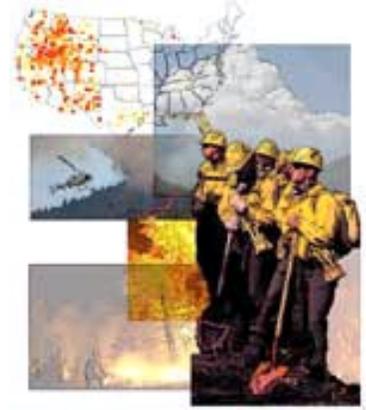




The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Louisiana



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, 5,224 fires burned 96,612 acres and destroyed 89 homes and 755 structures in Louisiana. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to Louisiana 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..	
1,295	35	0	1,418	0	788	167	20	259	4,232

* Includes \$250,000 for Research and Development activities in Louisiana in support of the National Fire Plan.

Firefighting Resources

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

- 11 permanent 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 Forests.
- A tractor plow and two engines are being purchased and added to the fleet, at a cost of \$313,000.
- A \$20,000 capital investment is being made to expand the Forest Service Fire Caches, to meet the growing needs of the fuels and fire programs in Louisiana.
- 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.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 101,942 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been completed to date and documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.

- An additional 125,000 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 \$788,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$474,000 in base funding. The program will support a Statewide Assessment to identify and quantify Wildland Urban Interface fire hazards, 2 Firewise Workshops for agency personnel and cooperating groups; and a statewide program to build Firewise capacity, through development and purchase of materials, preparation of a traveling exhibit, and outfitting of two mobile educational vans.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$167,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$111,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of Louisiana's 516 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 63 volunteer fire departments received grants, among 81 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 Louisiana.
- 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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