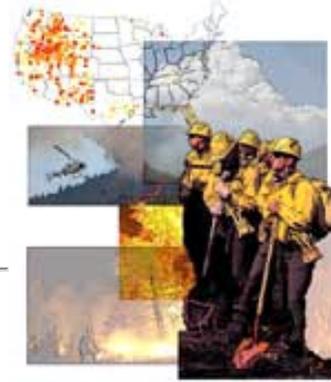


# The National Fire Plan

USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management

## FY 2001 Programs in Oregon (revised 08/08/01)



### Overview

Many National Fire Plan (NFP) activities are being planned and implemented in Oregon. In response to the wildfires of 2000, the following actions are designed to reduce the risks and consequences of wildfires on communities, improve ecosystem health so that the effects of wildfires are not as severe, restore burned areas, and enhance firefighting capabilities. Accountability is a key element of the NFP, and every effort will be made to accomplish planned programs.

More than 290 communities in Oregon are identified as wildland-urban interface areas that are at risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Strong coordination between agencies and governments is occurring in response to NFP goals. In Oregon and Washington partners are building a long-term strategy to maximize successful outcomes and reduce bureaucratic red tape. Those involved are: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Governor Kitzhaber's Staff, Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR), Washington and Oregon State Fire Marshal's Offices, County Commissioner representatives, the Inter-Tribal Timber Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Forest Service (USFS).

### Estimated Allocations to Oregon - National Fire Plan and Base Programs (\$ 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..	
USDA/FS	49,055	7,690	978	8,745	548	1,296	325	1,051	1,256	70,994*
DOI/BLM	9,883	573	2,718	11,471	0	0	680	0	TBD	25,325

Notes \* Includes \$500,000 Research and development funds.

Allocations to the Regional Office are not included in these figures.

The FS Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is included in the Oregon allocations, as it is headquartered in Oregon.

The Umatilla NF is included in the Oregon allocations, as it is headquartered in Oregon.

## **Community Efforts**

*Enhancing local community capacity to reduce wildfire risks and hazards, and expand local economic opportunities.*

- Multiple state and federal community programs under the NFP will be combined for simplicity in the Pacific Northwest. Grant solicitations will be consolidated and selections will be made through an interagency/intergovernmental process beginning in May 2001.
- The Forest Service State Fire Assistance funding has been determined. It is anticipated that the Oregon Department of Forestry will receive \$1,959,000 for fire preparedness and special wildland-urban interface projects in the state.
- Rural Fire Departments are highlighted in NFP funding distribution. The BLM has \$680,000 and the Forest Service has \$407,000 worth of grants specifically for training, equipping, and helping to organize local fire departments in Oregon. These funds will be distributed through the consolidated NFP grant solicitation in March.
- The Forest Service will receive approximately \$4,621,000 for Oregon and Washington to be used for a variety of projects designed for local community benefit. Some of these funds will be passed through the Oregon Dept. of Forestry to community users and other funds will be directly granted from the Forest Service. Many of the grants require a cost-share by the recipient. These funds will be added to other federal funds in the consolidated NFP grant solicitation in March. Emphasis areas for the Forest Service funding include:
  - Economic Action Programs - technology for small diameter market enhancement, pilot projects, and community planning for fire protection.
  - Stewardship Programs - hazard mitigation on non-federal lands, and multi-resource stewardship projects.
  - The BLM has special funding for wildland-urban interface projects that will be provided soon. These projects will be designed to reduce the risks and hazards of wildland fires to communities.

## **Improving Ecosystem Health**

*Targets hazardous vegetation treatment in wildland-urban interface areas.*

- The Forest Service plans to treat approximately 94,297 acres of federal lands in Oregon in 2001. In some cases, the Wyden amendment will be used to treat non-federal lands for increased benefit. This acreage goal is a blend of existing projects and new projects as a result of the NFP.
- Over 28,000 acres of accomplished treatments using Hazardous Fuel Reduction funding are entered into the National Database through 7/26/01.
- The Forest Service expects to receive about \$8.7 million for Oregon to accomplish planned projects.
- The BLM plans to treat about 58,500 acres of federal lands in Oregon in 2001. The Wyden amendment will also be used to treat non-federal lands where the opportunity exists. This acreage goal is a blend of existing projects and new projects as a result of the NFP.
- The BLM expects to receive a total of \$11,471 million for Oregon to accomplish planned projects.
- Treatment methods include prescribed burning, hand cutting and piling, mechanical thinning, mechanical crushing and mulching, and other ways to reduce excessive vegetation or "fuel."
- The Forest Service PNW Station has received \$1,500,000 for NFP related research and technology projects. Selected projects highlight predictive tools for fire and fuels programs, and predictive tools for quantifying smoke emissions.
- Federal regulatory agencies and land management agencies are working closely together to streamline consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Their efforts portray a strong desire to seek efficiencies and new ways of accomplishing work together.
- Forest Service and BLM field units are seeking ways to complement ecosystem health treatments

with state and local partners.

## Rehabilitation and Restoration of Burned Areas

*Projects designed to lessen the negative effects of wildfires from the summer of 2000.*

- The BLM will receive \$ 2,718,000 to restore burned areas in eastern Oregon in 2001. These projects are on Vale, Burns, and Prineville Districts.
- The Forest Service will receive \$ 978,000 to restore burned areas in eastern Oregon in 2001. These projects are on the Wallowa-Whitman (\$437,000) and Ochoco (\$541,000) National Forests.

## Firefighting Resources in Oregon

*Increased firefighting staff and equipment to improve the safety and efficiency of fire suppression efforts.*

- Federal Preparedness Organizations
  - The Forest Service will have a total of 120 engines, 5 dozers, 11 watertenders, 60 lookouts, 1 single engine air tanker, 4 helicopters, 277 hand crew personnel, 33 dedicated fire prevention personnel and 8 interagency hotshot crews in Oregon.
  - The BLM will have a total of 49 engines, 2 dozers, 2 watertenders, 6 lookouts, 4 single engine air tankers, 4 helicopters, one dedicated prevention person and one interagency hotshot crew in Oregon.
- Workforce Development
  - In Oregon, the Forest Service is hiring approximately 620 new positions; BLM is hiring about 180 new permanent, temporary and other positions.
  - Seven Job Fairs were held in Oregon to encourage people to apply for new Forest Service and BLM jobs. Hiring is currently taking place and will continue into early summer.
  - Fire preparedness contracting opportunities will promote local employment.
- Fire Facilities
  - 17 Forest Service facilities in Oregon will be constructed or upgraded in 2001, estimated to cost \$7,690,000.
  - 1 BLM facility project in Oregon will be completed in 2001, estimated to cost \$573,000.

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