

National Park Service



Ocean Beach Fires

September 24, 2015

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AMERICA



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Background

1972

- Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) established
- National Park Service (NPS) inherits custom of fires on Ocean Beach

1983

- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 36 §2.13(a)(1)
- Superintendent designates Ocean Beach for fires

2002

- City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) passes resolution 001-02
- Requests NPS/GGNRA create an effective system that reduces fires' impacts

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Background

2004

2005-06

2007

- NPS limits fires to area between stairwells 15-28
- Continue to see large amounts of trash and debris

- NPS proposes banning fires
- Extensive feedback asks NPS to reconsider

- NPS institutes 1-year Pilot
- Limits fires to pits
- 10pm curfew
- Collaboration with community partners

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Background

2013

- NPS reviews pilot program successes, opportunities, issues and sustainability

2014

- NPS implements a Revised Pilot Program with new rings, 9pm curfew, new signage, public outreach and monitors results
- Unable to address core concerns

2015

- Feb: NPS presents pilot results and proposes concepts for the future including permits, rest period, city partnership, and receives feedback
- Sept: NPS presents more detailed proposal for feedback and implementation

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Purpose & Need

- NPS and CCSF wants to develop a safe, manageable, and sustainable Ocean Beach Fire Program
- 2007 and 2014 Pilot programs were unsuccessful in addressing significant program issues. In summer 2014:
 - Almost 4,000 violations observed
 - Most common types of hazardous materials and debris were present between 50-90% of mornings

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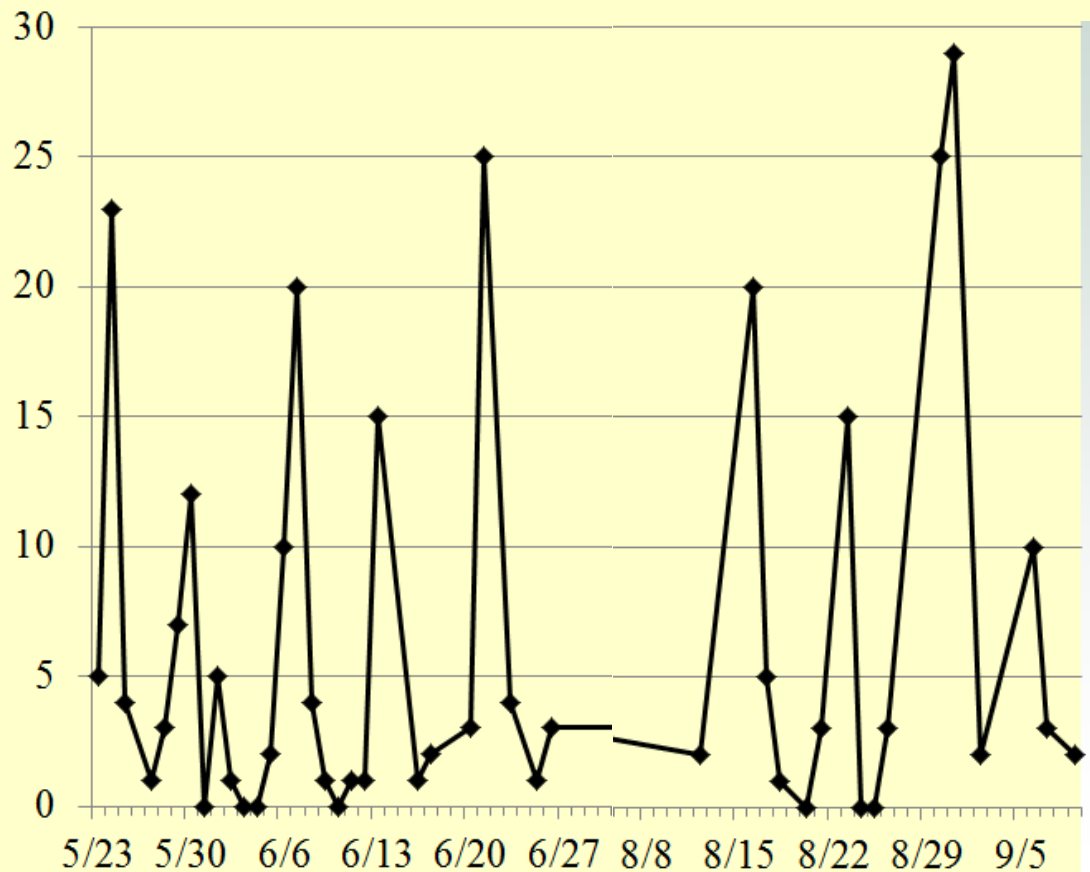


