IN REPLY REFER TO:
Y2619

# UNITED STATES
# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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

March 6, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Acadia National Park

From: Regional Director

Subject: Annual Forestry Report

We now have had a chance to review the Annual Forestry Report for Acadia National Park, and we wish to acknowledge and thank you for it. This is a good report. It is both interesting and informative, and brings us up-to-date on important protection matters.

The precipitation record for the year is very interesting, and, although the amount of precipitation no doubt had an influence on the volume of forest fire control work, we know there were periods when fires could have occurred, and we commend you and your staff for another successful year of fire control.

Under the heavy use which you are experiencing in your campgrounds, we believe the protection of vegetation must be quite difficult, and we would like to suggest that this subject might be considered for inclusion in subsequent reports.

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director

In reply refer to:
Y2619

REPORT 6A1

# ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

# ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT

# 1959

MAILED

Director 1 copy
Region Five Orig w/ three extra copies of tree & insect diseases
Civil Serv. ____
Comp. Bureau ____
Date ____
No. Copies Orig + 4 + yellow

1 - main file
1 - eastern district file
1 - western district file

February 8, 1960

Acadia National Park
Annual Forestry Report
1959

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In reply refer to:
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Report 6A1

Acadia National Park
Annual Forestry Report
1959
Forest Fire Control

1. FIRE SEASON

Acadia National Park experienced high fire danger during the latter part of April and the first part of May. Low fire danger readings were recorded during the remainder of our fire season because of a sufficient quantity of rainfall.

Precipitations

| Month | 1958 | 1959 | 34 Year Average |
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| February | 3.70 | 3.91 | 3.85 |
| March | 3.97 | 5.28 | 5.18 |
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| November | 6.46 | 7.69 | 4.05 |
| December | 3.32 | 6.50 | 4.38 |
| ANNUAL | 62.27 | 56.48 | 47.84 |

When the fire weather station was opened on April 22, the burning index was 40. From this date and thru to the end of the month the fire danger climbed to a high of 110. Beech Mountain Fire Tower was opened April 24 and was operated for six days. During May, the Park experienced eighteen days of High Burning Index which necessitated the manning of Beech Mountain Fire Tower and the hiring of one Emergency Fire Control Aid.

2. FIRE PRESUPPRESSION

a. Fire Prevention

Fire prevention posters and materials were displayed within the Park, and at several places on Mount Desert Island that are considered possible fire threats. "Smoky" blotters, calendars, and posters were

distributed and placed on display at Park Headquarters, both campgrounds, and other information stations on Mount Desert Island. During Fire Prevention Week of October 4 thru 10, posters were displayed and a brief fire inspection was made in all Park buildings.

The large fire danger boards were prominently displayed at the entrance to Mount Desert Island and at Schoodic Peninsula. These boards are attractive and much favorable comment has been received, which is an indication that they attract the attention of both visitors and the local residents helping to make them fire conscious.

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

Protection personnel at Acadia strive to emphasize fire prevention to Park visitors and Park neighbors. The importance of immediate investigation of all smokes is stressed, along with the necessity of prompt remedial action in suppressing all fires.

b. Training

The annual Fire Control Training School was held June 23 through 25 for the permanent and seasonal employees of Acadia. Mr. Wilbur Savage, Acting Chief of Park Forests and Wildlife Protection, Region Five, was present adding much stimuli to the program and offering many helpful suggestions. The annual field problem was again held at Lakewood, where a simulated fire line was marked on the ground. The participants divided into crews and put to use some of the basic fire fighting techniques learned at school. Organization was the key word which was reiterated frequently in the field exercise during the afternoon. Its importance was evident from the excellent job done by all. This year outside participation was invited. The invitation was accepted by members of the Schoodic Naval Radio Station fire company and the Fire Chief of Tremont, Maine. They were very enthusiastic and expressed their appreciation that they had the opportunity to attend.

The ranger force attended the Annual Fire Training School of the Maine Forest Service at the University of Maine. Topics of mutual interest were discussed, an interesting display of related forest fire subjects was seen, and strong public relations continues between the two organizations.

Chief Ranger Bruce attended the Eleventh Annual Training Session of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission held at Concord, New Hampshire, on February 10 through 13.

c. Physical Improvements

The following improvements on fire roads are listed:

Entire system except Hio Truck Road and the Hemlock Road were graded, ditched, and culverts cleaned.

1,044 cubic yards of bank run gravel were added to improve the surface.

A complete system of gates to isolate roads during high fire danger conditions.

Culvert replacement due to storm damage in October.

Improvement to the fire cache building consisted of a general house-cleaning, survey of old equipment, and the replacement of windows which had been broken by vandals. Wire mesh was installed over windows.

