

National Fire Plan

USDA Forest Service

Northeastern Area

State and Private Forestry

Wildland Fire Management



Description:

In fiscal year 2001, Congress funded the *National Fire Plan*, providing funds for the USDA Forest Service, states, and other partners address the growing threat to lives, property, and natural resources from catastrophic wildfires. This national initiative reduces hazardous fuels, controls wildland fires, restores burned landscapes, and assists communities at risk. State and Private Forestry programs play a major role in the successful implementation of the plan by directly offering technical and financial assistance to the communities impacted by wildland fire and helping them mitigate future risks.

Key Issues:

- Firefighting Preparedness
- Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction
- Community Assistance
- Accountability

Accomplishments:

- Established an Eastern Area Fire Plan Team with representation from the USDA Forest Service's Eastern Region, Northeastern Area (NA), Northeastern Research Station, North Central Research Station, and Forest Products Laboratory. The team's purpose is to ensure that the units effectively lead the implementation of the National Fire Plan.
- Established the NA Implementation Team to ensure internal coordination and to assist the States and other partners with program implementation.
- Distributed over \$10 million in additional State Volunteer Fire Assistance funding for communities to further increase their capability to respond to fires, initiate hazard fuels treatment, and develop community mitigation plans in the wildland urban interface.

Budget History:

| National Fire Plan | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>(\$ Thousands)</i> | | | | |
| | FY 2001 | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 |
| Total | \$12,137 | \$11,540 | \$10,401 | \$10,726 |

Future Direction:

- Focus on the implementation of the five key issues—firefighting preparedness, rehabilitation and restoration, hazard fuel reduction, community assistance, and accountability.
- Promote increased capacity and efficiency of State agencies to suppress and control wildland fires.
- Foster and facilitate accountability for National Fire Plan expenditures through the National Fire Plan Operations Reporting System (NFPORS).
- Promote State Forestry agency and local community participation in Firewise Communities.



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