

# Goose Creek State Park Fire Management



Thomas Crate

Ecological Burn Coordinator



# North Carolina State Parks established in 1916 with the protection of Attakulla Peak

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- Later known as Mount Mitchell State Park



# 1963 Weymouth Woods State Natural Area Created

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# 1974 Weymouth Woods conducts first prescribed fire

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# Goose Creek acquired in 1974

- Purchased by Weyerhaeuser





# 1976 Goose Creek State Park Master Plan published

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Highlights:

- Site needs to be burned on a 2-3 year rotation
- 3 Clusters of RCW's identified
- Recommends Marsh be designated as a SNA



# 1980 Goose Creek Marsh designated National Natural Landmark

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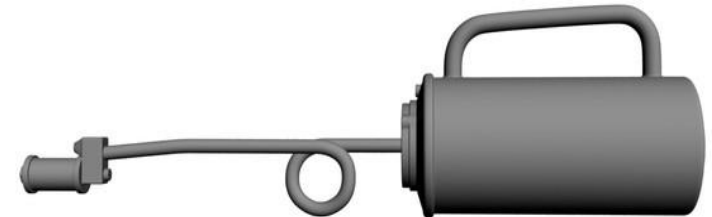




# Fire Management Plan established in 1989

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- Superintendent Lauris Joyner serves as Burn Boss





# Original burning goals

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- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Control tick population
- Help re-establish RCW population
- Promote herbaceous ground cover





# RCW's in decline burning ramps up!

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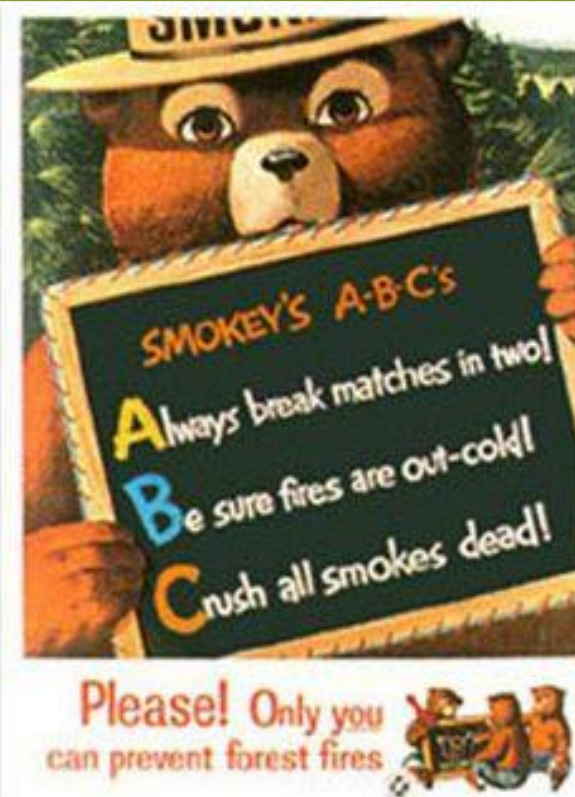
- Between 1990-1994 Goose Creek leads the way in Parks for most active burn program
- 1995 Records state RCW's starting to forage further throughout the Park





# Burning slows down and RCW's back in decline

- Superintendent Lauris Joyner Retires
- Slow transition back to burning
- Multiple Superintendents
- Burning is hit or miss for the next decade



## 2007 Division hires first full time Burn Coordinator

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- Goose Creek doubles it's historical high of burn acreage and opens up new areas for Fire Management





# Transition between Burn Coordinators

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- Burning slows down again



# 2012 becomes a turning point

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- The vision is presented by John Fullwood to get everything under fire management
- First full time park Natural Resource Ranger created





# 2013 things start to get hot!

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- Park wide Fire Plan Established
- Goose Creek becomes a leader again for burning in the division
- Conducted 10 prescribed fires for 618 acres





# Photo Monitoring Points Established





# 2015 a year for the record books

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- Park now has two burn bosses
- The whole park now under fire management



