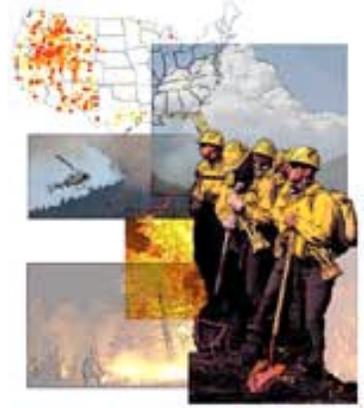




## The National Fire Plan

### FY 2001 Programs in North Carolina



#### 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, 4,949 fires burned 25,146 acres and destroyed 27 homes and 275 structures in North Carolina. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to North Carolina include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				<b>TOTAL</b>
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist..	
4,336	20	0	950	181	855	174	20	166	<b>6,702</b>

\* Includes \$341,000 Research and Development activities in North Carolina in support of the National Fire Plan.

#### Firefighting Resources

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

- 33 permanent positions are being filled in the National Forest fire organization in North Carolina in FY 2001 to build the most efficient level of organizational readiness on the National Forests.
- One dozer transport, two Helitack trailers, and other equipment will be added to the fleet, at a cost of \$389,000.
- An investment of \$20,000 will be made in fire towers.
- 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 the State is about \$54 million.

#### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 19,374 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been accomplished and documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- An additional 20,000 acres of planning and NEPA work to prepare for FY 2002 fuel reduction treatments is also underway in FY 2001.

## Community Assistance

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

- The State Fire Assistance program provides \$855,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$491,000 in base funding. The program will support development of a traveling Wildland-Urban Interface educational exhibit; initiatives in multiple counties in the mountains to identify and address fire hazards; fuel treatment projects in numerous wildland-urban interface areas; and educational projects on public lands and in communities to increase awareness of fire hazards.
- The Volunteer Fire Assistance program provides \$174,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$116,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of North Carolina's 1,600 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 205 volunteer fire departments received grants.
- The Economic Action Program, in focusing on high fire risk areas, will help support a region-wide assessment of fuel loads and burned areas. The assessment will help guide planning of longer-range strategies to reduce fuel loads and minimize risks to people and property in North Carolina.
- The Community and Private Land Fire Assistance program will provide resources to communities in burned and impacted areas. Grants will support community planning and activities to mitigate the impacts of past fires, reduce the fire hazards, and explore wood-based economic opportunities. Activities may include establishment of dry hydrants, stewardship planning and fuel management, hazard mitigation, and increased utilization of wood products from removed fuels.

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