

National FIRE PLAN

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT
Oregon/Washington



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

an interagency report for fiscal year 2002

Overview

Oregon & Washington

Fiscal Year 2002 National Fire Plan Accomplishments

This interagency accomplishments summary documents progress in implementing the National Fire Plan in Oregon and Washington for Fiscal Year 2002 (FY2002). The National Fire Plan laid the foundation for a long-term program of work to reduce fire risk and promote healthy, fire-adapted ecosystems across the Nation's forests and grasslands.

This summary provides information on the collaborative accomplishments of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior (DOI) in Oregon and Washington in the four major National Fire Plan areas: Firefighting, Rehabilitation and Restoration, Hazardous Fuel Reduction, and Community Assistance.

In Oregon and Washington, interagency partners involved in National Fire Plan implementation include the:

- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Governor's Office
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington and Oregon State Fire Marshal Offices
- County Commissioners
- Tribal Governments
- Department of Interior (DOI) Agencies
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - National Park Service
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

In the Pacific Northwest, federal agencies and the states work together to build effective community protection programs. DOI and USDA Forest Service grants were awarded to states and communities through an interagency grant process. **Through the interagency grants process, over \$14.5 million in grants were awarded. These grants leveraged over \$27 million in project activities.**

Wildland Urban Interface Program

For FY2002, DOI agencies and the USDA Forest Service awarded **38 grants totaling approximately \$5.5 million** in funding for hazardous fuel reduction projects, prevention and education programs, community fire protection planning and monitoring, and the utilization and marketing of hazardous fuel reduction by-products. (See Maps on pages 6 and 7)

Prevention and Education Grants:

These grants support projects that include prevention and education programs such as FIREWISE. Some of the projects are specific to a community, a county or fire district while other projects create education materials that can be used region-wide.

Marketing and Utilization Grants:

The marketing and utilization grants support the development of markets and processing plants for the vegetative material that is commonly removed from forests to reduce hazardous fuels. Marketing and utilization of this material is a key component of the National Fire Plan and may reduce the long-term cost of removing these materials.

Planning and Monitoring Grants:

These grants support community fire plans, risk assessment and mitigation plans. The grants fund planning efforts that identify priority actions that will lead to safer, more defensible communities.

Economic Action Program

The USDA Forest Service, through its Economic Action Program, provided more than **\$860,000 through 30 grants** to state, tribal and local governments, universities, and non-profit groups for small diameter tree utilization and marketing projects, community fire planning, and prevention and education programs.

State Fire Assistance

State Fire Assistance is a USDA Forest Service program to improve the fire protection capabilities of state forestry agencies and to assist communities in mitigating wildland urban interface fire hazards. Under the National Fire Plan, more than **\$6.5 million** was awarded to the states of Oregon and Washington in FY2002.

