

Y2619

Report 6A1

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT
1958

MAILED

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ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

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In reply refer to:
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Forest Fire Control

A. Fire Season

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<u>Precipitation</u>			
<u>Month</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>34 Year Average</u>
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February	2.25	3.70	3.85
March	3.49	3.97	5.18
April	3.88	7.20	4.13
May	2.03	5.07	3.33
June	1.74	2.02	3.20
July	2.57	7.21	3.26
August	2.69	3.34	2.89
September	1.37	3.28	4.48
October	1.68	6.07	4.24
November	5.68	6.46	4.05
December	6.24	3.32	4.38
Annual	36.75	62.27	47.84

When the fire weather station was opened on April 15, the burning index was 30. During this period and thru to the end of the month, there were five days that the fire danger was High (35-65 BI). Two fire control aids were hired, Beech Mountain Fire Tower was opened and manned for two days. During May the Park experienced three days of High Burning Index which necessitated the manning of Beech Mountain Fire Tower.

B. Fire Presuppression

1. Fire Prevention

Fire prevention posters were displayed at both campgrounds, visitor use center, and at various places on the Island that are considered fire threats. The Park Headquarters Office, both campgrounds, and other information stations on Mount Desert Island displayed and distributed "Smoky" posters, blotters, and calendars. Posters emphasizing Fire Prevention Week were displayed in other Park offices and public buildings.

Because of the numerous fires that have started in the Park from "Hot" charcoal bricks, water barrels were placed in one of the picnic areas for extinguishing purposes. The idea was well received by Park visitors and has helped to cut down on the danger of fires from this source.

In cooperation with the Maine Forest Service, a pack set radio was installed in the Blue Hill Fire Tower. This enables the Park to cooperate in local fire detection and also is a relay contact with the statewide Maine Forest Service radio system. Power to operate the pack set is supplied by a special 1000 hour battery which allows the set to be operated continuously during the period the tower is manned.

The large fire danger boards were again prominently displayed at the entrance to Mount Desert Island and at Schoodic Peninsula. These boards attract the attention of both visitors and local residents and help to make them fire conscious.

A smaller fire danger board was displayed at each of the fire stations on Mount Desert Island. The information for these boards was supplied three times daily from Park Headquarters and the Seawall Ranger Station.

Protection personnel, rangers and fire control aids, rendered excellent service in education of the visitor and Park neighbors in this big and important job of fire prevention. Tight patrols were made by the protection personnel during the season of heavy visitation and any and all evidence of fires were immediately investigated and proper action taken.

2. Training

The annual Fire Control Training School was held June 24 through 26 at Sieur de Monts Spring for the permanent and seasonal employees of Acadia. Mr. Wilbur Savage, Chief, Branch of Park Forest and Wildlife Protection, Region Five, was present adding much to the program and offering many helpful suggestions. A field problem was held at Lakewood, where a simulated fire line was marked and the knowledge gained in the school room was put to actual use in the field.

The ranger force attended the Annual Fire Training School of the Maine Forest Service at the University of Maine. Topics of interest were discussed, an interesting exhibit of forest fire fighting equipment was seen, and stronger public relations between the two organizations were established.

Chief Ranger Bruce attended the Tenth Annual Training Session of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission held at Concord, New Hampshire, on February 11 to 14. This year was the

first since the commission was formed that representatives from the National Park Service have attended.

The Chief Ranger also represented the Park at dedication ceremonies commemorating the first continuously operated fire lookout tower in the United States. This tower is located on Squaw Mountain in Greenville, Maine, near the southern tip of Moosehead Lake.

3. Physical Improvements

Pumper Chance and Fire Roads

Some work in grading and drainage was accomplished by the maintenance crew this year. Due to heavy rains the latter part of November which washed away sections of our Fire Roads, a great deal of work will have to be done before late spring to make the roads passable and serve a useful purpose.

4. Planning and Studies

The construction of a new and modern fire tower on Beech Mountain is moving closer to realization with work having been done to locate the best possible route for a trail to the summit over which the materials can be transported.

5. Fire Hazard Reduction

A check of blowdowns, slash, and pulp and timber cutting operations in the vicinity of Park boundaries was made frequently throughout the year. Violations of the State of Maine slash removal law continue to be found and proper action taken in contacting private owners about these conditions. In one instance the misunderstanding of the Park boundary line next to private property had delayed any cleanup action. Now that the line has been run and clearly established, it is hoped that proper steps will be taken by the owner before our fire season starts in April.

6. Equipment

The condition has remained good of most of the Park fire fighting equipment and only the following items were purchased:

One Box, steel, 2 compartment, size 48" x 28" x 48.5" for mounting on platform of a 1/2 ton truck.	211.66
Ten lengths of Hose, linen, 1" diameter, iron pipe thread, 100 foot lengths.	280.00
One Knapsack, Hose	7.20

One Nozzle, Mistry Fog, 1"	48.40
One Pumper, Pacific, Type 5-A-7, Ser. No. 2083, w/equipment and accessary kit.	422.52
Eight Spotlights, electric, portable hand lantern.	19.76
One Valve, pressure relief, 1".	17.50

C. Fire Suppression

One statistical fire occurred during the year. The 150 gallon booster tank on the fire truck, backpack pump, and fire tools were used to extinguish the fire.

D. Building Fire Protection

The Annual Building Fire Hazard Inspection was completed the week of July 13, 1958. Several minor defects and hazardous practices were found and in each case the appropriate Park person was notified and corrective measures taken.

