

Thirty-Mile Fire Information

United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest Service



NATIONAL FIRE PLAN-NATIONAL HIRING INFORMATION

The National Fire Plan calls for the Forest Service to add approximately 3,500 firefighters to its firefighting workforce, to achieve the Most Efficient Level (MEL) of preparedness for fire protection as directed by Congress. An additional 500 developmental positions are being filled in anticipation of projected retirements over the next few years. Finally, hiring is also underway to meet fire prevention, hazardous fuel treatment, and leadership needs in the fire management organization.

Through its workforce hiring and development efforts, the Forest Service is within 97% of reaching the Most Efficient Level organization as established at the beginning of the fiscal year. The National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS) model that projects the most efficient level firefighting organization does so in terms of the organization's overall firefighting production capability. The production capability is a function of both firefighters and equipment. In some instances, where equipment is not available for purchase, the NFMAS model allows for additional hiring, in order to achieve the same firefighting production capability. Thus, some adjustments to the 3,500 hiring figure are anticipated to achieve the most efficient level.

US Forest Service Hiring Under the National Fire Plan Preparedness Resources as of June 30, 2001

	MEL Resources (employees)
FY 2000	7,439
FY 2001	10,750
Difference	+ 3,311