

ATTACHMENT FF
Connecticut Smoke Management Policy Documentation

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 7, 2008

To: Donald H. Smith, State Forester

From: Gina McCarthy
Commissioner

Re: Authorization to Burn for Vegetative Management, Training or Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat or Ecological Sustainability on State Property

In accordance with Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 22a-174 of the general statutes as amended by PA 00-01, I hereby authorize the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Forestry, to conduct isolated open burning within the State Forests, State Parks, and State Wildlife Management Areas listed below, and subject to the conditions enumerated herein. Please note that for each State Forest, State Park, and State Wildlife Management Area, burning can only occur during the specific time period specified for that forest, park, or area.

Location	Town	Acreage	Time Period
Hopeville Pond State Park	Griswold	17	4/15-5/29 9/4-11/30
Cockaponsett State Forest	Westbrook	16	3/1-4/15
Harkness State Park Verades	Waterford	20	3/10-4/25
Pachaug State Forest	Voluntown	20	4/1-4/21
Nipmuck State Forest	Union	10 (2 sites)	3/10-4/20
Naugatuck State Forest	Naugatuck	25 (3 sites)	3/1-4/15
Higganum Meadows WMA	Haddam	19	3/16-4/15
Cockaponset State Forest	Chester	2	3/1-5/15
Harkness Memorial State Park	Waterford	20	3/10-4/25
Haddam Meadows State Park	Haddam	20	3/1-4/24
Tunxis State Forest	Hartland	20	3/1-5/7
Nehantic State Forest	Lyme	17	4/15-5/15
Barn Island Wildlife Management Area	Stonington	4	3/1-5/15
Goodwin State Forest	Hampton	9	3/1-5/15

This authorization is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Burn operations must not be conducted when:
 - a) national or state ambient air quality standards may be exceeded.
 - b) an advisory from the Commissioner of any air pollution episode is in effect.
 - c) the forest fire danger in the area is identified by the State Forest Fire Warden as extreme and woodland or grassland is within one hundred feet for the proposed burn.
 - d) the forest fire danger is high or very high, unless a permit to conduct the burn has been issued by the State Forest Fire Warden.
2. Burn operations must not be conducted where a hazardous health condition may be created.
3. Burn operations must incorporate all safety precautions described in the burn plan, following all procedures as outlined the Standard Operating Procedures for Forest Fire Control, Section 9.0, Prescribed Burns, Subsection 9.1, State Lands.
4. Burn operations must conform to all parameters established in the burn plan and burning must occur between 10:00AM and 5:00 PM on a sunny to partly sunny day when wind speeds average between 5 and 15 miles per hour.
5. Burn operations must not be conducted on any day with an air quality prediction below "Good" as determined by the DEP Bureau of Air Management Monitoring group (860-424-4167) on the day preceding the proposed burn date.
6. The Division of Forestry supervisor of the burn operation must advise the DEP Bureau of Air Management Air Dispatcher (860-424-3702) on the morning prior to burning or, for weekend burns, on the Friday immediately prior to the burn. A copy of this authorization must be available at the burning sites at all times during the conduct of the burn operation.

This document suffices as a Special Burning Permit as per CGS, Section 23-49a.(b),.

Gina McCarthy , Commissioner: _____

Date: _____

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Bureau of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Memorandum

2/7/08

To: Edward Parker, Bureau Chief, BNR
Cc: Ralph Scarpino
From: Donald H. Smith, Director/State Forester
RE: Request for Authorization to Burn – (background)

Attached please find a memorandum prepared for the Commissioner's signature to authorize the conduct of controlled burning by Division of Forestry personnel of 14 areas of DEP owned lands.

The intent and design of these burns varies depending upon the characteristics of each site to be burned. In general, the burns are intended to encourage the growth and development of desirable vegetative cover and to discourage the growth and development of undesirable tree and shrub growth.

There are 2 burn areas proposed for State Forest lands that are intended to discourage the growth and development of specific tree and shrub species that are competing with more desirable, commercially valuable, tree species or that are impeding the regeneration of more desirable species.

There is 1 burn area proposed where training with helicopters (State Police/ National Guard) is the primary objective.

There are 8 burn areas scheduled with wildlife management being the prime consideration. These burns are intended to aid in the development and maintenance of grassland and low shrub habitats for wildlife, including grassland bird species. Most are WHIP projects.

There is

1 burn area on a Wildlife MA to follow up a Federally funded hazard mitigation project to reduce the risk of wildfire spreading from State owned land.

There is 1 burn area on a State Park continuing the work of reproducing pitch pine on a Natural Area Preserve.

There is 1 burn area on State Forest designed to continue a series of burns to restore a characteristic pre-colonial forest condition.

Questions with regard to these proposed controlled burns may be directed to me or Ralph Scarpino, the Fire Program leader.

Thank you.