



**USDA Forest Service
Fire and Aviation Management
Current Topics and Emerging Issues**



Date: March 27, 2007

Topic: Firefighting Capability

Discussion: The Forest Service is committed to fulfilling its fire management and fire suppression responsibilities.

- The Forest Service will maintain a level of firefighting capability comparable to recent years. We will accomplish this through the combination of local, regional, and national Preparedness firefighting resources and by assuring that personnel are trained and qualified for their assigned positions.

Capability and Resources	FY 05 Actual	FY 06 Actual	FY 07 Planned
FFPC (Firefighter Production Capability)	13,764	13,920	15,130
Firefighters	9,385	9,550	10,010
Prevention Technicians	419	419	399
Smoke Jumpers	277	277	277
Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews	66	67	67
Engines	899	940	950
Water Tenders	38	57	63
Dozers & Tractor Plow Units	143	144	152
Type I, II, and II helicopters for local mobilization	83	80	84
Type II helicopters for national mobilization	7	7	7
Type I helicopters/helitankers for national mobilization (15 helicopters at 16 locations)	15	15	15
Airtankers	15	18	15

- Forest Service firefighting resources (personnel and equipment) have been, and will continue to be highly mobile within and between Geographic Areas. This allows the Agency to be responsive to meet resource repositioning and suppression needs throughout the Geographic Areas.
- National and geographic Predictive Services will be used to anticipate threats and guide the repositioning of firefighting resources.
- Decision support tools evaluating fire behavior and values at risk will be used to support and enhance line officer and fire manager decisions for managing wildland fires.
- The Forest Service will authorize the expenditure of Severity funds when conditions warrant, e.g., predicted or above normal fire danger or activity. These funds may be used to expand local resource staffing and to bring in additional personnel and equipment.