present in the park during the past year, and no control measures were employed. Future recommendations - None. as usual, in which the same ten key browse species were considered. Eight of these species are thought of as palatable and desirable. White pine areas are almost entirely free from blister rust attack, and since there is no immediate threat from the disease in the relatively few pine stands in the park, no future recommendations for control are made. as the loss desirable in any considerable quantity.

(g) Tree Maintenance of the survey, the following conclusions were reached:

No tree maintenance work was accomplished with the exception of minor pruning of trees and shrubs in the headquarters area.

(h) Wood Utilization There is sufficient winter browse available to take care of
at hand at the present time.

4. The Burgess Mountain area should be watched carefully until
Logs salvaged from Rockefeller cleanup and cutting operations have produced approximately 1000 b.f. of sawed stock, which is to be used in the manufacture of picnic tables. The existing stock pile of salvaged logs (mostly spruce) will produce another 2000 b.f. of sawed stock for additional tables, which are badly needed at both of the campgrounds.

For a more detailed account of the browse study, see the Park
Natural: Approximately 20 cords of spruce wood were salvaged for use as campers' fuelwood at the campgrounds. This wood was produced as a result of clearing for new road construction at Black Woods campground.

Sixty-five 6'X8" cedar sign posts were salvaged from blowdowns for use in park trail and road sign work. The rangers and fire control aids produced these posts during slack periods. Park Ranger

(i) Other Related Activities

Campground - The two fire control aids fireproofed the homemade fireplaces at Blackwoods Campground during the summer. A 4" layer of sand and gravel was laid inside each fireplace and a sand apron approximately 2' in width and 4" deep was laid around the outside of each fireplace.

Noxious plants - Several dozen poison ivy vines were removed from along the Ocean Path at Black Woods campground.

Reforestation-No artificial reforestation work was done, but is of interest to note that natural reproduction on the burned areas is progressing very satisfactorily. Spruce and pine growth is becoming more and more apparent each year, even in areas where there was 100% kill.

Type Mapping - Professor A. W. Kuchler, of the University of Kansas, completed the collection of data for the vegetative cover type map of Mount Desert Island. Final compilation of the data and completion of the map will probably take another year's time, at which time we will be furnished with completed copies of this valuable work.

Deer Browsing - Park Naturalist Doudna conducted his annual deer browse survey between the dates of April 6 and May 12. The simplified Aldous method was used, as usual, in which the same ten key browse species were considered. Eight of these species are thought of as palatable and desirable to the deer, while two of them, balsam fir and juniper, are thought of as unpalatable or starvation food, these latter two being a check to help in determining when the desirable food is scarce enough to cause them to turn to the less desirable in any considerable quantity.

As a result of the survey, the following conclusions were reached:

1. The overall browsing pressure is generally light.
2. No overbrowsing is in evidence.
3. There is sufficient winter browse available to take care of the deer herd at the present time.
4. The Sargent Mountain area should be watched carefully until we ascertain whether the large number of deer observed is due to an increased number of deer or to the lack of sufficient cover since the dead trees have been removed by cleanup operations.

For a more detailed account of the browse study, see the Park Naturalist's report to the Regional Director, dated September 21, 1953.

Clifford W. Senne
Clifford W. Senne
Supervisory Park Ranger

Concurred:

Frank R. Givens
Superintendent

The Park Naturalist, during the course of the winter survey, reported that the deer herd was in good health and that the browse available was sufficient to take care of the herd for the winter. The Superintendent and Park Ranger were advised of the results of the survey and the fact that the deer herd was in good health and that the browse available was sufficient to take care of the herd for the winter.

file

Y2619

Acadia National Park
Bar Harbor, Maine

January 4, 1954

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Superintendent, Acadia National Park
Subject: Fire Atlas

Attached for your fire atlas file is the 1953 fire weather record for Acadia.

Owing to many changes in personnel and needed corrections, we have made an entirely new personnel location overlay, and are sending you under separate cover copies of this overlay for your atlas. Please destroy your old personnel location overlay sheet.

There are no other changes in the atlas at the present time.

We believe that you will want to send one copy of the overlay to the Director.

Frank R. Givens

Superintendent