



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in Arizona



In August 2000, the President directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a plan to respond to severe wildland fires, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and assure sufficient firefighting capacity in the future. The National Fire Plan (NFP) was developed and addresses 5 key points:

- Firefighting;
- Rehabilitation and Restoration;
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction;
- Community Assistance; and,
- Accountability.

The USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior are in the second year of implementing the National Fire Plan, with allocations to Arizona estimated at:

USDA Forest Service Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research R&D JFSP	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance			Total
Preparedness	Facilities					State Fire Assist	Volunteer Fire Assist	Economic Action Programs	
36,815,255	896,449	127,000	12,557,000	0	70,000	1,829,495	337,757	1,106,468	53,739,169

*Allocations for FY 2001 and 2002 may vary slightly over time due to adjustments in accounting systems.

Department of the Interior Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research JFSP	Community Assistance Rural Fire Assist	Total
Preparedness	Facilities					
16,600,000	2,585,504	231,960	12,777,000	0	509,000	32,703,464

Program Highlights

- Excellent burning window this fall, we were able to accomplish significant number of acres of hazardous fuels reduction within Wildland Urban Interface areas. With the potential for a severe upcoming fire season, these accomplishments should make a difference. We had excellent media and community support. Public tolerance of prescribed fire smoke was the key factor enabling us to accomplish critical urban interface acres.
- During the fall firewood-gathering season, weekend free use fuel wood permits were given to the community within Wildland Urban Interface areas for fuels removal.
- Thinning small diameter material within a Wildland Urban Interface area with a service contract, allowing the contractor to haul the material to a local small sawmill.
- Assisting a local community with prescriptions for treatments on private land, and enabling them to works towards becoming a FIREWISE community.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

Maintain a cost effective level of preparedness in firefighting and prevention

- Preparedness Resources and Facilities
 - USDA Forest Service will have a total increase of 914 firefighting personnel, 7 helicopters, and 80 engines
 - Department of the Interior will have an increase of 696 firefighting personnel, 61 engines, 6 helicopters, 7 water or foam tenders, 5 dozers, 3 boats, and 6 airtankers.
 - Department of the Interior will be providing funding for the Wickenburg fire station and the Ft. Apache office, warehouse, capitalized equipment storage.

Rehabilitation and Restoration

Rehabilitate fire damaged wildlands and restore ecosystem

- Rehabilitation and Restoration program consists of
 1. Immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and
 2. Long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring);
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restoring severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Invest in projects to reduce fire risk with focused effort in wildland urban interface areas.

- Approximately 132,666 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies; an estimated 40,455 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface
- An estimated \$25 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$70,000.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

- 33 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI. Estimated funding - \$509,000
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,829,495.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$337,757.
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,106,468.

Accountability

Establish and maintain a high level of accountability including oversight reviews, progress tracking and performance monitoring

- DOI and Forest Service are developing a uniform set of performance measures necessary to assess program effectiveness these measures will be tracked through a common electronic database by the end of the FY02.
- DOI and Forest Service have developed a uniform process and timeline to identify and complete planning on fuels treatment projects.
- A DOI and Forest Service contracting review has been completed and actions will be initiated to increase the level of contracts for fuels hazard reduction work.

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