



### **Wildfire Management at the Department of the Interior**

The Department of the Interior is home to four of the five federal government land management agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Fish and Wildlife Service; the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service is the fifth land management agency. The 2000 fire season led to the development of the National Fire Plan, a joint Interior and Forest Service strategy to improve the effectiveness of the wildland fire program to better protect communities and the environment from future wildfire devastation.

The Department made significant progress in implementing the plan's recommendations in 2001, including an aggressive hiring program to staff essential firefighting positions; the purchase of necessary equipment; the contracting of aircraft; and the repair of fire facilities. The year 2001 also included an unprecedented level of interagency cooperation with the Forest Service as well as outreach and partnership activities with states and local government agencies, Indian tribes, other federal partners, and non-governmental organizations in the development of the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy. The Department and the Forest Service continue to work together to develop a common set of long-term goals and performance outputs with which to measure the performance of the wildland fire program.

