



Healthy Forests Report May 2007

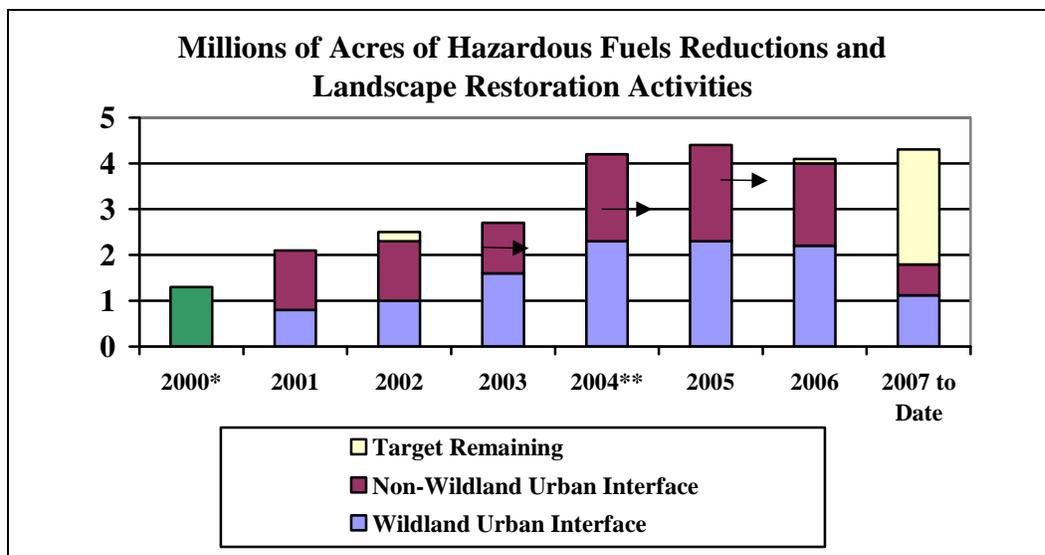
The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the USDA Forest Service implement the National Fire Plan (NFP) and Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) in order to help save the lives of firefighters and citizens and to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to our communities, forests, and rangelands.

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION & LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECTS

An excessive accumulation of hazardous or unusually flammable fuels in our forests, woodlands, and grasslands is the root cause of the unprecedented fire risk facing our public lands. Land managers remove hazardous fuels via programs funded specifically for that purpose and in other programs whose principle goal is the achievement of a variety of resource management objectives that can be broadly labeled 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 not only help protect communities by creating conditions that enable firefighters to more successfully suppress fires before they enter the WUI but also reduce fire severity and its impact on valued landscapes and natural resources.

From 2001 through the end of May 2007, the Federal land management agencies have treated over 20 million acres of federal lands under the Healthy Forest Initiative and the National Fire Plan through landscape restoration actions. The effectiveness of these treatments in protecting communities and resources from fire has been demonstrated numerous times.



→ Set at Fiscal Year target to display over-accomplishment

* 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.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Landscape Restoration Accomplishments
2001-2006
(acres in millions)

	Wildland Urban Interface				Non-Wildland Urban Interface				Grand Total
	Rx Fire	Mechanical	Other	Total	Rx Fire	Mechanical	Other	Total	
2001									
FS	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.8	1.4
DOI	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.7
Total	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.8	1.1	0.2	0.0	1.3	2.1
2002									
FS	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.5	1.3
DOI	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.0
Total	0.8	0.2	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.1	1.3	2.3
2003									
FS	1.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.5
DOI	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.3
Total	1.2	0.3	0.1	1.6	0.9	0.2	0.1	1.2	2.8
2004									
FS*	1.2	0.4	0.1	1.7	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.9	2.6
DOI	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	1.1	1.7
Total	1.5	0.7	0.1	2.3	1.1	0.7	0.2	2.0	4.3
2005									
FS*	1.0	0.5	0.1	1.6	0.7	0.3	0.0	1.0	2.6
DOI	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2	1.0	1.7
Total	1.3	0.8	0.2	2.3	1.3	0.5	0.2	2.0	4.3
2006									
FS*	0.8	0.7	0.1	1.6	0.6	0.4	0.0	1.0	2.6
DOI	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.8	1.3
Total	1.0	0.9	0.2	2.1	1.0	0.6	0.2	1.8	3.9
FS Total	5.2	1.9	0.3	7.4	3.2	1.4	0.0	4.6	12.0
DOI Total	1.2	1.2	0.3	2.7	3.2	1.0	0.8	5.0	7.7
Grand Total	6.4	3.1	0.6	10.1	6.4	2.4	0.8	9.6	19.7

