

Southeast Region **Fire Division Report FY2014**





From the Chief

As I look back at Fiscal Year (FY) 14 the words that come to mind are dedicated, passionate, professional, and driven, by sound principles of duty, respect and integrity. I recently attended a leadership staff ride at Shiloh Civil War National Park. This is an amazing course. At the integration dinner each participant gave a short summary of their week with a synopsis of the leader that most exemplified Duty, Respect, and Integrity. It was good for me to hear our future leaders reflect on these leaders and their inspiring words. So, I share this with you to challenge yourself to grow, to develop yourself and others to be the future.

What an amazing year for the Southeast Region, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fire Management Program. I am extremely proud of our safety record this year. You were able to manage a heavy workload of wildland fire activities with no reported lost time injuries or accidents. Take a moment to consider the achievements in this narrative. You did it safely. Thank you!

We had a good year treating hazardous fuels and every month of the year saw prescribed fires. Several refuges expanded their use of prescribed fire, while others spread out the burn season into the "lightning season." The weather was on our side in most areas of the Southeast for prescribed fire operations.

The prescribed fire accomplishments for June, July and August are exceptional. I cannot wait to see the fire effects from these burns in six months. We are all working to provide quality management for fish and wildlife. The collaboration continues with our existing and new partners. The success of our conservation efforts for fire management relies on landscape partnerships. We cannot meet the need alone.

The Wildland Fire budget continues to create challenges. Providing a safe response to wildfire is our number one objective. We continue to successfully initial attack wildfires by providing the necessary resources on the highest wildfire occurrence FWS lands throughout the year based on historical data and current weather parameters. In order to be successful in managing our fire management needs, we must continue to rely on the strong relationships that we have built with our federal, state and local partners. We will have tough issues to address, but will always strive to do the right thing for the protection of our resources.

I would like to say thanks to a very dedicated regional and field Fire Management staff, as well as all the collateral resource/fire generalists of the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Southeast Region. As a year round fire program I am proud of the work you, Southeast Region FWS, do. No one does it better.



Cover: Tyler Jarvis, a SCA intern at Piedmont NWR, ignites the forest understory with a driptorch on a prescribed fire at Piedmont NWR, credit: USFWS/Josh O'Connor.

Left: USFWS firefighter Kris Kasper carries fire through the palmetto to the fireline. On February 12, Service firefighters conducted a 137 acre prescribed fire at Lake Woodruff NWR, credit: USFWS/Tom Sykes.

District 1

Year Overview

During fiscal year 2014, the weather continued to exhibit patterns closer to traditional averages. The significant result of this has been a recurrence of summer lightning fires.

On the 4th of July, Hurricane Arthur crossed several refuges within District 1 (Alligator River, Mackey Island, Pea Island, and Pocosin Lakes) as a category 2 hurricane, bringing 100 mph+ winds along the center of its path. Fortunately, the resulting damage was minimal, rainfall totals amounted to 1.5-3" in the District and evacuations across the Outer Banks of North Carolina were not required.

Wildfire

District 1 reported wildfires during the late winter, none exceeding 0.5 acres. Spring turned wet, but early summer brought drying conditions and numerous lightning fires. For the year, District 1 responded to 11 wildfires, the largest being the Deep Bay Fire located in the northern portion of the Alligator River NWR which burned 64 acres.

Fuels Management

The District is still experiencing the effects of limited budgets, forcing personnel to conduct fuel treatments using only ground ignition. Since the refuges across eastern North Carolina are predominantly composed of swampy, inaccessible terrain, access to the larger fire units is limited. We are presently exploring alternative more budget-friendly methods of procuring helicopters in order to reestablish fire in those units.

Even with limited burn windows due to the relatively wet spring and budget limitations, we were able to conduct 10 treatments totaling 3,367 acres at Alligator River, Pocosin Lakes and Mackay Island NWRs. We will attempt to conduct additional treatments at Alligator River, Pocosin Lakes, and Mattamuskeet NWRs prior to the end of the calendar year.



USFWS firefighters Mike Hoff and Cory Waters operate an airboat on a prescribed fire at Mackay Island NWR, credit: USFWS/Donnie Harris.

Under the terms of a cooperative agreement, District 1 personnel and equipment assisted the National Park Service in burning 1,700 acres of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Also, Pocosin Lakes fire staff assisted Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge conduct two prescribed fires within the Virginia/West Virginia Zone. Pursuant to the Burned Area Recovery plan (BAR) developed after the Pains Bay Fire for Alligator River NWR, we were also able to conduct a 70-acre prescribed fire to address a phragmites infestation. An additional 250 acres were treated mechanically across the District. We are continuing to try to develop a workable plan to promote longleaf restoration and management at Cedar Island NWR.

District Staff Assignments

District 1 had several employees accept assignments outside their home units this year. The assignments were: Helen Czernik, Cost Unit Leader Red Team; Cory Waters, ABRO; Bert Plante, Division Supervisor; Melvin Walston, HEQB and TFLDt; Ed Christopher, DIVSt; Amy Midgett, RADO. Eric Meekins, ICT4 and TFLD. Kenny Powell and Anthony Davis detailed to the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest as heavy equipment operators for several long duration Type 1 burns.



Employee	Training Taken	Instructor Experience	Taskbooks Initiated	Taskbooks Completed
Melvin Walston	Landscape Scale Biology	Heavy Equipment, MOCC	RXB2	
Donnie Harris	Wildland Fire Investigator(INVF)			
Ed Christopher	Landscape Scale Biology, RX341	S-491, S-290		DIVS, RXB2
Ken Powell		S-212		
Anthony Davis	HAZWOPER, S-390	ATV/UTV training		
Bert Plante	INVF, Shiloh Staff Ride			RXB2
Cory Waters		Aviation Operations		

Honors, Awards and Committees

Cory Waters serves on the Aerial Ignition Working Group.

Ed Christopher is on the Southern Area Fire Environment Working Team.

Helen Cznerik and Bert Plante serve on the Southern Area Type 1 Red Team and Ed Christopher is on the Southern Area Type 1 Blue Team.

Staffing Changes

In February firefighter Matt Howle left Pocosin Lakes NWR for a position at Clemson University.

In April Debbie McGowan, AO at Pocosin Lakes who was half funded by fire management transferred to a position at Mattamuskeet NWR.



Kenny Powell operating a Marshmaster on a cooperative prescribed fire on NPS lands on South Nags Head, credit: USFWS/Cory Waters.

Training

Both Bert Plante and Ed Christopher completed their Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2) taskbooks this year and Ed also completed his Division Supervisor taskbook. Refresher training for chainsaws, ground ignition, atv operations, and the required annual firefighter safety class (RT-130) was provided for all red-carded personnel. The DOI heavy equipment/specialty vehicles class was held at Pocosin Lakes NWR in the spring of 2014. A joint nighttime bridge and tractor operations class was held for personnel from Pocosin Lakes NWR and the State of North Carolina. The class consisted of placing bridges and operating in the pocosin environment in the dark.

District 2

Year Overview

District 2 covers fire management needs for all Service lands in Georgia and South Carolina and hosts fire resources at five stations across the District. The District posted an excellent year for prescribed fire and above average wildfire occurrence. The District always starts burning very early in the fiscal year and this year's dismal budget projections resulted in a slow start, but through much hard work and creativity the program certainly finished strong.

February of 2014 marked the 35-year anniversary of the burnover at Okefenokee which resulted in the fatal injury to Bio Tech Richard S. Bolt Jr. Bolt was on a tractor plow going direct along a flank when the wind and fire behavior picked up suddenly. The staff at Okefenokee recognized Bolt during the annual fire refresher and developed a great presentation to tell the story to the next generation of firefighters that may not understand the details of that fire and how we can apply lessons learned to operations today. Bolt was also officially honored in September by the State of Georgia at the Public Safety Memorial Wall with a formal ceremony and a presentation to family members.

