

National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture
www.fireplan.gov



FY 2003 Programs in California

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are in the third year of successful implementation of National Fire Plan (NFP) activities. The NFP was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability.

(dollars displayed in thousands)

USDA / DOI	Actual 2002	**Estimated 2003
Preparedness	226,788	218,582
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	63,996	75,649
Rehabilitation	3,010	1,924
Fire Facilities	1,088	
Research and Development	4,553	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	1,009	1,613
State Fire Assistance	1,923	846
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	1,476	1,487
Economic Action Program	792	724
TOTAL	304,635	300,826

* Suppression costs for California totaled \$3.9 million in 2002.

** Actual funding will be displayed in the 2003 Annual Performance Report.

Program Highlights

- The San Vicente Fire Station, made possible by National Fire Plan funding, opened on May 11, 2003. The station is co-located with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Station 81, and will provide seven-day firefighter staffing through the summer and fall fire seasons.
- Through National Fire Plan funding and the Community Protection grant program, the community of Mosquito received a grant of \$154,825 to develop a strategic plan and management plan for community fire protection. A focus over the next 18 months will be to complete the plans and reduce hazardous fuels adjacent to both the community and the Eldorado National Forest.
- More than 18 miles of firebreaks were created in the King Range National Conservation Area in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Bureau of Land Management. New communities in the area will benefit greatly from these thinning activities.
- The California Fire Alliance and the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council recently hosted a Firewise workshop that attracted more than 120 residents of Kern and Talare counties.
- All natural resource management agencies continue to make excellent progress on reducing hazardous fuels and invasive species across the state.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
 - ≠# USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 levels.
 - ≠# Department of the Interior will have a total of 615 firefighting personnel, 70 engines, 5 helicopters, 7 water/foam tenders, 2 dozers, and 2 airtankers, and 1 additional aircraft.
- Facilities

Department of the Interior will provide \$22,000 in funding for the Salton Sea fire cache.

Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation 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 restore 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 Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 170,000 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 77,800 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface
- An estimated \$75 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$1,613,000.

Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding – \$533,000
30 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$846,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$954,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$724,000

Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed a uniform set of performance measures to assess program effectiveness for FY 2003 and FY 2004 program measurement.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service, with input from the National Association of State Foresters, developed action plans for nearly all of the 23 tasks in the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The State Foresters and their partners are continuing to develop field guidance for fuels reduction projects.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), a common data collection and reporting system for gathering project plans and accomplishments.

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