



Healthy Forests Report

FY 2008 Accomplishments

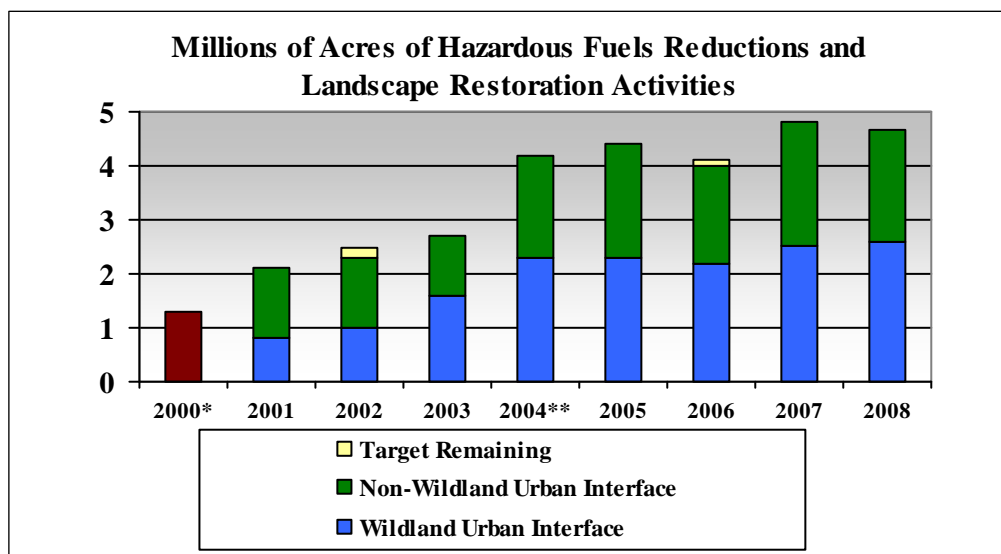
The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the USDA Forest Service implement the National Fire Plan (NFP) and Healthy Forest programs to help save the lives of firefighters and citizens and to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to our communities, forests, and rangelands.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Landscape Restoration Projects

An excessive accumulation of flammable fuels in our forests, woodlands, and grasslands is the root cause of the unprecedented fire risk facing our public lands. Land managers remove fuels via programs funded specifically for that purpose and through other programs that aim to achieve a variety of resource management objectives through landscape restoration. Treatments occur both inside and outside the wildland urban interface (WUI).

1. Inside the WUI treatments reduce fuels around homes, communities, and resources to slow or stop wildland fires from threatening these high-value areas.
2. Beyond the WUI, treatments help protect communities by creating conditions that enable firefighters to more successfully suppress fires before they enter the WUI. These treatments also reduce fire severity and its impact on valued landscapes and natural resources.

From 2001 through 2008, Federal land management agencies have treated over 29 million acres of federal lands under the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) and the National Fire Plan. The effectiveness of these treatments in protecting communities and resources from wildfire has been demonstrated numerous times.



* FY 2000 is used as a baseline for reporting, as the NFP was implemented in FY 2001.

Treatment location was not included in reporting prior to FY 2001.

** Acres treated under landscape restoration activities were not reported prior to FY 2004.

**Table 1: Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Landscape Restoration Accomplishments 2001-2008
(Acres in millions)**

Fiscal Year	Agency	Wildland Urban Interface				Non- Wildland Urban Interface				Grand Total
		Fire	Mechanical	Other	Total	Fire	Mechanical	Other	Total	
2001	FS	0.461	0.140	0.011	0.612	0.685	0.064	0.001	0.750	1.362
	DOI	0.088	0.075	0.001	0.164	0.419	0.110	0.035	0.564	0.728
	Total	0.549	0.215	0.012	0.776	1.104	0.174	0.036	1.314	2.090
2002	FS	0.711	0.051	0.002	0.764	0.433	0.061	0.000	0.494	1.258
	DOI	0.069	0.125	0.015	0.209	0.635	0.149	0.066	0.850	1.059
	Total	0.780	0.176	0.017	0.973	1.068	0.210	0.066	1.344	2.317
2003	FS	0.970	0.143	0.001	1.114	0.281	0.058	0.000	0.339	1.453
	DOI	0.218	0.158	0.104	0.480	0.567	0.103	0.109	0.779	1.259
	Total	1.188	0.301	0.105	1.594	0.848	0.161	0.109	1.118	2.712
2004	FS	1.163	0.436	0.101	1.700	0.491	0.357	0.013	0.861	2.561
	DOI	0.250	0.294	0.016	0.560	0.572	0.299	0.200	1.071	1.631
	Total	1.413	0.730	0.117	2.260	1.063	0.656	0.213	1.932	4.192
2005	FS	1.044	0.515	0.099	1.658	0.688	0.343	0.033	1.064	2.722
	DOI	0.284	0.276	0.049	0.609	0.598	0.233	0.180	1.011	1.620
	Total	1.328	0.791	0.148	2.267	1.286	0.576	0.213	2.075	4.342
2006	FS	0.812	0.683	0.095	1.590	0.580	0.356	0.021	0.957	2.547
	DOI	0.243	0.236	0.108	0.587	0.420	0.229	0.220	0.869	1.456
	Total	1.055	0.919	0.203	2.177	1.000	0.585	0.241	1.826	4.003
2007	FS	1.018	0.392	0.244	1.654	0.858	0.504	0.011	1.373	3.027
	DOI	0.332	0.244	0.275	0.851	0.663	0.168	0.105	0.936	1.787
	Total	1.350	0.636	0.519	2.505	1.521	0.672	0.116	2.309	4.814
2008	FS	1.114	0.808	0.019	1.941	.689	0.397	0.011	1.097	3.038
	DOI	0.348	0.233	0.057	0.638	0.521	0.131	0.340	0.992	1.630
	Total	1.462	1.041	0.076	2.579	1.210	0.528	0.351	2.089	4.668
Totals	FS Total	7.293	3.168	0.572	11.033	4.705	2.140	0.090	6.935	17.968
	DOI Total	1.832	1.641	0.625	4.098	4.395	1.422	1.255	7.072	11.170
	Grand Total	9.125	4.809	1.197	15.131	9.100	3.562	1.345	14.007	29.138

Table 2: Fiscal Year 2008 HFI Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Landscape Restoration Activities by Treatment Type.

Agency	Hazardous Fuels Appropriations		Landscape Restoration Appropriations		TOTAL
	Fire	Mechanical and Other	Fire	Mechanical and Other	
Forest Service	1,360,000	261,000	442,000	975,000	3,038,000
DOI	801,000	497,000	68,000	264,000	1,630,000
TOTAL	2,161,000	758,000	510,000	1,239,000	4,668,000

Note: Total includes acres treated through State Fire Assistance hazard mitigation grants and Wildland Fire Use.

Treatment by Authorities

Table 3: Healthy Forests Activities (acres accomplished)

Authority	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	TOTAL
HFRA Title I Authorities	33,000	99,000	163,000	192,000	487,000
HFI Authorities	289,000	362,000	417,000	367,000	1,435,000
Other NEPA Decisions #	3,322,000	2,904,000	2,524,000	2,632,000	11,382,000
Other Authorities *	684,000	605,000	1,710,000	1,477,000	4,476,000
TOTAL	4,328,000	3,970,000	4,814,000	4,668,000	17,780,000

Typically NEPA tools or decisions predating HFI and HFRA

* Includes activity on private land and decisions where the NEPA tool is unspecified

Stewardship Contracts and Agreements Awarded

Stewardship contracting includes natural resource management activities that improve land conditions. These projects shift the focus of federal forest and rangeland management towards a desired future resource condition. They are also a means for federal agencies to contribute to the development of sustainable rural communities, maintain healthy forest ecosystems, and provide a continuing source of local income and employment.

Table 4: Stewardship Contracts & Agreements

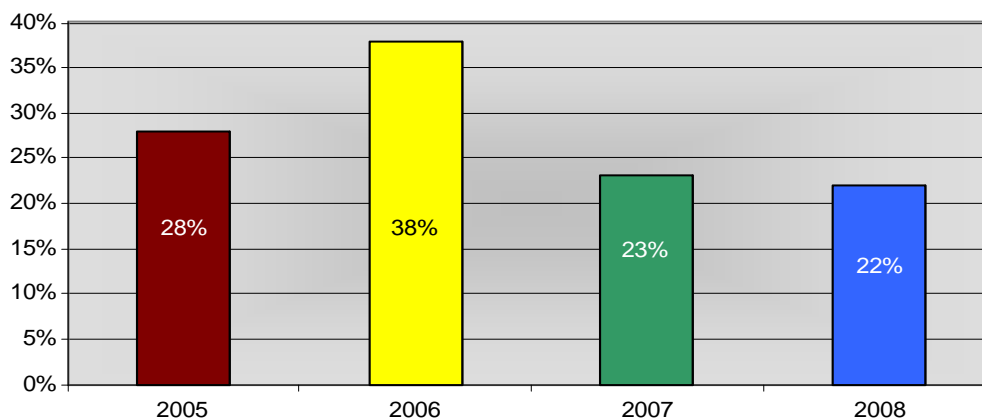
Fiscal Year	Bureau of Land Management		Forest Service	
	Contracts	Acres	Contracts	Acres
2003	2 contracts	300 acres	50 contracts	14,000 acres
2004	22 contracts	6,000 acres	64 contracts	42,000 acres
2005	58 contracts awarded	16,000 acres	45 contracts	35,500 acres
2006	57 contracts awarded	19,000 acres	92 contracts	57,500 acres
2007	48 contracts awarded	10,000 acres	13 contracts	12,000 acres
2008	41 contracts awarded	8,000 acres	101 contracts	66,000 acres
Total	593 Contracts and 286,300 Acres			

*Not all projects in table above were authorized under HFRA.

Utilization of Forest Byproducts

Byproducts removed during hazardous fuels reduction and landscape restoration activities are often utilized in certain forest products (timber, engineered lumber, paper and pulp, furniture) and bio-energy and bio-based products (plastics, ethanol, and diesel). In FY 2008, the Forest Service and DOI treated 1.2 million acres mechanically; of these, 22% have included biomass utilization.

Biomass Utilization from Mechanically* Treated Acres



* Includes USDA State Fire Assistance acres, Forest Service mechanically treated acres from all funding sources, and DOI hazardous fuels reduction mechanical treatments.

The Forest Service continued its commitment to furthering biomass utilization through awarding 17 grant proposals for forest product projects that increase the use of woody biomass from National Forest system lands. The woody biomass utilization grant program is intended to help improve forest restoration activities by using and creating markets for small-diameter material and low-valued trees removed from forest restoration activities, such as reducing hazardous fuels, handling insect and diseased conditions, or treating forestlands impacted by catastrophic weather events. As part of the delivery of the Woody Biomass Utilization grant program, technical assistance was provided to over 800 potential applicants from Forest Service personnel across all regions.

For further information on the Forest Service's woody biomass programs, visit the Woody Biomass Utilization website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/woodybiomass>.

HFRA Title IV: Applied Research

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) contained provisions under Section 403 and 404 of Title IV authorizing accelerated information gathering (AIG) and applied silvicultural assessments (ASAs) for insect and disease problems listed in the act or identified by the Secretary of Agriculture. Ten projects are currently being conducted nationally:

- Southern pine beetle, West Gulf region
- Gypsy moth-oak decline, Kentucky
- Gypsy moth effects, West Virginia
- Red oak borer, Arkansas Ozarks
- Hemlock wooly adelgid, Allegheny National Forest
- Hemlock wooly adelgid, Southern Appalachians
- Fuels treatments, California
- Western white pine and blister rust, Pacific Northwest region
- Port of entry and origin trapping systems for exotic beetles,
- Pine-feeding insects, Florida (complete)

To date, these projects have produced over 40 peer-reviewed publications, 4 MS Theses, 1 PhD Dissertation, and 70 presentations.

Forest Service Use of Counterpart Regulations

Since the Endangered Species Act Counterpart Regulation's training module on procedures, Section 7 consultation standards of review and monitoring was prepared in March 2004, 340 Forest Service line officers and 594 biologists have taken the training and been certified to use the regulations for National Fire Plan (NFP) projects. As of February 2008 the process had used for more than 180 NFP projects during the first four years of use. A review of Year 1 Counterpart Regulations use was completed in January 2008, and can be viewed at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/laws/fireplanreview.pdf>. The BLM and FS have developed a joint action plan to make improvements in the use of this important project streamlining tool.

Healthy Forests and Communities

In FY 2008, assistance and funding were provided for hazard assessments and Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) for Communities at Risk (CAR). CWPPs address wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness and structure protection; CWPPs provide communities a tremendous opportunity to influence where and how Federal agencies implement fuels reduction plans on Federal and non-federal lands.

State Foresters evaluate the progress made toward reducing the threat of wildfire in communities at risk. The State Forester may consider a CAR at reduced risk if the community has treated high priority fuels according to its CWPP, achieved Firewise or equivalent recognition or has enacted mitigation or fire prevention ordinances. The following chart illustrates the status of CWPPs, as well as Communities at Risk.

Table 5: Status of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and Communities at Risk (CAR).

NASF Region	States With CAR List/Map	Total CAR	CAR Covered By a CWPP	CAR at Reduced Risk
West	17	6,312	3,455	1,138
South	13	54,300	730	8,370
NE	19	4,234	444	1,118
TOTAL	49	64,846	4,629	10,563

Invasive Species and Forest Health

Forest Service Forest Health Protection activities include both prevention and suppression efforts and resources to restore lands impacted by native and nonnative forest pests on federal, state, and private lands. Some of the nonnative pests addressed in FY2008 included hemlock woolly adelgid, white pine blister rust, gypsy moth, sudden oak death, emerald ash borer, Asian long horned beetle, Sirex wood wasp, and invasive plants. Over 1.3 million acres were treated through Forest Health Protection efforts and funding in FY 2008.

Acres of Land Planned for Treatment and Acres Treated by Forest Service Forest Health Protection Activities for Forest Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants using FY 2008 Funding

