

National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture

www.fireplan.gov



FY 2003 Programs in Colorado

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	34,710	29,434
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	23,971	28,067
Rehabilitation	5,028	2,438
Fire Facilities	1,314	
Research and Development	2,846	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	805	2,361
State Fire Assistance	4,625	5,165
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	1,217	1,137
Economic Action Program	967	415
TOTAL	75,483	69,017

* Suppression costs for Colorado totaled \$144.1 million in 2002.

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

Program Highlights

- A key emphasis areas for 2003 on the Front Range Fuels Reduction Partnership that is collaboratively developing a strategy to address hazardous fuels reduction along 200 miles of Colorado's most populated and threatened wildland urban interface. This partnership will link state and national forest managers in a collaboration that prioritizes and expedites on-the-ground fuel reduction activities.
- Increased state and forest participation in collaborative efforts focused on development of timber based industries and capacity to utilize salvage, debris, and hazard reduction products by developing strategies for Front Range and 4-Corners Initiatives. This project is supported by the Colorado State University Center for innovative uses of small diameter wood.
- Agencies provided incentives for communities and private landowners to address defensible space and fuels management needs by expanding outreach and education to homeowners and communities about fire prevention, rehabilitation, roles and responsibilities. Working through partners such as the Red Cross, fire management agencies provided 100 prevention programs and Firewise workshops in 26 communities.
- Agencies provided technical assistance in community planning, development, growth and roles of individuals and local governments. Targeted work in high-risk areas and communities within the urban interface with a landscape scale interagency process to assess communities and properties at risk and develop strategies for the Front Range of Colorado and the 4-Corners area.
- The Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service, along with cooperating local agencies and organizations, teamed up to teach Colorado youth fire science basics including fire behavior, fire effects, regeneration, and fire mitigation techniques for wildland urban interface areas. Students then helped create a video to inform homeowners about different ways to reduce the fire risk around their homes.
- The San Juan Hot Shots recently thinned the pinion pine forest surrounding the Anasazi Heritage Center and archaeological site in Delores, CO. Hand-thinning was used on the site allowing crews to work around archaeological

sites and also to leave clumps of vegetation as wildlife sanctuaries. This project was also used to demonstrate thinning practices to the public.

- The San Juan Public Lands Center in Durango, along with several partners, hosted a wildfire prevention and education month in April in southwest Colorado. Several thousand contacts were made through events like Firewise workshop, town hall meetings, field tours of fuel treatment areas, fire information booths, and youth activities.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
 - ## USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.
 - ## Department of the Interior will have a total of 254 firefighting personnel, 35 engines, 2 helicopters, 4 water/foam tenders, 1 airtanker, and 1 additional aircraft.
- Facilities
 - ## Department of the Interior will provide \$684,000 in funding for the Grand Junction Air Center.

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.
- Hayman Fire Emergency Rehabilitation:
 - ## Authorized: \$24,787,200
 - ## Spent in 2002: \$14,803,529
 - ## Planned for 2003: \$6,432,000

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 81,000 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 33,000 will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- An estimated \$28.6 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$2.3 million.

Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding – \$482,000
 - ## 94 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$5.1 million
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$655,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$415,000

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.

Department of the Interior Tim Hartzell National Fire Plan Coordinator (202) 606-3211	USDA Forest Service Corbin Newman National Fire Plan Coordinator (202) 205-1332	State of Colorado James E. Hubbard Colorado State Forester (970) 491-6303
--	--	--