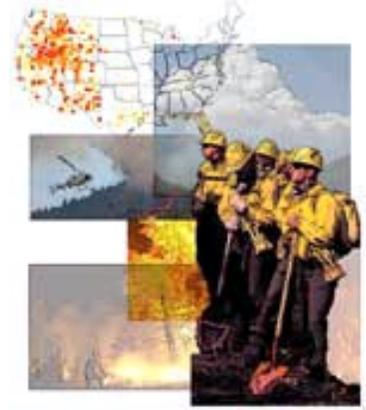




## The National Fire Plan

### FY 2001 Programs in Florida



### 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, 6,723 fires burned 210,855 acres and damaged or destroyed 307 homes and structures in Florida. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to Florida 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..	
3,917	0	0	812	64	932	162	20	226	6,133

### Firefighting Resources

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

- In Florida, 10 permanent positions and 25 temporary positions in the National Forest fire organization will be filled in FY 2001, to build the most efficient level of organizational readiness on the National Forests.
- Two engines, 5 tractor plows, and a vehicle will be added to the fleet, at a cost of \$1,392,000.
- \$3,300,000 will be invested in the Lake City Air Tanker Base.
- 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 in Florida is about \$60 million.

### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 58,410 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been completed as of July 27, 2001 and entered into the National Database.

- An additional 130,000 acres of planning and NEPA work, to prepare for fuel reduction treatments in FY 2002, are also scheduled for FY 2001.

## Community Assistance

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

- State Fire Assistance provides \$932,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$561,000 in base funding. The program will support a Florida Firewise Communities CD ROM; an internet-based smoke screening tool for prescribed burning; a comprehensive fire prevention and mitigation campaign; a wildland-urban interface fuels management training program, and a brochure about smoke on Florida's highways.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$162,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$108,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of Florida's 675 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 126 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 Florida.
- 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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