736 trail directional signs were erected.

d. Planning and Studies

A PCP was submitted during the past year for a study and survey for the best possible trail route to the summit of Beech Mountain and the fire tower.

e. Fire Hazard Reduction

Within the vicinity of Park boundaries, a check was made for blowdowns, slash, and pulp and timber cutting by private land owners. Wherever any violations of the State of Maine slash removal law was found, the private owners were contacted and conditions brought to their attention and correct remedial action taken.

In one instance, an adjacent land owner inadvertedly cut several trees on Park land in the Halls Quarry area. The landowner reported the trespass to the Park Superintendent who directed that the logs be delivered to a sawmill for Park use. Boundary work is being carried on in areas where Park land and private land have common bounds in order to eliminate such trespasses.

f. Equipment

The condition of most of the Park fire fighting equipment has remained good, therefore, no new purchases were made during the year.

## 3. FIRE SUPPRESSION

There were no statistical fires during the year. With the exception of the beginning of the fire season in the middle of April and continuing until approximately May 15, Acadia experienced one of the best fire seasons in years. The wet and cloudy conditions at the height of the tourist travel kept the burning index low. The construction of a new picnic area at Bear Brook and an enlargement of Seawall Picnic area was an inducement for heavy use of the above areas and thus helped to keep picnic fires in the designated areas. The water barrels placed at Bear Brook for the purpose of extinguishing "hot" charcoal bricks were used for the intended purpose but were also used as a garbage receptacle. This necessitated dumping and cleaning the barrels at least six times during the peak visitation period.

## 4. BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION

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

## 5. FOREST INSECTS

A survey of forest insects was made in March, 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 somewhat general in hardwood stands. There are no control measures planned in 1960.

### Mountain Ash Sawfly

Mountain Ash along the Cadillac Mountain Road were sprayed again in 1959. A spray solution of lead arsenic was used.

### European Beech Scale

There is a continuing injury on part of old trees and some evidence that young Beech stands are being attacked. At present there is no indication that control measures will be needed in 1960.

### Pine Leaf Aphid

The Pine Leaf Aphid remains an important pest in causing false cones on Spruce and a deformation and killing of White Pine.

### European Spruce Sawfly

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

### Birch Skeletonizer

This insect remains unchanged in the 1947 burned area of the Park.

### Balsam Woolly Aphid

Balsam Fir in Black Woods Campground, Seawall Campground, and the summit of Cadillac Mountain was sprayed with a solution of lime sulfur and water. Balsam Fir tips were collected twice from test study plots and sent to Dr. A. E. Brower for study at the state lab in Augusta, Maine. Reports received from Dr. Brower indicate that there is a gouting and killing of the fir tips and that there is ever indication that the twig phase is on the increase. Control measures will be continued in 1960.

## 6. TREE DISEASES

### Beech Scale and Nectria

Beech Scale and Nectria are general in beech areas. There seems to be a continuation of injury on old trees and an appearance of an attack on some young ones.

### Oak Anthrocnose

This disease is general in the oak stands in the Park but has not reached serious proportions.

## Blister Rust Control

The White Pine Blister Rust crew worked in Acadia during 1959 and the following is the report submitted by White Pine Blister Rust Control Checker Dante R. Forni.

The 1959 White Pine Blister Rust control program in Acadia National Park was started on June 15 with a two-man crew.

We were instructed to work areas burned in the great fire of 1947. These areas were indicated on maps furnished us by the Belfast office of the U. S. Forest Service.

Our primary task was to locate White Pine areas that had adequate stocking requirements to justify the eradication of ribes.

We were also instructed to check areas favorable for ribes growth within the control areas, determine whether they were distributed generally or concentrated, and, of course, to eradicate them.

The criterion used by the U. S. Forest Service in classifying pine areas is that the area must be expected to produce a minimum of 50 trees to the acre at maturity. Although we followed this rule generally, in a few areas we were lenient because we felt that the Park officials were interested in the aesthetic rather than the commercial value of the pines.

The White Pine stands we encountered were predominantly of one diameter class (reproduction under 6" D.B.H.) and between 10 and 12 years old.

In practically all areas they had an overstory of Gray and White Birches. The White Pines appeared symmetrically formed and very thrifty. We saw very little evidence of Blister Rust, and in the cases observed we noted that the infection was about 4 years old.

Incidentally, only a few trees were attacked by the White Pine weevils, a condition readily determined by the wilting of the top terminal. This is in contrast to unburned areas in the Park where, in 1957, we found the White Pine weevils quite prevalent in young stands.

