



# National Fire Plan

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



## FY 2002 Programs in Texas



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 Texas 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 |           |
| 1,954,661    | 0          | 0                     | 2,048,000             | 0                 | 58,000                 | 1,233,444            | 661,104               | 22,285                   | 5,977,494 |

\*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 |                       |                       |               |  |           |
| 2,664,000    | 171,260    | 46,507                | 2,370,000             | 0             | 134,000                                | 5,385,767 |

### Program Highlights

- 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, Texas experienced 668 fires, which burned over 69,977 acres.

- Forest Health Protection - Southern pine beetles remained undetected in the state for the third straight year. Oak wilt continued to be a serious problem in the 60 counties where the disease has been reported, and a funded cooperative suppression project is now in its 15th year. An invasive exotic plant-the giant Asian dodder-has been recently confirmed from four sites in Houston. This aggressive parasitic species is capable of attacking a wide variety of host species and can spread rapidly. An eradication program is planned for 2002 with cooperation among the USDA Forest Service, Texas Forest Service, and the City of Houston.

## Fire Preparedness and Facilities

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

- **Preparedness Resources**
  - The USDA Forest Service will have an increase of 14 firefighting personnel.
  - Department of the Interior will have an increase of 46 firefighting personnel, and 17 engines.
- **Facilities**
  - Department of the Interior will be providing funding for Lake Meredith fire cache.

## 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 131,211 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 33,455 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface
- An estimated \$4,418,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$22,285.

## Community Assistance

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

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$134,000.
  - 38 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,233,444.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$661,104.
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$58,000.

## 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.

| <b>Department of the Interior</b>                                    | <b>Department of the Interior</b>                  | <b>USDA Forest Service</b>   | <b>State of Texas</b>   |
|--|--|--|---|
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