



NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management
1800 Marquess St. – Las Cruces, NM 88005
Alan Ables, Public Affairs Officer – 505/525-4488

For Immediate Release:
August 22, 2002

For Additional Information:
Ryan Whiteaker, 505/525-4342

BLM Gives Money to Rural Fire Departments

LAS CRUCES – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has awarded \$83,200 to southwest New Mexico fire departments to help them fight wildfires, according to BLM-Las Cruces Field Office Manager Amy Lueders.

“This money will help our fire-fighting partners better serve their communities and provide depth in fighting wildland fires in southwestern New Mexico. These rural fire-assistance grants are part of the national fire plan and are a great example of citizen-centered government in action,” Lueders said.

Award recipients, amounts and uses are:

- Animas, \$8,300 for tires, personal protection equipment (PPE) and radios;
- Caballo, \$16,200 for PPE and a truck-mounted water tank and pump;
- Cotton City, \$4,500 for PPE;
- Lake Shore, \$3,300 for PPE and tools;
- Las Palomas, \$6,200 for foam and equipment;
- Grant County, \$8,500 for training and fire danger signs;
- Hidalgo County, \$16,600 for a truck-mounted tank and pump and purchase of a BLM engine;
- Hillsboro, \$7,400 for hoses, and
- Monticello, \$12,200 for PPE and training.

The grants are made to rural fire departments that have a substantial role in protecting federal lands. The local communities in which the recipient departments are located also match at least 10 percent of the award amount, according to Steve Bumgarner, BLM-Las Cruces fire management officer.

Last year the BLM awarded \$81,000 to rural fire departments in Grant, Sierra and Hidalgo Counties.