

Five-year Strategy for Restoring Fire-adapted Ecosystems in the Eastern Region

January 30, 2004



Fire in hardwood slash, Nicolet National Forest

Summary:

Fire retains its historical relevance in the East where many fire-adapted ecosystems have been altered and numerous resource values are at risk. Implementing an effective landscape scale treatment strategy will require coordination and partnerships as well as refinement of the national fire regime condition class map to meet eastern conditions. The Region's five-year strategy focuses on increased coordination to develop landscape strategies for treatments using new planning tools resulting in an expanded fuels treatment program across the Region.

Five-year Strategy for Restoring Fire-adapted Ecosystems in the Eastern Region



Prescribed fire for ecosystem restoration, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Background

Fire is relevant in the East; it plays a critical role in many of the Eastern Region's ecosystems. Historically, fire maintained the Region's prairies, barrens, oak-hickory woodlands, and conifer communities. Lightning-caused fires and repeated burning by American Indians largely shaped these fire-dependent communities and associated landscapes.

Catastrophic fires occur in the East. The potential for explosive and devastating fires is evidenced by legacy fire events, such as the Peshtigo (WI) and Hinckley (MN) fires, and the escape of the Mack Lake (MI) prescribed burn that was designed to restore Kirtland's warbler habitat.

The Region's deadliest fires are part of the lore of American history. On October 8, 1871—the worst single day of wildfire ever recorded—fires roared through Wisconsin and Michigan, killing nearly 1500 people and blackening more than six million acres. On that same day, the great Chicago Fire burned much of that city to the ground, while setting thousands of acres of Midwestern prairies ablaze.

Fire risk in the East is increasing in many areas. The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is extensive and expanding (Figure 1). The rapid increase in the number of seasonal homes, many of them nestled among tracts of public lands with fire-prone systems, has increased the acres where natural resource values are at risk from fire (Figure 2).

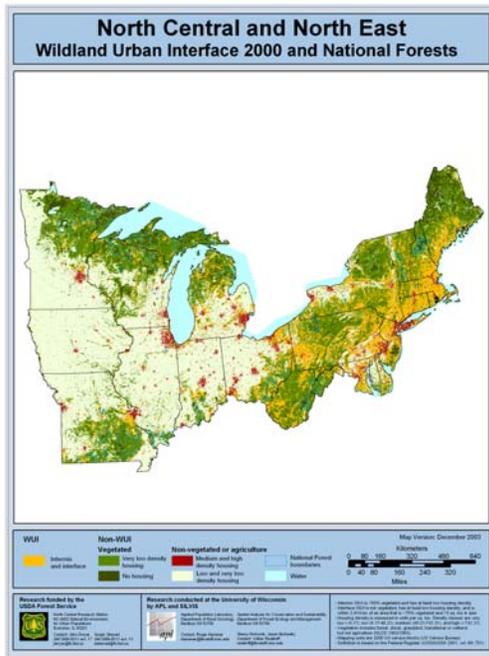


Figure 1

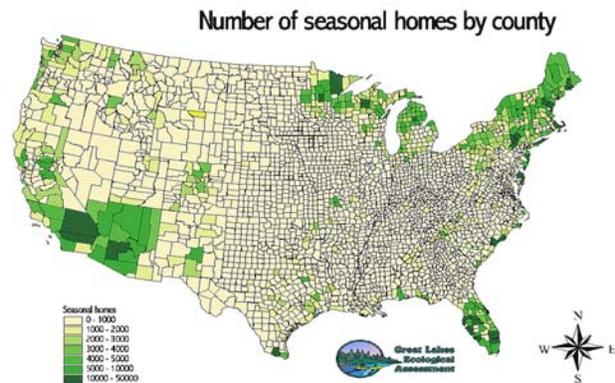


Figure 2

Due to 20th century fire suppression, the historic fire-adapted systems have been invaded—and in some cases replaced—by fire-sensitive, shade-tolerant species such as red maple, and sun-loving species including aspen. An extensive road system in the East has facilitated fire suppression, artificially subduing historic levels of fire occurrence. This has led to altered habitat conditions across the East; elevated fuel buildups in some areas; increased fire risk; increased insect infestations; altered landscape patterns; reduced biodiversity; and uncharacteristic plant associations that have never been seen before.

A large proportion of the vegetation in the East is dramatically different than it was at European settlement (Figure 3). Fire regimes and natural vegetation patterns have been significantly altered. Not all condition class 3 lands have increased fire risk, however, and some areas in condition class 1 present ongoing fire risk.

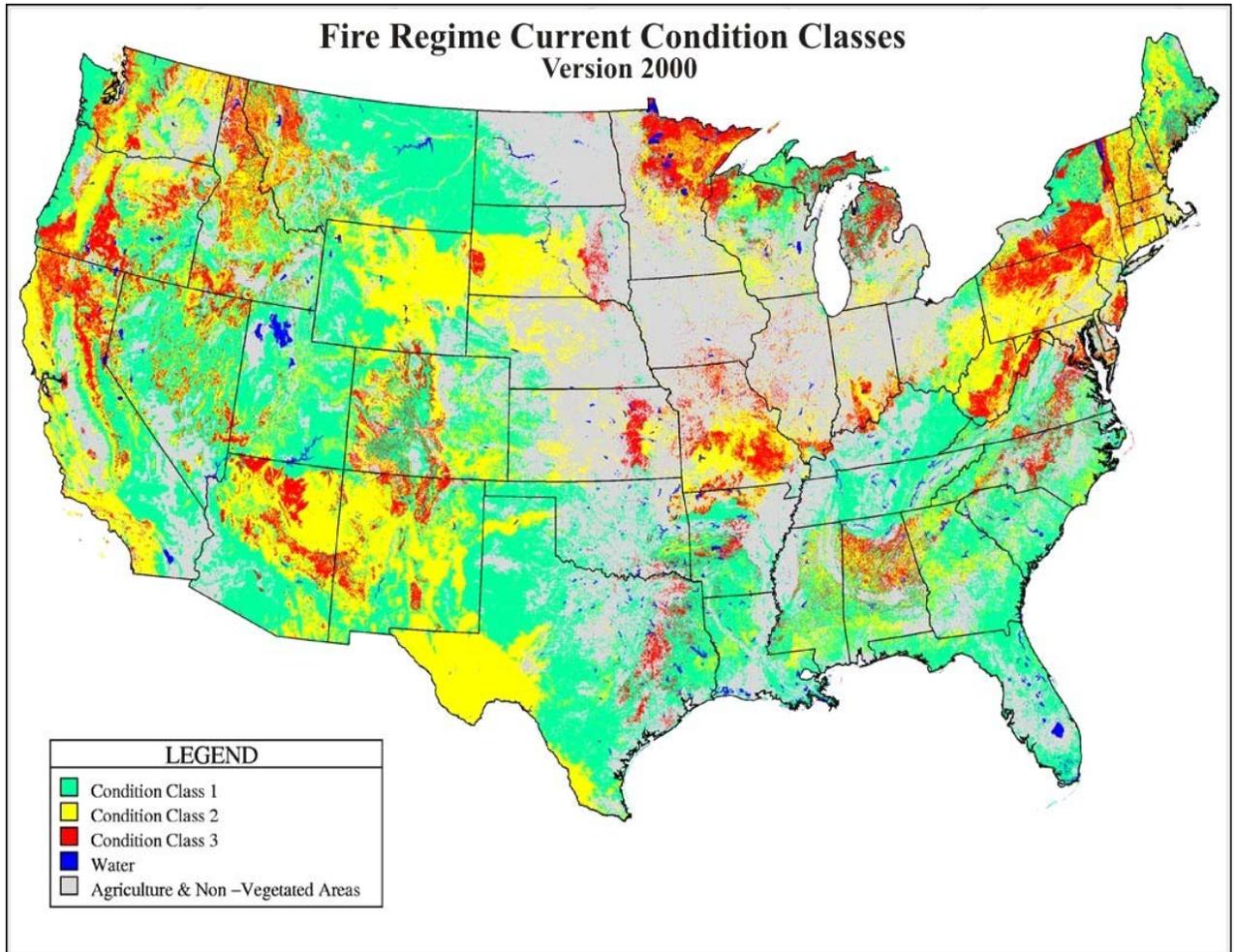


Figure 3

National representations of the situation in the East – the extent of the WUI and the current fire regime condition classes – need local interpretation to adequately assess fire risk and areas of high priority for restoration and for fuels reduction on National Forest System and other lands. Intermingled land ownership and the presence of other values beyond housing units expand the WUI well beyond national mapping. Similarly, the ponderosa pine vegetation model used to develop the fire regime condition class national map does not well represent the mix of vegetation, geomorphology, climate, and position on the landscape features that are needed to evaluate the risks associated with current conditions in the Eastern U.S.

Addressing fire risk is complicated in the East. Federal lands comprise only 8 percent of the 20-state region. Non-industrial private landowners hold the majority of lands. Fire protection and management are administered by a mix of federal, state, county, and local municipalities (Appendix 4).

Five-year Strategy

The Five-year Strategy calls for:

- Increasing coordination with Eastern Region partners.
- Developing landscape scale treatment strategies.
- Revising planning documents to enable forest implementation.
- Utilizing new tools enabled by the HFI and HFRA.
- Expanding programs within the eastern geographic area.

Increase coordination with Eastern Region partners.

Increased coordination among research; Northeastern Area; the Southern Region; other federal agencies; local governments; non-governmental agencies and other partners to increase the scientific knowledge base, develop goals, assess trade-offs, increase efficiencies, optimize resources, and prioritize implementation.

Develop landscape scale treatment strategies.

Develop landscape scale treatment strategies among agency partners to provide ecological condition class restoration and hazard abatement, based on ecosystem health rather than organizational barriers.

Develop direction through Forest Plans and other strategic documents.

Ensure that strategic direction articulated in Forest Plans and other strategic plans is sufficient to guide the development and implementation of the five-year strategy.

Utilize new tools enabled by the HFI and HFRA.

Increase the use of project-planning tools to more efficiently carry out on the ground treatments.

Expand vegetative treatments within the eastern geographic area.

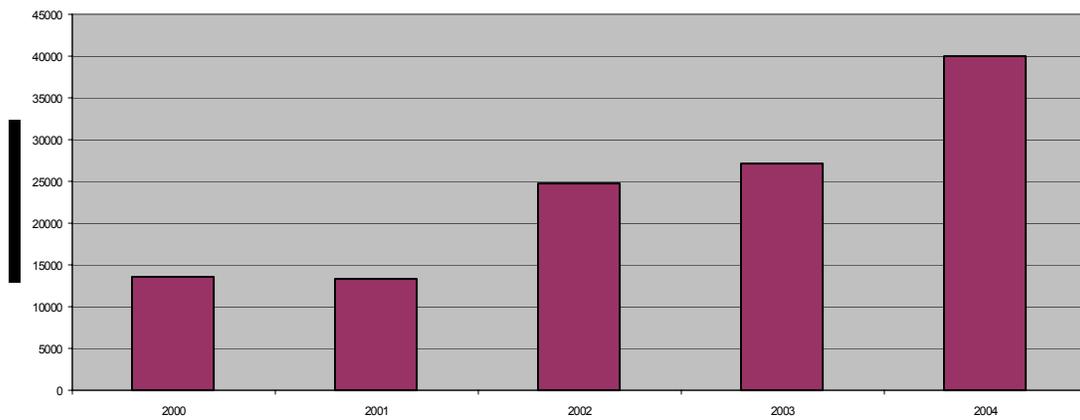
The vegetative types on several forests provide the greatest opportunity for having large programs relative to the Regional hazardous fuels and restoration program. Other forests' programs will be expanded to meet the goals of the five-year strategy. The scale of the increase will be determined as the Region evaluates the results of the interagency work on landscape treatment strategies, priority treatment areas, and the appropriate balance with other resource objectives.

Objectives

Increase results.

- Focus the Eastern Region's vegetation hazardous fuel treatment program to restore natural fire regimes and condition classes in fire-adapted ecosystems of the East. The Region's hazardous fuels treatment program has been increasing over the last five years and is currently at 40,000 acres. Over the five years there will be an expanded program that involves more Forests and acres.

Region 9 Accomplishments



- Communities, improvements, and natural resource values at risk will be protected through an accelerated treatment program in defined high-risk zones. The Eastern Region is characterized by extensive areas of wildland-urban interface and intermix areas extending across 20 states.

Landscape scale treatment strategies.

- The Region will develop a stepwise process for risk analysis and habitat prioritization. (Appendix 1). The Eastern Region is characterized by non-contiguous tracts of land that lend themselves to a multi-tiered and multi-scale treatment strategy appropriate to forest, regional, and collaborative partnership scales. This will ensure treatment of landscapes, watersheds, and ecosystems across organizational boundaries and ownerships.

Wise and effective use of resources.

- The current method of prioritizing fuel treatment projects will be expanded and improved to consider land cover; potential natural vegetation; historical pattern of land types and cultural characteristics; and restoration and management of habitats necessary to sustain Midwestern and Eastern fire-adapted and fire-dependent ecosystems.
- The Region has already organized a Healthy Forests Team among staff groups. Leadership will be accountable to implement programmatic decisions based on

the fire and fuels components of: The Four Threats; National Fire Plan; Healthy Forests Initiative; Healthy Forests Restoration Act; and this five-year strategy for fire-adapted ecosystems. Long-term planning and environmental analysis and documentation will be prepared in a timely manner to provide flexible and accelerated accomplishments. Stewardship contracts will be considered as a tool to accomplish landscape treatment goals.

- We will provide cost-effective, integrated watershed and vegetation restoration:
 - to protect people, communities, and natural resource values at risk;
 - to accelerate vegetation treatments for condition class improvements;
 - to restore ecosystem health across landscapes and watersheds.
- We will increase use of mechanical treatments to enable fuel treatments outside our normal prescribed fire season. Biomass utilization of wood chips and small diameter forest products will provide economic benefits to communities and offset treatment costs.

Develop collaborative relationships among partners.

- The Region and Forests will interface with partners to plan and prioritize projects based on mutual hazard reduction and ecosystem restoration goals. Current partnerships will be strengthened and actively supported among:
 - The Eastern Region NFS and Wildland Fire Programs
 - Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
 - Northeast Research Station
 - North Central Research Station
 - Southern Research Station
 - The Forest Products Laboratory
 - The Nature Conservancy – Midwest and Northeast Divisions
 - Other non-governmental organizations
 - Local community and citizen groups



Ground fire in northern hardwoods

Action Items

- **Land and Resource Management Plans and Fire Management Plans.** We will ensure that national forest LRMP's and FMP's comply with the direction and goals found in The Four Threats; National Fire Plan; Healthy Forests Initiative; Healthy Forests Restoration Act; and this five-year regional strategy, to provide greater capacity and efficiency in fire management and use.

Timeline: LRMP's and FMP's are in the process of revision now and should be finalized by 2006.

- **Regional Organization.** We have formed a Regional HFRA Team to guide implementation of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the initiatives listed immediately above. This team includes the Region's Directors of Fire and Aviation Management; Renewable Resources; Planning and Resource Information Management; and Public and Government Relations. This organization will ensure:

- Leadership commitment to environmental stewardship and program implementation;
- Accountability in implementing this five-year strategy;
- Accountability in integrating the program among key staff areas, collaborators, and publics.

Timeline: Ongoing.

- **Stepwise Procedure.** A proposed stepwise procedure for determining values at risk (qualitative analysis); quantitative risk analysis; habitat prioritization; project selection; community integration (where applicable); and for monitoring and evaluating treatment effectiveness will be developed. The stepwise process will be formulated among researchers, ecologists, and key resource staff officers.

Timeline: A draft stepwise procedure will be refined and reviewed by partners by Sept. 30, 2004.

- **Accountability.** The Region will track implementation through monthly reports to the Regional Forester. We have already established an accountability system to track use of the new tools authorized under the Healthy Forests Initiative and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (Appendix 2).

Timeline: Ongoing.

- **Communications:** The Region will develop a comprehensive internal and external communication plan to keep all stakeholders informed. We already have a "success story reporting system" that we use to reach opinion leaders and major media markets (see Appendix 3 for an example).

Timeline: Complete by May 31, 2004.

- **Collaborative Partnerships.** We will expand collaborative partnerships. See Appendix 4 for a recent list of pertinent partnerships.

Timeline: Ongoing.

- **Funding and Support.** Programmatic funding, research support, grants, agreements, and contracts will be put in place to ensure both consistency and success of the program.

Timeline: Ongoing.



Red oak mortality on the Mark Twain National Forest

Appendices:

- 1) Proposed Stepwise Procedure for Risk Analysis and Habitat Prioritization**
- 2) Eastern Region's Use of HFI Administrative Tools**
- 3) Success Story, "The Great Fire that Never Was"**
- 4) List of Eastern Region Fuels Program Partners**

Proposed Stepwise Procedure for Risk Analysis and Habitat Prioritization

1. Identify areas of fire risk:

- Develop GIS map layers (by ecoregions and vegetative alliances among states) based on: a) location of fire-resistant, fire-prone, and fire-affected habitats at risk of loss or deterioration (condition class); b) historical pattern of habitats established due to land type and cultural characteristics, including repeated burning by American Indians; and c) critical habitats necessary to sustain Eastern and Midwestern ecosystems and dependent species.
- Estimate the relative degree of susceptibility to fire and the loss of key ecosystem components based on the best scientific evidence and ecological factors such as dominant vegetation, soils, and landforms. Subdivide fire-prone systems into high, moderate, and low categories.

2. Prioritize landscapes for restoration:

- Within high and moderate categories of fire-prone systems, analyze existing patterns of land cover by flammability of fuels for the following objectives: a) determine sizes and connectivity of patches of different flammability classes; b) identify areas with high potential for crown fires (e.g., upland conifers); and c) identify areas with high potential for surface fires (e.g., upland deciduous forest types with flammable fuel loadings along the forest floor and in lower structural layers).
- Analyze landscape patterns to plan landscape scale treatment strategies and protect natural resource values at risk from fire including: a) natural fuel breaks (e.g., wetlands and waterways; deciduous forest types interspersed within dominantly upland conifer types; open lands; recently harvested or burned areas); (b) human development including the wildland-urban-interface and intermix, and private in-holdings within NFS lands; c) other high-priority areas such as developed recreational sites, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat.

3. Invite citizens, partner agencies and research associates to participate in the development and selection process:

- The Regional Healthy Forests Team with key partners will coordinate strategy, direction, program and systems development, emphasis areas, treatments, implementation, accountability, and monitoring.
- Incorporate objectives to improve forest health and sustain natural ecological systems identified in collaborative planning and prioritization of project implementation. Determine optimal fuel and vegetation treatment areas based on considerations such as size of treatment areas relative to existing natural fuel breaks; fire risk to humans; restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems;

management of smoke and air quality; and restoration of fire- (and/or suppression-) affected landscapes.

- Work with the research community to investigate and develop needed products and new markets for forest products. Promote community development through availability of contracts and through community planning that supports environmental restoration and provides improved recreational experiences. Emphasize treatments that minimize additional smoke episodes.

4. Combine money and projects from all functional areas so that forest restoration outcomes are greater than the sum of the parts.

- Build program capacity and capability by combining work energy, eliminating redundancy, combining projects, and maximizing cooperation. Identify priority projects for multiple funding and budgetary priorities. Identify other benefiting functions including wildlife habitat management, water quality, recreation, endangered species, etc.

5. Monitor and evaluate program effectiveness using GIS-based documentation.

Eastern Region's Use of Healthy Forests Initiative Administrative Tools *(as of 1/13/04)*

Forest	Project	Location	Tools	Acres	Status	Web Link
Allegheny	Blowdown salvage	Forestwide	To Be Determined	TBD	Scoping	N/A
Cheq-Nic	Tipler Fuels Reduction	Eagle River-Florence R.D.	31.2, 10 or 11	300	Developing proposal	None
Chippewa	Goblin Fern Admin. Study	Walker R.D., T44N, R30W Sec. 3	31.2, 12	Unknown	Decision pending	None
Green Mountain-Finger Lakes	Town of Peru Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Manchester R.D.	31.2, 10	10-15	Scoping this quarter	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/spa/spa_web_gm_1_04.pdf (Green Mountain-Finger Lakes Quarterly)
Hiawatha	Fuels reduction	Forestwide	31.2, 10 or 11	TBD	Identifying projects	None
Hiawatha	Blowdown Salvage	Eastside	31.2, 13	TBD	Performing Inventory	None
Hoosier	Goosetown Salvage	Tell City R.D.	31.2, 13	80	Analyzing scoping responses	None
Huron-Manistee	HFI Fuels Reduction	Tawas & Harrisville R.D.	Demo EA	734	Implemented	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/healthy_forest.htm
Huron-Manistee	Aldrich Fire Salvage	Tawas & Harrisville R.D.	31.2, 13	220	Decided	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/nepa.htm (Huron-Manistee Quarterly)
Huron-Manistee	Memorable Prescribed Fuels	Tawas & Harrisville R.D.	31.2 10	~300	Scoping	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/nepa.htm (Huron-Manistee Quarterly)

Huron-Manistee	Fuels Reduction	Forestwide	31.2 10 or HFRA	TBD	Developing proposals (two)	None
Mark Twain	Pine Fuel Reduction	Ava/Cassville/Willow Spring	31.2, 10	1300	Decision pending	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/Pine_fuel_ava/pine_fuel_ava.htm
Mark Twain	Pine Fuel Reduction	Poplar Bluff R.D.	31.2, 10	420	Decision pending	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/pine_fuel_pb/index.htm
Mark Twain	Pine Fuel Reduction	Salem R.D.	31.2, 10	860	Decided 12/17/03	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/pine_fuel_salem/pine_fuel_salem.htm
Mark Twain	Prescribed Burning for Fuel Reduction, Tornado Damage	Poplar Bluff R.D.	31.2, 10	650	Decision pending	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/prescribed_burn_pb/index.htm
Mark Twain	Barney Fork/Marcoot South Project	Salem R.D.	31.2, 10	1300	Decided 11/19/03	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/Barney-Marcoot-DM/barney_marcoot.htm
Mark Twain	AA Highway Fuels Reduction	Doniphan/Eleven Point R.D.	31.2, 10	Unknown	Developing proposal	None
Mark Twain	Doniphan Commercial Thinning	Doniphan/Eleven Point R.D.	31.2, 12	280	Developing proposal	None
Mark Twain	Bear Paw Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Potosi/Fredricktown R.D.	31.2, 10	1000	Analyzing scoping response	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/bearpaw/bearpaw.htm
Midewin	None					N/A
Monongahela	None					N/A
Ottawa	Rolston Ips Beetle Salvage	Kenton R.D.	31.2, 14	18	Scoping	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/publications/news/newsletter/fall_2003_oq_final.pdf (Ottawa Quarterly)

Shawnee	None					N/A
Superior	Birch Lake Red Pine Plantation and Cedar Lake Aspen Salvage	Kawishiwi R.D.	31.2, 13	20	Scoping complete, F&WS consultation pending	None
Superior	Jack Pine Salvage	Gunflint R.D.	31.2, 13	100	Will be scoped this winter	None
Superior	Under consideration	Laurentian District	31.2, 12	2	Developing proposal	None
Superior	Under consideration	Laurentian District	31.2, 13	<100	Developing proposal	None
Wayne	Ironton Roadside Fuels Reduction	Ironton R.D.	31.2, 10	554	Implementation	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne/projects/ea_docs/dm_dn/roadside_fuel_reduction.pdf
Wayne	Ironton Roadside Fuels Reduction II	Ironton R.D.	31.2, 10	927	Scoping	http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne/projects/ea_docs/scoping/fuel_treatment_scoping_080703.pdf
White Mountain	Under consideration	Forestwide	TBD; may include HFRA	~180	Developing proposal	None

Eastern Region Success Story—Hazardous Fuels Treatment



The Great Fire That Never Was Preparation Prevents Property Loss on Michigan Forest



Uncontrolled fires threaten homes, schools and businesses in and near national forests.

Fire is a frequent topic of conversation at street corners and in coffee shops around Oscoda. A few old timers remember the great fire of 1911, and schoolchildren studying history in the Oscoda Area Schools in northeast Michigan learn of the conflagration that swept through their town killing people, destroying buildings, and burning millions of acres of forestland before dying at the shores of Lake Huron.

That fire was no fluke. A fire over 2,000 acres burned in the 1940's, and a 1,500-acre blaze in 1984 threatened homes and schools before being brought under control.

This area is a vast sea of jack pine forests that are adapted to frequent large and intense burns. But with more and more homes, schools, and businesses interspersed among the jack pine stands, fires must be contained and controlled quickly to save lives and

property.

The 1984 fire allowed new jack pine stands to become established on their own. Growing as thick as "dog's hair," the stands were among the most dangerous on the Tawas Ranger District of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. Schools and homes would be caught in the middle if these vast stands caught fire.

Coordinating their efforts, the Forest Service and the Oscoda Area Schools funded projects on their own lands to create fuel breaks—long, narrow strips of land cleared of fuels like jack pine trees—in strategic areas, planning for a future fire while hoping that day never came.

On a hot and dry, windy day the following spring, however, a fire did start near the Oscoda High School. Firefighting forces from the Forest Service, Michigan DNR, and Oscoda Township Fire Department flanked the advancing blaze that was putting up 40-foot tall flames, but could not pinch it off at the head as it approached a subdivision of homes.

Then, the fire ran into something that changed the course of history that day—a strategically placed fuel break constructed the previous fall. There, its flames diminished for want of fuel, effectively stopping the fire in its tracks. Firefighters working safely in the fuel break put out embers spit ahead by the fire into the woods and grass surrounding the homes before they could start new fires.

No firefighters were injured and no buildings were lost.

What could have been the great fire of 1998 was avoided by advanced, coordinated planning and strategic placement of firebreaks.



By constructing fuel breaks, forest managers can slow and stop the advance of large fires.

List of Eastern Region Fuels Program Partners *(as of October 2002)*

Connecticut

CT Department of Environmental Protection: Ralph Scarpino, Fire Supervisor
Northeastern Forest Fire Compact: Tom Parent
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Rick Vollick
The Nature Conservancy: Dave Gumbart
USDA – Forest Service: Tom Brady, Northeastern Area Representative

Delaware:

DE Forest Service: Jim Dowd, Acting Fire Supervisor
The Nature Conservancy: John Graham
USDA – FS NA S&PF: Alan Zentz, WUI / Deputy NFP Coordinator

Illinois:

Shawnee NF: Chuck Murphy, FMO
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie: Jeff Martina, Fire Staff
IL Department of Natural Resources: Pete Scuba, Fire Supervisor
USDI National Park Service: Paul Mancuso, WUI Coordinator
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Cliff Berger
The Nature Conservancy: Bill Kleiman

Indiana:

Hoosier NF: Chris Peterson, FMO
IN Department of Natural Resources: Steve Creech, Fire Supervisor
The Nature Conservancy: Ellen Jacquart
USDI National Park Service: Neal Mulconrey, WUI Coordinator
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Tom Zellmer

Iowa:

Department of Natural Resources: Gail Kantak, Fire Supervisor
USDI National Park Service: Paul Mancuso, WUI Coordinator
USDI Bureau Indian Affairs: Sean Hart, Regional Office, Ft. Snelling
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Cliff Berger
USDA – FS NA S&PF: Alan Zentz, WUI / Deputy NFP Coordinator

Maine:

White Mountain NF: Tom Brady, FMO; Craig Young, Fuel Specialist
Northeastern Forest Fire Compact: Tom Parent, Executive Director
ME Department of Conservation: Bill Williams, Fire Supervisor
The Nature Conservancy: Parker Schuerman
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Rick Vollick, FMO
USDI Bureau Indian Affairs: Tony Recker

Maryland:

Department of Natural Resources: Monte Mitchell, Fire Supervisor
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Bill Giese

The Nature Conservancy: Doug Samson
USDA – FS NA S&PF: Alan Zentz, WUI / Deputy NFP Coordinator

Massachusetts:

MA Department of Environmental Management: Mike Terrell, Fire Supervisor
Paul Head, Fire Management Officer, NE Region, National Park Service
Northeastern Forest Fire Compact: Tom Parent, Executive Director
Massachusetts Prescribed Fire Council
The Nature Conservancy: Joel Carlson
USDA – Forest Service: Tom Brady, Northeastern Area Representative
University of Massachusetts: Bill Patterson

Michigan:

Huron-Manistee NF: Valdo Calvert, FMO
Hiawatha NF: Ralph Winkler, Fire Staff Officer; Don Mikel, Fuels Specialist
Ottawa NF: Bob Mayer, FMO
MI Department of Natural Resources: Ron Wilson, Fire Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service: Tom Zellmer, Zone FMO
USDI National Park Service: Paul Mancuso, WUI Coordinator; Doug Alexander, Fuels Management Specialist
USDI Bureau Indian Affairs: John Banuchie, Michigan Field Office, Baraga
The Nature Conservancy: John Legge, West Michigan Project Director
Rural Fire Department Chiefs Association - Gary Pullen, Cherry Grove Township Fire Chief
NC Forest Experiment Station: Dave Cleland, Researcher, Great Lakes Assessment

Minnesota:

Chippewa NF, Superior NF: Gary Brown, FMO;
MNICS (Minnesota Incident Command System) Partners:
USDA Forest Service, Chippewa and Superior, Ellen Bogardus-Szymaniak, Fuel Specialist
MN Department of Natural Resources: Olin Phillips, Fire Supervisor
USDI National Park Service: Dave Soliem, FMO and WUI Coordinator
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Dan Dearborn, Zone FMO, Iowa and Minnesota
USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs: Tom Remus, Regional Fuels Specialist
Mille Lacs, White Earth, Red Lake, Boise Forte, Leech Lake, and Portage Tribes
NC Forest Experiment Station: Dave Cleland, Researcher, Great Lakes Assessment; Dave Schriener, Assistant Director for Research
The Nature Conservancy: Brian Winter, Director of Science and Stewardship

Missouri:

Mark Twain NF: Lyn Carpenter, FMO; Bennie Terrell, Fuel Specialist
State of Missouri: Vacant, Fire Supervisor - Mike Hoffman, Assistant State Forester - Point of Contact, Fire Supervisor
USDI Park Service: Sandi Cowin, WUI Coordinator; Angie Smith, WUI Coordinator; Mike Beasley; Park FMO, Ozark National Scenic Waterways
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Cliff Berger
The Nature Conservancy: Doug Ladd

New Hampshire:

White Mountain NF: Tom Brady, FMO; Craig Young, Fuel Specialist
NH Department of Resources and Economic Development: Bud Nelson, Fire Supervisor

Northeastern Forest Fire Compact: Tom Parent, Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy: Mark Zankel

New Jersey:

NJ Forest Fire Service: Maris Gabliks, Acting Fire Supervisor
The Nature Conservancy: Andrea Stevens
USDA – FS NA S&PF: Alan Zentz, WUI / Deputy NFP Coordinator

New York:

Green Mountain-Finger Lakes NF: Nort Phillips, Fuel Specialist
NY Forest Rangers: Andy Jacob, Fire Supervisor
Northeastern Forest Fire Compact: Tom Parent, Executive Director
USDI US Fish and Wildlife Service: Rick Vollick
Wild Turkey Federation: New York Chapter
The Nature Conservancy: Chris Hawver

Ohio:

Wayne NF: Kevan Moore, FMO; John Crockett, Fuel Specialist
USDI National Park Service, Paul Mancuso, WUI Coordinator
USDA FS Forest Products Lab: Susan LeVan
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Tom Zellmer
Hocking College: Mark Puhl, Instructor, Wildland and Prescribed Fire
NE Forest Experiment Station, Dan Yaussy, Research Forester
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Tom Zellmer
Department of Natural Resources: Michael Bowden, Fire Supervisor

Pennsylvania:

Allegheny NF: Wendell Wallace, FMO
PA Bureau of Forestry: John Berst, Fire Supervisor
Northeastern Research Station: Susan Stout
USDA FS Forest Products Lab: Susan LeVan
The Nature Conservancy: George Gress

Rhode Island:

RI Division of Forest Environment: Tom Bourn, Fire Supervisor
Northeastern Forest Fire Compact: Tom Parent, Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy: Ginger Brown
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Rick Vollick
USDA – Forest Service: Tom Brady, Northeastern Area Representative

Vermont:

Green Mountain-Finger Lakes NF: Nort Phillips, Fire Staff
VT Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation: Brent Teillon, Fire Supervisor
Northeastern Forest Fire Compact: Tom Parent, Executive Director
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Rick Vollick
The Nature Conservancy: Rose Paul

West Virginia:

Monongahela NF: Gary Bustamente, FMO; Melissa Thomas-VanGundy, Fuel Specialist

WV Division of Forestry: Coy Mullins, Fire Supervisor
WV Department of Natural Resources: Al Glascock
WV University: Mary Ann Favjan
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Bill Tolin
USDI National Park Service: Jeff Shryer
The Nature Conservancy: Russ McClain
NE Forest Experiment Station: Tom Schuler

Wisconsin:

WI Department of Natural Resources: Ken Terrill, Fire Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service: Tom Zellmer, Zone FMO
USDI Park Service, Paul Mancuso, WUI Coordinator
USDI Bureau Indian Affairs: Dave Pergolski, Great Lakes Agency, Ashland
NC Forest Experiment Station: Dave Cleland, Researcher, Great Lakes Assessment
The Nature Conservancy: Nancy Braker