* All treatment work that reduces hazardous fuel or improves condition class, including State Fire Assistance Hazard Mitigation Grants and Wildland Fire Use
Data Source: FY 2003 through FY 2008 Budget Justification
Accomplishments rounded to the nearest hundred thousand acres

Table 1: Fiscal Year 2007 HFI Hazardous Fuels Reduction & Landscape Restoration Activities*

Treatment Type	Hazardous Fuels Appropriations		Landscape Restoration Appropriations		
	Prescribed Fire	Mechanical & Other	Prescribed Fire	Mechanical & Other	TOTAL
Forest Service	1,001,346	39,174	79,436	19,090	1,139,046
DOI	442,145	168,615	3,980	35,545	650,285
TOTAL	1,443,491	207,789	83,416	54,635	1,789,331

*As of 5/1/2007

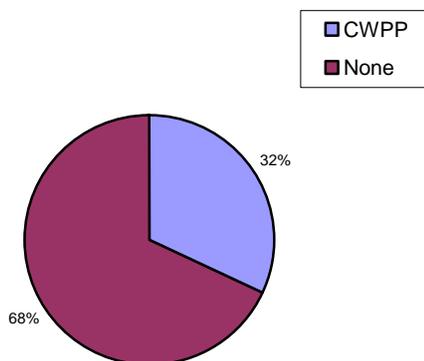
Note: Total includes acres treated through State Fire Assistance hazard mitigation grants and Wildland Fire Use.

Hazardous Fuels and Landscape Restoration Priorities

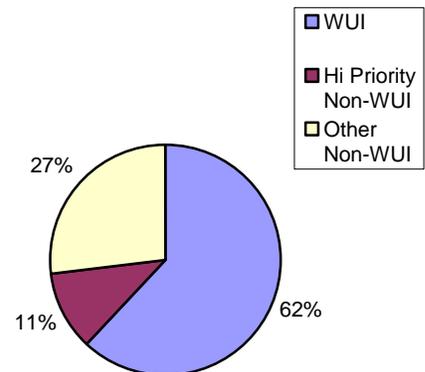
The Forest Service and the Department of the Interior design hazardous fuels reduction and landscape restoration activities to meet one of three objectives:

1. Directly reduce wildfire threats within the wildland urban interface.
2. Treat areas outside of the wildland-urban interface (non-WUI) that are at greatest risk of catastrophic wildland fire. These *high priority non-WUI treatments* reduce the risk of unwanted fire to natural resources, achieve other natural resource management objectives, and, in some cases also serve to protect WUI areas.
3. Maintain desired landscape conditions achieved through previous treatments outside the WUI in order to retain the associated benefits.

WUI Acres Treated Associated with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in FY 2007



Treatment by Restoration Priority in FY 2007



TREATMENT BY AUTHORITIES

Table 2: Healthy Forests Activities (acres accomplished)

	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	TOTAL
HFRA Title I	33,000	99,000	86,000	213,000
HFI	289,000	362,000	178,000	819,000
Other NEPA #	3,322,000	2,904,000	921,000	7,096,000
Other *	684,000	605,000	604,000	1,860,000
TOTAL	4,328,000	3,970,000	1,789,000	10,087,000

- Typically NEPA tools or decisions predating HFI and HFRA

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

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS & 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 3: Stewardship Contracts & Agreements

