



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in South 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 South 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	
2,452,657	0	0	825,000	0	270,000	1,431,046	189,144	22,285	5,190,132

*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					
212,000	0	0	1,113,000	0	0	1,325,000

Program Highlights

- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance - Will provide support to communities in burned and impacted areas. Grants will support community planning, pilot projects and activities to mitigate the impacts of past fires, reduce the risks

of and prepare for future fires, and explore economic opportunities that arise from the National Fire Plan, such as establishment of dry hydrants, stewardship planning and fuel management, hazard mitigation, and utilization of wood products from removed fuels.

- Cooperative Fire Protection - Includes Federal Excess Personal Property, State Fire Assistance, and Volunteer Fire Assistance. These programs are designed to enhance the State's fire protection and fire prevention capability. During 2001, South Carolina experienced 5,447 fires, which burned over 23,563 acres.
- Economic Action Programs - The Newberry Opera House is producing a play called Weed. This natural resource based story depicts the relationships of people to their environment and the conflicts of its uses and protection laws.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

Maintain a cost effective level of preparedness in firefighting and prevention

- **Preparedness Resources**
 - USDA Forest Service will have an increase of 5 firefighter personnel.
 - Department of the Interior will have an increase of 1 engine and 1 helicopter.

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 45,328 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 11,377 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface
- An estimated \$1,938,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$270,000.

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.

- 6 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,431,046.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$189,144.
- 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 South Carolina
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