This year Okefenokee, along with neighboring federal partners, began planning in coordination with District 5 for a Type 3 Incident Management Team. The goal is to be better prepared for extended attack fires at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Osceola National Forest, and Cumberland Island National Seashore.

Wildfire

Though much of the year was wet, the District ended up with an above average year for wildfires. The District had 19 fires that burned a total of 1,792 acres. Where location and conditions allow, fires are evaluated for indirect tactics or even monitoring in some cases. Resource benefit fires were utilized at Carolina Sandhills, Okefenokee, Blackbeard Island, and Pinckney Island NWRs.



Okefenokee Burn Boss Reggie Forcine coordinates with partner agencies along the Florida/Georgia line to burn State Forest, FWS, and Forest Service lands in a cooperative burn to reduce hazardous fuels in an area of historic large fire occurrence, credit: USFWS/Terri Jenkins.

At Piedmont NWR, the Long Spot fire in March was contained at 104 acres. It was initially thought to be an escape from a nearby prescribed fire. Piedmont has no history of similar long range spotting and after looking into all the fuels, weather conditions, and running models; the fire was determined to have a minimal chance of starting from a spot fire. The fire cause was ruled undetermined.

Fuels Management

Despite a slow start due largely to record low budget projections, the District finished with excellent numbers in the fuels program. Districtwide, 35,762 acres were treated in 98 burn units. These excellent numbers were made possible with plenty of hard work, coordination and partnerships.

Piedmont did what few of us ever accomplish by burning every planned unit and accomplishing this by April. Since Piedmont has a small fire staff, they work closely with partners and the neighboring Forest Service to keep the program strong. Piedmont also makes excellent use of the SCA program to bring in extra help during the burn season. Piedmont treated 26 burn units for a total of 9,917 FWS acres and 90 Forest Service acres.

Okefenokee set new records for fuels treatments this year finishing with 14,800 acres in 28 burn units. Good water levels and weather played a role in getting these acres treated, but much credit goes to the teamwork of local staff and partners.

On the south end of the refuge, a large prescribed fire was completed in cooperation with the Osceola National Forest and John Bethea State Forest. This area has often been the focus of resources on large wildfires so keeping the fuels managed will go long way to minimizing large fire costs.

An interagency grant, which includes a fuels management team of four, was approved through NFWF for creation of the Okefenokee/Osceola Implementation Team (O2 LIT) to encourage management of Logleaf Pine and creation of a fire resilient buffer around public lands within the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL) footprint. This team will be able to assist with prescribed fires on the refuge.

The Carolina Sandhills/Pee Dee crew completed 21 burn units for a total of 6,090 acres this year. Budget constraints prevented seasonal technicians used in the past from being hired, but the SCA program was used to add capacity during the busy season.

Combined, the Savannah/ACE Basin and Coastal Refuges completed 20 burn units for 4,540 acres. This was a fairly typical year for prescribed fire on the coast with a couple of highlights. This is the second year in a partnership with TNC at The Sandy Island Unit at Wacamaw NWR where a stand of old growth longleaf and prime Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitat was burned. ACE Basin NWR completed a successful priority prescribed fire on Jehossee Island.

Employee	Training Taken	Instructor Experience	Taskbooks Initiated	Taskbooks Completed	Off-Station Assignments
Brantley Boatright					FL
Cory Bryant	A100, A104, A110	ATV/UTV		HEQB	GA, FL
Rocky Chesser	M581, A100, A104	ATV/UTV	SOFL	RXB2	FL
Tommy Crews			ENGB	ENOP	FL
Reggie Forcine	S. Canyon Staff Ride	PLDO			ID
Andy Heisey		ST212		HEQB	FL, CA
Terri Jenkins		P310	RESL, PETL	PETL, SCKN	ID, CA
Fed Privett	A200, A110, RTPLDO, RT212	RT130	COMT		CA
Nathan Herron				TFLD	FL
Jason Kimbell	A100				
Toby Price	A100, A325R			ENGB	FL, WA
John Mason	A100, A325R, M3	PLDO Refresher	ASGS	HEB1	FL, OR, WA
Carl Schmidt			SITL		
Wayne Smith		ATV/UTV			
Matt Smith	A110				FL
Randy McLain			TFLD		WA
Derrick Odegard			TPOP		NC, OR
Mark Parker		S230	TPOP		
Adam McCullough	RX301/341		ICT4	FIRB	ID
Matt Sutkowski	S236		HEQB		
Bert Wyatt	A100				CA
Rob Wood	A100				WA

District Staff Assignments

Fire staff had many opportunities for off-station assignments and used these details to work on or complete task books. In the fall, resources were sent to North Carolina to assist on the Table Rock Fire. As Florida became busy in the spring, staff assisted on wildfires at Merritt Island and in South Florida. Even before the western season kicked up, detailers were sent to join Jackson Hot Shot Crew and on engine details at Mid-Columbia Refuges in Washington. Once the Northwest activity ramped up, resources were committed in four western states on assignments from hand crews to logistics.

Training

All red-carded personnel received annual refresher (RT-130) and RT-212, RT-271 and PLDO were offered for those personnel needing those refresher trainings.

Of Note

Reggie Forcine took part in the South Canyon Staff Ride in Colorado reviewing the South Canyon Fire. Reggie and others will be working to develop a staff ride to review the 1979 Okefenokee fire that took the life of Richard Bolt.

Okefenokee hosted an AmeriCorps fire team for the first time this season, which helped provide critical manpower with little cost to the Service while supporting youth job opportunities.

Honors, Awards, Committees

A big congratulation goes to Rocky Chesser at Okefenokee for receipt of the first National Fire Safety Award this year. Rocky was recognized for his leadership and professionalism in managing a safe and effective fire program at Okefenokee.

Terri Jenkins was awarded the Firewise Leadership Award this year by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Staffing Changes

This year Robert Alonso transferred from Okefenokee NWR to the Merritt Island NWR.

Okefenokee welcomed new Project Leader, Michael Lusk at the start of the Fiscal Year.

In January, we were deeply impacted by the untimely death of Jan Tripp, Savannah NWR Fire Fighter. Jan had been a part of the Region 4 fire program for 18 years, working first at North Carolina, then Savannah. She will be deeply missed.

District 4

Year Overview

The weather was on our side throughout Fire District 4 this year. Wildfire activity was minimal with only one large fire. Prescribed Fire Center (PFTC) modules supplemented St Marks and Lower Suwannee NWRs to accomplish treatments and training. Fire crews also assisted at multiple Refuge sponsored events and school presentations, spreading the wildland fire message. Fire resources assisted out of the district with prescribed fires and wildfires.

Wildfire

St Marks NWR had 10 fires for 7.4 acres: one escape prescribed fire, two fires on refuge and seven threat fires.

Lower Suwannee NWR responded to four wildfires: two fires on refuge and two threat fires. The Boneyard Fire occurred on St. Vincent NWR July 1st for 958 acres, this fire was managed for resource benefit.

Mountain Longleaf NWR had two fires on the refuge that burned 20.1 acres. The 20-acre Rocket Fire was the result of ordnance disposal operations.

Fuels Management

The total District prescribed fire treatment acres was 24,635. St. Marks NWR treated 18,270 acres, with most taking place during the growing season at 15,656 acres. Lower Suwannee burned 3,552 acres, while St. Vincent burned 2,495 acres and Key Cave NWR treated 135 acres. Mechanical treatments across the District, St. Marks 109 acres and Lower Suwannee 52 acres, were for maintenance of fire lines including preparation of RCW trees and site preparation for planting. Refuge fire resources regularly assisted local cooperators and other refuges with prescribed fires.