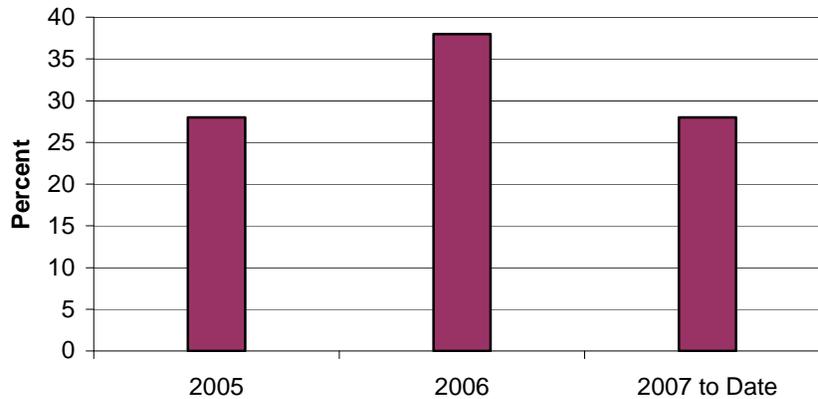
	Bureau of Land Management		Forest Service	
2003	2 contracts	300 acres	50 contracts	14,000 acres
2004	22 contracts	15,000 acres	64 contracts	42,000 acres
2005	58 contracts awarded	15,000 acres	45 contracts	35,500 acres
2006	56 contracts awarded	18,490 acres	92 contracts	57,500 acres
2007	9 contracts awarded	850 acres	13 contracts	12,000 acres
Total	411 contracts / agreements for 210,640 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 (e.g., timber, engineered lumber, paper and pulp, furniture) and bio-energy and bio-based products (e.g., plastics, ethanol, and diesel). To date, the Forest Service and DOI have treated 204,616 acres mechanically; of these, 28% have included biomass utilization.

Biomass Utilization from Mechanically* Treated Acres



* Mechanically treated acres for all Forest Service treatments and DOI hazardous fuels reduction treatments.

Recently USDA Secretary Mike Johanns announced the award of \$6.2 million in grants to more than two dozen small businesses and community groups to develop innovative uses for woody biomass from national forests, including renewable energy and new products. The grants will help create markets for small-diameter material and low-valued trees removed through forest restoration activities.

HFRA TITLE IV: APPLIED RESEARCH

The Forest Service's applied research projects, in partnership with several universities and state forestry agencies, aim to conduct and evaluate different land management practices that reduce problems associated with the current outbreaks of insects and diseases and to translate that information for practicing professionals, landowners, and the public.

There are currently 6 Silvicultural Assessment and 6 Accelerated Information Gathering projects planned or underway. For detailed information of the Forest Service's Applied Research Projects under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, please visit:

http://www.healthyforests.gov/applied_research/index.html A brief update on each of the projects is listed below:

HFRA TITLE IV PROJECTS

Southern Pine Beetle in the West Gulf States

FS Contact: James M. Guldin, PL, Southern Research Station, SRS-4106, jguldin@fs.fed.us

Gypsy Moth and Oak Decline

FS Contact: Callie Schweitzer, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, SRS-4101, cschweitzer@fs.fed.us

Minimizing Gypsy Moth Effects

FS Contact: Kurt Gottschalk, PL, Northeastern Research Station, NE-4557 Morgantown, WV; kgottschalk@fs.fed.us

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

FS Contact: Mary Ann Fajvan, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, NE-4557, Morgantown, WV mfajvan@fs.fed.us

Upland Oak-Hickory Forests and the Red Oak Borer

FS Contact: James M. Guldin, PL, Southern Research Station, SRS-4106, jguldin@fs.fed.us

Pine-Feeding Insects

FS Contact: Jim Hanula, Southern Research Station, SRS-4505, jhanula@fs.fed.us

Accelerated Information Gathering Projects

Blacks Mountain Interdisciplinary Research Project: Cone Fire Assessment

FS Contact: Martin Ritchie, Pacific Southwest Research Station, PSW-4155; mritchie@fs.fed.us

Trapping Systems for Exotic Beetles, Ports of Entry and Origin

FS Contact: Daniel Miller, Southern Research Station, SRS-4505, dmiller03@fs.fed.us

Western White Pine and Blister Rust, Pacific Northwest Region

FS Contact: Mee-Sook Kim, Rocky Mountain Research Station, RMRS-4552 mkim@fs.fed.us

