



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in Pennsylvania



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 Pennsylvania 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	
542,209	0		12,000	500,000	0	1,096,604	388,812	0	539,625

*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					
165,000	0	0	54,000	0	0	219,000

Program Highlights

- Firewise Community Medal Program -Through a \$500,000 Hazard Mitigation grant, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry initiated a statewide Firewise Community Medal Program. To date: 2 PA Firewise Community Workshops have been

held for state, agency and local emergency managers to assist them with facilitating the implementation of this hazard mitigation project statewide; the communities of Emeral Lakes, Sierra View, The Shawnee Group, Saw Creek Estates, Winona Lake, and Thornhurst Country Club Estates have completed their Emergency Action Plans and community hazard evaluations. Several communities have initiated hazard mitigation activities, which include proper signing of roads and residences, fuel reduction, rural water delivery and improvement of existing road infrastructure.

- Economic Action Programs - A strategic plan was initiated to encourage and support visitation to north-central Pennsylvania for elk and wildlife viewing and other nature-based outdoor recreation activities. The plan will focus on a long-term strategy to manage and educate the increasing number of visitors to the region who want to see and learn about Pennsylvania's wild elk herd

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 of 3 firefighters and 1 engine

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 649 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies; an estimated 501 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- An estimated \$66,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

- 6 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,106,604.

- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$388,812.

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 Pennsylvania
Tim Hartzell National Fire Plan Coordinator-DOI (202) 606-3211	Erica Kim NFP Program Analyst (202) 606-3108	George Brooks Asst. Director, Fire Mgmt gbrooks@fs.fed.us (610) 557-4145	James R. Grace Bureau of Forestry jagrace@state.pa.us (717) 787-2703