

National Fire Plan

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



FY 2003 Programs in New Jersey

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	33	67
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	106	374
Rehabilitation	0	
Fire Facilities	0	
Research and Development	0	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	0	
State Fire Assistance	200	601
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	121	248
Economic Action Program	0	
TOTAL	460	1,290

* Suppression costs for New Jersey totaled \$90,000 in 2002.

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

Program Highlights

- Eleven high-volume water pumps were provided to 11 rural fire departments in close proximity to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area through a Rural Fire Assistance grant. The pumps are a tremendous enhancement to the equipment of the fire departments that are responsible for fire protection activities in the growing wildland urban interface area.

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 350 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 150 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- An estimated \$374,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

States are focusing funding on increasing wildland fire response capacity by enhancing their level of fire preparedness, training wildland firefighters, purchasing personal protective equipment, conducting fire education and prevention activities including Firewise projects, implementing hazard mitigation projects addressing fuel reduction and installation of dry hydrants, and fire planning projects assessing communities at risk.

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$47,000
 # 4 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$601,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$201,000

Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service have 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 New Jersey James S. Barresi State Forestry Service (609) 292-2520
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