



# Federal Property Programs:

## How FEPP and FFP help protect Americans from wildfire



Nevada Division of Forestry



Georgia Forestry Commission

The Firefighter Property Program (FFP) and the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program are instrumental in helping state forestry agencies secure property for state and local firefighting operations at affordable rates.

Through FEPP, the USDA Forest Service loans federal property used for firefighting—such as trucks, heavy equipment, and aircraft—to state forestry agencies. An estimated 90% of this property originates with the Department of Defense (DoD). State forestry agencies use FEPP to fight wildfires or loan it to local fire departments in need. The property remains under federal ownership for the duration of the loan.

FFP is a DoD program that is generally administered by state forestry agencies. Through FFP, state and local firefighters and emergency responders are supplied with DoD property. After a specified period of time, state and local agencies retain ownership of FFP property.



**In fiscal year (FY) 2018 alone, FFP facilitated the transfer of more than \$124 million in property for firefighting from DoD to state and local fire agencies.**



**In the same year, the Forest Service loaned over \$41 million in firefighting equipment to local and state firefighting agencies through FEPP.**



Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation



CAL FIRE



Maine Forest Service

## It's a win-win-win

Through FEPP and FFP, state and local firefighting agencies acquire the property necessary to protect American homes and lives from wildfire, all while reducing the cost of wildfire protection to taxpayers. Additionally, federal property—that might otherwise be destroyed or sold to foreign governments—is recycled and repurposed by state and local governments to the direct benefit of American citizens.



Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation & Recreation



Florida Forest Service



Oregon Dept. of Forestry

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### Wildfire management responsibilities are shared across agencies, boundaries

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State foresters are responsible for wildfire protection on more than 1.5 billion acres nationwide, including 1.1 billion acres in state and private ownership. With more people living in fire-prone landscapes close to wildlands, protecting state, private, and federal lands from wildfire has become increasingly difficult. Today, many of the nation's state foresters are charged with managing millions of acres of overstocked, drought- and pest-comprised forests prime for burning.

In 2018, more than 58,000 wildfires burned more than 8.8 million acres of land. Because wildfire is a national land management issue, it's treated like one. Hotshot crews, firefighting equipment, and other valuable resources are shared among states and local and federal agencies countrywide, year-round.

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy ("Cohesive Strategy") is the roadmap for interagency wildland fire management across the country. Within its cooperative structure, states contribute tremendously every year to fighting wildfires on federal lands. For instance, in 2018, 6,026 out of the 8,080 state personnel mobilized through the National Interagency Coordination Center were sent to respond to wildfires burning on federal lands.

State forestry agencies also provide local governments and volunteer fire departments with access to their fire and emergency response resources, which in 2018, included 93,656 firefighters, 91,940 fire engines, 2,851 dozers, and 620 aircraft.