

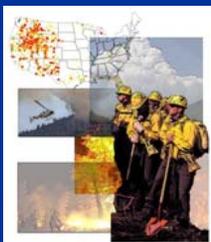


The National Fire Plan: Managing the Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment

An Overview and Look Ahead

April 23, 2002



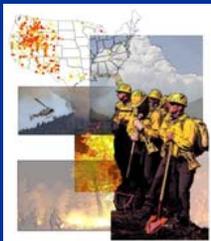


Background:

In September 2000, the Departments of Agriculture and Interior developed a plan:

- To respond to the wildfires of 2000 – the worst fire season in 50 years
- To reduce risks to communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface
- To assure sufficient firefighting capability for the future



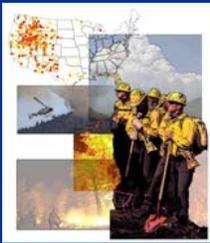


Linkage of the National Fire Plan to Other Major Reports

The National Fire Plan is intended to serve as an umbrella document for the other major tactical fire management reports, including:

- The “Cohesive Strategy” (addressing fuels reduction)
- The Great Basin Restoration Initiative
- Policy Implications of Large Fire Management (addressing costs)
- An Agency Strategy for Fire Management (addressing the workforce)





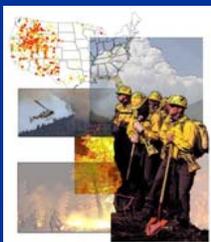
Fundamental Premise of the National Fire Plan:

Investing now in:

- An optimal firefighting force at Federal, state, and local levels;
- Fuels reduction and restoration;
- Community protection

...will provide for immediate protection from wildfires and future cost savings

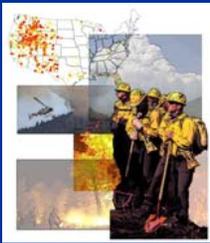




Long-Term Goals of the National Fire Plan:

- Reduce the threat of severe, destructive fires
- Provide for safer living conditions
- Conserve priority watersheds, species, and biodiversity
- Restore fire-adapted ecosystems
- Improve the health, resilience, and sustainability of forests and grasslands
- Reduce overall wildland fire management costs

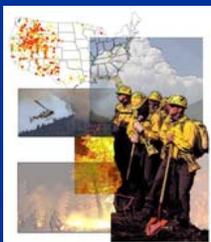




The National Fire Plan Key Points:

- No. 1. Firefighting
- No. 2. Rehabilitation and Restoration
- No. 3. Hazardous Fuel Management
- No. 4. Community Assistance
- No. 5. Accountability





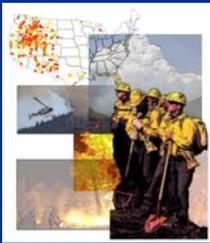
Key Point No. 1: Firefighting

“...Continue to fight fires safely and maintain a cost-effective level of preparedness in fire fighting and prevention”

This Key Point Includes:

- Preparedness for Optimal Readiness at the Federal Level**
- Fire Suppression**
- Fire Facilities Improvement and Maintenance**
- New Technology Development**





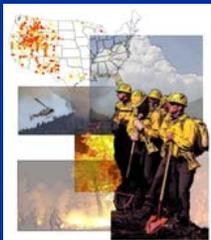
Key Point No. 2: Rehabilitation and Restoration

“...Rehabilitate fire damaged wildlands and restore high-risk ecosystems”

This Key Point Includes:

- Emergency Rehabilitation of Burned Areas**
- Long-Term Restoration of Burned Areas**
- Invasive Species Management**





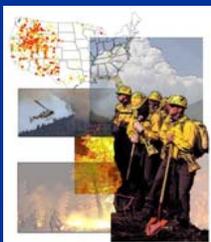
Key Point No. 3: Hazardous Fuels Reduction

“...Invest in projects that reduce fire risk”

This Key Point Includes:

- Fuels Management on Federal Lands**
- Analysis, Planning, and Monitoring for NEPA Compliance**
- Applied Research and Development**





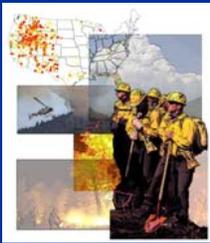
Key Point No. 4: Community Assistance

“...Work directly with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fires”

This Key Point Includes:

- State and Volunteer Fire Assistance for Optimal Readiness to Augment Federal Firefighting Force**
- FIREWISE and Other Fire Prevention Education Programs**
- Fuels Management and Defensible Space**
- Market Development and Expansion for Underutilized Fuel Wood**





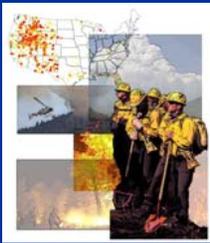
Key Point No. 5: Accountability

“...Maintain a high level of accountability including oversight reviews, progress tracking, and performance monitoring”

This Key Point Includes:

- A Management Structure**
- Performance Measures**
- Communication Products and Status Reports**



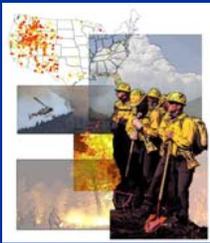


FY 2002 Funding for the National Fire Plan:

