

Flail Mower and Turf Sweeper Assist in Hazard Fuels Reduction Fort Frederica National Monument, Georgia National Fire Plan – Fuels Reduction

During winter 2005, park maintenance staff began and completed hazardous fuels reduction along the boundaries of Fort Frederica National Monument. Using funds provided by the National Fire Plan, the park rented a flail mower and began clearing a fuel break along the park boundary in preparation for a prescribed fire planned for spring 2005.

Clearing along the park boundary had not been conducted since the establishment of the park in 1945. The southern boundary is adjacent to a private residence, where in addition to using the flail mower, a turf sweeper was used to clear an accumulation of leaf litter on the forest floor. On the western edge of the park, an area was cleared to reduce hazardous fuels between National Park Service property and park neighbor, Christ Church. Overall, approximately 2 acres were cleared in preparation for a planned 76-acre prescribed fire.

Although the prescribed burn was not conducted this season due to wet weather, this hazard fuels reduction project still played an important role in helping the park to minimize the danger of wildfire to adjacent communities and protect park resources.

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Before (top) and after (bottom) photos of Fort Frederica National Monument southern boundary fuels reduction cleared by flail mower and turf sweeper. Photos by Kim Coons.