USFWS firefighter Brian Pippin from St. Marks NWR carries fire along the marsh edge with a driptorch, credit: USFWS/Jennifer Hinckley.

Employee	Position	Assignment/Fire, State
Anthony DiMaggio	RXB2(t) ENGB/ICT4	Windon WMD, MN Lower Klamath Support, CA
Jennifer Hinckley	RO staff TFLD(t) PSC2(t) ENGB	120-day Detail @ Region 4, Atlanta St. Johns Fire and Baca Fire, FL Table Rock Fire, NC and Boneyard Fire, FL Apalachicola NF, FL
Joey Lord	FIRB DOZ1 ENGB	Boneyard Fire, FL Apalachicola NF, FL Rx Fire at Key Deer NWR, FL
George Pelt	STOP & FIRB(t) HEQB ENGB	Windon WMD, MN Little Bridge Creek Fire, WA Rx Fire at Key Deer NWR, FL
Brian Pippin	FOBS HECM ENGB	Chiwaukee Creek Complex, WA Fremont-Winema Severity, OR St. Johns Fire, FL
Travis Pollard	ENGB DOZ1 Wildlife Biologist Refuge Manager ENOP	Boneyard Fire, FL and Turnbull NWR, WA Apalachicola NF, FL 120-day Detail @ St. Marks NWR St. Vincent NWR Rx Fire at Key Deer NWR, FL
Trixie Smith	ENGB ICT4(t)	St. Johns Fire, FL and Turnbull NWR, WA Boneyard Fire, FL
Dale Shiver	ENOP	Merritt Island NWR
Greg Titus	ENOP ICT4	Apalachicola NF, FL Boneyard Fire, FL

Employee	Training Taken	Instructor Experience	Taskbooks Initiated	Taskbooks Completed
Anthony DiMaggio	PLDO, RX-301, RX-341, RT-212	SA Engine Academy	RXB2	
Vic Doig	PLDO	RX-301, S-230, SA Engine Academy		
Jennifer Hinckley	I-400, M-410, S-420, Burn Boss Refresher Train-the-Trainer	RX-301, RX-341, Florida Burn Manager Course	TFLD	
Joey Lord	LEO Refresher, PLDO		TFLD	
George Pelt	RT-212		FALB	HEQB
Brian Pippin	RX-301, RX-341, I-300, S-372		ICT4, HEQB	FOBS
Travis Pollard	RX-301, RX-341, I-300		ICT4	
Bart Rye	South Canyon Staff Ride	PFTC Module Coordinator	HEQB, FEMO, FOBS	
Trixie Smith	RX-301, RX-341, S-372		RXB2, TFLD	ICT4
Greg Titus		RX-301, RX-341, I-300	SITL	
David Moody	S-354		RCDM	
Mike Keys	GISS		GISS	

District Staff Assignments

Nine people from District 4 went on 21 assignments and two 120-day details this past fiscal year. The assignments ranged from local assists to western assignments on Type 1 incidents and severity.

Training

Refresher training sessions (RT130) were given at St. Marks, Lower Suwannee and Wheeler NWRs to a total of 47 firefighters.

Of Note

Air Methods EMS helicopter performed a demo flight to St. Marks and St. Vincent NWRs to familiarize the refuge staff with medevac procedures and check out the helispot locations.

Honors, Awards, Committees

Jennifer Hinckley received the 2013 Fire Management Leadership Award.

Joey Lord received the 2013 Fire Management Prescribed Fire Award. Jennifer Hinckley was the Chair for the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council for FY2014.

Staffing Changes

Supervision of Mike Housh, DOD Eglin AFB, was transferred to Mike Dueitt at PFTC.

Mike Keys, wildlife biologist and member of the fire militia, transferred to the Apalachicola NF as GIS.

Kenny McCain, recently retired LEO from Lower Suwannee NWR and fire militia member, received the 2014 National Refuge Employee of the Year Award.



St. Marks NWR prescribed fire along the back levee in the spartina marsh in September 2014, credit: USFWS/Jennifer Hinckley.

District 5

Year Overview

Fiscal Year 2014 began with high fire indices, but ended with record rainfall and water levels throughout District 5. Wildfire season started off slow, but picked up in March and April. Merritt Island NWR Complex continued to respond to at least one wildfire on the Refuge every month through August.

District 5 had a below average year in the amount of acres treated with prescribed fire. At Merritt Island NWR, the combination of unfavorable weather conditions and burn window restrictions within the secure area made for fewer acres burned; and at Loxahatchee the prescribed wind directions didn't materialize in otherwise favorable burn windows.

The District Fire Management Staff put a major emphasis on training again in 2014. This included both participating in and instructing courses in and out of the District this year.

Wildfire

District fire management personnel responded to 56 wildfires for just over 5,106 acres this year. These wildfires occurred primarily in March and April before the rains began in May and continued for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Refuge	Total Fires	Fires on FWS Lands	FWS Acres
Merritt Island	37	18	4,782
St. Johns	10	7	275
Lake Wales Ridge	2	2	0.5
ARM Loxahatchee	7	7	48.4
Totals	56	33	5,104.0



A prescribed fire of unit 9.1 at Merritt Island NWR near the NASA headquarters complex, credit: USFWS/Michael Good.

Fuels Management

District fire management personnel completed 16 prescribed fire treatments at Loxahatchee, Lake Woodruff and Merritt Island NWRs for 9,548 acres this year. District personnel assisted with hazardous fuels reduction treatments on National Key Deer, Ding Darling, and Florida Panther NWRs.

Refuge	Treatments	Acres
Merritt Island	9	4,039
St. Johns	2	1,850
Lake Woodruff	3	4,980
ARM Loxahatchee	1	500
Archie Carr	1	29
Totals	16	9,548

District Staff Assignments

FY14 was an active year for wildfire assignments as the National Preparedness Level reached 4 in August. District 5 personnel responded to 10 off-district assignments. Ryan Sharpe detailed for 30 days to Bridgeport Helitack and to Puerto Rico for 14 days. Robert Alonzo detailed for 21 days to the Klamath NWR and to Region 3 on a prescribed fire detail for 14 days. Kris Kasper was on a fire assignment for 14 days to Puerto Rico and to Region 3 on a prescribed fire detail for 14 days. Jay Mickey assisted with Duty Officer and Puerto Rico fire support for District 6 for 14 days. Grant Gifford was on a fire assignment for 14 days to Washington. Jon Wallace is a member of the Southern Area Blue Team and responded with the team to Big Cypress NP. Patrick Pearson was on a fire assignment to Washington and Oregon.

Employee	Training Taken	Instructor Experience	Taskbooks Initiated	Taskbooks Completed
Robert Alonzo		S-212, First Aid		FIRB
Dave Moran		S-212, S-133		
Ryan Sharpe	S-372, L-580 Shilo Staff Ride and South Canyon Staff Ride	S-133, ATV Operator Course	HMGB	
Grant Gifford	L-580 Shilo Staff Ride			RXB2
Jon Wallace		S-490,S-491, M-581,LFML		
Chris Wright		S-212,S-270		
Ryan Roche	D-110	S-212	IADP	IADP
Jay Mickey		I-300, S-200, S-215, S-270		
Michael Good	L-380, L381	I-300, S-200, S-215		
Patrick Pearson		I-300, S-200, S-215		

Of Note

District 5 hosted and instructed multiple training courses this year including RT-130, RT-212, S-212, S-133, S-215, S-200, S-270 and I-300.

Honors, Awards, Committees

Jon Wallace served as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting National Fuels Specialist for four months this year, serves as the chair person for the NWCG Fire Danger Committee and participates in the Southern Regions Fire Environment Committee.

Grant Gifford is a member of a National Fire and Operations Safety Team sub-committee for engine standards. Also he is working as the Regional radio frequency coordinator.

Staffing Changes

Robert Alonzo, Forestry Technician, joined the Merritt Island NWR Complex staff in January.



USFWS firefighter Bert Wyatt poses for a photo during a prescribed fire at St. Johns NWR in April 2014: credit: USFWS/Michael Good.

District 6

Year Overview

Interagency collaboration, wildfires and fuels management proved dynamic for District 6 in 2014.

District 6 accomplished substantial gains in interagency collaboration with planning for a co-funded Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO) position shared by Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY) and Florida Panther NWR (Panther). Over the past three years, both the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Park Service (NPS) Fire Programs developed similar Workforce Plans. The objective was to eliminate redundancy and reduce costs by exploring new staffing alternatives. One of the directives resulting from the NPS's efforts was to identify positions that could be shared with partners. As BICY and Florida Panther worked more closely together, and went through each agency's process of looking for potential efficiencies, the opportunities to share fire positions were realized.

The Fire Programs at Florida Panther and BICY are uniquely situated to support each other due to similar fuel types and use of various types of specialized equipment and tactics. The AFMO position will assist in coordinating resources between the suppression and fuels programs to facilitate completion of prescribed fires and contingency resources.

In August, 2014 the Caribbean went into severity for 30 days due to extreme drought. FWS fire resources supported the Caribbean Complex with multiple mobilizations for suppression efforts at Cabo Rojo, Laguna Cartagena and Vieques NWRs.

Wildfire

District 6 personnel responded to 85 wildfires for 724 acres this year. The Caribbean Complex received severity funding in August due to the unusually dry conditions at both Cabo Rojo and Vieques NWR's.

Refuge	Total Fires	Fires on FWS Lands	FWS Acres
Florida Panther	23	18	394
J.N. Ding Darling	0	0	0
National Key Deer	3	3	2
Cabo Rojo	52	40	296
Vieques	3	3	18
Laguna Cartagena	3	3	14
Culebra	1	0	0
Total	85	67	724

Fuels Management

District fire management personnel completed 20 prescribed fire treatments at National Key Deer, Ding Darling, and Florida Panther NWRs this year for 2,951 acres. District 6 personnel assisted the following refuges and cooperators with Hazardous Fuels Reduction over the course of the year: Big Cypress NPS, Florida Forest Service, Archie Carr NWR, Everglades NPS and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

District Staff Assignments

District 6 personnel responded to the Upper Falls Fire at the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Washington.



Florida Panther NWR conducted a 704 acre prescribed fire in April 2014 in the southeast corner of the refuge near I-75 and SR 29, credit: USFWS/Jon Wallace.



The Florida Interagency Type 3 Incident Management Team staffed the Orange Blossom fire on Big Cypress NP in April 2014, USFWS firefighter Justin Pippin is in the background, credit: USFWS/Cass Palmer.

Training

The annual wildland fire refresher (RT-130) and chainsaw refresher (RT-212) were given to all red-carded personnel in the District.

Of Note

On April 23, the Florida Interagency Type 3 Incident Management Team, Incident Commander Cass Palmer, assumed command of the 3,828-acre Orange Blossom Fire on Big Cypress National Preserve.

Honor, Awards, Committees

Toni Westland received the 2013 Regional Fire Management Outreach Award.

Staffing Changes

Robert Trincado, Assistant Fire Management Officer, transferred to a FWS fire position with DOD on the Avon Park Air Force Range.

PJ Stevko accepted a promotion to Engine Operator at Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks in California.

Refuge	Treatments	Mechanical	Acres Burned	Acres Mowed
Florida Panther	7	2	2,700	500
Ten Thousand Islands	0	2	0	18
J.N. Ding Darling	10	14	234	72
Cabo Rojo	0	2	0	157
Laguna Cartagena	0	2	0	136
Vieques	0	2	0	36
National Key Deer	3	0	17	0
Total	20	24	2,951	919

Employee	Training Taken	Instructor Experience	Taskbooks Initiated	Taskbooks Completed
Cass Palmer	Shiloh Staff Ride			
Greg Suszek	RT-271, RT-9016, ATV/UTV Safety	S290, RT-9016		DIVS
James Padilla		RT-130, RT-212, S-130/190, S-131		
Wesley O'Connor				HECM
Dave Lucas	S-211			
Bobby Schat	S-211, RT-271, RT-9016			FIRB

District 7

Year overview

Sami Gray began her tenure as District Fire Management Officer in Fiscal Year 2014. Sami had served as District AFMO for the previous four years and brings twenty years of wildland fire experience to the job. Faced with continuing budget cuts and staffing shortages, District 7 has implemented an aggressive program of intra-district assistance and cooperation which includes the development of 44 collateral duty firefighters and partners such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

This approach enabled the Southeast Louisiana NWR Complex with only two fire-funded employees to conduct 13 prescribed fires for 2,142 acres.

An example of District team work includes having Ame New and Matthew Johnson of Felsenthal NWR provide ICS-209 Situation Reports, Inciweb Reports and Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) data entry for all the wildfires. Jeff 'Bunk' Twiss worked on Fire Weather and Fire Behavior products from Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR.

The objective to build firefighting capacity by developing the collateral duty workforce (fire militia) in District 7 continues. Interest and participation has increased in fire management by FWS employees at Ecological Services Offices, Fish Hatcheries, and traditionally 'non-fire' refuges. Seven of these employees are fireline qualified and three are working on Fire Fighter Type 1 taskbooks.

Paul Reynolds at SDH Noxubee NWR continues to collaborate with Mississippi State University. The students volunteer to assist with the burn program and gain valuable training and experience.



Prescribed fire in Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony at Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR, credit: USFWS.

Wildfires

Southwest Louisiana Complex had a succession of lightning-caused fires with a final total of 28 wildfires for 28,542 acres. The wildfire activity was low to moderate in the remainder of District 7 with 50 fires burning 93 FWS acres. The Pintail Fire at Sabine NWR transitioned up to a Type 3 Incident. Sami Gray, Incident Commander Type 3, and Jamie Farmer, Incident Commander Type 3 trainee managed the fire until it was out. Assistance was received throughout the season from our partners at Texas Chenier Plain NWR, Kisatchie National Forest. Southeast Louisiana NWR fire team assisted the Lacombe Volunteer Fire Department with a marsh fire that threatened structures.

Refuge	Total Fires	Fires on FWS Lands	FWS Acres
SW Louisiana	22	20	18,564
Gulf Coast	36	16	15
SE Louisiana	3	3	1
South Arkansas	3	3	1
N Louisiana	2	2	21
SDH Noxubee	1	1	1
Central AR	2	2	23
Central LA	2	2	20
West TN	1	1	11
Total	72	50	18,657

Fuels Management

Despite the federal government shutdown in October, unheard of ice storms during the winter and above average precipitation in the early spring, District 7 completed 78 prescribed fires for a total of 16,190 acres treated. Through a grant from the National Wild Turkey Federation, three prescribed fires were completed on Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge for 489 acres. * SW LA also had four wildfires with resource benefits for 6,200 acres.

District Staff Assignments

FY14 was a moderate year for wildfire assignments as the National Preparedness Level reached 4 for a few weeks in August. Thirty responders in District 7 accepted 41 incident assignments in 8 states from Virginia to Washington State for a total of 606 days on assignment.

Joshua Havird, Lead Forestry Tech and Eddie Harsh, Forester, participated in an extended assignment as overhead for a hand crew from Saipan, a Commonwealth of the USA located along the Marianas Islands in the west-central Pacific Ocean. This was the first time many of the crew had seen mountains, experienced elevation, humidity below 60% or worked on a wildland fire.

Employee	Training Taken	Instructor Experience	Taskbooks Initiated	Taskbooks Completed
Brad Bailey	Shiloh Leadership Staff Ride, ICS-300			
Jonathan Baxter			FFT1	
Diane Borden-Billiot			PIOF	
Tony Brady	MOCC			
Levi Brown	Basic Firefighter Training, AL Certified Rx Burner, S-290			FFT1
Glenn Catoe	S-236 Heavy Equipment Boss, S-133			
Ron Coats			ACLC	
Angela Dedrickson	N9042 Resource Advisor, S-290			FALA, STOP
Jamie Farmer		N9016		
Seth Fisher	Basic Firefighter Training			
Chris Foster			ENGB	FFT1, ICT5
Rebecca Goosman	P-310 Fire Prevention Education Team		PETM	
Stewart Harrell	S-212		FALA	
Josh Havird	ICS-200, S-230, MOCC	S-212, RT-212	ICT4, TPOP	CRWB, ENGB, FIRB, STOP
Scott Hereford	N9042 Resource Advisor			
Matt Johnson				FALB
Michael Johnson	Local Fire Management Leadership			
Jon King		N9016		
Chris LeRouge	Shiloh Leadership Staff Ride, GISS, RT-372			TFLD
Grant Lovato	Plastic Sphere Operations		FAL2	STOP
Shaun Martinet	S-260			
Jay McIlwain			STOP	FALA, FFT1
Denise McInturff	S-21			
William McKinney	Basic Firefighter Training			
Quincy McGee	S-212		FALA	
Jereme Phillips	GLFML Local Fire Management Leadership			
Randall Platt			ICT4	
Bert Rager	S-232 Dozer Boss	S-212	HEQB	
Andrew Radomski	S-234			
Nathan Renick	IS-200			
Greg Rolison				DZOP, STOP, TPOP
Dexter Soileau				EQPM
David Stoughton	NSA02 Airboat Operations, MOCC			
David Teague	S-131, S-133, S-212, S-270			
Alan Whiten	LFML Local Fire Management Leadership			
Todd Wooten	S-340 Human Resource Specialist		HRSP, SCKN	

District 7

continued

Refuge	Rx Burns	Prescribed Fire Acres	Mechanical Acres	Chemical Acres
Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee	24	7,220		100
Gulf Coast	21	4,062	1,271	45
SE Louisiana	13	2,142		
S Arkansas	8	1,828	40	
SW Louisiana	11	933		
N Louisiana	1	5		
Total	78	16,190	1,311	145

Training

The annual Fire Line Refresher (RT-130) and Work Capacity Test were given to all red-carded personnel and collaterals in the District. Chain saw class (S-212) and refresher (RT-212) were put on as needed around the District. Fire staff collaterals were trained on pumps at a pump refresher at Southeast Louisiana. PLDO class and refresher were attended by National Park Service, US Forest Service, private helicopter pilot and FWS employees. Seven employees completed CPR-First Aid Training.

Mississippi Sandhill Crane worked with the Jackson County Fire District to host two Basic Firefighter Training classes.

Of Note

Southeast Louisiana was part of a Unified Command Team that included the US Coast Guard, the State of Louisiana and Texas Petroleum Inc. The Team managed the cleanup of an oil pipeline spill on Delta NWR. The Team conducted an In-Situ prescribed fire to expedite the cleanup. District 7 helped to write a prescription and give technical advice as needed to safely implement the burn.

The Mississippi Sandhill Crane Fire Team is providing technical support for the Dusky Gopher Frog Recovery Program. The only remaining habitat for this endangered frog is in the Mississippi Coastal counties of Jackson and Harrison. The recovery program hinges on habitat restoration by pond site improvement, construction and the use of prescribed fire. To assist with recovery the team is building frog nurseries with water tanks, wells and drift fencing. So far, three prescribed burns during FY14 directly benefited the Dusky Gopher Frog habitat.

Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR is continuing to learn about longleaf pine survival. This year they put in 16 test plots of Longleaf pine seedlings with four plots in four different soil types. These plots will be checked for survival this winter and begin burning to promote release for height growth. The refuge currently has longleaf growing in the Bevil Hill area of different ages and regeneration.

As part of the collaboration between District 7 and TNC, resources from Southeast Louisiana Complex assisted with a 200-acre savanna restoration prescribed fire on the TNC Money Hill Tract in St. Tammany Parish.

Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR fire fighter Rebecca Goosman worked with the Mississippi Forestry Commission to provide various outreach presentations regarding fire prevention and education to school groups and at local events.

Brad Bailey coordinated an interagency presentation on pipeline safety with officials from an oil and gas pipeline company.

Honors, Awards, Committees

Sami Gray received the 2013 Southeast Region All-Hazard Award.

Staffing Changes

Frank Zemmanek from FWS accepted the equipment operator position at SDH Noxubee NWR. He previously worked for the FWS Fish Hatchery in Colorado.

Dave Panas (LEO) transferred from Southwest Louisiana Complex to Sam D Hamilton Noxubee NWR.

At Southwest Louisiana Complex Brian Donnelly left the Service for a position in the private sector. Lucas Doucet was converted from a Pathways position into a Career Seasonal (13:13) Forestry Tech (Fire) position.

Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR saw a major change in leadership with the retirement of District Fire Management Officer Tony Wilder January 2014 and the promotion of Sami Gray from Assistant Fire Management Officer to District Fire Management Officer.



A USFWS firefighter patrols the fireline during a prescribed fire at Pickney Island NWR in March 2014, credit: USFWS/Rob Wood.

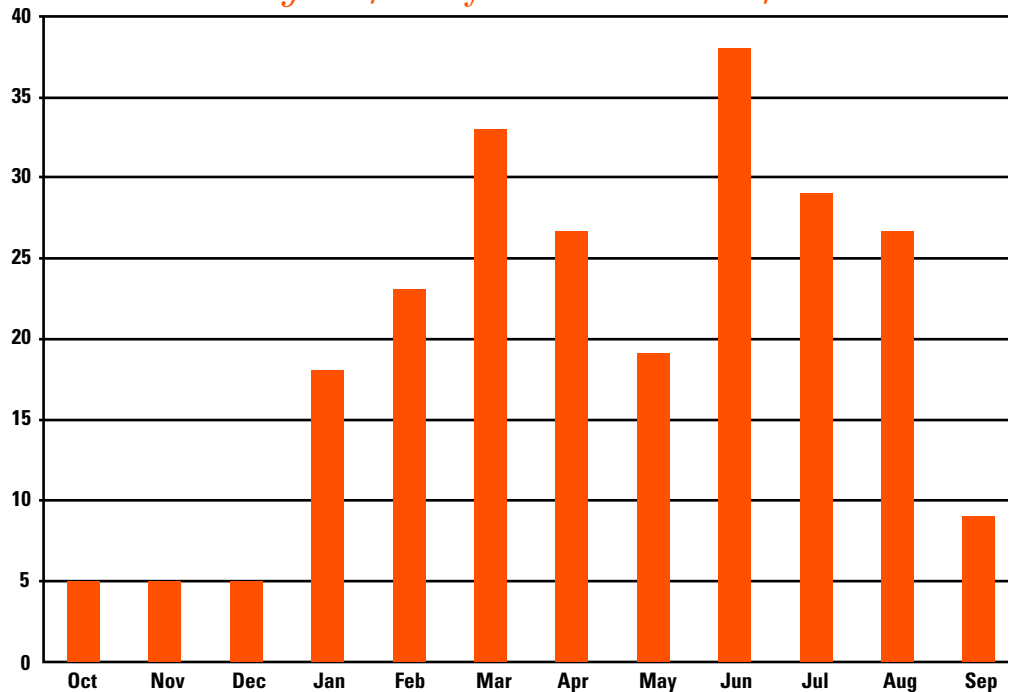
Regional Office

Year Overview Wildfire

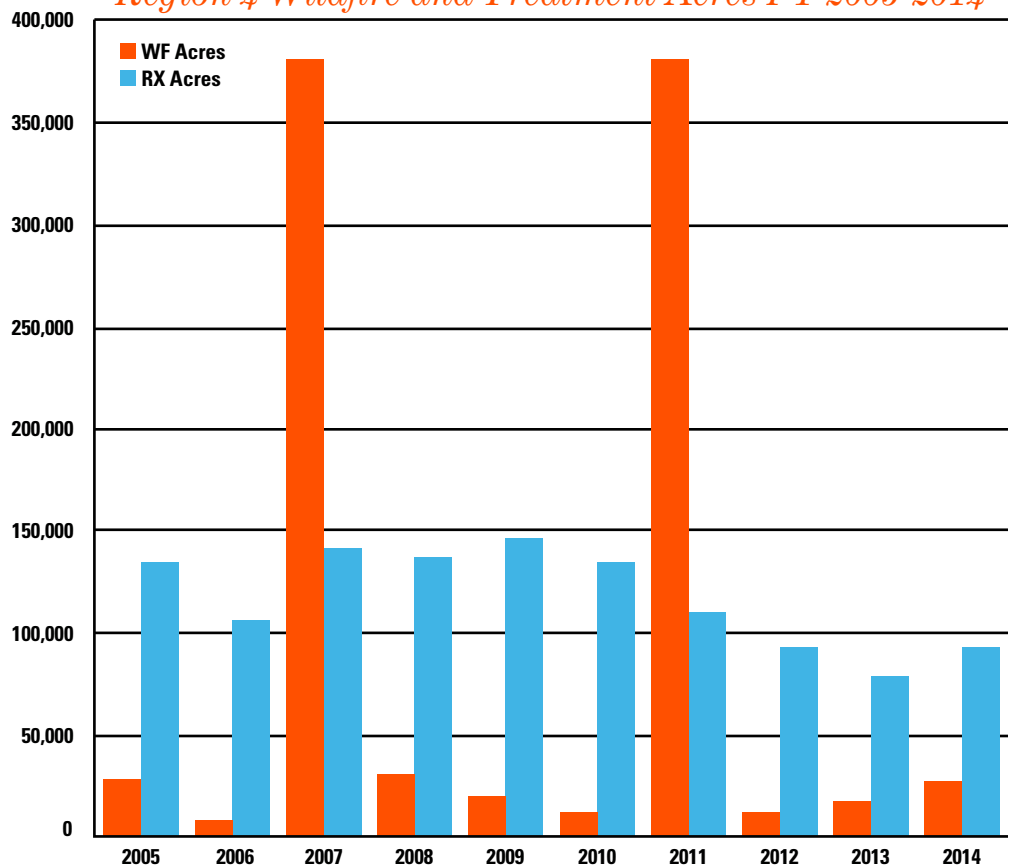
The Southeast Region saw another increase in wildland fire numbers during Fiscal Year 2014. FWS Firefighters responded to 238 wildfires which burned 27,534 acres on FWS lands this year; compared to 192 fires burning 17,584 acres in FY13. Even with the increased workload and the reduced workforce, all these fires were managed in a safe manner with no lost time accidents reported. The region's wildfire activity centered in the Caribbean, southwest Louisiana and central Florida. While many of these fires were actively suppressed, there were cases where local management plans allowed the fires to be managed for resource benefit. Thirteen wildfires were managed for resource benefit for a total of 7,849 acres. In addition to the regional workload, Southeast Region personnel accepted numerous assignments to assist with the busy fire season in the Pacific Northwest and California.

Regarding severity funding, the Caribbean Refuge Complex was the only unit in the region to request long term severity funding this year. The Caribbean experienced a very active spring fire season both on State protected lands and on Federal Lands with 55 wildfires suppressed by FWS resources. The decision was made to request severity funding to assist the local staff with initial attack efforts due to the size, frequency, and intensity of wildfires. The Caribbean was in severity for four weeks during the month of August. Within those four weeks, they experienced seven new wildfires on Federal lands. Severity resources provided the necessary qualified personnel to staff equipment and assist the local staff as well as our cooperators with successful initial attack efforts by keeping 95 percent of all wildfires at ten acres or less.

Region 4 Wildfire Starts FY 2014



Region 4 Wildfire and Treatment Acres FY 2005-2014



Fuels Management

Even with continued reductions in hazardous fuels funding and the federal government shutdown the total acres managed through prescribed fire treatments were higher than last year. This fiscal year's target for acreage treated, as determined through the HFPAS process, was a success and the region accomplished 100% (51,653 acres) of the FY 2014 target. Additional funds through interior and exterior partnerships were used to help treat an additional 44,101 acres. All of the treatments were accomplished in a safe and efficient manner, reducing hazardous fuel loading and maintaining the health of our fire dependent landscapes.

The training modules at PFTC successfully completed 13 prescribed fires that treated 4,406 acres on five refuges in the Southeast Region. Attendance from the FWS included; two field coordinators (module leaders), five trainees working on Burn Boss or Firing Boss qualifications, and three Line Officers that attended the Prescribed Fire Workshop for Agency Administrators.

PFTC continued to supply the interagency community with 20 burn bosses, 23 firing bosses, and five fire effects monitors returning to their home unit recommended for certification for their position. These skills were honed on 157 burns totaling 56,168 acres of which 11,920 acres were in the Wildland/Urban Interface zone. These burns were conducted in five states on 35 different cooperators' lands including state and private land.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Two of the primary DOI WUI mitigation programs, The Rural Fire Assistance Program and the Ready Reserve Program, received no funding for FY2014. Although no funding was allocated, administrative work was still completed within both programs. Namely, ensuring funds obligated in the past were appropriately being utilized and facilitating the proper closing of the grant agreements.



Maintenance/Equipment Supervisor Rocky Chesser from Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia accepts the first FWS National Fire Safety Award with Cindy Dohner, FWS Southeast Region Regional Director, and John Segar, FWS Fire Director at the National Interagency Fire Center at Boise, Idaho, credit: USFWS/Tom MacKenzie.

This year the region provided a steering committee member for the further development of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment and SouthWRAP, which is a web based application of the program. This assessment is an interagency cooperative tool utilized at federal, state and local levels. Some fuels data calibration workshops were conducted in various states. FWS participated where it was warranted.

Field units continue to work with cooperators, predominantly the state fire protection/forestry agencies, in development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. These plans continue to be developed on a wide array of spatial levels which include single small communities up to county wide.

Terri Jenkins and Rick Struhar represented FWS at the Baker County, Florida Fire Adapted Community Seminar. A Fire Adapted Community incorporates people, buildings, businesses, infrastructure, cultural resources, and natural areas into the effort to prepare for the effects of wildland fire.

This year the SE Region treated approximately 53,881 acres of hazardous fuels in the wildland urban interface.

Training and Qualifications

Rick Struhar represents FWS Southeast Region on the Southern Area Training Working Team which is a standing committee established under the Southern Area Coordination Group (SACG) to provide coordinated direction for wildland fire management training. The team provides an interagency forum for identification, discussion and resolution of issues pertaining to wildland fire training and qualification opportunities within the Southern Area. USFWS field personnel coordinate with the states and other federal land management agencies in the incident training arena on a variety of levels. Notable, is our involvement in the Tennessee/Kentucky Wildland Fire Academy. This year was the 12th annual session. Mike Housh has served on the steering committee as the FWS representative since the academy inception 12 years ago. This year FWS sponsored and delivered S-230, Crew Boss (Single Resource) and RX-301 Prescribed Fire Implementation. Eleven FWS firefighters attended the academy as students this year.

Others from around the region worked with our interagency partners to deliver intermediate and advanced level training courses. Their efforts are appreciated.

Regional Office

continued

Those include:

Jon Wallace for his efforts with S-490 Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations, S-491 Intermediate National Fire Danger Rating System, WFDSS Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and both GLFML Geographic Area Local Fire Management Leadership & M-581 Fire Program Management at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC).

Ed Christopher for his efforts with S-491 Intermediate National Fire Danger Rating System and S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior.

Mike Housh, Jennifer Hinckley, Greg Titus, Vic Doig and Mike Dueitt for their effort with RX-301 Prescribed Fire Implementation and RX-341 Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation.

Terri Jenkins for her efforts with P-310 Fire Prevention Education Team Member.

This year approximately forty two (42) position task books were completed by service fire personnel in the field and at the regional office. The “interagency priority trainee dispatching process” developed by the Southern Area Training Working Team and implemented at the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) was continued this year. The effort was expanded beginning last year (2013) to a national effort. Working in cooperation, geographic area coordination centers have begun sharing priority trainee lists and stepping up efforts to place trainees on fire assignments. The purpose of this process is to better serve the agencies as a more robust trainee prioritization and rotation system. Although the process is still being honed, the number of trainees placed on assignment coupled with the volume of completed task books suggests the process is shaping to be an efficient dispatching tool.

Employee	Training Taken	Instructor Experience	Taskbooks Completed	Assignment/ State
Sue Wilder	S-260, MOCC, AOCC, CLM 2151, Developing a Biological Monitoring Program			RESL/FL
Josh O'Connor	Structured Decision Making			THSP/AK
Pete Kubiak	Speed of Trust	GLFML, S420, L581		AOPD/FL
Vince Carver			DIVS	DIVSt/CA
Pat Boucher				GACC Coordinator/ WI
Mike Dueitt		PFTC		ICT1/WA

All Hazard

The Division of Fire Management has been working in cooperation with the regional safety shop and in consultation with the Denver radio shop to revisit and reevaluate our incident communications capabilities and costs. Considering the ever changing state of communication technology, this has been a significant task. The satellite phones and the service provider contract have been re-evaluated and alternatives are being explored. The incident command trailers and their communication equipment, which was purchased and outfitted post Hurricane Katrina, are stationed strategically throughout the region and cared for by the field staff. Arrangements have been made for a site visit by the Denver radio shop to provide general incident communication training to the field personnel most likely to respond to an incident with the trailer.

Also, regional safety and fire staff will meet with the radio shop personnel and discuss future incident communications options and scenarios so as to ensure we are utilizing the most updated and cost efficient communication technology practical.

Planning

The Southeast Region of the US Fish & Wildlife Service has seventy-one (71) field units requiring Fire Management Plans (FMP). These are maintained in a data base at the regional office. Field units are responsible for performing annual FMP reviews and providing updates as necessary.

A database for statewide master fire agreements with the ten (10) southeastern states and Puerto Rico is maintained annually. The Agreements with Alabama and Florida were renewed this year.

An Operations Plan for Prescribed Burning Activities was established between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. This plan will facilitate the prescribed burning of the checkerboard of private inholdings and easements associated with the Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area.

At the tail end of last fiscal year an interagency agreement between the US Forest Service Region 8 and the Southeast Region of the US Fish and Wildlife Service was established. This agreement tiered off the agreement for the Interagency Fair Share Program for the Southern Area. The primary purpose of the agreement is to streamline the funds transfer process for assistance in prescribed burning, aviation usage, training, and other fire management functions. A clear, concise process for utilization of the agreement ensuring adherence to policy and fiscal accountability was identified and distributed to the field this year.

Fire Ecology

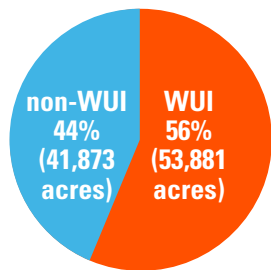
In FY 2014, there were no Emergency Stabilization plans submitted.

In FY2014, there were four on-going Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) projects funded:

Blue Hole Fire (National Key Deer NWR), Pains Bay Fire (Alligator River NWR), Round Two Fire (Florida Panther NWR) and Honey Prairie Fire (Okefenokee NWR).

The Blue Hole BAR plan is in its final year. Plans were funded to replace a burned Kiosk and plant native pine seedlings in burned area. All projects were completed and a final report will be available December 2014.

Region 4 Treatment Acres



The Pains Bay BAR plan is in its final year of funding. In FY 2014, further treatments of Phragmites were completed and a wooden bridge was replaced that burned during the wildfire.

The Round Two Fire BAR work was also fully funded in FY2014 to treat the invasive Cabbage Palm Seedlings that emerged following the wildfire. This project is in its second of three years of funding.

The Honey Prairie Fire BAR work included planting native longleaf pine seedlings in the burned area.

A symposium was held called “Managing Wetland Forests with Fire in a Changing Climate.” Seven species profiles were completed this year.

Finally, the region has partnered in an EPA grant that will study the effects of fire on migrating marshes for the next three years. The premise is that in the absence of fire, marshes are being overgrown with shrubs and squeezed inland by sea level rise

Budget

The Region was preparing for continued significant cuts that would barely allocate enough funding to cover our salary commitment. However due to negotiations made in Congress during the government shutdown, the Region was eventually funded with \$10.3M, a slight increase from the \$10.1 FY13 levels. This level is substantially less than the budgets of FY09 and FY10 and salary still comprised greater than 75% of the budget. Previous year fiscal planning allowed the Region to replace fire equipment that was the highest priority in need of replacement; an accomplishment we were not able to complete in FY13. The Region as a whole is still being encouraged to implement cost saving measures and prepare for potential future budget reductions.

Of Note

- Mike Dueitt assumed the Incident Commander position on the Southern Area Red Team (IMT1).
- Sue Wilder serves as FWS representative on the long term monitoring study team of the in-situ burn conducted following an oil spill at Delta NWR.
- Josh O'Connor, Regional Fuels Coordinator, assisted R7(Alaska) with a Fuels Treatment Effectiveness document and outreach product. Josh also assisted R1(Northwest) during their busy wildland fire season.
- Pat Boucher is a co-administrator to the new SACC website Pat Boucher acted as SACC's Lead Intelligence backup and Famweb Coordinator until the vacant position is filled.
- Kevin Scasny continues to work with the contractor and administrators to implement transition to the NIFC (National Inter-agency Fire Center) web server.
- Pat Boucher acted as SACC's Lead Intelligence backup and Famweb Coordinator until the vacant position is filled.

Honors, Awards, Committees

Josh O'Connor served as a member of the NFLT Structured Decision Making Team that is working on developing a Fuels budget allocation process and also represents the Region on the National Fuels Team.

Rick Struhar serves on the National Fire Operations Safety Team (NFOST). Along with safety, policy, and fire operations issues, this team addresses national level training & qualifications issues.

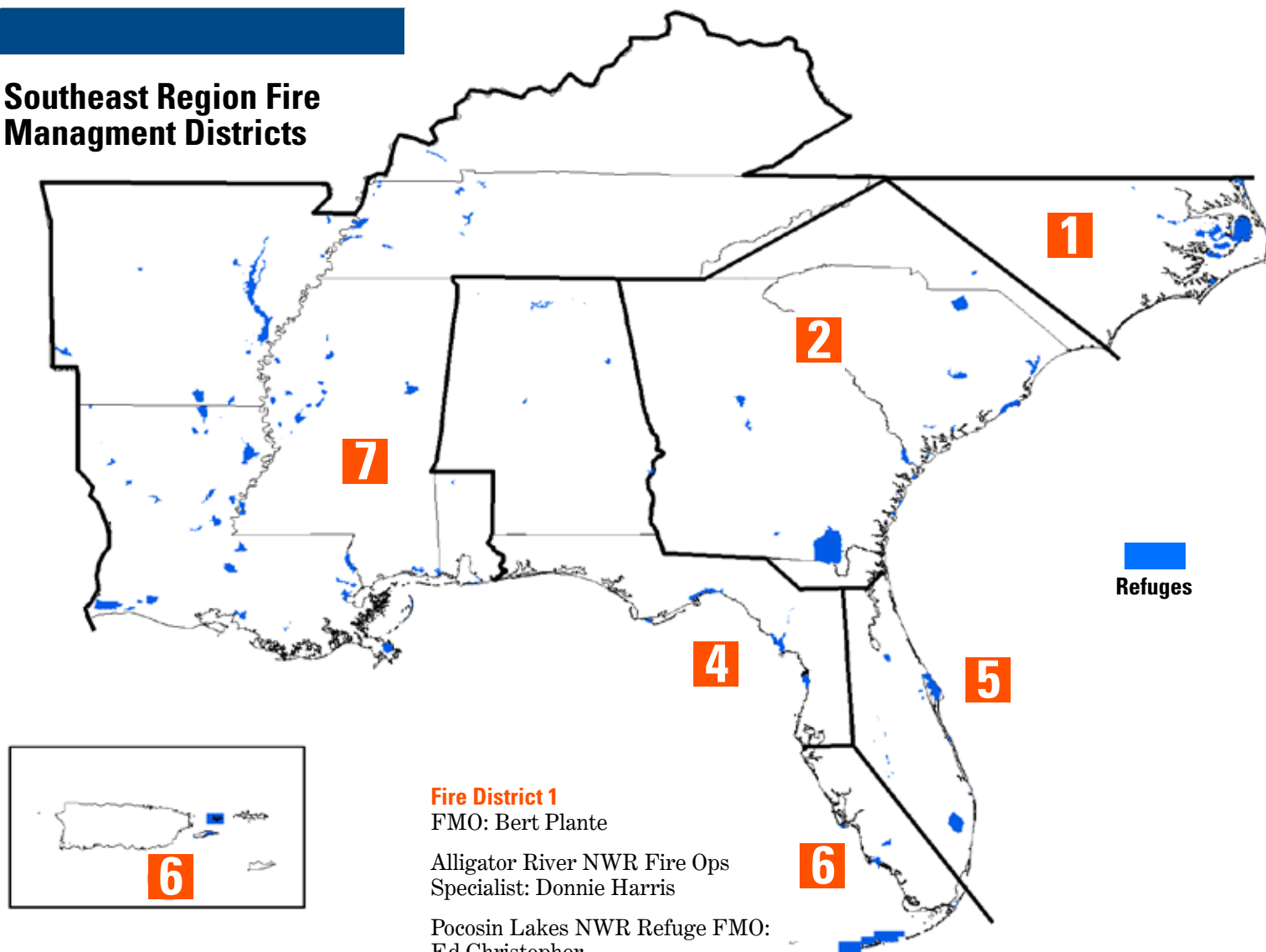
Staffing Changes

Robert Trincado moved to the Regional Office organization chart by accepting an Air Force-funded position at Avon Park Air Force Range.

Fire Reports for FY 2014

Refuge	Fires
Alligator River NWR	4
ARM Loxahatchee NWR	8
Bayou Savage NWR	2
Big Branch NWR	1
Blackbeard Island NWR	1
Cabo Rojo NWR	47
Cache River NWR	2
Cameron Prairie NWR	3
Carolina Sandhills NWR	5
Catahoula NWR	2
Chickasaw NWR	1
Currituck NWR	1
D'Arbonne NWR	2
Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR	1
Florida Panther NWR	21
Grand Bay NWR	7
Lacassine NWR	2
Laguna Cartagena NWR	3
Lake Wales Ridge NWR	2
Lake Woodruff NWR	1
Lower Suwannee NWR	4
Mackay Island NWR	1
Merritt Island NWR	22
Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR	28
Mountain Longleaf NWR	2
National Key Deer NWR	4
Okefenokee NWR	6
Pea Island NWR	2
Piedmont NWR	2
Pinckney Island NWR	1
Pocosin Lakes NWR	2
Pond Creek NWR	3
Sabine NWR	17
Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR	1
Savannah-Pinckney NWRs	4
St. Johns NWR	14
St. Marks NWR	5
St. Vincent NWR	1
Ten Thousand Islands NWR	1
Vieques NWR	2

Southeast Region Fire Management Districts



Fire District 1

FMO: Bert Plante

Alligator River NWR Fire Ops
Specialist: Donnie Harris

Pocosin Lakes NWR Refuge FMO:
Ed Christopher

Fire District 2

FMO: Rob Wood

Savannah NWR District WUI Specialist:
Keith Penrose

District PFS: Greg Askins

Carolina Sandhills NWR Refuge FMO:
Mark Parker

Okefenokee NWR Forestry Tech (Fuels):
Reggie Forcine

Piedmont NWR PFS: John Mason

Fire District 4

FMO: Greg Titus

St. Marks NWR District PFS (WUI):
Jennifer Hinckley

Lead Fire Tech: Joey Lord

Lower Suwannee NWR Refuge FMO:
Victor Doig

Fire District 5

FMO: Patrick Pearson

Merritt Island NWR PFS (MIR):
Michael Good

Wildland Fire Supervisory Officer:
Jay Mickey

ARM Loxahatchee NWR PFS (LXR):
Jon Wallace

Fire District 6

FMO: Cass Palmer

PFS (FPR): Greg Suszek

Caribbean Islands NWR: James Padilla

Fire District 7

FMO: Sami Gray

Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR District
PFS: Scott Saucier

Southwest Louisiana Complex FMO:
Jamie Farmer

Southeast Louisiana Complex FMO:
vacant

Noxubee NWR FMO: Paul Roberts

Felsenthal FMO: Matthew Johnson

Southeast Regional Fire Office (Atlanta)

Regional Fire Management Coordinator:
Pete Kubiak

Deputy Regional Fire Management
Coordinator: Vince Carver

Regional Prescribed Fire Coordinator:
Josh O'Connor

Regional Wildland-Urban Interface
(WUI) Coordinator: Rick Struhar

Regional Fire Office Assistant:
Margaret Hale

Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC)

SACC Assistant Coordinator:
Pat Boucher

SACC Meteorologist: Kevin Scasny

Tallahassee Regional Fire Office (TLH)

Prescribed Fire Training Center
Director: Mike Dueitt

Slidell Regional Fire Staff (SLI)

Regional Fire Ecologist: Sue Wilder

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Fire Management
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 420
Atlanta, GA 30345
<http://www.fws.gov/southeastfire>
<http://twitter.com/USFWSFireSE>
December 2014



Keeping Fire on Our Side

*For thousands of years,
humans have had an
active partnership with
fire. When respected and
managed with care, fire
can be a beneficial ally
rather than an awesome
opponent. Thoughtful
preparation and action
by public managers and
private property owners
can help keep fire's effects
positive. Together, we can
keep fire on our side.*