

Prescribed Burn Plan

Coastal Habitat Restoration Burn Units

Henry L. Ferguson Museum Land Trust

Fishers Island, Town of Southold

Suffolk County, New York

Valid from September 01, 2026
until September 30, 2031



Prepared by: [Bob Panko](#)

RISKY BUSINESS INCIDENT MANAGEMENT LLC.

259 BROWN ROAD, VOLUNTOWN CT 06384

JUNE 2026

Scan for Burn Plan file

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Executive Summary:

This is a prescribed burn plan for lands owned or managed by the Henry L. Ferguson Museum and an adjacent property owned by Mark and Mary Eileen Anderson. The area is on Fishers Island in the town of Southold, a part of Suffolk County NY. This burn plan is written under the provisions of New York State Regulations, Title 6, Lands and Forests, Part 194 Forestry Practices. This plan is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and was established for the purpose of piloting small scale burns as a restoration method for important coastal habitats on Fishers Island, NY. Important coastal habitats; coastal grasslands and coastal forests; are included in the Burn Units within this plan.

There are six Burn Units within this landscape burn plan: the Ben Gray Burn Unit; the Tabor Fields Burn Unit; the Skeet Range Burn Unit; the Middle Farms Flats Burn Unit; the Chocomount Cove Burn Unit and the CB Ferguson Wildlife Sanctuary Pitch Pines Burn Unit. The purpose of this plan is as quoted in the grant proposal “The plans will evaluate the potential for fire as a control method for invasive plants (Japanese knotweed, glossy buckthorn, bush and vine honeysuckle, and Asiatic bittersweet) and dense understory growth (common greenbrier) in these habitats.”¹ Four of these burn units are mixtures of grassland and forest, one is a small grassland and one is solely forested habitat.

The grasslands and their adjacent forests are important remnants of habitats that have significantly vanished in the current day Long Island and the northeastern United States in general. These native grasslands are particularly important to restore and maintain due to their location as a migration flyway refuge and/or destination as these grasslands and adjacent forests also serve as a nesting, resting and feeding ground for waterfowl and migratory birds. In addition to they host various native plant and animal species, and are aesthetically pleasing for public recreational use. Although preserved from future development, these tracts are continually threatened by invading native and non-native species which have and continue to threaten to change the character and plant composition of these parcels. Prescribed fire potentially is a means of eliminating aggressive invasive plants and restoring and maintaining native plant habitats. One burn focuses on using prescribed fire to enhance habitat and support generation of pitch pines, a formerly abundant coastal habitat niche now almost entirely extirpated on Fishers Island.

The parcels of land have, for the most part, remained fallow since purchase with the exception of the Middle Farms Flats. This has allowed for considerable changes in the flora present. Resource management alternatives for some of these grasslands were reviewed by Suffolk County scientists in 2011 and 2012. They recommended a combination of prescribed burning, mowing and other non-native species control actions to maintain the unique ecological characteristics of this maritime grassland².

The resource management goals of management are to restore and maintain the abundance of native tree cover, grasses and forbs and to prevent and reduce the presence of native and non-

¹National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2025, Full Proposal
Title: Piloting Small-scale Burns as a Restoration Method for Important Coastal Habitat on Fishers Island, NY; EasyGrantsID: 88786

²Weigand, Coastal Maritime and Cool Season Grassland Management Recommendations for Henry L. Ferguson Museum and Land Trust Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary & Grassland, 2012
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native invasive plants. In the grasslands a goal is also to limit the encroachment and establishment of woody plants (including native woody plants). Management objectives also include preventing uncontrolled wildfires in these burn units by reducing the amount of fuels available for wildfires.

Since as early as 2010 the Middle Farm Flats burn unit has been managed with a combination of controlled burns and mowing. This plan replaces the existing Middle Farms Flats Prescribed Burn Plan (2022-2027) and expands the areas and habitats to be burned in Middle Farms Flats.

In an effort to reduce the volume of handling and review involved in this planning and approval process and to expand burning window seasonal flexibility we are submitting this plan to cover a five year span. A multi-year plan allows the Henry L. Ferguson Museum (HLFM) Board of Directors, the Land Trust Manager and the Fishers Island Fire Department great flexibility to apply this plan allowing for more days to choose optimal weather conditions. The multi-year plan also reduces duplication of work on behalf of both the landowners and the State of New York, reducing costs to both entities.

New York State Regulations, Title 6, Lands and Forests, Part 194.1 defines that requirements for prescribed burn plans on non-DEC lands are covered in Part 194.5. Part 194.5 describes 12 elements that must be included in a plan for private lands. This plan will address all twelve of these elements and will also include additional information above and beyond these requirements that additional information. This plan uses the 12 sections that are required to be included in a prescribed burn plan for non-DEC Departmental lands as its outline. For reference, the information that is required to be covered from Part 194 is directly quoted in the plan.

The plan allows HLFM management and prescribed burn managers to make decisions about desired burn rotation and scheduling based upon analysis of the monitoring of actual burn accomplishments. While the existing grant only funds one season of prescribed burn implementation the grant did fund writing this plan which will continue to be valid for additional future burns on these six burn blocks.

1-Prescribed burn unit description:

“A map at the appropriate scale and a narrative description identifying the area or areas on which prescribed burn activities will be undertaken.” (Part 194.5)

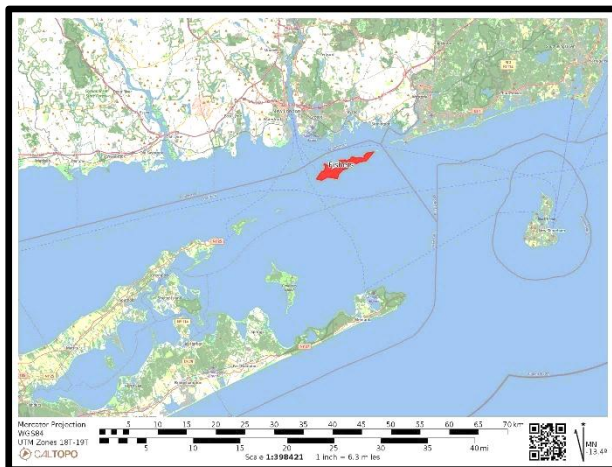
This burn project is entirely within the Town of Southold on Fishers Island, Suffolk County, New York.

Fishers Island is located at the eastern end of Long Island Sound between Fishers Island Sound and Block Island Sound. The generally east-west running island is 3-5 miles south of the southern shoreline of New London County, Connecticut.

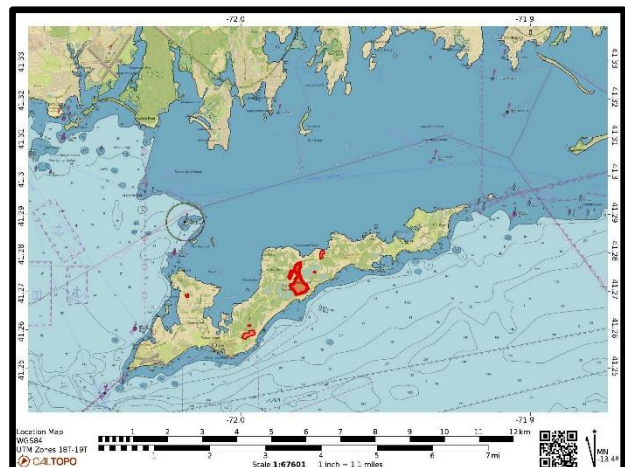
Fishers Island is accessible by boat or airplane. The only commercial ferry services come from nearby New London and Noank, Connecticut. There are two marinas on Fishers Island for private vessel mooring. Elizabeth Field Airport on the western tip of Fishers Island is a public use airport. It is owned by the Town of Southold and managed by the Fishers Island Ferry District. There are commercial airlines that fly there from numerous states and it is open to private aviation.

The Ben Gray burn unit is in the western portion of Fishers Island just north of the “downtown” area of the community. The other five burn units are in the central portion of Fishers Island.

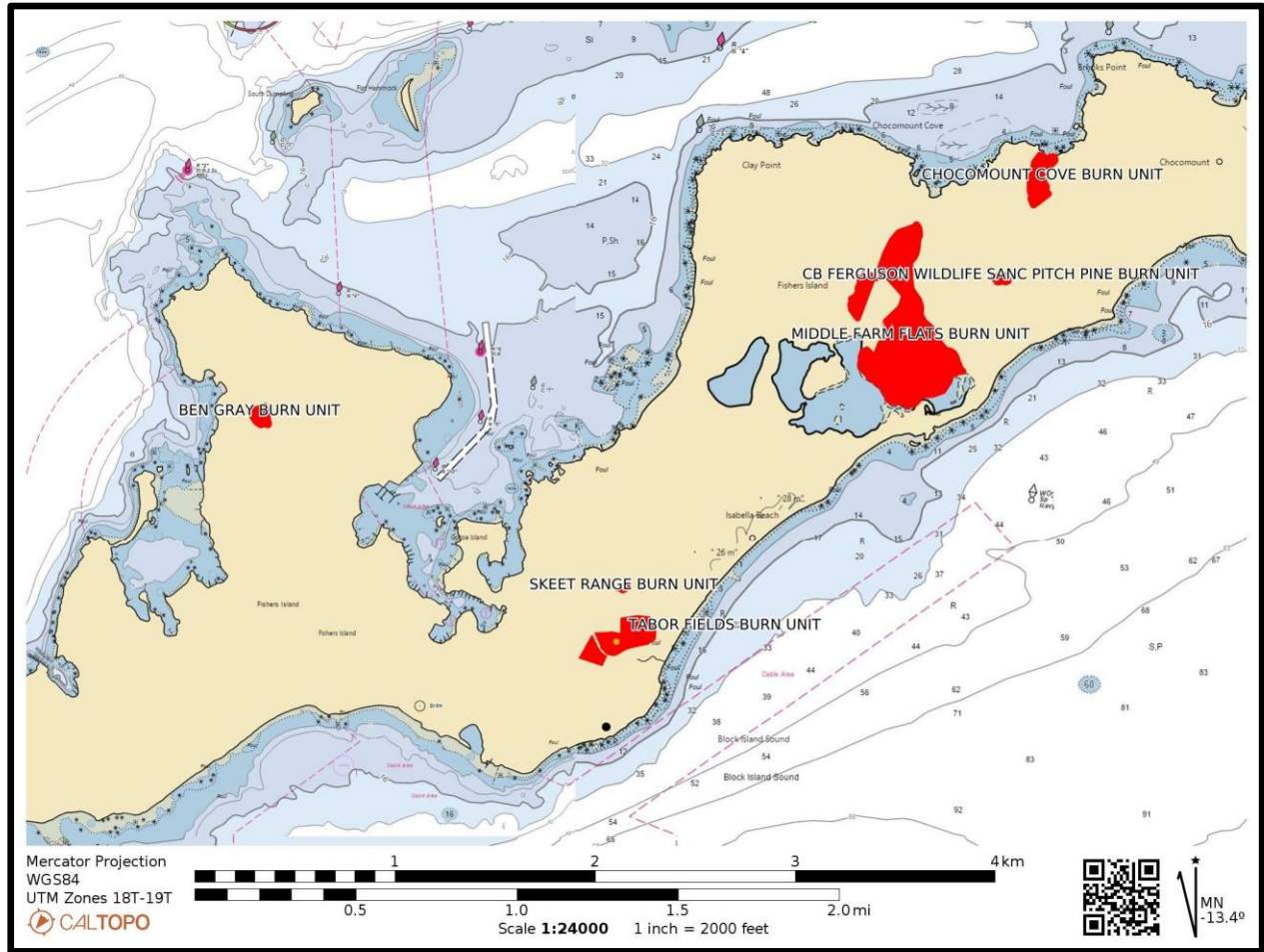
A central geographic reference point for the burn units is Latitude: N 41 16' 16.33" Longitude: W 71 58' 49.11".



Location Map - Fishers Island in Red



Vicinity Map – Fishers Island South of Connecticut Shoreline



BURN UNITS IN RED MAP (WESTERN AND CENTRAL FISHERS ISLAND)

TOTAL ACRES TO BE BURNED PER BURN UNIT

Fuels Note: The fuel models described in this plan are all from the published “Standard Fire Behavior Fuel Models: A Comprehensive Set for Use with Rothermel’s Surface Fire Spread Model”, US Forest Service General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-153. June 2005 authored by Joe H. Scott and Robert E. Burgan. This document is the national fuels model standard in the United States.

<u>BURN UNIT NAME</u>	<u>PARCEL ID - PARCEL TOTAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>ACRES TO BE BURNED</u>	<u>BURN UNIT FUELS</u>
Ben Gray	F22 – 4.3 acres (TOTAL 4.3 acres)	1.6 acres <i>(35% of land within the parcel to be burned)</i>	Grass (GR3), Shrub (SH4), Timber Litter (TL2)
Tabor Fields	F54 – 2.7 acres F53 A/B/C – 3.8 acres Anderson Field – 4.5 acres (TOTAL 11.6 acres)	11 acres <i>(94% of land within the parcels to be burned)</i>	Grass (GR6 / GR3), Grass-Shrub (GS4), Timber-Shrub (TU2), Shrub (SH3)
Skeet Range	F33 – 17.2 acres (TOTAL 17.2 acres)	0.5 acres <i>(3% of land within the parcel to be burned)</i>	Grass (GR3)
Middle Farms Flats	F19 – 5 acres F20 – 22.9 acres E03 – 1.7 acres E01 – 5.4 acres F11 – 3.7 acres F35B – 16.2 acres F32 – 9.9 acres (TOTAL 64.8 acres)	44.4 acres <i>(74% of land within the parcels to be burned)</i>	Grass (GR3 / GR6 / GR8) Grass-Shrub (GS3) Shrub (SH4) Timber – Shrub (TU2)
Chocomount Cove	F58A – 2.8 acres F58B – 2.2 acres (TOTAL 5 acres)	3.7 acres <i>(74% of land within the parcels to be burned)</i>	Grass (GR3) Shrub (SH6) Timber – Shrub (TU2)
CB Ferguson Wildlife Sanctuary Pitch Pines	F23 – 20 acres (TOTAL 20 acres)	0.4 acres <i>(2% of lands within the parcel to be burned)</i>	Timber – Shrub (TU2)
		61.6 Acres to be Burned	

