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Report 6a1

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT
1956

January 8, 1957

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Annual Forestry Report
1956

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In reply refer to:
Y2619

Report 6a1

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FOREST FIRE CONTROL

A. FIRE SEASON

Eastern Maine experienced a good fire season with a favorable combination of rain and ground fog to hold the fire danger low.

This year the highest burning index occurred in May when we reached the season high of 40. The highest burning index during the travel months of July and August was 6 on July 1, August 2 and 5.

B. FIRE PRESUPPRESSION

1. Fire Prevention

Fire prevention posters were prominently displayed at both campgrounds, visitor use areas, and fire danger points on Mount Desert Island. Smoky Bear posters were placed on the information desk at Park Headquarters and at the various information stations on Mount Desert Island.

The large fire danger boards at Thompson Island and the entrance to the Schoodic section of the park were again in operation during the months that seasonal personnel were available to keep them current. These large conspicuous boards help to keep the visitor as well as local people fire conscious and mindful of their responsibility in the forest.

Each fire station on Mount Desert Island displayed a small fire danger board by their stations. The fire danger information is furnished from the park's station in Bar Harbor three times daily.

The Superintendent, Rangers, and the Park Naturalist, during their lectures to schools, church groups, and other organizations, took good advantage of these opportunities to educate the groups in fire prevention and forest protection. Rangers and Fire Control Aids on patrol and in their public contacts with the park's neighbors and visitors were very mindful to solicit their cooperation in fire prevention and always explaining their actions in regard to cases of law enforcement.

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2. Training

The annual fire control training school was held June 26 through June 28 at Sieur de Monts Spring for all park personnel. Again this year the seasonal rangers with years of service in this area were called upon to extend their knowledge to newer employees at Acadia. Forester Wilbur Savage of Region Five was present and gave valuable assistance with his vast experience.

A demonstration in the use of chain saws was given by the maintenance division.

An exercise on the use of pumpers and relay tanks in getting water to a higher elevation proved very successful and practical for this area. Water was raised to about 600 ft. up the side of Dorr Mtn. where a piece of canvas acted as a reservoir for a Pacific Marine Pump. The pumps were also hooked up in tandum. A discussion followed in which it was concluded that a reservoir type hookup was better for the pump operator because the water supply was always visible and he could run his pump accordingly. Different types of hose carries were demonstrated under field conditions.

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

Pumper Chance and Fire Roads

Funds were provided in the 1957 fiscal year under the Mission 66 Program for the completion of the Marshall Brook Fire Road, Route No. 70, and for the construction of three pumper chance spurs. Primary construction and rough grading of the Marshall Brook Road has been completed and final grading will be accomplished in the spring. The pumper chance at Long Pond has been completed and the one at Seal Cove Pond is nearing completion. Further study indicates that the pumper chance proposed for Upper Hadlock Pond is not necessary, is not desired by the owner of the carriage roads, and will not be constructed.

The old type slotted post and pole barricades at the entrances to Fire Road Routes No,'s 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, and 63 were replaced with large coping stones and cables.

4. Planning and Studies

The construction of a new fire tower on Beech Mountain was discussed during the year, and plans were obtained in order to estimate the cost of the structure. The Lookout is high on the priority list of our project construction program.

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5. Fire Hazard Reduction

Park Maintenance crews completed the cleanup of hurricane felled trees in Pretty Marsh Picnic Area early in the spring.

Lack of sufficient personnel and other pressing duties prevented a thorough check of all pulp and timber cutting operations in the vicinity of park boundaries during the year. A number of violations of the State of Maine slash removal law (slash to be removed at least 25 feet from neighboring boundary lines) have been noted and pressure is being brought to bear on violators for compliance before next years fire season approaches. The general fire hazard due to slash accumulation on private land surrounding the Park is becoming more extensive each year.

6. Equipment

After discussing the use of wetting agents and their use on the fire line, four dozen plastic bottles were purchased for $7.68. These bottles were stenciled to indicate the proper amount to be used in each 5 gallon backpack pump. The bottles fit easily into a shirt pocket and may service up to nine fillings of the pump depending on the strength of the wetting agent.

The following items of fire equipment were purchased during the past year:

5 Strainers, suction, 1½"	15.92
1 Tank, water, canvas, 150 gal. Harodikes	84.57
3 Tanks, gasoline, 5 gal. w/hose Pacific Marine	76.86
1 Strainer, box type, Fire Truck	59.00
2 Hose, suction, 1½"	28.20
5 Hose, 50 ft. lengths, 1½"	81.30
5 Hose, 50 ft. lengths, 2½"	165.70
Total	511.55

C. FIRE SUPPRESSION

Only one small reportable fire (.1 acre) occurred during the year. The booster tank on the fire truck was used to extinguish it.

D. BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION

During the annual fire hazard inspection, a number of minor defects and poor practices were noted. The appropriate park personnel were notified and corrective measures were taken.

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The liquid gas installation improvement at the Jordan Pond House is being held in abeyance pending studies of storage facilities and of kitchen rehabilitation.

Chief Ranger Bruce and District Ranger Gray attended Region Five Structure Building Fire Control Training School held at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historic Sites during the week of November 26-30.

A very intense course was offered by the New York State Division of Safety. It was felt by those attending, that the training was above average for that type of school and the trainees benefited greatly from the experience and knowledge of the instructors.

