Department of the Interior National Park Service

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Fire Management Plan

2021 Update of the 2004 Fire Management Plan

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) ANNUAL UPDATE CHECKLIST

PARK NAME: *Chattahoochee River NRA (CHAT)*   YEAR OF UPDATE: 2021

National Park Service (NPS) Policy Requirement. Fire management plans do not expire and remain in effect until superseded by a new or revised plan. **However, annual updates are required in order for the plan to be valid for the current year.** Changes in the step-up plan, FMP terminology, cooperative agreements and the multi- year fuels treatment plan are examples of FMP sections that are often updated through the annual review process.

Directions. Please ensure that you are reviewing and updating the current signed FMP. Review the items in the Annual FMP Update Checklist. Where no update is required, check "No Update Needed: Reviewed and Current". If there are updates needed, check "Update Needed: Changes made in FMP" and describe the changes made in the space provided in each row of the checklist and include FMP section/appendix.

Notify the Regional Fire Planner when the Annual FMP Update Checklist and FMP revisions are completed. Once the Annual Update Checklist is completed and all suggested changes have been vetted through the appropriate fire management and park staff, the Superintendent must sign the FMP Annual Update Checklist. All approved changes must then be incorporated in the FMP and the Annual Update Checklist must be added to the FMP immediately following the cover-page.

The revised FMP, including the signed Annual Update Checklist, must be uploaded to IRMA in a 508 compliant format. FMP Update Checklist can be found at https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Collection/Profile/3868:

	ANNUAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE CHECKLIST	No Update Needed: Reviewed & Current	Update Needed: Changes made in FMP
1	Are updates needed for the Delegation of Authority from Park Superintendent to Fire Staff? *The Delegation of Authority has been updated and signed. It can be found in Appendix A of this document.*		✓
2	Are updates needed for the FMP to conform to NPS and DOI fire management policy such as RM 18 and Redbook? *This FMP has been updated according to the 2021 NPS Fire Management Plan Framework and conforms to NPS and DOI fire management policies.*		✓

3	Are updates needed for the local cooperative agreements, annual operating plans, inter-park, or other agreement(s) for Wildland Fire? *The current APC Zone Inter-Park Agreement can be found in Appendix B of this FMP. Agreements between CHAT and their local cooperators are listed in Appendix C of this FMP.*		✓
4	Are updates needed for the preparedness planning elements (e.g. Step-up Plan, Response Plan or other preparedness planning elements)? *Preparedness planning elements have been updated to reflect the 2021 Georgia Fire Danger Operating Plan, and those elements are located in Appendix D of this FMP.*		✓
5	Are updates needed for the Duty Officer (DO) Roles and Responsibilities and have updates been vetted by the Park staff, Superintendent and FMO? *Duty Officer Roles and Responsibilities are addressed in this updated FMP, which has been reviewed by park staff, Zone FMO, and park Superintendent.*		✓
6	Are updates needed for the Notification Procedures and Emergency Contact List? *The notification procedures and emergency contact list have been updated for this FMP and can be found in section 3.1.1.2.*		✓
7	Are fuel treatments addressing park treatment objectives and FMP programmatic goals as indicated by the current annual fire effects monitoring report or other monitoring data? (If needed, the update should document any program adjustments or decisions made as a result of reviewing monitoring data or operational concerns). *CHAT does not currently have any completed fuels treatments, and no fire-effects or fuels-project monitoring have been completed.*	✓	
8	Are updates to the multi-year fuels treatment plan needed? *The current multi-year fuels treatment plan can be found in Appendix E of this FMP. Approval and funding for listed projects will be requested through the NFPORS fuels planning system.*		✓

9	Are there any updates not captured in questions 1 - 8?		✓
	The entire FMP has been updated into the 2021 NPS FMP framework, so it reflects the current language and policies of NPS fire management while retaining the allowable actions, goals and objectives, and overall intent of the original 2004 FMP document. A notable change is the incorporation of National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) 2016 and the 2021 Georgia Fire Danger Operating Plan for determination of fire danger (Appendix D).		

FMP/NEPA REVISION TRIGGERS

Over time, an FMP and its supporting NEPA document may become outdated due to changes in policy or circumstances in the park and thus require revision.

The following questions will help you to determine whether FMP revisions and a new environmental compliance process needs to be initiated. Some items may require discussions with staff from other divisions to complete. An FMP can be amended through a categorical exclusion (CE), environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) depending on the complexity of the issues involved.

If you answer YES to any of the questions below, additional compliance may be necessary. Consult with your Regional Fire Planner and Park Compliance Specialist to determine if additional NEPA and/or other compliance (section 7, section 106, etc.) will be necessary.

In the space to the right, please list the current FMP NEPA compliance with date: EA, 2004

	FMP/NEPA REVISION TRIGGERS	YES	NO
1	Is the park strategy for managing wildfires and implementing fuel treatments <u>inconsistent</u> with the FMP and NEPA documents?		✓
2	Are FMP goals and objectives <u>inconsistent</u> with newer, approved park planning documents (Foundation Document, GMP, RSS, etc.)? *If FMP goals and objectives are inconsistent with park planning documents, please provide a brief description of the inconsistency or conflict:*		✓
3	Have there been changes in the status of cultural resources, historic properties and/or sensitive species in the park that could affect FMP implementation? *If yes, consult with appropriate specialist.*		✓

4	Since FMP approval or update, have there been changes in park policy or legal requirements that require changes to the FMP and supporting compliance documents? *Explain if yes:*		✓
5	If new lands with burnable vegetation have been added to the park since the last FMP approval or FMP NEPA review/amendment: ● Is the new land going to have a fuels treatment plan this year? ● Is management of the new land different from the rest of the unit? ● Does the new land have any threatened or endangered species? ● Does the new land have any cultural resources and/or historic properties? *Note: 467 acres have been added to the NRA since the last FMP (2004). The answer to the four questions above is currently "No," however the status of cultural resources should be reviewed again in the next update.*		✓

Prepared by: H. S. Paxton Digitally signed by H. S. Paxton
Date: 2021.12.14 08:46:28 -05'00'   Date: _____

Fire Management Officer

Approved by: ANN HONIOUS Digitally signed by ANN HONIOUS
Date: 2021.12.17 16:36:03 -05'00'   Date: _____

Superintendent

2004 Fire Management Plan
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Georgia

Prepared by: _____ Date: 08/24/04
Connie Vogel-Brown, Supervisory Park Ranger/FMO, CHAT

Reviewed by: _____ Date: 8/3/04
Ken Garvin, Regional Fire Management Officer, Southeast Region

Approved by: _____ Date: 8/24/04
Kevin G. Cheri, Superintendent, CHAT

Signature page from 2004 Fire Management Plan

Contents

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Chattahoochee River NRA Fire Management Plan (FMP) is comprised of three major elements. Each element contains unique information that must be understood to successfully implement the park fire management program.

The three elements are:

1. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (NRA) Fire Management Plan (*this document*). The original FMP was signed in 2004, and this document updates the 2004 FMP into the 2021 NPS Framework.

2. Environmental Assessment for Chattahoochee River NRA Fire Management Plan (2004)

3. Four FMP Mapsheets –
   o 1 of 4 - Fire Management Overview, Fuels, & Planning: (North and East Units)
   o 2 of 4 - Fire Management Overview, Fuels, & Planning: (South and West Units)
   o 3 of 4 – Operations (North and East Units)
   o 4 of 4 – Operations (South and West Units)

GA-CRP Overview

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Boundary
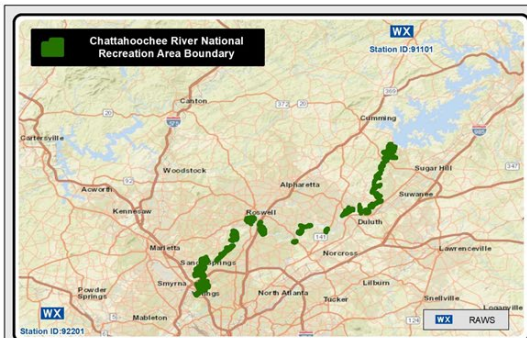
LEGEND
- Unplanned Ignition (last 30 yrs.)
- Structure
- Responding Fire Station
- Park Roads
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- Park Boundary

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere
Projection: Mercator Auxiliary Sphere, Datum: WGS 1984

Date Saved: 8/12/2020 11:30:51 AM
Author: Curt Harvey, GIS Specialist
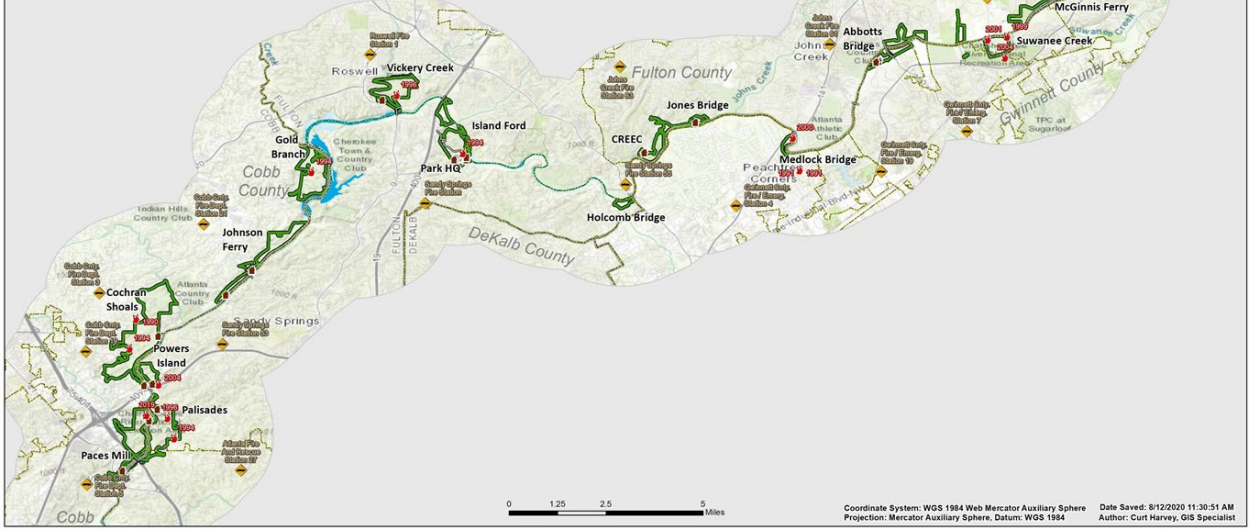
1.0 INTRODUCTION, LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING, AND COMMUNICATION

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, NPS 2020). 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 (2019), that considers fire program complexity and efficient and effective planning direction.

The Fire Management Plan (FMP) for Chattahoochee River NRA (hereinafter referred to as "CHAT" or the "park") is a strategic plan that defines a program of work to manage wildland fire, (including prescribed fire and wildfire) and implement non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical). Actions are based on direction contained in existing park planning documents and in NPS policy and guidance. This FMP provides for firefighter and public safety and includes strategies for managing wildland fire. The FMP addresses values to be protected and is consistent with park resource management objectives and environmental laws and regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Clean Air Act, etc.

The Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal Fire Management Zone (Zone) 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 assisting the Park in 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).

This FMP emphasizes firefighter and public safety as a first priority. The fire management program, guided by federal policy and the park's resource management objectives, will serve to protect life, property, and natural and cultural resources.

1.1 Program Organization

The park does not have a formal fire management organization or fire-funded personnel. It is part of the NPS Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal Fire Management Zone, which provides support for fire management needs. The Zone FMO is responsible for guiding the development and implementation of the CHAT FMP and ensuring that the fire management program is compliant with current policy. The FMO supervises Zone staff who coordinate specific fire program area needs including fuel management, wildfire response, fire reporting, and other duties as described in the Zone Inter-Park Agreement (Appendix B). Key roles and responsibilities for the fire management program are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Fire Management Roles and Responsibilities

POSITION	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
Superintendent	• Provides a written delegation of authority to the APC Zone Fire Management Officer to ensure an adequate level of operational authority for wildland fire management. • Responsible for wildland fire management within the park including completing an annual fire management plan review. • Ensures the development of 'Published Decisions' within the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) for all fires that exceed initial attack or are being managed for multiple objectives. Decisions should be developed in conjunction with staff specialists and be consistent with the objectives and requirements contained in the Park's Fire Management Plan. • The Superintendent or designee must establish a WFDSS account with the role of "Approver". • Additional Superintendent requirements are defined in the current version of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation, Chapter 3. Agency Administrator Performance Requirements.
Chief Ranger / Park Fire Program Coordinator (FPC)	• A collateral duty position working under the park Superintendent. Responsible for planning and implementing a safe, effective, and efficient fire management program that meets management objectives. • The FPC is responsible for coordinating with the Zone Fire Management Officer as needed. The FPC will notify the Zone FMO or Duty Officer of any wildfires on NPS lands within 12 hours of initial discovery and report.
Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal Zone Fire Management Officer (FMO)	• Works with park FPC to coordinate fire program needs including preparedness, fuels projects, wildfire incidents, fire reporting, and others as noted in the Zone Inter-Park Agreement (Appendix B).
Cultural Resource Specialist and Natural Resource Specialist	• Works with the FPC to ensure that cultural and natural resources are considered during planning for fire management activities. Establishes procedures and standards for protection and assists in developing mitigation strategies. • Assists the FPC in identifying opportunities for implementing fuels management activities in support of cultural and natural resources goals and objectives. • During fire operations, supports the fire management program as a member of the park's Leadership Team. • Assists Incident Commanders in developing and coordinating actions to be used by incident Resource Advisors (READs) to mitigate damage to cultural and natural resources, and in the development of post-fire Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) plans.