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Southern Appalachian Mountains

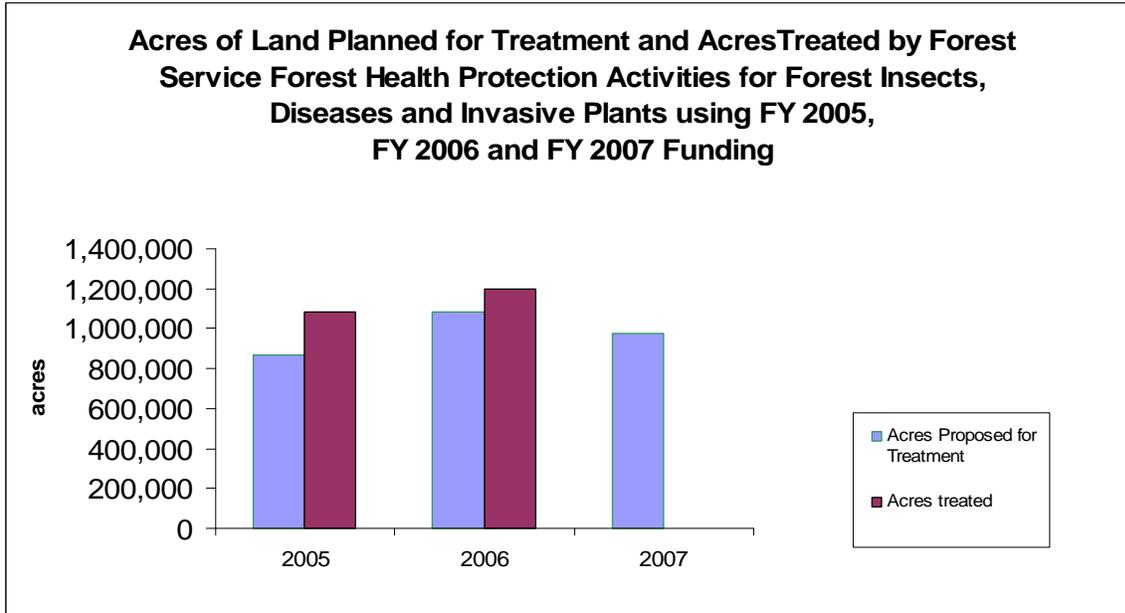
FS Contact: Jim Hanula (Obj 1), Southern Research Station, SRS-4505; jhanula@fs.fed.us;

HFRA Rapid Response Training and Technology Transfer Team

FS Contact: James M. Guldin, PL, Southern Research Station, SRS-4106, jguldin@fs.fed.us

INVASIVE SPECIES AND FOREST HEALTH

In FY 2007, Forest Service Forest Health Protection is conducting prevention and suppression treatments for native and nonnative forest pests on federal, state and private lands. Some of the nonnative pests being addressed include: hemlock woolly adelgid, white pine blister rust, gypsy moth, sudden oak death, emerald ash borer, Asian long horned beetle, European wood wasp, cycad scale and invasive plants. Proposed treatments are similar to those in previous years.



FOREST SERVICE USE OF THE ESA COUNTERPART REGULATIONS

Since the training module on procedures, the Section 7 consultation standards of review, and monitoring was prepared in March, 2004, 327 Forest Service line officers, and 572 biologists have both taken the training and been certified to use the regulations. Through February, 2007, over 150 NFP projects had used the process. The evaluation of counterpart regulation use is ongoing, and results of that will be used to make any needed improvements in the use of this important tool.

HEALTHY FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) completed a survey of all states to determine their progress toward identifying communities-at-risk and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). Survey results indicate that 46 states have identified and documented over 44,000 communities-at risk. Further, approximately 1100 CWPPs have been completed covering nearly 3000 communities; 450 additional CWPPs are being developed.

NASF Region	States with CAR list	Total CAR	Communities with CWPPs	Completed CWPPs	CWPPs in progress
West	17	7,034	2,415	641	230
South	13	34,007	431	321	156
Northeast	16	3,123	418	111	43
TOTAL	46	44,164	3,264	1,071	429