The latest methods in building fire inspection and fire suppression were demonstrated. Trainees left the school with a much better idea of the building fire control problems.

One reportable fire occurred during the year.

(a) On June 24, a 1950 Dodge autombile, owned by Thillian P. Zoedis was completely destroyed by fire on the Lower Mountain Road. Defective wiring was the cause of the fire. The total loss was valued at $500.

E. FOREST INSECTS

The annual survey of forest insects was made in June and September by Dr. A. E. Brower, Collaborator, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

A special survey of the area infested by Balsam Woolly Aphid was made by Regional Forester Savage, Superintendent Givens, Dr. Brower and Chief Ranger Bruce during the week of April 22.

A new Oliver Mist Sprayer, Model No. Ve4, was received at the end of the spraying season. A factory representative demonstrated its use and maintenance for the employees who will use the unit in the future. The Mountain Ash along the Summit Road was sprayed during the demonstration.

Gypsy Moth

This insect appears to be in its downward phase. The spraying in 1954 and 1955 prevented any serious damage to hardwood in this area.

Mountain Ash Sawfly

Mountain Ash along the Cadillac Mtn. Road were sprayed in the spring of 1956, resulting in very minor defoliation.

European Beech Scale

This insect continues to injure older trees, and attack some young growth.

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Pine Leaf Aphid

Generally on White Pine and Red Spruce in the Park. Insect infestation was less than last year. Some trees have died from effects of the previous heavy infestation.

European Spruce Sawfly

It is present throughout the park but does little noticeable damage.

Birch Skeletonizer

This insect is spreading from western parts of the state. It is general in the area and seems to be increasing.

Balsam Woolly Aphid

After a special survey conducted last April, funds were received for the spraying of the campgrounds and the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

The spray crew was under the supervision of District Ranger Gray. A total of 112 acres were sprayed and 3,302 pounds of dry lime of sulphur was used. The project took two weeks including rainy weather. Post spraying checks by Entomologist Brower indicated that the insect kill approached 100 per cent. Approximately 500 trees were removed from Seawall Campground in a sanitation project which was designed to remove the source of future infestation.

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 low and no control measures are recommended.

Oak Anthracnose

The disease is present on Sargent Mountain. Very little defoliation was noted in 1956.

White Pine Blister Rust

Blister Rust Control funds for the current fiscal year will be expanded during the spring of 1957. A total of 385 acres were added to the White Pine Blister Rust control area due to acquisition of additional land by the Park.

G. TREE MAINTENANCE

Tree maintenance during the year included pruning of shade trees and shrubs in the headquarters and Old Farm areas.

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H. WOOD UTILIZATION

Park crews in the clearing of an additional section of "A" Loop and their construction of "C" Loop in Black Woods Campground were able to stock 60 cords of firewood for the visitor use. They also, with the aid of Rockefeller crews, obtained 5,500 board feet of saw timber which was converted into lumber for the construction of picnic tables, Park signs, and use in repairs to Park buildings.

A total of 62 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 clean up activities, and also cuts down on the fire hazard by having slash scattered by the permittee. Permits are granted from October 1 until the following March 31 and may be cancelled at any time should the fire danger become acute.

The permittee is under the supervision of the District Ranger during his cutting activities, which helps to build good relations between the Service and Park neighbors.

About 124 cords of firewood were removed from Park lands during the calendar year of 1956.

I. OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

The crews of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. finished felling fire-killed trees on Great Head, Beehive, and Enoch Mtn. Areas during the fall of this year. The work done by these crews in this area received very favorable comments from Park visitors.

The Rockefeller crews are now engaged in clearing dead trees on the western slope of Paradise Hill overlooking the New Eagle Lake Road. Their next project scheduled for this winter, is felling dead trees along the Kebo Mountain Road.

Mr. Rockefeller's crews engaged in considerable thinning of roadside coniferous reproduction along Ocean Drive from Thunder Hole to Seal Harbor intersection. They also removed wind throws along this section.

A hardwood thinning project by the same crews in the vicinity of Sand Beach provides the visitor a better view of the Pitch Pine reproduction which is coming back in the burned area.

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WOOD UTILIZATION SUMMARY

3. Use Within the Park

The construction of an additional section at Black Woods Campground and the cleanup at Preety Marsh wind throw area provided 60 cords of fire wood.

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

Species	Saw Timber	Fuel	Unit Value *	Dollar Value
All	5,500 ft		$85 per M bd. ft.	$[illegible]825
All		60 cords	$25 per cord	$1,500
	5,500 ft.	60 cords		$2,325

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

William J. Gray, Jr.
Supervisory Park Ranger

Approved: (SGD) FRANK R. GIVENS

Frank R. Givens, Superintendent

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General Slash Conditions in Cut-Over Areas near Park Boundaries



On Whitmore Lot between Southwest Harbor and McKinley.



On Knowles Lot between Southwest Harbor and McKinley.

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The Annual Forest Fire Training School



Use of a canvas as a reservoir for a Pacific Marine Pumper.



Demonstration on carrying a 1½" hose out of the woods.

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The use of a fire truck to pump from draft.



Demonstration on the use of a 2½" line.

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Slash Conditions Along Boundaries



Slash left along boundary of Carroll Lot near Echo Lake. Note boundary sign on tree in right center.

86 – Kimmel
75 – Rockefeller
15 – Cleaved



Logging road and slash condition along boundary of Carroll Lot near Echo Lake

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