The park spans 48 miles of the Chattahoochee River, almost entirely within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area, encompassing 6,464 acres within Forsyth, Gwinnett, Fulton, and Cobb Counties. Due to these factors, this FMP emphasizes the high degree of cooperation necessary for the park to safely and efficiently meet the fire management responsibilities inherent in a federal land management agency. These cooperative efforts may utilize general agreements with state, county and city agencies, contracts with independent contractors and academic institutions, and coordination with NPS regional and zone fire personnel.

Seven fire management units (FMUs) have been identified and established within CHAT to facilitate the accomplishment of fire management objectives (Figure 2). FMUs have been determined using the same or similar geographic locations used by local responding agencies. The topography, fuels, and fire management goals are similar across all FMUs. The establishment of private residences up to the park boundaries is also common throughout all FMUs.
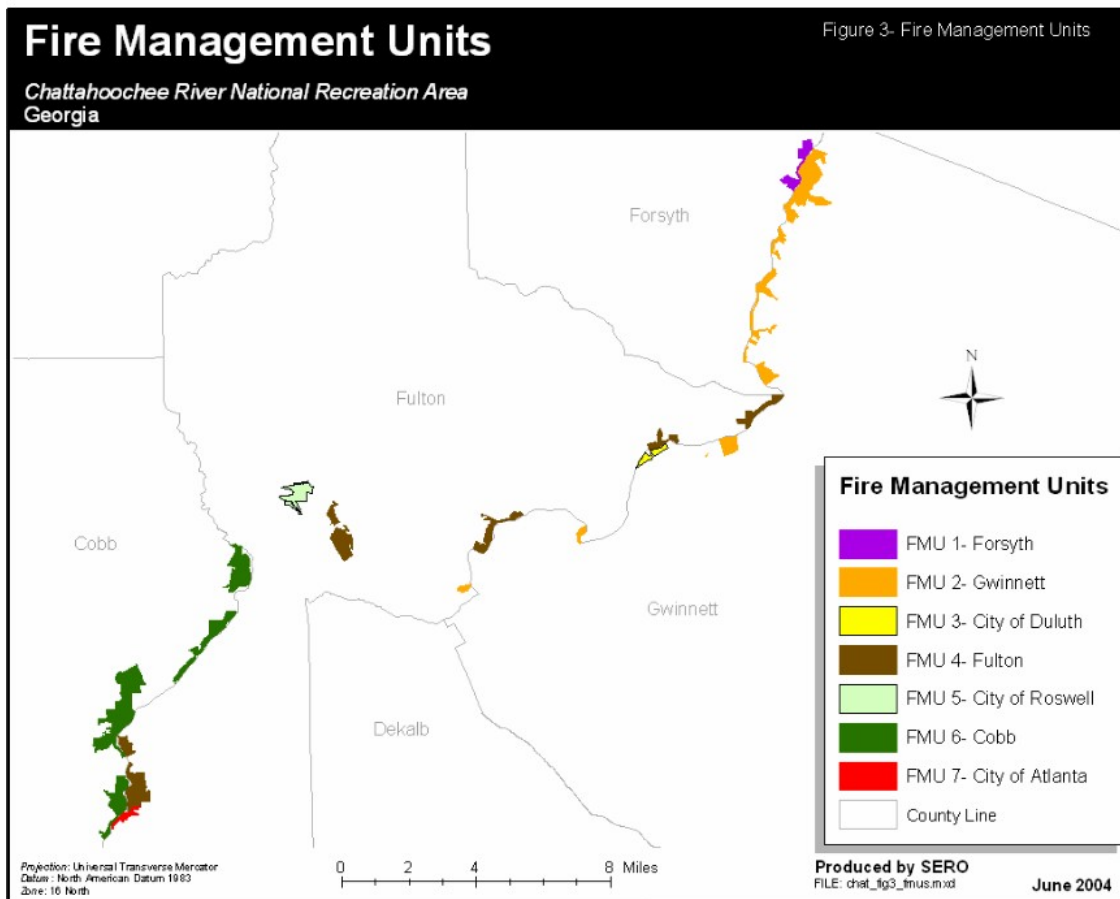

Figure 2. Fire Management Units (FMUs) of CHAT

1.2 Approved Wildland Fire Management Options

The following fire management actions are approved in all FMUs:

- Wildfire suppression
- Prescribed fires may be used to achieve natural resource, research, cultural landscape, and fuels management objectives. Prescribed burning will average less than 20 acres per year, with individual burns seldom exceeding 20 acres. Pile burning may be used to dispose of material from hazard fuel reduction projects.
- Mechanical (non-fire) and/or chemical fuels reduction may be used to clear fuels and vegetation away from structures, cultural resources, private property boundaries, and other high-value resources to reduce fire spread potential, create defensible space, and provide increased firefighter and public safety. Mechanical removal of hazard trees and herbaceous vegetation may occur on up to about 30 acres annually. Combined use of mechanical and chemical hazard fuel reduction has the potential to treat an additional 10-20 acres annually.

Wildfires may not be managed for resource objectives.

1.3 Environmental Compliance

Chattahoochee River NRA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) with an associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed by the Southeast Regional Director in 2004 (PEPC Project Number 10933). The EA and FONSI evaluated alternative actions for implementing a fire management program within the park. This plan implements the preferred action from that assessment. The EA contains specific requirements for protecting resources and the environment that must be followed when implementing the fire management program (Appendix F).

This FMP has been updated to capture changes to the park fire management program, to reflect current agency policy and guidance, and to adopt changes to the approved FMP Framework. However, the allowable fire management actions remain unchanged from the preferred alternative described in the 2004 FMP.

Park staff will continue to coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the park has the most current data regarding identified sensitive, proposed, and listed species, as well as any proposed or designated critical habitat areas within the park boundaries. Park staff will also coordinate with the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) to ensure that they have the most current data regarding archeological resources within park boundaries. Park staff will provide recommendations to fire staff on how to minimize or mitigate adverse effects to these resources during fire management activities.

1.4 Park Unit/Resource Management Planning

The park's General Management Plan (2009, PEPC Project Number 11174) identifies the Desired Condition for fire management as follows:

Fire management procedures in the park will be in accordance with the approved Fire Management Plan. Fire management procedures could include techniques such as prescribed burns, fuel reduction, and similar methods.

The GMP goes on to state that because of the proximity of the park to a large metropolitan area, large wildfires "could pose a threat to surrounding residential and commercial development and produce unacceptable levels of air pollution." To comply with NPS legal and policy requirements, the GMP states that the following actions may be taken to prevent such fires:

- Suppress all wildfires as quickly as possible.
- Maintain a cooperative agreement with the various local fire departments for wildfire suppression in the park.
- Consider limited controlled burns for natural resources management.

1.5 Collaborative Planning

In addition to administering CHAT, the National Park Service collaborates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the State Historic Preservation Office; the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, The Georgia Forestry Commission, community, and business leaders; and park neighbors regarding how to best protect the integrity of the park.

Collaborative opportunities pertaining to fire management at CHAT include cooperative agreements or coordination with the Chattahoochee – Oconee National Forests; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Forsyth, Gwinnett, Fulton, and Cobb County Fire Departments; the Georgia Forestry Commission; Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and local law enforcement. These agreements are discussed further in Appendix C.

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a strategic push to work collaboratively among all stakeholders and across all landscapes, using best science, to build resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and a safe and effective wildfire response. The Cohesive Strategy goals are reflected in the park's fire management goals listed in Section 2.1 of this FMP.

1.6 Communication and Education

Communication efforts should be inclusive of all internal and external staff, partners, visitors, the public, and cooperating/assisting local, state, federal and tribal agencies. Information will be shared in a timely manner to facilitate cooperation and collaboration.

During fire operations, the park Superintendent or designee will provide relevant fire information unless a public information officer (PIO) has been identified for the incident.
The Superintendent and PIO should be cognizant of the following:

- Timely and accurate information will be provided to the media regarding the status of fire management actions, suppression efforts, and fuels treatments
- Potential smoke impacts to roads should be communicated to the Superintendent's office, the park's information officer, and local law enforcement agencies
- Adjacent landowners will be notified when fire, particularly wildland fire, is a threat to residential areas.

Additional resources for planning and implementing fire information activities can be found at [RM-18, Chapter 20, Communication and Education](#).

2.0 WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Goals

2.1.1 National Fire Management Goals

National fire management goals as implemented by the Department of Interior (DOI) can be found at the [DOI Wildland Fire Policy website.](#)

As reaffirmed in the [NPS 2020-2024 Wildland Fire Strategic Plan,](#) "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."

Interagency fire management goals adopted under the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (2014) are also incorporated into the park's fire management goals. The goals of the cohesive strategy are:

1. Restore and Maintain Landscapes: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.

2. Create Fire-Adapted Communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.

3. Respond to Wildfire: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

2.1.2 Park Fire Management Goals

Fire management goals at CHAT are:

❑ Suppress all wildland fire consistent with resource objectives, considering firefighter and public safety (always the highest priority), and values to be protected.

❑ Incorporate the minimum impact suppression tactics policy into all suppression activities, to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate.

❑ Use prescribed fire and/or non-fire applications to:

 • Reduce hazard fuels accumulations, which in turn:

  ▪ Reduces the threat of catastrophic wildland fire and reduces the risk of negative impacts to park resources in the event of a wildland fire.

  ▪ Improves conditions for firefighter and public safety and reduces suppression costs in the event of a wildland fire.

 • Promote ecosystem sustainability.

❑ Manage all wildland fire incidents in accordance with accepted interagency standards, using appropriate management strategies and tactics, and maximizing efficiency via interagency coordination and cooperation.

❑ Maintain existing and develop new memoranda of understanding/agreement with state and local agencies to facilitate close working relationships and cooperation regarding fire management activities.

❑ Develop and conduct a monitoring program with recommended standard monitoring levels commensurate with the scope of the fire management program, and use the information gained to continually evaluate and improve the fire management program.

❑ Integrate knowledge gained through natural resource research into future fire management decisions and actions.

❑ Maintain the highest standards of professional and technical expertise in planning and safely implementing an effective fire management program.

❑ Plan and conduct all fire management activities in accordance with all applicable laws, policies and regulations.

2.2 Objectives

The following objectives are common to all FMUs:

- Take quick and appropriate suppression action on all wildfires, regardless of origin

- Control 95% or higher of all wildland fires during initial attack

- Consider developing fuel breaks (minimum 30 feet wide) where feasible and necessary along the NRA boundary

- Thin and remove fuels to create and maintain defensible space (minimum 50 feet) around park structures

- Prioritize areas of the park to reduce heavy fuel loading, particularly in areas that contain high concentrations of snags, fallen trees, and live fuels

- Use prescribed burns to maintain populations of rare, fire-dependent vegetation

Additional incident-specific objectives will be developed as needed. The appropriate initial attack response will vary from fire to fire, and sometimes even along the perimeter of the same fire. Options range from monitoring with minimal on-the-ground disturbance to aggressive suppression actions along the entire fire perimeter. The appropriate initial attack response will be determined from an analysis of the given situation and must be consistent with the park's general and resource management objectives. Factors dictating the appropriate response include firefighter and public safety, fire location, current and predicted fire weather/fire behavior, park values, cost- effectiveness, and potential adverse effects of both the fire and suppression efforts.

Wildland fires that persist into extended attack require completion of a Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) decision, which will contain specific fire objectives.

3.0 WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

The Fire Management Program will adhere to the general safety requirements as listed in the specific fire-related requirements outlined in the current Inter-agency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Redbook), RM-18, the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), and fire-related Job-Hazard Analysis (JHA) (Section 3.3.5 of this FMP).

Wildland fire management programs routinely expose firefighters to risks. Risks are minimized through effective safety programs integrated into standard operating procedures for all wildland fire management operations. Despite these efforts serious injuries and sometimes fatalities occur. At these times it is important that managers follow the procedures outlined in PMS 926,

[Agencies Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management.](#) Agency administrators should review this guide with their fire management staff annually, ensuring that pre-work is accomplished, and standard operating procedures are known prior to the field season.

3.1 Management of Wildfires

A wildfire is defined as "A wildland fire originating from an unplanned ignition, such as lightning, volcanos, unauthorized and accidental human caused fires, and prescribed fires that are declared wildfires." All wildfires at CHAT, regardless of origin, will be suppressed. The park may use multiple responses to a wildfire including confine, contain, and full control strategies. One or more strategies may be used on a single fire to achieve park management objectives. Wildfires may not be managed for resource benefit. The point of origin will be established and protected if an investigation is required to determine or confirm the cause of the fire.

The goal in all initial attack actions is to suppress the fire, consistent with resource management objectives. Initial attack priorities at CHAT are tiered to firefighter and public safety (the highest priority in every fire management activity), and the threat that the wildland fire poses to park values. Factors considered in assessing the degree of threat that the fire poses include the fire location, fuels, current and forecasted weather, and current and predicted fire behavior. When multiple fires are reported, fires occurring in the wildland-urban interface will take priority over fires occurring in natural areas.

The park will use the most appropriate suppression tactics considering the conditions, location, and values at risk. Methods used for suppression will minimize environmental impacts. For instance, fire lines will be constructed with hand tools rather than tracked vehicles except in the most extreme cases threatening life or valuable property. The use of natural and artificial barriers will be used to contain fires when appropriate.

With no dedicated wildland fire staff, CHAT relies on local fire departments to provide initial response to most wildfires. As such, the park should maintain agreements with local cooperators, and engage in regular communication with those partners to ensure mutual understanding of management objectives, resource concerns, operational constraints, and reporting requirements. The park will also aid cooperating agencies on fires adjacent to the park, in compliance with current general agreements.

