

Managing the Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment:

A Report to the President In Response to the Wildfires of 2000

The National Fire Plan Executive Summary for the USDA Forest Service

On August 8, 2000, President Clinton asked Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman to prepare a report that recommends how best to respond to this year's severe fires, reduce the impacts of these wildland fires on rural communities, and ensure sufficient firefighting resources in the future.

The President also asked for actions that federal agencies, in cooperation with States and local communities, can take to reduce immediate hazards to communities in the wildland-urban interface, and to ensure that fire management planning and firefighter personnel and resources are prepared for extreme fire conditions in the future. This brief represents the summary of the USDA Forest Service portion of the National Fire Plan.

Key Points. The National Fire Plan includes five key points:

- ❑ **Firefighting.** Continue to fight the fires for the rest of this fire season and be adequately prepared for next year.
- ❑ **Rehabilitation and Restoration.** Restore landscapes and rebuild communities damaged by the wildfires of 2000.
- ❑ **Hazardous Fuel Reduction.** Invest in projects to reduce fire risk.
- ❑ **Community Assistance.** Work directly with communities to ensure adequate protection.
- ❑ **Accountability.** Be accountable and establish adequate oversight, coordination, program development, and monitoring for performance.

The report to the President, along with preliminary adjustments by Congress, calls for \$1,103,421,000 in additional funding for the USDA Forest Service to implement the National Fire Plan. This includes \$484,147,000 in additional base funding and \$619,274,000 in emergency funds. The following Table 1 illustrates this amount by each program. Table 2 on the following page illustrates the additional funding in expanded detail.

Table 1. National Fire Plan Funding, USDA Forest Service, by Major Program

Programs (Dollars in thousands)	FY 2000 Final	FY 2001 Conference Base	FY 2001 National Fire Plan	FY 2001 Total
Fire Preparedness	\$412,768	\$404,343	\$208,147	\$612,490
Emergency Fire Contingency	90,000	150,000	276,000	426,000
Fire Operations	205,188	226,639	501,000	727,639
State Fire Assistance	23,929	25,000	50,494	75,494
Volunteer Fire Assistance	3,240	5,000	8,280	13,280
Forest Health Management	62,075	76,444	12,000	88,444
Economic Action Programs	20,198	30,336	12,500	42,836
Community and Private Land Fire Assistance	0	0	35,000	35,000
Totals	\$817,398	\$917,762	\$1,103,421	\$2,021,183

Table 2. FY 2001 Additional Funding Specifically Associated with the National Fire Plan (Column 5), USDA Forest Service

Programs (Dollars in thousands)	FY 2000 Final	FY 2001 President's Budget	FY 2001 Adjustments	FY 2001 Subtotal	FY 2001 National Fire Plan	FY 2001 Total
<i>Columns ></i>	1	2	3	4	5	6=(4+5)
Fire Preparedness:	\$402,768	\$399,743	\$0	\$399,743	\$175,147	\$574,890
<i>Fire Workforce Development and Maintenance</i>	0	0	0	0	17,000	17,000
<i>New Technology Development, including the JFSP</i>	10,000	4,600	0	4,600	16,000	20,600
Subtotal, Preparedness	412,768	404,343	0	404,343	208,147	612,490
Emergency Fire Contingency	90,000	150,000	0	150,000	276,000	426,000
Subtotal	502,768	554,343	0	554,343	484,147	1,038,490
Fire Operations:						
Suppression	139,188	141,029	0	141,029	179,000	320,029
Facilities:						
<i>Reconstruction and Repair of Air Tanker Bases</i>	0	0	0	0	12,000	12,000
<i>Reconstruction and Repair of Fire Facilities</i>	0	0	0	0	32,000	32,000
Fuels Management:	66,000	71,000	14,610	85,610	108,500	194,110
<i>Analysis, monitoring, and planning for NEPA</i>	0	0	0	0	11,500	11,500
<i>Research and Development</i>	0	0	0	0	16,000	16,000
Subtotal, Fuels Management	66,000	71,000	14,610	85,610	136,000	221,610
Rehabilitation and Restoration	0	0	0	0	142,000	142,000
Subtotal, Operations	205,188	212,029	14,610	226,639	501,000	727,639
Subtotal, Wildland Fire Management	707,956	766,372	14,610	780,982	985,147	1,766,129
Cooperative Fire Protection:						
State Fire Assistance:	21,929	30,006	-5,006	25,000	10,004	35,004
<i>Firewise</i>	0	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
<i>Cost-share Incentives</i>	0	0	0	0	28,990	28,990
<i>Kenai Peninsula Borough</i>	2,000	0	0	0	7,500	7,500
Subtotal, State Fire Assistance	23,929	30,006	-5,006	25,000	50,494	75,494
Volunteer Fire Assistance	3,240	2,510	2,490	5,000	8,280	13,280
Subtotal, Cooperative Fire Protection	27,169	32,516	-2,516	30,000	58,774	88,774
Forest Health Management	62,075	62,842	1,102	63,944	12,000	75,944
<i>Emergency Priority Pest Contingency</i>	0	0	12,500	12,500	0	12,500
Economic Action Programs	20,198	17,267	13,069	30,336	12,500	42,836
Community and Private Land Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	26,000	26,000
<i>Fence Reconstruction</i>	0	0	0	0	9,000	9,000
Subtotal, Cooperative Programs	109,442	112,625	24,155	136,780	118,274	255,054
Total	\$817,398	\$878,997	\$38,765	\$917,762	\$1,103,421	\$2,021,183