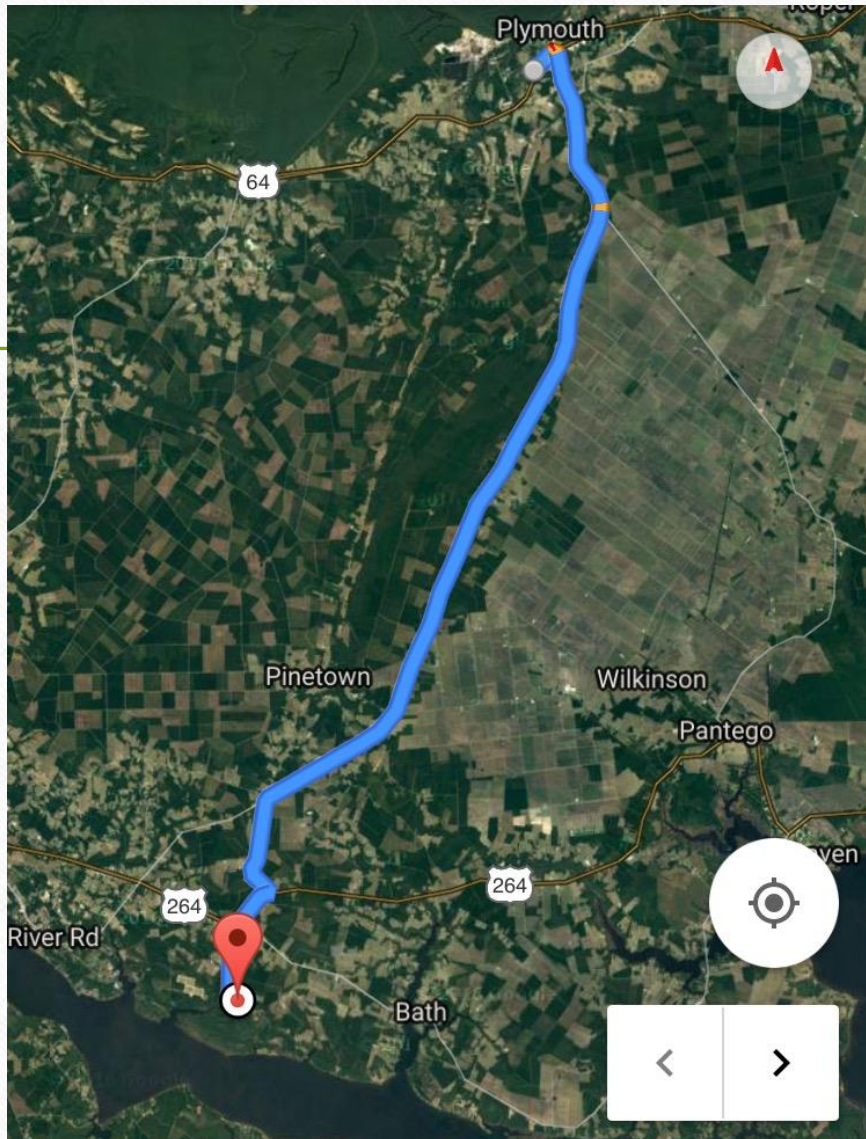
# 2016 Goose Creek is burning on a rotation

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- Park is burning independently and with burn coordinator assistance







**39 min** (32 mi)

Fastest route, the usual traffic



Head southeast toward US-64 W

400 feet



Turn left onto US-64 E

0.8 miles



Turn right onto NC-32 S

24 miles



Turn left onto Slatestone Rd

2.1 miles



Turn left onto Braddy Rd

0.8 miles



Turn right onto US-264 W

1.6 miles



Turn left onto Camp Leach Rd

2.2 miles



2190 Camp Leach Rd

2190 Camp Leach Road, Washington, NC  
27889

# Tar Kiln Demonstration





# 3 Stops around the Marsh



# Kayak Tour

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# Logistics

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- Who is planning on attending the kayak tour? How many have their own boats?
- How many are planning on staying at park for lunch? Bring lunch money if interested in food!