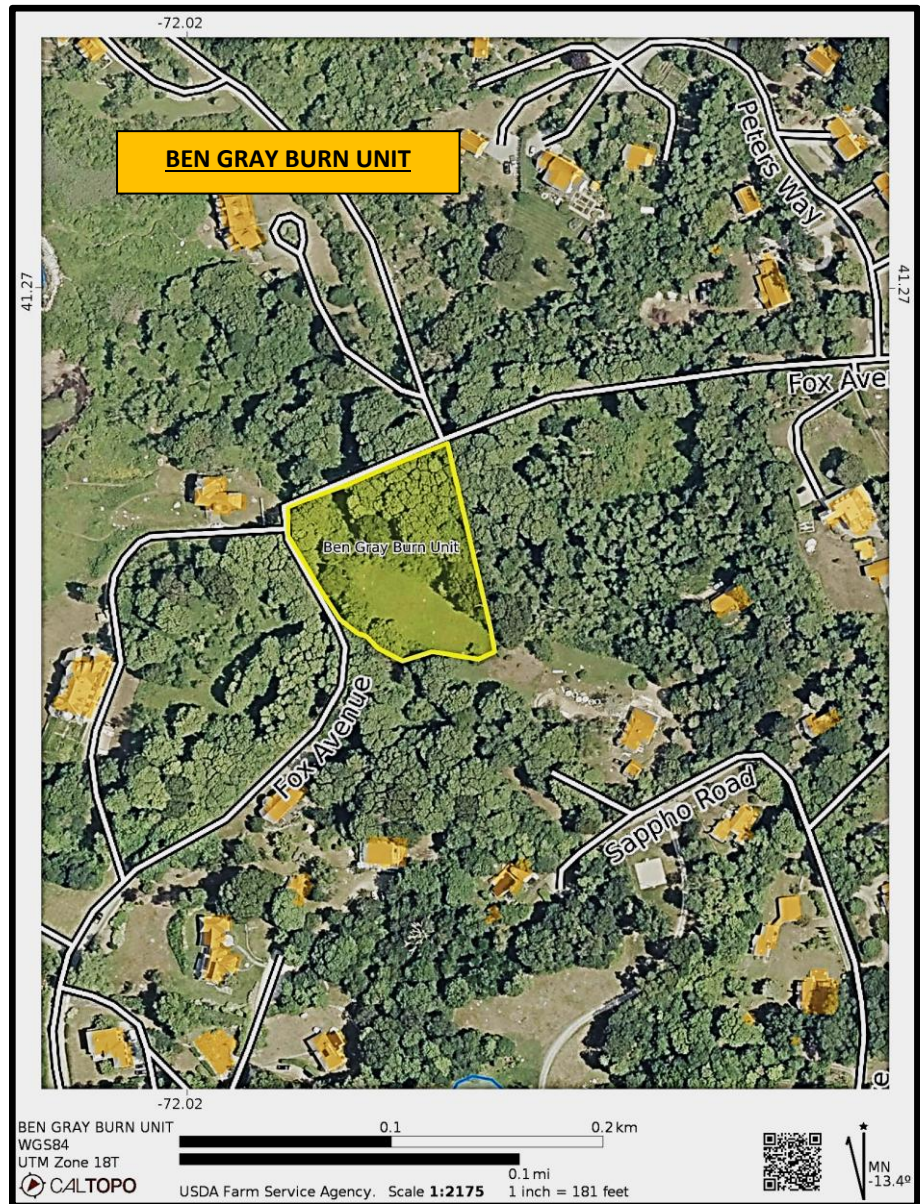
Ben Gray Burn Unit

Location: The Ben Gray Burn Unit is 1.6 acres in the NW quadrant of the HLFM parcel F22. F22 totals 4.3 acres. This tract is between Fox Ave. and Sappho Road, about 0.3 miles west of the Village Market on Fox Ave.

Description: The burn site is situated on the west, north and east aspects of a small hill. A sparse grassland runs from the west side of the property adjacent to Fox Ave and the adjacent powerline right of way to the open top of the hill just west of the Gray estate home. From this hilltop the burn unit follows a mowed firebreak to the north to the Fox Ave / N. Hill Rd. intersection. This firebreak is mowed downslope thru a shrubby patch that parallels the grassland from west to east and continues into an open hardwood stand at the toe of the slope.

Ownership: HLFM.

Fuels: The grassland fuels are a Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass model (GR3) that will burn aggressively when dormant, but not burn when in full vigor. This fuel bed is patchy. The shrub line is heavily infested with honeysuckle and other invasive vines under a mature hardwood over story. These shrubs were classified as Moderate Load, Humid Climate Shrub (SH4) during a risk assessment survey in 2025. Although not characterized as a Dynamic fuel model, these will likely burn very differently during growing season and dormant season conditions. Based on observations of similar shrub fuels on Fishers Island burning during the April 2026 prescribed burn, these fuels will most likely burn as a “litter fuel” model (TL2, Low Load Broadleaf Litter) as the fire is most likely to be carried in the litter layer. The forested fuels at the base of the



slopes are open hardwoods, Low Load Broadleaf Litter (TL2) and will likely burn as a light litter fire.

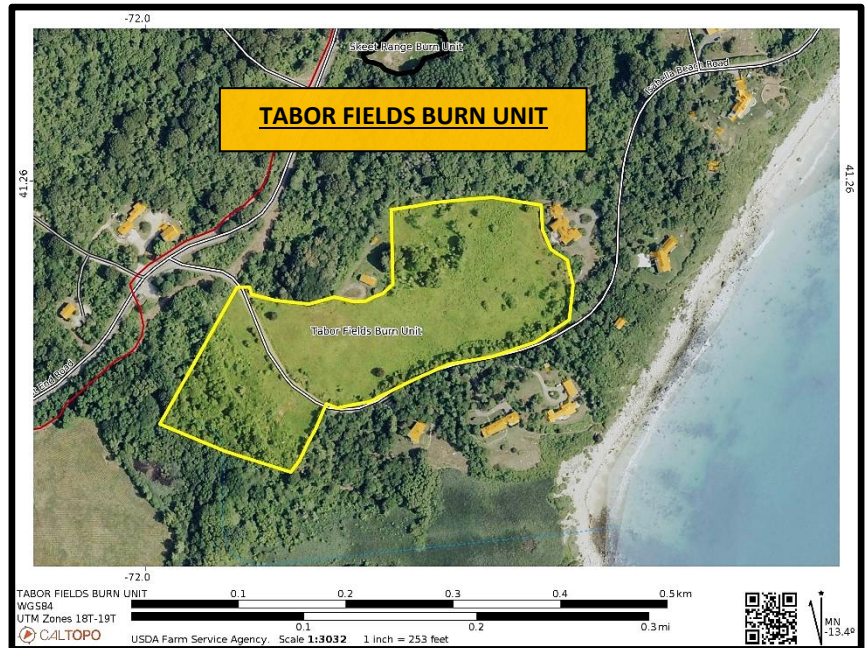
Ben Gray home to SE of the burn unit is well isolated by manicured lawns.

Management Actions: The grassland may be mowed in alternate rotation with burning. The firebreak may be mowed to maintain. It is recommended to not expose mineral soil on the firebreak to reduce the potential for non-native plant invasion.

Tabor Fields Burn Unit

Location: The Tabor Fields Burn Unit is 11.6 acres comprised of the HLFM parcels F54 / F53A / F53B / F53C and Mark and Mary Eileen Anderson grasslands property west of their estate home north of Isabella Beach Road (the former Krakowski property). This whole tract is west and east / north of Isabella Beach Road.

Description: This burn unit is mostly grasslands with forested patches, however the area immediately west of Isabella Beach Road (F54) is a grassland transitioning to forest. North and east of Isabella Beach Road the burn unit is a flat grassy meadow. Southwest of Isabella Beach road the unit is moderately sloped with a northeast aspect. There are 3 structures immediately adjacent to the burn perimeter; a mower shed and horse barn and one estate home owned by the Andersons. All are easily protected.



Ownership: HLFM and Mark and Mary Eileen Anderson.

Fuels: The fuels present are mostly a combination of Moderate Load, Humid Climate Grass (GR6) and Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass (GR3). To the west of Isabella Beach Road the fuels from east to west are High Load Humid Climate Grass-Shrub (GS4), Moderate Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (TU2) and Moderate Load Humid Climate Shrub (SH3). Ideally this unit would be burned on a SE-SW but other wind vectors are acceptably if ignition techniques mitigate smoke production.

Management Actions: Wooden fence surrounds most of this burn unit. Prior to burning, breaks should be mowed along fence lines to reduce fuels and to ease access of suppression equipment. If burning in fall, these fence lines should be mowed in August at least “two passes” wide. Avoid northwest to northeast wind on this burn to prevent smoke impacts to houses south of Isabella Beach Road.

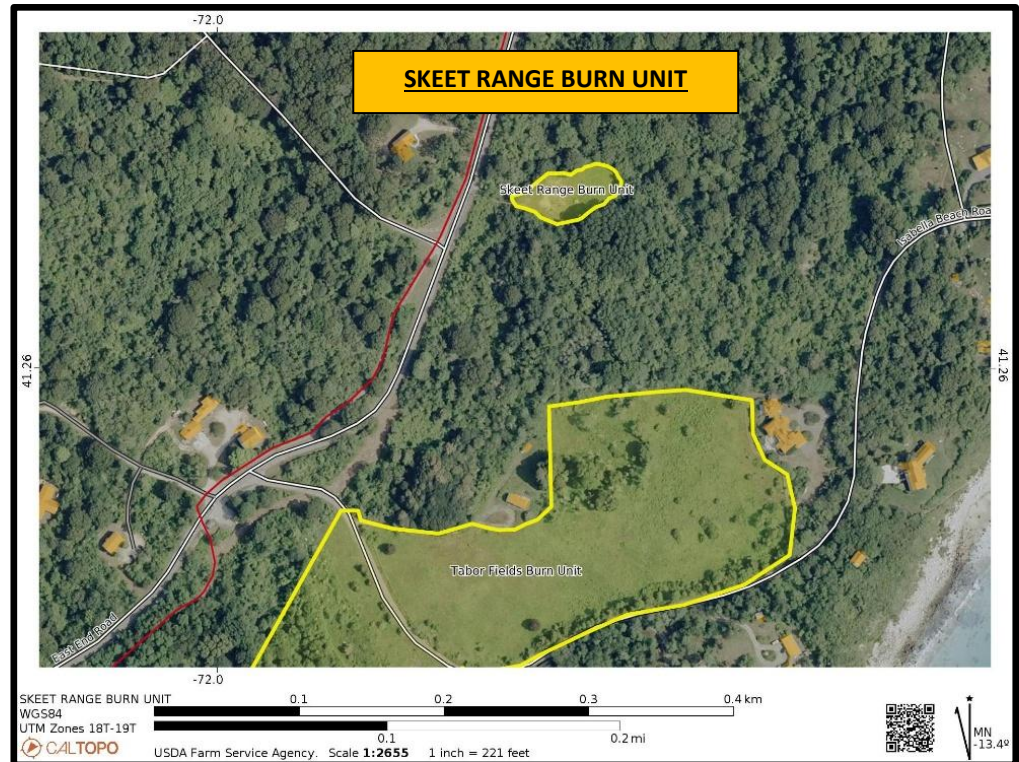
Skeet Range Burn Unit

Location: The Skeet Range Burn Unit is 0.5 acres on the western edge of the 17.2 acre HLFM parcel F33. This tract is immediately east of East Main Road, just north of the Brickyard Road intersection.

Description: This is a very small grassland that is managed as a skeet shooting range.

Ownership: The HLFM

Fuels: The fuels present are a Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass (GR3). The fuels are patchy and sparse. This small unit can be burned with any wind vector, but due east is the least desirable.



Management Actions: Prior to burning a 5' to 10' wide firebreak should be mowed around the entire grassland perimeter and thatch removed using leaf blowers or raking. Protective actions will need to be taken for the Skeet Range launch structure and stands prior to or at time of ignition. These actions might include mowing a break, burning out with low intensity fire or scratching in a hand line to surround these features.

Middle Farms Flats Burn Unit

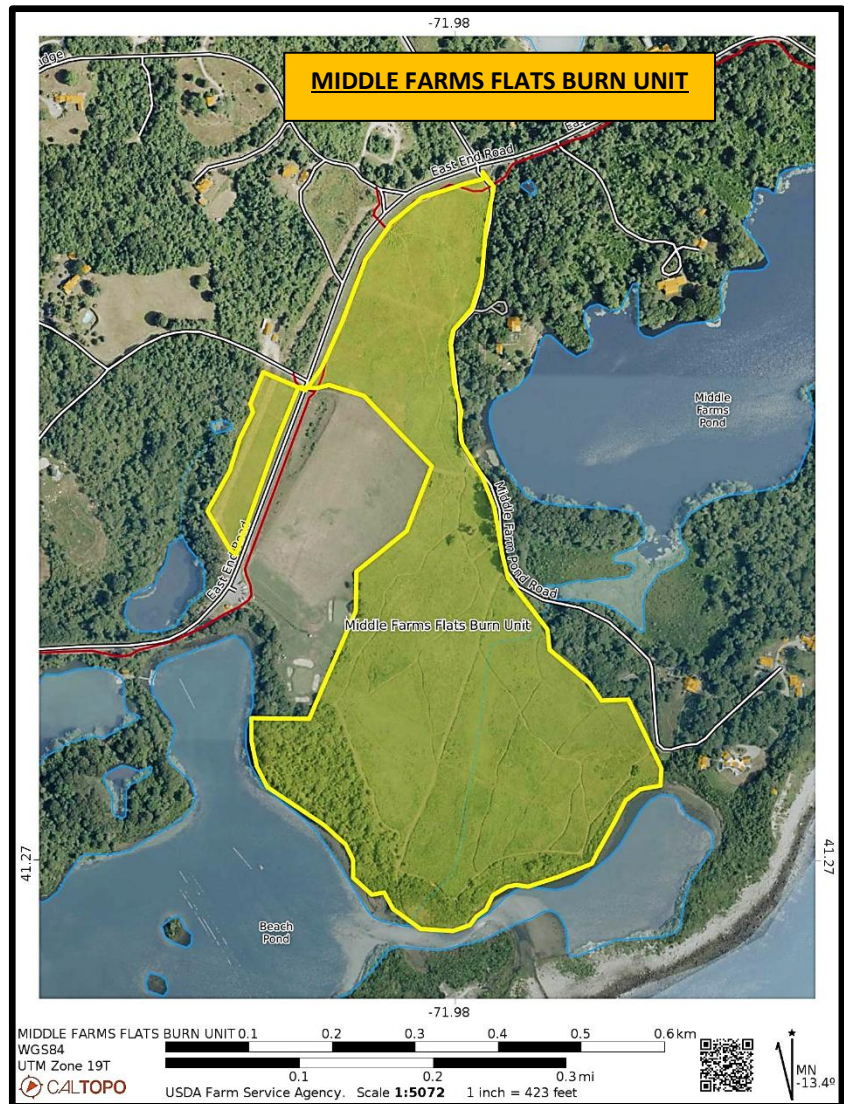
Location: These grassland fields are immediately east of East Main Road and south and west of Middle Farm Pond Road. The Middle Farms North field, an addition to this burn unit that was not included the previous burn plan, is immediately west of East Main Road south of the intersection with Barlow Pond Lane. The burn unit abuts the Fishers Island Club's golf driving range. Island Pond abuts the burn unit property to the southwest, and Beach Pond is adjacent to the south. A small tidal creek connects these ponds along the southern border of the burn unit. Both of these ponds are brackish ponds connected to Block Island Sound by a narrow breachway that crosses the barrier beach against the Sound

Description: The Middle Farms Flats area managed by the HLFM totals 65 acres, and 44 of these acres are targeted for prescribed burning. This is an expansion of 7 additional burn acres from the prior Middle Farms Flats prescribed burn plan. The additions include the grassland and the forested fringes to the south and west of the grasslands east of East Main Road. This includes the woodland area of Penny's Path. The unit is flat.