Generally, the White Pines constitute an understory now, however, in a few years, because of their rapid growth, they will become dominant.

Although it doesn't concern us as Blister Rust checkers, it may be of interest to know that the burned areas of the Park support several fine stands of Red or Norway Pine.

We feel reasonably sure that many areas, not White Pine areas now, are potentially so because the seed sources are there and soil conditions

are favorable. Quite conceivably, the White Pine acreage could increase 25% during the next ten years.

We scouted all areas as we mapped but found comparatively few ribes, far fewer than we normally find in similar areas out of the Park. The ribes found were lightly infected and distributed generally. No extensive concentrations were found. However, we found many areas that were highly favorable for the growth of ribes. Due to the fact that ribes seeds may lie dormant for years before germinating, these areas should be checked periodically because germination is often hastened by soil disturbances such as those caused by windthrows.

A summary of our reports indicate that we have devoted a total of 440 man hours in eradicating 275 ribes, mapping 1389 acres of White Pine and inspecting 5168 acres of burned land in Acadia National Park.

7. TREE MAINTENANCE

There was no tree maintenance work accomplished during the year.

8. WOOD UTILIZATION

Park crews in the clearing of dead and down timber in Black Woods and Seawall Campgrounds, Otter Point area, and Valley Cove area were able to stock 70 cords of firewood for the visitor use. Rockefeller's crew salvaged 60 cords of firewood in their clearing operations along Lower Mountain Road, Bear Brook area, Stanley Brook Road, and Otter Point area.

A total of 25 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. The permits are valid from October 1 thru March 31 of the next year. The permit issued can be revoked in case of any violation or in case of an acute fire danger situation. During the period of validity of the permit, the permittee is under the supervision and control of the District Ranger.

Approximately 75 cords of firewood were removed by permittees from Park lands during the calendar year 1959 bringing the total cords salvaged in the Park to 145.

## WOOD UTILIZATION SUMMARY

| Species Group | *Volume Disposed of: Sawtimber (1,000 bd.ft.) | Pulp or Fuel Wood (Cords) | Other Specify | Average Unit Value | Total Values (Dollars) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **(1) Cash Sales** | | | | | |
| 5 Needle Pine | | None | | | |
| All other species | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| **(2) Exchanges** | | | | | |
| 5 Needle Pine | | None | | | |
| All other species | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| **(3) Use Within Park** | | | | | |
| 5 Needle Pine | | | | | |
| All other species | | 70 | | $22 per | $1,540 |
| Total | | 70 | | cord | 1,540 |
| **Totals** | | | | | |
| 5 Needle Pine | | | | | |
| All other species | | | | | |
| Grand Total | | 70 | | | $1,540 |
| Volume Converted | | 23,000 bd. ft. | | | |

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

(SGD) John C. W. Riddle

John C. W. Riddle
District Park Ranger

Approved: (SGD) PAUL G. FAVOUR, JR.
Paul G. Favour, Jr., Acting Superintendent



Roadside thinning operations by Rockefeller crews - 102A near Ship Harbor.



Firewood stockpiled at Seawall Campground, salvaged from roadside cleanup operations in the Valley Cove area and Seawall Campground.



Results of wind damage on Ocean Drive.



Saw logs salvaged from windthrows - Ocean Drive near Otter Point.



Firewood salvaged from windthrown on Ocean Drive.



Results of a timber trespass in the Halls Quarry area.
Reference in report 2.e. FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION.

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REPORT 6A1

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| All other species | | None | | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| | | (2) Exchanges | | | |
| 5 Needle Pine | | | | | |
| All other species | | None | | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| | | (3) Use Within Park | | | |
| 5 Needle Pine | | | | | |
| All other species | | 70 | | $22 per cord | $1,540 |
| Total | | 70 | | | 1,540 |
| | | Totals | | | |
| 5 Needle Pine | | | | | |
| All other species | | | | | |
| Grand Total | | 70 | | | $1,540 |
| Volume Converted | | 23,000 bd. ft. | | | |

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

(SGD) John C. W. Riddle

John C. W. Riddle
District Park Ranger

Approved: (SGD) PAUL G. FAVOUR, JR.
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Roadside thinning operations by Rockefeller crews - 102A near Ship Harbor.



Firewood stockpiled at Seawall Campground, salvaged from roadside cleanup operations in the Valley Cove area and Seawall Campground.



Results of wind damage on Ocean Drive.



Saw logs salvaged from windthrows - Ocean Drive near Otter Point.



Firewood salvaged from windthrows on Ocean Drive.



Results of a timber trespass in the Halls Quarry area.
Reference in report 2.e. FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION.