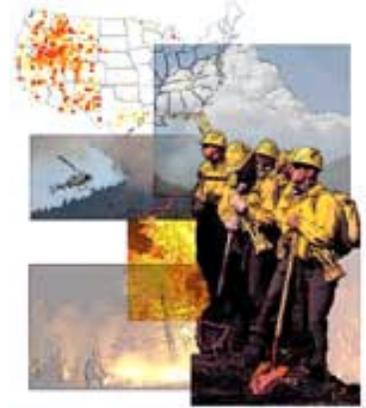




The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Oklahoma



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.

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..	
2,057*	0	0	539	0	427	150	20	989	4,182

Note: Preparedness and Fuel funding is for the Ouachita NF in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Firefighting Resources

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

- In Oklahoma, 3 permanent positions and 6 temporary positions in the Ouachita 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.
- Two dozer transports, one engine, and other equipment are being purchased and added to the fleet at a cost of \$701,000.
- 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 Oklahoma is about \$77 million.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

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

- 16,350 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been accomplished and documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- An additional 100,000 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.

- State Fire Assistance provides \$427,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$201,000 in base funding. The program will support development and distribution of 400 Firewise education kits through fire departments, for use with homeowners, community planners and developers to build awareness of Firewise principles; and provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and groups to reduce wildfire risk through fuel reduction and treatment.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$150,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$100,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of Oklahoma's 900 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies.
- 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 Oklahoma.
- 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.

Lyle Laverty National Fire Plan Coordinator llaverty@fs.fed.us (720) 480-0452	Ron Coats Regional Fire Plan Coordinator rcoats@fs.fed.us (404) 347-2726	Roger L. Davis State Forester rogerd@oda.state.ok.us (405) 521-3864
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August 09, 2001