

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

Key Point 2 – Rehabilitation and Restoration

Questions & Answers

- Q. How does the National Fire Plan address rehabilitation and restoration of burned areas?
- A. Through the National Fire Plan, Congress has provided funding to rehabilitate and restore watersheds to closely match historical or pre-fire ecosystem structure, function, diversity and dynamics.
- Q. Why are rehabilitation projects necessary?
- A. The projects are necessary to restore landscapes that were damaged by the severe wildfires during the 2000 fire season. Given the severity of last year's fires, some of the burned areas are unlikely to recover naturally from the damage in a timely manner. These rehabilitation and restoration efforts are in addition to emergency stabilization efforts already taking place.
- Q. What is the funding level for rehabilitation and restoration in the National Fire Plan, and how many projects will the funds cover?
- A. The rehabilitation and restoration total funding level is \$247 million. Of that, \$142 million is appropriated for the USDA Forest Service to address more than 500 projects proposed in 14 western states; and \$105 million is appropriated for Interior for projects on 1.4 million acres in 14 states.
- Q. What will be the focus of these projects, and what will they involve?
- A. Projects will focus on restoring watershed function including protection of basic soil, water resources, biological communities, and prevention of invasive species. Biological rehabilitation emphasizes planting native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees. The projects involve planning, consultation, design, and contracting, and may take several years to fully implement. Monitoring and evaluation effectiveness of treatments may occur for up to three years following control of the fire.