

National Fire Plan

Anecdotal Stories of Success Pacific Southwest Region



Firefighting is one of the five key elements outlined in the National Fire Plan. It encompasses all aspects of suppression and organizational readiness, including workforce, supplies and equipment, aircraft, facilities, and research and technology development.

The National Fire Plan provides additional funding for agencies to meet their full firefighting capability. Support of this additional capability requires purchasing new equipment to ensure the optimal level of readiness for wildland firefighting agencies. The equipment will be positioned across the country, with the majority located in the western states.

These are examples of how the National Fire Plan has made a difference in fighting wildland fires during this year's season

- On the Tahoe National Forest (Nevada City, Calif.), an additional helicopter provided by National Fire Plan funding helped keep the Cool Fire to nine acres in an area that was not easily accessible.
- On the Shasta-Trinity National Forest (Redding, Calif.) a fire was held to 100 acres with the help of new firefighting resources including an engine, a bulldozer, a crew, and a helicopter. Without rapid containment, an Incident Management Team would probably have been activated.
- During an early July lightning storm on the Klamath National Forest (Yreka, Calif.), the new National Fire Plan funded Forest hand crew was able to extinguish five fires in one morning in rugged, fuel-laden terrain. The forest estimates that a year ago those fires would likely have been unstaffed and resulted in hundreds of lightning strikes and 196 fires. District Fire Management Officers for two districts estimate there would have been at least two to three project fires resulting from the lightning storm if additional National Fire Plan related resources had been unavailable.
- In early July, a lightning storm sparked a number of fires on the Sierra National Forest (Clovis, Calif.). National Fire Plan-related resources aided in three ways : an engine force bolstered by fire plan funding stayed on top of fires accessible from roads; the additional 20 person hand crew and a newly enlarged helitack fire crew (14 rappellers) stopped a first wave of lightning fires; and additional smokejumpers provided by the National Fire Plan funding reinforced initial attack in the backcountry.

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit www.fireplan.gov