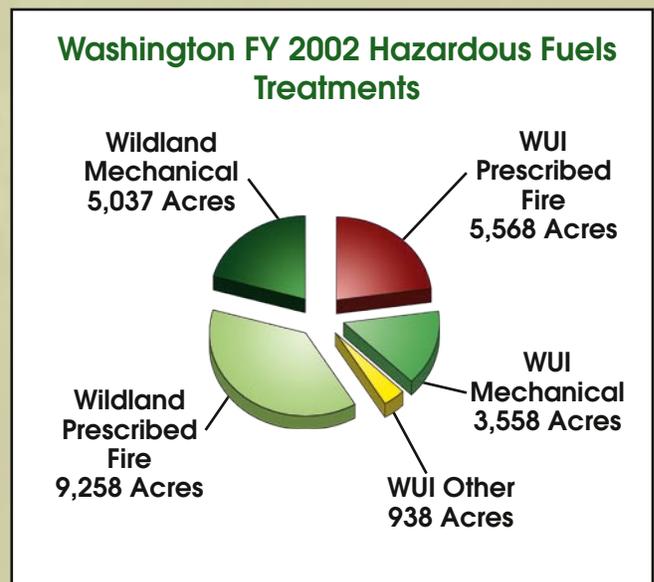
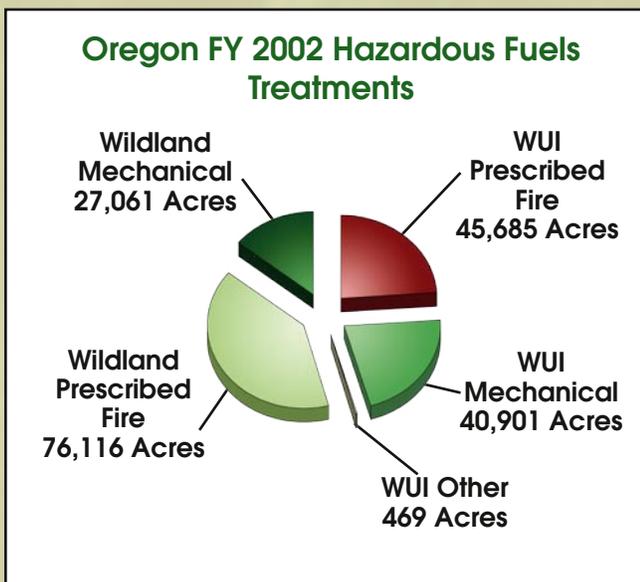
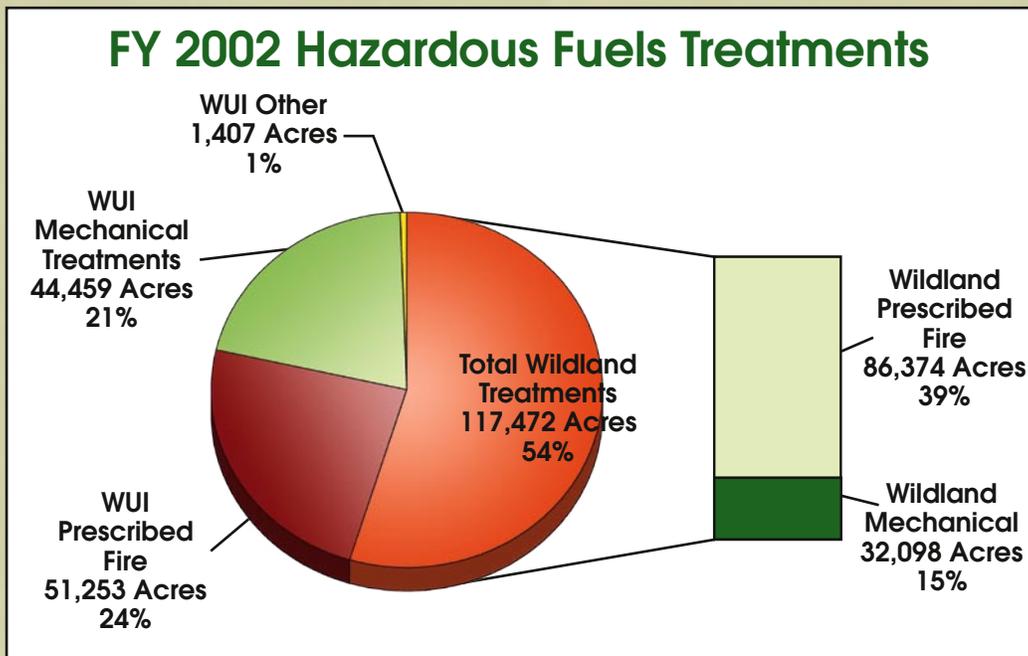
Volunteer Fire Assistance & Rural Fire Assistance:

The interagency Volunteer Fire Assistance and Rural Fire Assistance programs dispersed more than **\$7.3 million to 234 fire districts** in Oregon and Washington to use for training, equipment purchases, and prevention activities.

HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION

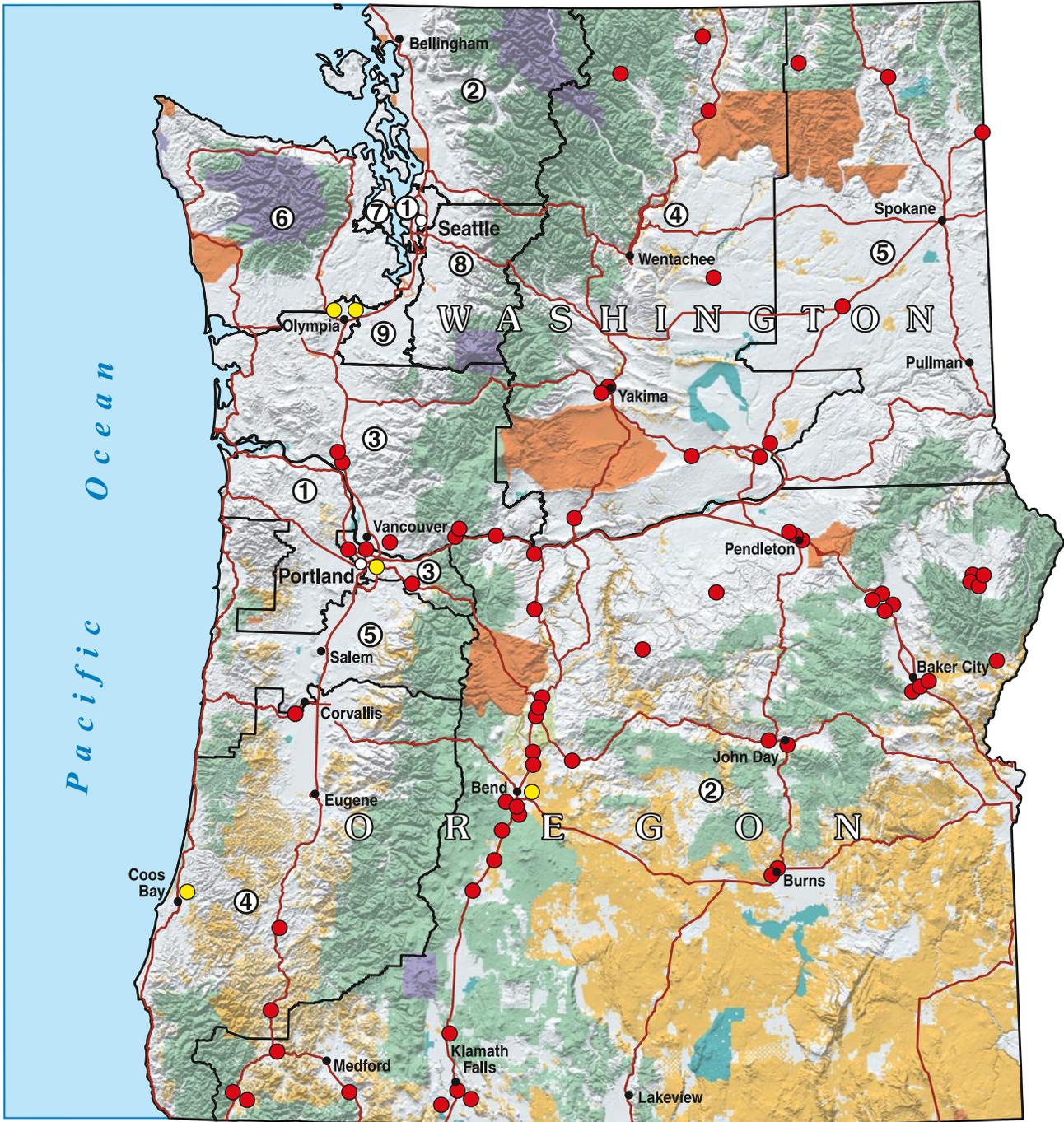
In FY 2002, the DOI agencies and the USDA Forest Service conducted hazardous fuel reduction treatments on **190,232 acres in Oregon** and **24,359 acres in Washington**. **Approximately 46 percent of the acres treated were within wildland urban interface (WUI) areas.** (See Map on pages 6 and 7)

Hazardous Fuels Treatments for Oregon & Washington*



*All three charts represent the combined hazardous fuels treatments for DOI agencies and the USDA Forest Service.