2014 Pilot Program

n = 48

Fires outside of rings

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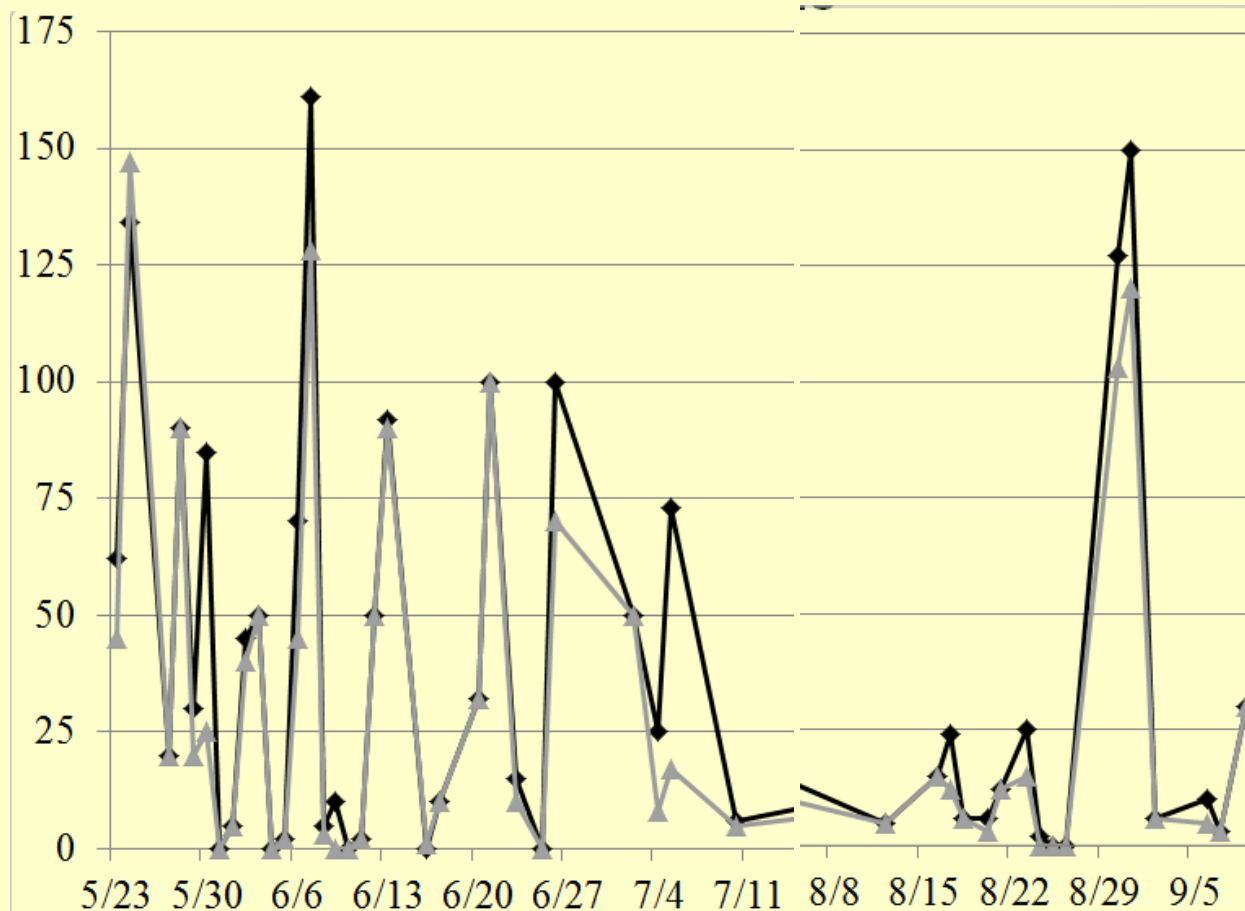