Ownership: The HLFM owns the majority of the burn unit, however 3.4 acres in the southeast corner of the grassland is a conservation easement granted by the Robert Miller family to the HLFM.

Fuels: The grassland fuels make up the vast majority of the unit and are a combination of Moderate Load, Humid Climate Grass (GR6), Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass (GR3) and Moderate Load Humid Climate Grass-Shrub (GS3). The forested fringes of the grassland to the south and west are shrubby woodlands mostly modeled as Low Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (SH4) and some Moderate Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (TU2). Although these are not typically “dynamic” fuels, these can be expected to burn differently during growing and dormant seasons due to the high presence of invasive vines. Under dry spring conditions the timber litter carried the fire in these areas and they burned more like a Low Load Broadleaf Litter model (TL2). If drought is high and winds are in alignment fire may be carried in the shrub layer. All wind vectors are suitable for burning, but due east winds should be avoided for smoke management concerns unless special ignition methods to mitigate smoke impacts are used.

Management Actions: Mowing of the grasslands and mastication / thinning of the forested fringes may occur in alternation with prescribed burning. If burning only a portion of the large grassland, fire breaks may be mowed to allow for holding actions to separate the fields.

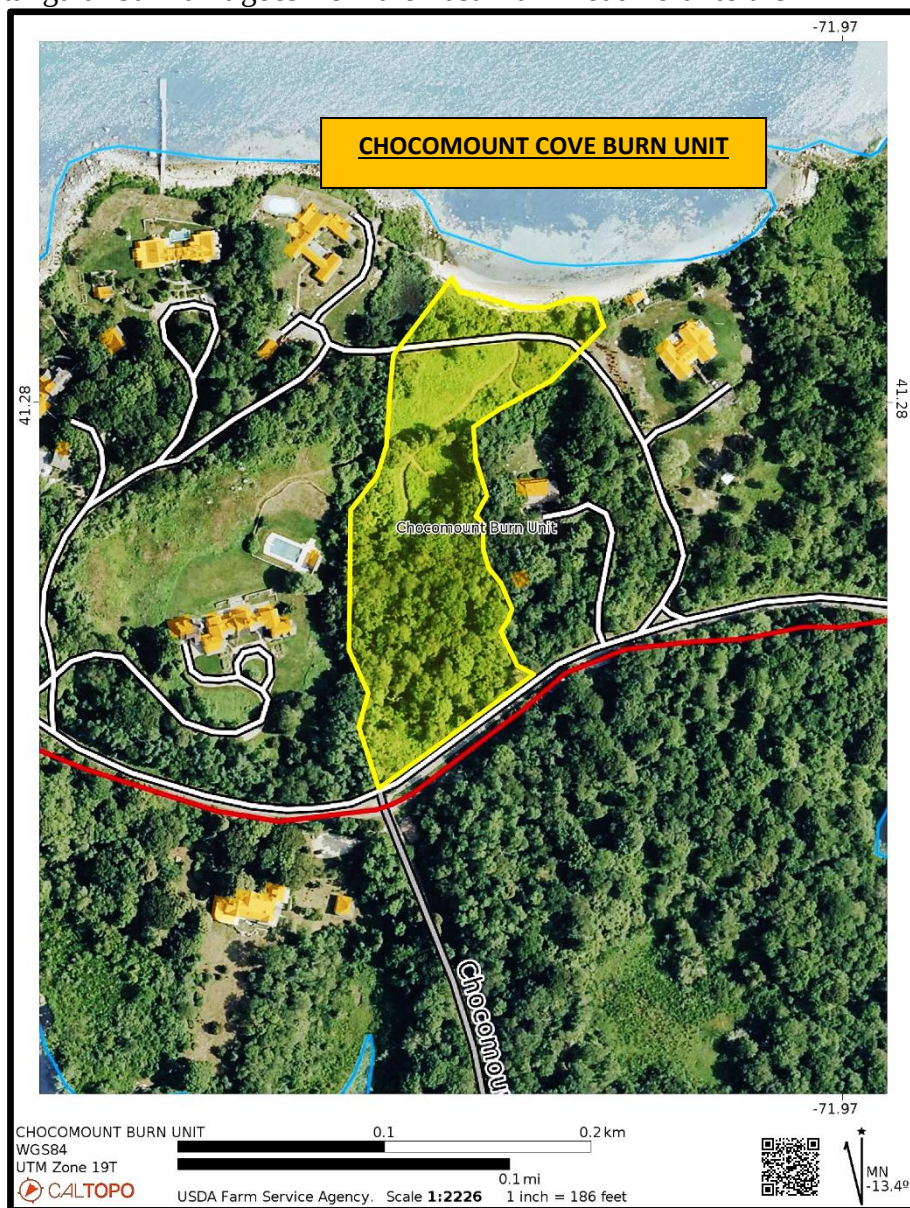


Chocomount Cove Burn Unit

Location: This burn unit is north and east of the East Main Road and the Chocomount Road intersection. This somewhat rectangular burn unit goes from the East Main Road north to the rocky Chocomount Cove beach on Fishers Island Sound. The burn unit consists of 3.7 acres of the 5 acres within parcels F58A (2.8 acres) and F58B (2.2 acres).

Description: The unit runs upslope from the East Main Road climbing steeply on a south aspect. It reaches its crest about midway thru the unit, then slopes gently downhill on a north aspect to the beach at the shoreline of Fishers Island Sound. The southern half of the burn unit is a shrubby mature hardwood woodland infested with invasive honeysuckle and greenbrier in the understory. The northern half of the burn unit is a sparse grassland with a pathway at the north end. North of the pathway is a dense maritime shrub layer that abuts the sandy/rocky beach to the north.

Ownership: HLFM.



Fuels: The southern half of the burn unit is a shrubby woodland heavily infested with invasive honeysuckle and greenbrier vines. It is in nice alignment with prevailing southerly winds to carry fire upslope. These fuels are modeled as Moderate Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (TU2) but it is likely the surface litter will carry the fire and behave as a Low Load Broadleaf Litter fire (TL2). About midway to the north end of the unit the slope tops out and then begins to descend to the north. This area is sparse Low Load Very Coarse Humid Climate Grass (GR3). North of the grass field patch the fuels become a strip of maritime shrub which parallels the beach. This is modeled as a Low Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (SH4) and Low Load Humid Climate Shrub (SH6). These maritime shrubs are a dense accumulation of quasi-pyrogenic fuels. Although they can burn, it is expected that they will not carry fire unless during significant drought with high winds in direct alignment. Those conditions would exceed prescribed values,

so would not be present while prescribed burning. There are also some non-burnable grass lawns and non-burnable beach in this northern portion of the burn unit. Ideally winds for this burn would be SSW-SSE, which would put the south aspect of the southern half of the unit into good wind and slope burning alignment which will be needed to carry fire through this dense understory and reduce smoke impacts to homes outside the east and west flanks. The fire could also be burned on a cold front with winds out of the NNW to NNE.

Management Actions: The Chocomount Trail runs south to north thru the center of the burn unit, and may be a useful feature to segment the burn to east / west portions. Firebreaks have been mowed along the east and west flanks of the burn unit thru generally forested shrub fuels. These masticated breaks should not be cleared to mineral soil to limit establishment of invasive species, but may be maintained by mowing. These masticated lines could be protected by a hose lay and/or hose lay with sprinklers during prescribed fire operations. The grassland patch may be mowed.

CB Ferguson Wildlife Sanctuary Pitch Pines Burn Unit

Location: Accessible only by foot trail, this unit is located 0.25 miles from the Treasure Pond Road trailhead on the Treasure Pond Trail. This small burn unit is located on the NW corner of a shallow peninsula jutting into Middle Farms Pond. This 0.4 acre burn unit is the NW corner of the FMLT 20 acre parcel F23 which sits between Middle Island Pond and Treasure Pond.

Description: There is a steep shore line drop of about 15' from the center of this plot to the waterline west and north, but the plot itself is fairly level. This spot was chosen because there are multiple mature pitch pines present. The desire of management is open the forest floor to additional sunlight and duff to promote regeneration of pitch pines on site.

Ownership: HLFM.

Fuels: Pitch Pine and mixed mature hardwoods with a hardwood leaf litter understory. This area is modeled as Low Load Broadleaf Litter (TL2) with light shrubs but a rather continuous hardwood leaf litter fuel bed.

Management Actions: Thin sapling mixed hardwoods within the unit 2-3 months prior to burning and allow them to cure. Place these cutting in piles within the burn unit and burn them during the broadcast prescribed fire to consume litter and duff to expose mineral soil. Ideally let these piles burn out without mop-up on the interior of the black to consume the litter under the piles. A scratch line will be made prior to ignition around the south and east perimeter to contain the burn.



2-Landowner or prescribed burn manager qualifications:

“A description of the landowner's or prescribed burn manager's training and expertise in conducting prescribed burn activities.” (Part 194.5)

The prescribed burns will be conducted under the direction of the HLFM. The HLFM Land Trust Staff will contract with competent prescribed burn companies to be the Burn Manager and to provide on scene tactical resources. In this case the Fishers Island Fire Department may also provide on scene assistance with staff and equipment as well as being present for training purposes. Alternatively the FMLT may use the Fishers Island Fire Department to be the burn manager, tactical staff and equipment as assisted by the FMLT employees and volunteers. The FMLT may also appoint its own Burn Manager (from either staff or hire) to direct the burns, in which case they would be assisted by the Fishers Island Fire Department who would provide additional staffing and tactical equipment. The Burn Manager will utilize resources to conduct the burns as listed in the Logistics section of this plan.

3-Goals and objectives:

“A description of the ecological purposes and objectives of the prescribed burn, including an identification of the specific species or natural communities that are intended to be affected by the burn.” (Part 194.5)

Burn unit management goals:

- 1- Restore special coastal native plant habitats.
- 2- Reduce the volume of invasive species in the burn units.
- 3- Reduce understory growth in the burn units.
- 4- To reduce fuel for wildfires that may be ignited under extreme weather conditions.
- 5- To reduce the tick populations by direct mortality during burns, thereby reducing transmission of tick borne diseases to humans and wildlife.

Specific burn objectives

- 1-Top-kill invasive plants such as honeysuckle, greenbrier and bittersweet by 25% as determined by monitoring six months post burn.
- 2-Reduce understory growth and shrub layer to promote forbs and herbaceous surface plants and increase site native flora diversity.
- 3-Reduce 1 and 10 hour fuels in burned areas by 25% six months post burn.
- 4-Keep the fires within the burn units thereby protecting adjacent public and private property and infrastructure.
- 5-Reduce understory and duff to encourage pitch pine regeneration in the Pitch Pine burn unit.

4-Cover and fuel loads:

“A description of the vegetative cover and fuel loads on each area to be subjected to prescribed burning.” (Part 194.5)

Cover and fuel loads:

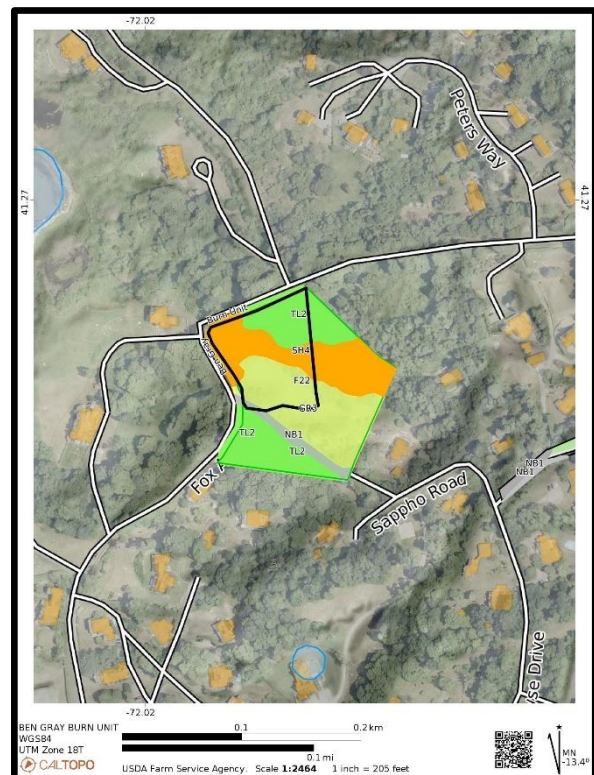
The vegetation to be burned consists of tall grass with emergent woody shrubs, mature forests with a shrub or litter understory and shrub stands in areas transitioning from grasslands to shrub lands. The fuel models described in this plan are all from the published “Standard Fire Behavior Fuel Models: A Comprehensive Set for Use with Rothermel’s Surface Fire Spread Model”, US Forest Service General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-153. June 2005 authored by Joe H. Scott and Robert E. Burgan

Fuels by Burn Unit

Ben Gray Burn Unit:

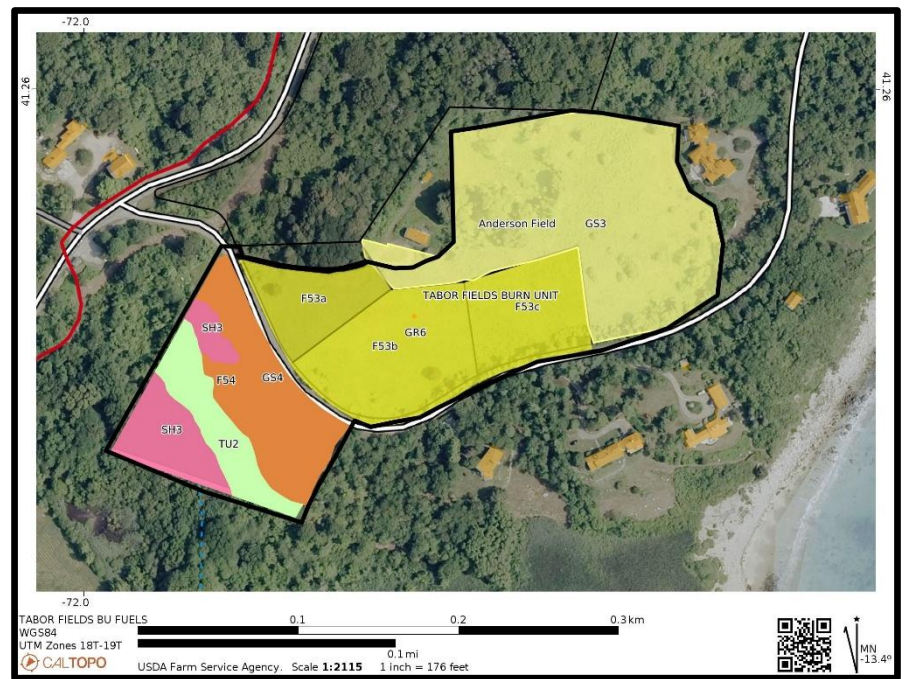
Fuels: The grassland fuels are a Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass model (GR3) that will burn aggressively when dormant, but not burn when in full vigor. This fuel bed is patchy. The shrub line is heavily infested with honeysuckle and other invasive vines under a mature hardwood over story. These shrubs were classified as Moderate Load, Humid Climate Shrub (SH4) during a risk assessment survey in 2025. Although not characterized as a Dynamic fuel model, these will likely burn very differently during growing season and dormant season conditions. Based on observations of similar fuels on Fishers Island during prior prescribed burns, these fuels will most likely burn as a “litter fuel” model (TL2, Low Load Broadleaf Litter) as the fire is most likely to be carried in the litter layer. The forested fuels at the base of the slopes are open hardwoods, Low Load Broadleaf Litter (TL2) and will likely burn with a light litter fire.

