SUMMARY

Forest fire occurrence data for individual protection units generally are unavailable outside particular state organizations. Number of fires, area protected and fire occurrence rate (fires per 1,000,000 acres) from 1966 to 1975, are presented in tables for the 993 counties under protection in 13 southern states. These data are compared with data for the preceding decade (1956-1965). A map shows the geographical distribution of fire occurrence rates as very low, low, moderate, high or very high.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Although all thirteen states in the Southern Region maintain fire occurrence records for individual protection units, the data are not readily available to individuals and organizations outside each state. The Southern Forest Experiment Station's Forest Fire Prevention Research Work Unit at Starkville, Mississippi, collected and summarized fire occurrence data for the 1956-1965 period! Though general, the information was valuable in gaining a regional perspective on fire occurrence and in selecting areas for intensive field studies.

This note updates the information for the previous decade. The same basic data are presented: average annual number of fires, average area protected, and fire occurrence rate (FOR)? These data are shown for each of the thirteen states (table 1). The FOR's for the 1956-1965 period are given for comparison.

To further facilitate comparison between the two periods, the 1966-1975 FOR's were placed in the same five categories that were employed for the 1956-1965 data:

- Very low = 0-132
- Low = 133-206
- Moderate = 207-282
- High = 283-407
- Very high = 408+

Table 2 shows the distribution to the five FOR categories of the protection units in each state. Data for both decades are presented.

Tables 3 through 15 show the number of fires, acres protected, and FOR for individual protection units in each state. Where possible, the 1956-1965 FOR is shown, also. Geographical distribution of FOR is depicted in figure 1.

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2 \[ \text{FOR} = \frac{\text{Number of fires}}{\text{Acres protected}} \times 000,000 \]
Table 1.--Mean annual fire occurrence data by state and for the region, 1966-1975.

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¹/ Only 9 years of data available
²/ Only 6 years of data available

Doolittle is Research Forester, Forest Tree Seed Laboratory, Forest Service-USDA, Southern Forest Experiment Station, maintained at Starkville, Miss., in cooperation with Mississippi State University.
Table 2.--Number and percent of protection units in each occurrence rate category by state, 1956-65 and 1966-75.

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1/ Only 9 years of data available
2/ Only 6 years of data available
Table 3.—Alabama

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Data not available for counties prior to 1967.
Table 5.--Florida

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1/ Data for counties not available for 1969.

2/ Came under protection in 1970.

3/ Came under protection in 1968.
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- Spalding: 509
- Stephens: 288
- Stewart: 100
- Sumter: 460
- Talbot: 173
- Talapiafero: 103
- Tattnall: 233
- Taylor: 186
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- Thomas: 302
- Tift: 398
- Toombs: 555
- Towns: NA
- Treutlen: 376
Table 6.--Georgia (cont'd.)

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1/ Data unavailable for 1966-68 because of county combinations.

2/ Data unavailable for 1968 because of combinations.

3/ Came under protection in 1967.

4/ Data unavailable for 1967 because of combinations.

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Table 7.—Kentucky (cont’d.)

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\[/\] Came under protection in 1968.
## Table 10. -- North Carolina

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Table 11: Oklahoma County 6-Year Averages, 1970-1975¹

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¹ Data for counties not available prior to 1970.
Table 12.--South Carolina

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1/ All entries are for the period July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1975.
Table 13.--Tennessee

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Table 13.--Tennessee (cont'd.)

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1/ Came under protection in 1968.

2/ Came under protection in 1969.

3/ Came under protection in 1967.

4/ Came under protection in 1970.
Table 14.--Texas

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1/ Came under protection in 1970.

2/ Came under protection in 1971.
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Table 15.--Virginia County 10-Year Averages, 1966-1975
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Table 15.--Virginia (cont'd.)

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