- **\$2,269,133,000 for both Departments:**
 - **\$ 1,590,712,000 for the USDA Forest Service**
 - **\$ 678,421,000 for the US Department of the Interior**

**This is down \$618,159,000 from FY 2001 --
\$319,481,000 for the USDA Forest Service and
\$298,678,000 for the US Department of the Interior**

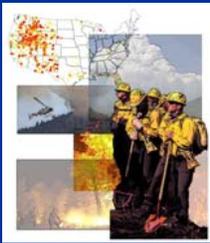




FY 2002 USDA Forest Service Funding for the National Fire Plan:

Programs	FY 2001
Preparedness	\$ 622,618,000
Emergency Contingency	266,000,000
Fire Operations	582,640,000
State Fire Assistance	81,693,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	13,315,000
Invasive Species Management	11,974,000
Economic Action Programs	12,472,000
Community and Private Land Fire Assistance	0
Totals	\$1,590,712,000



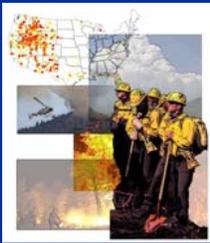


FY 2002 USDA Forest Service Funding for the National Fire Plan for Fire Operations:

Program Components	FY 2002
Fire Suppression	\$ 255,321,000
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	209,010,000
Facilities	20,376,000
Rehabilitation and Long-Term Restoration	62,668,000
Research and Development ¹	35,265,000
Totals	\$582,640,000

¹ Includes \$8,000,000 for the Joint Fire Sciences Project

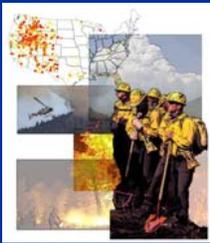




FY 2002 USDA Forest Service Funding for the National Fire Plan for Community Protection:

Program Components	FY 2002
State Fire Assistance	\$ 81,693,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	13,315,000
Invasive Species Management	11,974,000
Economic Action Programs	12,472,000
Community and Private Lands Fire Assistance	0
Totals	\$119,454,000

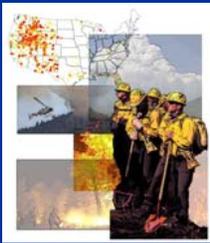




Selected USDA Forest Service FY 2001 Outputs:

Activity	Unit	Target	Output
Fire Workforce	No.	19,110	17,633
Fuels Management:			
Federal Lands	Acres	1,800,000	1,360,076
NonFederal Lands	Acres	395,000	76,236
Rehabilitation and Restoration	Projects	437	329
Volunteer Fire Departments	No.	4,000	881
Forest Health Projects	No.	136	136

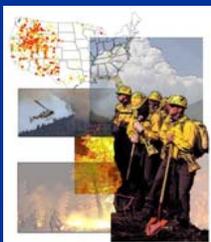




Additional Progress To Date:

- Long-Term National Fire Plan strategy completed
- 117 multi-year research and development projects
- Comprehensive fire planning is underway

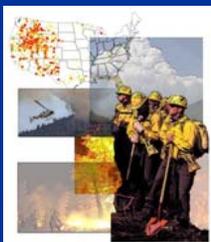




Significant Challenges:

- Be patient – “...it takes time to get an operation of this size and magnitude fully operational”
- Adequate NEPA documentation
- Fire planning “...on every burnable acre” (Federal Wildland Fire Policy)

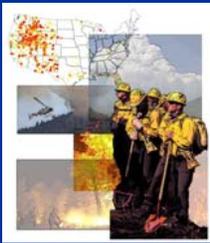




Significant Challenges (continued):

- Improved information and knowledge of impacts
- Focusing of work
- Work as a team – “...this is not just a fire thing”
- Think national – some of the most acute fire management issues are in the east

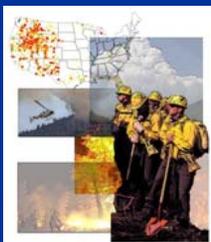




FY 2003 USDA Forest Service Proposed Funding for the National Fire Plan:

Program Focus	FY 2002 Final	FY 2003 Proposed	Proposed (+);(-) FY 2002
Federal Lands	\$1,415,617,000	\$1,329,153,000	-\$86,464,000
Community Protection	119,454,000	97,494,000	-21,960,000
Facilities	20,376,000	0	-20,376,000
New Technology	35,265,000	29,761,000	-5,504,000
Total	\$1,590,712,000	\$1,456,408,000	-\$134,304,000

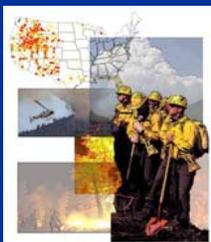




Next Steps:

- Prepare for a safe and effective 2002 fire season
- Continue to implement fuels reduction projects and begin planning for 2003
- Ensure adequate funding for FY 2003 to continue the National Fire Plan
- Continue to identify communities in harm's way
- Emphasize comprehensive fire planning
- Identify high priority information gaps and target synthesis (“r”) and research (“R”) work





Some of These Information Gaps Are:

- The impact of state and local readiness on total preparedness
- The need for fire suppression outside the wildland-urban interface
- Stream improvement through woody debris
- Effects of fire on soil chemistry
- Modification of stand structure in the ecosystem on wildlife habitat
- Effects of fire suppression, mechanical fuel reduction, and prescribed fire on stream flow regimes





Questions?

