



U.S. National Park Service

# Fire Management Plan

Acadia National Park

Version 12/2023



**DOCUMENT REPOSITORY** - FMP Documents should be uploaded to the [Wildland Fire A123 - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

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**REQUIRED ANNUAL REGIONAL FMP REVIEW PROCESS** - Follow the Fire Management Plan Regional Review Process outlined in [Reference Manual 18, Fire Management Plans, Chapter 4 \(2023\), Sections 3.0 and 3.1](#).

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**SIGNATURE PAGE** - the FMP should be recommended for approval by an Interagency Fire Program Management Standard (IFPM) qualified Fire Management Officer (FMO) and signed/approved by the Park Superintendent.

## Acadia National Park Fire Management Plan

### Bar Harbor, Maine

Version 12/2023

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*\*indicates section not required if the fire program does not include these elements.*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION, LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING, and COMMUNICATION

This FMP replaces the 2009 Acadia National Park Wildland Fire Management Plan and provides guidance on a wide range of wildland fire management activities in Acadia National Park including prevention, education, preparedness, prescribed fire, fuels management and fire suppression activities. Values considered in the FMP include the protection of Park property, structures and improvements, cultural and historic sites, protection of neighboring private property and protection of endangered and threatened species and habitats of concern. The actions and activities proposed under this FMP do not differ substantively from the actions and activities conducted under the 2009 FMP.

The mission of the National Park Service Wildland Fire Program is to manage wildland fire to protect the public, park communities, and infrastructure, conserve natural and cultural resources, and maintain and restore natural ecosystem processes ([NPS Wildland Fire Strategic Plan](#)). Each park unit with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan that will address the need for adequate funding and staffing to support the fire management program. ([Directors Order #18, Wildland Fire Management, NPS 2008](#)). To align with the DOI FMP Framework, the NPS developed fire management planning guidance described in NPS [Reference Manual \(RM\) - 18, Fire Planning, Chapter 4 \(2023\)](#), that considers fire program complexity and efficient and effective planning direction.

The Acadia National Park Fire Management Plan is a strategic plan that defines a program of work to manage wildland fire, (includes prescribed fire and wildfire), and non-fire fuel treatments, and is based on direction contained in existing park unit planning documents. This Acadia National Park Fire Management Plan provides for firefighter and public safety and includes strategies for managing wildland fire. The Acadia National Park Fire Management Plan addresses values to be protected and is consistent with Acadia National Park resource management objectives and environmental laws and regulations such as the [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#), the National and State Historic Preservation Acts, the Clean Air Act, etc.

The Acadia National Park Fire Management Officer (FMO) determines program requirements to implement land use decisions through the FMP to meet land management objectives. The FMO is responsible for developing, maintaining, and annually evaluating the FMP to ensure accuracy and validity by completing an annual review. ([Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\), Chapter 3, NPS Program Organization and Responsibilities](#)).

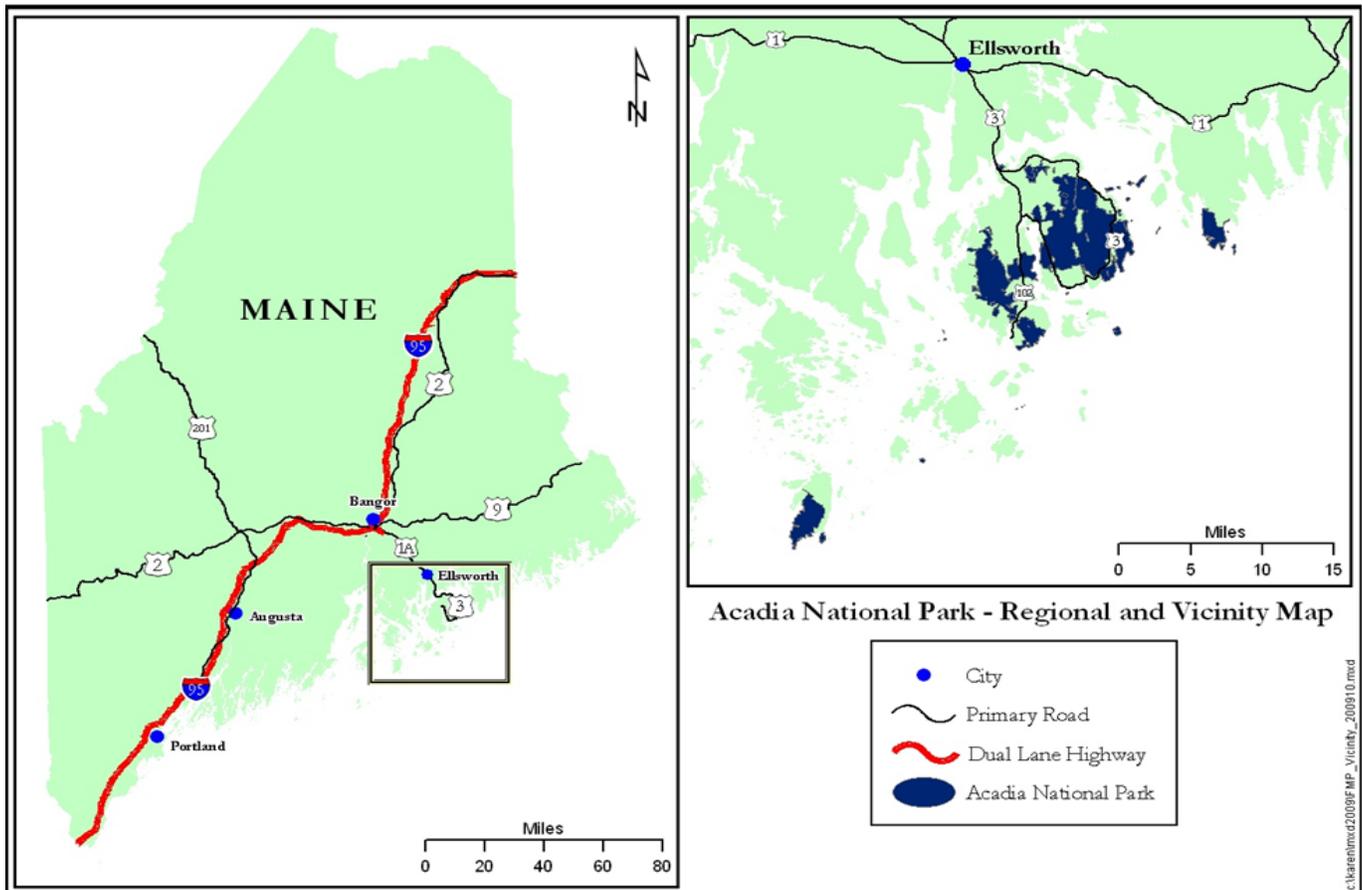
The overall goal of the FMP is to plan, direct and implement actions that help to accomplish the mission of the NPS in managing and protecting the lands and other resources of Acadia National Park. The FMP establishes the fire management goals, objectives, policies, and operational programs necessary to effectively manage wildland fire within the park and to provide wildland fire management assistance to neighboring communities and property owners. The FMP serves as a detailed action plan for the implementation of those programs and activities by the park staff.

This FMP identifies the risk of wildland fire to communities bordering the Park, addresses that risk through treatment programs and incorporated input and advice from federal, state, and local agencies, neighboring landowners, and the local communities.

### Park Unit Area:

Acadia National Park, located in the mid-coast region of Maine, approximately 45 miles southeast of the city of Bangor, Maine (see **Figure 1**). The Park currently includes approximately 36,968 acres

of land (see **Figure 2**), including 30,629 acres on Mount Desert Island (MDI); 3,438 acres on the Schoodic Peninsula located five miles east of MDI; and 2,901 acres on Isle au Haut (IAH), an island located 15 miles southwest of MDI. The Park also includes all or part of 14 outlying coastal islands and several small freshwater islands. The acreages for these islands are included with the above units that the islands lie closest to. About 50% of both MDI and IAH are under Federal ownership. All lands administered as Acadia National Park lie within Hancock and Knox counties.



**Figure 1: Acadia National Park Vicinity Map**

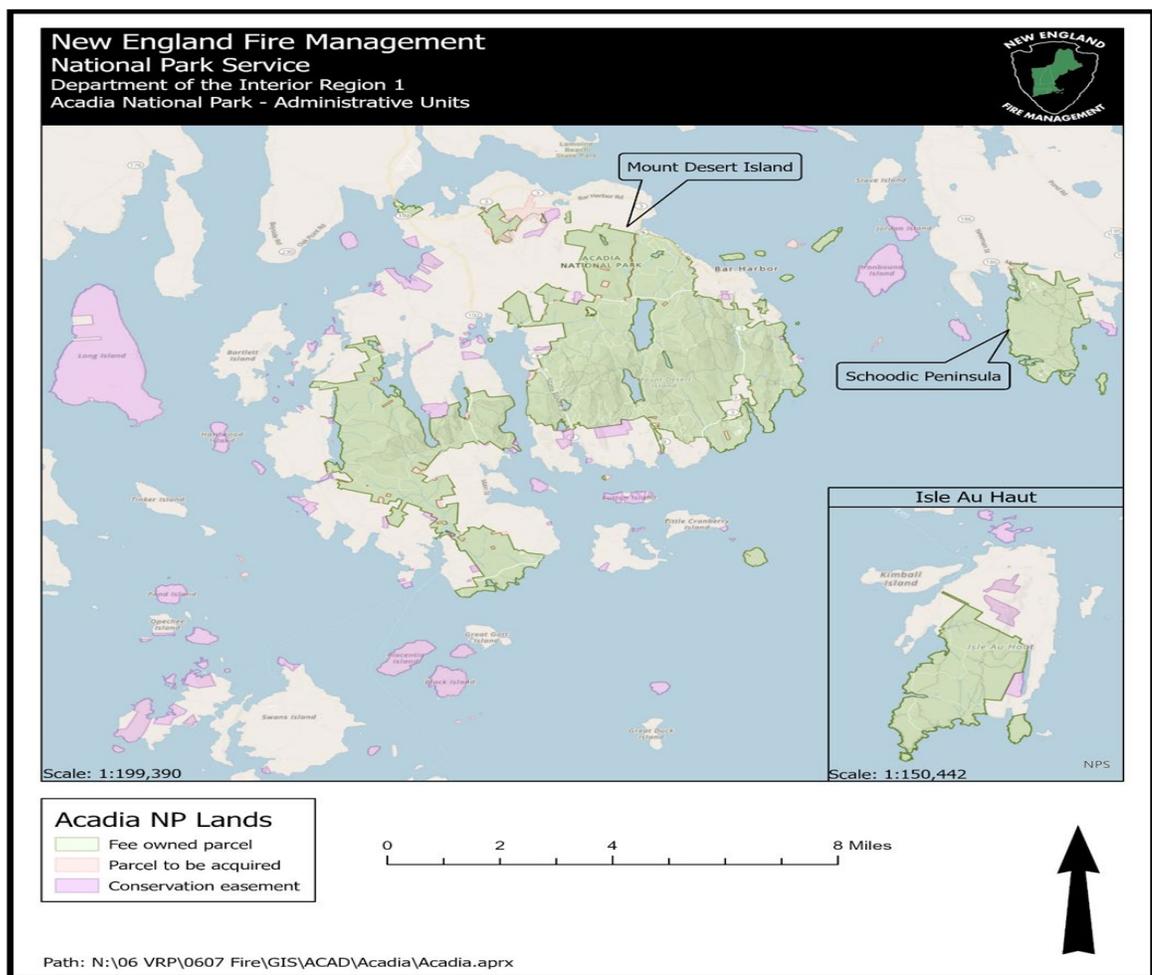
The Park has approximately 115 miles of land boundaries, not including fresh and saltwater shorelines. Much of the Park is bordered by houses and other structures intermingled with forests and other wildland fuels on privately-owned properties. This zone or area is commonly referred to as the wildland/urban interface. This juxtaposition of federal lands, private property, multiple jurisdictions, wildland fuels and structures (values at risk) present a challenge to fire managers in developing and conducting a fire management program that protects those values at risk from a wildfire.

