

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**# ADDITIONAL FTE
POSITIONS (Cumulative)**

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No X
 Does this item include the use of Federal Funds? Yes _____ No X
Budget Account No. Fund _____ **Department** _____ **Unit** _____ **Object** _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

<p><i>Lucas Mante 11/2/21</i> _____ OFMB JA 11.1.21 AP 11.2.21</p>	<p align="center">N/A _____ Contract Dev. and Control</p>
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B. Legal Sufficiency:

Anne Delgado 11/3/21

 Assistant County Attorney for Dave Behar

C. Other Department Review:

N/A

 Department Director

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
EVERGLADES DISTRICT
(954) 453-2800
(954) 453-2801 FAX



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DAVIE, FLORIDA 33314

SEP 21 2021

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

Loxahatchee Forestry Station
600 "D" Road
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

September 15, 2021

Verdenia C. Baker
Palm Beach County Administrator
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker:

I have enclosed the Florida Forest Service Annual Report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year for your review. This is in accordance with the cooperative agreement between Palm Beach County and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service.

The Florida Forest Service is looking forward to continuing the special relationship that we have developed with Palm Beach County.

If I can be of any assistance to you and the commission, please feel free to contact via email at Chris.Wasil@FDACS.gov or call me at (561) 791-4725.

Sincerely,

NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Chris Wasil *Chris Wasil*
Forest Area Supervisor
Palm Beach County

Florida Forest Service

Palm Beach County Annual Report



October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) maintains ten certified wildland firefighter positions and seven fire fighting units in Palm Beach County. These positions consist of one Forest Area Supervisor, two Senior Forest Rangers and seven Forest Rangers.

During the 2020/2021 fiscal year, the FFS suppressed 11 wildfires burning a total of 29,979.9 acres of forest and wildlands throughout Palm Beach County.

Fires by Cause

Cause	Fires	Percent	Acres	Percent
Equipment	8	72.73	29,954.4	99.92
Debris Burn	1	9.09	10.0	0.03
Campfire	0	0	0	0
Children	0	0	0	0
Smoking	0	0	0	0
Lightning	1	9.09	15.0	0.05
Power Line	0	0	0	0
Incendiary	1	9.09	0.5	0.00
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	11	100%	29,979.9	100%

The FFS continues aggressive fire reduction efforts through mechanical removal of hazardous fuels, prescribed burning, and fire awareness programs. Prescribed burning is a joint effort between the FFS and Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The sites where the prescribed burns and mechanical mitigation occurred were identified as potentially dangerous wildfire areas due to the amount of ground fuel at these locations. By mechanically mitigating and burning these sites under a controlled environment, the hazard of wildfires was greatly reduced in these areas. Our Mitigation team did not mitigate (mow/roller chop) wildland areas this year due to Covid 19 travel restrictions.

Wildland/Urban Interface Mitigation in PBC

<u>Treatment Type</u>	<u>Acres Treated</u>	<u>Value of Dwellings Protected</u>	<u>Man Hours</u>
	0		

The Florida Forest Service and the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue are jointly working to reduce the wildfire risk in our wildland urban interface communities.

The community of Caloosa has been certified as a Fire Wise Community. This is the first community in Palm Beach County to achieve this national recognition.

The importance of fire prevention is stressed through several FFS programs including; Smokey Bear programs, career days, parades and the South Florida Fair. During this period 0, programs were

done due to Covid 19, when it is safe for the Rangers and the citizens we will continue to do fire prevention programs.

The FFS continues to offer training sessions in forestry topics to different cooperative agencies and departments. The FFS also continues to monitor open burning compliance situations, patrol fire sensitive areas and issues burning authorizations throughout Palm Beach County. The FFS has streamlined the way burn authorizations are approved; customers are no longer required to contact the local County Fire Rescue station. Customers seeking a burn authorization in Palm Beach County must be inspected and must contact the FFS before an open burn is permitted. Each day the FFS sends the information about permitted burns to the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue liaison, who can disseminate as the information as necessary.

The FFS in conjunction with the Florida Sugar Cane League and the Palm Beach County Public Health Unit also implements an environmentally sensitive burning program designed specifically for the sugar cane fields. This program has significantly reduced the number of smoke complaints due to establishing restrictions to minimize the adverse impact of smoke to the residents, designating burning zones, and improving weather and smoke forecasting models developed by FFS. Our efforts include daily patrols to monitor the quality of the pre-harvest sugar cane burns. The daily patrols are vital to the area because they will ensure that the burns will have minimal smoke impact on the populated areas of our county and on our neighboring counties.

Authorizations Issued in PBC

Burn Type	Authorized Fires	Authorized Acres	Authorized Piles
Agricultural	9620	279,616	1135
Land clearing	2	0	5
Silvicultural	44	35,056	0
Total	9,666	314,672	1140

The Everglades District which covers Palm Beach, Broward, Miami Dade and Monroe counties has a very proactive aerial wildfire detection program which utilizes the use of a fixed winged aircraft. The fixed wing pilot's responsibilities are detection and suppression support from the air. Detection is carried out by flying established low altitude routes and patterns that best cover the assigned area for the purpose of spotting smoke columns and locating fires. Suppression support is fire reconnaissance, direction, and identification of possible hazards that could affect crew safety and mission completion.

As we prepare for our next fire season, we want to recognize the cooperation and the support given to the FFS by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. Mutual aid is essential to our efforts in suppressing wildfires throughout the county. I would like to commend all the fire fighters in our county for keeping the citizens of Palm Beach County out of harm's way. With Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and the FFS working together, we were able to control our fires and keep our county a safe and pleasant place for all.