

National Fire Plan

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



FY 2003 Programs in South Carolina

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 | 289 | 287 |
| Operations | | |
| Suppression* | | |
| Hazardous Fuel | 371 | 2,151 |
| Rehabilitation | 0 | 9 |
| Fire Facilities | 0 | |
| Research and Development | 0 | |
| Joint Fire Sciences | 0 | |
| Forest Health Management | 0 | |
| State Fire Assistance | 1,631 | 1,452 |
| Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance | 293 | 260 |
| Economic Action Program | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 2,584 | 4,159 |

* Suppression costs for South Carolina totaled \$249,000 in 2002.

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

Program Highlights

- Hot Shot crews continue to assist with thinning and prescribed burn project near wildland urban interface areas at National Wildlife Refuges in North Carolina.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
 - ≠# USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.
 - ≠# Department of the Interior will have 15 firefighters, and 1 engine.

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 49,600 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 36,000 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface
- An estimated \$2.1 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$73,000
12 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$1,442,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$187,000

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.

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