Operating Principles. The following are the nine Operating Principles (OP) to guide the work as the USDA Forest Service implements the National Fire Plan:

- ❑ **Firefighting Readiness.** Increase firefighting capability and capacity for initial attack, extended attack, and large fire support that will reduce the number of small fires becoming large, to better protect natural resources, to reduce the threat to adjacent communities, and reduce the cost of large fire suppression.
- ❑ **Prevention Through Education.** Assist state and local partners to take actions to reduce fire risk to homes and private property through programs such as FIREWISE.
- ❑ **Rehabilitation.** Focus rehabilitation efforts on restoring watershed function including, protection of basic soil, water resources, biological communities, and prevention of invasive species.
- ❑ **Hazardous Fuel Reduction.** Assign highest priority for hazardous fuels reduction to communities at risk, readily accessible municipal watersheds, threatened and endangered species habitat, and other important local features, where conditions favor uncharacteristically intense fires.
- ❑ **Restoration.** Restore healthy, diverse, and resilient ecological systems to minimize uncharacteristically intense fires on a priority watershed basis. Methods will include removal of excessive vegetation and dead fuels through thinning, prescribed fire, and other treatment methods.
- ❑ **Collaborative Stewardship.** Focus on achieving the desired future condition on the land in collaboration with communities, interest groups, and state and federal agencies. Streamline process, maximize effectiveness, use an ecologically conservative approach, and minimize controversy in accomplishing restoration projects.

- ❑ **Monitoring.** Monitor to evaluate the effectiveness of various treatments to reduce unnaturally intense fires while restoring forest ecosystem health and watershed function.
- ❑ **Creating Jobs.** Encourage new stewardship industries and collaborate with local people, volunteers, Youth Conservation Corps members, service organizations, and Forest Service work crews, as appropriate.
- ❑ **Applied Research and Technology Transfer.** Focus research on the long-term effectiveness of different restoration and rehabilitation methods to determine those methods most effective in protecting and restoring watershed function and forest health. Seek new uses and markets for byproducts of restoration.

Management Structure. The National Fire Plan calls for improved accountability. The following is the Management Structure at the national level for the USDA Forest Service to ensure this accountability. Lyle Laverty will serve as National Fire Plan Coordinator, and Denny Truesdale will serve as the Deputy National Fire Plan Coordinator at the national level. The Regional Foresters, with assistance from other partners, will develop Regional teams to implement the National Fire Plan. The composition and specific functions of these teams will be decided at the local level. Each Region and the Northeastern Area has named a Point of Contact to help coordinate the field implement the National Fire Plan. The Management Structure at the national level is as follows:

Fire Plan Key Point	Firefighting	Rehabilitation and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Community Assistance	Accountability
Program Name	Firefighting	Rehabilitation and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Community Assistance	Planning and Analysis
Program Coordinator	Harry Croft	Sally Collins	Mike Dudley	Janet Anderson-Tyler	Hank Kashdan
Program Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparedness ▪ Suppression ▪ Emergency Contingency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation and Restoration ▪ Invasive Species Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fuels Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Fire Assistance ▪ Cost-share Incentives ▪ Volunteer Fire Assistance ▪ Economic Action Programs ▪ Community and Private Land Fire Assistance 	All, with a specific focus on Information Management and Budget and Program Development
Important Roles and Other Tactical Components to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workforce Development and Maintenance ▪ New Technology Development ▪ Facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic Impact Analysis ▪ Priority with Key Watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analysis, monitoring, and planning for NEPA ▪ Applied research and development ▪ Joint Fire Science Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Firewise ▪ Other fire prevention education programs ▪ Fuels Management ▪ Defensible space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Required information ▪ Database management ▪ Communication products ▪ Status reports ▪ Planning ▪ Allocations, including criteria ▪ Out year program integration

The Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator is responsible for the overall coordination of the program and its components in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the National Fire Plan. In addition, the Program Coordinator will:

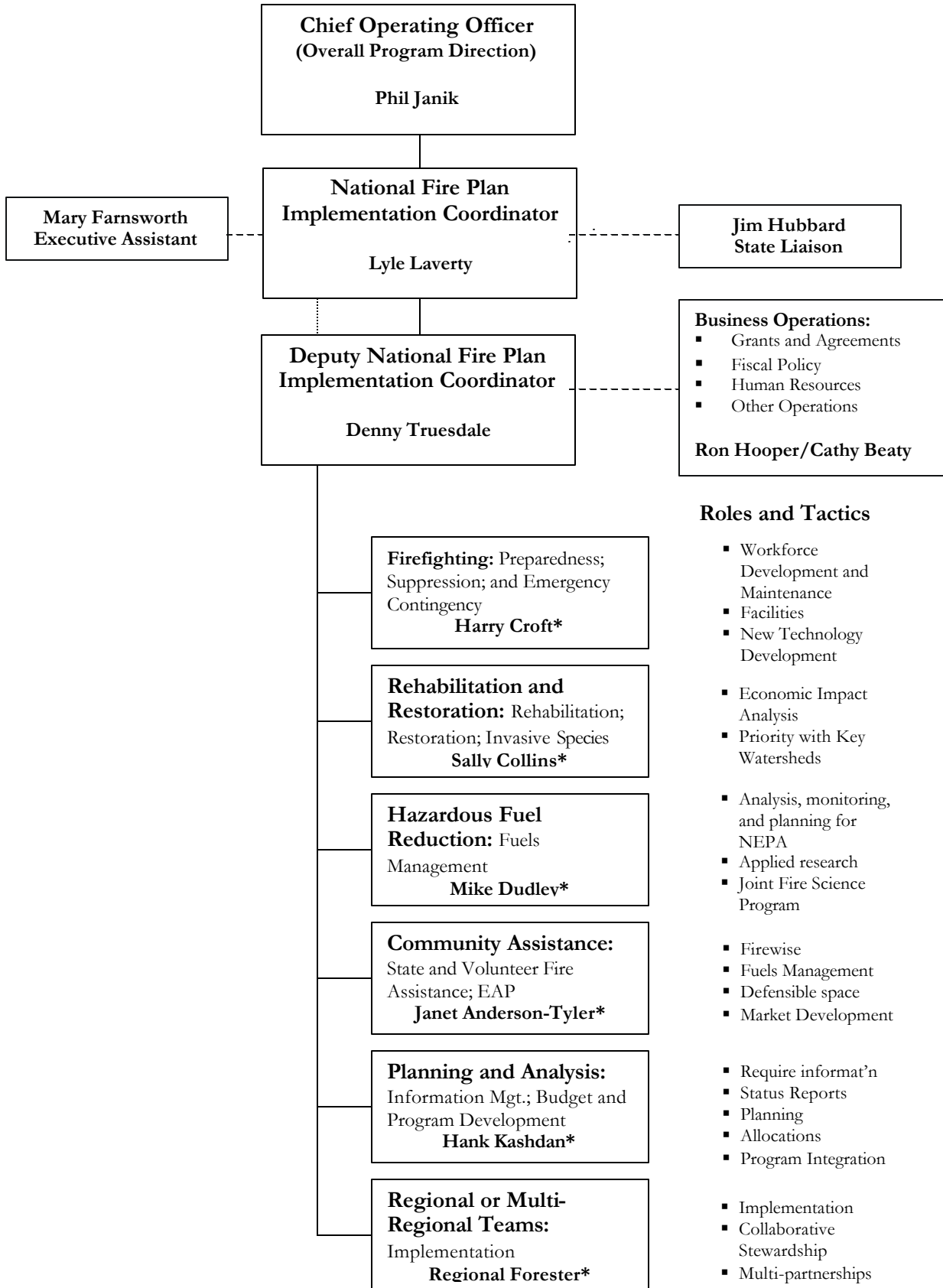
- ❑ Coordinate the development of a Program of Work for the assigned program.
- ❑ Have input into budget planning and execution.
- ❑ Provide required information, including accomplishments, to the Information Management Coordinator as needed.
- ❑ Ensure Operating Principles are followed.

The following page illustrates the USDA Forest Service Management Structure in graphical format.

For More Information, please contact:

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National Fire Plan Management Structure



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