

National Fire Plan

State Hazardous Fuel Mitigation Program

Florida

2001



In 2001, the first year of the National Fire Plan, the state of Florida received six NFP grants, which were used to increase its Division of Forestry's wildfire mitigation efforts. These efforts included the development of a wildland/urban interface fuel mitigation course, a Firewise campaign, a prescribed fire and smoke management in the interface brochure, a smoke modeling program for those involved with prescribed fires, a prescribed fire education campaign, and a fire prevention education campaign.

Through a cooperative agreement that combined state and federal dollars, the Florida Division of Forestry sustained an intense wildland urban interface mitigation effort using both prescribed fire and mechanical fuel treatments. To accomplish this, the division has four regional wildfire management teams, headquartered in Punta Gorda (South Florida), Bunnell (Central Florida), Gainesville (North Florida), and Bonifay (Florida Panhandle). The teams are special units designed to assist and augment the mitigation program of the division's field units.

For the 2000 to 2001 fiscal year, the Division of Forestry's four teams treated 14,855 acres of the wildland urban interface and protected 7,247 homes with fuel reduction treatments such as prescribed fires, brush mowing, and fire line establishment, at an estimated cost of \$1 million. Of those treated acres, 9,210 benefited from National Fire Plan dollars, in addition to 4,430 homes received wildland fire protection with this funding.

Additionally, NFP preparedness dollars for 2000 and 2001 enabled the state to purchase a fuels mitigation mower for the North Florida Wildfire Management Team to reduce wildland fuels.