2014 Pilot Program

Alcohol & Glass Violations

n = 48

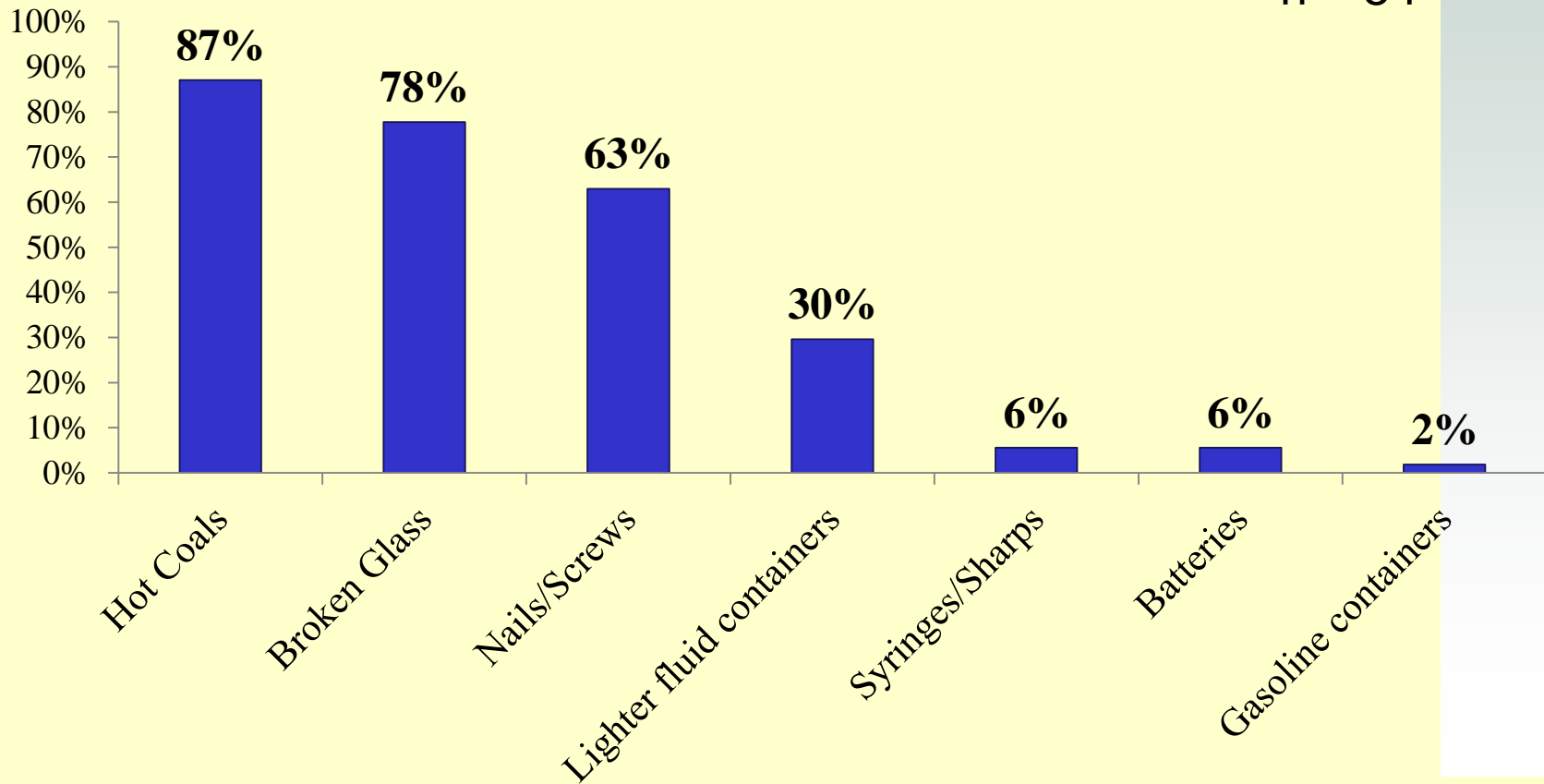
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2014 Pilot Program

