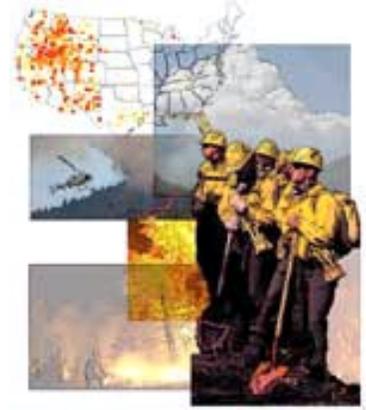




## The National Fire Plan

### FY 2001 Programs in Mississippi



### 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, 6,618 fires burned 90,685 acres and damaged or destroyed 41 homes and structures in Mississippi. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to Mississippi 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..	
3,285	0	0	3,290	36	802	122	0	157	7,692

### Firefighting Resources

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

- In Mississippi, 33 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.
- To support the expanded organization, six Becker engines are being purchased and added to the fleet, at a cost of \$720,000.
- 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 Mississippi is about \$27 million.

### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 158,918 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been accomplished 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 underway in FY 2001.
- The State Forestry Commission also plans fuel reduction treatments on an additional 10,000 acres of non-federal land.

## Community Assistance

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

- State Fire Assistance provides \$802,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$483,000 in base funding. The program will support delivery of 20 Firewise presentations in the Gulfport/Biloxi area; development of a Wildland Urban Interface firefighting training program; and projects in nine counties to treat hazardous fuels and reduce fire risk.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$122,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$81,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of Mississippi's 742 rural volunteer fire departments for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 29 volunteer fire departments received grants, among 79 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 Mississippi.
- 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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