The NPS also manages more than 200 conservation easements on coastal islands in the Penobscot Bay and Frenchman Bay areas, comprising approximately 12,500 acres. One of these easements protects 4,313 acres of land on Long Island, located in Blue Hill Bay. This easement covers 98% of the island's acreage and gives the NPS broad rights to promote and manage public use on Long Island.

Because the rights granted to the NPS under the terms of the Long Island conservation easement are so significant and public use of the island brings with it an associated risk of wildfire, the Park has approval from the Northeast Regional Director, the Northeast Regional Solicitor and the NPS Fire Program Management Center to treat the Long Island easement lands as Federally owned for the purposes of fire management. This FMP applies to the easement lands of Long Island and to all lands held in fee ownership by the United States Government and administered by the NPS as Acadia National Park. With the exception of the Long Island easement, this FMP does not apply to any other park conservation easements.

### Fire Management Units (FMU)

The Park is divided into three FMUs (see **figure 2**); the Mount Desert Island FMU, the Isle au Haut FMU and the Schoodic Peninsula FMU. The three FMUs are based upon their geographic separation from each other, their differences in staffing levels and their differing initial response capabilities. The NPS administered offshore islands and the easement lands on Long Island (located in Blue Hill Bay) are incorporated into the FMU they are geographically closest to. All three FMUs share similar topography, climate, fuel type, expected fire behavior and fire history. All three units share the same fire management and fire suppression objectives.



**Figure 2: Acadia National Park protected lands.**

This FMP complies fully with DOI and NPS requirements and will continue in effect until rescinded. The FMP is subject to annual reviews for policy and terminology currency and to a major review and/or revision at a minimum of a five-year interval, or when significant changes in program direction are proposed.

### **1.1 Program Organization**

Park management positions that provide general or specific direction, oversight and/or supervision of the Park's fire management program are listed below.

#### **a. Superintendent**

The Acadia National Park superintendent is responsible to the regional director, Northeast Region, for planning and directing all park operations, activities, and programs, including fire management. Under the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 1.5), the superintendent has the authority to close areas of the park and to prohibit campfires and smoking during periods of elevated fire danger. The superintendent has delegated all fire management responsibilities to the deputy superintendent.

#### **b. Deputy Superintendent**

The deputy superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day supervision and management of all park operations, activities, and programs, including fire management. The deputy superintendent provides general guidance and review for the Park's fire management program. The deputy superintendent has delegated authority for the fire management program to the Chief Ranger of the Visitor and Resource Protection Division.

#### **c. Chief Ranger**

The chief ranger of the Visitor and Resource Protection Division has the overall responsibility for the planning and implementation of the Park's fire management program. The chief ranger provides specific review of the fire management program. The chief ranger has delegated all planning, program management and operational aspects of the fire management program to the fire management officer.

#### **D. Fire Management Office**

Those park positions that have specific, day-to-day fire management program responsibility are in the Park's fire management office, a unit of the Visitor and Resource Protection Division. These positions are under the supervision of the fire management officer and are listed below. All positions in the fire management office are either base funded or project funded through the NPS Fire Management Program Cost Center. Funding for project funded positions must be requested annually through the NPS fuels program budgeting process.

#### **Fire Management Officer (FMO) and New England Zone FMO**

The FMO is a base funded permanent, full-time position and is directly responsible to the chief ranger for the planning, management, implementation, and coordination of the Park's wildland fire management program. The FMO is the program manager for the Park's fire management program, responsible for the development of the Park's fire management plan, for management of program budgets, for identifying and coordinating fire-related research projects and for supervision of the Park's fire prevention, training, detection, preparedness, suppression, and fuels management programs. The FMO provides supervision of the fire management staff and equipment. The FMO will also coordinate with any red carded protection rangers at Isle Au Haut to staff the fire apparatus if there is a need for fire support

on the island. The FMO will provide suppression resources to respond to the island in the event of a wildfire to support the protection ranger's initial response.

The FMO should be qualified as an Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3), a Task Force Leader (TFLD) or Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR) and/or a Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN) and a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2).

The FMO also serves as the area FMO for the New England Fire Management Zone (NEFMZ). The New England Fire management Zone is comprised of twenty three (23) NPS units in the 6 New England states (Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maine); Acadia National Park, Adams National Historical Park, Appalachian National Scenic Trail (in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut), Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, Boston African American National Historic Site, Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, Boston National Historical Park, Cape Cod National Seashore, Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site, John F Kennedy National Historic Site, Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historical Park, Lowell National Historical Park, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Minute Man National Historical Park, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Roger Williams National memorial, Saint Croix Island International Historic Site, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Springfield Armory National Historic Site, and Weir Farm National Historic Site. The area FMO provides the first level of assistance and coordination for all aspects of the fire and aviation management programs of these parks.

#### **Engine Captain**

The engine captain is a base funded permanent, year-round position directly responsible to the FMO for assistance in coordinating the parks fire suppression and fuels management programs. This includes managing and staffing the type 6 engine located at Acadia NP., managing the parks fire cache and equipment, directing initial action on wildland fires within the park boundaries, providing supervision to the seasonal employees hired for the program, and support in coordinating the hazardous fuels work in the park.

This position should be qualified as an Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4), a Single Resource Boss Crew (CRWB) and/or a Single Resource Boss Engine (ENGB) and a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 3 (RXB3).

#### **Forestry Technician (Senior Firefighter)**

The senior firefighter is a base funded subject to furlough position (18/8) directly responsible to the engine captain position. They provide the on-site direction to the engine seasonal employees in their daily work activities. The senior will coordinate with the engine Captain to ensure all equipment and tools are maintained in good working order for fire suppression. They will help coordinate fuels work for the engine crew and assist in administrative work as assigned.

Ideally the senior firefighter position should be qualified as an Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5), but minimally qualified at least as a Firefighter Type 1(FFT1) with the S-290 training.

#### **Seasonal Forestry Technicians (Fire Seasonal)**

The Seasonal Forestry Technician positions are a fuels funded seasonal position (1039 hours) directly responsible to the Engine Captain. The seasonal assists the Engine Captain in

managing the Park's fire caches, including the testing, maintenance and repair of all equipment, the issuance of equipment and supplies and the inventorying and tracking of those supplies and equipment. The seasonal will carry out detection and preparedness activities and participate in initial action operations.

The Seasonal should be qualified as a Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2). There will be 2 – 3 seasonal positions filled at the park each year to support the Fire Management Program.

**NECC Fire Dispatcher**

The NECC Fire Dispatcher is a base funded permanent, subject-to-furlough position (18/8) at the Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center (NECC), located at the Forest Service Office in Campton, New Hampshire. The position is funded by the NPS, and oversight and day to day management is provided by the U.S. Forest Service. The NECC Fire dispatcher provides radio dispatch services to the Maine Forest Service, US Forest Service, and resource dispatch services for NECC. The NECC FD should be qualified as an expanded dispatch support dispatcher (EDSD).

**1.2 Fire Management Actions**

The primary fire management objective of this FMP is that initial action on wildland fires will be to suppress the fire at the lowest cost with the fewest negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety and the values to be protected (including on adjacent non-Federal lands). A second objective is to manage all wildfire incidents based on the ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire and in accordance with accepted interagency standards, using appropriate management strategies and tactics and maximizing efficiency via interagency coordination and cooperation. These objectives will guide all planning, procedures, and response to wildland fires within the park.

These are expanded upon in section 3.1 Management of Wildfires. Management actions may be represented/delineated on the landscape as Strategic Objectives (S.O.) as described in Section 3.1.3 and identified in the WFSS profile for the park. Fuel treatments are described in Section 3.2.

**1.3 Environmental Compliance**

Below are the relevant National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and supporting decision documents that are associated with this FMP (indicated as N/A if not applicable). [Planning, Environment & Public Comment \(PEPC\)](#)

NEPA Document Name	Document Date Signed (month/day/year)	Project ID Number#
Categorical Exclusion (CE)	12/15/2009 Date of signed CE	L7617(ACAD) PEPC - 10004
Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)	N/A Date of signed FONSI	
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision (ROD)	N/A Date of signed ROD	

National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) /Section 106, Endangered Species Act (ESA) /Section 7 consultation documentation should be uploaded in PEPC.

Documents should be included in the FMP compliance folder on the [NPS Wildland Fire, Planning & Budget Share Point Site](#).

A. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

National Environmental Policy Act compliance for this FMP was accomplished through consultation with interested external parties and a series of internal scoping sessions. These activities lead to a determination that the actions and activities proposed under this FMP do not differ significantly from the actions and activities conducted under the 1993 FMP.

The National Park Service revised the 1993 Wildland Fire Management Plan for Acadia National Park with the 2009 Fire Management Plan and categorical exclusion for minor amendment to the plan, fulfilling the requirements of NEPA. The updated Fire Management Plan is an operational document that establishes goals, objectives, and components of a comprehensive wildland fire program. Proposed fire management projects would conduct additional site-specific planning and applicable compliance prior to moving forward with implementation.

B. Endangered Species Act (ESA)

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the effects of any agency action that may affect endangered, threatened, or proposed species must be evaluated in consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Prior to any proposed fire management project, Acadia National Park would evaluate the site, implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize adverse effects to listed species, and complete consultation.

**Bat Compliance**

Acadia National Park has eight bat species that are either resident or migratory. Several of the species are impacted by a fungal pathogen known as White Nose Syndrome. One species was listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 2023, with two more being considered for listing in the future. Three species are listed under the State of Maine Endangered Species Act. Acadia National Park has an internal SOP process that guides park project and operations to best practices for conservation of all bat species.

During Fire Management project development, the FMO will contact the **Environmental Compliance Specialist** who will work with the **Wildlife Biologist** to ensure that best practices are incorporated early in the project. Recommended project standards will be negotiated and agreed upon by the park Environmental Compliance Specialist, the Wildlife Biologist, and the Fire Management Officer to ensure the project is within park and agency standards for endangered species. When a project is ready to be implemented, the Environmental Compliance Specialist will initiate consultation with the USFWS to ensure compliance with the ESA.

C. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (36 CFR 800), requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of projects they fund, permit or license on historic properties that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. **Park Cultural Resources Program Manager** will be notified of any projects occurring within the boundaries of Acadia National Park for consultation with SHPO and THPO. The fire program will solicit her input to the

project development and implementation as it relates to the guidelines of the National Historic Preservation Act.

D. Park-Specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Fire management activities shall be consistent with all applicable park-specific standard operating procedures as it relates to compliance for NEPA, ESA, and NHPA. Project planning will incorporate guidance and direction for managing and conducting operations, including all pre-planning and necessary survey work.

#### 1.4 Park Unit/Resource Management Planning

The following Park planning documents provide guidance in developing the goals and objectives for this FMP and in developing the implementation strategies for achieving those goals and objectives.

##### **Acadia National Park General Management Plan (PEPC ID# )**

The *Acadia National Park General Management Plan (1992)* mandates that the NPS carry out interrelated strategies for the protection and management of Park resources. The Park's primary resource management goal is to perpetuate the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the park. The plan's resource management objectives related to fire management are:

- Protect and manage the park's natural resources, giving priority to those that are exceptionally fragile or significant.
- Improve the natural and cultural resource information base through expanded inventory, monitoring, research and improved data base management and GIS (geographic information system) systems.
- Protect, preserve, and restore, as appropriate, the cultural heritage of Acadia National Park, including archeological, historic, curatorial, and cultural landscape resources, through expanded cultural resource programs.

The *General Management Plan* specifically directs the Park to "manage fire." As stated in the *General Management Plan*, the Park:

"...will prepare and implement a park fire management plan. The purpose of this plan will be to assure the protection of human life and property, and to research and then restore or simulate the natural role of fire in the development and perpetuation of park habitats. The National Park Service will work with the State of Maine and local communities to assure preparedness for fire suppression. As part of that preparedness, preemptive or "pre-suppression" programs might be implemented to reduce fuel levels and control potential fire behavior at tactical locations. Specific management actions will be detailed, and impacts analyzed, as part of the fire management plan. For example, clearly articulated vegetation and fuels management objectives, will be detailed and their impacts analyzed as part of the fire management plan."

The *General Management Plan* further directs the NPS to "reduce the threat of fire" in cooperation with adjacent landowners and communities in order to enhance Park values. It states that the Park:

"...will work with local communities to reduce the threat of fire from sources external to the park by encouraging adoption of zoning, building codes, public education, and fuel-management policies that will discourage potential ignition or fire damage."