Ben Gray home to SE of the burn unit is well isolated by manicured lawns.



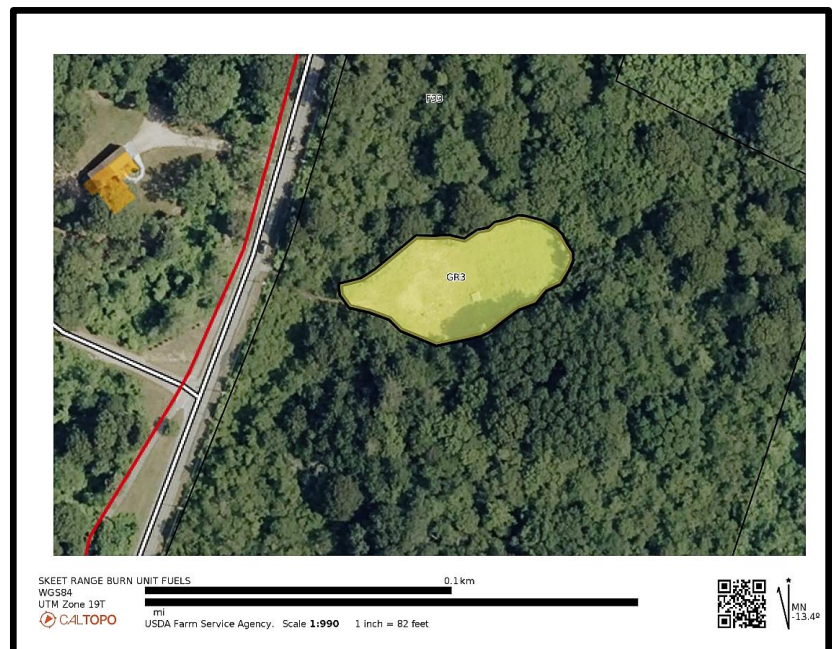
Tabor Fields Burn Unit

Fuels: The fuels present are mostly a combination of Moderate Load, Humid Climate Grass (GR6) and Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass (GR3). To the west of Isabella Beach Road the fuels from east to west are High Load Humid Climate Grass-Shrub (GS4), Moderate Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (TU2) and Moderate Load Humid Climate Shrub (SH3).



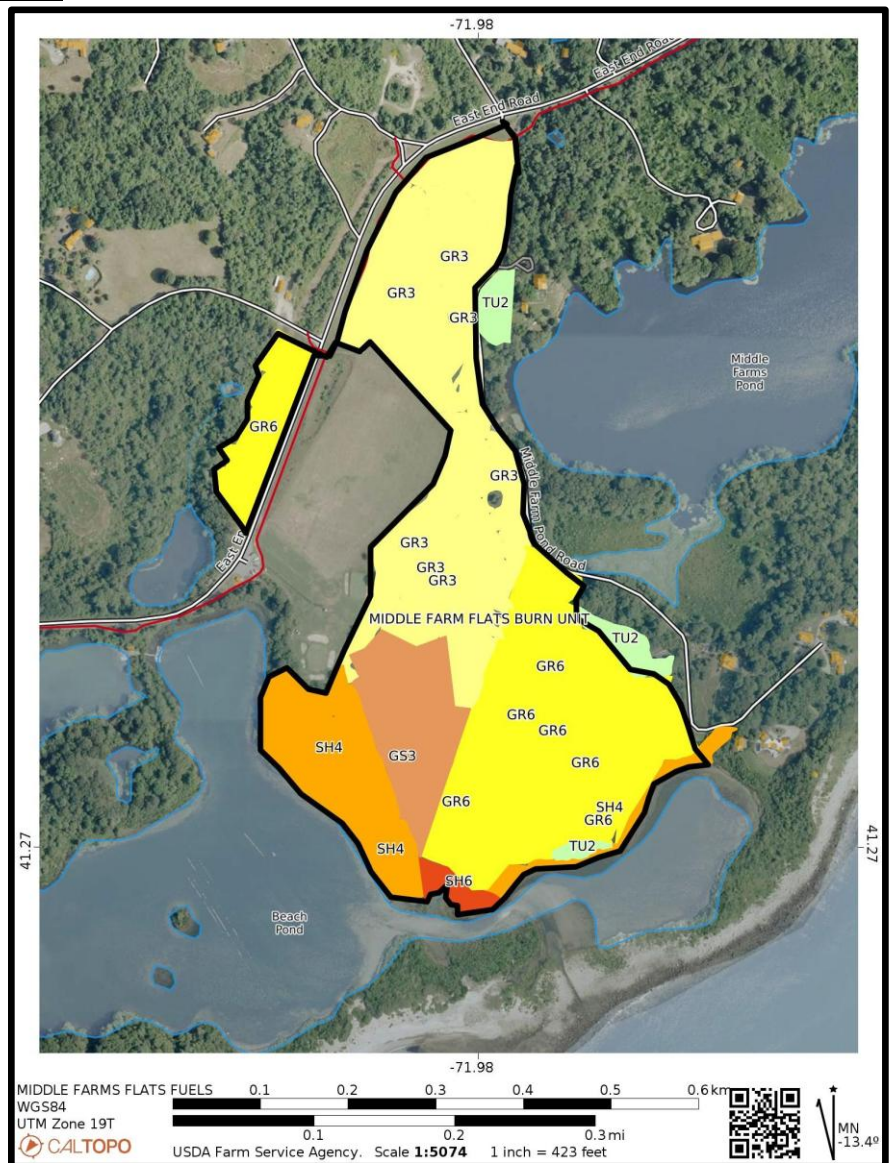
Skeet Range Burn Unit

Fuels: The fuels present are a Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass (GR3). The fuels are patchy and sparse.



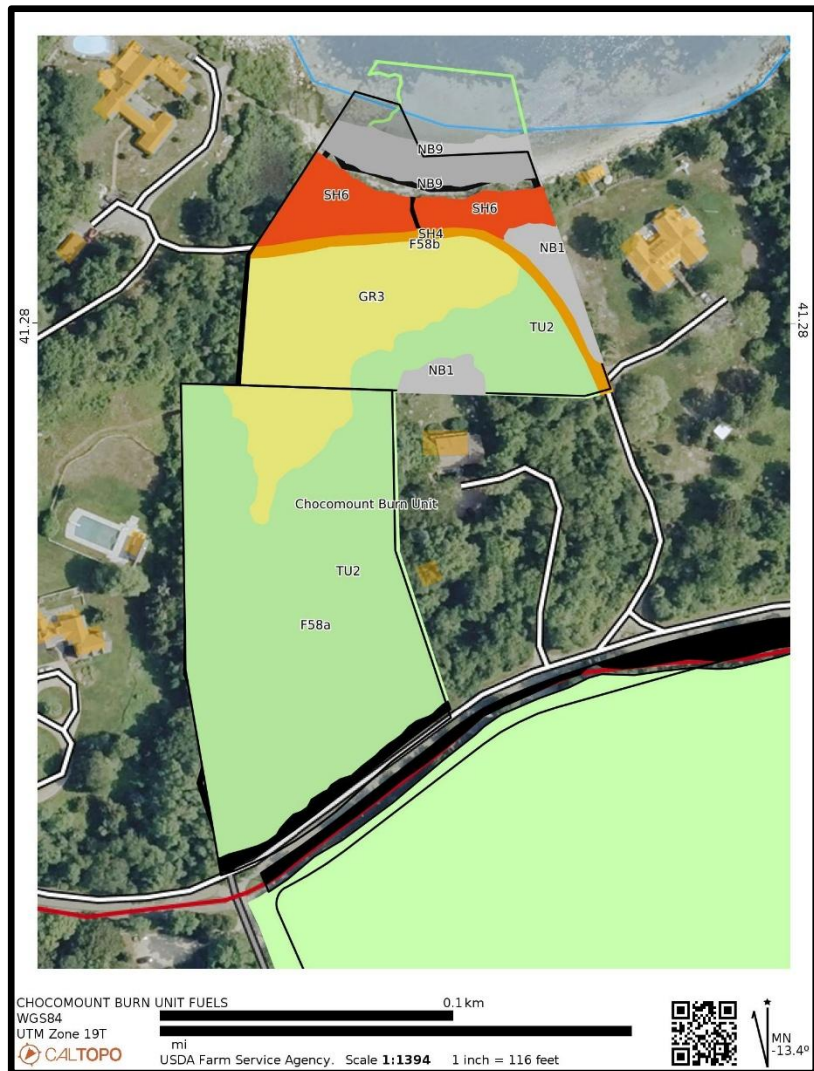
Middle Farms Flats Burn Unit

Fuels: The grassland fuels make up the vast majority of the unit and are a combination of Moderate Load, Humid Climate Grass (GR6), Low Load, Very Coarse, Humid Climate Grass (GR3) and Moderate Load Humid Climate Grass-Shrub (GS3). The forested fringes of the grassland to the south and west are shrubby woodlands mostly modeled as Low Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (SH4) and some Moderate Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (TU2). Although these are not typically “dynamic” fuels, these can be expected to burn differently during growing and dormant seasons due to the high presence of invasive vines. Under dry spring conditions the timber litter carried the fire in these areas and they burned more like a Low Load Broadleaf Litter model (TL2). If drought is high and winds are in alignment fire may be carried in the shrub layer.



Chocomount Cove Burn Unit

Fuels: The southern half of the burn unit is a shrubby woodland heavily infested with invasive honeysuckle and greenbrier vines. It is in nice alignment with prevailing southerly winds to carry fire upslope. These fuels are modeled as Moderate Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (TU2) but it is likely the surface litter will carry the fire and behave as a Low Load Broadleaf Litter fire (TL2) About midway to the north end of the unit the slope tops out and then begins to descend to the north. This area is sparse Low Load Very Coarse Humid Climate Grass (GR3). North of the grass field patch the fuels become a strip of maritime shrub which parallels the beach. This is modeled as a Low Load Humid Climate Timber-Shrub (SH4) and Low Load Humid Climate Shrub (SH6). There are also some non-burnable grass lawns and non-burnable beach in this northern portion of the burn unit.



CB Ferguson Wildlife Sanctuary Burn Unit

Fuels: The fuels present are Low Load Broadleaf Litter fire (TL2) spread continuously.

5-Timing and weather conditions:

“A description of physical conditions, such as time of year, wind speed and direction, and air temperature and humidity, which must be met before a prescribed burn is initiated.” (Part 194.5)

Seasons for burning: This plan is written for year-round use and burning may occur at any time of the year as determined by management.

In the forested burn units, the first entry burns will ideally be conducted at the “hot end” of the prescription for wind, humidity and fuel moistures; succinctly, conditions need to be windy, relative humidity’s low and fuels dry. The reason for this; these forested areas are significantly “choked” with shrubs and vines and it will take steady winds and dry conditions for fire to carry continuously. Subsequent burns may be conducted under more mild conditions.

Spring season (April-May) is the best for these burns. Ideally shrubs and invasive hardwoods would have at least started to leaf out, maximizing the chance to top kill them by heat girdling stems while roots are nutrient depleted, having transferred their stored energy into stems and growing leaves. During the fall (Sept-Nov) the days are shorter than spring and nights have high



and long moisture recovery levels. Fall burning would focus on consumption of dead 1 and 10 hour fuels, and, if the summer droughts persist into fall, can possibly consume higher levels of organic surface fuels and duff than is achievable in spring when Keech Byrum Drought Indices are 200 or less.

The grasslands will “green up” in summer and the fine fuels become “live fuels” with fuel moistures at or above 150%. With those live fuel moistures these grasslands will not burn. Forest burning in summer is unlikely due to high live fuel moistures.

Winter burning is possible utilizing cold front passages to use higher winds and lower RH conditions to drive fires into 10 hour and 100 hour fuel jackpots. It is also possible that during summer or fall vines and shrubs can be cut into piles that can be burned during the winter.

In order to control undesirable invasive plant species management may opt to mechanically or chemically treat portions of the burn units. Subsequent to such treatments enough fine dead fuels may be available to burn, and prescribed burning of those patches may be a desirable follow-up to the treatments even in the summer months.

General weather conditions on site: The prevailing winds on Fishers Island are southwest and west. These winds are documented using archived weather data from the private weather stations (*Wunderground.com* Fishers Island - KNYFISHE14 at 18073 E Main Rd (East End Road), Fishers Island and KNYFISHE13 located at Edwards Lobsters, Madeline Ave. on Fishers Island).

The orientation of the landing strips at Elizabeth Field Airport also supports this prevailing wind determination with runways (7-25; 12-30). Airport landing strips are generally designed to allow planes to fly headfirst into the wind during landing and takeoff when possible, and the two strips at Elizabeth Field are oriented on vectors of 250 degrees (SSW) and 300 degrees (WNW), ergo aligned along prevailing winds.

Analysis of the historical weather conditions was conducted using weather data from the private weather stations listed above, and using data from the nearby Groton Airport weather station. The prevailing winds in spring summer and early fall are SW. Fall through March the prevailing wind is W. SW is the dominant vector. In spring and summer that dominant direction is modified by wind swings to S and W. In the cooler months frontal systems come through with shifts to W, NW and N modifying the average to W. These weather/wind patterns mimic the overall conditions throughout Suffolk County NY.

Fire Prescription:

The following are useful websites to access weather parameters in advance of planning to burn on a given day to make certain that the weather parameters are predicted to fall within the requirement of the prescribed burns “prescription”.

Natl Weather Service Fire Weather Forecast:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&issuedby=OKX&product=FWF>

This forecast is issued daily from the NWS office in Upton, NY at the Brookhaven National Lab. The detailed information for Fishers Island would best be viewed in the portion of this daily

forecast labeled “Southern New London” county. Use of the Southern New London county forecast as the is best for Fishers Island was verified with Tim Morrin, the now retired Fire Weather Program Leader of the NWS, Upton, NY office. This forecast will provide:

- the predicted 20’ wind speed and direction
- the predicted mixing height
- a discussion of the weather outlook overall

Estimating Fine Dead Fuel Moisture (the moisture of 1 hr. fuels): Appendix C contains the tables that are available at the link below for estimating 1 hour fine dead fuel moisture. They are also available at the following website.

