



**National Park Service
Southern Cascades Network
(Lava Beds NM, Crater Lake NP, Lassen Volcanic NP)**

**Fire Ecology Annual Report
Calendar Year 2009**

A. Summary

2009 was a transitional year for the Southern Cascades fire effects monitoring program as we declared our own identity after the painful divorce from the Klamath network. Todd Erdody, the new lead for the program was hired in May to establish this new identity, which previously consisted of Calvin Farris, the fire ecologist, his post office and random fire effects crewmembers from the region collecting data (the Lead Monitor position and crew positions were vacant in 2008 and early 2009). For the crew, Calvin hired 2 seasonals, Abram Arnold and Stephanie Arellano, who both worked short seasons for various reasons. At the end of August, Abram left for school and Stephanie's time was up as she was hired in an emergency capacity for the season.

The summer proved to be an exercise in flexibility. The first month was spent reading plots in LABE and training the crew in the ways of FMH. Todd, expecting to be a father in the month of July, took 6 weeks of paternity leave after July 4th, leaving Calvin to guide the crew. During that time, Wende Rehlander and her crew from PORE assisted in FMH data collection in Crater Lake (CRLA) for 2 PP and Calvin had the crew assist with two research projects in Lava Beds (LABE) and Lassen (LAVO). They also worked on post-treatment monitoring of mechanical fuels treatments at LAVO. The crew went on a fire assignment to assist the LAVO fuels crew during the Fairfield WFU.

The fire ecology staff was involved directly with eight fire ecology research projects being conducted the three parks. Ongoing and new field work occurred on five of the projects this summer. Field work on two of the projects will begin next year and one project was completed in 2009.

After the crew was done for the season in late August, Todd utilized various folks from LABE to assist in reading more FMH plots. He then spent the fall entering data and fixing errors in the neglected databases.

Table 1. Fire Effects Plot Workload 2009

Due to circumstances of personnel availability (Todd leaving for 6 weeks paternity leave and 2 seasonals with short seasons), the workload this year was focused entirely in LABE and CRLA. In LABE, the plots burned in the Jack wildfire of 2008 were read and brush plots in preparation of Valentine Rx were installed. After the seasonals had departed and Todd was back to work, plots in the Fern Cave Rx unit were located and re-read.

In CRLA, forest plots were installed in preparation for Phoenix Rx and post-fire plots were read in Cornerstone Rx. The fire effects crew from PORE assisted the crew members in CRLA in Todd's absence. (Thanks for the help...we could not have done it without you Wendel!) . The PORE crew also worked for two pay periods in 2008 when the network had no staff to read pre- and post-burn plots.

Due to these priorities, LAVO was not visited in an FMH capacity but the crew members assisted on a few other fire ecology projects in the park.

Park	Monitoring Unit	Type of Plot (FMH, photo point, other)	Pre-burn	Immed. Post	Postburn (1-20 yrs)	Total Plots
Crater Lake	Lodgepole Pine	FMH Forest plot	-	-	5	9
Crater Lake	White Fir/Mixed Conifer	FMH Forest plot	10	-	-	19
Lava Beds	Perennial Bunchgrass	FMH Shrub plot	-	2	14	24
Lava Beds	Sagebrush Steppe	FMH Shrub plot	29	1	2	59
Lassen	No 2009 visits					
Total			39	3	21	111

Table 2. Fire Ecology Staffing 2009

Ecologist and Monitors	Starting Date	Ending Date	# of Pay Periods	READ Qualified (Yes or No)	Training and Development
Calvin Farris	1/1/09	12/31/09	26	Yes	Fire behavior specialist (R5 workshop), WFDSS implementation, WFDSS analysis, S491 (NFDRS), Resampling Methods Fireline refresher,
Todd Erdody	5/24/09	12/31/09	17	No	Fireline refresher, FFI training, 3PP paternity leave (crash course in parenting), RXB3 task book initiated
Abram Arnold	6/7/09	8/22/09	5.5	No	Fireline refresher, learned FMH protocols and area botany
Stephanie Arellano	6/28/09	8/27/09	4.5	No	Fireline refresher, learned FMH protocols and area botany

Table 3. Management Objectives and Monitoring Results 2009

No monitoring results for 2009. The only burn monitored was in late October. We are currently updating and error-checking the database to perform these analyses for 2010 (no work was done in 2008 or 2009 during the absence of a lead monitor and crew).