## Acadia National Park Resource Management Plan (PEPC ID# )

*The Acadia National Park Resource Management Plan (1998)* calls for an integrated approach to protecting and managing the Park's natural and cultural resources. It states:

"Resource management at ACAD (*the Park*) is focused on protecting the integrity of natural resources, preserving cultural heritage and maintain quality visitor experiences. Consistent with current Park strategic planning documents, resource management program activities emphasis:

- a. development of knowledge about and identification of threats to Park ecosystems, cultural resources, and visitor experiences
- b. application of scientific study in formulating solutions to Park issues
- c. participation with other entities in the implementation of appropriate management actions to meet Park stewardship responsibilities
- d. compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and
- e. communication of the results of our work with others to achieve the Park's mission."

The *Resource Management Plan* identifies the specific need for continued research into the role and effect of fire on northeastern plant communities and the effectiveness of fuel reduction methods on those communities.

### 1.5 Collaborative Planning

The park engages in fire management planning with federal partners, non- federal agencies/departments, local cooperators, tribal governments and other non-governmental organizations as recommended by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Reference the goals of the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) (Cohesive Strategy)). The National Cohesive Strategy identifies 3 goals that all agencies and cooperators should work towards. They are,

- Restore and maintain landscapes
- Fire-adapted communities
- Safe and effective risk-based wildfire response

The fire program at Acadia National Park actively engages with other federal agencies and cooperators to work toward these cohesive strategy goals. Through the use of prescribed fire and mechanical hazard fuel reduction projects, we are working towards the goals of restoring and maintaining landscapes and fire adapted communities. The primary focus of the fuels program is to develop defensible space along the boundaries of the park and develop defensible space around park values at risk and infrastructure. The fuels program is explained in more detail in section 3.2 Fuels Treatments.

During the NEPA planning process in 2009, various individuals, groups and organizations were given the opportunity to assist in the development of the FMP through the internal and external scoping activities and consultation which resulted in the signing of the Categorical Exclusion (CE) 2009. They were given an opportunity to identify issues and concerns, and many did participate in this process through formal and/or informal means.

### Other Federal Agencies

As required by the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted regarding potential effects of the FMP on endangered, threatened, or proposed species. The

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Fire Management Officer also provided informal assistance in development of the 2009 Fire Management Plan and categorical exclusion.

### **Federally Recognized Tribes**

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Federally recognized tribes of Maine listed below were consulted during the external scoping process in 2009 Fire Management Plan and categorical exclusion.

- Mi'kmaq Nation
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
- Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point
- Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township
- Penobscot Nation

### **State Agencies**

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Maine State Historic Preservation Office was consulted during the external scoping process in 2009 Fire Management Plan and categorical exclusion.

The Maine Forest Service and the Maine State Planning Office were also consulted during the external scoping process in 2009 Fire Management Plan and categorical exclusion.

### **Local Agencies**

The fire chiefs for the eleven local fire departments that assist the Park with wildland fire activities were consulted during the external scoping process in 2009 Fire Management Plan and categorical exclusion. These fire departments are:

- Bar Harbor Fire Department
- Blue Hill Volunteer Fire Department
- Cranberry Isles Fire Department
- Gouldsboro Fire Department
- Isle au Haut Fire Department
- Mount Desert Township Fire Department
- Southwest Harbor Fire Department
- Swans Island Fire Department
- Tremont Volunteer Fire Department
- Trenton Volunteer Fire Department
- Winter Harbor Fire Department

## **1.6 Communication and Education**

An active fire communication and education program will be conducted in conjunction with other NPS departments and agencies to increase awareness of fire prevention, communicate fire danger information, develop understanding of the dangers and benefits of wildland fire, protect human life and property, and prevent damage to cultural resources, natural resources and real property and increase the public's awareness of the wildland/urban interface.

The Park is committed to keeping the public informed of its fire management program and activities. Informational and educational opportunities will be developed to reach as many segments of the public as possible. This may include Park neighbors, local and state government representatives, special interest groups, schools, public organizations, and other groups. NPS materials and programs may be available to help deliver information concerning the role fire plays in preserving and protecting the cultural and natural resources of the park. Regionally appropriate and Park specific information may be developed and disseminated.

A program of public education regarding potential fire danger may be conducted when the fire danger level is high, very high or extreme. Visitor contacts, signs, bulletin board materials, handouts and interpretive programs may be utilized to increase visitor and Park neighbor awareness of fire hazards. These efforts will be coordinated with other divisions within the park to maximize the dissemination of information to our employees, our visitors, and members of the public.

Additional information can be found in [RM - 18, Chapter 20, Communication and Education](#).

## **2.0 WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

This section of the FMP describes the overall fire management program direction from the park unit planning documents listed in Section 1.3. Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Strategic Objectives and Management Requirements are described in Section 3.1.3.

### **2.1 Goals**

The goals of the Park's fire management program are:

- Provide for public and firefighter safety
- Protect life and property
- Protect human health and safety
- Protect natural resources and natural communities
- Protect rare species and habitats
- Protect cultural resources
- Perpetuate fire dependent species and habitat
- Enhance scientific knowledge
- Educate the public about wildland fire

### **2.2 Objectives**

The overarching programmatic objectives of the Park's fire management program are:

- Initial action on all wildland fires will be to suppress the fire at the lowest cost with the fewest negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety and the values to be protected (including on adjacent non-Federal lands).
- Manage all wildfire incidents based on the ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire and in accordance with accepted interagency standards, using appropriate management strategies and tactics and maximizing efficiency via interagency coordination and cooperation.
- Conduct a hazard fuels treatment program to reduce the likelihood of the start and spread of a wildfire, the movement of wildfire across Park boundaries and the destruction of Park and adjacent private structures from a wildfire.

- Work with Park neighbors and nearby landowners to aid them in protecting their properties from the negative effects of wildfire. Promote awareness of the threat of wildfire in the wildland/urban interface and how to protect against those threats.
- Use prescribed fires to achieve management and resource objectives for cultural landscape management, hazard fuels reduction, and where appropriate, for the perpetuation of fire dependent species and habitats and to protect native natural communities from invasive and exotic species.
- Conduct a monitoring program with recommended standard monitoring levels commensurate with the scope of the wildland fire management program and use the information gained to continually evaluate and improve the wildland fire management program.
- Integrate knowledge gained through research and monitoring into future wildland fire management decisions and actions
- Maintain the highest standards of professional and technical expertise in planning and safely implementing an effective wildland fire management program.
- Incorporate minimum impact suppression tactics policy into all wildfire suppression activities, to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate.
- Maintain agreements with state and local agencies and other entities in order to facilitate close working relationships and mutual cooperation regarding wildland fire management activities.
- Educate employees and the public about the history, scope, and effects of wildland fire.

### **3.0 WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE**

#### **3.1 Management of Wildfires**

This section Describes the range of wildland fire management actions available for use, expanding upon section 1.2.

Acadia National Park is a full suppression park. All responses to wildland fire will be with a full suppression strategy, allowing for the safety of the public and responding firefighters. The tactics used to suppress the wildfire will be commensurate with the goals and objectives of this FMP, the agreements identified in the NEPA compliance document, protection of park resources and values at risk, estimated cost of suppression, availability of firefighting resources, weather conditions, the type and amount of fuel load, post-fire resource stabilization and rehabilitation needs and the ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire. The fire behavior of the wildfire will dictate the tactics used to suppress the fire. With the safety of the public and the firefighters in mind, direct, indirect and point protection strategies and tactics may be used to suppress the wildfire.

- The purpose of initial action on all wildfires is to suppress the fire at the lowest cost with the fewest negative consequences to firefighter and public safety and the values to be protected, including those on adjacent non-Federal lands.
- The highest standards of professional and technical expertise will be maintained in planning and safely implementing an effective wildland fire management program.
- All wildfire incidents will be managed based on the ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire and in accordance with accepted interagency standards, using appropriate management strategies and tactics, and maximizing efficiency via interagency coordination and cooperation.

- The circumstances under which a fire occurs and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected, will dictate the appropriate response to the fire. Initial action on all wildfires will be to suppress the fire at the lowest cost with the fewest negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety, while minimizing the negative environmental and cultural impacts from the wildfire and the response to it.
- Wildfire operations will be conducted in cooperation with local fire departments and the Maine Forest Service. Agreements will be maintained with state and local agencies and other entities in order to facilitate close working relationships and mutual cooperation regarding wildland fire management activities.
- All wildfire suppression activities will adhere to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate to the Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) guidelines. The intent of MIST is to use the least number of forces necessary to effectively achieve the wildland fire management protection objectives consistent with resource management objectives. MIST considers the impacts of suppression tactics and their long-term effects when determining how to implement an appropriate suppression response.

### 3.1.1 Wildfire Response Planning

#### A. Expected Fire Behavior

Expected and potential fire behavior of various fuels present in the park is discussed extensively in a research program, Fire Regimes of the Coastal Maine Forests of Acadia National Park by Patterson et al. (1983). We will look at the 4 primary fuel models within the park and discuss what kind of fire behavior could be present.

•**Short Grass (1 foot):** (NFDRS Model W and NFFL Model 1); Fire in short grasslands consume the fine herbaceous fuels that have cured or are nearly cured. Such fires are of low to moderate fireline intensity and short duration. During a normal fire year, fires in this fuel type spread very rapidly, usually under the influence of wind and topography. Flame lengths of one to four feet are common depending on fine fuel moisture content, height of the grass, and wind. In an extreme fire year, fire intensity and rate of spread would be expected to remain similar to that observed in a normal fire year, but fire occurrence would be expected to increase significantly. Grass fires can normally be controlled or stopped by hand crews using proper tactics, but the rapid rate of spread can present serious entrapment risks to firefighting personnel.

•**Brush (2 feet) and Dormant Brush:** (NFDRS Model X and NFFL Model 5 or 6); Jack pine, pitch pine, huckleberry and low bush blueberry stands are scattered throughout the Park. Huckleberry and blueberry are usually found on open mountain tops and slopes. During a normal fire year in these stands, fire can spread through the surface fuels and shrub strata with ease and can occur at higher dead fuel moisture contents because of the flammable nature of the live vegetation. The huckleberry shrub layer is often two to four feet high and often forms a continuous horizontal fuel bed under the pines. The blueberry shrub layer is usually one to two feet high and is generally found in more open areas. Flame lengths of six to twelve feet could occur, along with torching of individual pine trees and spotting. Fires burning on steep slopes and with strong winds would result in active crown fires during either a normal or extreme fire year. Rates of spread and fireline intensity would be high and would easily exceed the capabilities of hand crews to suppress a fire.

•**Closed Timber Litter:** (NFDRS Model Y and NFFL Model 8); The predominant species in these stands is red spruce. During a normal fire year, fire would likely spread through the dead and downed wood fuels and conifer regeneration as ground and surface fires. Torching of individual trees and spotting would also be expected. During an extreme fire year, large scale crown fires can be expected to move rapidly over large areas. With steep slopes, strong winds and an abundance of ladder fuels, independent crown fires could develop. Fireline intensity would easily exceed the capability of hand crews to suppress a fire during an extreme fire year.

The windthrown conifer stands (NFDRS Model Z and NFFL Models 10, 11 or 12) stands are caused by increases in dead and downed fuels through mortality and windthrow (blowdown). Fireline intensity would be expected to be greater than that found in NFFL Model 8. Rapidly spreading fires with high intensities capable of generating firebrands and spot fires would be common in either a normal or extreme fire year. Fire in these fuel types generally continue until a fuel break or change in fuels occurs. Fireline intensity would quickly and easily exceed the capability of hand crews to suppress a fire.

•**Hardwoods:** (NFDRS Model Y and NFFL Model 8 after leaf out [summer] and NFFL Model 9 after leaf fall[winter]); Many of these hardwood stands are the result of the 1947 Bar Harbor Fire and are now in transition, as red spruce and other conifers begin to move up through the understory. As the natural cycle unfolds, the majority of these stands will transition into a red spruce overstory. During a normal fire year, fire in these stands can be expected to spread primarily through the surface litter of dead, dry leaves. Some understory conifer trees may torch out and generate spotting. Under most conditions, fires are of low fireline intensity and short duration. Flame lengths of two feet or less are common and rate of spread are influenced principally by wind, topography, and percent of crown cover present. During an extreme fire year, greater fire intensities can be expected, with severe loss of duff and humus layers. Fires in this fuel type can usually be controlled by hand crews.

#### **B. Initial Response Procedures**

The Initial response is based on the FMP goals and objectives, an assessment of risk factors, and consideration of management requirements and constraints. The response will be consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be managed (protected or enhanced). The Park initial response plan is located in **Appendix D** – Preparedness Documents. Current Initial Response direction is located in [RM - 18, Managing Wildfire, Chapter 2](#) and [Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11](#).

During periods of low to high fire danger, the Park relies on observations from normal patrol staff, other Park employees and reports from the public and other agencies. Reports may come into park dispatch, from local fire and police departments or through the state-wide E911 emergency reporting system. State aerial detection flights by the Maine Forest Service cover areas of the park during periods of elevated fire danger. During periods of very high and extreme fire danger, the Park staffing and step-up plan, which is part of the parks Fire Danger Operating

Plan (see **Appendix D**), provides for the use of dedicated fire detection patrols by wildland fire resources.

Upon receipt of a report of a wildfire within the park, the Park dispatch office will notify the fire management office and the local fire department that has jurisdiction for the area of the park where the fire is located. Specific wildland fire dispatching procedures can be found in the Initial Response Plan, which is part of the Fire Danger Operating Plan for the Park (See **Appendix D**).

#### **Cooperator Support – Fire Departments**

Along with the wildland fire response provided by the NPS, additional fire response is provided to Mount Desert Island by eight local fire departments.

- Bar Harbor Fire Department (paid and volunteer)
- Blue Hill Volunteer Fire Department (volunteer)
- Cranberry Isles Fire Department (volunteer)
- Mount Desert Township Fire Department (paid chief and volunteer)
- Southwest Harbor Fire Department (volunteer)
- Swans Island Fire Department (volunteer)
- Tremont Volunteer Fire Department (volunteer)
- Trenton Volunteer Fire Department (volunteer)

The departments located on Mount Desert Island are, Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, and Trenton. All can provide mobile apparatus response throughout the island. Four of the eight departments provide fire response to offshore islands with NPS ownership; Bar Harbor to Bar Island and the Porcupine islands, Blue Hill to Long Island, Cranberry Isles to Little Cranberry (Islesford) and Swans Island to Heron Island. The Maine Forest Service may also provide wildland fire response on any of these islands.

Additional fire response is provided to the Isle au Haut by the Isle au Haut Fire Department. This is a volunteer fire department with a small amount of equipment and personnel. Department response is limited, and mutual aid response comes through an agreement with the Stonington Fire Department. Any mobile apparatus response from off island must come by chartered barge since there is no commercial vehicle ferry service to the island. The Maine Forest Service may also provide wildland fire response to the island.

Additional fire response is provided to the Schoodic Peninsula by two local fire departments.

- Gouldsboro Fire Department (volunteer)
- Winter Harbor Fire Department (volunteer)

Both of these departments can provide mobile apparatus response. The Maine Forest Service may also provide wildland fire response to the Schoodic Peninsula.

#### **C. Transition to Extended Response**

The transition from initial response to extended response occurs when a fire has not been controlled by the initial response resources within 1 operational period (24 hours) after the fire detection. The transition could go from the initial attack

organization to a higher-level incident management team or maintained at the current organization level (initial attack level) and managed for additional operational periods to obtain control.

On the rare occasion that the need for extended response arises, the IC, in coordination with the FMO and superintendent, will:

1. Complete a Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment, and a Delegation of Authority
  - The Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment (Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) located in the [NWCG Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment, PMS 236](#) will be used by the Incident Commander (IC) and DO/FMO to determine the appropriate management complexity level during the transition.
  - A Delegation of Authority to the incoming Incident Commander (IC) for type 3 or larger incidents will be completed by the Superintendent (See **Appendix A**).
  - Assist with the transition to the next appropriate management level based on incident complexity.
2. Utilize the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Process
  - The FMO is responsible for ensuring that a WFDSS derived periodic assessment is completed and documented as required with assistance, review, and concurrence by park staff. The Superintendent will approve WFDSS decision documentation and any revisions.
3. Order appropriate firefighting resources and prepare for the arrival of ordered resources
  - In cases when fires require increased levels of overhead in coordination with neighboring federal and state partners, The New England Fire Management staff will consider a Type 3 incident management team to be ordered and assembled by the Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center (NECC).
  - On smaller, Type 4 or Type 5 fires needing additional resources, those resources will be ordered through the NECC dispatch, and the park fire management program will be responsible for the support of those resources.
  - Emergency wildfire suppression resources for the park can be obtained from throughout the United States and Canada by placing resource orders through NECC. The regional FMO shall be kept informed of all requests for extended response resources.
4. Continue suppression efforts on the sections of the fire where available resources can work safely and effectively.
  - The firefighting resources of the Maine Forest Service and the local fire departments of Hancock County are directly available to the park under mutual aid procedures established under separate memorandums of understanding (see **Appendix C**). Requests for these resources do not require a formal resource order and do not need to be coordinated through the Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center (NECC).
  - The park fire resources will continue with safe operations to suppress the fire utilizing local and other NPS resources until a higher-level management structure is put into place and takes command of the fire.

If a fire exceeds the capability of the Type 3 management organization, a higher-level management team should be considered, by ordering a Type 1 or Type 2 incident management team. Guidance for the determination of Type 1 or 2 complexity will come from the Indicators of Incident Complexity, which can be found in [NWCG Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment, PMS 236](#) and supported in the relative risk and organizational needs analysis in WFDSS. A briefing for the incoming team will be conducted by the FMO, DO, and Agency Administrator. Extended attack and large fire suppression activities within Acadia National Park will be carried out in a manner that minimizes impacts to the area's natural and cultural resources, while maintaining the safety of firefighters, the public, and other personnel.

**D. Minimum Impact Strategy and Tactics (MIST)**

MIST guidelines may be found in the Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA), Wilderness Minimum Resource Decision Guide (MRDG), Biological Opinion (B.O.) and other documents. Minimum Impact Strategy and Tactics (MIST) are guidelines listed in [Exhibit 1 of RM - 18, Managing Wildland Fire, Chapter 2](#). In addition to the standards for MIST identified above, the following guidelines apply to park managed lands:

All wildfire suppression operations will follow Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) guidelines to the greatest extent possible. These include:

- Keep fire engines and water tenders on existing roads.
- Restrict the use of heavy equipment such as bulldozers, skidders, or plows for constructing fireline. Heavy equipment will be used for fireline construction only in extreme situations, when high value resources in and adjacent to the park are at risk, and then only with the authorization of the superintendent or their designee.
- Use existing natural fuel breaks and human-made barriers, such as streams or roads, and wet line or cold trailing the fire edge in lieu of handline construction whenever possible (cold trailing is a method of controlling a partly dead fire edge by carefully inspecting and feeling with the hand for heat to detect any fire, digging out every live spot and trenching any live edge).
- Fireline's will be located outside of highly erosive areas, steep slopes, and other sensitive areas.
- Keep fireline widths as narrow as possible when they must be constructed.
- Avoid ground disturbance within known natural and cultural resource locations.
- Use soaker hose, sprinklers, or foggers in mop-up; avoid boring and hydraulic action.
- Minimize tree cutting.
- All suppression actions will utilize the appropriate management response derived from the fire management objectives.
- Protect air and water quality by complying with the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and all other applicable Federal, state, and local laws and requirement

**3.1.2 Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)**

The Wildland Fire Decision Support System ([WFDSS](#)) will be used to document the management objectives and strategies if a wildfire escapes initial attack, exceeds

initial attack response, or if the management objectives of the wildfire contain elements of protection and resource benefit. WFDSS helps agency administrators and fire managers make risk informed decisions for all types of wildland fire, regardless of complexity. WFDSS also provides one decision documentation system tiered to Land and/or Resource management plans. Current direction on WFDSS pertaining to the NPS can be found in the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\) in Chapters 3 and 11.](#)

**Management Requirements (M.R) and Strategic Objectives (S.O.)**

[Management Requirements](#) and [Strategic Objectives](#) are derived from land and resource management plans, as well as related compliance documents, and provide the framework, and limitations/challenges for wildfire response. M.R. and S.O. provide the foundation of the WFDSS decision. In order to publish an Incident Decision in WFDSS, applicable fire related protection and resource management objectives and requirements must be incorporated pre-season into WFDSS. NPS recommends pre-loading M.R. and S.O. pre-season in the [WFDSS Production System \(Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11\)](#). These will be reviewed annually for Acadia National Park to ensure they align with the land and resource management plan.

**3.2 Fuels Treatments**

Activities proposed in the Fire Management Plan will be planned and implemented in accordance with [RM 18, Fuels Management Chapter 7](#), the [NWCG Standards for Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation](#), and the [Red Book, Fuels Management, Chapter 17](#).

**A. Fuels Management Goals and Objectives**

**Debris Disposal Authority**

Fire may be used to dispose of natural vegetative and cut lumber debris deemed infeasible or impractical to remove mechanically. The debris may be generated from routine Park maintenance activities, construction activities, removal of hazard trees, discarded building and administrative materials. Any material being burned for debris disposal must be classified as permissible to burn under applicable Federal, State, Tribal and local regulations.

Burning of this debris in non-wildland fuel environments (parking lot, storage yard, gravel pit, etc.) or when the ground and surrounding vegetation are wet (saturated) or covered with snow is not considered a prescribed fire under NPS policy. Debris burned in a vegetative environment where there is the possibility of escape is a prescribed fire under NPS policy and requires a prescribed burn plan. All debris burning will adhere to the applicable policy and procedure requirements found in RM-18.

**Prescribed Fire**

Prescribed fires are fires intentionally set by fire managers to achieve identified objectives when predetermined (prescribed) weather and fuel conditions are met. Igniting fires under predetermined prescriptions allows fire managers to exert substantial influence over the rate of fire spread, level of fuel consumption and fire intensity. Prescribed fire will be used where appropriate to maintain cultural landscapes, manage hazard fuels and to perpetuate fire dependent species and

habitats and protect native natural communities from invasive and exotic species. Debris piles may be burned where appropriate. All prescribed fires and debris burning will be conducted in accordance with the procedures found in NPS Reference Manual 18; Wildland Fire Management (RM-18).

All prescribed fire projects, not using the RM-18 debris disposal authority, will have a burn plan approved by the superintendent. Each burn plan will be prepared using a systematic decision-making process and contain measurable objectives and predetermined and contingency actions must be described in the event the prescription is exceeded. All burn plans will address the need for alerting neighbors and appropriate public officials to the planning and timing of the burn. All prescription parameters, acceptable ranges and objectives are clearly stated in the burn plan. See **Appendix F** for a list of the Prescribed fire units for ACAD/SACR. All prescribed fire activity will comply with applicable Federal, State, and local air quality laws and regulations.

#### **Non-Fire Fuels Reduction (Mechanical Reduction)**

Mechanical hazard fuels treatments will be carried out to 1) reduce the likelihood of the start and spread of human-caused wildfires in high visitor use areas, 2) reduce the likelihood of wildfires across Park boundaries and 3) protect Park and adjacent private structures from wildfires by creating defensible spaces near structures and park infrastructure.

### **B. Fuels Treatments**

#### **Prescribed Fire**

The Parks prescribed fire program may include:

- Prescribed fires may be used to maintain grass fields such as those found on Baker Island and historic scenic vistas located along the Park's carriage and motor roads.
- Prescribed fire may also be used to maintain stands of jack pine trees if the Park determines that this activity is appropriate and necessary to manage for fire dependent species and habitats.
- The vast majority of these prescribed fires will be roughly one acre in size and none would be expected to exceed ten acres in size (Baker Island 9.8 acres, and Pooler Farm 9.9 acres approximate acres).
- Monitoring will be conducted to ensure that prescribed fire burn objectives are being met and that invasive species are not being encouraged by the use of prescribed fire.
- The program of work for prescribed fire can be found in the Multi-year Fuels treatment Plan attached in **Appendix F**.

#### **Non-Fire Fuels Reduction Treatments**

The objectives of the parks non-fire fuels treatment program are to:

- Reduce the likelihood of the start and spread of human-caused wildfires in high visitor use areas.
- Prevent the movement of wildfires across Park boundaries and other specified areas.
- Protect Park structures from wildfires by creating defensible space.

- Concentrations of hazard fuels adjacent to high visitor use areas, such as hiking trails, parking areas, etc. will be identified and mechanically removed to reduce the risk of these fuels catching fire through human activities.

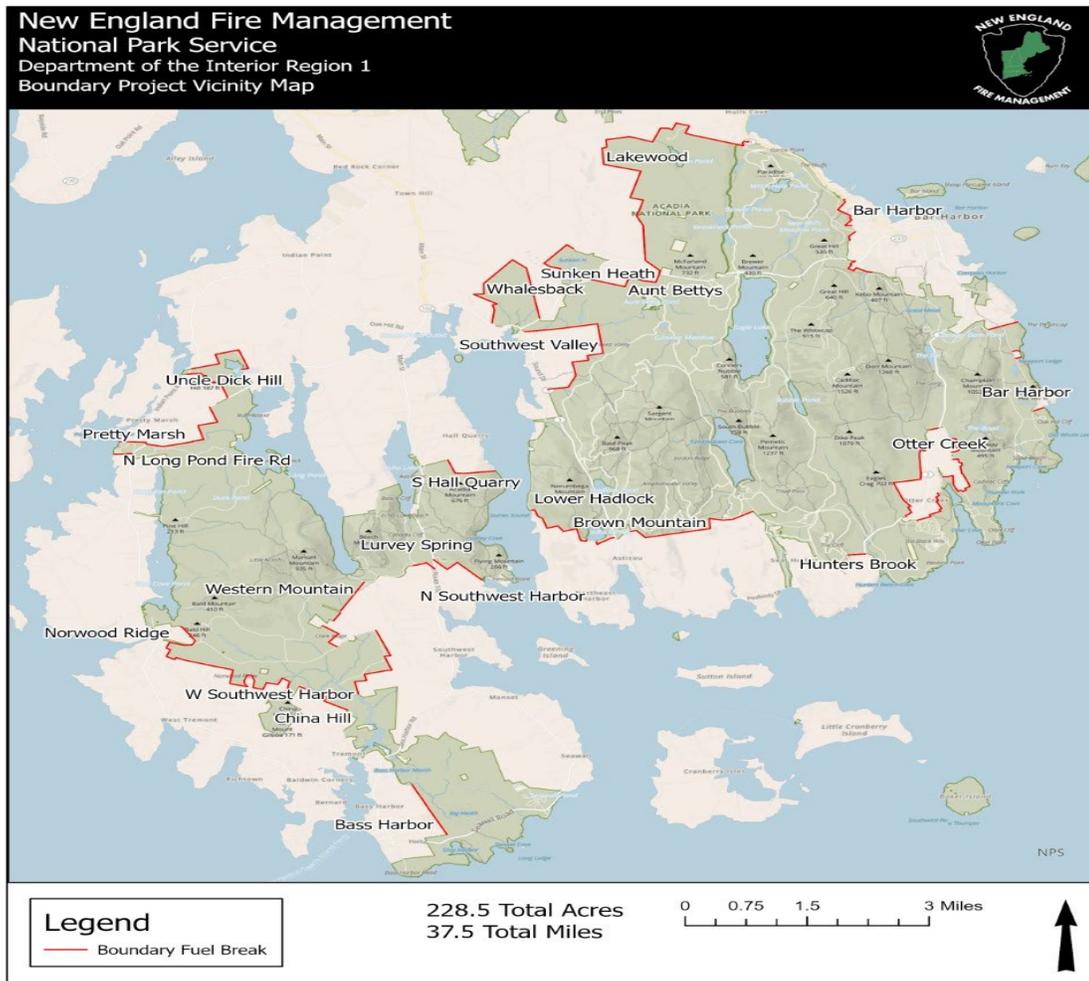
These projects are classified in 2 project categories:

- Fuel Break Boundary Project
- Defensible Space (Risk Assessment Mitigation) Program

These objectives are met by using manual fuel reduction treatment techniques to remove undesired live and dead fuels. These manual techniques include the use of hand operated power tools (chainsaws, etc.) and hand tools to cut, clear or prune herbaceous and woody plant species and the use of power chippers to reduce the volume of cut fuels. NPS approved chemical herbicides, applied to cut stumps, can also be used where appropriate to reduce the likelihood of stump sprouting.

#### **Fuel Break Boundary Project**

Fuel breaks will be maintained to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire moving across Park boundaries and into groups of Park facilities, such as the campgrounds and the Park headquarters complex (see **Figure 3**). These fuel breaks reduce the rate of spread of a surface fire moving across the surface of the ground at the fuel break, thus giving control forces additional time to stop the spread of the fire. The fuel breaks are not expected to stop a crown fire moving through the canopy of the trees and forest. Fuel breaks will only be established and maintained in those areas where there is a likelihood that a wildfire would move across the park boundary or into or out of areas containing groups of Park facilities. Fuel breaks will not be established where natural fuel breaks (lakes, streams, wetlands, etc.) or human-made barriers (roads, etc.) are adjacent to or near the area being protected.



**Figure 3. Fuel Break Boundary Project Locations**

**Defensible Space (Risk Assessment Mitigation) Program**

The defensible space program creates and maintains defensible space around selected individual Park structures not protected by the fuel breaks described above. Defensible space is the area around a structure that can be treated in such a way as to reduce the chance that wildland fire reaching the structure. Defensible space will be maintained around selected individual Park structures. Defensible space is the area around a structure that can be treated in such a way as to reduce the chance that wildland fire reaching the structure. This will be accomplished through regular mowing and removing hazard fuels, to the greatest extent possible, from around each structure to a distance of no less than 30 feet. These actions will be based upon the nationally recognized wildland/urban interface protection standards and may be modified where appropriate to maintain historical and culturally significant scenes and landscaping.

The NPS has adopted the [International Code Council’s \(ICC’s\) International Urban-Wildland Interface Code](#) (2006; revised 2018) through the parameters described in [Executive Order Wildland-Urban Interface Federal Risk Mitigation](#) (May 18, 2016). Contained in the ICC’s code ([sections 603 and 604](#)) are descriptions of defensible

space and maintenance requirements for urban wildland interface areas. Reference [RM - 18, Fuels Management, Chapter 7](#) for additional information.

Defensible space is accomplished through the regular mowing of existing lawns and the removal of hazard fuels, to the greatest extent possible, from around each structure to a distance of no less than 30 feet. Hazard fuels removed are dead, down, and diseased timber, ladder fuels, non-ornamental shrubs, undergrowth and fallen limbs and non-ornamental trees of less than four inches dbh (diameter at breast height). Remaining live trees are limbed to approximately twelve feet from the base of tree. These standards, based upon the Firewise standards, are modified where appropriate to maintain historical and culturally significant scenes.

Current information on NPS Structure Protection needs can be found at NPS Wildland Fire Risk Assessment (WFRA). <https://wildfire-risk-assessments-nifc.hub.arcgis.com/>

### **C. Multi-year Fuels Treatment Plan**

The Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) Module in NFORS is the national system for submitting proposed projects for approval, tracking accomplishments of the program, reporting performance, and measuring accomplishments for NPS. A three year Planned Program of Work (PPOW) can be found in the [National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System \(NFORS\)](#). The [NPS Active Management Dashboard](#) displays Fuels Treatments accomplished by the National Park Service's Wildland Fire Management program. Activities proposed in the Fire Management Plan will be planned and implemented in accordance with [RM 18, Fuels Management Chapter 7](#), the [Interagency Prescribed Fire Implementation Guide](#), and the [Red Book, Fuels Management, Chapter 17](#). A multi-year fuels treatment plan is attached in Appendix F.

## **3.3 Preparedness**

Preparedness is the work accomplished prior to fire occurrence that ensures that the FMP objectives related to unplanned ignitions are effectively implemented. Preparedness activities include, fire preparedness planning, interagency assistance agreements, personnel training and qualification, physical fitness, equipment preparation and maintenance, weather data collection, National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) indices computation, public information, step-up procedures, and detection. The overall objective of a good preparedness program is to have a well-trained and equipped fire management organization that can effectively manage most fire situations.

Preparedness documents such as, The Annual Delegation of Authority, Inter-Park Agreement, Cooperative and Interagency Agreements, Fire Danger Operating Plan, Step-up Plan - Staffing Plan and Initial Response Plan are found in the Appendix section of this FMP. Reference [Red Book, Preparedness, Chapter 10](#) for preparedness planning requirements.

### **A. Preparedness Activities**

Preparedness planning for the park is an on-going process. Planning activities include updating annual operations plans and agreements, developing and updating procedures, updating step-up plans, and ensuring that information relating to the wildland fire decision support system (WFDSS) is current and available.

Daily activities that contribute to the preparedness of the fire resources include, personnel training and qualification of fire carded resources, physical fitness training, daily weekly monthly equipment preparation and maintenance, weather data collection and input into the WIMS database, National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) indices computation and distributing that information, and weekly fuel moisture sampling of the fire prone species within the park. Information and guidance on preparedness planning and review can be found in Chapter 10 of the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724)*.

Refer to [RM - 18, Preparedness, Chapter 5](#) and [Red Book, Preparedness, Chapter 10](#) (NFES 2724) for current preparedness direction.

The park must conduct preparedness reviews on an annual basis using approved NPS Interagency Preparedness Review Checklists. These preparedness reviews will be conducted in the spring when the seasonal workforce has been onboarded (hired). The reviews will be conducted to evaluate the equipment and resources, the employees, and the program for fire readiness. The park Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Chief Ranger will be invited to attend the review. All documentation will be kept in the fire office, and a copy will be sent to the regional office for annual documentation of the review.

#### **B. Coordination and Dispatching**

The Park's fire management program receives assistance from and/or provides assistance to several other agencies and organization. This reflects the cooperative nature of wildland fire activities and the need by all agencies and organization to be cost efficient in those activities.

- **Local Fire Departments**

There are eleven separate local fire departments that have jurisdiction within the Park's ownership boundary. These fire departments are Bar Harbor, Blue Hill, Cranberry Isles, Gouldsboro, Isle au Haut, Mount Desert Township, Southwest Harbor, Swans Island, Tremont, Trenton, and Winter Harbor. The Park has separate cooperative agreements with each of these departments (see Appendix C). These local fire departments respond to all fire incidents (structural, vehicle and wildfire) that occur on Park lands within their jurisdictions.

Each town has an appointed town fire warden whose is responsible for issuing Maine Forest Service burning permits and for all wildfire suppression actions within their respective towns. For most towns, the fire department chief also serves as the town fire warden.

- **Maine Forest Service**

The Maine Forest Service's Division of Forest Protection is responsible for providing wildfire prevention, detection, and suppression services on all lands in the State of Maine. The Maine Forest Service maintains fire suppression equipment, rotary and fixed wing aircraft, and firefighter resources. These resources are available to the park through a memorandum of understanding (see Appendix C). The Park is located in the Maine Forest Service's Downeast District, with headquarters at Jonesboro, Maine. The Maine Forest Service will

respond to wildland fire incidents within the park at the request of Park staff or the local town fire warden.

- **United States Coast Guard**

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains a base in Southwest Harbor. The base has patrol craft and smaller watercraft loaded on trailers that are available to the park for visitor evacuation and transport of firefighting personnel and equipment to and from offshore islands during emergency fire suppression operations.

- **Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission**

The Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission, also known as the Compact, is comprised of New York State, the New England states, and the eastern provinces of Canada. The purpose of Compact is to provide its member states and provinces with the means to cope with wildfires that might be beyond the capabilities of a single member through information, technology, and resource sharing (mutual aid) activities.

Though the NPS is not currently a member of the Compact, it does work cooperatively with the Compact and its members and supports many of their activities. Through a regional cooperative agreement, the NPS provides funding assistance and position support for the **Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center (NECC)**, located at the US Forest Service Office in Campton, New Hampshire. NECC is managed by the Compact and serves as a sub-regional coordination center to the Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC) located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Off unit Assignment Dispatches

All Park and New England Fire Management Zone wildland firefighting resources are mobilized and dispatched through NECC for out-of-state mobilizations. All resources will have a resource order produced in the [Interagency Resource Ordering Capability \(IROC\)](#) from NECC before any travel arrangements are made. Any requests by the park and other New England Fire Management parks for outside firefighting resources are also made through NECC.

- **National Inter-Agency Agreement**

The NPS is a participating member of the "Interagency Cooperative Fire Agreement" between the U.S. Forest Service from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the NPS from the United States Department of the Interior. A primary objective of this agreement is the cooperative and cost-effective sharing of fire resources during national and regional emergencies. Through additional agreements between the U.S. Forest Service, state and private forestry organizations and state wildland fire agencies, many of the states also participate in this agreement. A wide variety of fire suppression resources and logistical and support services are available to units of the NPS through this agreement.

### C. Duty Officer

The fire management officer is responsible for ensuring there is duty officer (DO) coverage during any periods of predicted incident activity, or elevated fire danger. DOs will not fill any Incident Command System (ICS) functions connected to any incident. The DO will provide operational oversight of the following requirements as well as any specific duties assigned by the fire management office.

FDO responsibilities include:

1. Monitor unit incident activities for compliance with NPS safety policies
2. Coordinate and set priorities for unit suppression actions and resource allocation
3. Document all decisions and actions.
4. Must be available by phone 24 hours a day (2-hour call back when in Staffing Level 1-3)
5. Review, update, and distribute Daily Staffing
6. Review Step-Up-Plan requirements and ensure they are being met
7. Authorize extended staffing
8. Prioritize incidents
9. Assign an IC
10. Approve strategy and review the complexity analysis
11. Ensure compliance with the FMP
12. Approve ordering of local and non-local resources for small fires. Type 3 incidents or larger need FMO and park approval.
13. Ensure logistical considerations are being met
14. Be familiar with and follow protocols for assistance with cooperators and mutual aid response

### D. Prevention

NPS policy does not require the Park to conduct a wildland fire prevention risk analysis or to develop a fire prevention plan. As stated in RM-18 and the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \("The Red Book"\)](#), only those NPS units that experience more than 26 human-caused fires per ten-year period are required to have an analysis and plan. In the period 2012 through 2022, the Park experienced 25 human-caused wildfires (See **Figure 4**). The sections below will constitute the fire prevention plan for the park. Chapter 6 of *RM-18* provides additional guidance on wildland fire prevention and education programs. If this rate of wildfire increases in the future, a wildland fire prevention risk analysis will then be conducted, and a fire prevention plan will be developed.

Fire Occurrence Record ID	Incident Name	Unique Fire Identifier	Incident Type Category
642540	Lurvey Spring	2013-MEACP-000003	WF
642541	ECO Lake	2014-MEACP-000004	WF
642542	Eagle Lake	2014-MEACP-000005	WF
642543	Baker Island Fire	2014-MEACP-000008	WF
642553	Echo Lake Entrance Fire	2016-MEACP-000004	WF
642554	Eagle Lake Rd Fire	2016-MEACP-000005	WF
642555	Flying Mountain Fire	2016-MEACP-000006	WF
642556	Schoolhouse Ledge Fire	2016-MEACP-000007	WF
642557	Schoolhouse Ledge 2 Fire	2016-MEACP-000008	WF
642560	Multiple Small Starts	2016-MEACP-000011	WF
642561	Shooting Range	2016-MEACP-000012	WF
642563	Cadillac Summit RD	2016-MEACP-000014	WF
642564	Blackwoods Fire	2016-MEACP-000015	WF
642566	Cadillac MT Vehicle Fire	2016-MEACP-000017	WF
642568	Rum Island	2017-MEACP-000003	WF
642571	Triad Campfire	2017-MEACP-000009	WF
642572	Schoolhouse ledge	2018-MEACP-000001	WF
642574	Frenchman's Bay Fire	2018-MEACP-000007	WF
642575	Lower Cadillac Mountain R	2019-MEACP-000004	WF
642577	Sand Beach Fire	2019-MEACP-000006	WF
165418	Hunters Beach	2020-MEACP-000031	WF
167893	Bubble Pond Fire	2020-MEACP-000032	WF
122922	Pull out fire	2020-MEACP-000034	WF
242264	Lakewood	2022-MEACP-ACP2022001	WF
250016	Blackwoods	2022-MEACP-MEACP22002	WF

Figure 4 - Fire History for Acadia National Park 2012-2022.

**Park Prevention Actions**

A program of public education regarding potential fire danger may be conducted. Visitor contacts, signs, bulletin board materials, handouts and interpretive programs may be utilized to increase visitor and park neighbor awareness of fire hazards. Fire danger rating signs at the McFarland Hill Ranger Station, the Isle au Haut Ranger Station, Blackwoods Campground Entrance Station, Seawall Campground Entrance Station and the Schoodic Campground Entrance Station will be maintained and updated with the current National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) fire danger level (based on the 3 day preparedness rating average) during the fire season or if we are in very high or extreme fire danger indices outside of the normal fire season.

An integral part of the park prevention actions is the need for all employees, cooperators, contractors, and concessionaires to be mindful of their own activities that could lead to unwanted ignitions. Setting a good example will aid the Park's credibility with its neighbors. Public contact staff will look for opportunities to integrate fire prevention and safety messages into informal and formal visitor contacts.

During periods of elevated or prolonged fire danger, fire prevention messages concerning the fire danger may be delivered to the visiting public and park neighbors. These messages may be informal contacts by fire staff, interpretive, maintenance or law enforcement staff. Press releases may be sent to area media outlets, information may be placed on the Park's website, temporary signs may be posted at visitor contact points and trail heads, and other means as necessary and appropriate, including interpretive programs, may be used to communicate this information. Emergency restrictions regarding fires or area closures may become necessary. These restrictions, if deemed necessary to implement, will be discussed by the fire management program and the park leadership team and approved by the

Superintendent. Such restrictions, when imposed, will usually be consistent with those implemented by cooperator agencies that surround the park to ensure we are producing one consistent message of fire danger for the area.

#### **E. Safety Program / Plan**

Each operating unit must prepare a basic “Documented Occupational Safety and Health Plan,” applicable to the unit. Refer to [Reference Manual 50B, National Park Service Occupational Safety and Health Program](#) for requirements. Reference the location of the park safety plan and park serious injury or death procedure.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK & SAINT CROIX ISLAND INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC SITE Occupational Safety, Health & Wellness Program Management Plan, updated 03/2022 located on the park SharePoint Site under the safety program link.

#### **Job Hazard Analysis**

The Fire Management Officer is required to ensure completion of job hazard analysis (JHA) for fire and fire aviation activities, so mitigation measures are taken to reduce risk. [Red Book, NPS Program Organization and Responsibilities Chapter 3](#). The JHA’s used by the fire program will be reviewed by all personnel annually and reviewed/updated according to NPS policy standards. The list of JHA’s used by the fire program can be found in **Appendix E**.

### **3.4 Post-Fire Programs and Response**

The park unit is responsible for taking prompt action after a wildfire to minimize threats to life or property, and to prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources. Damages resulting from wildfires are addressed through four activities:

**Suppression Repair:** the intent is to repair suppression damages and is the responsibility of the Incident Commander. This activity is paid for from wildfire suppression funding. Required repair of damage resulting from suppression actions will be completed before fire crews and resources are released from assignment to incident. These repairs include stabilizing or removing fire lines and installing water bars to prevent erosion. All suppression fire management activities will be carried out in accordance with MIST guidelines to cause the least amount of resource damage. Costs for these types of damage will be borne by the incident as a part of emergency suppression costs and are not considered to be part of emergency stabilization and rehabilitation

**Emergency Stabilization:** the intent is to protect life and property and critical resource values and is the responsibility of the Superintendent. This activity is paid for from Emergency Stabilization (ES) funding. The Park’s natural and cultural resources advisors will be involved in identifying any resources that require emergency stabilization and in developing and implementing any emergency stabilization actions required (see the Interagency Burned Area Emergency Response Guidebook).

**Rehabilitation:** the intent is to repair wildfire damaged lands that are unlikely to recover naturally to management approved conditions, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by wildfire. This activity is paid for from Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) funds. The extent of this damage may be such that evaluation

and repair is needed to restore resources to pre-fire conditions. Rehabilitation and restoration efforts beyond the emergency stabilization actions discussed in the section above will be undertaken to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, and safety and to help communities protect infrastructure. The preferred method of repair is through the natural recovery process. This may not be possible in all situations. For these cases, specific program guidance for burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation is found in [RM - 18, Post Wildfire Programs, Chapter 18](#) and the [Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11](#) provide direction on current processes and timeframes.

**Restoration:** the intent is to continue the rehabilitation efforts started in the BAR process beyond the time limitation set by the department. This activity is paid for from regular program funds at the park level.

### 3.5 \*Air Quality/Smoke Management

#### 3.5.1 \*Air Quality Issues

Acadia National Park is known for the many spectacular vistas of its mountains and the adjacent Maine coast. One of the main reasons for the establishment of the park was to preserve the scenic beauty of the area and these vistas. The Park is designated a mandatory Class I airshed area under the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.), which places stringent constraints on pollution emitting facilities affecting Park resources. Class I airsheds have the strictest air quality regulations and restrictions. The act also places constraints on Park management activities that could affect air quality by requiring the NPS to comply with all Federal, state, and local air pollution control laws and regulations.

Authority for regulating the release of criteria pollutants has been delegated to the states. The Bureau of Air Quality Control, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) is responsible for determining the impacts of releases of criteria pollutants from prescribed fire use, and where appropriate, permitting the release of smoke from prescribed fire.

The Bureau of Air Quality Control has established open burning guidelines (06-096 Chapter 102) to monitor and control air quality. The Board of Environmental Protection, the advisory board for the Maine DEP has found that open burning activities contribute to the degradation of air quality. The Board has ruled that a reduction of particulate pollutants by limiting open burning will lead to an improvement in air quality and provide protection to the public's health, safety, and welfare.

#### 3.5.2 \*Smoke Management Activities

Smoke Management information can be found in [RM 18, Air Quality and Smoke Management, Chapter 9](#)

In keeping with the regulations as established for the State of Maine, prescribed burning is permitted, provided that:

1. An open burning permit is obtained from the local state forest ranger, local fire prevention official or state appointed fire warden.

2. The burning is conducted according to the terms and conditions of such permit.
3. The existing wind speed, wind direction and atmospheric conditions promote safe burning conditions.

The following guidelines will be followed when planning a prescribed burn and addressing wildfires:

1. Smoke sensitive areas, including transportation corridors and buildings will be identified and addressed within the prescribed fire burn plan. The direction of the wind vector selected will be such that smoke and other particulate matter are transported away from sensitive areas.
2. Burning is permitted when visibility exceeds four miles and when the fire weather forecast indicates the presence of an unstable air mass. A minimum transport wind speed of four mph is required.
3. No burning will occur if Bureau of Air Quality Control or any other governing agency has issued an air pollution health advisory, alert, warning, or emergency.

Within the confines of meeting prescribed burn objectives, firing techniques, such as backing and flanking methods, will be used whenever possible. Individual exposure to excessive inhalation of particulate matter should be minimized by rotating burn team members in and out of smoke areas. As a guideline, carbon monoxide exposure time by individual burn team members will be limited to two hours per day. Public notification of possible short term air quality impairment will be provided when necessary.

### **3.6 Data and Records Management**

All electronic documents generated by the New England Fire Management Zone will be stored on the parks shared network drive, under Visitor and Resource Protection - Fire folder, in accordance with the requirements listed in [RM - 18, Information and Technology Management, Chapter 19](#).

#### **Wildfire Documentation**

Each wildfire that occurs on NPS fee and protected lands is required to have a fire report completed for that incident. The current reporting process is through the INFORM program. This platform is on the NIFC\_AGOL site and requires permissions to access and file a report. The FMO and engine captain(s) will have access to file a fire report for the park. The following incidents require a fire report,

- All wildfires on NPS and NPS protected lands
- Wildfires threatening NPS lands on which we take action
- All escaped planned ignitions, where a wildfire declaration is made

The fire report (in INFORM) must be completed within 10 days of the incident being declared out. The wildfire incident report must be certified as complete (in INFORM) by the end of the fiscal year in which the fire occurred.