National Fire Plan Education and Planning Grants FY 2002



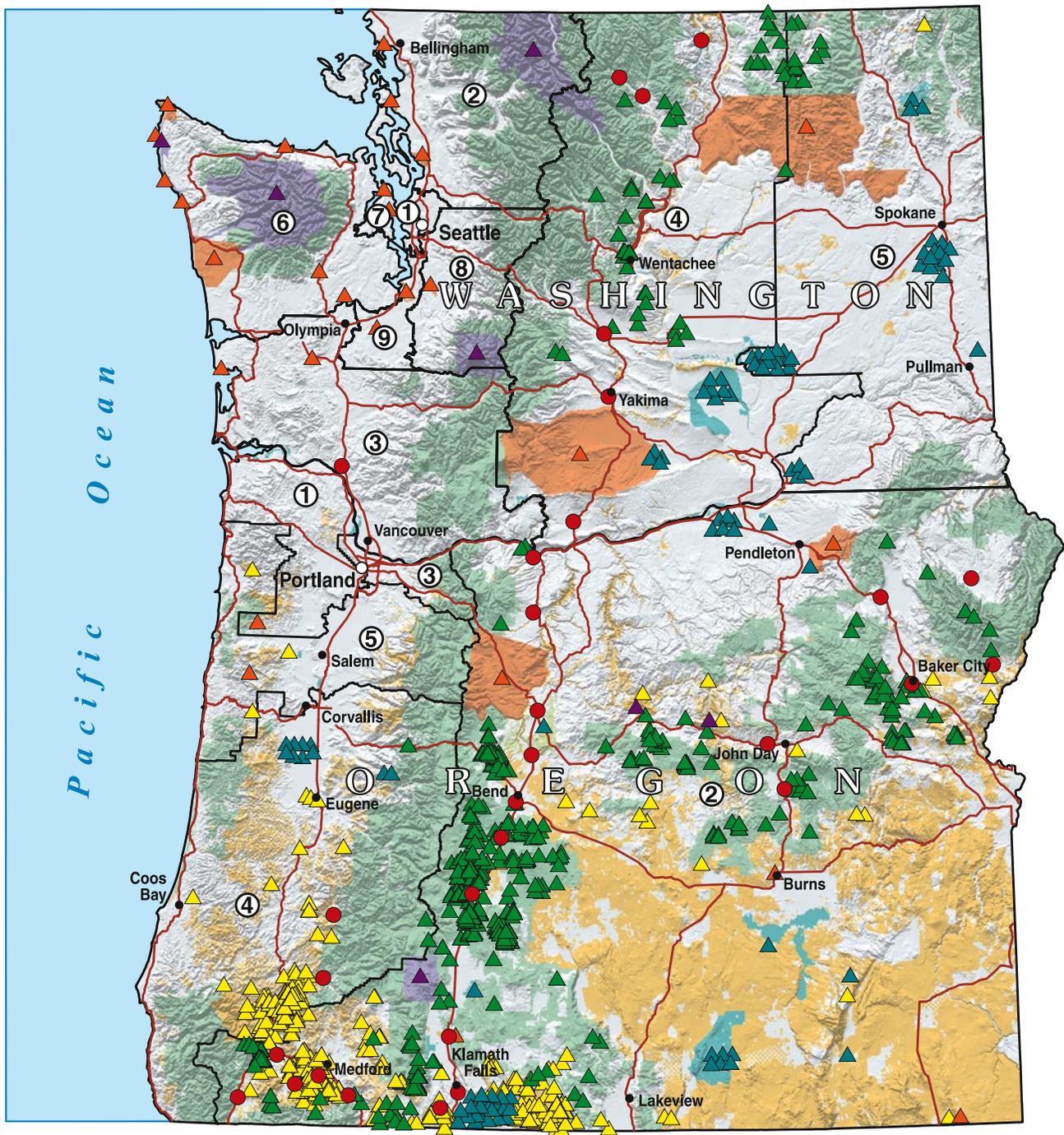
Administered Land

- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- US Fish and Wildlife
- Other

- Statewide Education Grants
- NFP Prevention Education, Marketing and Utilization, and Community Fire Planning Grants on Non-Federal Lands

