

# National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture

[www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)



## FY 2003 Programs in Oregon

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>	76,904	74,150
<b>Operations</b>		
<b>Suppression*</b>		
Hazardous Fuel	48,757	42,890
Rehabilitation	7,313	7,039
Fire Facilities	1,938	1,198
Research and Development	2,515	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	769	143
State Fire Assistance	1,044	1,307
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	1,344	1,260
Economic Action Program	649	585
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141,224</b>	<b>128,573</b>

\* Suppression costs for Oregon totaled \$332.3 million in 2002.

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

## Program Highlights for FY2003

- For the second year, Oregon agencies used a “one stop shopping” process for National Fire Plan grants. This process continues to evolve as community collaboration is expanded to include more communities and more units for the federal agencies. This interagency grant allocation process allows leveraging of resources and maximizing agency coordination. NFP dollars are distributed to the highest priorities, and the maximum number of projects funded with no duplication of grants among agencies. These interagency procedures minimize the burdens on communities and states through coordination, reducing the number of processes to which they respond, and making the program more user-friendly for non-federal parties.
- Four of the national forests were recognized this year by receiving a National Fire Plan award for their Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Safety, and Training. These units contracted with local contractors to provide part of the resources for preparedness. These contract resources were crews and engines and work side-by-side with agency resources, filling the initial attack modules for these forests.
- In central Oregon, residents in the Bend area became familiar with a more “natural” fuels reduction program: goats. Through a NFP grant, more than 1,000 acres were treated for fuels reduction by these friendly, well-managed, four-legged creatures. A secondary benefit to this method of fuels treatment is the reduction of non-native and weed species.
- The Bureau of Land Management in partnership with local landowners, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Oregon State University, have conducted mechanical and prescribed fire treatments to reduce the encroachment of western juniper on mountain big sagebrush, quaking aspen, and riparian woodland plant communities in Eastern Oregon. Crews successfully removed 50% of the western juniper in the treatment area.

## Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources

- ⌘ USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.
- ⌘ Department of the Interior has a total of 474 firefighting personnel and 61 engines, 5 helicopters, 6 water/foam tenders, 5 dozers, 4 air tankers, and one other aircraft.
- Facilities
  - ⌘ USDA Forest Service is providing \$119,800 in funding for work at the Medford air tanker base.
  - ⌘ Department of the Interior is providing \$242,000 in funding for Fort Rock and Gerber Wash Racks, \$179,000 for Lakeview Interagency Fire Center and Cache, and \$91,000 for Fuel Facilities Storage (Gerber, Fort Rock, and Lakeview).

## Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation 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.
- 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.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection from invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring).

## Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 185,600 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 77,000 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- An estimated \$42.8 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$143,000.

## Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding – \$695,000
  - ⌘ 73 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$1,307,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$420,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$585,000

## 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.

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