



# Open Understory

## Everglades NP Fights 3 Fires in August



Above: The Afternoon Fire burned in fire-adapted sawgrass prairie near US 41. Although the natural fire return interval here is 3 to 5 years, this area had not burned in over 10 years.

*Homestead, FL*--The drought of 2011 continued to make itself felt as Everglades National Park firefighters contained three separate fires in August:

- **Afternoon Fire:** Lightning start on August 1, declared controlled at 9,000 acres on August 8.
- **Cutoff Fire:** Lightning start on August 17, declared controlled at 940 acres on August 19.
- **Shanty Fire:** Lightning start on August 23, declared controlled at 7,528 on August 26.

Despite encountering aggressive fires with multiple fronts, sophisticated media coverage, and major wildland urban interface concerns, firefighters successfully implemented safe, cost-effective strategies and tactics that saved valuable infrastructure and priceless habitat.

## NPS Structural Fire Presidential Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week 2011

I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 9 through October 15, 2011, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 16, 2011, in accordance with Public Law 107 51, the flag of the United States will be flown at half staff on all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I call on all Americans to participate in this observance with appropriate programs and activities and by renewing their efforts to prevent fires and their tragic consequences.

## Southeast Meets Northeast at Fire Ecology Summit

*Luray, VA*--A dozen fire ecology experts from two regions gathered the week of September 19 to share field tips and techniques while installing fire effects monitoring plots at Shenandoah National Park. Those plots will track results of fire management treatments such as prescribed burns. The group also met briefly with NERO staff to discuss resource sharing across regions.

Below: Fire effects monitors from Natchez Trace, Gulf Islands, Shenandoah, Southeast and Northeast Regional Offices, and Great Smokies help install monitoring plots at Shenandoah NP.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAINING

- Nov. 13-19: Prescribed Fire Training Center** Agency Administrators Class: <http://1.usa.gov/rc7Zgu>
- Nov. 16: TNC** Webinar on Prescribed Fire and the Public: Myths and Realities: <http://bit.ly/nNNeNu>
- Dec. 4-9: Prescribed Fire Training Center** Resource Specialists Class: <http://1.usa.gov/n0Rndl>

For a complete list, check our SharePoint site at <http://bit.ly/bYeP1L>

## New Places and Faces

**Congratulations to Dave Loveland**, Great Smoky Mountains Wildland Fire Module leader, on his promotion to **Great Smoky Mountains Fire Management Officer**! Loveland's NPS fire career started in 1995 with the Yosemite helitack crew. He also worked at Sequoia-Kings Canyon and Everglades before leading the GRSM WFM. Regarding his new position, he declared, "I look forward to building a highly successful program."

**Great Smoky Mountains Wildland Fire Module** welcomes 2 new crewmembers!

**John Harwood, Lead Crewmember**, comes to GRSM WFM from Olympic National Park, where he was an engine captain. His NPS fire experience also includes Carlsbad Cavern and Lava Beds.

**Sterling Jones, Crewmember**, brings 6 seasons of sawyer experience to the module from the BLM's Diamond Mountain Hotshots in California.

## CURRENT OPENINGS

**Big Cypress National Preserve** is hiring a **prescribed fire technician, GS-0462-8/9**.

Click here for the full USA Jobs announcement: <http://1.usa.gov/qRgLOW>

**Closes November 14, 2011.**

**Natchez Trace Parkway** is hiring a **fire effects monitor (biological technician), GS-0404-5**. Click here for the full USA Jobs announcement: <http://1.usa.gov/nSbUIG>

**Closes November 11, 2011.**

## Mammoth Cave Hosts Wildland Fire Basic Training (S130/190)

*Park City, KY*--From September 19-24, Mammoth Cave National Park staff presented wildland firefighter basic training. The training included all courses required for the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Firefighter Type 2 position. Students included 6 NPS employees from Mammoth Cave, Jimmy Carter, and the Southeast Regional Office, as well as firefighters from New Hampshire, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and Colorado. The week-long training was organized by MACA wildland fire specialist Drew Page, who was assisted by fellow MACA staff Larry Johnson, Brice Leech, Jonathan Bledsoe, and Rich Caldwell.

Below: Mammoth Cave's newest class of red carded wildland firefighters.



## Featured Partner: Southern Fire Exchange

The Southern Fire Exchange is a new regional program for fire science delivery across the southeastern United States, funded by the Joint Fire Science Program. The SFE newsletter, "Fire Lines," is a great way to keep up on interagency fire science developments in the South. Click here for the latest issue: <http://bit.ly/oZJhSS>

## 20 Complete Advanced ICS Training in Atlanta

Below, left to right: Francis Peltier, Dennis McCarthy, Annabeth Rice, Mike Ward, and Mark Morgan react to an ICS scenario.



*Atlanta, GA*--During the week of September 19-22, Southeast Region Structural Fire Specialist Jim King taught I-300 and I-400, Advanced Incident Command System, for 20 NPS employees from Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP, Biscayne NP, Southeast Archeological Center, and the Southeast Regional Office. King was assisted by US Forest Service Regional Emergency Operations Specialist John Caffin. The goal of the course was to teach students to organize and operate "type 3 organizations," which respond to incidents that stretch into multiple days or operational periods. The course was taught using "all hazards" scenarios not specific to fire or law enforcement, but rather applicable to the full spectrum of events, either planned or unplanned, that affect national parks.