E. Forest Insects

A survey of forest insects was made in April, May, June, and September by Mr. Wilbur Savage, Chief, Branch of Park Forest and Wildlife Protection, by Dr. A. E. Brower, Collaborator, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and by the Ranger staff.

Gypsy Moth

This insect appears to be in its downward phase. At present there is no indication that control measures will be needed in 1959.

Mountain Ash Sawfly

Mountain Ash along the Cadillac Mountain Road were sprayed again this year. A spray solution of lead arsenic was used.

European Beech Scale

There appears to be little change in the infestation of this insect. There is a continuing attack on young and older trees in Beech areas in general.

Pine Leaf Aphid

The Pine Leaf Aphid remains an important pest in the deformation and killing of White Pine and seems to be general in distribution.

European Spruce Sawfly

There is little noticeable damage caused by this insect in the Park.

Birch Skeletonizer

This insect is gradually spreading in the reproduction area of the 1947 burned section of the Park.

Balsam Woolly Aphid

Balsam Woolly Aphid appears to be on the increase in the Park. Balsam Fir in Black Woods Campground, Seawall Campground, and on Cadillac Summit was sprayed with a solution of lime sulfur and water. Five days were spent on this project during May.

F. Forest Diseases

Beech Scale and Nectria

Beech Scale and Nectria are found in mature stands of Beech in the Park. There seems to be little new activity in any of the infected areas.

Oak Anthrocnose

Very little deformation was found in stands of oak on Sargent Mountain and in oak stands in the burned area in 1958.

G. Jack Pine Study

Mr. Scoenike and Mr. Abbe, research students from the University of Wisconsin Forestry Department, were in the Park during September doing a special study on *Pinus banksiana*. In the Schoodic area they found that there is a remarkable resistance to various diseases including heart rot, which is the most destructive disease affecting this species. In approximately three years, Mr. Scoenike expects to complete his thesis. A copy will be made available to the Park Library.

H. Wood Utilization

Park crews in the clearing of dead and down timber in Black Woods and Seawall Campgrounds were able to stock 60 cords of firewood for the visitor use. Rockefeller's crew and the contractor were able to salvage 150 cords of firewood from the new construction of the Champlain Mountain Road area. Ten cords of firewood were made available to the Park for use at Seawall Campground by the clearing of the water line of the Southwest Harbor Water Company in the Fernald Point Area. Rockefeller's crew salvaged 50 cords of firewood in their clearing operations along State Route 102A between Seawall and Bass Harbor Head Light House. Three hundred board feet of oak lumber was manufactured from right-of-way clearing for new road at Thompson Island. Two thousand and two hundred board feet of spruce saw timber was manufactured from wind throws along Ocean Drive.

A total of 31 permits were issued from this office to local people to collect dead and down trees in the Park for firewood for their personal use. The issuance of these permits serve a two-fold purpose; (1) acts as an aid to the Park in the reduction of fire hazards, and (2) acts as an aid to the Park in their clean-up activities. No permits are issued for wood until October 1 and remain valid until March 31 of the next year. The permit can be revoked in case any of the listed conditions are violated or in case of an acute fire danger situation.

The permittee is under the supervision and control of the District Ranger during his wood removing activities. The relationship established between the Park and the permittee helps to strengthen public relations.

Approximately 93 cords of firewood were removed by permittees from Park lands during the calendar year of 1958 bringing the total cords salvaged in the Park to 363 and 300 board feet of oak lumber and 2,200 board feet of spruce lumber.

I. Other Related Activities

The crews of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., finished removal of trees in the burned area of Kebo Mountain, Dorr Mountain, and Champlain Mountain. This work has greatly improved the appearance of these mountain sectors. Work has also been accomplished on both sides of State Route 102A from Seawall Picnic Area west to the Park boundary toward Bass Harbor Head Light House.

Wood Utilization Summary

Clean-up by Park crews and other related crews has provided the following marketable lumber and cords of fire wood:

Use Within Park

Species Group	*Volume Disposed of			Average Unit Value	Total Values (Dollars)
	Sawtimber (1,000 bd. ft.)	Pulp or Fuel Wood (Cords)	Other (Specify)		
Red Oak	300 bd. ft.			\$100 per M bd. ft.	\$ 33.33
Red Spruce	2,200 bd. ft.			\$100 per M bd. ft.	\$ 220.00
All Other Species		270 cords		\$22 per cord	\$5,940.00
Total	2,500 bd. ft.	270 cords			\$6,193.33

Volume Converted	2,500 bd. ft.	90,000 bd. ft.
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* The unit values are the approximate values of the raw materials after it has been prepared for market.

John C. W. Riddle
John C. W. Riddle
District Park Ranger

Approved:

(SGD) FRANK R. GIVENS
Frank R. Givens, Superintendent



Charcoal water barrel in use at a picnic area in the Park.



Process used in drying fire hose after training session in Acadia National Park.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
BAR HARBOR, MAINE



1/2 ton Chevrolet truck converted to Fire Control Aid's fire fighting and utility truck. The large box on the platform has two compartments. Top compartment contains hose, hand radio equipment, hard hats, rations of food, etc. The bottom compartment is storage for one Pacific Marine pump, gasoline can, and accessory kit. The two side compartments contain storage bins for fire fighting tools, screws, nuts, bolts, first aid equipment, water canteens, etc.



Oliver Mist Sprayer on "Operation Spray" of Balsam Fir in Black Woods Campground. Other control areas include Seawall Campground and Cadillac Mountain Summit.



Cleaning Oliver Mist Sprayer with steam hose after use in insect spraying program in Acadia National Park.

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District Park Ranger

Approved: Frank R. Clevens, Superintendent