



SUMTER NATIONAL FOREST

ENOREE RANGER DISTRICT

Wildland Fire Prevention Action Plan

Fiscal Year 2007

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I. Situational Assessment

Assessments are the basis for determining the level of need in individual landscapes for the inclusion or exclusion of fire prevention activities as a management tool. Human caused fires comprise the 83% of wildfire occurrence on the Enoree Ranger District during the period between 2000 and 2005. There were 20 human caused and 4 lightning fires during that period. The dominant cause of wildfire is human. Human caused fires can be prevented. Though the fire occurrence is not high, it still presents a threat to forest resources, communities and single residences.

A. Enoree Ranger District Fires by Cause/Year

<u>2000</u>		<u>2002</u>		<u>2004</u>	
Misc.	1	Misc.	2	Misc.	1
Arson	0	Arson	1	Smoking	1
Smoking	0	Smoking	0	Equipment	1
Railroad	0	Railroad	0	Lightning	1
Debris	0	Debris	0	Campfire	0
Equipment	0	Equipment	0	Debris	0
Lightning	0	Lightning	3	Arson	1
Campfire	0	Campfire	0		
	Acres 1.5		Acres 86.5		Acres 61.5
<u>2001</u>		<u>2003</u>		<u>2005</u>	
Misc..	2	Misc.	2	Misc.	2
Arson	0	Smoking	0	Lightning	0
Smoking	1	Campfire	0	Debris	1
Railroad	1	Debris	0	Arson	1
Debris	0	Arson	0		
Equipment	0				
Lightning	0				
Campfire	2				
	Acres 5.7		Acres 8.5		Acres 1.75

B. RISK, HAZARD AND VALUE ASSESSMENT:

Risk: The district is not a continuous tract of government ownership but is interspersed with privately owned towns, businesses, communities and scattered residences in juxtaposition to the forest. Road density is relatively high, making the forested public land readily accessible for dispersed recreational uses. While the public forest lands are at risk to fire escaping from private land and dispersed use, the private land is exposed to fire escaping from the public forest. As population growth increases, so will forest use. As this happens the probabilities for wildfire occurrence increases.

Hazard: Much of the district is in Fire Regime 1 and Condition Class 3. This indicates a heavier fuel loading and higher energy release when fire occurs. This is especially true during periods of drought.

Values: According to the National Register of Communities at Risk, Blair, Cross Keys, Feasterville, Joanna, Leeds, Renno, Sedalia, and Whitmire communities have a high risk and/or value component and need prevention action of some nature.

The values at risk run the full spectrum from wildlife habitat, to economic investment in forest plantations, to human life. Specifically these are communities that have heavy fuels, they are difficult to implement fuel reduction techniques, and there are homes, churches, and other buildings that create a wildland urban interface with the national forest. The result of Wildfire in these areas will make a major impact on the social and economical values.

C. Identified Broad District Program Needs

Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

Sumter National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, January 2004, Goal 19, p. 2-20.

“Goal 19 Protect life, property, and resources from unacceptable damage by fire through improved fire prevention, suppression, hazardous fuel reduction, and promoting community assistance.”

Upon mapping Risks, Hazards, and Values on the district map, the following four areas rated out as highest concern (see attached map) and where the district will spend most of their concentrated prevention and mitigation efforts:

- 1) Sedalia Area rated out as High Risk, High Hazards, and High Values. National Registered Communities At Risk within this area are Cross Keys and Sedalia.
- 2) I-26 Area rated out as Moderate Risk, High Hazards, and High Values. National Registered registered Communities At Risk within this area are Joanna and Reno.
- 3) Maybinton Area rated out as High Risk, High Hazards, and Moderate Values. Blair is a National Registered Communities At Risk which is adjacent to this area.
- 4) Chester County Area rated out as Moderate Risk, High Hazards, and High Values. The National Registered Communities At Risk within this area is Leeds.

Cooperation with outside agencies and affected communities and individuals is essential to successfully prevent unauthorized ignition of wildland fires. A collective integration of new and existing prevention programs [RAMS (at a future date), Firewise, Fire Prevention Teams] will be used as tools to reduce unwanted human-caused wildland fires.

