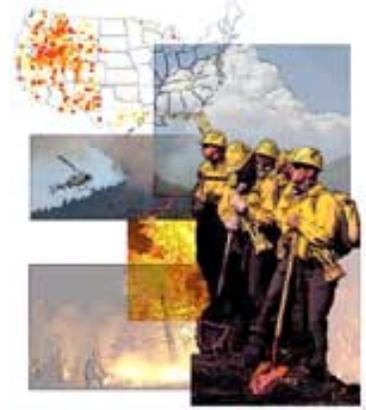




The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in North Dakota



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities in five key program areas. 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. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to North Dakota 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..	
736	0	262	75	20	164	104	100	827	2,288

Firefighting Resources

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

- Preparedness Organization
 - \$736,000 allocated to build the most efficient level of fire preparedness.
 - 7 positions planned for hire in fiscal year 2001 to meet MEL- 100% of meeting MEL.
 - As of 7/10/01, 6 permanent employees and 5 temporary employees hired to meet MEL.
 - Equipment available for firefighting this year: 2 engines (one located in Dickinson and the other in Watford City)
- Two (2) contracts awarded in McKenzie and Billings counties totaling \$73,000.

Rehabilitation

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

- 6,500 acres of National Forest system lands burned in the 2000 fire season.
- 1 project selected for funding in FY 2001 on the Dakota Prairie National Grassland, at a cost of \$262,000.
- Several rehabilitation and restoration projects have been implemented on the Rough Creek Fire complex in McKenzie County. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is also working with school officials to incorporate on-going research activities into outdoor science-related learning activities for high school students.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- Through 7/27/01, no planning or operations treatments have been entered in the National Database. Verbal communication indicates fuel treatments are planned on 100 acres.
- The North Dakota Grazing Association, North Dakota State Forest Service, local fire districts, ranchers and the USDA Forest Service are in partnership to develop a hazardous fuel reduction project on the Medora Ranger District and this is in the early planning phase.

Community Assistance

*Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities on **private, state and tribal lands** through federal:non-federal cost-shares.*

A partnership between the North Dakota State Forest Service and USDA Forest Service (Dakota Prairie National Grasslands) has been formed to implement the Community Assistance portion of the NFP within the state of North Dakota. The Community Assistance programs include:

- **State Fire Assistance** -\$164,000 is granted to the State to increase the readiness level of state and local firefighting organizations, by providing technical training, funding and equipment, and delivery of Firewise workshops. Of the total funding, \$100,000 is dedicated for **Hazardous Fuel Reduction** projects and development of defensible space in high-risk areas in and around communities, evaluated and prioritized through a collaborative process with the State.
- **Volunteer Fire Assistance** -\$104,000 is granted to the State to prepare rural (local and volunteer) fire departments, which protect communities with populations of less than 10,000, to improve their readiness for and response to wildfires- especially in the wildland-urban interface. Provides funding and technical assistance directly to these fire departments for training and equipment to enhance protection capabilities across all land ownerships.
- **Forest Health Management** -\$20,000 to support Forest Service Field Offices and State Foresters in a coordinated effort to detect, monitor, evaluate, prevent and suppress invasive species on federal and nonfederal forestlands between all federal agencies, states, and tribal governments impacted by fire. State Forestry Agencies receive funding to assist private landowners. Also supports **Noxious Weed Treatment** through grants to local weed districts and cooperatives through the State Departments of Agriculture to treat noxious weeds on private, state and tribal lands impacted by fire (funding to be determined).
- **Economic Action Program** -\$100,000 supports Forest Service technical assistance and grants to state, federal, county, local, tribal governments and not-for-profit organizations, to help communities develop opportunities and enterprises to diversify uses of forest resources and hazardous fuel byproducts, and increase state utilization and marketing capabilities.
- **Community and Private Land Fire Assistance** - Includes:
 - **Fence and Infrastructure Reconstruction** -\$177,000 supports the repair, replacement and reimbursement of fences on private, state and tribal lands damaged by the 2000 fires. Funds can also be used for reimbursement of losses and longer-term restoration of facilities such as roads, trails and other "similar facilities."
 - Dakota Prairie Grasslands requested \$175,000 for fence-replacement assistance needs to local landowners. Approximately 15 landowners in the Talkington area (which was the Blacktail Fire Complex) will receive some of this funding.
 - **Hazardous Fuels Cost-Share Incentives** -\$100,000 supports grants to State Forester to

reduce and remove hazardous fuels in areas impacted by fire. Regions will work with the States to identify needs and priorities on state, private and tribal lands.

- **Multi-resource Stewardship** -\$200,000 supports grants to State Forester to assist landowners to prepare or revise multi-resource management plans on state, private and tribal lands impacted by fire. Funds cost-share restoration projects such as tree planting, revegetation, soil stabilization and watershed restoration work on these lands. Targets impacted communities and local workers/businesses.
- **Economic Action Pilot Projects** -\$150,000 supports grants to state, federal, county, local, tribal governments and not-for-profit organizations, to assist fire-impacted communities to expand and develop markets for wood products resulting from hazardous fuel removal as well underutilized small diameter material. Demonstration projects showing end-use such as timber bridges, round timber construction, and biomass-to-energy projects will be emphasized.
- **Community Fire Planning** -\$200,000 support grants awarded directly to communities and a variety of other partners including state, county, and tribal governments, and not-for-profits, to develop and revise Community strategic, action and fire risk management plans targeting those most impacted by fires. Funds increase community resiliency and capacity and encourage strategic growth. Local Forest Service offices are helping to identify communities.

Note: Collection of accomplishment data continues on a daily basis.

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