

# National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture  
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## FY 2003 Programs in Montana

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
<b>Preparedness</b>	55,721	30,454
<b>Operations</b>		
<b>Suppression*</b>		
Hazardous Fuel	17,986	22,559
Rehabilitation	15,824	1,177
Fire Facilities	1,020	
Research and Development	0	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	2,777	1,525
State Fire Assistance	1,869	990
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	1,258	1,346
Economic Action Program	664	556
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,120</b>	<b>58,607</b>

\* Suppression costs for Montana totaled \$63.7 million for 2002.

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

## Program Highlights

- A 10-person wildland firefighting crew is being formed from the Montana State Prison population at Deer Lodge for fire season 2003.
- Twelve counties affected by the wildfires of 2000 will receive \$641,793 to stabilize their rural communities through the Commerce Economic Action Program.
- Smokejumpers from Montana and Idaho cleared hazardous ladder fuels in the Four Dances-South Hills recreation areas near Billings, MT. This treatment follows a 40-acre wildland urban interface fuels treatment completed this spring by the Bureau of Land Management.

## 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 371 firefighting personnel, 57 engines, 5 helicopters, 4 water/ foam tenders, 4 dozers, 5 airtankers, and 2 other aircraft.

## 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 75,500 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 32,000 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- An estimated \$22.5 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$961,500.

## **Community Assistance**

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding – \$854,000  
# 210 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$990,000.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$376,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$556,000.

## **Accountability**

- DOI and 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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