- 5 Congressional District
- Congressional District Boundary
- Federal Highway

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects Implemented FY 2002



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Land Ownership | | ● NFP WUI Hazardous Fuel Treatment Grants* |
| ■ US Bureau of Land Management | ● Hazardous Fuel Treatments by Agency | ⑤ Congressional District |
| ■ US Forest Service | ▲ US Bureau of Land Management | — Congressional District Boundary |
| ■ National Park Service | ▲ US Forest Service | — Highway |
| ■ Bureau of Indian Affairs | ▲ National Park Service | |
| ■ US Fish and Wildlife | ▲ Bureau of Indian Affairs | |
| ■ Other | ▲ US Fish and Wildlife | |

D07-04-03:PF:072903

*WUI - Wildland Urban Interface

Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Lands FY2002

Oregon

Hazardous Fuel Reduction in Wildland Urban Interface Areas

Agency	FS	BLM	FWS	NPS	BIA
Prescribed Fire (Acres)	25,890	19,750	45	-	
Mechanical Treatment (Acres)	1,290	26,564	12,549	-	498
Other (Acres)	-	-	-	-	469
Total Acres	27,180	46,314	12,594	-	967
Cost	\$5,508,000	\$15,896,000	\$1,548,000	\$0	\$1,287,000*

Other Hazardous Fuel Treatments

Agency	FS	BLM	FWS	NPS	BIA
Prescribed Fire (Acres)	25,442	34,558	6,506	5,489	4,121
Mechanical Treatment (Acres)	14,913	11,643	185	-	320
Total Acres	40,355	46,201	6,691	5,489	4,441
Cost	\$7,942,000	\$8,953,000	\$1,327,000	\$554,000	\$1,049,000*

Washington

Hazardous Fuel Reduction in Wildland Urban Interface Areas

Agency	FS	BLM	FWS	NPS	BIA
Prescribed Fire (Acres)	4,068	-	1,140	360	-
Mechanical Treatment (Acres)	818	195	2,118	392	35
Other	-	-	-	-	938
Total Acres	4,886	46,314	3,258	752	973
Cost	\$1,675,000	Included in the cost for Oregon	\$1,180,000	\$690,000	\$1,159,000*

Other Hazardous Fuel Treatments

Agency	FS	BLM	FWS	NPS	BIA
Prescribed Fire (Acres)	6,180	-	1,154	-	1,924
Mechanical Treatment (Acres)	2,362	100	2,407	-	168
Total Acres	8,542	100	3,561	-	2,092
Cost	\$418,000	Included in the cost for Oregon	\$672,000	\$80,000	\$637,000*

*The BIA funds have been contracted to the Tribes and they continue to treat hazardous fuels with these funds.

The cost of hazardous fuel reduction per acre varies dramatically depending on the topography of the area being treated, the fuel loads being treated, and the area's proximity to dwellings and structures.

FS: USDA Forest Service, BLM: Bureau of Land Management, FWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NPS: National Park Service, BIA: Bureau of Indian Affairs.

FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

During the 2002 fire season, there were approximately 2,000 federally employed firefighters in the Pacific Northwest who helped to suppress over 4,200 fires, **98% of which were suppressed during initial attack and kept to less than 100 acres.**

USDA Forest Service Bureau of Land Management

Engines + Water Tenders	185	57
Prevention & Patrol Modules	62	1
Airtankers & Single Engine Air Tankers	11	4
Helicopters	5	4
Initial Attack Handcrew Personnel*	672	10
Interagency Hotshot Crews	10	1
Smokejumpers	55	0

**Initial Attack Handcrews are also counted as firefighters.*

Contracts

DOI agencies and the USDA Forest Service awarded approximately **\$59.6 million** of National Fire Plan contract funds to local businesses, tribes, and organizations throughout Oregon and Washington. These contracts benefit local firefighting efforts and infused approximately **\$38.7 million** of federal funds into local communities in Oregon and **\$20.9 million** to communities in Washington.

