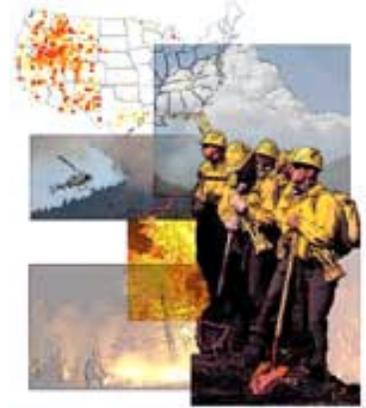




## The National Fire Plan

### FY 2001 Programs in Arkansas



### 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, 2,741 fires burned 35,182 acres and damaged or destroyed 42 homes and structures in Arkansas. Estimated allocations to Arkansas, including preparedness and fuels for the Ouachita NF, are (\$ 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 & Private Land Fire Assist..	
1,247	75	0	1,609	0	696	124	20	133	3,904

### Firefighting Resources

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

- In Arkansas, 6 permanent positions and 6 temporary positions in the Forest Service fire organization are being filled in FY 2001, to build the most efficient level of organizational readiness on the National Forests.
- In addition, two dozer/transport and 2 vehicles are being added to the fleet, at a cost of \$205,000.
- \$75,000 is being invested in the Clarksville Helibase Facility.
- Through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP), excess Federal property is loaned to state forestry agencies and their cooperators for wildland and rural community fire protection. The total value of FEPP inventory in Arkansas is about \$64 million.

### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 54,569 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been completed to date, based on the National Database 7/27/01.

- More than 100,000 acres of planning and NEPA work to prepare for fuel reduction treatments in FY 2002 is scheduled for FY 2001.

## Community Assistance

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

- State Fire Assistance provides \$696,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$419,000 in base funding. The program will support a Wildland-Urban Interface training system, Defensible Space Projects in Jefferson and Crossett Counties, and WUI Education Initiative, a WUI Fire Safety Conference, and a 24-hour dispatch center to improve response and safety.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$124,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$82,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of Arkansas' 1,000 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 99 volunteer fire departments received grants.
- 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 Arkansas.
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance 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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*August 09, 2001*