



# National Fire Plan

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



## FY 2002 Programs in Minnesota



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 Minnesota 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	
6,225,105	20,000	0	3,425,388	2,319,000	0	1,272,247	300,621	0	13,562,361

\*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					
2,724,000	0	0	3,013,000	0	220,000	5,957,000

### Program Highlights

- Cooperative Fire Protection: Minnesota has completed a GIS based statewide fire protection assessment to the county level that identifies high-risk urban interface communities. The Division of Forestry initiated a multi-faceted Firewise

Communities program focusing on the rapidly urbanizing 17 county area that extends from the Minneapolis / St. Paul metropolitan area through the St. Cloud to the Brainerd Lakes region. The comprehensive program is designed to deliver Firewise training; materials and tools designed for Minnesota conditions, and develop mitigation strategies and techniques meant to improve fire protection capabilities in high risk communities.

- **Economic Action Programs:** The closure of the LTV Mine in northern Minnesota resulted in a loss of over 1000 jobs. A Rural Development Through Forestry grant (\$30,000), in conjunction with matching dollars, was divided into sub-grants and awarded to 19 displaced mine workers for new, or expansion of, natural resources based businesses. The small grants enabled the 19 recipients to remain in the area, generate cash flow for their families, improve their general welfare, and contribute to the economic recovery of northern Minnesota.

## **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 \*85 firefighting personnel, 2 engines 1 helicopter, 4 dozers, and 1 airtanker
- **Facilities**
  - USDA Forest Service will be providing funding for Walker Garage/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 34, 326 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 15,959 will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.

## **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.

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): \$220,000.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,272,247.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$300,621.

## 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.

Department of the Interior	Department of the Interior	USDA Forest Service	State of Minnesota
Tim Hartzell National Fire Plan Coordinator-DOI (202) 606-3211	Erica Kim NFP Program Analyst (202) 606-3108	George Brooks Asst. Director, Fire Mgmt. <a href="mailto:gbbrooks@fs.fed.us">gbbrooks@fs.fed.us</a> (610) 57-4145	Michael Carroll Division of Forestry <a href="mailto:mike.carroll@dnr.state.mn.us">mike.carroll@dnr.state.mn.us</a> (651) 296-4485