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND REHABILITATION

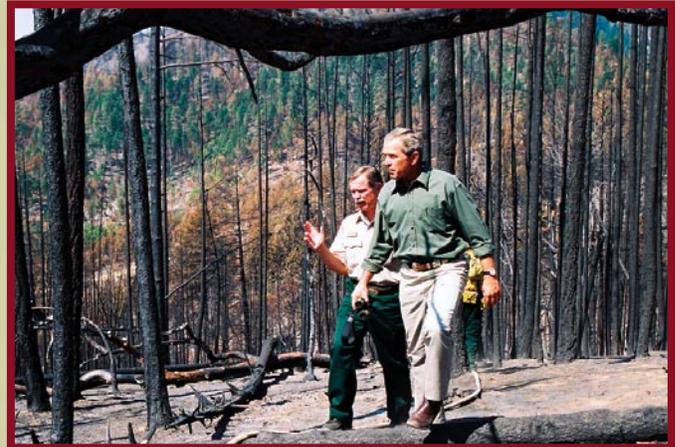
In FY2002, DOI agencies and the USDA Forest Service received approximately **\$14.9 million** in National Fire Plan funds for Emergency Stabilization Rehabilitation (ESR). Approximately **\$8.2 million** went to fund projects in Washington and approximately **\$6.8 million** went to fund projects in Oregon.

Using ESR funds, 86 projects were implemented in Oregon totaling 70,573 acres. Thirty projects were implemented in Washington totaling 77,021 acres. **Combined, these projects totaled over 147,000 acres of post-fire restoration and rehabilitation.**

SUCCESS STORIES

President Bush Visits Oregon

On August 22, 2002, President George W. Bush toured the Squires Fire in the Bureau of Land Management's Medford District in southwestern Oregon. The President emphasized the need to conduct forest thinning, fuels reduction, and related National Fire Plan projects. During his visit, the President released a proposal for addressing the threat of wildfire entitled, "Healthy Forests-An Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities."



During the tour of the Squires Fire, the President saw firsthand the effects of a wildland fire in an area that had been treated with hazardous fuel reduction projects. Fuel hazard reduction activities included mechanical and manual brush removal, pre-commercial and commercial thinning of trees, and prescribed burning. Initial observations on the effect of these treatments showed significantly positive results on fire behavior, safety, suppression effectiveness, and overall fire effects.

John Day Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Inventory & Defensible Space Projects

In the Oregon Department of Forestry's John Day Unit, two National Fire Plan grants were awarded to raise community awareness and to assist non-industrial landowners in reducing the risk of fire to their property. By implementing hazardous fuels inventories and cost share agreements for individual properties, these grants have helped to create more "defensible space." The hazardous fuels inventories document the existing fuel types, the availability of water and access, and provide recommended improvements. The information gathered in these inventories will ultimately become part of a larger Community Fire Protection Plan.

Rural Fire Protection Infrastructure Planning and Development Project



Crook County Rural Fire Protection District #1 received a National Fire Plan grant for approximately \$49,000 which was matched with \$34,000 from the fire protection district and over \$7,800 from the State of Oregon. The funds were used to implement a fire education program and to conduct planning and development for the Powell Butte fire station. In addition, GIS equipment and computers were purchased and used to create databases with roads, drainages, property lines, fuel types, and

hazards which could be shared with the city, county, state and federal agencies. The community involvement effort reached 16,700 residents and included media coverage, mailings, and "Firefree" home evaluations of 124 dwellings. The project raised community awareness and will lead to greater fire preparedness.



Yacolt Burn Educational Project



The Yacolt Burn Educational Project is a partnership between the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, USDA Forest Service, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local fire departments. Together, these agencies created an exhibit and education program to promote fire prevention against the backdrop of the hundredth anniversary of the Yacolt Burn. Through this interagency education effort, the agencies were able to reach over 35,000 households through

newspaper inserts, hazardous fuels reduction information distributed at county fairs, community education seminars, curriculum development, and workshops for educators.

The exhibit on the Yacolt Burn entitled "Yacolt Burn of 1902: Could It Happen Again?" outlines the history of the Yacolt Burn, provides information on the current landscape conditions, and the need for fire prevention and management.

