

# Fire plan 2002

*Rocky Mountain Region*

*May, 2003*



## Stockholders Report

*Our principle objectives remain:*

**SAFETY** for firefighters and our affected publics.

**SERVICE** to customers and communities.

**STEWARDSHIP** in our treatment of public lands entrusted in our care



# National Fire Plan Stockholder Report

≈≈ **FY02**

## Introduction

≈≈ This report highlights the National Fire Plan accomplishments in the Rocky Mountain Region in fiscal year 2002. In keeping with the *Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan of 2002*, accomplishment will be presented by the four goals as outlined in the Implementation Plan.

## Funding Overview

≈≈ The Rocky Mountain Region received over \$33 million to meet wildland fire preparedness, \$21 million for hazardous fuels reduction, and \$24 million in cooperative forestry funds in FY 2002.

≈≈ The Region provided over \$12 million in funds for grants to States and rural communities for national fire plan and cooperative forestry projects.

## Fire Season 2002

≈≈ The Rocky Mountain Region experienced its most complex fire season on record in 2002. Unique this season was not so much the total number of fires/ignitions, but rather the atypical duration of the large fires. Put into perspective, it is estimated that 98% of all recorded

ignitions were contained and controlled following initial attack.

≈≈ The remaining 2% that escaped and became large fires were as a result of extended drought conditions with fuel types prone to large fires. Fires in designated Wilderness Areas accounted for approximately 30% of the large fire acreage. Each was managed using appropriate management strategies.

≈≈ The Rocky Mountain Multi-Agency Coordination Group (RMCG) and various Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) committees operated for 72 days to efficiently manage critical fire resources in FY 02.



Type of Fires Region 2	Number of Fires	Number of Acres Burned
All Fires	<b>15,770</b>	<b>1.2 million</b>
Large Fires	CO 55	472,840
	ND 1	48,000
	SD 5	28,834
	WY <u>20</u>	<u>105,628</u>
	<b>81</b>	<b>655,302</b>
FS wildland fire use fires	<b>17</b>	<b>22,594</b>



- ⚡⚡ The RMCG, hosted 71 Type I and II Incident Management Team assignments and three Area Commands assisted Agency Administrators.
- ⚡⚡ The RMCG also established a permanent seasonal interagency joint fire information center (JIC) at the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center to provide timely and accurate information to the media and the public during the recordbreaking FY02 fire season.

Additional statistics:

- ⚡⚡ The number of personnel and resources requested and filled to manage Regionwide fires in 2002 were :
  - 8,240 fire personnel
  - 861 crews
  - 1,295 engines
  - 1,723 aircraft
- ⚡⚡ Costs: \$148 million in fire suppression funds.
- ⚡⚡ Burned Areas Emergency Rehabilitation plans include 23 approved plans covering 413,920 acres for \$32 million. ( includes Federal, State, and private lands)



*Missionary Ridge Fire of 2002*

**Goal One: Improve Fire Prevention and Suppression**

***“Losses of life are eliminated, and firefighter injuries and damage to communities and the environment from severe, unplanned and unwanted wildland fire are reduced.”***

*(Ten year Implementation Plan of 2002)*

**Accomplishments**

**Region:**

- ⚡⚡ The Region created a website to share employment training and fire assignment opportunities for the 2002 fire season. The Region hired nearly 200 summer seasonal firefighters and 70 permanent employees to implement the National Fire Plan in 2002.
- ⚡⚡ The Forests in the Region took action to complete fire management plans on all the National Forests in the Region.
- ⚡⚡ Held the first Regional Fire Operations meeting in Denver bringing together all fire personnel in the region to discuss issues and began the development of the Region’s Thirty-Mile Incident



## Response Plan.

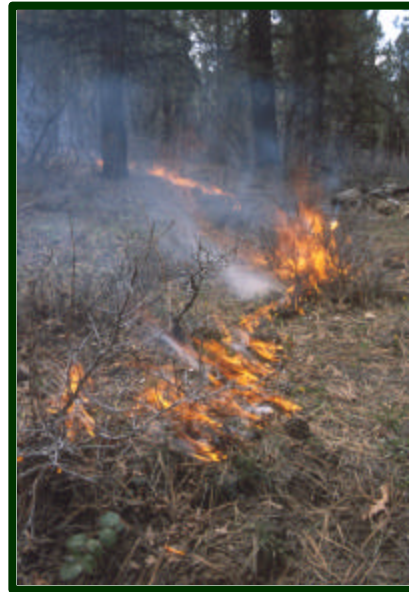
### Colorado

- ☞☞ Successfully completed the certification process for the Roosevelt Interagency Hotshots of Fort Collins, CO and added the San Juan Hotshots in Durango, CO.
- ☞☞ The Durango airtanker base construction project was completed in June 2002 and dedicated in September. A contract has been awarded for construction of airtanker base facilities at the Jefferson County airport. .
- ☞☞ Working with the Red Cross, organized a community based FIREWISE pilot program in Colorado with the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies.
- ☞☞ Included, for the first time, coursework in wildland fire prevention in the curriculum at the Colorado Wildfire Academy.
- ☞☞ Co-sponsored the Colorado Mitigation and Wildfire Conference that provided over 200 attendees with access to information sessions on prescribed fire, wildland urban interface suppression tactics, mitigation planning, weather, fire prevention, and climate issues.

### Goal Two - Reduce Hazardous Fuels

***“Hazardous fuels are treated, using appropriate tools, to reduce the risk of unplanned and unwanted wildland fire to communities and to the environment.”***

*(Ten year Implementation Plan of 2002)*



*prescribed burn*

### Accomplishments:

#### **Region:**

- ☞☞ In spite of the Rocky Mountain Region’s worst fire season in history, the Region accomplished approximately 70,172 acres or 90% of their fuels reduction target. This includes all mechanical thinning and prescribed burning treatments. Approximately, 22,594 acres are included where fire use was imposed in remote areas.
- ☞☞ Approximately, 26,840 acres or 38 percent of the total acres treated were accomplished in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- ☞☞ Designed and implemented a Web based (ArcIMS) display of the Region’s FY 2002 Hazardous Fuels program and posted this on our website [www.fs.fed.us/r2/nfp](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/nfp) so the public could locate fuel treatment projects in their area.
- ☞☞ Worked closely with San Dimas Technology and Development Center and Forest Management in the planning and implementation of a series of



Mechanical Fuels Treatment (Biomass Reduction) The first regional workshop was held in 2002.

- ☞☞ The Regional Office provided fuels and fire input into the Regional Lynx admendment process.

### Colorado

- ☞☞ The State of Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) approved a ten year Prescribed Fire Plan that outlines a process to evaluate prescribed fire use, especially related to smoke management and air quality protection.

### Wyoming

- ☞☞ The NFP Team supported the Bighorn, Black Hills and Medicine Bow Rount National Forest's Forest Plan Revision efforts.
- ☞☞ The Region has established Interagency Teams in Colorado and Wyoming to help streamline Endangered Species Act consultation.

## Goal Three - Restore Fire-adapted Ecosystems

***“Fire-adapted ecosystems are restored, rehabilitated and maintained, using appropriate tools, in a manner that will provide sustainable environmental, social, and economic benefits.”***

*(Ten year Implementation Plan of 2002)*

## Accomplishments:

### Region

- ☞☞ Provided emergency funding and technical assistance for the development of four community led Fire Recovery Centers during the 2002 fire season. (Hayman, Missionary Ridge, Million, and the complex of Black Hills fires).

The Region provided grants to the State of Colorado and Wyoming to conduct multi-resource stewardship emergency restoration activities on private lands.

### Colorado

- ☞☞ The Region received \$133,750 for the Bobcat and Hi-Meadows fires of 2000 in Colorado to complete restoration and rehabilitation of these burn areas.

### Wyoming

- ☞☞ Wyoming received \$292,775 to treat acres burned on the Black Hills NF that were in the Elk Mtn. Complex fires
- ☞☞ The Shoshone NF received \$20,000 for Whitebark Pine restoration.

### South Dakota

- ☞☞ South Dakota received \$5.2 targeting acres burned on the Black Hills NF in the Elk Mtn, Rogers Shack, and Jasper fires of 2001.

### Nebraska

- ☞☞ Bessey greenhouse and cooler project received \$403,000.



*Post Hayman Fire*

## **Goal Four - Promote Community Assistance**

***“Communities at risk have increased capacity to prevent losses from wildland fire and the potential to seek economic opportunities resulting from treatments and services.”***

*(Ten year Implementation Plan of 2002)*

### **Accomplishments:**

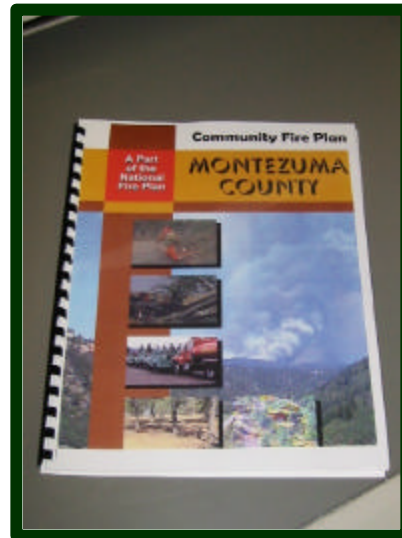
#### **Region**

- ⌘⌘ Provided technical assistance to 3,269 private forest and range owners to implement resource management actions that reduce fire risk, improve resource health and meet the landowners planned management objectives. Completed 615 plans involving 52,781 acres of private lands in 2002.
- ⌘⌘ Improved local, state and national fire protection capabilities through financial and technical assistance in training, organizing and equipping firefighting forces through State Forestry agencies.
- ⌘⌘ Provided training and equipment to upgrade 736 Volunteer Fire Departments in 5 states to improve and expand militia capacity. Invested over \$85,222 to train 5005 local firefighters in 390 communities. Purchased or replaced firefighting equipment in 576 communities.

#### **Colorado**

- ⌘⌘ Assisted the counties of La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores, and San Juan in Colorado, in the development of community fire plans and fire recovery plans.

- ⌘⌘ Working through partners such as the Red Cross, provided 60 prevention



*Community Fire Plan*

programs and Firewise Workshops in nearly 20 communities in Colorado.

- ⌘⌘ Worked closely with Colorado State University Center and State Office of Energy Management to find innovative uses of small diameter wood to develop timber based industries with capacity to utilize salvage, debris and hazard reduction products.
- ⌘⌘ Conducted four workshops in Grand Junction, Pueblo, Durango, and Boulder CO to provide technical and financial assistance to identify and develop new markets for underutilized wood products.
- ⌘⌘ Provided \$15,000 in grants to the Colorado State Forest Service to develop program materials that address urban interface community post fire restoration activities and technical training to support and hazard tree assessments and removal in community neighborhoods.

☞☞ In coordination with Denver Water Board, Colorado State Forest Service, National Resource Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Districts in Colorado staffed an information booth at the Colorado Home and Garden Show in Denver, CO 2002.

☞☞ Organized interagency State and Governmental fire prevention and education staff to form the Wildfire Communications Group of Colorado.



*Logo*

☞☞ The group function is to promote timely and accurate information concerning fire information and prevention strategies in the State.

### **Wyoming**

☞☞ Funded an ethanol/biomass feasibility study and technical assistance program working with the wood products industry in Wyoming.

☞☞ Restored damaged landscapes and rebuild communities by reinforcing local resources to plan and reduce wildland fire risk and identify economic opportunities. Kate's Basin fire restoration plan on the Wind River Reservation lands is just one example where 70,000 acres of land stewardship planning was done in Wyoming.

☞☞ Worked with Story, Wyoming in the development of community fire plans and fire recovery plans.

☞☞ Worked with Tribal Youth Corps to offer educational and career opportunities to members of the Northern Ute and Northern Arapaho tribes. Tribal youth helped to accomplish heritage resource surveys in support of NFP projects on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, and on the Shoshone National Forest

### **South Dakota**

☞☞ Funded over \$240,000 in grants for rehabilitation and restoration projects on private lands that were affected by recent fires in Colorado and South Dakota in cooperation with the State Foresters from those States.



*Thinned and piled forest stand*

## National Fire Plan Budget Outlook 2003

- ?? Preparedness: \$30.8 million
- ?? Restoration and Rehab: \$1.5 million.
- ?? Hazardous fuels: \$25.6 million
- ?? Community assistance: \$10.3 million

### FRONT RANGE



*“The purpose of the Front Range Partnership is to create a dynamic partnership among Federal, State, and local governments and landowners to reduce wildland fire risk through sustained fuels treatment along the Colorado’s Front Range.”*

*Power Point Presentation January 2003*



*Treated forest stand*

**The Arapaho & Roosevelt NF, the Pike & San Isabel NF, the Colorado State Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station and Rocky Mountain National Park are working together to prioritize fuel treatment projects for the Colorado Front Range.**



### National Fire Plan Team Contacts

Mike daLuz...	Regional Coordinator
Bruce Wilson...	Deputy Regional Coordinator
Bill Rice...	Public Affairs Specialist
Paul Langowski	Regional Fuels Coordinator
Susan Ford...	Community Asst. Coordinator
Dave Shadis..	Ecologist
Elise Bowne...	GIS
Jim Krugman...	Fire Operations
Jan Burke...	Silviculturist
Dave Hessel	States Liaison
Jeff Overturf...	Heritage Res. Coordinator
Melinda McGa nn	Remote Sensing Specialist
Becky Parmenter...	Planning
Terry Wong...	Restoration Coordinator
Donna Mickley...	Restoration Coordinator

***For more information contact us at 303-275-5356 or visit our website at [www.fs.fed.us/r2/nfp](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/nfp)***

**“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.”**

