



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in Massachusetts



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 Massachusetts 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	
0	0	0	0	0	0	734,882	112,567	0	847,449

*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					
550,000	0	0	178,000	0	200,000	928,000

Program Highlights

- Cooperative Fire Protection: Nineteen volunteer fire departments were approved for financial assistance, used primarily for personal protective equipment, portable radios, and wildland urban interface initiatives such as dry hydrant

installations impacting about 25 communities at risk. Communities and citizen's benefit from the reduction of fire risk rating and the ability to purchase fire insurance in communities, which before was high, risk.

- **Economic Action Programs:** Many of Maine's mills have closed or consolidated this past year. And, Maine's seaports are seeing an influx of spruce lumber from Russia, which is priced competitively with domestic softwood logs. In response, Maine's Economic Action Program provided technical assistance to primary and secondary wood processing plants to improve competitiveness. Several demonstrations were conducted showing that hemlock sawn into solid lumber products had twice the value as hemlock sold as pulpwood chips, thus improving the market.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

Maintain a cost effective level of preparedness in firefighting and prevention

- **Preparedness Resources**
 - Department of the Interior will have an increase of 3 firefighting personnel, and 4 engines.

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 39 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies.
- An estimated \$178,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

- Rural Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$200,000.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$734,882.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$112,567.

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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