

# National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture  
[www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)



## FY 2003 Programs in West Virginia

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>	596	618
<b>Operations</b>		
<b>Suppression*</b>		
Hazardous Fuel	147	186
Rehabilitation	0	
Fire Facilities	0	
Research and Development	0	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	0	190
State Fire Assistance	130	647
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	99	209
Economic Action Program	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1,850</b>

\* Suppression costs for West Virginia totaled \$216,000 in 2002.

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

### Program Highlights

- Current plans are to provide basic firefighter training to 60 volunteer fire department members from across the state.

### Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- ## USDA Forest Service plans to continue to fund 4 permanent firefighter positions based on current fire response plans.
- ## No new equipment purchases are planned for the USDA Forest Service.
- ## Department of the Interior will have a total of 2 firefighting personnel 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 1,300 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 300 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$190,000.

### 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): - Funding is estimated at \$65,000  
 # 13 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI.
- State Fire Assistance (FS) – Funding is estimated at \$647,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS) – Funding is estimated at \$144,000
- One competitive grant application is anticipated in the amount of \$250,000 for hazard mitigation projects.

### 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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