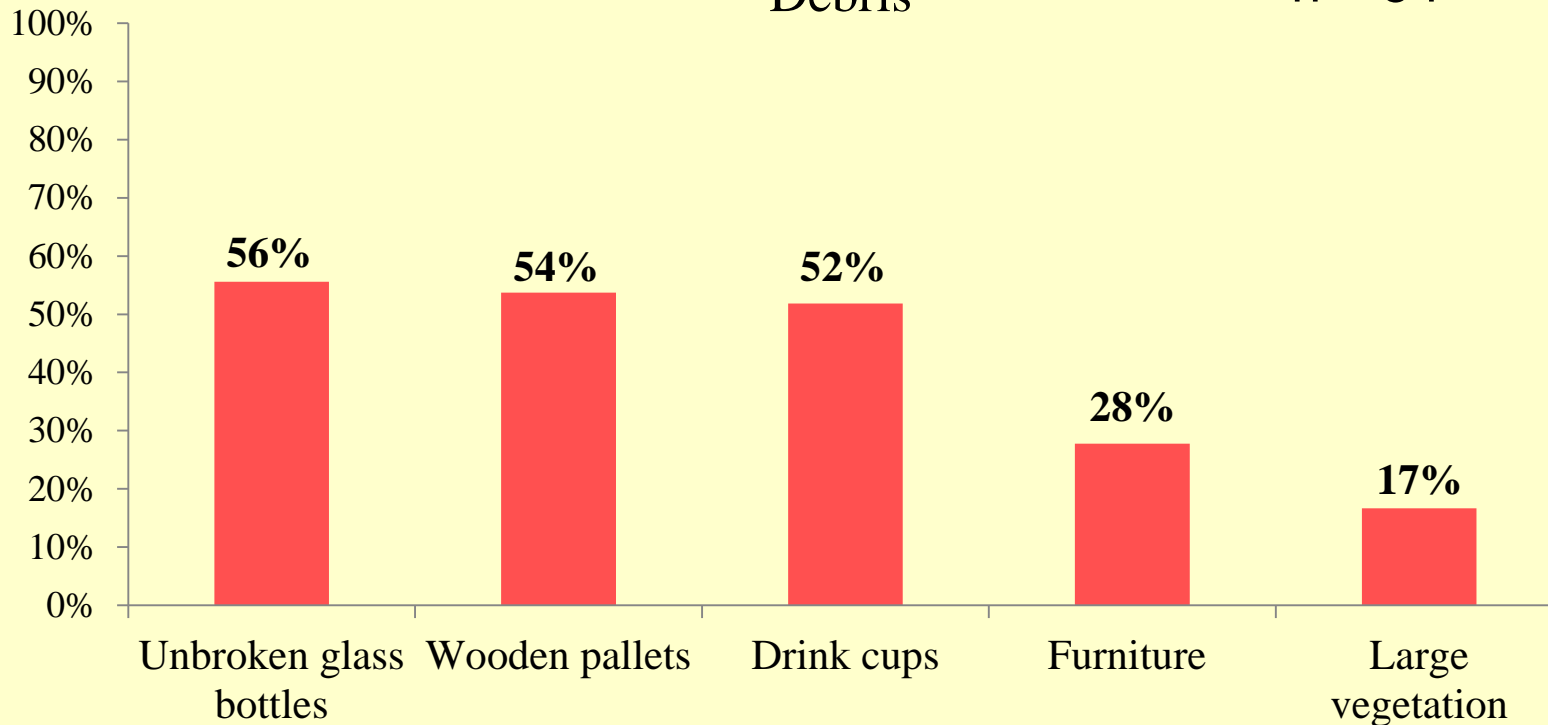
Percentage of Times Items were Present Next Morning
Hazardous Materials n = 54





2014 Pilot Program

Percentage of Times Items were Present Next Morning Debris n = 54





A Sustainable Program

- A reasonable level of maintenance required to keep the pits in good order; allows NPS to complete other important tasks in maintenance of Ocean Beach corridor
- Compliance with rules so that significant enforcement resources are not diverted from other issues of life and safety - officer and public not placed in risky situations
- Users take personal responsibility including planning appropriately for the materials to burn and a “leave better than you found” mentality
- Creating a community that will care for and share the Ocean Beach Fire experience, as well as its associated opportunities and effects

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New Ocean Beach Fire Program Elements

1. Permit system
2. Winter rest period
3. San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department partnership
4. New pits and signage

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1. Permit System

- Required for every fire
- Available through "Recreation.gov"
- Obtained on web, mobile application or over the phone
- 12 fire rings available either 10am-3pm and 4pm-9pm
- Reserved up to 30 days or a few hours in advance
- Up to 25 people per pit/permit
- Permit holder is 18 years or older, agrees to rules, terms and conditions, and must be present
- Canceled permits receive partial refund
- \$25-35 ~ \$1-5 per person





2. Winter Rest Period

- Fires would not be allowed
- November through February
 - Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Winter Spare the Air Season
 - Existing lower demand period
- Improves financial feasibility
 - Enable more success during peak periods by reducing investment in non-peak
- Reduce overall impacts of beach fires
 - Allow for comprehensive cleaning
- Enable evaluation and program adjustment
- Provide employee for health and wellness



3. NPS and CCSF Partnership

- Allocation of \$185,000
- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department in the FY15-16 budget
- Support for
 - Maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning associated with the fires
 - Public outreach & education

Supervisor Eric Mar
District 1



4. Replaced Pits and Signage

- 12 redesigned fire rings
 - Heat & corrosion resistant
 - Integrated signage

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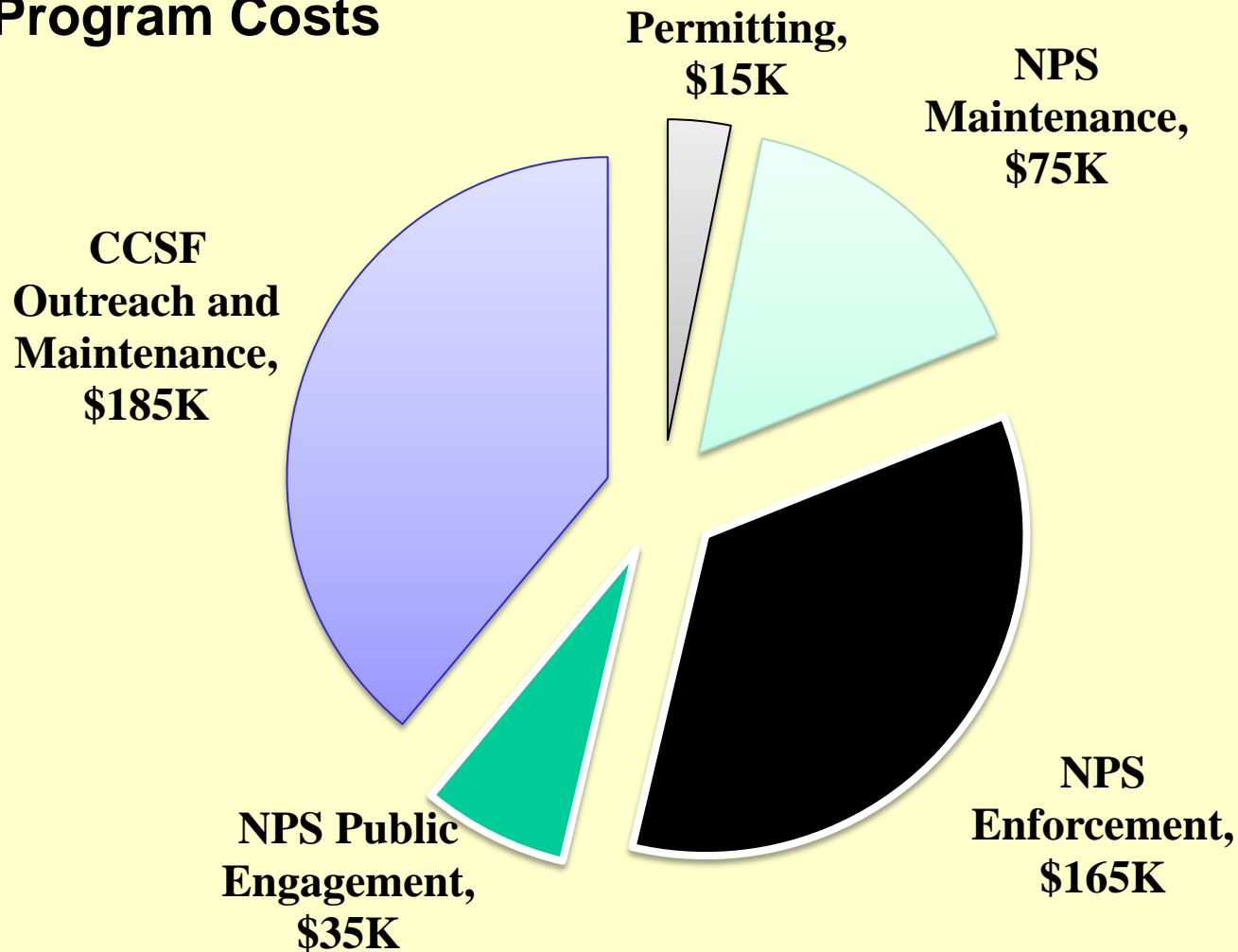


