



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Y2619

FEB 3 1956

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Acadia National Park
From: Acting Regional Director
Subject: Annual Forestry Report

The Annual Forestry Report for Acadia National Park which was prepared by District Ranger Gray has been reviewed and we want to compliment you on the accomplishments through your forestry activities and especially on your good fire control record. We appreciate this good report which we found to be both interesting and informative.

Since funds were made available for correcting the LP gas installations in the Service quarters, it is assumed that corrections either have been or will be made in the near future. We also feel that the necessary correction in wiring and LP gas installations should be made in the Jordan Pond House and the Girl's Dormitory before they are opened for the summer.

Please extend our thanks to your Ranger Staff for this good report.


George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director

MAILED

Director

Region Five

Civil Serv.

Date

No. Copies

1 copy for Ranger Bruce

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w/2 copies of
extra action
on Forest Insects

Report 8a1

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT
1955

January 6, 1956

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
Annual Forestry Report
1955

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Report 6a1

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Annual Forestry Report

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FOREST FIRE CONTROL

A. FIRE SEASON

Maine experienced a dry and hot season along with the entire northeast. Again this year the highest burning index occurred in April when we reached the season high of 100. The highest burning index during the main travel months of July and August was 35 on July 13. Heavy rains and snow ended all fire danger on November 1.

A total of twelve fires occurred in 1955.

B. FIRE PRESUPPRESSION

1. Fire Prevention

Fire prevention posters were prominently displayed at both campgrounds and fire danger points on Mount Desert Island. Smoky Bear was placed on the information desk at Park Headquarters and at each of the Town's information desks.

The large fire danger boards at Thompson's Island and at the entrance of the Schoodic section of the park were in operation during the months seasonal personnel were available to keep them current. These large boards served to keep visitors well informed as well as local residents. In addition to these large boards each fire station had a small board displayed, as did each of our campgrounds. The information for these boards was supplied by the park fire weather station at Bar Harbor. The burning index was given three times daily during the heavy travel season.

The Superintendent, Rangers and the Park Naturalist, during their lectures to schools, church groups and other organizations, took good advantage of their opportunities to educate the groups in fire prevention and forest protection. Rangers and fire control aids in their public contact with the park visitors were very mindful to solicit their cooperation in fire prevention, and always gave a reason for their act in cases of law enforcement.

2. Training

The annual fire control training school was held on June 27, 28 and 29 for all park personnel. This year seasonal rangers with several years experience were given assignments as discussion leaders. Valuable information was injected into the school by these employees. We were also fortunate in having Foresters Robert Moore of the Washington Office and Wilbur Savage of the Regional Office with us during the school. Former Superintendent Hadley gave a very interesting talk on the history of Acadia National Park.

A demonstration on the use of the different types of fire pumps that are used in Acadia was given by the maintenance division.

A fire line was cut through an area of the old 1947 burn, which is now in pole wood size. Power chain saws were used to cut through the slash left by the fire. In the construction of the line, in which all employees took part, it was very evident that cutting a line that would hold in this type of terrain, plus the heavy slash would be a slow job.

The ranger force attended the Annual Spring Fire Training School of the Maine Forest Service at the University of Maine. Useful information was obtained and good public relations were achieved.

3. Physical Improvements

The rangers moved into a larger office in order that the information ranger would have closer contact with the park radio transmitter. This setup proved very successful in communications.

A complete inventory and rearrangement of the fire cache placed all fire tools in accessible positions, and all fittings in marked bins. Fire boxes for pickup trucks and stations were outfitted with proper tools and sealed with car seals to be used in case of fire only.

Trails were cleared this year in an excellent manner. This should make the coming year's work much easier than in the past, provided we escape severe wind and snow storms this winter.

4. Planning and Studies

Discussion of a new fire tower on Beech Mountain during the year resulted in placing it at the top of the list on the project construction program.

It is felt that the following recommendations are worthy of consideration:

(a) The structure should be a standard 14 ft. by 14 ft. steel cab with living quarters incorporated.

(b) The cab should be elevated sufficiently to obtain vision to the northwest, which is now obscured.

(c) Provision should be made for power, water, and sanitary facilities.

Chief Forester Cook, Regional Forester Savage and Chief Ranger Bruce made a survey of the entire park for the presence of Balsam Woolly Aphid. Heavy infestation of the Aphids was found throughout the Park. It is recommended that control measures be taken to save the remaining Balsam fir in high use areas such as the campgrounds and the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

Following the survey for Balsam Woolly Aphid, the foresters and the Chief Ranger mapped areas of the 1947 burn which most needed additional fire hazard reduction treatment. A P.C.P. was prepared for the treatment of approximately 240 acres of the burn.

5. Fire Hazard Reduction Activities

The maintenance crews continued their cleanup of the 1954 hurricanes during the winter months of 1955. The most noticeable activity was along Ocean Drive where a large number of trees were felled by the storms. All slash was disposed of by burning.

Very little logging and the cutting of wood pulp occurred along or near the park boundary during the past year.

6. Equipment

A fog nozzle was purchased for use on the chemical hose reel of the fire truck. Also 197 feet of high pressure 3/4" hose was purchased.

1 fog nozzle for fire truck	\$ 44.00
13 portable CO ₂ Extinguishers @ \$11.28 ea.	169.20
1 portable CO ₂ Extinguisher	25.97
197 feet 3/4" high pressure hose	<u>120.70</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 359.87

C. FIRE SUPPRESSION

The use of water in suppression deserves mention this year in regard to the St. Sauveur fire. A total of 4,350 feet of hose was used to reach the fire line from Echo Lake, 420 feet below. A Chrysler pump, the fire truck, and a Pacific Marine pump were used in tandem to deliver water to the fire line.

All other fires in Acadia this year were small and controlled easily by hand tools.

D. BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION

During the annual fire hazard inspection a number of minor defects were noted in electric wiring and in the location of some first aid fire extinguishers. The appropriate park personnel were notified and corrective measures were taken.

The Acadia Corporation concessioners were informed that the wiring at Jordan Pond House was very poor and needed to be rewired throughout. The liquid gas installation does not conform with National Park Service regulations at the Jordan Pond House and the girls dormitory.

The Park Service has one resident with liquid gas that does not conform with regulations.

Additional fire extinguishers, which were recommended in the June report, have been received and placed in service.

Two reportable fires occurred during the year. They are as follows:

(a) On January 26 a squatter's residence on the Wonsqueak Road was completely destroyed by fire. The family was absent from the area at the time and the cause is unknown. The loss of the building and contents was valued in excess of \$6,000. Mr. James L. Rice occupied the house.

(b) On May 5, a 1955 Chrysler caught fire on Ocean Drive from defective wiring and was destroyed. Total loss valued at \$3,888. Owner and driver was Mr. J. Whitney Bowen of Warren, R. I.

E. FOREST INSECTS

The annual survey of forest insects was made during May, June and September by Dr. A. E. Brower, Collaborator, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Members of the protection division assisted Dr. Brower in his survey.

Gypsy Moth

This insect is in the downward phase of its cycle. The spraying done in 1954, plus additional spraying by the rangers in the spring of 1955 prevented any serious damage to hardwoods in this area.

Mountain Ash Sawfly

Mountain Ash along the Cadillac Mountain road were sprayed during the spring, resulting in very light defoliation.

European Beech Scale

This insect continues to damage parts of old trees. It is occasionally found on young growth.

Pine Leaf Aphid

General in red spruce and increasing in the area. Considerable browning and stunting of white pine needle growth was evident this summer.

Balsam Woolly Aphid

The insect is killing trees in local spots and its twig phase is increasing. Control treatment is recommended in high use areas.

European Spruce Sawfly

It is general throughout the Park but does little noticeable damage.

Birch Skeletonizer

The birch skeletonizer is spreading from the western part of the State. It is general in the area and seems to be increasing.

F. FOREST DISEASES

Beech Scale and Nectria

Beech scale and nectria are present in mature stands of beech in the park. Mortality seems to be light however and no control measures are recommended.

Oak Anthracnose

This disease is present in a limited area on Sargent Mountain. Very little damage to foliage was noted during 1955.

Birch Dieback

Evidence of past infection is present on numerous mature birches in the form of stag heads. Very little new infection was evident during the year and it is believed that the disease no longer threatens the birch stands of the Park.

White Pine Blister Rust

After the discovery of active White Pine Blister Rust by Dr. Brower in the Spring of 1954, funds were allotted through the U. S. Forest Service for control work at Acadia.

