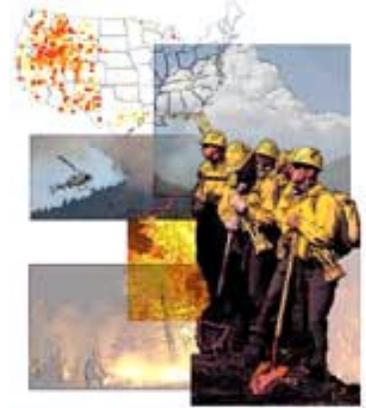




## The National Fire Plan

### FY 2001 Programs in Kentucky



### 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 will serve to strengthen the firefighting organization, expand hazardous fuel reduction and management activities, and enhance economic development opportunities in rural communities.

In 2000, 1,545 fires burned 133,346 acres and damaged or destroyed 20 homes and structures in Kentucky. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to Kentucky 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.. |       |
| 2,106        | 20         | 0                     | 272                      | 2                      | 1,123                 | 134                       | 20                       | 166                                 | 3,843 |

### Firefighting Resources

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

In Kentucky, 7 permanent positions and 11 temporary positions in the National Forest fire organization are being filled in FY 2001. These positions will build the most efficient level of organizational readiness on the National Forest. Investment in the Big Swag Helitack Base on the Daniel Boone NF has begun in FY 2001 (\$20,000) and will continue into FY 2002 (\$75,000). In addition, 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 Kentucky is about \$25 million.

### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 4,331 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatment have been accomplished as of July 27, 2001 and are entered in the National Database.
- An additional 6,500 acres of planning and NEPA work to prepare for FY 2002 fuel reduction treatments is also scheduled for FY 2001.

## Community Assistance

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

- State Fire Assistance provides \$623,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$367,000 in base funding. The program will support a Statewide Assessment of wildland-urban interface areas, a Prescribed Fire Task Force, enhanced fire weather communications, a Homeowner Interface Assessment Guide, Prevention Team training and outreach, an Arson Task Force, and Firewise Training. An additional \$500,000 earmark provides for wildland fire training and equipment.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$134,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$89,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of Kentucky's 816 rural volunteer fire departments for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 389 volunteer fire departments received grants, among 450 that requested assistance.
- 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 Kentucky.
- 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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