

# The National Fire Plan

USDA Forest Service and Department of Interior



## Rehabilitation and Restoration

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### The National Fire Plan - Overview

In August 2000, the President directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a response to severe wildland fires, reduce fire impacts on rural communities, and assure sufficient firefighting capacity in the future.

The Plan addresses 5 Key Points: Firefighting; Rehabilitation and Restoration; Hazardous Fuel Reduction; Community Assistance; and, Accountability.

### Rehabilitation and Restoration Budget Summary (\$ in thousands)

National Fire Plan	USDA/FS	DOI	FY 2001 Total
Rehabilitation and Restoration	\$142,000	\$105,000	\$247,000

### Rehabilitation and Restoration

Funding will be used to rehabilitate and restore watersheds, to closely match historical or pre-fire ecosystem structure, function, diversity and dynamics. Projects will focus on restoring watershed function, including protection of basic soil, water resources, biological communities, and prevention of invasive species. While biological rehabilitation emphasizes planting native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees, use of non-native species are occasionally necessary to insure that site stability and competition against non-natives are being accomplished, particularly in arid sites where cheatgrass is a problem.

Projects require planning, consultation, design, and contracting and may take several years to fully implement. Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of treatments may occur for up to 3 years following control of the fire.

Research is currently being conducted to make available new native species and varieties of native plant material, used in rehabilitation and restoration projects, that is more site specific and able to compete with non-native invasive species.

Funding is categorized in two ways:

1. Emergency rehabilitation/stabilization
  - Short-term (up to one year)
  - To remove hazards and prevent further damage to ecosystems and communities
2. Restoration
  - Long-term (up to three years)
  - To improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from fire, and/or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire

### Projects

- USDA-Forest Service– approximately 500 projects in 14 western States
- Department of Interior– projects on 1.4 million acres in 14 States

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