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Program Costs

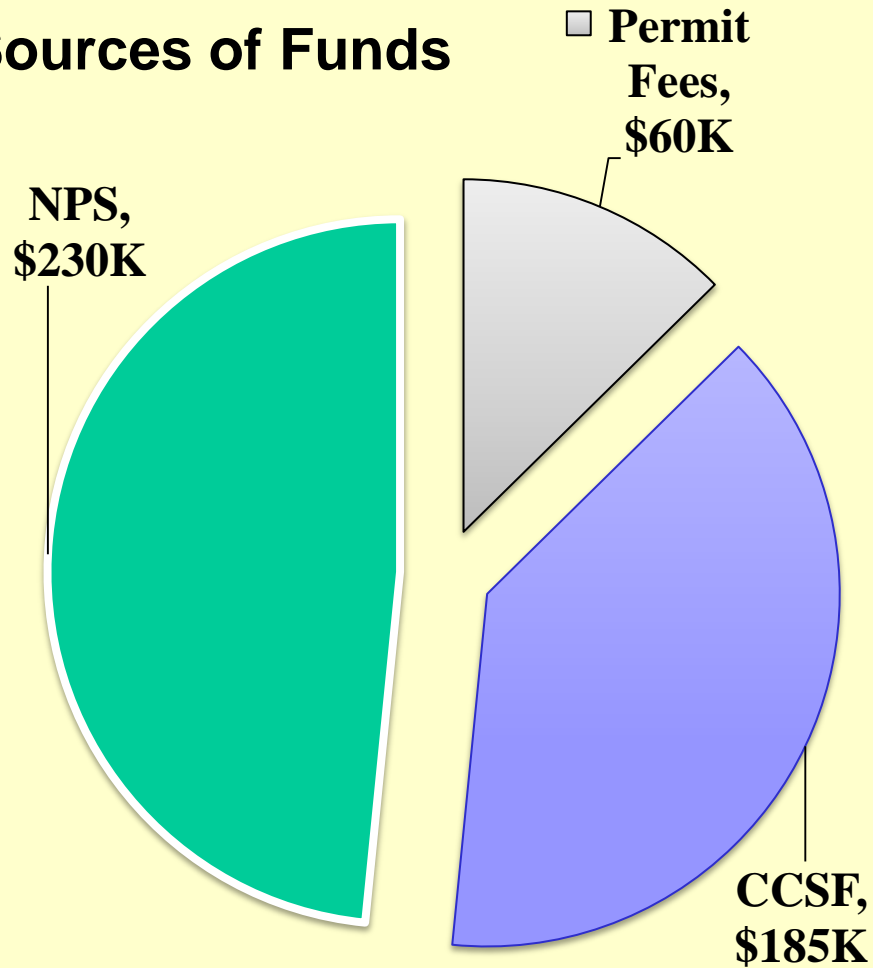


*Rough
Estimates*

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Sources of Funds



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*Rough
Estimates*



Program Evaluation and Improvement

- Data collection & monitoring program similar to the 2014 Revised Pilot Program
 - Law Enforcement (evenings)
 - Maintenance (mornings)
- Rest period provides ideal opportunity for synthesis, review, and analysis
- Annual program review
- Annual public discussion and feedback



Next Steps

- Based on input from this meeting and other stakeholders the NPS will formally propose the fire program changes in early October
- The proposed changes will be open for public review and comment for 30 days:
parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram
- After public review and comment the NPS will take into consideration public comments and make a final decision

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Question & Answer Panel

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Small Group Discussions

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Closing Remarks

Latest information:
parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram