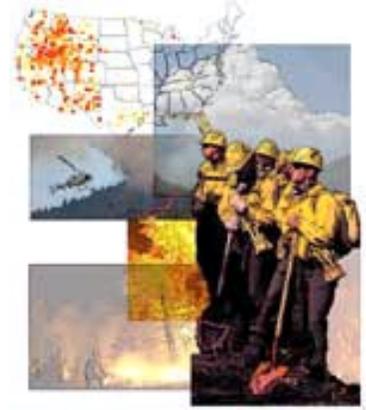




The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Alabama



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities across the landscape to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. In the 13 southern States, the Plan serves to strengthen the firefighting organization, expand hazardous fuel reduction and management activities, and enhance economic development opportunities in rural communities.

In 2000, 6,681 fires burned 89,432 acres and damaged or destroyed 173 homes and structures in Alabama. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to Alabama include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist..	
1,675	0	0	1,239	0	773	124	20	149	3,980

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- In Alabama, 24 permanent positions in the Forest Service fire organization are being filled in FY 2001. These positions will build the most efficient level of organizational readiness on the National Forests.
- Four engines are being added to the fleet, at a cost of \$280,000.
- In addition, through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP), Federal excess property is loaned to state forestry agencies and their cooperators for wildland and rural community fire protection. The total value of FEPP inventory in Alabama is about \$36 million.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- 33,018 acres of fuel reduction treatments have been completed and listed in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- 91,000 acres of planning and NEPA work to prepare for fuel treatments in FY 2002 is also scheduled for FY 2001.

- In addition, the State, through the Forest Service State Fire Assistance program, is constructing 656 miles of firelanes in wildland-urban interface areas in 67 counties, and conducting prescribed fires treatments on 35,450 acres.

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.

- State Fire Assistance program provides \$773,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$465,000 in base funding. The program will support a revised training system, Prescribed Burn Assistance, a Hazard Mitigation Landowner Education program, a FIREWISE conference in Mobile/Baldwin counties, and part-time Wildland-Urban Interface Coordinators across the State.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance program provides \$124,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$82,000 in base funding. The program awards competitive grants to address the needs of Alabama's 988 rural volunteer fire departments for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies.
- Economic Action Program focuses on high fire risk areas mostly in the wildland-urban interface areas, where conventional prescribed burning is not feasible. The program will help support a region-wide assessment of fuel loads and burned areas, to guide planning of longer-range strategies to reduce fuel loads and minimize risks to people and property in Alabama.
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance program will provide support to communities in burned and impacted areas. Grants will support community planning, pilot projects and activities to mitigate the impacts of past fires, reduce the risks of and prepare for future fires, and explore economic opportunities that arise from the National Fire Plan, such as establishment of dry hydrants, Stewardship planning and fuel management, hazard mitigation, and utilization of wood products from removed fuels.

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