For fires that exceed initial response, the FPC (in coordination with the Zone FMO) will ensure that a complexity analysis ([Appendix D.7](#)) has been completed and an appropriately qualified Incident Commander (IC) is assigned to each incident. If a qualified IC is not available, one will be requested through the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (GICC).

The IC will brief all incoming resources prior to engaging those resources. The briefing shall include at a minimum: the fire situation; goals and objectives; communications; logistics and support; risk management; and park resource concerns including any required mitigation or best

management practices outlined in the FMP as applicable. The Initial Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), contains a briefing checklist which should be used to ensure all key topics are discussed. The IC shall remain in command of the incident through all phases of the incident from initial size – up through the de-mobilization process unless relieved by a more qualified incident commander. Any change of command will be documented and relayed to all assigned fire personnel, the Duty Officer, and other park and Zone staff as needed. The FPC (in coordination with the Zone FMO) is responsible for ensuring the completion of all required fire documentation and mapping.

Under no circumstances will an individual be permitted near a wildland fire at CHAT without the appropriate training and required personal protective equipment (PPE). Members of the press may be allowed in the vicinity of a fire only if they are determined to meet the standards established for the light fitness rating, wear the required PPE, and are accompanied by a trained, qualified firefighter who can assist them.

3.1.1 Wildfire Response Planning and Procedures

Wildfire response planning is accomplished through interagency cooperation. CHAT has an active Inter-Park Agreement with the Appalachian/Piedmont/Coastal Fire Management Zone (see Appendix B). Additional agreements with local fire departments and cooperators are included in Appendix C.

3.1.1.1 Expected Fire Behavior

The fire season in the park area is November 15 through April 15, as determined by the Georgia Forestry Commission. These dates are based upon historic weather parameters combined with fire occurrence in the local region. Since park establishment in 1978, 2-4 wildland fires have occurred annually (range 0-9 fires) with over 90% of wildland fires limited to 10 acres or less. According to the park's fire history records, three fires have grown to 20-25 acres and one fire was nearly 50 acres in size.

Fire behavior in and adjacent to the park is influenced by fuels, weather, and topography. It can range from slow, creeping litter fires with low flame lengths and intensity to fast moving fires capable of torching individual trees and precluding direct attack by hand crews. Fuels vary greatly depending on soil type, topography, fire history, and management actions. Therefore, a wide range of fire behavior can be expected as fire moves across the landscape. Fire spread in flat alluvial bottomland forest may be minimal while fires are spreading rapidly on south-facing slopes in oak-hickory forest. Fire behavior will also vary depending on the short and long-term weather conditions. Fire response must consider the fuel and weather conditions when determining the appropriate fire response. Maps of wildland fuels and a table of associated fire behavior are featured on FMP Mapsheets 1 and 2: Fire Management Overview, Fuels, & Planning.

Fire behavior under average conditions is predicted to consist of low flame lengths (< 3 feet) and slow spread rates (< 5 chains per hour). When slope and winds are aligned, fire behavior is

predicted to result in flame lengths of 6-8 feet in height and significant rate of spread of up to 25 chains per hour within oak-hickory-pine forests. Upland forests that include higher proportions of beetle-killed loblolly pine typically represent the greatest potential for the highest intensity fires.

3.1.1.2 Initial Response Procedures

Due to a lack of fire-funded positions at CHAT, a National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) based Initial Response Plan will not be utilized. Initial response procedures will be consistent with firefighter, employee, and public safety, recognizing the values to be managed (protected or enhanced). The initial wildfire report may come from visitors, neighbors, or park staff via radio, phone calls to the park, personal contacts, and calls to 911. When multiple fires are reported, fires occurring in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) will receive priority over fires occurring in non-WUI areas. A contact list for local initial response resources can be found in Appendix D.5.

Initial Reporting and Notification Procedures:
1. On initial report of an ignition, the park will immediately call 911, and contact the Ranger on Duty to complete and communicate the size-up (see Appendix D.6.). The size-up must be sent to the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (see Table 2)
2. The Ranger on Duty will coordinate the response with the responding fire department(s) and the park Fire Management Coordinator (FPC)
3. CHAT red-carded staff will be assigned to the fire as needed based on their NWCG qualifications.
4. The FPC will notify the park Superintendent
5. The FPC will notify the Zone Duty Officer or Zone FMO (see Table 2), and provide them with the completed wildfire size-up form (Appendix D.6)
6. The need for additional notifications will be determined based on the fire situation.

Contact information for CHAT, Zone staff, and cooperators is included in Table 2.

Table 2. Emergency Contact List

CHAT Staff	Contact Info
Ann Honious Superintendent	678-538-1211 office
Jeston Fisher Chief Ranger / Fire Program Coordinator	678-538-1262 office 770-318-9732 cell
James Psillis Supervisory Park Ranger	678-538-1268 office 678-710-5343 cell
Beth Wheeler Chief of Resource Management	678-538-1321 office 404-803-7641 cell
Allyson Read Natural Resource Specialist	678-538-1326 office 770-318-3801 cell

APC Fire Management Zone Staff	
APC Zone Duty Officer	865-318-8950
Fire Management Officer Vacant (*Shane Paxton - detailed*)	865-414-6460 cell
Shane Paxton AFMO Operations	865-414-6460 cell
Chris Corrigan AFMO Fuels	865-430-4750 office 865-340-5704 cell
Rob Klein Fire Ecologist	865-430-4751 office 865-809-9901 cell
Larry Glover Fire Program Management Assistant	423-312-7080 cell
Chad Dunehew Engine Captain E-62	865-430-0331 office 865-415-7884 cell
Partners	
Georgia Forestry Commission	800-428-7337
Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (GICC)	770-297-3036
Renee Bishop (terri.bishop@usda.gov) GICC Forest Dispatcher	770-540-4277 cell
Kay Akins (glinda.akins@usda.gov) GICC Forest Dispatcher	678-316-4616 cell

- Local Fire Department contact information can be found in Appendix D.5.

3.1.1.3 Transition to Extended Response

Extended response occurs when a fire has not been controlled by the initial response forces and continues either until transition to a higher-level incident management team is completed, or until the fire has been controlled. Fires will transition from initial response to extended response when the fire cannot be contained with initial response resources within two operational periods (48 hours) of fire detection.

When complexity levels exceed initial response capabilities, the appropriate Incident Command System (ICS) positions should be added commensurate with the complexity of the incident. The Incident Commander (IC), with assistance from Zone and CHAT staff, will complete a WFDSS derived periodic assessment and documentation as required. The Superintendent will approve WFDSS decision documents and any revisions.

The Incident Complexity Analysis and use of the WFDSS decision process (which includes a relative risk assessment and organizational needs analysis) will assist the manager in determining the appropriate management structure to provide for safe and efficient fire suppression operations. When additional resources are required to manage wildfires, the IC will order resources through the Zone Duty Officer and the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (GICC). A unified command structure will be considered for all extended multijurisdictional incidents.

Only the superintendent or designee is authorized to order an Incident Management Team (IMT). When an IMT is mobilized to a CHAT fire event, a briefing package will be assembled for the IMT which includes incident documentation to date (e.g., detailed maps of the incident, fuels, fire complexity analysis), values at risk, aviation hazards, copies of current interagency fire management agreements, the current FMP, and a Limited Delegation of Authority. The CHAT superintendent or designee will conduct the briefing, close-out, and evaluation of the team. A sample Agency Administrator's Briefing to Incident Management Team can be found in the current Redbook, Appendix D.

A sample Delegation of Authority Agency Administrator to IMT and Leader's Intent can be found in the Redbook, Appendix G.

Equipment and Land Use Agreements will be executed prior to using any non-federal equipment or occupying non-federal properties used to manage incidents. Agreements must be negotiated by a warranted Contracting Officer (CO) and follow requirements contained in the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook Chapter 20. (National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), 2018)

Extended attack and large fire suppression activities at CHAT will be carried out in a manner that minimizes impacts to the park's natural and cultural resources, while maintaining the safety of firefighters, the public, and other personnel. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics will be used when possible during wildfire suppression incidents at CHAT.

3.1.1.4 Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST)

Use of Minimum Impact Strategy and Tactics (MIST) described in RM18 Chapter 2 is the policy for all NPS units where feasible.

Park-specific MIST guidelines and required mitigations are found on the Operations map sheet for each unit. Additional requirements to minimize impacts to park resources and visitors are found in Appendix F.

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 contain elements of protection and resource benefit. 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 (MR) and Strategic Objectives (SO) 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. 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 MR and SO pre-season in the [WFDSS Production System]([Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11]).

Draft CHAT [Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)] Strategic Objectives and Management Requirements are listed below. Once finalized they will be uploaded into the WFDSS production system.

Strategic Objectives – Unit Level

1. Take quick and appropriate suppression action on all wildland fire in a cost-effective manner, consistent with resource objectives, considering firefighter and public safety (always the highest priority) and values to be protected (including adjacent non-agency land).
2. Use direct attack to suppress wildland fire, when this strategy can be applied with minimal ground disturbance, such as the application of water, and when it does not endanger the lives of firefighters or the public.
3. Use indirect attack to suppress wildland fire, in order to minimize ground disturbance, when the strategy can be utilized without significantly increasing the risk of fire damage to structures or other high value property, or the risk of fire escaping from the park.
4. Prevent fire from spreading to neighboring lands.
5. Protect natural and cultural resources from adverse effects of fire and fire management activities.
6. Modify fuels around developed areas and park improvements, in the wildland urban interface, and in proximity to cultural sites to reduce the risk of damage from wildfire.
7. Use prescribed fire to accomplish hazard fuels reduction and habitat restoration.
8. Keep park neighbors, visitors, local residents, and adjacent communities informed of all fire management activities.

Management Requirements (Unit Level)

1. Conduct all fire management activities commensurate with applicable laws, policies, and regulations.
2. Fire management strategies and tactics must consider air quality and potential impacts to smoke sensitive areas.
3. Incorporate Minimum Impact Strategies and Tactics (MIST) to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate.
4. A qualified Resource Advisor (READ) will be assigned to all incidents projected to last longer than one operational period.
5. Avoid ground disturbance within known natural and archeological, cultural, or historic resource locations.

6. Use the least damaging strategy and tactic to park resources for the given situation (e.g., using leaf blowers to construct fire line instead of hand tools or heavy equipment).
7. Use existing natural fuel breaks and human-made barriers, wet line, or cold trail the fire edge in lieu of fireline construction whenever possible.
8. When fire line must be constructed, the following requirements apply:
   a. Construct fire line as narrow as possible.
   b. Scatter branches and other debris from fire line construction.
   c. Construct water bars on steep slopes.
9. Water or type A (biodegradable) foam will be used in lieu of fire retardant whenever possible. If retardant must be used, a non-fugitive type will be chosen, and bodies of water avoided.
10. Mop-up kits and low-pressure nozzle settings will be used to prevent erosion by boring and hydraulic action.
11. Superintendent approval is required prior to the use of:
    a. Vehicles (except ATV) outside of roads, multi-use trails, and mowed areas.
    b. Aircraft
    c. Chemical retardant
    d. Tracked equipment, plows, or other ground-disturbing tools. The park will not use any ground disturbing tactics, such as plow blades, pushing trees over, or other tactics which would reasonably be expected to dig up or disturb soils unless it is absolutely necessary to protect life or prevent significant property loss.
12. Minimize the felling of trees. Snags near the fireline will be removed only if they present a hazard or constitute a threat to fireline integrity. Lower branches on living trees will be pruned to remove ladder fuels as opposed to falling the tree whenever practical.

3.2 Fuels Treatments

Fuels management activities may include prescribed fire and mechanical and chemical fuels reduction. Fuel management activities may be used to achieve one or more park objectives for hazard reduction, restoration of natural conditions or historic settings, and control of unwanted plant species. Specific objectives for individual fuels management treatments will be included in Project-Level Fuels Management Plans. Fuels reduction projects may be planned within all FMUs.

Fuels management activities proposed in this 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. All non-fire applications will be conducted in compliance with NEPA, NHPA, and other legal requirements. Park-level mitigations to be implemented when planning and conducting fuels projects are listed in Appendix F.

During the annual review and update of the FMP, the APC Zone staff will prioritize, review, and update the multi-year fuels treatment plan in coordination with park staff. These treatments may be mechanical, chemical, or prescribed fire or a combination. Prescribed fire treatment boundaries will be based on local conditions, utilizing roads, trails, and natural features within the area corresponding with site specific prescribed burn plans.

Fuels treatments at CHAT will consider multiple variables when establishing priorities, including but not limited to:

1. Proximity to WUI and other values at risk
2. Current and potentially hazardous fuel conditions
3. Deviation from fire return intervals required for fire dependent vegetative communities
4. Desired future condition
5. Coordination with projects and priorities of adjacent cooperators
6. Logical project sequence

3.2.1 Multi-year Fuels Treatment Plan

The Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) Module in National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) 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 NFPORS. The NPS Active Management Dashboard displays Fuels Treatments accomplished by the National Park Service's Wildland Fire Management program.

CHAT does not currently have any approved or funded fuels projects. The multi-year fuels treatment plan (Appendix E) contains projects that have been proposed by park staff. These will be requested in NFPORS as described above, and the multi-year plan will be updated each year.

3.2.2 Defensible Space

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.

The creation and maintenance of hazard fuels breaks along identified portions of the park perimeter and within the interior of the park will reduce unwanted fire spread and minimize the risk of loss from wildland fire to park structures and in the wildland urban interface.

Maintaining existing defensible space around park buildings will serve to protect them in the event of a wildland fire. Defensible space projects will be considered non-fire fuel treatments and will follow the same standards for planning and implementing non-fire fuels projects. Current information on NPS Structure Protection needs can be found at the NPS Wildland Fire Risk Assessment (WFRA) website.

3.3 Preparedness

NPS policy requires that every unit with a fire management program incorporate preparedness considerations into its FMP. Fire preparedness is defined as being ready to respond when a wildfire occurs. This is accomplished through the following activities: a continuous process of developing and maintaining firefighting infrastructure, predicting fire activity, implementing prevention activities, identifying values to be protected, coordinating with cooperators, providing training, evaluating performance, correcting deficiencies, and improving operations. Successful preparedness requires effective coordination and communication between CHAT and the APC Zone.

Specific preparedness actions at CHAT include:

- CHAT and Zone fire staff complete annual Preparedness Review Checklists. The blank checklists are available at: https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_intgncy_prepcheck_NPS.html
- Maintaining detection and initial attack capabilities. This may be accomplished by park field personnel, and by maintaining agreements and relationships with local cooperators.
- Red-carded employees must be cleared annually by the DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program before participating in Work Capacity Tests (WCT).
- Red-carded employees will be issued fire gear and personal protective equipment as needed based on their qualifications and expected fire assignments.
- Utilizing the Georgia Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) to track Staffing classes and Step Up Plans derived from the National Fire Danger Rating System (see Appendix D).
- Maintaining fire records, weather data, maps, and other associated information.

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 the Red Book, Preparedness, Chapter 10 for preparedness planning requirements.

3.3.1 Coordination and Dispatching

Current agreements with local cooperators dictate initial response resources to be dispatched through the 911 system. Dispatching for extended attack resources is accomplished through the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (GICC, contact number 770-297-3036; for additional contact information, see the Emergency Contact List).

When firefighters or other wildfire suppression resources are needed for out-of-park assignments within the Zone, the FPC will coordinate with the Zone FMO. If resources are needed for out-of-zone assignments, the FPC will coordinate resource availability with the GICC. The Zone FMO can assist with coordinating out-of-area assignments as needed. Dispatch and mobilization guidelines and procedures are provided in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and the Southern Interagency Mobilization Guide.

3.3.2 Duty Officer

A Duty Officer will be assigned at all times, and may be contacted at the phone number provided in the Emergency Contact List. The duties of the Zone DO are:

- Monitor fire management activities for compliance with NPS safety policies
- Coordinate and set priorities for unit suppression actions and resource allocation along with Southeast Region Fire staff
- Keep the park FPC and Superintendent informed of the current and expected situation
- Document all decisions and actions for the administrative record.

DOs will not fill ICS incident command functions connected to any incident. In the event that the DO is required to accept an incident assignment, the DO will ensure that another authorized DO is in place prior to the departure of the outgoing DO. The FPC is responsible for identifying an acting-FPC when off duty or out of park during any period of predicted fire activity.

3.3.3 Prevention

Current direction for NPS in the Red Book, Preparedness, Chapter 10 states that "Only units that experience more than an average of 26 human caused fires per ten-year period are required to develop a fire prevention plan." CHAT is not currently required to develop a fire prevention plan due to limited fire occurrence. Fire prevention will include all activities designed to reduce the number of human-caused wildland fires that occur in the park. These activities may include:

- Increase law enforcement patrols during periods of high fire danger.
- Post appropriate warning signs during periods of high fire danger.
- Aggressively investigate all wildland fires and prosecute when feasible.
- Remove dead/down fuels in the picnic areas during periods of high fire danger.

Additional resources regarding fire prevention and education can be found in RM-18, Chapter 20, Communication and Education or at https://www.nifc.gov/prevEdu/prevEdu_main.html

3.3.4 Safety Plan

Safety Program/Plan utilized by the fire management program is the park Safety Plan. A copy of that plan can be found in the FPC and Chief Ranger's offices.

3.3.5 Job Hazard Analysis

The Zone FMO maintains a Job Hazard Analysis (JHAs) for Fireline Operations and number of additional Fire and Aviation program elements and tasks. These are maintained on the APC Zone Coordinators Team site, and in the Fire subdirectory on the shared server at GRSM.

3.4 Post-Fire Programs and Response

The minimum impact suppression tactics used at CHAT should help reduce the need for suppression repair, emergency stabilization, and post-fire rehabilitation. In some cases, however, fire or suppression impacts are unavoidable and will require post-fire actions. CHAT 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.

After the fire is declared out, all flagging, litter, and trash associated with the suppression operations will be removed. Firelines will be rehabilitated, and erosion control devices installed as necessary. Stumps will be flush cut and covered with soil. Brush will be scattered and, on slopes, boles of fallen trees will be placed parallel to the hill to form erosion control devices. If plows were used, furrows will be rehabilitated by rolling the materials back into the furrow. Plow furrows will be rehabilitated only after a professional archeologist has completed a survey and documentation of any archeological resources found. Public use trails will be patrolled, and measures taken to ensure public safety. The severity of the fire and the resulting impacts may dictate the need to re-seed or reestablish native plant species. Additional post-fire activities may be conducted, and the park may request post-fire funding through the NPS Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program. Damages resulting from wildfires are addressed through four activities:

1) **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.

2) **Emergency Stabilization:** the intent is to protect life, property, and critical resource values, and is the responsibility of the Superintendent. This activity is part of the NPS BAER program and is paid for from Emergency Stabilization (ES) funding.

3) **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 part of the NPS BAER program and is paid for from Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) funds.

4) **Restoration:** the intent is to continue the rehabilitation efforts started in the BAR process beyond the time period limitation set by the department. This activity is paid for from regular NPS non-fire program funds.

Specific ES actions at CHAT may include but are not limited to:
- *Seeding/mulching to prevent erosion.*
- *Seeding to prevent establishment of invasive plants.*
- *Direct treatment of invasive plants.*
- *Structural measures to slow soil and water movement.*
- *Stabilizing critical cultural resources.*
- *Fences or barriers to protect treated or recovering area.*
- *Replacing/repairing (minor) facilities essential to public health and safety.*
- *Conducting assessments of habitat and significant heritage sites in those areas affected by emergency stabilization treatments.*
- *Patrolling, camouflaging, or burying significant cultural sites to prevent looting.*
- *Increasing road drainage frequency and/or capacity to handle additional post-fire runoff.*

Specific BAR actions at CHAT may include but are not limited to:
- *Tree planting to reestablish burned habitat and reestablish native tree species lost in fire.*
- *Repair damage to facilities.*
- *Habitat restoration.*
- *Invasive plant treatment.*
- *Road/trail maintenance.*
- *Cultural site restoration.*
- *Fence replacement.*
- *Watershed restoration.*

RM - 18, Post Wildfire Programs, Chapter 18 and the Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11 provide direction on current processes and timeframes.

Interior Region 2 Standard Operating Procedures for developing and submitting post-fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) requests can be obtained by contacting the APC Zone FMO or National Park Service Interior Region 2 Deputy FMO.

3.5 Air Quality/Smoke Management

3.5.1 Air Quality Issues
The park is designated as a Class II air quality area under the Clean Air Act, which means moderate increases in new pollution may be permitted.

The State of Georgia Basic Smoke Management Plan (2008) outlines procedures and requirements for management of smoke from prescribed fires within the state.

Prescribed burning is not allowed in Fulton, Cobb, Gwinnett, and Forsyth Counties, Georgia during the months of May 1 – September 30. (Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Division 2018).

3.5.2 Smoke Management Activities
Smoke transport and safety considerations will be considered in the planning and implementation of fuels projects involving fire and will be included in the treatment management plan. For prescribed burns, the park will comply with all terms of burn permits issued by jurisdictions as noted below:

- The Georgia Forest Fire Protection Act requires all prescribed burns be permitted from the Georgia Forestry Commission prior to ignition (Georgia Department of Natural Resources 2008).

For both prescribed burns and wildfire events, smoke on roadways will be monitored and traffic control provisions taken, in cooperation with the Highway Department, to ensure motorist safety during fire events at the park. The following procedures may be taken to compensate for reduced visibility when a paved road is affected by smoke:

- Post "Smoke on Road" signs on either side of the affected area.
- Reduce the posted speed limit when visibility is strongly reduced and escorting vehicles as necessary.
- Close the road to traffic when visibility is severely reduced.
- Prescribed fires will be managed to prevent heavy smoke concentrations from coming into contact with high tension power lines.

Additional Smoke Management information can be found in RM 18, Air Quality and Smoke Management, Chapter 9.

3.6 Data and Records Management

3.6.1 Wildfire Reporting
Wildland fire reporting will follow guidelines established by NPS policy and Director's Order 18 and the associated reference manual, RM 18 Chapter 11: *Wildland Fire Reporting*.

Each wildfire requires completion of an individual fire report, currently submitted using the Interagency Fire Occurrence Reporting Modules (InFORM) online system. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander (IC) to provide a completed wildfire size-up form (Appendix D.6) to the Zone Duty Officer and the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (GICC). If no NPS IC was present on scene for the fire, the park's Fire Program Coordinator (FPC) must ensure that the Duty Officer and GICC receive a completed size-up form.

Once the fire report is created by GICC, a Fire Code will be automatically generated. At that time, a wildfire account will be requested from the DOI Region 2 Fire Office by the Zone Duty Officer. After the fire is controlled and declared out, the Zone FMO will review the InFORM report for correctness and provide final certification of the record.

The fire report is a permanent record of wildland fires on NPS lands and/or fire responses completed by the NPS. A paper copy will be maintained in CHAT and/or Zone files. When CHAT staff assist with wildfire suppression on other agency lands, the agency with jurisdiction will file a report.

3.6.2 Geospatial Data Management for Wildland Fires
All GIS Standard Operating Procedures will be followed. In-depth direction can be found at the NWCG Geospatial Subcommittee website. In general, the minimum requirement for location data is an accurate set of coordinates for every wildland fire occurrence (wildfires and prescribed fires). Additionally, wildfires over an acre in size and all prescribed fires require an accurate map of the perimeter.

The park will coordinate with the Zone Fire Ecologist to ensure that GIS Standard Operating Procedures are understood and followed.

3.6.3 Wildland Fire Qualifications Management
In coordination with the Zone FMO, the park FPC will ensure that all park employee qualification records that are maintained annually in the DOI Incident Qualification System. Red cards will be issued each spring after completion of the annual fire line refresher, physical clearance (annual, periodic, baseline exams), and appropriate physical fitness test (pack, field, or walk test).

The park FPC will maintain a list of current fire qualified staff.

4.0 PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 Monitoring

Monitoring requirements and standards are described in RM 18 Chapter 8 with specific details contained in the NPS Fire Monitoring Handbook.

"All NPS units applying prescribed fire, using wildfire for resource objectives, or altering the arrangement of wildland fuels for the purpose of modifying fire behavior beyond defensible space building codes must prepare a fire monitoring plan".

Monitoring is the primary means of assessing whether the fire program is meeting management goals and objectives. There is currently no fire effects monitoring in place at CHAT, but as fuels management projects become funded at the park, monitoring will be planned and implemented according to NPS standards. The APC Zone Fire Ecologist and fire-effects monitoring crew will support the park with fire effects monitoring, data collection and analysis.

Park staff will consider monitoring results during the annual assessment of the fire management program. Fire effects data will be maintained by the Zone Fire Ecologist, and copies made available at the NPS Data Store (https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/). All monitoring efforts and data analysis will be described and delivered to park staff in an annual report.

4.2 Research

Research and monitoring provide the basis for fire management programs to refine goals and objectives and modify management actions. Research may be used to answer questions that monitoring cannot address, and findings may be used in conjunction with monitoring results to provide the greatest benefit to park managers. There has been no known fire research on or adjacent to CHAT; however, research focused on similar ecosystems may provide valuable results that can be applied to the CHAT fire management program. The park will coordinate with the Zone Fire Ecologist and other partners to identify fire-related research needs and potential funding sources.

4.3 Climate Change

Chattahoochee River NRA is aware there may be potential impacts on resources and fire regimes resulting from rapid climate change. At present, there is a need to conduct specific research that will project the types of changes of fire regimes and the impacts those changes will have on the overall wildland fire program. New information will be considered during annual reviews and incorporated into subsequent FMPs and operations.

4.4 Evaluations, Reviews, and Updates

4.4.1 Fire Program Review

The CHAT Fire Program will be discussed by Zone and park staff annually. A formal program review has not been conducted, but may occur if park, regional or national leadership request a review. The National Park Service has developed a NPS Wildland Fire Program Review Guide that describes the review framework. For more information reference RM - 18, Evaluations, Reviews and Investigations, Chapter 16.

4.4.2 Wildland Fire Incident Review

As per NPS policy, a post-fire review of every wildfire and prescribed fire at CHAT will be conducted. Post-fire reviews are typically completed by the Incident Commander or Burn Boss as part of an After Action Review (AAR) using the guidelines in the Red Book, but could be completed in any format. The review will follow the guidelines in RM-18 and will cover all aspects of the incident, including safety, tactics, difficulties encountered, areas needing improvement, and whether specified objectives were met. The information gathered from these reviews will be used to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the fire management program. The review should be documented and filed in the permanent fire record.

For all incidents, a review will occur as quickly as practical upon completion of control and mop-up and will involve as many personnel who participated in the incident as possible. Any special concerns or problems identified during the review will be relayed to the FPC by the incident commander or burn boss.

Any incident that results in human entrapment, serious injury, fatalities, or a near-miss will be investigated and reviewed, with appropriate administrative action taken based upon investigation results. The Interior Region 2 FMO may conduct an in-depth review of wildfires involving a type I or type II team. As per RM-18, Chapter 16, a regional-level review may also be conducted for any fire that:
- Crosses CHAT boundaries into another jurisdiction without the approval of an interagency agreement.
- Results in adverse media attention.
- Involves serious injury to fewer than three personnel, significant Departmental property damage, or an accident with potential. This review is separate from and in addition to any specific accident investigation.
- Results in controversy involving another agency.

A national level review may be conducted for any fire that involves Service-wide or national issues, including:
- Significant adverse media or political interest.
- Multi-regional resource response.
- A substantial loss of equipment or property.

- A fatality, or multiple, serious fire-related injuries (three or more personnel). This is in addition to the required serious accident investigation (see RM 18, Chapter 3).
- Any other fires that the Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection wants reviewed.

All wildland fires and fire-related incidents will be reviewed in accordance with RM-18 Chapter 16 and the Redbook.

4.4.3 Fire Management Plan Review

Fire Management Plans do not expire and remain in effect until superseded by a new or revised plan. However, annual updates are required for the plan to be valid for the current year. Once the Annual Update Checklist is completed, the Superintendent and Zone FMO must sign the FMP Annual Update Checklist.

All approved changes must then be incorporated in the FMP and the Annual Update Checklist must be added to the FMP immediately following the cover-page. The revised FMP, including the signed Annual Update Checklist, must be uploaded to the NPS Wildland Fire, Planning and Budget SharePoint. Fire Management Plans that do not have a current Annual Update Checklist are not considered current. Contact the Deputy Regional FMO, Travis Neppl (travis_neppl@nps.gov) for region specific deadlines and protocols.

The Zone FMO will forward the approved Annual FMP Update to the Deputy Regional FMO who will ensure it is uploaded to the regional Teams folder and national NPS Sharepoint.

NWCG GLOSSARY

The list of pertinent fire management definitions may change over time as new definitions are added and obsolete definitions are replaced. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group maintains a current list of acceptable terms with their definitions and is found at the NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire website.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Annual Delegation of Authority

Appendix B: APC Fire Management Zone Inter Park Agreement

Appendix C: Cooperative and Interagency Agreements

Appendix D. Preparedness Planning Documents

      Appendix D.1. Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP)

      Appendix D.2. Preparedness Level Plan

      Appendix D.3. Step Up Plan/Staffing Plan

      Appendix D.4. Initial Response Plan

      Appendix D.5. Initial Response Resources/Contacts

      Appendix D.6. APC Zone Incident Organizer (Wildfire Size Up Form)

      Appendix D.7. Wildland Fire Risk Assessment and Complexity Analysis Worksheet

Appendix E: Multi-Year Fuels Treatment Plan

Appendix F: Project Planning and Implementation Mitigation Requirements

Delegation of
Authority

To: Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal Zone Fire Management Officer

From: Superintendent Chattahoochee River NRA

Subject: 2022 Delegation of Authority

The actions defined in the Delegation of Authority will be coordinated primarily between the Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal Zone Fire Staff and designated park Fire Coordinator and/or Superintendent.

Policy
- Supports establishment, implementation, and management of a safe, effective, and efficient fire/prescribed fire program.
- Ensures that the Fire Management Plan (FMP) reflects the agency commitment to firefighter and public safety, while utilizing the full range of fire management activities available for ecosystem sustainability.
- Provides the skills/staff to fully support integrating fire management into interdisciplinary planning efforts.
- Supports compliance with work/rest guidelines during all fire and fire aviation activities.
- Ensures fire and fire aviation policies are understood and implemented through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent.
- Ensure fire management activities meets NEPA requirements through park staff.

Program Management
- Ensures through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent completion of a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)/Risk Assessment for all fire activities to mitigate risk.
- Ensures WFDSS and NFPORS documentation is completed for treatments, activities, projects, and fires through coordination with park staff.
- Ensures that the fire and fire aviation management qualified employees, through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent, understand their roles, responsibilities, authority, and accountability. This includes mitigations for protecting park resources.
- Monitors fire suppression activities through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent to recognize when complexity levels exceed current management capabilities. Increases managerial and operational resources as needed.
- Through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent, ensures that agreements with cooperator and operational plans (e.g., Annual Operating Plans, dispatch, preparedness, prevention) are valid and in compliance with agency policy.
- Ensures use of fire funds through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent is compliant with department and agency policies.
- Ensures that through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent fire severity funding is requested, used, and documented.

- Ensures through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent that a process is established to communicate fire information to public, and cooperators.
- Represents the Chattahoochee River NRA in regional fire meetings. Specifically addresses resource objectives, management controls and critical safety issues. Oversees pre-season preparedness review of fire and fire aviation program through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent.
- Initiates, conducts, and/or participates in fire program management reviews and investigations in coordination with the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent.
- Personally, participates in periodic site visits to individual incidents and projects.
- Ensures through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent that transfer of command occurs on incidents.
- Ensure through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent that the proper level of management complexity is assigned to all incidents
- Ensures through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent that incoming personnel and crews are briefed prior to fire assignments.

Training
- Ensures IQCS accounts are established, and training records maintained for Agency Administrators.
- Organizes trains, equips, and directs a qualified work force through the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent. Ensures that only trained and qualified personnel are assigned to fire and fire aviation duties. Establishes and implements IQCS/Fire performance review process.

Prescribed Fire Implementation
- Ensures compliance with NPS/Regional policy and park resource protection requirements for prescribed fire activities. Provides periodic reviews of the prescribed fire program in coordination with the Fire Coordinator/Superintendent.
- Reports all wildfires resulting from prescribed fires to the Regional Fire Management Officer within 12 hours of the wildfire declaration.

H. S. Paxton
Digitally signed by H. S. Paxton
Date: 2021.12.14 08:54:08 -05'00'

Shane Paxton   Date
Acting Fire Management Officer, APC Fire Management Zone

ANN HONIOUS
Digitally signed by ANN HONIOUS
Date: 2021.12.20 15:43:59 -05'00'

Ann Honious   Date
Superintendent CHAT

Inter-Park Agreement

Between

Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal

Fire Management Zone

And the following National Park Service Units:

Andrew Johnson National Historic Site

Blue Ridge Parkway

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Cape Lookout National Seashore

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park

Congaree National Park

Cowpens National Battlefield

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

Fort Sumter National Monument

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

Kings Mountain National Military Park

Martin Luther King National Historical Park

Moores Creek National Battlefield

Ninety Six National Historical Site

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

and

Wright Brothers National Memorial

Background

Wildland fire management and associated activities require technical expertise that may not be present at the individual park level. These include, but are not limited to:

- Fire management planning
- Wildfire suppression preparedness/training
- Fire mobilization and dispatch
- Fire reporting
- Fuels management project planning and implementation
- Capitalized equipment requests
- Fire effects monitoring/research.

To address this issue, in 2015, the Regional Fire Management Officer and the Regional Directorate for the DOI-NPS Region 2 identified a group of 21 parks, the Appalachian--Piedmont-Coastal Fire Management Zone (APC Zone). The Chief Ranger at GRSM provides supervision for the APC Zone Fire Management Officer (FMO). The permanent APC Zone staff, and current contact information, are listed in the table below.

Title	Name	Phone Number	Email
Duty Officer	Rotating APC Staff	865-318-8950	
Fire Management Officer	Vacant (S. Paxton detailed)	865-414-6460	shane_paxton@nps.gov
Assistant Fire Management Officer - Operations	Shane Paxton	865-414-6460	shane_paxton@nps.gov
Assistant Fire Management Officer – Fuels	Chris Corrigan	865-340-5704	chris_corrigan@nps.gov
Fire Ecologist	Rob Klein	865-809-9901	rob_klein@nps.gov
Fire Operations Specialist -South Carolina	Alex Scronce	864-490-5749	alex_scronce@nps.gov
Fire Program Management Assistant	Larry Glover	423-312-7080	lawrence_glover@nps.gov
Lead Fuels Technician	Vacant		
Engine Captain E-62	Chad Dunehew	865-415-7884	chad_dunehew@nps.gov
Assistant Engine Captain	Vacant		
Engine Crewmember E-62	Vacant		
Lead Fire Effects Monitor	Wylie Paxton	828-222-4440	wylie_paxton@nps.gov
Assistant Lead Monitor	Matt Wood	865-809-9096	john_m_wood@nps.gov

Note: The Great Smoky Wildland Fire Module is also hosted by GRSM but is not considered part of the APC Zone staff as they are a national resource. The current WFM Superintendent is Jordan Black (office: 865-430-4755).

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to define the responsibilities of Agency Administrators, APC Zone Fire Management staff, and staff from APC Zone parks regarding fire management activities.

Organization

The Park Superintendent (Agency Administrator) is responsible for wildland fire management within the park. The APC Zone Fire Management staff, led by the Zone FMO, will provide policy guidance, technical expertise, planning, ecology, and operational support to the Park Superintendent to meet wildland fire management requirements and achieve fire management goals and objectives. To facilitate efficient communication between the Park and APC Zone Fire Management staff, the Superintendent must provide and direct a Fire Program Coordinator (FPC) from his or her staff.

Agency Administrator Requirements for Fire Operations

Taken from the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (NFES 2724) CHAPTER 03
Release Date: January 2021

1. Take necessary and prudent actions to ensure firefighter and public safety.
2. Ensures sufficient qualified fire and non-fire personnel are available each year to support fire operations at a level commensurate with the local and national fire situation. Ensures that all training and certification of fire and non-fire personnel is completed as required to support fire operations at the local and national level.
3. Ensure Fire Management Officers (FMOs) are fully qualified as identified in the Interagency Fire Program Management Qualification Standards.
4. Provide a written Delegation of Authority (DOA) on an annual basis to individual(s) responsible for wildland fire management activities to ensure an adequate level of operational authority. Depending on park organizational structure, written delegations may be provided to the Chief Ranger, Natural Resource Specialist, FMO, designated Fire Coordinator, Park Group FMO, or to individuals from neighboring fire management organizations, provided a written agreement or memorandum of understanding is in-place. Where applicable, an Inter-Park Agreement that specifies the reciprocal responsibilities of the Superintendent and Park Group FMO will be prepared. This Inter-Park Agreement will be accompanied by an annual Delegation of Authority. Both the DOA and Inter-Park Agreement will remain valid until rescinded by either party, updates are needed, or personnel changes necessitate a revision and update. As appropriate, the DOA will specify multi-agency coordination (MAC) group authorities.
5. Ensure applicable park unit resource management objectives are included in the Fire Management Plan (FMP). The comprehensive 7-year review of the FMP is no longer required. Annual updates are required. Then newly established FMP Update Checklist must be completed, signed by the Superintendent and uploaded in the Integrated Resource Management Application (IRMA) under the established park unit name.

6. Reviews and approves wildfire preparedness and fuels management funding based on an accurate and defensible readiness analysis. Ensure use of fire funds is in compliance with Department and Agency policies.
7. Develop fire management standards and constraints that are in compliance with agency fire policies.
8. Ensure compliance with the collection, storing, and aggregation of Wildland Fire Program Core geospatial data (http://share.nps.gov/firegis).
9. Management teams will meet once a year to review fire and aviation policies, roles, responsibilities, and delegations of authority. Specifically address oversight and management controls, critical safety issues and high-risk situations such as team transfers of command, periods of multiple fire activity and Red Flag Warnings.
10. Review safety policies, procedures, and concerns with field fire and fire aviation personnel. Discussions should include issues that could compromise safety and effectiveness during the upcoming season.
11. Ensure timely follow-up actions to program reviews, fire preparedness reviews, fire and fire aviation safety reviews, fire critiques and post-season reviews.
12. Ensure fire and fire aviation preparedness reviews are conducted in all units each year. Parks must complete checklists applicable to their specific program scope and complexity and include appropriate program elements, such as prescribed fire. A summary of the preparedness review findings including standards exceeded or needing improvement will be submitted to the Regional FMO before the fire season.
13. Ensure an approved burn plan is followed for each prescribed fire project; technical review, Prescribed Fire Go/No-Go Checklist (PMS486), and Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization (PMS 485) are completed; follow-up monitoring and documentation to ensure management objectives are met.
14. Meet annually with major cooperators and review interagency agreements to ensure their continued effectiveness and efficiency (may be delegated).
15. Ensure post fire reviews are conducted on all fires that escape initial attack or are managed as long term incidents. Participate in all reviews that require management by any type of Incident Management Team (Regional Director may delegate).
16. Provide management oversight by personally visiting wildland and prescribed fires each year.
17. Provide incident management objectives, written delegations of authority and Agency Administrator briefings to Incident Management Teams. See Chapter 11, Agency Administrator Responsibilities.
18. Monitor wildfire potential and provide oversight during periods of critical fire activity/situations.
19. Ensures that resource advisors are identified, trained, available, and appropriately assigned to wildland fire incidents. Refer to Resource Advisors Guide for Wildland Fire PMS 313, NFES 1831, Aug 2017.
20. Convene and participate in annual pre- and post-season fire meetings.
21. Attends the Fire Management Leadership Course (geographic or national) and attains the Agency Administrator (AADM) qualification in the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) within two years of appointment to Superintendent. Ensures that their designated acting superintendents and supervisors of fire management officers (FMOs) attain and maintain the AADM qualification.
22. Ensure appropriate investigations are conducted for accidents (as defined in Chapter 18), entrapments, shelter deployments, and related events.
23. For all unplanned human-caused fires where liability can be determined, ensure actions are initiated to

recover cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation, and damages to the resource and improvements.

24. For all fires identified as requiring a WFDSS decision in Chapter 11, ensure local unit staff specialists are involved in the development and that all decisions are consistent with the objectives and requirements contained in the Park's Fire Management Plan.
25. Ensure there is adequate direction in fire management plans to identify fire danger awareness with escalating fire potential.
26. NPS Superintendents or other designated approving officials will maintain WFDSS user profiles (as appropriate), allowing them to approve wildfire decisions in WFDSS.
27. Ensure compliance with Departmental and agency policy, as well as Regional Office direction for prescribed fire activities and ensure that periodic reviews and inspections of the prescribed fire program are completed.
28. Review prescribed plans and recommend or approve the plans depending upon the delegated authority. Ensure that the prescribed fire plan has been reviewed and recommended by a qualified technical reviewer who was not involved in the plan preparation.
29. Serves as the Management Official (MO) within the DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program.

