

National Fire Plan

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



FY 2003 Programs in Pennsylvania

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	649	662
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	546	60
Rehabilitation	95	
Fire Facilities	0	
Research and Development	389	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	710	111
State Fire Assistance	217	968
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	251	630
Economic Action Program	0	
TOTAL	2,859	2,431

* Suppression costs for Pennsylvania totaled \$4.2 million in 2002.

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

Program Highlights

- To date, eight Firewise communities have been established in Pennsylvania, most of which are in the northeastern portion of the state.
- Regional Firewise workshops have been conducted across the state and a coordinator's training has been held for Bureau of Forestry personnel.
- Rural fire departments in close proximity to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area have received high-volume water pumps that will enhance fire protection capabilities in the growing wildland urban interface area.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
 - ⊘ Department of the Interior will have a total of 3 firefighters and 1 engine.
 - ⊘ USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.

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 from 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 300 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies.
- An estimated \$60,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$111,000.

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 – \$25,000
 # 7 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI.
- State Fire Assistance (FS) – Estimated funding – \$968,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS) – Estimated funding – \$630,000

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 Pennsylvania James R. Grace Bureau of Forestry (717) 787-2703
--	--	---