



# National Fire Plan

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



## FY 2002 Programs in Utah



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 Utah 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	
19,733,095	2,525,000	530,000	5,028,000	0	233,000	3,583,958	195,543	355,451	32,184,047

\*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					
9,922,000	432,910	762,740	9,058,000	0	790,000	20,965,650

### Program Highlights

- The Utah Fire Academy, where hundreds of wildland firefighters of various agencies and volunteer fire departments are trained annually. The Forest Service is one of the interagency partners in the effort, providing some of the instructors.

- The Salt Lake Interagency Fire Center will relocate this spring. The move will combine two separate Interagency Dispatch Centers into one that will include the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, The National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Weather Service, State of Utah, and Utah County.
- The Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests, State of Utah, and local city officials are developing a wildland fire risk assessment for 280,000 acres along the Wasatch Front urban-wildland interface. The information will be used to develop programs and projects.

## **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 408 firefighting personnel, 28 engines, 6 helicopters, and 2 fixed wing aircraft.
  - Department of the Interior will have a total of 291 firefighting personnel, 39 engines, 4 helicopters, 6 water/foam tenders, 1 dozer, 2 airtankers, and 1 helicopter.
- **Facilities**
  - USDA Forest Service will be providing funding for Color County Interagency fire center.
  - Department of the Interior will provide funding for Muskrat engine storage, Cedar City Interagency equipment fire facility, and Saint George helibase.

## **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 84,496 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 35,525 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface
- An estimated \$14 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$233,000.

## Community Assistance

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

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$790,000.
  - 57 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$3,583,958.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$195,543.
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$355,451.

## 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.

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