



National Park Service

Managing fire
– yesterday, today,
and tomorrow

1885

House Committee dealing with Yellowstone National Park declares that “the most important duty of the superintendent and assistants in the park is to protect the forest from fire and ax.”

Today, suppression is one of the many tools in the fire manager’s toolbox, along with managing fire for resource benefit, mechanical fuel reduction, and prescribed fire.

1958

Everglades National Park ignites the first nationally approved prescribed fire in the National Park Service at Long Pine Key.

The April 2008 Miccosukee Reserve Area Prescribed Fire marks 50 years of prescribed fire in the Everglades ecosystem.

1968:

The Kennedy Ridge Fire in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is the first managed lightning fire for the NPS or any federal land management agency.

The 2008 Tehipite Fire at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is used as an example of a fire managed for more than one objective.

1988:

Numerous fires start in greater Yellowstone. In the end, 7 major fires are responsible for more than 95% of the 1.2 million acres burned.

In 2008, students participating in the Teton Science School study the 1988 fires of Yellowstone and 20 years of regrowth.

Snapshots from NPS Fire

