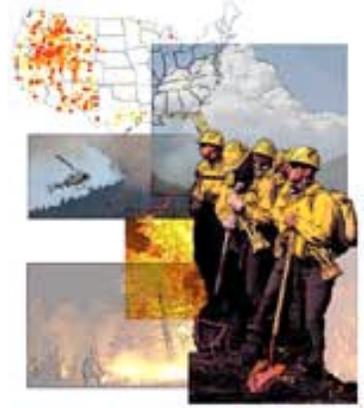




The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in New Mexico



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, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to New Mexico 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..	
22,777	2,451	17,984	15,950 ¹	198	1,790	269	1,325	4,081	66,825²

¹ Includes \$5,000,000 earmarked for Community Forestry Restoration Act Program in New Mexico.

² \$700,000 allocated for Research and Development activities in New Mexico in support of the National Fire Plan not included.

Firefighting Resources

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

- Preparedness Organization
 - Increase Forest Service firefighting resources in New Mexico to 44 engines, 4 helicopters, 358 preparedness positions, and add one Interagency Hotshot Crew.
- Workforce Development
 - In the Southwestern Region, 340 permanent positions and 515 temporary positions were filled in Round 1 hiring. For Round 2 hiring, 123 permanent positions were filled and 443 temporary positions. During Round 3 hiring, the Region has hired 250 permanent firefighters and 424 temporary firefighters.
- Fire Facilities - Planning 3 new Hotshot Crew support facilities in New Mexico and refurbishment of 9 other fire facilities, including the Albuquerque Air Tanker Base, at a total cost of approximately \$2.45 million.

Rehabilitation

Assuring long-term efforts to improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from fire damage.

- Over 80 different project activities selected for FY 2001 implementation in New Mexico on five major project areas burned in FY 2000. This work is in addition to Burned Area Emergency

Rehabilitation (BAER) work already carried out on the sites. Activities include but are not limited to, reforestation; watershed, wildlife habitat and heritage site restoration; invasive plant treatments; grazing management; and road and trail restoration.

Project	Forest	# of Activities	Funding
Cerro Grande	Santa Fe	27	\$7,234,000
Viveash	Santa Fe	21	6,988,000
Scott Able	Lincoln	20	2,874,000
Cree	Lincoln	14	759,000
Saliz	Gila	5	55,000
Total		87	\$17,910,000

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 53,265 of the planned fuels treatment acres for fiscal year 2001 are in the wildland urban interface.
- \$5,000,000 is earmarked for Community Forestry Restoration in New Mexico.
- More than 37,000 acres of fuels treatment have been accomplished (in fiscal year 2001 per the National Database 07/27/01)

Community Assistance

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

- State Fire Assistance through the National Fire Plan will enhance State and local organizational skills to assist with firefighting efforts. Grants will be used for training and education, fuel reduction, hazard mitigation and equipment needs. In addition to the National Fire Plan funding shown on the previous page, over \$280,000 is allocated in regular State Fire Assistance base program funds.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance will support training and equipment for rural and volunteer fire departments. In addition to the National Fire Plan funding shown on the previous page, over \$50,000 is allocated in regular Volunteer Fire Assistance base program funds.
- Economic Action grant requests received (\$13.5 million) exceeded the available funds by a ratio of over 10 to 1. Eleven Economic Action grants were awarded in New Mexico, ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000. Economic Action Programs (EAP) will focus on development and expansion of markets and related local business opportunities for wood products from removed hazardous fuels. Also included in the National Fire Plan is \$1 million for the Four Corners Forestry Initiative. Those funds were awarded as grants by the Four Corners coordinating committee in response to proposals submitted from the four partner states.
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance includes \$637,000 for Hazard Mitigation; \$203,000 for private land forest Stewardship Planning; \$919,000 for Economic Action Pilot projects; and \$180,000 granted to Resource Conservation & Development Councils to administer the distribution

of the over \$1.5 million available for reimbursement to farm and ranch operators in New Mexico. Another element of this program is Community Planning for Fire Protection. Grant requests totaling \$1 million were received from New Mexico communities and \$493,000 in grants was awarded to 13 New Mexico communities. Most of the grants will be used to develop fire protection plans for communities that the State of New Mexico has determined are at high risk of fire hazard, have strong community support and collaboration, have an economic need, and can demonstrate the ability to deliver products requested in their grant application. All at-risk communities (as identified by the State) that requested funding for developing a fire protection plan received requested funding.

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