<https://kestrelinstruments.com/mwdownloads/download/link/id/251>

On Site Weather Stations Fishers Island:

KNYFISHE14 at 18073 E Main Rd (East End Road), Fishers Island

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KNYFISHE14>

KNYFISHE13 at Edwards Lobsters, Madeline Ave, Fishers Island

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KNYFISHE13>

Spot Weather Forecasts:

The afternoon before a planned prescribed burn the Burn Manager or designee can request a custom “Spot Weather Forecast” from the US National Weather Service. This SPOT would be prepared by the forecasters in the Upton, NY office. The SPOT is a custom forecast for your precise latitude and longitude. For assistance in obtaining a spot contact the Fire Weather Program Leader 631-357-2055. This forecast is available free and is generated using the link below:

<https://spot.weather.gov>

General Instructions for Obtaining a SPOT Forecast:

Usually a SPOT for a Prescribed Burn is request late afternoon the day before burning.

Open the NWS Spot Link above and click on New Request button

Step 1 – Zoom in on the map and click on the Middle Farms Flats to set the SPOT location (this is a central location on Fishers Island if doing multiple burns on a single day)

Step 2- Click on Prescribed Fire as the type of request

Step 3- Click on the Generate a SPOT Request button

Step 4- Complete the request by filling in the information requested. Generally you can ask for the Deliver Forecast Time to be set at about 0500 hours the next day and you can set the Forecast Starting about 0700 the day of the burn. You can then select what periods you want covered and what data to be in the forecast (choose all the types listed Sky/Weather, Temp, Humidity, Chance of Wetting Rain, 20ft Winds. You can add remarks stating when you intent to burn. Once a preliminary forecast is created it will be emailed to the address entered into the form.

Forecast Information

DELIVER FORECAST
Date : 08/17/2022
Time : As Soon As Possible

FORECAST STARTING
Date : 08/17/2022
Time : 12:00

TIMEZONE
(Local Time)
EASTERN

Combined

FORECAST FORMAT

1 Hr
1 Hr
1 Hr

Tabular Time
Table Interval

This Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday		Select All Periods
☐	☐	☐		
☐	☐	☐	Sky/Weather	☐
☐	☐	☐	Temperature	☐
☐	☐	☐	Humidity	☐
☐	☐	☐	Chance of Wetting Rain	☐
☐	☐	☐	Wind (20 FT)	☐

NOAA Hysplit Model
Would you like to include a run of the Hysplit Model with this request? If so please verify your email address above as this will be used to send you the hysplit model run.
☐ YES
☒ NO

Remarks

You can also access your completed SPOT by opening the Spot forecast link above and clicking on the Monitor Spot Forecasts button.

The following table contains the physical conditions that must be present at the time of ignition on a burn day. Once ignition is in progress if variables fall out of the prescribed range it must be determined as to whether the fire can be ceased or if the burn can be more safely completed.

Fire Prescription

<u>FACTOR</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Temperature (F)	30	95	Obtain from local forecast, fire weather forecast, or observation.
Relative Humidity (%)	25	80	Obtain from local forecast, fire weather forecast, or observation.
Wind Speed, 20'forecasted (MPH) (20' wind is part of daily fire weather forecast and therefore easily viewed in advance allowing burn manager to evaluate the GO/NO-GO for a burn day. (This value is superseded by actual observed eye level wind speed on burn day).	1mph	25 mph In grasslands 40 mph In Timber	<u>In Grasslands</u> the eye level forecast winds can be computed by multiply the predicted 20' wind speed X 0.4 (e.g. 20' @ 10 mph X 0.4 = predicted eye level winds at 4 mph) to determine if winds are predicted within prescription Min/Max. <u>In Timber</u> the eye level forecast winds can be computed by multiply the predicted 20' wind speed X 0.2 (e.g. 20' @ 10 mph X 0.2 = predicted eye level winds at 2 mph) to determine if winds are predicted within prescription Min/Max.
Wind Speed, eye level (MPH)	1	10	Measured on site with handheld wind gauge to ensure prescription is met
Wind Direction	Any Direction Acceptable		Overall, avoid winds out of the East to Southeast on burn units with adjacent roadways and homes to the west. Obtain from local forecast, fire weather forecast, or observation.
1 Hour Fuel Moisture %	5	13	As needed compute using the tables in Appendix C to determine if fuels are within prescription or at this link: https://kestrelinstruments.com/mwdownloads/download/link/id/251
10 Hour Fuel Moisture %	6	20	Generally about 2-5% higher than 1 hr. fuels
Mixing Height (Feet)	1500'	No Max.	This is the height smoke will rise to in the atmosphere. 1500 feet is minimum forecasted value to meet prescription minimum. The higher this number is the better as smoke will lift and disperse more readily. The mixing height is part of the Fire Weather Forecast and is also in the SPOT when requested.
Days Since Rain	1	5	Recommended guideline as indicator of dead fuel moisture levels. This is only a recommendation, not prescribed requirement.
Season	Year-Round		Generally March-April-early May are the spring burning season and September-October are the fall season. There is no restriction on burning at other times of the year however.

RECOMMENDED WIND VECTORS FOR SPECIFIC BURN UNITS

<u>BURN UNIT</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED WIND VECTORS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
BEN GRAY	SE-S-SW-W-NW-N-NE	No East wind due to homes to West
TABOR FIELDS	E-SE-S-SW-W-NNW if burning the entire burn unit Parcels F54 / F53A & F53B ANY Wind Vector Allowable	No North wind when burning Parcel 53C and the Anderson Field due to homes immediately to South. Avoid West wind if possible when burning the Anderson Field (due to Anderson home being adjacent to the East) or use narrow strip heads burning from East to West through the Anderson Field to mitigate smoke impacts to the East.
SKEET RANGE	ANY	Too small to make a difference
MIDDLE FARMS FLATS	SE-S-SW-W-NW-N-NE	Avoid East winds due to smoke on East Main Road
CHOCOMOUNT COVE	SE-S-SW or NW-N-NE	No wind due East or due West due to homes directly East and West of the Burn Unit
CB FERGUSON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PITCH PINES	ANY	Too small to make a difference

6-Intensity and duration of burn:

“A description of the anticipated intensity and duration of the prescribed burn, such as flame length and rate of spread, given the fuel loads and physical prescriptions described.” (Part 194.5)

Fire behavior prediction modeling for these fuels was conducted using the Behave Plus 6.0.0 software developed and distributed by the US Forest Service, the federal interagency Joint Fire Science Program and Systems for Environmental Management. The fuel modeling data outputs can be viewed in Appendix B of this Plan.

Empirically this Behave data mimics what experience in these grassland and forested fuels would lead the burn manager to conclude the outputs are aligned with actual experience and seem reliable. Based on observations made by this Plans author during the April 2026 Middle Farms Flats prescribed burn, the forested shrub lands in these burn units can be expected to burn as Low Load Broadleaf Litter fire (TL2), unless under extremely dry and windy conditions. Under prescribed parameters the fire should carry in the litter layer in these forested areas. If extremely dry and in steady wind and slope alignment fire may carry in the shrubs of the SH3 / SH4 / SH6 fuels. Note that while these fuel models are not listed as “dynamic” fuels, it is expected that the vines and shrubs will not carry fire in the growing season, but will be more receptive to carry fire when dormant.

Under the driest and windiest conditions the grassland fuels will have very fast rates of fire spread, will produce head fire with very long flame lengths and run very closely in the direction of the winds on flat terrain or when winds are upslope. These are wind and fuel driven fires.

Saying that, early in the spring season at the dry end of the prescription with 1 hour “fine fuel moistures” at 5-7%, winds are preferred at the low end of the scale; 1-5 mph at eye level. When fine fuels are in the wetter end of the prescription (9-13%) or when grasses begin to “green up” in late April and early May higher wind levels may be desirable, 6-10 mph eye level.

The prescription also allows for burning conditions anticipated in the fall. Fall daylight hours are much less than spring and generally there is a longer overnight period of full recovery of humidity hours in the fall. This makes for cooler burning conditions which may require winds at the higher end of the prescription to accomplish the resource objectives.

This plan and prescription also identifies the possibility of burning of mechanically or chemically treated patches in months when fire would not normally carry in these fuels. In mid-summer a mechanically or chemically treated patch, once cured, can easily be burned without concern of escape when surrounded by untreated full vigor grasses, forbs or other herbaceous plants that are at 150% or more live fuel moisture.

The unlimited wind vectors in the prescription force the Burn Manager to select burn days with winds that keep the smoke away from occupied areas and the adjacent roads. The Burn Manager may however employ firing techniques (such as narrow strip heads) that produce “pulses” of smoke versus “columns” of smoke, which allows for a wider wind vector burn window. Use of

strip heads also allows for fast extinguishment of a patch if undesirable smoke impacts are occurring.

Paved surfaces and gravel roads along burn perimeters will anchor the fire and will be augmented by mowed fire breaks. Potentially a hose lay (including sprinklers) could be installed in the mowed fire breaks of the Ben Gray and Chocomount Cove Burn Units to augment both fire control and aid in 100% mop up before sunset on burn days. Ignition patterns will be discussed at greater length in the Logistics element of this plan.

Each active burn will usually last no more than one hour. In grasslands, once the main fire has passed, residual interior burning will be minimal and limited to dead and dry sticks from the invading hardwoods. Those will be allowed to burn themselves out if possible, or they will individually be mopped up before sunset on the burn day. In forested portions of burn units residual burning may linger in duff and concentrated areas (jackpots) of 10 and 100 hour fuels. It is desirable to allow these residual burning areas to continue and consume as much as possible, but thorough mop up with hand tools and water may be needed to eliminate lingering smoke prior to sunset.

The prescription recommends that at least 1 day of drying be allowed before burning if a wetting rain of 0.1" or more is received on the burn unit.

The probability of ignition (PIG) from a flaming fire brand is directly related to the fine fuel moisture condition and the air temperature and the predicted tables are found in Appendix B. Succinctly, the probabilities of ignitions are in the 50's and upper 60's % with extremely dry fuels at the low end of the prescription and in the 20's and 30's at the wetter end of the prescription. The PIG can also be calculated using tables in Appendix C.

These values will all be reflected in the ignition sequence described in the Logistics element that follows.

7-Logistics:

"A description of the logistics of the prescribed burn operation, number of personnel and description of duties, and fire management equipment that will be deployed to assure that the burn is restricted to the area or areas identified for prescribed burn management. This will include but not be limited to a description of the method of ignition, ignition pattern, containment, mop-up and patrol procedures." (Part 194.5)

Preburn preparations:

Before burning fuel breaks will be mowed around perimeters of areas to be burned within the burn unit and around embedded values at risk such as fence lines or other interior infrastructure. Fuel breaks should be 10'(or two mower deck widths) wide, and should be aligned as straight as possible. In places mowed fuel breaks may overlap the edges of curved walking paths normally

mowed in the fields. Where possible the breaks should run NE-SW to match prevailing wind alignment. If possible the fuel breaks should be raked with a tractor or cleared with a leaf blower prior to ignition, but this is not a requirement.

Operational Period Briefing:

Prior to transportation to the burn site a briefing will be held with all fire ground resources to ensure adequate staffing needs are met, equipment is staffed and ready and instructions are given to all resources for a pre-burn onsite reporting location. This briefing will be held at the FI Fire Department or other appropriate location as determined by the Burn Manager.

Once on-site and assembled at the reporting location the Burn Manager will provide the following information to these assembled resources:

Briefing Checklist; including, but not limited to: (additional items may be added)

- ☐ Burn organization and assignments
- ☐ Prescribed Fire objectives and prescription
- ☐ Description of prescribed fire project area
- ☐ Expected weather and fire behavior
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Ignition plan
- ☐ Holding plan
- ☐ Contingency plan and assignments
- ☐ Wildfire declaration
- ☐ Safety and medical plan
- ☐ Aerial ignition briefing (if aerial ignition devices will be used)

It is recommended that after this on-site briefing that resources have an opportunity to view the burn unit prior to engagement.

Equipment Assigned on Burn Day:

At least one Engine Type 6 and two Engine Type 7 (or larger) will be assigned on burn day. Two additional Engine Type 7's may be substituted for the required Engine Type 6. If the burn is being managed and staffed by a contractor, they will need to provide these minimal resources or coordinate with the Fishers Island Fire Department (FIFD) to adequately staff the burn.

FIFD Rescue 3 is a Type 6 Brush Truck with 250 gal. tank and has 2 booster hose reels. The FIFD also has a UTV (Engine Type 7) with tow behind pump and tank which is a good pump and roll wetline resource. Engines 1 and 2 are Class A Pumpers (Engine Type 1) and each carry 1000 gal. of water. These engines all have full complement of hose and tools. Additionally hose lays on mowed lines, including 3/4" lateral lines and nozzles and/or sprinklers, could be used on the mowed fire breaks.

Personnel and Duties:

A Burn Manager will be assigned who is the incident commander and directs the entire burn operation. At minimum a single additional firefighter should be assigned directly to the Burn Manager to serve as the ignition leader. A minimum of 2 personnel will be assigned to each of the fire trucks. Personnel will use booster hoses and hand tools to hold the edges of the burnout. The wet line technique may be used to pre-wet the edges immediately prior to ignitions. Wet lining is spraying water on the mowed edge of the fire break to minimize the chance that it could catch fire outside of the planned burn. Wet lining can also be used on other adjacent fuels that are outside the burn area. Be mindful that “wet lines” evaporate quickly and are best applied in concert with adjacent ignitions and they require large amounts of water. Additionally hose lays with 1 ½” trunk line and ¾” lateral hoses may be used for ignition support, holding and suppression.

How Fire Behaves on the Ground:

In fire terminology backing fires are the “heel” of the fire and the fire running with the wind is the “head”. The fire that runs in the direction the wind is pushing it is the head fire and it can be considered as the fire “running with the wind”. Fires generally burn upslope with a head fire as well, especially if the winds are blowing upslope. Head fire is the hottest, has the longest flame lengths and is usually the most concerning part of a wildfire.

Fires burning against the wind at the edge opposite of the head fire will “back” its way into the wind. These backing fires have the shortest flame lengths and move slowly back toward the wind source. Fires will also often “back” downslope, especially if the wind is blowing upslope. Although less intense than the head fires, by moving slowly, backing fires have longer duration of heat on the vegetation and duff than a running head fire. Backing fires sometimes are more effective at top killing invasive shrubs or consuming organic duff because they keep their heat on the plants and duff for a longer period of time.

Fire also extends from the sides of an ignition and these are called flanking fires since they burn at angles to the wind and slopes. Flanking fires generally are midway between the speed and flame lengths of head and backing fires. Sometimes flanking fires are used to light off the interior of burn units once escape has been “fireproofed” by burning out the fuels along the edges (blacklining) has been completed in a sufficient width around the edges to be secured. In that case parallel lighters may light directly into the wind to allow for fires to burn in triangular patterns with the point of the triangle facing the wind. Flanking fire can be used effectively to have the intensity and longer residence time to achieve goals of top killing invasive plants or removing duff. Flanking fires can, however, rapidly turn into a long string of head fire if there is a wind shift which puts the wind behind what was previously flank and turns it into head fire.