APC Zone Fire Management Staff Responsibilities

Management and Planning
- Provide overall fire management program guidance and technical expertise
- Administer the preparedness and fuels-management fire budgets
- Maintain and supervise permanent and seasonal APC Zone fire management staff, who provide support to the APC Zone parks
- Review and provide technical assistance in the preparation, maintenance, and update of park Fire Management Plans (FMPs) and associated documents
- Assist APC Zone parks in preparing requests for fuels project funding, prioritization, and submission through NFPORS, the on-line interagency National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System
- Provide technical expertise and qualified personnel for the planning of prescribed fire and non-fire fuels treatment projects
- Provide support to park Fire Program Coordinators to enhance training and development to the collateral -duty positions
- Support parks in creating and maintaining relationships and agreements with local Fire Departments and other cooperators for structural and wildland fire protection services
- Provide fire ecology support for development of resource management goals and objectives for the overall fire program and fuels-management program
- Provide technical assistance in the management of aviation and structural-fire related issues, as qualifications allow
- Represent all APC Zone parks, collectively and individually as needed, at and on meetings, conferences, committees, and other agency and interagency wildland fire functions and organizations, including appropriate State Multi--Agency Coordinating groups

- Quality-check and certify final fire reports in InFORM, (Interagency Fire Occurrence Reporting Modules)

Preparedness Activities

- Recommend wildfire prevention, preparedness, step--up, severity, and suppression activities when appropriate to park staff
- Distribute to park fire program coordinators (FPCs) Safety Advisories, Red Flag Warnings, Fuels Advisories, and other notices related to fire safety.
- Assist in maintaining qualifications, training, and experience records in the appropriate interagency computer system currently IQCS, (Incident Qualifications Computer System)
- Disseminate notices and announcements for fire--related training and training academies. Schedule and conduct training to meet APC Zone park needs and promote development of operational, overhead and administrative personnel, and/or advise FPCs in conducting in--park fire training and refreshers. This includes supplying instructors, instructor guidance, and training materials, as practical, and prioritizing fire--related training needs
- Administer Fire Position Task Book system and initiate Fire Position task books as appropriate
- Assist in conducting annual preparedness reviews, of both personnel and equipment, according to Red Book Standards

Operations/Field Support

- APC Zone Duty Officer will provide incident support as available, warranted, and requested. All resource orders will go through the requesting unit's Interagency Coordination Center
- Assist Park Fire Program Coordinators (FPCs) in the mobilization and dispatch of fire resources with the appropriate state coordination center, and updating resource status in IROC (Interagency Resource Ordering Capability)
- Provide technical expertise, experience, and operationally qualified personnel for the preparation and execution of prescribed fire and non--fire fuels treatment projects
- Conduct fire-effects monitoring of prescribed fire and non--fire fuels treatment projects according to agency standards
- Provide Remotely Automated Weather System (RAWS) support as needed and qualified.

APC Zone Park Unit Responsibilities

Each APC Zone park will designate a key official and central contact for liaison with the APC Zone Fire Management Office. This person is called the Fire Program Coordinator (FPC). The FPC is responsible for:

- Coordinating with the Zone FMO and/or designee on all aspects of their park unit's fire program management
- Notify the Duty Officer of any wildfire occurrence as soon as possible (at least within 12 hours of initial report)
- Ensure wildland fire size-up is completed and submitted to Interagency Coordination Center within 5 minutes of arrival on-scene.

- Maintaining permanent project files for wildfires, prescribed fires, and non-fire fuels treatment projects conducted in the park
- Facilitating and scheduling pack tests and refreshers in coordination A-P-C Zone Fire Staff
- Ensuring that firefighters complete necessary paperwork and appointments to meet Medical Qualification Standards, including initial and follow--up appointments and waivers
- Providing documentation of training and experience to the Zone FPMA
- Maintaining fire supplies, fire equipment, and fire PPE
- Initiating and participating in meetings and other contacts with local Fire Departments and other cooperators as needed
- Provide Geo-Spatial information to the Fire Management Office, for the purpose of determining boundaries and NPS land ownership in support of Incident Management Responses and fuels projects
- FPC will work directly with Zone staff on all matters concerning fuels related projects where regional funding is provided. Parks may not implement projects independently without approval from ZFMO. Close coordination and communication is essential
- Ensure completion of all NEPA and other compliance for Fuels Management projects and FMP updates, and complete all required documentation.
- Coordinate all requests for Step-Up or Severity accounts through the APC Zone Fire Management Office

Funding

All funding needs and requests are subject to prior approval, prioritization, and funds availability. If allocated funding is insufficient, the Zone FMO will request additional funding from the DOI-NPS Region 2 FMO.

Funding for specific activities will be as follows:

Step-Up and Severity Funding – Funding for step-up and severity are funded from the DOI-NPS Region 2 Fire Management Office and National Office of Wildland Fire, respectively. Requests for funding during these events must be coordinated with the APC Zone FMO or Duty Officer.

Fuels Treatment Projects - Funding for all stages of prescribed fire and non-fire fuels treatment projects, including planning, contracting, plan writing, preparation, and execution, will be provided by the DOI-NPS Region 2 Fire Management Office as requested through the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System NFPORS. Parks must coordinate with the APC Zone AFMO-Fuels to request project funding. When fire funds are unavailable it may be necessary that individual parks supply funding from other sources to cover fuels project needs.

Incident Overtime and Travel - Overtime and travel costs incurred on incidents will be borne by the appropriate incident accounts, as approved on incident resource order(s). The FPMA can provide technical assistance with incident business management, including time and travel.

Firefighter Physicals - The cost of firefighter physicals will be paid for by an account number provided by the National Fire Management Program Center.

Program Costs - Routine costs, including travel and per diem, communication, supplies and materials, and vehicles, incurred by APC Zone Fire staff in carrying out normal duties within APC Zone parks will

be charged against fire program accounts maintained by the Zone. Unless otherwise agreed to, none of these costs will be borne by the satellite parks.

Supplies - The APC Zone Fire staff may pay for, and generally order and deliver, wildland fire-related supplies and personal protective equipment such as hand tools, chain saws, leaf blowers, portable pumps, personal protective equipment, firefighting line gear, hose and fittings, and other fire cache supplies and materials. When fire funds are unavailable it may be necessary that individual parks supply funding to cover critical equipment needs.

Training - Generally, the Fire Management Office will provide funding for training materials, tuition and travel for approved fire training for red-carded employees of APC Zone parks. When Fire Management funds are not available, it will be the requesting parks responsibility to provide funding for training.

Term of Agreement/Updates

This Interpark Agreement will remain valid until rescinded by either party, updates are needed, or personnel changes necessitate a revision or update. The Agreement will be reviewed each year during the FMP update process.

Appendix C: Cooperative and Interagency Agreements

Agreements with local Fire Response Agencies and other cooperators are maintained by the Park's Fire Program Coordinator (FPC).

Agreements include:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and the City of Johns Creek, Georgia
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and the Cobb County, Georgia
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and the Fulton County, Georgia
4. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and the City of Roswell, Georgia
5. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia
6. Letter of Agreement between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Sidney Lanier and National Park Service, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
7. Master Cooperative Agreement for Fire Management in the State of Georgia (includes NPS, Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy)
8. Georgia Interagency Burn Team (IBT) Cooperative Agreement (includes partners listed above)

Appendix D. Preparedness Planning Documents

Appendix D.1. Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP)

Appendix D.2. Preparedness Level Plan

Appendix D.3. Step Up Plan/Staffing Plan

Appendix D.4. Initial Response Plan

Appendix D.5. Initial Response Resources/Contacts

Appendix D.6. APC Zone Incident Organizer (Wildfire Size Up Form)

Appendix D.7. Wildland Fire Risk Assessment and Complexity Analysis Worksheet

Appendix D.1. Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP)

CHAT does not manage a Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS), and has no dedicated wildland fire staff: thus the park has no basis for developing an individual Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP).

An Interagency FDOP for the state of Georgia was completed and signed by partners in 2021, and this plan can be helpful for understanding local fire danger and critical thresholds for management decisions. CHAT will utilize this Interagency FDOP to meet NPS planning requirements.

In the context of the Georgia Interagency FDOP, CHAT is located within Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) 3 – Upper Piedmont. Three USFS RAWS are used to determine fire danger thresholds for FDRA 3: Dyar Pasture, Oconee, and Brender. These stations will utilize NFDRS2016 models to determine daily Preparedness and Staffing levels that will inform situational awareness and provide a range of potential actions for fire management at the park.

The plan is currently stored on the Region 2 Zone FMO Team (GA FDOP 2021). As the FDOP becomes more fully implemented statewide, this FMP will be updated to incorporate instructions for accessing current fire danger levels.

Preparedness level is determined by use of the 'Plinko' chart (Table 3), and potential management actions are listed in the Table 4. CHAT is located within FDRA 3 – Upper Piedmont. As the FDOP is implemented statewide, it is expected that the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center will determine daily Preparedness Levels and make the information available to all land management partners. When that occurs, this FMP will be updated to provide directions for accessing that information.

Table 3. Plinko Worksheet for Determination of Preparedness Level

#1	BI or ERC	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
	ERC Model Y (Costal FDRA)	0-7	8-16	17-25	26-34	35+
	ERC Model Y (Mountains FDRA)	0-2	3-12	13-24	25-29	30+
	ERC Model Y (Ridge/Valley FDRA)	0-4	5-12	13-29	27-32	33+
	ERC Model Z (Upper Piedmont FDRA)	0-3	4-10	11-16	17-22	23+
	ERC Model Z (Lower Piedmont FDRA)	0-8	9-31	32-52	53-61	62+
	☑ ⇨	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

#2	KBDI>500	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
	☑ ⇨	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

#3	Significant Activity		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
	☑ ⇨	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Preparedness Level	I	II	III	IV	V

Table 4. Actions to be Considered for each Preparedness Level

Preparedness Level	I (Low)	II (Moderate)	III (High)	IV (Very High)	V (Extreme)
Disseminate information to the public regarding the elevated fire danger if deemed necessary after consulting with the APC Zone FMO. This may be done via press releases, social media, or any other method the park deems appropriate.				X	X
Consider posting appropriate fire prevention/information signs at public use areas and key visitor use facilities				X	X
Consider including fire messages in interpretive or law enforcement programs and contacts				X	X
Consider increasing patrols by fire or law enforcement staff				X	X
Consider implementing fire restrictions on any open burning, including stoves				X	X
Maintain open communications between FPC, Zone FMO, and local cooperators				X	X
The APC Zone may designate a Duty Officer to serve as the primary contact for fire support needs				X	X
The APC Zone FMO may request an emergency step-up account or submit a severity request.				X	X

Appendix D.3. Step Up Plan/Staffing Plan

The ability to implement at Step-Up Plan at CHAT is limited, as there are no fire funded positions at the park. CHAT relies on local cooperators, collateral duty fire personnel, and fire personnel from other parks to assist with fire response. Awareness of staffing class and communication with local cooperators are key elements of preparedness at CHAT.

The staffing class thresholds from the GA FDOP is included to provide a reference for tracking short-term fire danger thresholds that have been identified for the Upper Piedmont Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA), which includes CHAT (Table 5). As the FDOP is implemented statewide, it is expected that the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center will determine daily Staffing Levels, and make the information available to all land management partners. When that occurs, this FMP will be updated to provide directions for accessing that information. Step-up actions to be considered for each staffing level are provided in Table 6.

Table 5. Staffing Level Thresholds

FDRA	STAFFING LEVELS (ERC)				
	I	II	III	IV	V
RIDGE & VALLEY	0-4	5-12	13-28	29-32	33+
MOUNTAINS	0-2	3-12	13-24	25-29	30+
UPPER PIEDMONT (ERC-Z)	0-3	4-10	11-16	17-22	23+
LOWER PIEDMONT	0-8	9-31	32-52	53-61	62+
COASTAL PLAIN (OKEE)	0-7	8-16	17-25	26-34	35+

Table 6. Step-up Actions

Staffing Level	1	2	3	4	5
Step-Up Actions	Normal work schedule, project work allowed	Normal work schedule, project work allowed	Normal work schedule, identify on-call resources, project work allowed	Consider extended/weekend staffing, identify on-call resources, consider allowing project work depending on local fire activity and/or resource needs.	Consider extended/weekend staffing, identify on-call resources, consider allowing project work depending on local fire activity and/or resource needs.

Appendix D.4. Initial Response Plan

The initial response procedures are discussed in Section 3.1.1.2 of this FMP. CHAT has no dedicated wildland fire staff and relies upon local fire departments for most wildfire initial response. Initial actions to be taken by park staff involve coordination with responding resources, and communication with cooperators, CHAT management staff, and with the APC Zone staff.

Initial Reporting and Notification Procedures:
1. On initial report of an ignition, the park will immediately call 911, and contact the Ranger on Duty to complete and communicate the size-up (see Appendix D.6.). The size-up must be sent to the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (see Table 2)
2. The Ranger on Duty will coordinate the response with the responding fire department(s) and the park Fire Management Coordinator (FPC)
3. CHAT red-carded staff will be assigned to the fire as needed based on their NWCG qualifications.
4. The FPC will notify the park Superintendent
5. The FPC will notify the Zone Duty Officer or Zone FMO (see Table 2), and provide them with the completed wildfire size-up form (Appendix D.6)
6. The need for additional notifications will be determined based on the fire situation.

Appendix D.5. Initial Response Resources/Contacts

Park Unit/Area	Primary Responding Fire	Address	Phone
Jones Bridge	Johns Creek Fire 63	3165 Old Alabama Rd Alpharetta GA 30022	(678) 474-1640
CREEC	Johns Creek Fire 63	3165 Old Alabama Rd Alpharetta GA 30022	(678) 474-1640
Holcomb Bridge	Sandy Springs Station 55	8025 Holcomb Bridge Rd Alpharetta GA 30022	(770) 730-5600
Vickery Creek	Roswell Fire Station 1	1002 Alpharetta St Roswell GA 30075	(770) 641-3730
Allenbrook	Roswell Fire Station 1	1002 Alpharetta St Roswell GA 30075	(770) 641-3730
Island Ford Unit	Sandy Springs	1425 Spalding Dr Sandy Springs GA 30350	(770) 730-5600
Gold Branch Unit	Cobb Co. Station 21	4400 Lower Roswell Rd Mareitta GA 30067	(770) 528-3067
Johnson Ferry North	Cobb Co. Station 21	4400 Lower Roswell Rd Mareitta GA 30067	(770) 528-3067
Johnson Ferry South	Cobb Co. Station 21	4400 Lower Roswell Rd Mareitta GA 30067	(770) 528-3067
Columns Drive	Cobb Co. Station 21	4400 Lower Roswell Rd Mareitta GA 30067	(770) 528-3067
Sope Creek	Cobb Co. Station 3	580 Terrell Road SE Marietta GA 30067	(770) 528-8000
Interstate North	Cobb Co Station 19	1500 powers Ferry Rd Marietta GA 30067	(770) 528-8000
Powers Island	Sandy Springs Station 53	6025 Raider Dr Sandy Springs GA 30328	(770) 730-5600
Akers Mill	Cobb Co Station 5	4336 Paces ferry Rd SE Atlanta GA 30339	(770) 528-8000
Sandy Point	Cobb Co Station 5	4336 Paces ferry Rd SE Atlanta GA 30339	(770) 528-8000
Indian Trail	Sandy Springs Station 53	6025 Raider Dr Sandy Springs GA 30328	(770) 730-5600
Whitewater	Atlanta Station 27	4260 Northside Dr NW Atlanta GA 30327	(404) 546-7000
Paces Mill	Cobb Co Station 5	4336 Paces ferry Rd SE Atlanta GA 30339	(770) 528-8000
Bowmans West	Forsyth Fire Station 15	1525 Buford Hwy, Cumming GA 30041	(770) 781-3087
Bowmans East	Gwinnett Fire Station 26	6075 Suwanee Dam Rd. Sugar Hill GA 30518	(678) 518-4800
Settles Bridge East	Forsyth Fire Station 10	3680 Old Atlanta Rd Suwanee GA 30024	(770) 781-3087
Settles Bridge West	Gwinnett Fire Station 26	6075 Suwanee Dam Rd. Sugar Hill GA 30518	(678) 518-4800
Mcginnis Ferry	Johns Creek Fire Station 62	10925 Rogers Circle Duluth GA 30097	(770) 497-6860
Suwannee Creek Unit	Gwinnett Fire Station 7	3343 Bunten Rd Duluth GA 30096	(678) 518-4800
Abbotts Bridge North	Johns Creek Fire Station 61	10265 Medlock Brdge. Pkwy Johns Creek GA 30097	(770) 497-6860
Abbotts Bridge South	Gwinnett Fire Station 19	3275 N. Berkeley Lake Rd NW Duluth GA 30096	(678) 518-4800
Abbotts Bridge North	Gwinnett Fire Station 19	3275 N. Berkeley Lake Rd NW Duluth GA 30096	(678) 518-4800
Medlock Bridge	Gwinnett Fire Station 4	5550 Spalding Dr. Peachtree Corners GA 30092	(678) 518-4800

Appendix D.6. APC Zone Incident Organizer (Wildfire Size Up Form)

Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal Zone Incident Organizer Type 3, 4, & 5 Initial Attack Fires

I N I T I A L   A T T A C K   S I Z E   U P

Date:	Time of Dispatch:	Time of Arrival on Scene:

1. Fire Name:	2. Incident Commander

3. Fire Location: (degrees-minutes-seconds) LAT: N LONG: W	4. Size Land Ownership: NPS STATE PVT Other:

5. Fuels Burning: FM Adjacent fuels: FM	6. Character of Fire: ⌐ Smoldering Δ Creeping Δ Spotting ⌐ Torching Δ Crowning Δ Running

7. Flame Length:	8. Position on slope: ⌐ Bottom 1/3 Δ Middle Δ Top 1/3

9. Percent slope:	10. Aspect:

11. Wind: Speed   Direction

12.   Spread Potential: ⌐ None   ⌐ Low, 0-5 Acres   Δ Moderate, 6-10 Acres ⌐ High, 10-50 Acres   ⌐ Very high, 50+ Acres

13. Values at Risk: (circle those that apply) Houses   Improvements   Cultural/Historical Other:

14. Hazards: (circle those that apply) Snags   HazMat   Power lines   Urban Interface   Other:

15.   Cause: Protect Origin!   Unknown Cause – Order FINV!

16. Additional Resources Needed:

Fire Report Information
Time of Origin:
Time of Discovery:
Detection by:
Elevation:
Fire Code: Park Fire Number:
Fire Declared Out:
Date: Time:
Final Acreage: NPS   PVT   Total
Signature:

Appendix D.7. Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Analysis Worksheet

The Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment should be used to evaluate firefighter safety issues,assess risk, and identify the appropriate incident management organization. Determining incident complexity is a subjective process based on examining a combination of indicators or factors. An incident's complexity can change over time; incident managers should periodically re-evaluate incident complexity to ensure that the incident is managed properly with the right resources.

Instructions:
Incident Commanders should complete Part A and Part B and relay this information to the Agency Administrator. If the fire exceeds initial attack or will be managed to accomplish resource management objectives, Incident Commanders should also complete Part C and provide the information to the AgencyAdministrator.

Part A: Firefighter Safety Assessment

Evaluate the following items, mitigate as necessary, and note any concerns, mitigations, or other information.

Evaluate these items	Concerns, mitigations, notes
LCES	
Fire Orders and Watch Out Situations	
Multiple operational periods have occurred without achieving initial objectives	
Incident personnel are overextended mentally and/or physically and are affected by cumulative fatigue.	
Communication is ineffective with tactical resources and/or dispatch.	
Operations are at the limit of span of control.	
Aviation operations are complex and/or aviation oversight is lacking.	
Logistical support for the incident is inadequate or difficult.	

Part B: Relative Risk Assessment

Values				Notes/Mitigation
B1. Infrastructure/Natural/Cultural Concerns **Based on the number and kinds of values to be protected, and the difficulty to protect them, rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: key resources potentially affected by the fire such as urban interface, structures, critical municipal watershed, commercial timber, developments, recreational facilities, power/pipelines, communication sites, highways, potential for evacuation, unique natural resources, special-designation areas, T&E species habitat, cultural sites, and wilderness.	L	M	H	
B2. Proximity and Threat of Fire to Values **Evaluate the potential threat to values based on their proximity to the fire, and rank this element low, moderate, or high.**	L	M	H	
B3. Social/Economic Concerns **Evaluate the potential impacts of the fire to social and/or economic concerns, and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: impacts to social or economic concerns of an individual, business, community or other stakeholder; other fire management jurisdictions; tribal subsistence or gathering of natural resources; air quality regulatory requirements; public tolerance of smoke; and restrictions and/or closures in effect or being considered.	L	M	H	
Hazards				**Notes/Mitigation**
B4. Fuel Conditions **Consider fuel conditions ahead of the fire and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Evaluate fuel conditions that exhibit high ROS and intensity for your area, such as those caused by invasive species or insect/disease outbreaks; continuity of fuels; low fuel moisture	L	M	H	
B5. Fire Behavior **Evaluate the current fire behavior and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: intensity; rates of spread; crowning; profuse or long-range spotting.	L	M	H	
B6. Potential Fire Growth **Evaluate the potential fire growth, and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: Potential exists for extreme fire behavior (fuel moisture, continuity, winds, etc.); weather forecast indicating no significant relief or worsening conditions; resistance to control.	L	M	H	
Probability				**Notes/Mitigation**
B7. Time of Season **Evaluate the potential for a long-duration fire and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: time remaining until a season ending event.	L	M	H	
B8. Barriers to Fire Spread **If many natural and/or human-made barriers are present and limiting fire spread, rank this element low. If some barriers are present and limiting fire spread, rank this element moderate. If no barriers are present, rank this element high.**	L	M	H	
B9. Seasonal Severity **Evaluate fire danger indices and rank this element low/moderate, high, or very high/extreme.** Considerations: energy release component (ERC); drought status; live and dead fuel moistures; fire danger indices; adjective fire danger rating; preparedness level.	L/M	H	VH/E	
Enter the number of items circled for each column.				

Relative Risk Rating (circle one):

Low	Majority of items are "Low", with a few items rated as "Moderate" and/or "High".
Moderate	Majority of items are "Moderate", with a few items rated as "Low" and/or "High".
High	Majority of items are "High"; A few items may be rated as ""Low" or "Moderate".

Part C: Organization

Relative Risk Rating (From Part B)					
Circle the Relative Risk Rating (from Part B).		**L**	**M**	**H**	
Implementation Difficulty					**Notes/Mitigation**
C1. Potential Fire Duration **Evaluate the estimated length of time that the fire may continue to burn if no action is taken and amount of season remaining. Rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Note: This will vary by geographic area.	**N/A**	**L**	**M**	**H**	
C2. Incident Strategies (Course of Action) **Evaluate the level of firefighter and aviation exposure required to successfully meet the current strategy and implement the course of action. Rank this element as low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: Availability of resources; likelihood that those resources will be effective; exposure of firefighters; reliance on aircraft to accomplish objectives; trigger points clear and defined.	**N/A**	**L**	**M**	**H**	
C3. Functional Concerns **Evaluate the need to increase organizational structure to adequately and safely manage the incident, and rank this element low (adequate), moderate (some additional support needed), or high (current capability inadequate).** Considerations: Incident management functions (logistics, finance, operations, information, planning, safety, and/or specialized personnel/equipment) are inadequate and needed; access to EMS support, heavy commitment of local resources to logistical support; ability of local businesses to sustain logistical support; substantial air operation which is not properly staffed; worked multiple operational periods without achieving initial objectives; incident personnel overextended mentally and/or physically; Incident Action Plans, briefings, etc. missing or poorly prepared; performance of firefighting resources affected by cumulative fatigue; and ineffective communications.	**N/A**	**L**	**M**	**H**	
Socio/Political Concerns					**Notes/Mitigation**
C4. Objective Concerns **Evaluate the complexity of the incident objectives and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: clarity; ability of current organization to accomplish; disagreement among cooperators; tactical/operational restrictions; complex objectives involving multiple focuses; objectives influenced by serious accidents or fatalities.	**N/A**	**L**	**M**	**H**	
C5. External Influences **Evaluate the effect external influences will have on how the fire is managed and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: limited local resources available for initial attack; increasing media involvement, social/print/television media interest; controversial fire policy; threat to safety of visitors from fire and related operations; restrictions and/or closures in effect or being considered; pre-existing controversies/ relationships; smoke management problems; sensitive political concerns/interests.	**N/A**	**L**	**M**	**H**	
C6. Ownership Concerns **Evaluate the effect ownership/jurisdiction will have on how the fire is managed and rank this element low, moderate, or high.** Considerations: disagreements over policy, responsibility, and/or management response; fire burning or threatening more than one jurisdiction; potential for unified command; different or conflicting management objectives; potential for claims (damages); disputes over suppression responsibility.	**N/A**	**L**	**M**	**H**	
Enter the number of items circled for each column.					

Part C: Organization (continued)

Recommended Organization (circle one):

Type 5	Majority of items rated as "N/A"; a few items may be rated in other categories.
Type 4	Majority of items rated as "Low", with some items rated as "N/A", and a few items rated as "Moderate" or "High".
Type 3	Majority of items rated as "Moderate", with a few items rated in other categories.
Type 2	Majority of items rated as "Moderate", with a few items rated as "High".
Type 1	Majority of items rated as "High"; a few items may be rated in other categories.

Rationale:

Use this section to document the incident management organization for the fire. If the incident management organization is different than the Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment recommends, document why an alternative organization was selected. Use the "Notes/Mitigation" column to address mitigation actions for a specific element, and include these mitigations in the rationale.

Name of Incident:_____Unit(s):_____

Date/Time:_____Signature of Preparer:_____

Indicators of Incident Complexity

Common indicators may include the area (location) involved; threat to life, environment, and property; political sensitivity, organizational complexity, jurisdictional boundaries, values at risk, and weather. Most indicators are common to all incidents, but some may be unique to a particular type of incident. The following are common contributing indicators for each of the fivecomplexity types.

TYPE 5 INCIDENT COMPLEXITY INDICATORS

General Indicators	Span of Control Indicators
• Incident is typically terminated or concluded (objective met) within a short time once resources arrive on scene • For incidents managed for resource objectives, minimal staffing/oversight is required • One to five single resources may be needed • Formal Incident Planning Process not needed • Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) not needed • Minimal effects to population immediately surrounding the incident • Critical Infrastructure, or Key Resources, not adversely affected	• Incident Commander (IC) position filled • Single resources are directly supervised by the IC • Command Staff or General Staff positions not needed to reduce workload or span of control

TYPE 4 INCIDENT COMPLEXITY INDICATORS

General Indicators	Span of Control Indicators
• Incident objectives are typically met within one operational period once resources arrive on scene, but resources may remain on scene for multiple operational periods • Multiple resources (over 6) may be needed • Resources may require limited logistical support • Formal Incident Planning Process not needed • Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) not needed • Limited effects to population surrounding incident • Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources may be adversely affected, but mitigation measures are uncomplicated and can be implemented within one Operational Period • Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require little or no interaction	• IC role filled • Resources either directly supervised by the IC or supervised through an ICS Leader position • Task Forces or Strike Teams may be used to reduce span of control to an acceptable level • Command Staff positions may be filled to reduce workload or span of control • General Staff position(s) may be filled to reduce workload or span of control

TYPE 3 INCIDENT COMPLEXITY INDICATORS

General Indicators	Span of Control Indicators
• Incident typically extends into multiple operational periods • Incident objectives usually not met within the first or second operational period • Resources may need to remain at scene for multiple operational periods, requiring logistical support • Numerous kinds and types of resources may be required • Formal Incident Planning Process is initiated and followed • Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) needed for each Operational Period • Responders may range up to 200 total personnel • Incident may require an Incident Base to provide support • Population surrounding incident affected • Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources may be adversely affected and actions to mitigate effects may extend into multiple Operational Periods • Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require some level of interaction	• IC role filled • Numerous resources supervised indirectly through the establishment and expansion of the Operations Section and its subordinate positions • Division Supervisors, Group Supervisors, Task Forces, and Strike Teams used to reduce span of control to an acceptable level • Command Staff positions filled to reduce workload or span of control • General Staff position(s) filled to reduce workload or span of control • ICS functional units may need to be filled to reduce workload

TYPE 2 INCIDENT COMPLEXITY INDICATORS

General Indicators	Span of Control Indicators
• Incident displays moderate resistance to stabilization or mitigation and will extend into multiple operational periods covering several days • Incident objectives usually not met within the first several Operational Periods • Resources may need to remain at scene for up to 7 days and require complete logistical support • Numerous kinds and types of resources may be required including many that will trigger a formal demobilization process • Formal Incident Planning Process is initiated and followed • Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) needed for each Operational Period • Responders may range from 200 to 500 total • Incident requires an Incident Base and several other ICS facilities to provide support • Population surrounding general incident area affected • Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources may be adversely affected, or possibly destroyed, and actions to mitigate effects may extend into multiple Operational Periods and require considerable coordination • Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require a moderate level of interaction	• IC role filled • Large numbers of resources supervised indirectly through the expansion of the Operations Section and its subordinate positions • Branch Director position(s) may be filled for organizational or span of control purposes • Division Supervisors, Group Supervisors, Task Forces, and Strike Teams used to reduce span of control • All Command Staff positions filled • All General Staff positions filled • Most ICS functional units filled to reduce workload

TYPE 1 INCIDENT COMPLEXITY INDICATORS

General Indicators	Span of Control Indicators
• Incident displays high resistance to stabilization or mitigation and will extend into numerous operational periods covering several days to several weeks • Incident objectives usually not met within the first several Operational Periods • Resources may need to remain at scene for up to 14 days, require complete logistical support, and several possible personnel replacements • Numerous kinds and types of resources may be required, including many that will trigger a formal demobilization process • DOD assets, or other nontraditional agencies, may be involved in the response, requiring close coordination and support • Complex aviation operations involving multiple aircraft may be involved • Formal Incident Planning Process is initiated and followed. • Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) needed for each Operational Period • Responders may range from 500 to several thousand total • Incident requires an Incident Base and numerous other ICS facilities to provide support • Population surrounding the region or state where the incident occurred is affected • Numerous Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources adversely affected or destroyed. Actions to mitigate effects will extend into multiple Operational Periods spanning days or weeks and require long-term planning and considerable coordination • Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require a high level of interaction	• IC role filled • Large numbers of resources supervised indirectly through the expansion of the Operations Section and its subordinate positions • Branch Director Position(s) may be filled for organizational or span of control purposes • Division Supervisors, Group Supervisors, Task Forces, and Strike Teams used to reduce span of control • All Command Staff positions filled and many include assistants • All General Staff positions filled and many include deputy positions • Most or all ICS functional units filled to reduce workload

Appendix E: Multi-Year Fuels Treatment Plan

Fiscal Year	Treatment Name	Treatment Type	Size (acres)
2022	Cochran Shoals WUI Fuels Reduction	Mechanical	30
2023	Cochran Shoals WUI Fuels Reduction	Mechanical	30
2024	Cochran Shoals WUI Fuels Reduction	Mechanical	30
2024	Gold Branch Habitat Restoration	Broadcast Burn	1

Appendix F: Project Planning and Implementation Mitigation Requirements

In addition to NPS and interagency standards for fuels project planning, the park's MIST standards, and the Smoke Management Plan (Appendix M) the following additional elements are required to be considered for all Chattahoochee River NRA fire management actions. (Source – Environmental Assessment for the FMP).

Cultural Resources
- Use of rubber-tired vehicles involved in fire suppression, prescribed burning, and mechanical and/or chemical hazard fuels management projects to minimize the potential of disturbing archeological sites.
- Use of water and/or natural barriers as much as possible rather than construction of handlines to contain wildland and prescribed fires to minimize the potential of disturbing archeological sites.
- Use of a suite of mitigation actions, used either individually or in combination, to reduce the potential effect of wildland fires and suppression actions on historic structures. These include blacklining around the structures, treating with fire retardant foam concurrent with fires, wrapping with heat reflective materials, and establishing sprinkler systems on and around structures concurrent with wildland fire suppression activities.
- Contact the park's cultural resource specialist concurrent with the detection of wildland fires and during planning stages of hazard fuels reduction projects and prescribed burns to ensure avoidance, to the greatest extent feasible, of cultural resources.
- Monitor fire and fuels management activities and halt work if previously unknown resources are located; protect and record newly discovered resources.
- Inform suppression, prescribed fire, hazard fuels, and hazard tree personnel about protecting natural and cultural resources.
- In fire suppression operations, protection of structures and features will be more important than minimizing acres burned.
- Coordinate with other fire suppression agencies and resources to ensure best management practices are used in all fire, hazard tree, and hazard fuels management activities.
- Use rubber-tire skidders, work when soils are dry, no dragging logs, and restrict use of heavy equipment near riparian areas to reduce effects on soils.
- Coordinate rehabilitation of firelines and other disturbed areas with natural and cultural resource specialist.
- Riparian areas along the banks of the river and its tributaries are to be protected from vegetation removal to prevent sedimentation and other alterations to stream or river habitat
- Hazard fuels removal around historic structures would mitigate the potential for impacts from wildland fires. Park staff will complete Section 106 consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and affiliated tribes prior to implementing hazard fuel reduction projects.

- Other standard cultural resource mitigation measures include the following: prior to doing treatment work, conduct an inventory of previously unsurveyed areas using an archeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's standards; dispose of slash in areas lacking cultural sites; avoid ground disturbance in areas containing known cultural sites; prior to implementation of work, protect character-defining elements of potential cultural landscapes.
- Prescribed fires will not be planned and implemented near cultural and other sensitive resources without adequate planning to assure their protection.
- For prescribed fires, mitigations would be included in the prescribed fire burn plan. Park staff will complete Section 106 consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and affiliated tribes prior to implementing prescribed fire projects.

Natural Resources
- Heavy machinery used in hazard fuels and hazard tree activities, such as mowers and brush hogs, would be used only when soils were dry to minimize soil compaction and erosion.
- Clearing, removing, or thinning trees, including snags, will occur in the winter (November 15–March 31), minimizing the potential for eliminating a roost tree and injuring or killing gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bats (*M. sodalis*), northern long-eared bats (*M. septentrionalis*), and tri-colored bats (*Perimyotis subflavus*).
- Suppression actions would avoid aerial and ground applications of retardant or foam within 300 feet of identified water sources.
- Fireline location would avoid sensitive areas wherever possible.
- As a matter of practice, burned areas would not be reseeded unless there are overriding concerns about establishment of invasive nonnative species. Any reseeding would be with native species and occur only with the Superintendent's prior approval.
- Reduced off-road travel and rehabilitation of any damage stream banks will minimize effects on water quality.
- Fuel Treatments involving chain saws or other mechanized equipment will be planned for non-breeding season for birds.
- Prescribed fires would be scheduled for when soils are moist. On steep slopes, measures designed to minimize erosion, soil loss, and sedimentation would be implemented.

Management Constraints
- Safety protocols will be established for all hazard tree, hazard fuels, suppression, and prescribed fire activities.
- Minimum impact suppression tactics would be employed in all tactical operations except as noted below.
- Fire retardant, if used, must be on the approved list of retardants used by the U.S. Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management.
- Motorized equipment would not normally be used off established roadways in the park. However, due to potential rapid rates of spread and the emergency nature of fires near

the boundary, off-road use of motorized equipment, such as all-terrain vehicles and wildland fire engines, may be authorized by the Superintendent.

- All extended attack and prescribed fire operations would have a park employee designated and available to assist suppression operations as a Resource Advisor. If qualified employees were not available, a Resource Advisor would be ordered through the interagency dispatch system.
- Helicopters may be used to transport personnel, supplies, and equipment. Improvement of landing sites would be kept to a minimum and would include consultation with the assigned Resource Advisor. Helibases and landing sites would be rehabilitated to pre-fire conditions to the extent reasonably possible.
- Except for spot maintenance to remove obstructions, no modifications would be made to roadways, trails, water sources, or clearings. All sites where modifications are made, or obstructions removed would be rehabilitated to pre-fire conditions to the extent reasonably possible.
- Earthmoving equipment such as tractors, graders, bulldozers, or other tracked vehicles would not be used for fire suppression or prescribed fire. If special circumstances warrant extreme measures to ensure protection, the Superintendent may authorize the use of heavy equipment.
- Following fire suppression activities, firelines would be re-contoured and water barred.
- All noise ordinances for surrounding towns and cities will be followed for fuels treatments.
- Park neighbors, park visitors, and the local residents would be notified of all planned fire and fuels management activities with the potential to affect them. The public would be notified about treatment activities through procedures identified in project-specific work plans. These methods could include press releases, park entrance postings, local radio broadcasts, television broadcasts, and direct mailings. Emergency Services personnel will be contacted so that emergency calls into 911 can receive appropriate responses.
- Prescribed fires would be scheduled for periods when inversions are unlikely, and ventilation is adequate to disperse smoke. Prescribed fires would generally be scheduled to start after 1000 hours (10:00 a.m.) and be completed by 1500 hours (3:00 p.m.).
- Smoke management reporting procedures for burning in Georgia would be followed.

Other Actions
- Apply MIST standards to all fire management operations. (See Operations Map sheets)
- Implement the Smoke Management Plan included as Appendix M for all wildfire and prescribed fire incidents
- Resource specialists will examine maps and information resources to assess and discuss potential effects of the fire.
- Contact the park cultural resource specialist immediately if previously unrecorded resources are located during fire operations. The cultural resources will be recorded, delineated, and protected.
- Provide all workers with basic training about cultural resources.

- Fire staff will coordinate closely with park rangers to determine the location of visitors and use road/trail closures and restrictions to ensure prescribed fire or wildfire operations do not put visitors at risk.
- Visitors will be excluded from the immediate vicinity of the wildfire or prescribed burn when fire management activities are underway.
- Following any fire, as burned areas are reopened to visitors, signs will be posted to inform visitors of the potential hazards (e.g., snags, stumps, and holes).
- Consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for effects to federally listed species when developing burn plans.
- Park resource specialists will be involved during and after prescribed burn planning to ensure that prescriptions and burn objectives do not conflict with objectives for the protection of sensitive vegetation and wildlife populations and habitat.
- The park's cultural resource specialists will provide recommendations on how to mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources during fire management activities, and will coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate
- Surveys will be completed before any proposed ground disturbance in areas where Georgia aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*), Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*) or other state or federally listed species are likely to occur. If the plant was documented in the area, the activity or facility would be modified so it does not affect the plant or its habitat.
    - Fences may be erected if necessary, to keep unauthorized foot and vehicle traffic out of Georgia aster and Michaux's sumac habitat.
- If tree or snag cutting must occur in the summer, an emergence count will be undertaken by a trained biologist to ensure no bats are roosting in the tree or snag. Emergence observations will be conducted between May 15 and August 15 for any tree removal that is not conducted during winter. If bats fly out of the trees during the survey, tree cutting will be delayed until bats are no longer using the roost tree.
- If summer maternity roosts are identified, the surrounding forest and foraging areas within 2.5 miles of the documented maternity roost tree will be maintained in as natural a state as possible. These areas will be monitored to ensure human disturbance is minimized.
- Prescribed burns and mechanical treatments will not be conducted during the migratory bird-nesting season, from April 1 through July 15, unless a qualified biologist conducts a pre- project survey for nesting birds and determines that birds are not nesting within the burn area. To the greatest extent possible, these activities will be planned and conducted outside the migratory bird-nesting season.
- Fire effects monitoring will be used to inform multi-entry prescribed burning and maintenance activities.
- Fire management personnel will be briefed on potential resources of concern and their locations within a burn unit in order to facilitate avoidance of habitat for special status species or other potentially sensitive resources.
- Ground disturbance will be avoided within known archeological, cultural and/or historic resource locations. When fire line construction is necessary in proximity to these

resource locations, it would involve as little ground disturbance as possible and be located as far outside known resource boundaries as possible.

- The park will ensure that fire management activities are coordinated as appropriate with all affected parties. This includes any federally recognized Native American tribes that have historical, cultural, economic, or other interests in the Proposed Action or its effects.
- The park will ensure that right-of-way plans of development, vegetation management plans, and contingency plans associated with (and required for) electrical transmission lines located on park lands address appropriate fire prevention and suppression actions.