- II. **Identification of fire prevention needs linked to this assessment, the fire management plan, and the land and resource management plan.**
 There is a need to strengthen ties with current partners such as SC Forestry Commission (SCFC), SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), Fire Departments/Volunteer Fire Departments (FD/VFD) and develop new collaborative relations with non-traditional partners. Specific partnerships with time tables for collaborative action are developed. This will be done through the authorities cited in The FMP, Section I, E, and strategies outlined in A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment – 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan, and Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Wildfire Prevention Strategy Memo 5110, December 20, 2005.
- III. **Identification of opportunities available for addressing the needs.**
 Opportunities include working with other federal and state agencies. Several are identified in the FMP at Section I, B. Identified Communities at Risk, which are listed in the Federal Register, Friday, August 17, 2001, and other communities that have an increased hazard and risk. This effort will be by the Enoree Ranger District and the Supervisor's Office.
- IV. **Identification of realistic, measurable fire prevention program objectives.**
 Make contact with 20% of county population per year through partnerships, patrols, schools, events and exhibits, media, and industrial operations in Newberry and Union and Chester counties which have the largest Forest Service land holdings and fire occurrence within the Enoree Ranger District. The other counties –Laurens and Fairfield will have prevention activities scheduled but to a lesser extent. The District will make these contacts with assistance from the Supervisor's Office Fire and Public Affairs Staffs.
 The objective is to reduce human caused fire occurrence by 10% per year over the next five years. The results will be tracked through monitoring described in Section VIII. If necessary, new analysis and plan will be developed at that time, shorter periodic adjustments will be done as necessary.
- V. **Prevention Activities**
- A. Use the fire assessment process and objectives in fire and land management plans to develop fire prevention action plans for specific geographic areas. Assessments will include appropriate items described in Section I., B.
- B. **The Wildland Fire Prevention program has two levels of activity.**
1. **Level One General Activities.** The first level of activity is long-term and on-going, with messages about individual responsibility in the prevention of wildland fires. This level includes contacts, materials, and educational programs for individuals; schools; civic and youth organizations; and other established

community groups. This level provides fire prevention information at activities and reinforces the fire prevention message to the general public; at parades, fairs, school programs, civic groups, cooperators inspection, and media releases of a general nature.

All of the communities within the entire Enoree District will receive this first level of activity. However, the Whitmire community will be targeted since it is the center of the district and is a highly populated area, yet rated out with Medium for all areas (Risks, Hazards, and Values).

Level One General activities will consist of:

- 1) Smokey Bear will participate in Christmas parades in Lockhart, Union and Whitmire.
- 2) Conduct Smokey Bear pre-K through 2nd grade, fire prevention school programs in Lockhart and Whitmire during fire prevention month.
- 3) Work with 3-6 graders in Lockhart and Whitmire schools on fire prevention using the Mark Trail book Living on the Wildside... Responsibly.
- 4) Participate in radio broadcast with WBCU AM 1460 during fire prevention week.
- 5) Prepare news release prior to prescribed fire season.
- 6) District prevention coordinator will respond to other prevention requests as they arise and as the coordinator is available.
- 7) Annually the district prescribe burns between 12,000-15,000 acres to reduce fuel loads to help prevent catastrophic wildland fires. These treatments need to be planned and implemented annually to help achieve this management objective.

2. **Level 2 Specific Activities.** The second level of activity is short-term, with messages targeting specific fire causes and addressing a specific audience in a specific geographic location. This level two will be implemented prior to and/or during wildfire incidents. These actions or activities are aimed at a concentration of fires (based on the assessment categorization) from the same specific fire cause, at a specific target audience, and planned for a definite time line. The Sumter National Forest, in conjunction with the South Carolina Forestry Commission, will conduct pre-season FIREWISE programs and/or implement Fire Prevention and Education Teams as needed.

Level Two Specific activities will consist of:

- 1) Work with Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) and coordinate FIREWISE sessions within Cross Keys, Sedalia, Joanna, Maybinton and Chester County communities.

- 2) Maybinton community has a high population of residence and is hard to perform large quantities of prescribed fire project in and around the community. There is also a medium degree of residence that have respiratory problems and cannot tolerate smoke issues from prescribed fire operations. To work with this issue burn blocks need to be scaled down in size and distributed throughout the burning season to mitigate this issue.
- 3) Utilize I-26 rest area, The Enoree OHV trailhead, and information boards at Leeds rifle range and campgrounds in Chester County to post fire prevention materials for public awareness
- 4) Utilize SC Forestry Commission Think Before You Burn products in Whitmire, Sedalia, I-26, Maybinton, and Chester County communities. Distribute fliers at local stores and restaurants.

VI. **Implementation**

The Enoree Ranger District Wildland Fire Prevention Program will be coordinated by the District Fire Management Officer and included in their position description in conjunction with the district staff and Supervisor's Office staff as needed. For actual implementation we will utilize the District Fire Management Officer, the Fire Heavy Equipment Operator, and the District Recreation coordinator. For advise and council we will utilize the Public Affairs Officer, Forest Fire Management Officer, and Forest Fire Staff Officer. These efforts will address the prevention issues on the district and be responsible for completing level one and level two activities, description of actions, and timing for accomplishments. The duties of the wildland fire prevention program will be more defined and established among the district in FY08 when the program has worked through prevention issues and concerns in FY07. The prevention activities that are planned for FY07 are:

- 1) Smokey Bear will participate in Christmas parades in Lockhart, Union and Whitmire. (District Fire Management Officer, Fire Heavy Equipment Operator, District Recreation Coordinator – December)
- 2) Conduct Smokey Bear pre-K through 2nd grade, fire prevention school programs in Lockhart and Whitmire during fire prevention month. (District Fire Management Officer, Fire Heavy Equipment Operator, District Recreation Coordinator – October)
- 3) Work with 3-6 graders in Lockhart and Whitmire schools on fire prevention using the Mark Trail book Living on the Wildside... Responsibly. (District Fire Management Officer, Fire Heavy Equipment Operator, District Recreation Coordinator – September)
- 4) Participate in radio broadcast with WBCU AM 1460 during fire prevention week. (District Fire Management Officer, Forest Education Specialist – October).
- 5) Prepare news release prior to prescribed fire season. (District Fire Management Officer, Forest Public Affairs Specialist – November and/or February).

- 6) District prevention coordinator will respond to other prevention requests as they arise and as the coordinator is available.
- 7) Annually the district prescribe burns between 12,000-15,000 acres to reduce fuel loads to help prevent catastrophic wildland fires. These treatments need to be planned and implemented annually to help achieve this management objective. (District Fire Management Officer and entire district staff – November and March through May)
- 8) Work with Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) and coordinate FIREWISE sessions within Cross Keys, Sedalia, Joanna, Maybinton and Chester County communities. (District Fire Management Officer, Fire Heavy Equipment Operator – Through out the year).
- 9) Maybinton community has a high population of residence and is hard to perform large quantities of prescribed fire project in and around the community. There is also a medium degree of residence that have respiratory problems and cannot tolerate smoke issues from prescribed fire operations. To work with this issue burn blocks need to be scaled down in size and distributed throughout the burning season to mitigate this issue. (District Fire Management Officer and entire district staff – November and March through May).
- 10) Utilize I-26 rest area, The Enoree OHV trailhead, and information boards at Leeds rifle range and campgrounds in Chester County to post fire prevention materials for public awareness. (District Fire Management Officer, Fire Heavy Equipment Operator – June and recheck during the months of July and August).
- 11) Utilize SC Forestry Commission Think Before You Burn products in Whitmire, Sedalia, I-26, Maybinton, and Chester County communities. Distribute fliers at local stores and restaurants. (District Fire Management Officer, Fire Heavy Equipment Operator – June and recheck during the months of July and August).

X. Prevention budget

Budgetary needs are to be developed relative to annual activities outlined in the implementation plan. These budgetary needs are reported to the Forest Fire Management Officer every June in the fiscal year preceding the need.

FY07 budget needs are listed below.

- 1) Smokey Bear presentations at schools (3 employees @ \$800.00/day for 10 days)
- 2) Parades and community events (3 employees @ \$800.00/day for 6 days)
- 3) Prevention supplies for special events (FY07 \$3,000.00)
- 4) Prevention signs and brochure supplies (FY07 \$12,000)

- 5) FIREWISE presentations (2 employees \$500.00/day for 5 days)
- 6) Severity funds for fire prevention team for short unplanned needs (\$25,000.00).

XI. Evaluation Criteria and Procedures

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. List of Partnerships – These partners include

SC Forestry Commission (SCFC); Assistance of FPETs as needed, distribution of debris burning materials, wildland fire suppression, and enforcement (which is a prevention technique).

SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR); Put out news releases that support wildlife habitat restoration work through fuel management projects.

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf); Put out news releases that support wildlife habitat restoration work through fuel management projects. Conduct fire education workshops for teachers, Burning Issues.

Fire Departments/Volunteer Fire Departments; The District Fire Management Officer and Fire Heavy Equipment Operator will coordinate with Fire Departments/Volunteer Fire Departments in the Sedalia, I-26, Maybinton, Whitmire and Chester County areas to establish and complete FIREWISE training. These agencies also help address fire prevention awareness issues among the public.

2. List annual (calendar year) prevention activities and percent of county population reached compared to those planned; This will be documented annually by the District Fire Management Officer by taking tally information from all the prevention events that were conducted and creating a spreadsheet that will show the contacts made and the totals for each category of events.

3. Fire occurrence statistics by cause compared to past statistics; This will be updated annually in Section 1 of the fire prevention plan by the District Fire Management Officer.

B. Evaluation Procedures methodology to include checks on:

1. Implementation - Ensure activities identified in the plan have been implemented. The District Fire Management Officer will document this in the fire prevention plan.

2. Effectiveness – Were 20% of each county's population contacted and documented? Has human-caused fire occurrence decreased by 10%? Responsible person is to document accomplishments or shortfall in the District

Wildland Fire Prevention Action Plan. The Enoree District Fire Prevention Plan will be reviewed annually and adjusted according to current needs.

3. Validation – Are the objectives realistic, or is there a better way to approach the challenge? This is the joint responsibility of District and Forest Fire Staffs. Any differences will be reconciled and documented prior to the next fiscal year plan development. The plan may or may not need amending.

IX. Resources

Listing of related and contingency plans that are affected by or must be coordinated with wildfire prevention plans.

- a. Areas for focused fire prevention activities (see attached maps).
- b. Restriction and closure plans -- Specific to each unit and included with Prevention Plan.
- c. SC Forestry Commission burning ban restriction – The Enoree Ranger District follows these restrictions. Refer to SC Forestry Commission Dispatch Center XXX-XXX-XXXX
- c. Disaster or crisis communications plans -- Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, Incident Information and Operation Plan, Calendar Years 2005 – 2006, August 4, 2005 2005 Revision, and the 2006 Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Aircraft Down/Missing Rescue and Medivac Plan.



Sumter NF, Enoree RD Fire Prevention Risk, Hazard and Value Areas

