



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in North Carolina



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 North Carolina 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	
4,585,783	0	300,000	1,652,000	3,391,000	150,000	1,496,882	292,062	22,285	11,870,012

*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					
1,326,000	0	0	555,000	0	0	1,881,000

Program Highlights

- Forest Health Protection- Southern pine beetle infestations, concentrated in the western part of the state, increased in number by 98% over the previous year to 3,871. The beetles also attacked species such as red spruce, and special concern

was expressed over heavy losses to rare species such as table mountain pine. Alarming increases in hemlock woolly adelgid populations were observed, with a dramatic southwestward expansion of the infested area into Swain and Macon Counties.

- Volunteer Fire Assistance- program provides \$174,110 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$117,406 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of North Carolina's rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies.
- Economic Action Program- Cherokee County is experiencing increased development within the urban interface areas, plus the Southern Pine Beetle outbreaks have increased the risk of wildfires and other hazards of dead trees. Education efforts about fire prevention, constructing defensible space, and other methods will be completed to minimize the high fire risk.

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 15 firefighting personnel.
 - Department of the Interior will have a total of 26 firefighting personnel, 6 engines, 1 helicopter, 1 dozer, and 4 tractors/plows.

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 43,815 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 34,344 will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- An estimated \$2,187,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$150,000.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$292,062.
 - 24 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$2,300,599.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,496,882.
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$22,285.

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 North Carolina
Tim Hartzell National Fire Plan Coordinator-DOI (202) 606-3211	Erica Kim NFP Program Analyst (202) 606-3108	Dan Olsen NFP Coordinator dolsen@fs.fed.us (404) 347-2347	Stanford M. Adams NC Division of Forest Resources Stan.Adams@ncmail.net (919) 733-2162 ext 202