B. Fire ecologist accomplishments and areas of focus

Table 4. Fire Ecologist Accomplishments/Focus Areas

Category	Percent Time	Accomplishments and/or areas of activities
Planning	35	Assist with five year fuels treatment plans at LAVO, CRLA, LABE ; Vegetation Management Plan development at LABE ; Mechanical treatment planning for LAVO ; Vegetation Management plan for Manzanita Lake WUI (LAVO) ; MRA analysis for wilderness projects;
Presentations	<5	LAVO research results at Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest meeting; Manzanita Lake thinning presentation, UC Coop Ext. Redding; LABE fire monitoring at Lakeview, OR, Error assessment of fire history reconstruction methods, Sacramento, Ca
Interagency work	<5	Cross-boundary treatments, Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest group, Lakeview range management group
Fire Assignments	20	Worked as a Fire behavior specialist, WFDSS support specialist, and resource adviser for 5 NPS fires (4 network) and 1 USFS wildland fire; rx fire support for network parks
Research	20	Field work, planning, and data analysis for five research projects in network parks as co-PI (2 in LAVO, 2 in LABE, and 1 in CRLA)
Data Collection	--	See research
Data entry	--	See research
Data analysis	10	Data summary to support vegetation management planning; fuels mapping and updating of fire behavior layers; stand inventory data for post-thinning surveys; fuel load analysis for smoke production projections.
Supervision/Admin	5	Hiring lead monitor and summer crew; supervision of crew during lead monitor's absence; travel and accounting; organiza
Training	5	Fire behavior specialist training R5, WFDSS implementation, WFDSS analysis, Resampling Statistics, S491 NFDRS,
Miscellaneous	<5	Interagency research meeting, science and learning center meetings, NW fire science consortium, PWR fire education and communication calls

C. Fire effects crew accomplishments and areas of focus

Table 5. Fire Effects Crew Accomplishments/Focus Areas

Category	Percent Time	Notes
FMH plots	35%	
WUI plots	5%	Manzanita Lake WUI mechanical fuels treatment photo points, LAVO
CBI plots	0%	
Other plot work	15%	- Jack fire BAER project, LABE - Gradient analysis project (U. of South Carolina), LABE. - Spatial patterns of crown fire probability project (Penn State U.), LAVO
Fire Assignments	5%	- Crew members assisted on the Fairfield WFU in LAVO - Lead was FEMO on 3 prescribed fires (LAVO, LABE and WHIS)
Fuels work	0%	
Data entry	25%	Completed data entry of all plot data for 2009 and missing data from previous years
Data analysis	<5%	
Supervision/Admin	<5%	Lead monitor supervised two monitors; misc travel and time paperwork
Training	<5%	Lead and crew members had refresher training. Lead had FFI training.
Miscellaneous	10%	

D. Complete Annual Report Supplement (“2009 Annual Report Supplement.xls”)

E. Annual Report Supplement Additional Information

Be sure to **complete numbers 1 and 2 below**. Number 3 is optional.

1. Identify types of fire effects monitoring databases or spreadsheets being used (e.g., FFI, Access, Excel).
2. Annual Meetings - Provide a brief description of the 2009 meeting(s) where fire ecologists present and discuss monitoring results with fire and non-fire park staff, and others have informal discussions.
3. If further explanation for the Annual Report Supplement information is needed, please provide it here as well as any other information relating to the spreadsheet that you would like to include.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPLOADING 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

1. Go to the Fire folder on the NPS public FTP site (<ftp://63.220.43.40/Fire/>) and then place the report and spreadsheet in the FEP Annual Report folder. Instructions for how to access and log into the FTP site are below; instructions include username and password.

2. Please e-mail Nate Benson, MaryBeth Keifer, and your regional ecologist to let us know when you get your report uploaded.

Call MaryBeth Keifer (603-795-2333) or Nate Benson (208-387-5219) if you have any questions or problems.

Public FTP Server

The Denver Service Center announces the availability of a new public FTP server for use by the staff to transfer files outside of the NPS.

This is a public FTP server meaning NPS staff, cooperators and contractors located outside the NPS computer network can access the site. No anonymous FTP connections are allowed. Therefore, uploading and downloading of data requires a username and password. NPS staff may share this account information with cooperators but all are reminded that this site is for use only for NPS business.

The following usage policies should be observed:

- Users must log on to the FTP server to download and upload files. No anonymous FTP access is allowed.

- To conserve limited storage space, all folders and files on the server will be deleted 15 days from the date posted. Users are strongly encouraged to delete files and folders as soon as their contact/cooperator has downloaded them.

- Users are reminded this is a public, non-reviewed site and therefore should **not** post sensitive or proprietary data on the site.

The Denver Service Center assumes no responsibility for the usage of this server.

Public FTP Site address: <ftp://63.220.43.40>

Username (UPDATED): [npsftpwin](#)

Password (UPDATED and case-sensitive): [FTP04npswin](#)

Please note: it is a zero, not an 'O'.