



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in Michigan



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 Michigan 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	
3,818,808	338,000	250,000	1,073,000	0	0	1,247,048	292,536	0	7,019,392

*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					
74,000	0	0	332,000	0	0	406,000

Program Highlights

- Cooperative Fire Protection: Michigan has completed a GIS based statewide fire protection assessment down to the county level, which identifies high-risk urban interface communities. In partnership with the Michigan Hazard Mitigation

Council and the Michigan Interagency Wildland Fire Protection Association, the Division of Forest Management sponsored a statewide Firewise Communities Workshop, designed to develop mitigation strategies and techniques meant to improve fire protection capabilities in high-risk communities. The communities of Grayling and Marquette are identified as pilot communities, to initiate Firewise programming and awareness. Grayling is selected as a 2002 pilot for the Firewise Communities / USA program of the National Fire Protection Association

- **Economic Action Programs:** A Rural Development Through Forestry grant was used to develop computer routines to analyze Forest Service FIA data for use in landscape level economic and ecological analyses. Project outcomes will improve the ability of land managers to use renewable resources in a sustainable fashion by increasing access to information concerning landscape productivity. The project will also support economic activity by improving access to forest growth and harvest information.

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 1 firefighter, and 3 engines.
- **Facilities**
 - USDA Forest Service will be providing funding for radio sites, Raco maintenance warehouse, and Manistique warehouse.

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 4,940 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 4,548 will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- An estimated \$1,405,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

States are focusing funding on increasing wildland fire response capacity by enhancing their level of fire preparedness, training wildland firefighters, purchasing personal protective equipment, conducting fire education and prevention activities including Firewise projects; implementing hazard mitigation projects addressing fuel reduction and installation of dry hydrants, and fire planning projects assessing communities at risk.

- 35 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,247,048.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$292,536.

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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