Ignition sequence:

Saying this, here is the fundamental ignition sequence generally used on these prescribed burns:

- A Test Fire will be lit in a downwind corner of the burn unit
- The Test Fire will start with a backing fire off a dirt line / green line / wet line and build a

secure anchor point

- The Test Fire will be widened by burning narrow head strips into the backing fire
- Once the Test Fire is approved by the Burn Manager the actual prescribed burn will commence and firing can continue along the flanks by lighting backing fires off dirt line / green line / wet line
- Strip head fires will be used to widen the secured burnout progressively; moving in the interior up the flanks while backing and strip heading continue to build blackline ahead of the interior burning. Blacklining the flanks will continue until the top of the unit is reached before interior ignitions are completed
- Interior firing may continue as increased width head strips. Preferably flanking fires may be ignited in the interior once each flank is secured to a suitable blackline width.

Test Burn: It is recommended that the initial backing fire and the subsequent first “strip head” fires described below in the Ignition Method section be used as a Test Burn to determine if weather conditions, fuels conditions and fire behavior will meet the established objectives and goals of the burn. The Burn Manager must evaluate whether the fire that is initially ignited is 1) likely to match the desired intensity of burning to meet resource goals and 2) decide whether the observed fire behavior is within the capabilities to be controlled by the on-site firefighter holding forces. If either of these questions are answered NO the Burn Manager should direct the fire be extinguished and re-evaluate whether to continue the burn when weather conditions change or to cancel burning for the day.

Ignition Method: If the Test Burn is successful, ignitions will continue on the extreme downwind edge of the burn block, preferably against a paved or gravel road or mowed and wet lined anchor point. The ignition source will be propane torch, cigarette lighter or preferably drip torch which can be used to light either spots or lines during ignitions.

As seen in the example ignitions sequence below, our ignition process will use backing fires to initiate the burn off a non-combustible edge, and then begin using very narrow strips of head fires running with the wind into the burned out “black” created by the backing fires. As we progress we will carry the fire up the flanks of the burn block, keeping the edges ahead of the burning area in the center of the block. The figures below show the general plan of ignition operations for each of the units or patches of fuels within a unit.

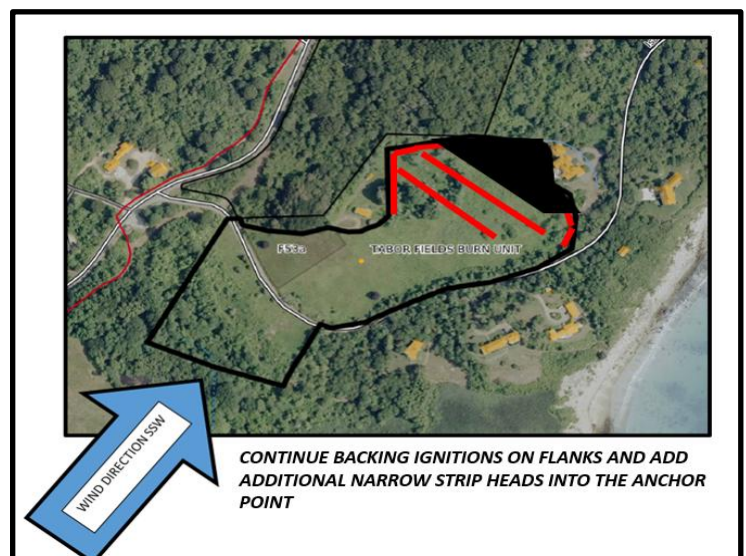
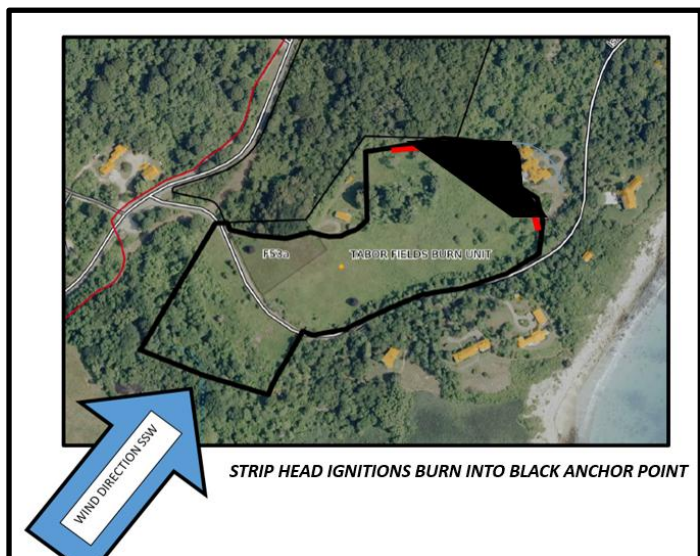
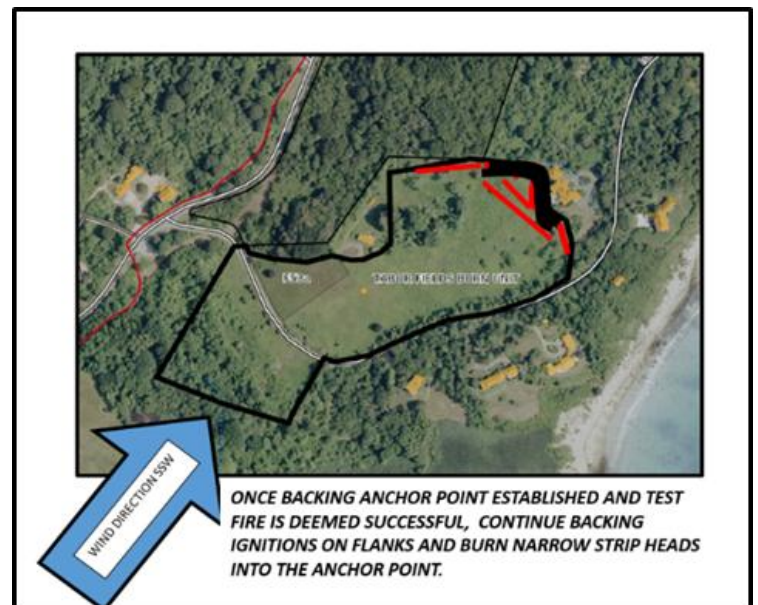
Ignition Pattern:

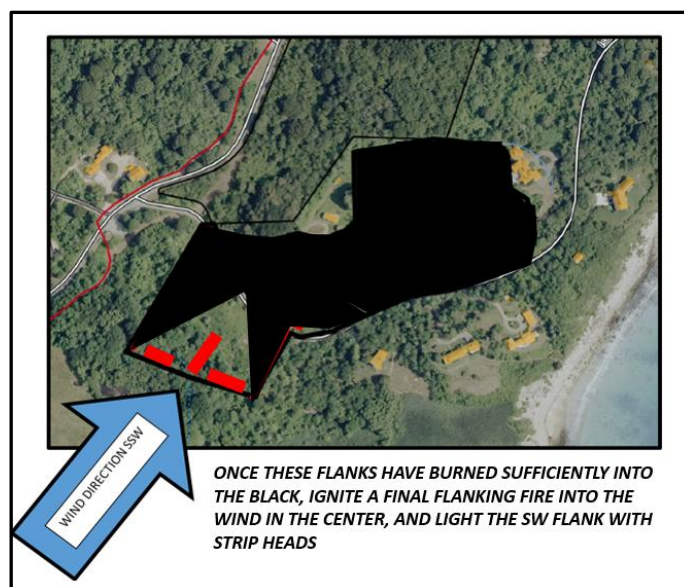
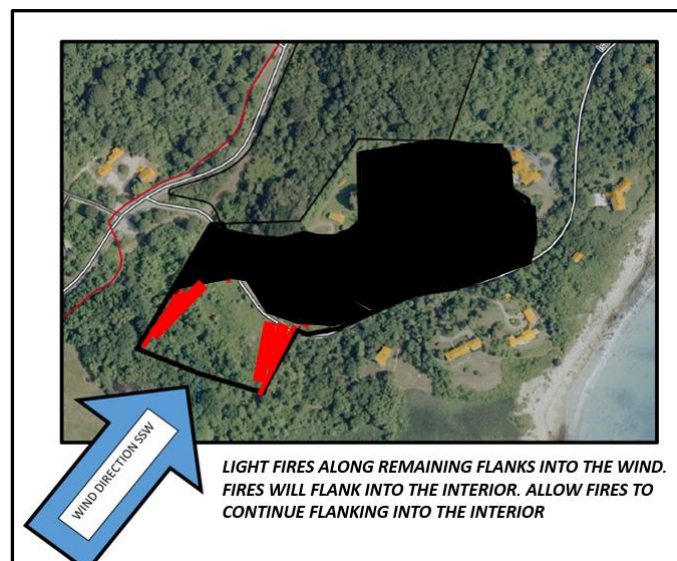
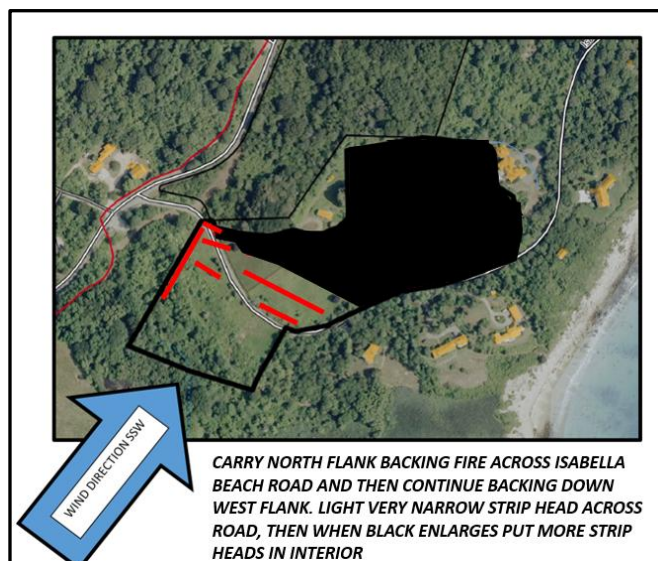
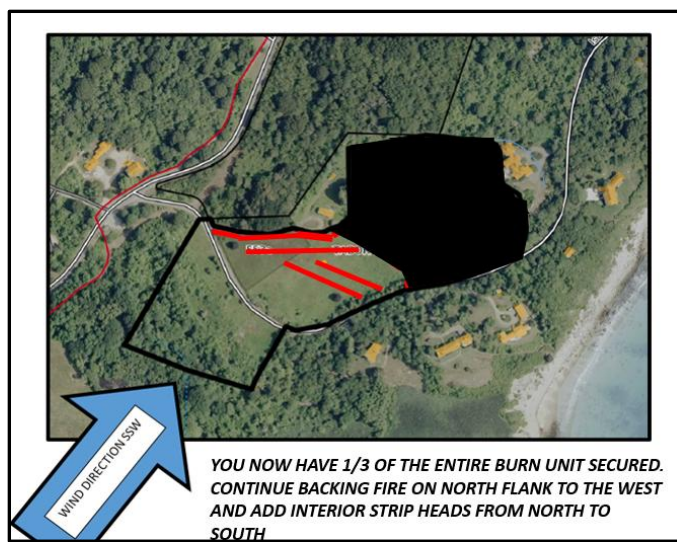
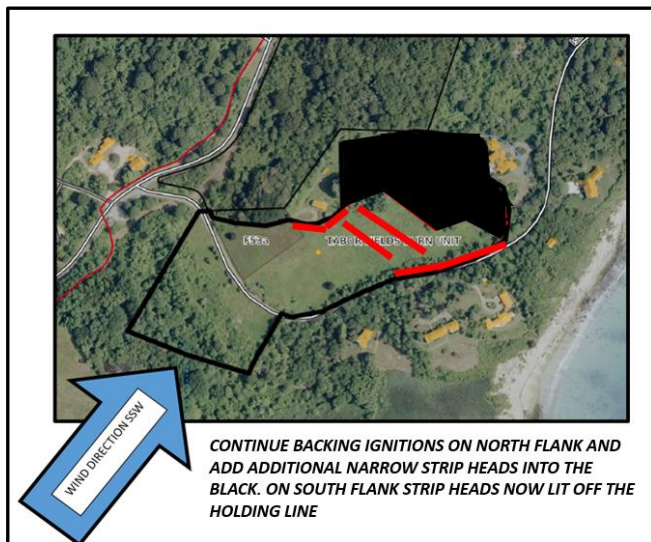
Once the burned out black anchor point zone is established through using backing fire we can then use narrow strip head fires to continue the burn. These head strips initially should only be 1-2’ wide. They will burn quickly as they “run” with the wind. As more strip heads are applied the downwind burned out black area becomes wider and we can make subsequent strips wider. With 30 feet of black established against the anchor point and carried up the flanks along the mowed breaks or other fuel breaks these head strips can become much wider.

Strip head firing allows for quick consumption of the fuels, produces pulses of smoke rather than a smoke column. Smoke drifting downwind toward undesirable targets such as roads and houses can be minimized and mitigated by using narrow strip head ignitions. If winds

are shift. The use of narrow strip heads also allows for quick extinguishment in case of undesirable wind shifts.

Ideally if trying to kill invasive plants in a fuel beds; as we are in these burns; the ideal ignition patterns will maximize the “residence time” of fire as it burns across the unit. In this case it is important to emphasize that maximizing use of backing fires or flanking fire patterns (by lighting directly into the wind) are more preferable for interior ignitions than head or strip head fires. Even while stating this, the example of ignition patterns depicted below primarily uses strip head fires as the primary interior ignition method as it is most frequently used.





Containment / Contingencies:

Firing will progress along the flanks, keeping the burnout along the flanks slightly ahead of the burning in the interior, until reaching the far end of the days burning in the burn unit.

If winds shift, the engines will use pump and roll to extinguish the single active strip head usually attacking from inside the burned out black to reduce risks to firefighters. Pump and roll is where the engine is driving with the fire pump running and firefighters are walking alongside the engine using the booster hose reel to extinguish the base of the fire. Attacking from inside the black keeps both the fire engine and firefighters in the safety zone where the fuels have already burned out. Since all the vegetation has been burned off, the driver can also see holes, muddy spots or other hazards, however visibility may be compromised by smoke.

The estate homes adjacent to these burn units are all landscaped with mowed grass lawns that protect these structures from wildfire.

Mop Up and Patrol:

In grasslands the fuels burn off rapidly and little mop up is needed. Primarily in grasslands the mop up is done for sticks or jackpots of invading hardwoods that have not yet burned out when the crews are ready to leave the fire scene. The entire site will be checked by crew for smoke or hot spots before leaving and all hot spots will be thoroughly moped up with hand tools and water. In the forested areas mop up may be required for many hours to eliminate all jackpots of fuels with latent heat and to ensure the perimeter of burning duff or organic surface fuels is extinguished or contained by hand line.