Interagency Hazardous Fuels Projects in Central Oregon

Interagency cooperation led to the successful treatment of 9,000 acres of National Park Service-administered lands in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in central Oregon. The objective of the prescribed fire treatment was the restoration of native bunchgrass communities and the reduction of hazardous fuels. A Bureau of Land Management helicopter was used for the initial ignition of the fire, the ignition specialist and the “burn boss” were National Park Service employees and of the 11 engines used, five were from the USDA Forest Service, three were from the Bureau of Land Management, two were privately contracted, and one was from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Through interagency coordination, and the cooperation of local landowners, the prescribed fire treatment was a success.



“Late evening burning at the national monument’s Blue Basin Trailhead.”



Sun Mountain Ranch

Residents of Sun Mountain Ranch, a private subdivision in north-central Washington surrounded by Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service-administered lands, are learning how to make their 750-acre development less prone to wildfire hazards. Thanks to National Fire Plan funding, this project implemented hazardous fuel treatments and reduced the risk of stand-replacing crown fires by thinning trees and removing ladder fuels, thus helping to protect the structures in the subdivision.

The project included a FIREWISE Workshop to build community support, creating a fuel break, thinning overstocked stands, and pruning bitterbrush and other shrubs along roads. The Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the local fire district actively participated in planning, designing, and implementing the project.

Chiloquin Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project



The Winema National Forest Chiloquin Community Fuels Reduction Project analyzed and developed alternative methods for treating fuels on 4,100 acres in the Chiloquin, Oregon area. Wildfires in this area are frequently stand replacement events that

pose a significant threat to the community. The Forest Service, in close collaboration with the Klamath Tribes and the public, developed alternatives to address fuel reduction needs. The alternative that was selected will lead to pre-commercial thinning of small trees on 769 acres, mechanical brush mowing on 2,321 acres, underburning on 900 acres, hand piling of trees and brush on 311 acres, juniper removal from encroached dry meadows on 325 acres, rejuvenation of decadent mountain mahogany stands on 209 acres, and planting 79 acres with conifers. When completed, the treatments will create more resistant forests and a greatly reduced wildfire threat to the Chiloquin community.

78 Rural Fire Districts in Washington State Benefit from Department of Natural Resource Grants

Seventy-eight fire districts serving communities with fewer than 10,000 people received \$380,072 worth of federal National Fire Plan grants in 2002. The grants will enable these rural fire organizations to conduct education and training, purchase equipment, and improve response capability in a way they otherwise could not afford. Funded by the USDA Forest Service and DOI agencies, the grants will be used to purchase safety and communications equipment, used vehicles and firefighting gear, as well as for training purposes and to develop and implement fire prevention education.

Keno Fire Protection District

Using funds from a National Fire Plan grant, the Keno Rural Fire Protection District in south central Oregon has developed a strategy for addressing fuel reduction in the 44 square mile forested district. The strategy is made up of several key components including: education, fuel reduction, interagency cooperation, addressing forest health issues, combining fire prevention programs, improved GIS mapping, fire planning and the provision of initial attack capabilities. The Keno Rural Fire Protection District will coordinate closely with the Oregon Department of Forestry who has joint jurisdiction in much of the area. Through their planning efforts, the Keno Rural Fire Protection District hopes to serve as a helpful model for other fire and planning departments.

National Fire Plan Contacts in Oregon and Washington

If you would like more information about community groups, FIREWISE programs, or reducing fire risk please contact your nearest land management agency.

Interagency Fire Plan Coordinator

Bonnie Wood, bjwood@fs.fed.us, (503) 808-2701

Bureau of Land Management

Chris Strebig, chris_strebig@or.blm.gov, (503) 808-6003

USDA Forest Service

Rex Holloway, rholloway@fs.fed.us, (503) 808-2241

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Bruce Babb, bruce_babb@fws.gov, (503) 231-6234

National Park Service

Bob Appling, bob_appling@nps.gov, (360) 696-7540

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Cory Winnie, corywinnie@pop.net, (503) 231-6759

Oregon Department of Forestry

Bill Lafferty, blafferty@odf.state.or.us, (503) 945-7435

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Mark Gray, mark.gray@wadnr.gov, (360) 902-1754

National Fire Plan Related Websites

www.fireplan.gov

www.nifc.gov

National
FIRE PLAN
ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

Oregon / Washington

BLM/OR/WA/GI-03/050+9218.1