



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in West Virginia



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 West Virginia 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	
827,962	0	0	24,000	0	0	704,700	204,647	0	1,761,309

*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					
158,000	0	0	63,000	0	0	221,000

Program Highlights

- Cooperative Fire Protection: Through cooperative agreements within the State, the Division of Forestry has been able to contract for a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT). From previous State Fire Assistance Grants, an arson bloodhound team

has been developed to concentrate on arson and debris fires in the Southern half of the State.

- Economic Action Programs: The Division of Forestry worked with the Potomac Headwaters RC&D Council to survey the counties in the area to determine localities where fire protection infrastructure was lacking. The results of the survey were prioritized with the cooperation of the county emergency services office and then, based on priority; dry hydrants were installed, resulting in improved fire protection for many small communities and their citizens.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

Maintain a cost effective level of preparedness in firefighting and prevention

- **Preparedness Resources**
 - Department of the Interior will have an increase of 2 firefighting personell, 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 389 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 200 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface
- An estimated \$87,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

- 3 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$704,700.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$204,647.

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 West Virginia
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	C. Randall Dye WV Forestry Division RDye@gwmail.state.wv.us (304) 558-3446