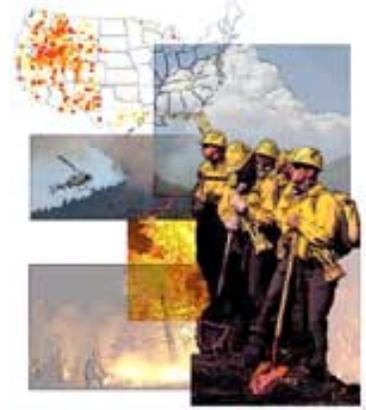




The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Minnesota



Overview

The National Fire Plan will implement program activities in five key areas across the landscape. These key points are designed to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, to reduce their impacts on rural communities, and to enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. National Fire Plan allocations to Minnesota 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 & Private Land Fire Assist..	
4,902	500	0	311	167	786	165	0	0	6,831*

- Includes \$812,000 for Research and Development activities in Minnesota in support of the National Fire Plan.
- Does not reflect funds earmarked for fuel reduction activities associated with storm damage.

Firefighting Resources

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

- Preparedness Organization - Increase resources within the 20-state **Eastern Region** to 125 engines, 17 dozers, 525 preparedness positions and one Interagency Hotshot Crew.
- Workforce Development - Add 274 new hires within the 20-state **Eastern Region** (includes seasonal, temporary, and conversions to permanent).
- Fire Facilities - Invest \$500,000 in Ely Float Plane facility and MIFC warehouse on the Superior National Forest, as part of a \$2 million program in Regional facilities planning support.
- Federal Excess Personal Property - Build on approximate \$34 million inventory value of equipment and material loaned to state fire organizations and their cooperators in Minnesota.
- Monitoring Fuel Loads and Fire Potentials - Invest \$350,000 through the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program to begin collecting detailed fuel loading data annually on 1,800 research plots. The results will provide an empirical field-validated snapshot and annual assessment of fuel conditions that could ultimately be applied throughout all forested lands in the United States. (RWU-4801, St. Paul, MN).
- Assessing Risk of Wildfire - Invest \$462,000 on research to identify places most in need of fuel reduction and fire preparedness, to assist decision makers to focus efforts that reduce the vulnerability of these communities to wildfire. Scientists will explore the ecological factors affecting

incidence of fire, and produce fire risk and human vulnerability maps for use by managers to prioritize fire risk reduction activities in regional, landscape, and local contexts. (RWU-4803, St. Paul, MN)

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 19 acres of fuel reduction treatments have documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- Fuel Reduction projects proposed on the Chippewa NF total 5,290 acres and on the Superior NF total 10,949 acres.
- 13,000 acres damaged by storms on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) proposed for treatment at a cost of \$6.49 million (3,000 acres in FY 2001 and the balance in FY 2002).
- \$610,000 for hazardous fuel reduction and FIREWISE partnerships on non-federal lands.
- Forest Health Management activities to prevent and control invasive species.
- \$325,000 for research to optimize fuel reduction activities in space and time using spatial models, helping to answer questions about when and where fuel reductions should be applied to obtain the greatest reductions in fire risk at the lowest cost. In addition, the research will investigate the ecological and social consequences of these treatments. (RWU-4101, Grand Rapids, MN)

Current Field Records (not yet documented in National Data Base):

Superior National Forest

	Target Acres	Completed Mechanical	Completed Prescribed Fire	Total Acres Completed	Total Budget Allocated
Title II	13,508	1,497	1,109	2,606	7,034,000
Title IV	441	15	643	658	512,000
TOTALS	13,949	1,512	1,752	3,264	7,546,000

Chippewa National Forest

	Target Acres	Completed Mechanical	Completed Prescribed Fire	Total Acres Completed	Total Budget Allocated
Title II	1,840	19	510	529	230,000
Title IV	3,450	222	1,100	1,322	280,000
TOTALS	5,290	241	1,610	1,851	510,000

Community Assistance

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

- Approximately \$150,000 in State Fire Assistance will increase organizational and preparedness

skills to assist with firefighting efforts, and \$636,000 will support Hazard Mitigation activities. Grants will be used for training and education, fuel reduction and hazard mitigation, and equipment. An additional \$222,000 is allocated in base program funds.

- Approximately \$165,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance will support training and equipment to meet the needs of a portion of the 830 rural volunteer fire departments in Minnesota. An additional \$133,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$985,000 in National Fire Plan Community Assistance will support activities across the 20 northeastern states. Included are:
 - Economic Action Programs to develop and expand markets for wood products from removed fuels; and
 - Community and Private Land Assistance to enhance fire planning in communities, enhance stewardship planning, and fund fuel management.
- \$487,500 will support research to identify strategies communities can adopt to increase the effectiveness of fire management programs for different types of communities and landscapes. Through a series of case studies in the North Central, Southeast, and Northwest regions of the country, researchers will examine the successful actions and preparations of communities that have experienced severe wildland fire events. (RWU-4803, St. Paul, MN)

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