



# National Fire Plan

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



## FY 2002 Programs in Montana



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 Montana 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	
41,114,600	1,400,000	20,000,000	12,143,000	0	1,210,000	1,557,882	288,475	524,820	78,238,777

\*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					
12,964,000	1,297,989	224,307	8,897,000	0	844,000	24,227,296

### Program Highlights

- A 10-person wildland firefighting crew is being formed from the Montana State Prison population at Deer Lodge for fire season 2002.

- Twelve counties affected by the wildfires of 2000 will receive \$641,793 to stabilize their rural communities through the Commerce Economic Action Program.

## **Fire Preparedness and Facilities**

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

- **Preparedness Resources**
  - USDA Forest Service will have a total of 955 firefighting personnel, 6 helicopters, 64 engines
  - Department of the Interior will have a total of 396 firefighting personnel, 57 engines, 4 helicopters, 6 water/ foam tenders, 3 dozers, and 4 airtankers
- **Facilities**
  - USDA Forest Service will be providing funding for Rocky Mountain Road bunkhouse, Beartooth crew quarters, and St. Regis national helibase
  - Department of the Interior will be providing funding for the Zortman, Jordan, and Bridger fire stations, Ekalaka fire station garage, Crow helitack office and storage, Northern Cheyenne renovation, Crow hazardous materials storage, Glacier Two Medicine fire cache, Glacier St. Mary fire truck garage, Glacier HQ fire truck garage, Glacier NP rehabilitation, Apgar lookout, rehabilitate Glacier NP Apgar, and Porcupine lookouts, and Glacier NP Loneman lookout tower.

## **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 107,393 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies; an estimated 46,275 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- An estimated \$21 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Funding is estimated at \$1,210,000.

## Community Assistance

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

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$844,000.
  - 96 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,577,822.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$288,475.
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$524,820.

## 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 Montana
Tim Hartzell National Fire Plan Coordinator-DOI (202) 606-3211	Erica Kim NFP Program Analyst (202) 606-3108	Rick Stowell Deputy Regional NFP Coordinator <a href="mailto:rstowell@fs.fed.us">rstowell@fs.fed.us</a> (406) 329-3420	Donald K. Artley DNRC - Forestry Division <a href="mailto:kreppr@dartley@state.mt.us">kreppr@dartley@state.mt.us</a> (406) 542-3300