The fire crew and necessary engines will remain on site until all threats for the fire to escape the fire perimeter have been eliminated. Ideally 100% mop up can be achieved. The Burn Manager or designee will patrol the fire the next day to determine if the fire can be declared out, and will continue to patrol the burn daily until it has been so declared.

Safety plan:

The crew will be made up of fire suppression trained Fishers Island Fire Department members or other personnel who have had wildland fire suppression training. The crew will wear personal fire department issue turnout gear or other approved wildland fire personal protective equipment.

The Burn Manager or designee will monitor the weather on site during all phases of ignition to ensure the fire is in prescription. If the weather changes and goes out of prescription the burn manager may need to shut down all ignitions and extinguish the burn until conditions return to prescribed values.

The described firing techniques, ignition pattern and containment tactics enable firefighters to continually have a moving safety zone by always being in close proximity to “the black” where fire has already been and burned out.

In the event of serious injury, Fishers Island Ambulance will be contacted via radio. Crew will have golf cart or tractor for rapid transportation.

8-Suppression:

“A description of fire suppression activities to be immediately implemented should the prescribed burn threaten to escape, or actually escape, beyond the boundaries identified for such burn.” (Part 194.5)

In the event of a threatened or actual escaped fire the Burn Manager will size up the threats and call for additional Fishers Island Fire Department engines and resources as deemed necessary. Wooded areas abut most of the burn units and fires that escape into those woodlands will most likely burn as leaf litter and organic duff fires. For the most part, these woodlands are broken up by landscaped, maintained lawns and/or a golf driving range area which will not carry fire unless under extremely dry conditions. There are, however, some areas where continuous forest fuels abut the burn units, and those areas have mowed lines, potentially with hose lays installed to assure suppression of spot fires across the holding lines.

9-Notification:

“A description of the procedures for notifying appropriate department forest protection and fire management staff, local fire officials, law enforcement personnel and adjoining landowners of the actual date, time and estimated duration of any prescribed burn.” (Part 194.5)

10-Communications:

“A list of key communication contacts and telephone numbers.” (Part 194.5)

These elements are combined in this plan.

On site communications of fire ground resources will be accomplished by using Fishers Island FD mobile and portable radios.

Notification will be made on the morning of ignition by the Burn Manager (or designate) to the Southold Town Dispatch which dispatches both police and fire/rescue. 631-767-7600. This dispatch center is also available by mobile radio. Notification will also be made to the Groton Long Point Fire Department (860-536-7607).

Additional Contacts:

- Emergency assistance and notifications Fire: Fishers Island Fire Dept. 631-788-7375
- Law enforcement: Local constables thru Southold Dispatch 631-767-7600
- Medical: Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, New London, CT via FIFD ambulance boat 631-788-7375

While 911 is always an emergency contact option, the geographic location of Fishers Island can lead to 911 calls linking to Connecticut emergency operations centers (EOC). For that reason the best number to use is the Southold Dispatch #631-767-7600 which ensures the call reaches the appropriate EOC.

Public information:

The Fishers Island Fire Department can request that a Mass Notification Request (form in Appendix D) be issued the morning of a burn to Fishers Island residents from Suffolk County Fire Rescue (FRES) Duty Officer/Dispatcher. The Mass Notification Request is a reverse 911 call that broadcasts a message to telephones within the specified geographic area listed in the request form. There is no charge for this service, and FRES does these notifications for every prescribed burn conducted by NYS-DEC or other agencies within Suffolk County.

11-Smoke management:

“Identify potential smoke affected areas and smoke management strategies to avoid such areas, and to reduce and/or disperse emissions to minimize any adverse effect on the environment, including human health and welfare. Also note procedures for compliance with applicable State and local regulations.” (Part 194.5)

Potential smoke sensitive areas include the houses located in proximity of the burn units (see burn day maps, Appendix A); Fox Avenue, Middle Farms Pond Road and East Main Road. For the most part following the burn unit recommended winds table (in the Prescription section of this plan) the wind directions will preclude smoke from entering sensitive areas. The narrow strip head burning technique also ensures that smoke generated will be pulses, not a mass column. The minimal mixing height in the prescription (minimum mixing height 1500 feet above surface level) ensures the smoke will lift and disperse rapidly.

In case of wind shift by using the narrow strip head technique the burning strip can be quickly suppressed. In addition these are very short burn events generally to be accomplished in less than 1 hour so smoke effect would be minimal.

12-Required signatures and approvals:

"The names and signature lines of the preparers of the prescribed fire plan, and for those who have the authority to review and approve the plan and modifications of the plan." (Part 194.5)

Prepared By: Robert A Panko (Signature) Date 06/24/2026

Robert A. Panko

NWCG Prescribed Burn Boss Type 2, Risky Business Incident Management LLC

Reviewed By: Chris Aiello (Signature) Date: 07/20/26

Chris Aiello

Chief, Fishers Island Fire Department

Approved By: Jack Schneider (Signature) Date: 7/20/26

Jack Schneider

Land Trust Manager, Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Approved By: John Wernet (Signature) Date: 07/21/2026

John Wernet

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Region One Forester

References:

Weigand, Polly, “Coastal Maritime and Cool Season Grassland Management Recommendations for Henry L. Ferguson Museum and HLFM Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary & Grassland”; May 2012; United States Department of Agriculture Suffolk County Natural Resources Conservation Service and Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

Joe H. Scott and Robert E. Burgan, “Standard Fire Behavior Fuel Models: A Comprehensive Set for Use with Rothermel’s Surface Fire Spread Model”, US Forest Service General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-153. June 2005

Appendices:

Appendix A – Burn Day Burn Unit Maps

Appendix B – Fire Behavior Modeling

Appendix C – Fine Fuel Calculation Tables

Appendix D – Suffolk County FRES Mass Notification Request Form

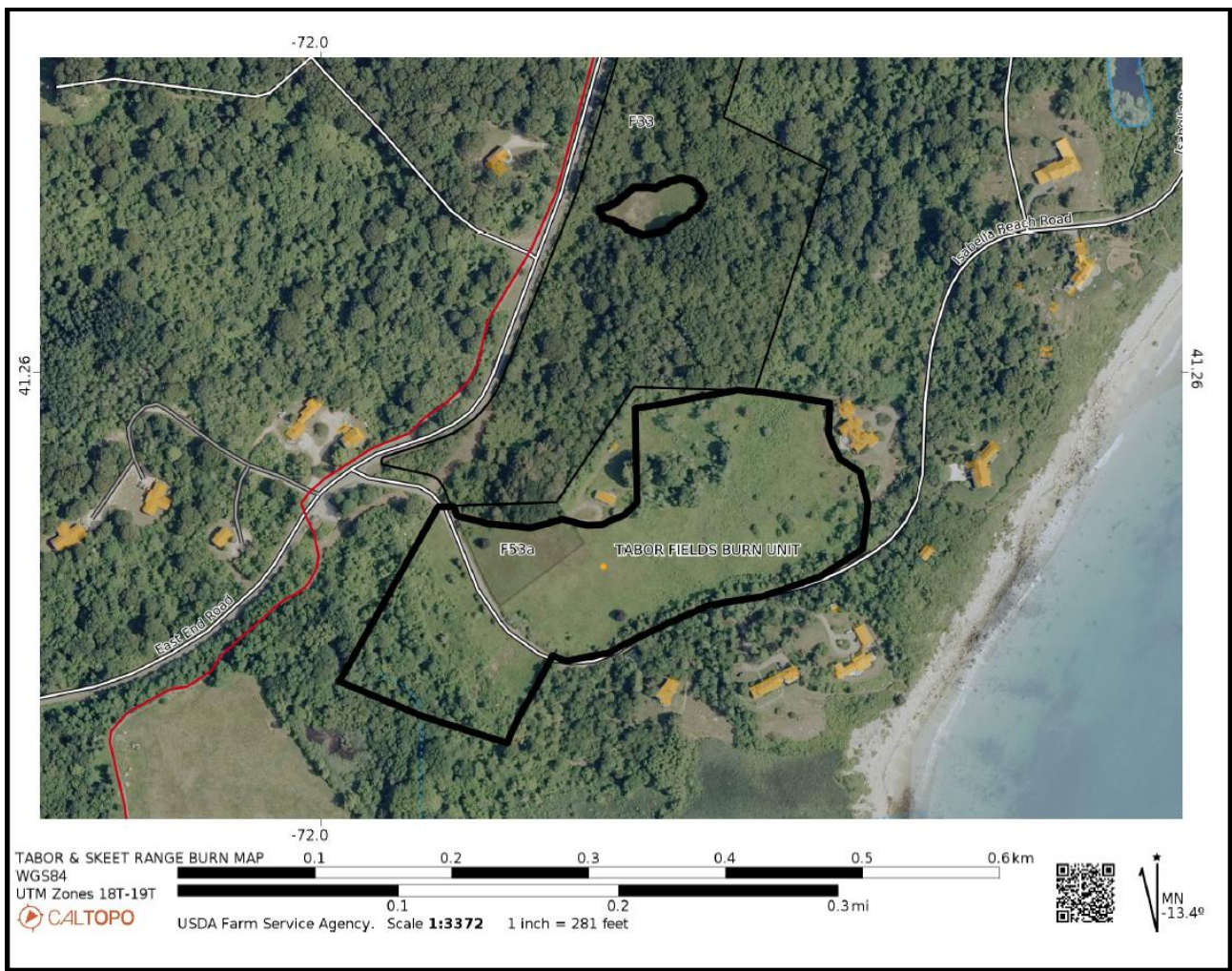
APPENDIX A: Burn Day Maps for Each Burn Unit

Each map in this appendix is a georeferenced PDF file that can be used in navigational apps such as Avenza and/or used in other navigation software. They can be downloaded from:

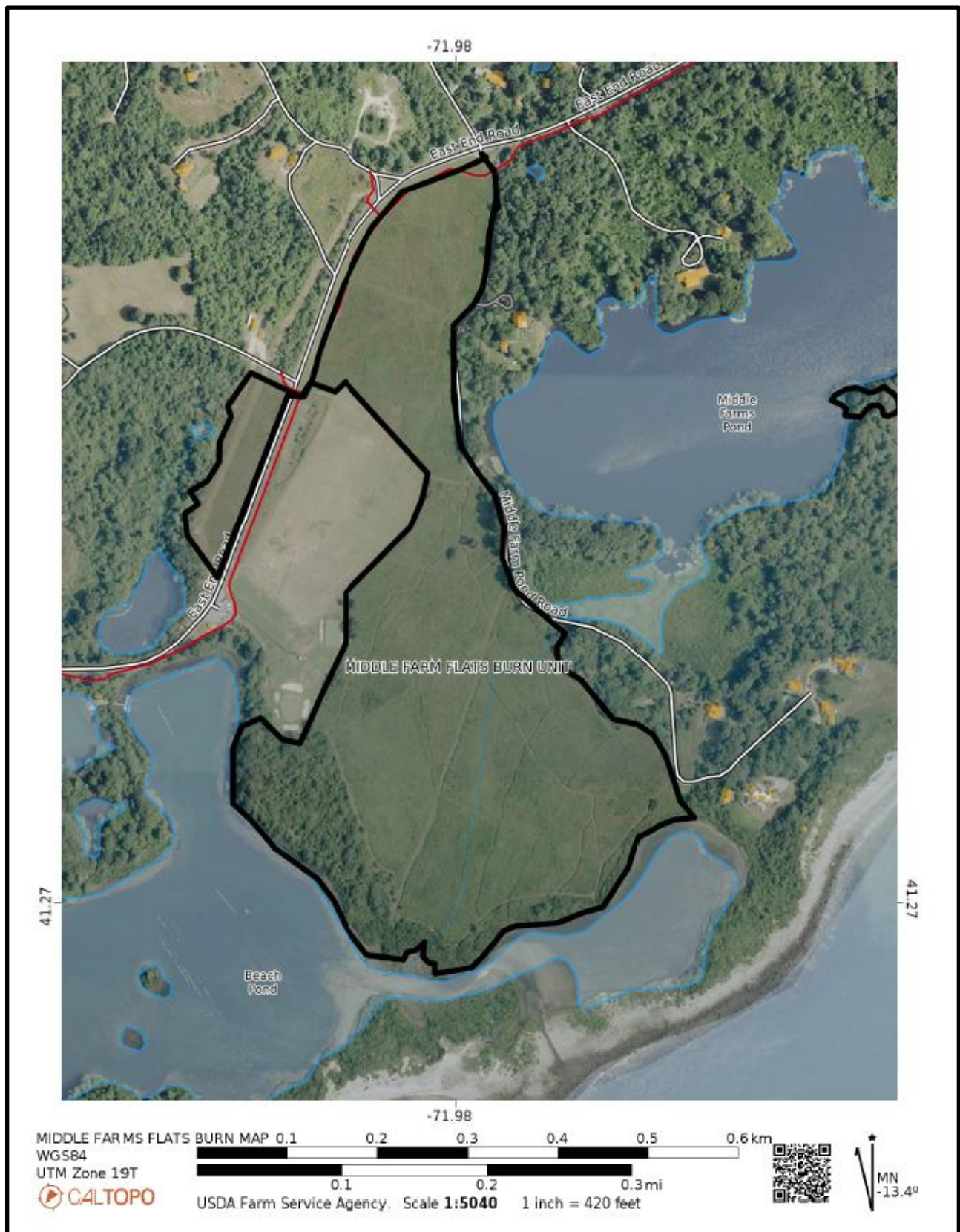
<https://riskybusinessincidentmanagement.com/ftp/RX%20FIRE%20MAPS/>



