

## OUTLINE OF FIRE MANAGEMENT IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

### I. OBJECTIVE - TO PERPETUATE A DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM OF VEGETATIVE MOSAICS OF PINE FOREST, INTERIOR GLADES, AND COASTAL PRAIRIE.

A. Must be coordinated with other management objectives for the park: exotic plants, water management, visitor use, farmland reclamation etc.

B. Dynamic is an important word - ecosystem always changing, but we are trying to limit or reverse mans' affects.

Changes in water levels, hydro periods, roads, past fire suppression, are a few.

C. Must protect neighbors at the same time - both direct and indirect affects (Fire leaving park or smoke damage).

### II. CLASSIFY FIRES INTO TWO TYPES ACCORDING TO THIS OBJECTIVE

A. Management Fires - Those fires that contribute to the attainment of the objective by meeting predetermined prescriptions.

1. Natural Fire - Preferred means of reaching the objective, use it whenever system has not been significantly altered.

2. Prescribed Burning - Management initiated fire according to predetermined prescriptions to:

a. Reduce fuel loading to natural levels

b. Reduce fuels along boundaries

c. Substitute for natural fire where natural fire will no longer work.

d. Control exotic vegetation

e. Reclaim abandoned farmland

B. Wildfires - Those Fires (Either natural or mancaused) that are out of the prescription guidelines and do not contribute to the attainment of the objective - All these will be suppressed

1. Includes:

- a. Fires threatening human life
- b. Fires threatening cultural resources
- c. Fires threatening endangered species
- d. Fires threatening neighbors

III. A closer look at management fires

A. Park divided up into management units according to fire types and natural barriers.

B. Fire history for each unit is established

C. Research conducted in each unit - to determine best prescription

D. Establish prescriptions using:

1. N.F.D.R.S.
2. Keetch-Bynam Drought Index
3. Soil Moistures
4. Pollution - Stagnation indices
5. Temperature
6. Research
7. Wind direction, speed

E. Apply prescriptions to management units, making allowance for special areas.

F. Refine prescriptions

G. Establish prescribed burning schedules for those areas that have been altered too greatly for natural fire to work.

**Table 3 - Fire Management Prescriptions for Wildfires in each FMU**

Fire Mgmt. Unit Sub-Unit	Fire Management Actions			
	Parameter	Suppression	Containment	Observation
<b>Unit 1</b>				
a. Estuarine Marshes		N/A	N/A	Observe and monitor all fires.
b. Coastal/Cape Sable Prairie		N/A	N/A	Same
c. Mangrove		N/A	N/A	Same
<b>Unit 2</b>				
a. Sub-Unit 2a				
Shark River Slough	DI SMH Wind  Other	1. >675 2. <67% 3. SW or W will blow into Miami 4. Special Area (See Table 2)  5. If fires threaten to leave park and adjacent land manager owner wants fire suppressed.	1. 600 - 675 2. 67% - 82% 3. SW or W (will blow into Miami) 4. If fire has potential to leave the park	1. <600 2. >45% (82%) 3. NR
b. Sub-Unit 2b				
High Prairie	DI SMH Wind	1. >550 2. <82% 3. SW or W smoke (will blow into Miami) 4. If fire threatens to leave park, and adjacent land manager owner wants fire suppressed. 5. W.L.<1.1 MSL at NP44	1. 500 - 550 2. 82 - 100% 3. NR  4. If fire has potential to leave park  5. Special areas (Table 2) 6. WL 1.1-1.8 MSL at NP44	1. <500 2. >50% (100%) 3. NR  4. NR  5. WL 1.8 MSL at NP44

Table 3 - Fire Management Prescriptions for Wildfires in each FMU (continued)

Fire Mgmt. Unit Sub-Unit	Fire Management Actions			
	Parameter	Suppression	Containment	Observation
c. Sub-Unit 2c Low Prairie	DI	1. 625 NW Section 625 rest of sub-unit	1. 600 - 625 550 - 625	1. 600 550
	SMH	2. 45% NW Section 35% rest of sub-unit.	2. 82-100% 54-67%	2. 100% 67%
	Wind	3. SW-W when smoke threatens highways	3. SW-W smoke threatens highways	3. NR
	Other	4. If fire threatens to leave park, & adjacent land manager owner wants fire suppressed.	4. If fire has potential to leave park.	4. NR
		5. WL 8.0 MSL at 512C lower	5. WL 8.0-8.4 MSL at 512C lower	5. WL 8.4 MSL at 512C lower
Unit 3 Pineland	DI	1. 550	1. 500 - 550	1. 500
	SMH	2. 67%	2. 67-82%	2. 82%
	Wind	3. SW-W on large fires - smoke will blow into Miami.	3. NR	3. NR
	Other	4. Special Areas (Table 2)	4. NR	4. NR
		5. WL .8 MSL at NP44	5. WL .8-1.8 MSL at NP44	5. WL 1.8 MSL at NP44

and:

Drought Index *DI*  
 Soil moisture hammocks (oven dry weight-organic soil) *SMH*  
 No restrictions *NR*  
 Not applicable *NA*  
 Water level *WL*