



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in Rhode Island



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 Rhode Island 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	
0	0	0	0	0	0	151,268	33,866	0	185,135

*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					
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Program Highlights

- Cooperative Fire Protection - Cooperative Fire Program Funds supported small equipment purchases for volunteer fire departments and training of volunteer fire department personnel in safe and effective wildland fire suppression.

Communities benefited by having a better trained and responsive fire organization to protect life and property.

- Economic Action Programs - With continued development pressure on the State's farms, forests, and open spaces, the program has explored the important link between economic development and environmental conservation through workshops and the development of community planning tools. Rhode Island has completed a series of brochures that describe the economic value of nontraditional forest products available to landowners.

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.

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.

- 1 rural/volunteer fire department will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$151,268.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$33,866.

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 Rhode Island
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	Thomas A. Dupree Div. of Forest Environment riforestry@edgenet.net (401) 647-3367