It is the responsibility of the wildfire Incident Commander to get the appropriate information to the fire management office for reporting. This will include, but is not limited to, the initial attack size up report, any unit logs for operational shifts on the incident, list of resources assigned to the incident with arrival and departure times and dates, any mapping that occurred for the incident and any other documents directly related to the wildfire incident.

### **Program Records Management**

The Fire Management program will adhere to the standards set in NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications (PMS 310-1) [NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1 | NWCG](#), the Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement [Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement to NWCG PMS 310-1](#), and the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

### **Incident Qualification Management**

The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) is the only approved fire qualifications and certification record keeping system. The Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) system is not a record keeping system for qualifications. The Responder Master Record report provided via IQCS meets the agency requirement for maintaining fire qualification records. The system is designed to provide managers at the local, state/regional, and national levels with detailed qualification, experience, and training information needed to certify employees in wildland fire positions. IQCS is a tool to assist managers in certification decisions; however, it does not replace the fire manager's responsibility to validate employees meet all requirements for position performance based on their agency standards. There will also be a file in the fire office with certificates and task book documentation for each active responder. It is the responsibility of the responder to provide the certificates and documentation for task books to the Fire Management Office.

### **Incident Qualification Card**

The Incident Qualification Card, or Red Card for fire staff, park militia firefighters, and Administratively Determined (AD) firefighters will be provided by the Fire Management Office once a year after the annual refresher and work capacity test (if needed) is completed. The qualifications management, fire responder experience, and training history will be updated for each responder. It is the responsibility of the responder to get the appropriate documentation to the Fire Management Office for updating each year.

## **4.0 PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The park will take monitoring actions to review project effectiveness and update this plan by incorporating lessons learned from fire reviews, fire effects monitoring data, prescribed fire reviews, as well as through findings from scientific research.

### **4.1 Monitoring**

Monitoring and evaluation are essential elements of the Park's fire management program. They provide the means by which Park personnel are able to determine if applicable sections of the FMP are being implemented as planned and if fire-related goals and objectives are being achieved.

Monitoring and evaluation are part of both the management of unplanned ignitions and planned fuel treatments. Monitoring may be short term, as exemplified in those cases where wildfires require immediate suppression, or may be long term, as a result of the need to closely monitor habitat changes over an extended period. Monitoring is required to ensure that goals and objectives of a prescribed burn and/or mechanical fuel treatment are within acceptable environmental parameters as stated in the prescribed fire burn plan or treatment plan.

The primary goals of fire monitoring and evaluation are to:

- Record basic information for all fires
- Document post-fire effects and burned area rehabilitation needs
- Follow trends in fuels and plant communities
- Improve fire planning and fire management

Fire effects monitoring will be used to evaluate the degree to which burn objectives are accomplished, either on prescribed fire or wildland fire. Long-term monitoring is required to document that overall programmatic objectives are being met and undesired effects are not occurring. Evaluation of fire effects data will be the responsibility of the fire management staff.

Monitoring data will be collected on the appropriate forms identified in RM-18 and the NPS Fire Monitoring Handbook or other forms recommended by the regional fire effects program.

On prescribed fires, the burn boss is responsible for:

- Ensuring that smoke monitoring data is collected and recorded. Smoke monitoring data will be used to evaluate the success of the prescribed fire project.
- Current weather and forecast weather for the period of the proposed prescribed fire will be monitored. On-site weather data will be collected, recorded and relayed to the burn boss as frequently as needed to maintain a good understanding of the fire situation.
- Fire Behavior Data will be used to record fire behavior which will be monitored on a continuous basis during the ignition and active burn phases of prescribed fire operations.

For wildland fire and prescribed fire:

- Fire weather data will be collected hourly during ignition operations and while active fire behavior is present. Weather data will be collected with increasing frequency when weather conditions or the fire situation are predicted to change or are changing. On-site weather will be recorded and become documentation for the prescribed burn or wildfire event.
- Smoke Monitoring Data will be used to record fireline visibility, road visibility, smoke volume and dispersal, and any complaints. This documentation will be part of the documentation package for the prescribed burn or wildfire event.

All areas subject to prescribed fires will be monitored using the protocols described in NPS [RM - 18, Fire Ecology and Monitoring, Chapter 8](#). Monitoring techniques used may include vegetation sampling, photo documentation, visual survey, fuel moisture analysis, fuel loading determination and other appropriate techniques.

The Park's fire monitoring program will follow the NPS policy found in RM-18 and adhere to the monitoring protocols established by the Interior Region 1 Fire Ecology Staff.

## 4.2 Research

There has been local research conducted regarding wildland fire in Acadia National Park. This research was referenced during the development of the FMP for 2009. The research is still applicable today for fire management considerations at the park. The referencing of this research, in conjunction with climate change research mentioned in section 4.3 are valuable

tools when making park level decisions regarding fire management practices. The document referenced is,

Fire Regimes of the Coastal Maine Forests of Acadia National Park by Patterson et al. (1983).

### 4.3 Climate Change

There have been many studies documenting climate change in the northeast. There is a lot of uncertainty within these studies as to the extent of the change and the timeframe in which it will occur. The constant in all the studies is that change is happening, and it is going to affect the composition of the ecosystems and the way they function. There are 2 things that are predicted to happen that will affect fire in the park. First is the change in species composition, and the second is the change in precipitation patterns annually.

#### Species composition

It is projected that there will be a shift from the Boreal forests historically found in Maine to a more mixed stand with more deciduous tree species in the forest. With this conversion, the deciduous trees change the risk associated with fire. The leaf litter produced from the new species, the change in canopy cover due to the deciduous trees, and the increased drying potential of forest floor fuels will influence the fire risk and potential in the park. This is going to be a slower process that will take a long time to see any kind of change. This will allow time for the fire program to monitor and adapt to the change.

#### Precipitation Change

There is a consistent thought through all the studies that the amount of annual precipitation is going to increase for the area. It is also mentioned that the new precipitation pattern will have more moisture in the fall, winter, and spring, and less in the summer. This change could shift the fire seasons here at the park. Historically there has been a spring and a fall fire season, with less activity in the summer. If the summers have longer dry periods, this could change when we see fires in the park. This will be something the fire program will track as time goes on and adjust the fire response from the park to match fire danger conditions during the summer.

#### ***Supporting documents:***

NPS summaries provided by the Climate Change Response Program ([DataStore - Project - \(Code: 2221882\) \(nps.gov\)](#)), published studies on NPS climate trends ([GIF - Anthropogenic Climate Change \(berkeley.edu\)](#))

[Climate, trees, pests, and weeds: Change, uncertainty, and biotic stressors in eastern U.S. national park forests - ScienceDirect](#)

[Fischelli ACAD-Climate-Report NORTHEAST 2013-07-30 \(nps.gov\)](#)

### 4.4 Evaluations, Reviews and Updates

#### **Fire Program Review**

The purpose of fire program reviews is to ensure the effectiveness of the fire organization, and to identify deficiencies and recommend specific corrective actions for the program. The

New England Fire Management program will conduct preparedness reviews, and wildland fire incident reviews as stated below.

### **Preparedness Review**

The New England Fire Management Zone will conduct Annual Preparedness Reviews for all fire suppression resources and employees. Preparedness reviews assess fire programs for compliance with established fire policies and procedures outlined in *the Interagency Standards for fire and Fire Aviation Operations*, and The National Park Service [Wildland Fire Program Review Guide](#) that describes the review framework. For more information reference [RM - 18, Evaluations, Reviews and Investigations, Chapter 16](#). Refer to Preparedness Activities in section 3.3.

### **Wildland Fire Incident Review**

All wildland fires and fire-related incidents will be reviewed in accordance with [RM - 18, Evaluations, Reviews and Investigations, Chapter 16](#) and the [Red Book, Reviews and Investigations Chapter 18](#)

The park Superintendent or designee may conduct a post-fire review of every wildfire on NPS land. Post-fire reviews are typically completed by the incident commander as part of an After-Action Review (AAR) using the guidelines in the Redbook but could be completed in any format as directed by the Superintendent. The review will include as many personnel who participated in the incident as possible, and will cover all aspects of the incident, including but not limited to safety, tactics, difficulties encountered, areas needing improvement, and whether specified objectives were met. The information gathered will be used to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the fire management program. Notes from the reviews will be included in the permanent fire record, which is maintained in the park and zone fire management files.

Any incident that results in human entrapment, serious injury, fatalities, or near misses, will be investigated and reviewed, with appropriate administrative action taken based upon investigation results.

A regional-level review may be conducted if:

1. A prescribed fire crosses park boundaries into another jurisdiction without the approval of an interagency agreement.
2. The park receives adverse media attention.
3. Significant property or resource damage occurs.
4. Controversy involving another agency occurs.

A national level review may be conducted for any fire that involves Service wide or national issues, including:

1. Significant adverse media or political interest.
2. Multi-regional resource response.
3. A substantial loss of equipment or property.
4. A fatality, or multiple, serious fire-related injuries (three or more personnel). This is in addition to the required serious accident investigation outlined in RM18.
5. Any other fires that the Associate Director of Visitor and Resource Protection wants reviewed.

## REQUIRED ANNUAL REGIONAL FMP REVIEW PROCESS

Fire Management Plans do not expire and remain in effect until superseded by a new or revised plan. The program FMO is responsible for reviewing the FMP annually following the Fire Management Plan Regional Review Process outlined in [Reference Manual 18, Fire Management Plans, Chapter 4 \(2023\), Sections 3.0 and 3.1](#).

## [NWCG GLOSSARY](#)

## REFERENCES CITED

Fischelli, Nicholas; Abella, Scott; Peters, Matthew; Krist, Frank. September 2014. Climate, trees, pests, and weeds: Change, uncertainty, and biotic stressors in eastern U.S. national park forests. *Forest Ecology and Management*, volume 327.

Fischelli, N., July 2013. Climate Change Trends for Planning (Forests) at Acadia National Park, Maine. National Park Service Climate Change Response Program. Fort Collins, CO.

National Park Service, Acadia National Park, August 1991. Acadia National Park General Management Plan Environmental Assessment; Public Review Draft. Bar Harbor, Maine.

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National Park Service, Acadia National Park, September 1997. Acadia National Park Strategic Management Plan. Bar Harbor, Maine.

National Park Service, Acadia National Park, March 1998. Acadia National Park Resource Management Plan. Bar Harbor, Maine.

National Park Service, Acadia National Park, December 2009. Wildland Fire management Plan. Bar Harbor, Maine.

National Park Service, Acadia National Park, February 2023. Resource Stewardship Strategy Summary. Bar Harbor, Maine.

Patterson, W. A. III, K. E. Saunders and L. J. Horton, 1983. *Fire Regimes of the Coastal Maine Forests of Acadia National Park*. Prepared for the National Park Service, North Atlantic Region by the USDA Forest Service and the University of Massachusetts, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Rothermel, Richard C., 1983. How to Predict the Spread and Intensity of Forest and Range Fires. USDA Forest Service, GTR INT-143, Ogden, Utah.

## REQUIRED APPENDICES

- A. Delegation of Authority
  - 1. Annual Delegation of Authority to the FMO
  - 2. Delegation of Authority to the Incident Commander
  
- B. Inter-Park Agreement
  
- C. Cooperative / Interagency Agreements
  - 1. Agreements Table
  - 2. Contact List
  
- D. Preparedness Planning Documents
  - 1. Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP)
  - 2. Preparedness Level Plan
  - 3. Step-up Plan/Staffing Plan
  - 4. Initial Response Plan
  - 5. Fire Pocket Card 2022
  
- E. Prevention and Mitigation Plan  
(There is no Prevention or Mitigation Plan for this FMP (not required))
  
- F. Program of Work / Multi-year plan
  
- G. JHA and RA inventory

## Appendix A – Delegations

## **A-1 - Annual Delegation of Authority to the FMO**

**New England Zone Fire Management  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Acadia National Park  
Saint Croix International Historic Site**

### **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR ZONE FIRE MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

Matthew Way, Fire Management Officer (FMO) for the New England Fire Management Zone is hereby delegated authority to act on my behalf for the following duties and actions within the Zone as it pertains to my respective park units and divisions:

Coordinate with and provide technical expertise to, Superintendents, or his/her designee in all matters related to wildland fire management, fire administration, policy, equipment, and fuels treatments (prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical) on National Park Service land within the Zone.

Prioritize and direct all fire management activities of Fire staff within the Zone to ensure fire management planning, dispatching, training, coordination, and project implementation are effectively assessed, communicated, and applied throughout the Zone.

Fire management staff in the New England Zone based at Acadia National Park.

- Fire Management Officer
- Engine Captain
- Senior Seasonal Firefighters
- Interagency Dispatcher (duty located at Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center in Campton New Hampshire).

Provide coordination and assistance to ensure all fire incidents and activities are managed in a safe and cost-effective manner and in keeping with Service policy and requirements. Provide advice and assistance as requested for All-Hazard responses, within the scope of authority and qualifications.

Provide timely and accurate reports for entry into fire and park databases and reporting systems.

Serve as the responsible party for requesting and distributing fire funds from the regional Fire Management Officer for the Zone. Responsible for fire budget coordination and oversight to assure fiscal guidelines are followed and projects are conducted in a cost-effective manner.

Coordinate, prioritize and direct all Zone prescribed fire activities, including development of

projects, planning, requests, and oversight of approved and assigned funding for Hazardous Fuel reduction and non-HF projects alike.

Assure personnel participating in prescribed fire and wildfire operations are fully qualified. Coordinate or provide training to Zone personnel to maintain or enhance qualifications, manage employee data in the Incident Qualification & Certification System (IQCS), and certify Incident Qualification Cards and completed task books, per approval standards.

Coordinate all requests for and dispatch of fire and aviation resources in response to current and anticipated local, regional, and national fire situations and conditions. Request and oversee distribution and use of Severity and Emergency Preparedness funding.

Coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies and non-governmental organizations for assistance as specified in existing cooperative agreements. Coordinate with federal, state, and local regulatory authorities, ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations, as related to fire management activities in the Zone.

Responsible for representing the Zone in all matters related to the wildland fire management program with partners, cooperators, and multi-agency coordinating groups on a Zone, Regional and National level.

Coordinate and supervise the Northeastern Coordination Center (NECC) NPS funded Logistics Dispatcher position, their roles and responsibilities for the Service in support of Zone activities.

Serve as a Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) signatory approver.

Hire emergency firefighters (AD) in accordance with Department of the Interior "Pay Plan for Emergency Workers" for use on prescribed fire projects or wildfires within the Zone. Establish appropriate sponsorship levels of AD's from within the Zone for local and national support.

This delegation of authority for the wildland fire management program operations will be in effect immediately upon signature and good for one (1) year. It will be reviewed as part of the annual FMP review process.

Matthew Way \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Management Officer

Kevin Schneider \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

Darren Belskis \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Ranger

Cc: Kevin Schneider, Superintendent Acadia National Park  
Brandon Bies, Deputy Superintendent Acadia National Park  
Darren Belskis, Chief Ranger Acadia National Park

References:

- National Wildland Fire Qualification and Systems Guide 310-1 (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/pms310-1.pdf>)
- Interagency Standards for Fire & Fire Aviation Operations 2023 ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook\\_2023.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook_2023.html))
- Wildland Fire Decision Support System (<http://wfdss.usgs.gov>)
- DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program ([http://www.nifc.gov/medical\\_standards/](http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/))
- Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook ([http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/iibmh2/pms902\\_iibmh.pdf](http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/iibmh2/pms902_iibmh.pdf))
- NPS Director's Order 18 ([http://www.nps.gov/fire/fire/fir\\_wil\\_do18.cfm](http://www.nps.gov/fire/fire/fir_wil_do18.cfm))
- NPS Reference Manual 18 ([http://www.nps.gov/fire/download/fir\\_wil\\_rm18.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/fire/download/fir_wil_rm18.pdf))
- National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (<https://www.nfpors.gov/>)

## A-2 - Delegation of Authority to the Incident Commander

### Delegation of Authority for Incident Name

Date:

To: Incident Commander – Name of IC

From: Acadia National Park, Superintendent

Subject: Incident Number, and jurisdictional unit

Effective at XXXX hours on Provide the Date, You are delegated authority for the management of the XXXX Incident on the XXXX Jurisdictional Unit – include other jurisdictions if needed. You have full authority for fire management activities on this/these jurisdiction(s) within the framework of law, agency policies, and direction provided within the Delegation of Authority, Wildland Fire Decision Support System Decision, *the Leader’s Intent Letter*, and the Team Briefing Package provided.

This Delegation carries with it the full authority for the management of the resources (personnel and equipment), costs, and rehabilitation of fire management efforts directly associated with this incident(s). Your primary responsibility is to organize, manage and direct your assigned resources for safe, efficient, and effective management of the fire. You are accountable to the Agency Administrator or designated representative.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Administrator  
Agency/Jurisdictional Unit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Administrator  
Agency/Jurisdictional Unit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time

I accept this Delegation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Incident Commander

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time

## Appendix B – Inter-Park Agreement

This agreement is uploaded to the A-123 site separately. If you cannot find it there, a copy is located in the FMO office.

## Appendix C – Cooperative / Interagency Agreements and Contact list

## Appendix C-1 – Agreements

<b>AGREEMENT INVENTORY</b>						
<b>ACADIA NATIONAL PARK</b>						
AGREEMENT NUMBER	AGREEMENT TYPE	AGENCY	PURPOSE	EFFECTIVE DATE	RENEWAL OR REPLACE DATE	RENEWAL OR REPLACE YEAR
none	Interpark	New England FMZ Area parks	FM	2023	2028	2028
none	Interpark	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	FM	2023	2028	2028
	ME	Interagency Master agreement	WF	2022	2027	2027
1443MU-1700-99-002	MOU	Hancock County Firefighter's Association	WF & SF	6/15/1999	5/19/2014	2014
H1700-06-0003	CA	Bar Harbor Fire Department	WF & SF	4/12/2007	4/12/2012	2012
H1700-06-0004	CA	Blue Hill Fire Department	WF & SF	9/7/2006	9/7/2011	2011
H1700-09-0025	CA	Cranberry Isles Fire Department	WF & SF	10/22/2009	10/22/2014	2014
G-1700-19-005	CA	Gouldsboro Fire Department	WF & SF	11/29/2018	11/29/2023	2023
H1700-06-0007	CA	Isle au Haut Fire Department	WF & SF	4/12/2008	4/12/2013	2013
G-1700-19-006	CA	Mount Desert Fire Department	WF & SF	11/19/2019	11/19/2024	2024
G-1700-19-009	CA	Southwest Harbor Fire Department	WF & SF	11/29/2018	11/29/2023	2023
G-1700-19-010	CA	Swans Island Fire Department	WF & SF	01/19/2019	01/19/2024	2024
G-1700-19-011	CA	Tremont Fire Department	WF & SF	11/29/2018	11/28/2023	2023
H1700-06-0012	CA	Trenton Fire Department	WF & SF	1/17/2007	1/17/2012	2012
G-1700-19-005	CA	Winter Harbor Fire Department	WF & SF	11/26/2018	11/26/2023	2023

FM: Interpark fire and aviation management services and assistance

WF: Wildland fire services and assistance, cooperative agreement, or MOU

SF: Structural fire services and assistance, cooperative agreement, or MOU

**Notes:**

Fire department cooperative agreements that expire must be replaced with a new cooperative agreement. They cannot be renewed or extended.

## Appendix C-2 – Contact List

<b>NPS CONTACTS</b>			
NAME	AGENCY - POSITION	OFFICE	CELL
Dave Robinson	NPS - IR1- Regional FMO		928-606-2694
Jordan Collier	NPS - IR1 – Deputy Regional FMO		765-913-0790
Sasha Ernst	NPS - IR1 – Regional Fire Planner		850-688-4230
Kevin Schnieder	NPS - Park Superintendent	207-288-8700	
Brandon Bies	NPS – Deputy Park Supt.	207-288-8701	
Darren Belskis	NPS – Park Chief Ranger	207-288-8775	
Matthew Way	NPS – Zone FMO	207-288-8780	207-610-0648
Rebecca Cole-Will	NPS – Park Chief Natural resources	207-288-8720	
Jason Flynn	NPS – Park NEPA Compliance Coordinator	207-288-8730	
Bob Bechtold	NPS – Park Safety Officer	207-288-8752	
Keith Johnston	NPS – Park Chief Maintenance and Facilities	207-288-8750	
Matt Fahey	NPS – Schoodic Maintenance and Facilities	207-288-1322	
<b>COOPERATOR CONTACTS</b>			
Matt Bartlett	Bar Harbor Fire Chief		207-669-2866
Matt Dennison	Blue Hill Fire Chief		207-610-9255
Richard Howland	Cranberry Isles Fire Chief		207-460-3016
Todd Daley	Gouldsboro Fire Chief		207-214-8438
Bryan Carroll	Isle au Haut Fire Chief		207-466-7442
Mike Bender	Mount Desert Fire Chief		207-460-3096
Tommy Chisholm	Southwest Harbor Fire Chief		207-669-2824
Robert Gardner	Swans Island Fire Chief		207-460-3898
Keith Higgins	Tremont Fire Chief		207-266-8468
Steven Heckman	Trenton Fire Chief		207-266-6051
Tatum McLean	Winter Harbor Fire Chief		207-266-7908
<b>STATE OF MAINE CONTACTS</b>			
Robby Gross	State Supervisor of Forest Protection Operations	207-287-4491	207-227-4367
Joe Mints	Special Operations Supervisor		207-712-9074
Jeff Currier	Central Region - Regional Ranger	207-827-1810	207-441-2580
Malcolm MacDonald	District 1- Downeast District Ranger	207-255-2089	207-712-7606
	State Fire Emergency	1-888-900-3473	
	State Fire Arson (DPS Bangor)	1-800-987-0257	

## Appendix D – Preparedness Planning Documents

1. Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP)
2. Preparedness Level Plan
3. Step-up Plan/Staffing Plan
4. Initial Response Plan
5. Fire Pocket Card 2022

The Fire Danger Operating Plan is uploaded to the A-123 site separately. If you cannot find it there, a copy is located in the FMO office.

## Appendix F – Program of Work

### Acadia National Park Program of Work 2023 - 2030

Status	Proposed								
Treatment Type	RX								
Sum of Acres	Column Labels								
Row Labels	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
Baker Island		10			10		10		10
Flye Farm	6		6		6		6		
Jordan Pond Vista*	1		1		1		1		
Pooler Farm	10		10		10		10		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	

Status	Proposed								
Treatment Type	MX								
Sum of Acres	Column Labels								
Row Labels	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
Aunt Bettys Pond					6.78				
Bar Harbor								13.74	
Bass Harbor					6.52				
Brown Mountain			11.01						
China Hill							4.9		
Defensible Space	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Hunters Brook			1.35						
Lakewood Youngs Mountain				32.59					
Lower Hadlock					8.62				
Lurvey Spring							1.92		
N Long Pond Fire Rd					9.27				
North Southwest Harbor		5.18							
Norwood Ridge						24.15			
Otter Creek		26.49							
Pretty Marsh						3.77			
South Hall Quarry			4.62						
Southwest Valley	16.14								
Sunken Heath							4.79		
Uncle Dick Hill	12.17								
West Southwest Harbor							10		
Western Mountain							8.09		
Whalesback			16.31						
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38.31</b>	<b>41.67</b>	<b>43.29</b>	<b>42.59</b>	<b>41.19</b>	<b>37.92</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>23.74</b>	

## Appendix G – Job Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment Inventory (Fire Specific)

<b>JHA/RA NAME</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>	<b>Date expired</b>
Work Capacity Test	2023	2026
Wildland Fire	2023	2026
Fire Chainsaw Operations	2023	2026
Brush Saw Operations	2023	2026
Drip Torch/Ignitions	2023	2026
Debris Burn (RM-18)	2023	2026
Prescribed Fire	2023	2026
UTV Fire Operations	2023	2026
UTV Park Operations	???	
Wood Chipper	2021	2024
Driving	2021	2024
Physical Training	2023	2026