The program started in June. Major accomplishments included post checking of 2,019 acres of land burned in the 1947 fire and pulling of 149 ribes during the check. A 2½% survey was made of white pine areas which are on a maintenance basis, and which were not burned during the fire. This survey resulted in 230 ribes being pulled on 4,122 acres. Ribes per acre ranged from .5 to 7.0 on the four blocks checked. Ribes were found in quantity on small areas in ideal sites at the base of Beech Cliff, Canada Cliff, St. Sauveur Mountain, Valley Peak, Flying Mountain, and Jordan Ridge.

Total expenditures for the program during 1955 was \$742.69.

G. TREE MAINTENANCE

The only tree maintenance accomplished during the year was minor pruning of shade trees and shrubs in the headquarters area.

H. WOOD UTILIZATION

Salvage work on hurricane damage continued through the winter and spring of 1955.

Park crews in their salvage work were able to stock the campgrounds with 50 cords of firewood for the visitors use. They also, with the aid of Rockefeller crews, obtained 13,000 board feet of saw timber which is being converted into lumber for the construction of picnic tables, rest rooms, and sign material. Repairs to various park buildings is also done with this lumber.

A total of 81 permits were issued from this office to local people to gather down and dead trees as firewood for their personal use. Issuing these permits aids the park in its cleanup activities, and also cuts down on the fire danger by having the slash dispersed by the permittees.

Permits are issued from October 1 until the following March 31, but may be cancelled at anytime should fire danger in the woods build up during the time of the permit.

The cutting and brush disposal is supervised by the District Rangers, who are able to build up good relations between the Service and Park neighbors during their many contacts in the field.

About 162 cords of firewood was removed from Park land in this manner during 1955.

I. OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

The crews of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. finished falling all dead trees which detracted from the view of the Paradise Hill Road which was started in 1954.

In September, Mr. Rockefeller agreed to give the Great Head Area the same cleanup of fire-killed trees as he had the Paradise Hill Area during the past year. His plans also include the Beehive and around Sand Beach. By the end of December all phases of the work were progressing and favorable comments are being received by park personnel.

Rockefeller crews also engage in roadside clearing of encroaching shrubbery from Halls Cove entrance over Paradise Hill to the Lower Mountain Road and through to Jordan Pond. They did extensive clearing back about 100 feet from the center line on both sides.

Vistas were cut overlooking Eagle Lake and Jordan Pond.

They also did some roadside clearing on Ocean Drive from Otter Causeway to the Seal Harbor Road. Stanley Brook Road also received similar attention.

WOOD UTILIZATION SUMMARY

1. Cash Sales

None

2. Exchanges

In our agreement with a local contractor, he cuts, hauls, and saws timber into lumber of our specification on a 40% - 60% basis.

Stumpage is about \$10 per M b.f. on the local market, while rough, sawed lumber runs about \$85 per M b.f.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Saw Timber</u>	<u>Unit Value</u>	<u>Dollar Value</u>
Spruce (given)	8,300 b.f.	\$10 per M b.f.	\$83.00
Spruce (rec'd.)	2,200 b.f.	\$85 per M b.f.	\$187.00

3. Use Within The Park

The building of a new parking area at the campgrounds and an additional loop provided 50 cords of firewood.

The saw logs listed below were salvaged from wind-damaged trees along roads within the Park.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Saw Timber</u>	<u>Fuel (cords)</u>	<u>Unit Value *</u>	<u>Dollar Value</u>
Red Pine	10,000 b.f.		\$150 per M b.f.	\$1,500.00
Spruce	3,000 b.f.		\$85 per M b.f.	255.00
Spruce and Hardwoods	-	50 cords	\$25 per cord	1,250.00
	13,000 b.f.	50 cords		\$3,005.00

* These unit values are the approximate values of the raw material after it has been prepared for market.


William J. Gray
District Ranger

Approved:

(SGD) FRANK R. GIVENS

Frank R. Givens
Superintendent

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.



n reply refer to:
Y2619

December 20, 1955

Memorandum

To: Region Five Superintendents
From: Acting Regional Director
Subject: Annual Forestry Report (Due by January 10 from Areas Listed)

Administrative Manual instructions for the subject report as revised in Amendment No. 34, April 1953; indicate that the Regional Director will designate the areas from which the report will be required. Accordingly, we advise that until further notice submission of the Annual Forestry Report will be required from only the following areas in this Region: -

Acadia National Park

Isle Royale National Park

Instructions relative to the preparation of this report are found in Volume 8, Appendix 1 Pages 1 to 4 inclusive, Amendment No. 10 dated April 1954, and Amendment No. 11 dated January 1955.


George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director