BEN GRAY BURN DAY MAP



TABOR FIELDS AND SKEET RANGE BURN DAY MAP



MIDDLE FARMS FLATS BURN DAY MAP



TREASURE POND PP BURN MAP

WGS84

UTM Zone 19T



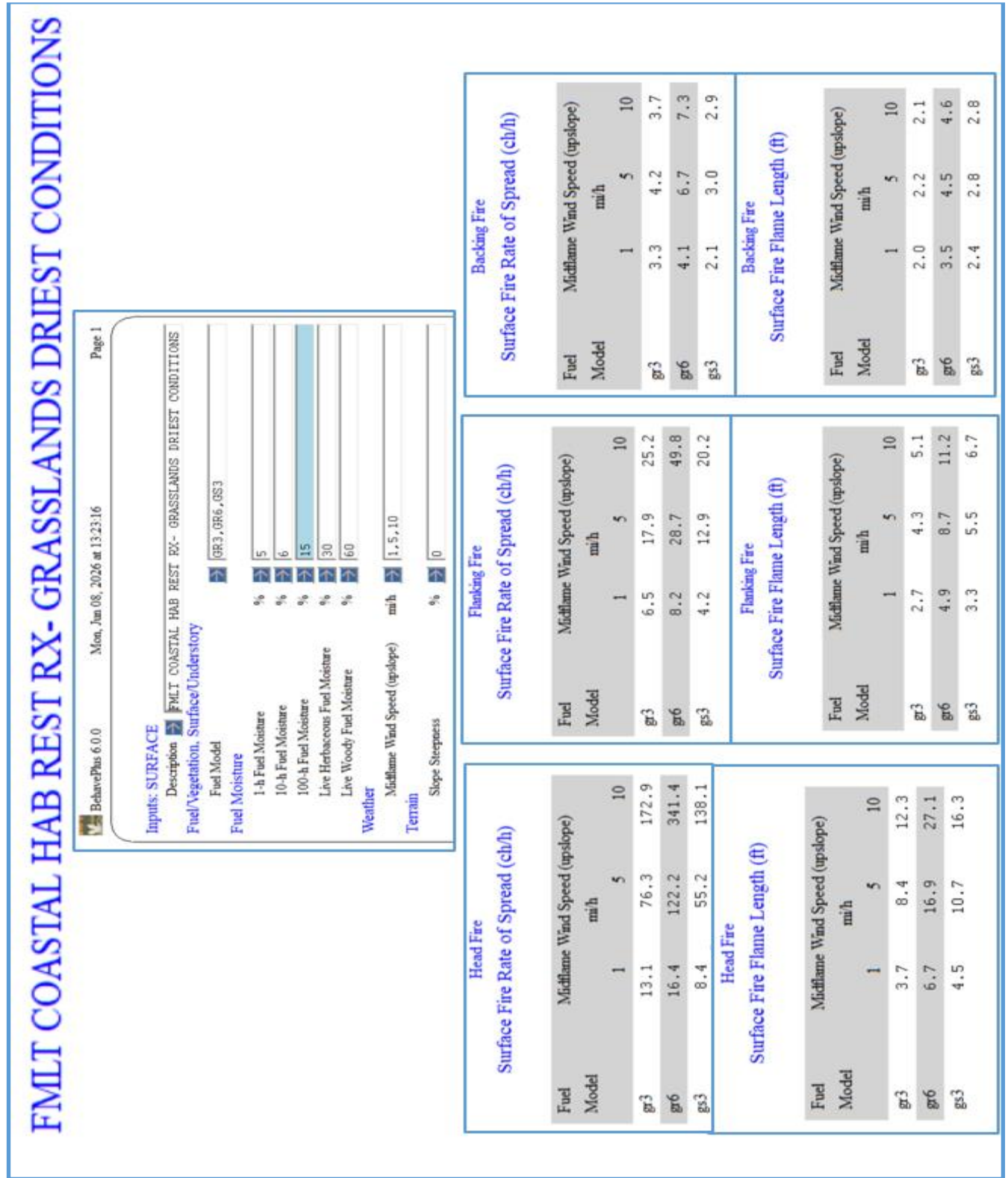
USDA Farm Service Agency. Scale 1:2591 1 inch = 216 feet



CB FERGUSON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BURN DAY MAP

APPENDIX B: Fire Behavior Modeling Results

Modeling Runs Using Behave 6.0.0



FMLT COASTAL HAB REST RX-GRASSLANDS WETTEST CONDITIONS



BehavePlus 6.0.0

Mon, Jun 08, 2026 at 13:50:11

Page 1

Inputs: SURFACE

Description FMLT COASTAL HAB REST RX-GRASSLANDS WETTEST CONDITIONS

Fuel/Vegetation, Surface/Understory

Fuel Model GR3 ,GR6 ,GS3

Fuel Moisture

1-h Fuel Moisture	%	13
10-h Fuel Moisture	%	20
100-h Fuel Moisture	%	20
Live Herbaceous Fuel Moisture	%	60
Live Woody Fuel Moisture	%	60

Weather

Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h 1, 5, 10

Terrain

Slope Steepness % 0

Head Fire

Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)

Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	1	5	10
gr3	6.4	37.2	84.4	
gr6	7.5	55.8	155.9	
gs3	5.2	34.1	85.2	

Head Fire

Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)

Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	1	5	10
gr3	2.5	5.7	8.3	
gr6	4.3	10.9	17.5	
gs3	3.2	7.6	11.5	

Flanking Fire

Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)

Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	1	5	10
gr3	3.2	8.7	12.3	
gr6	3.7	13.1	22.7	
gs3	2.6	8.0	12.4	

Flanking Fire

Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)

Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	1	5	10
gr3	1.8	2.9	3.4	
gr6	3.1	5.6	7.2	
gs3	2.3	3.9	4.8	

Backing Fire

Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)

Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	1	5	10
gr3	1.6	2.0	1.8	
gr6	1.9	3.1	3.3	
gs3	1.3	1.9	1.8	

Backing Fire

Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)

Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	1	5	10
gr3	1.3	1.5	1.4	
gr6	2.3	2.9	3.0	
gs3	1.7	2.0	2.0	

FMLT COASTAL HAB REST RX-WOODLAND DRIEST CONDITIONS

BehavePlus 6.0.0

Mon, Jun 08, 2026 at 14:23:25

Page 1

Inputs: SURFACE

Description

FMLT COASTAL HAB REST RX-WOODLAND DRIEST CONDITIONS

Fuel/Vegetation, Surface/Understory

TL2,TU2,SH3,SH4

Fuel Model

TL2,TU2,SH3,SH4

Fuel Moisture

1-h Fuel Moisture

5

10-h Fuel Moisture

6

100-h Fuel Moisture

15

Live Herbaceous Fuel Moisture

30

Live Woody Fuel Moisture

60

Weather

Midflame Wind Speed (upslope)

mi/h

1, 5, 10

Terrain

Slope Steepness

%

0

Head Fire			Flanking Fire			Backing Fire			
Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)			Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)			Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)			
Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		
tl2	1	5	10	0.3	1.5	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
tu2	2.3	14.7	37.9	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8
sh3	1.0	5.6	12.9	1.2	3.4	5.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
sh4	6.6	45.1	115.2	0.5	1.3	1.9	1.6	2.5	2.5
Head Fire			Flanking Fire			Backing Fire			
Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)			Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)			Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)			
Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		
tl2	1	5	10	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
tu2	0.4	0.9	1.1	1.2	2.0	2.5	0.9	1.0	1.0
sh3	1.7	4.0	6.1	0.9	1.4	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
sh4	1.3	2.8	4.1	2.7	4.6	5.7	2.0	2.4	2.4
sh4	3.7	9.0	13.9						

FMLT COASTAL HAB REST RX-WOODLAND WETTEST CONDITIONS

BehavePlus 6.0.0
 Mon, Jun 08, 2026 at 14:10:05
 Page 1

Inputs: SURFACE
 Description FMLT COASTAL HAB REST RX-WOODLAND WETTEST CONDITIONS
 Fuel/Vegetation, Surface/Understory
 Fuel Model TL2, TU2, SH3, SH4
Fuel Moisture
 1-h Fuel Moisture 13
 10-h Fuel Moisture 20
 100-h Fuel Moisture 22
 Live Herbaceous Fuel Moisture 120
 Live Woody Fuel Moisture 120
Weather
 Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) 1.5, 10
Terrain
 Slope Steepness 0

Head Fire			Flanking Fire			Backing Fire		
Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)			Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)			Surface Fire Rate of Spread (ch/h)		
Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	
dt2	1	5 10	dt2	1	5 10	dt2	1	5 10
tu2	0.2	1.0 1.2	tu2	0.1	0.2 0.3	tu2	0.1	0.1 0.1
sh3	1.3	8.3 21.4	sh3	0.7	1.9 3.1	sh3	0.3	0.5 0.5
sh4	0.5	2.5 5.7	sh4	0.2	0.6 0.8	sh4	0.1	0.1 0.1
	0.9	6.5 13.8	sh4	0.5	1.5 2.2	sh4	0.2	0.4 0.4
Head Fire			Flanking Fire			Backing Fire		
Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)			Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)			Surface Fire Flame Length (ft)		
Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h		Fuel Model	Midflame Wind Speed (upslope) mi/h	
dt2	1	5 10	dt2	1	5 10	dt2	1	5 10
tu2	0.3	0.6 0.7	tu2	0.2	0.3 0.4	tu2	0.2	0.2 0.2
sh3	1.2	2.8 4.3	sh3	0.9	1.4 1.8	sh3	0.6	0.7 0.7
sh4	0.8	1.7 2.5	sh4	0.6	0.9 1.0	sh4	0.4	0.4 0.4
	0.8	1.9 2.7	sh4	0.6	1.0 1.2	sh4	0.4	0.5 0.5

APPENDIX C: CALCULATING FINE FUEL MOISTURE



Fine Dead Fuel Moisture and Probability of Ignition Tables

- Using Table A, determine Reference Fuel Moisture (RFM) % from intersection of temperature and relative humidity. Record this RFM percentage.
- Select Table B, C, or D to adjust RFM for local conditions by finding current month in table title.
 - Are the fine fuels more than 50% shaded by canopies and clouds? If yes, use bottom (shaded) portion of table. If no, use top (exposed) portion of table.
 - Determine the appropriate row based on aspect and slope. Determine the appropriate column based on time of day and elevation of area of concern when compared to the wx site elevation.
 - Obtain the Dead Fuel Moisture Content Correction (%) from the intersection of row and column.
- Add the resulting Dead Fuel Moisture Content Correction (%) to the Reference Fuel Moisture (%) to obtain FDFM percent.
- Using table E, determine Probability of Ignition (PIG) % from intersection of FDFM and your correct Shaded/Unshaded temperature reading.

Probability of Ignition Tables from National Wildfire Coordinating Group, "Incident Response Pocket Guide," January 2014

Table A

Table A																							
REFERENCE FUEL MOISTURE																							
Day Time 0800 - 1959																							
Relative Humidity (Percent)																							
Dry Bulb Temperature (F)	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	36-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-99	100		
10 - 29	1	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	8	8	9	9	10	11	12	12	13	13	14		
30 - 49	1	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	8	9	9	10	10	11	12	13	13	13		
50 - 69	1	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	11	12	12	12	13		
70 - 89	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	13		
90 - 109	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	8	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	13		
109+	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	8	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	12		
Go to Tables B, C, or D for Corrections																							

Go to Tables B, C, or D for Corrections

Table B

Table B
DEAD FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT CORRECTIONS
MAY JUNE JULY

Exposed - Less than 50% Shading of Surface Fuels												
	% Slope	0800 >	1000 >	1200 >	1400 >	1600 >	1800 >					
N	0 - 30%	B	L	A	B	L	A	B	L	A	B	L
	31% +	3	4	4	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2
E	0 - 30%	2	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
	31% +	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
S	0 - 30%	2	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
	31% +	2	3	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	2
W	0 - 30%	2	3	4	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2
	31% +	4	5	6	2	3	4	1	1	2	0	1
Shaded - Greater than or Equal to 50% Shading of Surface Fuels												
N	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4
	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4
E	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4
	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4
S	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4
	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4
W	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4
	0% +	4	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4

B = Area of concern 1000'-2000' below wx site location
L = Area of concern within +/- 1000' of wx site location
A = Area of concern 1000'-2000' above wx site location

Table D

Table D
DEAD FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT CORRECTIONS
November December January

Exposed - Less than 50% Shading of Surface Fuels												
	% Slope	0800 >	1000 >	1200 >	1400 >	1600 >	1800 >					
N	0 - 30%	4	5	6	3	4	5	2	3	4	3	4
	31% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
E	0 - 30%	4	5	6	3	4	5	2	3	4	3	4
	31% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
S	0 - 30%	4	5	6	3	4	5	2	3	4	3	4
	31% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
W	0 - 30%	4	5	6	3	4	5	2	3	4	3	4
	31% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
Shaded - Greater than or Equal to 50% Shading of Surface Fuels												
N	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
E	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
S	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
W	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5

B = Area of concern 1000'-2000' below wx site location
L = Area of concern within +/- 1000' of wx site location
A = Area of concern 1000'-2000' above wx site location

Table C

Table C
DEAD FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT CORRECTIONS
FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL/AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

Exposed - Less than 50% Shading of Surface Fuels												
	% Slope	0800 >	1000 >	1200 >	1400 >	1600 >	1800 >					
N	0 - 30%	3	4	5	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2
	31% +	3	4	5	3	3	4	2	3	4	3	3
E	0 - 30%	3	4	5	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2
	31% +	3	4	5	3	3	4	2	3	4	3	3
S	0 - 30%	3	4	5	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2
	31% +	3	4	5	3	3	4	2	3	4	3	3
W	0 - 30%	3	4	5	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2
	31% +	3	4	5	3	3	4	2	3	4	3	3
Shaded - Greater than or Equal to 50% Shading of Surface Fuels												
N	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
E	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
S	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
W	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
	0% +	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5

B = Area of concern 1000'-2000' below wx site location
L = Area of concern within +/- 1000' of wx site location
A = Area of concern 1000'-2000' above wx site location

Table E

Shading (Percent)		Dry Bulb Temp (F)		Probability of Ignition Table FINE DEAD FUEL MOISTURE PERCENT														
				2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				110+	100	100	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	20	20	20	20	10
Unshaded <50%				100-109	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	20	20	20	20	10
				90-99	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10
				80-89	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	10
				70-79	100	80	70	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	10
				60-69	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10
				50-59	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10
				40-49	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10
				30-39	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	20	10
Shaded >50%					2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				110+	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	10
				100-109	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	10
				90-99	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	10
				80-89	100	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10
				70-79	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10
				60-69	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10
				50-59	90	80	70	60	50	40	40	30	30	20	20	20	20	10

328922_1_16.07.21



Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services

Watch Ops

Requestor's Name _____ Contact # _____

Requestor's Agency : ☐ Suffolk County Police ☐ Other _____

Alert Details: (What is the message?)

Alert Methods: ☐ Text ☐ Email Voice ☐ RSS ☐ Twitter ☐ Facebook ☐ Smart911

Intended Delivery Target Area(s): (Choose One)

☐ Zip Code (s): _____

☐ Towns/Village(s): _____

☐ Distance: _____ miles from address: _____

Time to launch:

☐ To be launched immediately ☐ Scheduled launch time: _____

Contact info for recipients if response is requested:

Name or Agency _____

Contact Number, Email, Other _____

Authorization Section (Please Print):

Authorized by: _____ Title: _____



Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services

Watch Ops

Requestor's Name (insert FIFD chief or Burn Boss here) Contact # (phone)

Requestor's Agency : ☐ Suffolk County Police ☒ Other Fishers Island Fire Department

Alert Details: (What is the message?)

The Fishers Island Fire Department and Ferguson Museum Land Trust will be conducting a prescribed burn today at the Middle Farms Flats Grassland

just east of the Golf Driving Range and East End Road. Burning should start around 11am and should be completed by 1 pm

Please slow down if you encounter any smoke on the roads. If you have questions please contact Jack Schneider at the Ferguson Museum 203-807-0117

Alert Methods: ☒ Text ☒ Email Voice ☐ RSS ☐ Twitter ☐ Facebook ☐ Smart911

Intended Delivery Target Area(s): (Choose One)

☐ Zip Code (s):
☒ Towns/Village(s): all of Fishers Island, NY
☐ Distance: 2 miles from address:

Time to launch:

☐ To be launched immediately ☒ Scheduled launch time: (insert day of burn& 10 am)

Contact info for recipients if response is requested:

Name or Agency Jack Schneider
Contact Number, Email, Other 203-807-0117

Authorization Section (Please Print):

Authorized by: Title: