



# National Fire Plan

## Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



## FY 2002 Programs in Indiana



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 Indiana 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	
627,506	170,000	0	0	0	0	504,166	218,883	0	1,520,555

\*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					
766,000	0	0	541,000	0	0	1,307,000

### Program Highlights

- Through a \$21,000 Hazard Mitigation grant, the White River RC&D, with the assistance of the Indiana DNR Division of Forestry, has initiated a Dry Hydrant grant program. The White River RC&D is currently accepting applications for installation of the hydrants. They have also established a "bulk purchase" of supplies. Recently, one hydrant was installed in the community of Little York approximately 1/2 mile from the fire station. The Little York community has no

pressurized municipal water system. The dry hydrant was installed with equipment and labor donated by the local community.

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Through a \$80,000 Hazard Mitigation grant, the Hoosier Heartland RC&D, with the assistance of the Indiana DNR Division of Forestry, has initiated a Dry Hydrant grant program. The Hoosier Heartland RC&D has conducted two demonstrations on how to install a dry hydrant and the benefits to rural communities. The most recent demonstration occurred in southeastern Union Township in Boone County. Zionville Fire Chief - Jamie Van Gorder stated, "It'll be much quicker and easier to provide water to the area. Prior to today, we would have had to travel four miles round trip to refill our vehicles."

## Fire Preparedness and Facilities

*Maintain a cost effective level of preparedness in firefighting and prevention*

- **Preparedness Resources**
  - Department of the Interior will have a total increase of 12 firefighting personnel, 3 engines, and 1 water/foam tender.
- **Facilities**
  - USDA Forest Service will provide funding for Hoosier radio towers.

## 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 6,680 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies; an estimated 6,388 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- An estimated \$541,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

## Community Assistance

*Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire*

- 3 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$504,166.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$218,883

## 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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