

## Boise Forum Q-set Summary

### Most Critical Issues

Recognizing the differences between participating agencies; we represent the tribes and each tribe is a sovereign nation with different goals and objectives. They also are the land owners in which we work for and live in the WUI that we are protecting. And we all have different missions.

Then, the level of human caused fire occurrence we have. Over 80% of all fires on federally protected lands are human caused, yet fire prevention is the least supported and funded program of all programs in the overall fire management program.

Ensuring adequate wildland fire is being managed on the landscape to reflect moving towards or maintaining desired conditions as outlined in management plans that have been through the NEPA process.

Address meeting the challenges of adaptation and mitigation to the effects of climate change. Consider fiscal management to be proactive to wildland fire instead of focusing on reaction and the continued measure of performance being initial attack success.

Keep it simple and add complexity when the value added is measurably significant.

Seek balance, recognition and understanding of different perspectives of those involved in land management regardless of ownership, govt., private, or NGO-recognize and accept different values

Recognize economic impacts with or w/o fire

Safety, safety, safety good risk management, everyone comes home, FFs and citizens

Self responsibility; can't do it alone, we must all work together

Funding is important but more \$ is not a silver bullet to our success

Federal grants are considered entitlements and lead to enabling behaviors that we want to change. This is an exceedingly sensitive topic, politically dangerous

Is fuel treatment really feasible in all areas? We can't be afraid to say no

Subdivision planning; enforcement of codes, covenants and restrictions

Insurance companies; not Firewise compliant=no insurance

Work smarter, not harder in habitat management and restoration

Climate change; manage for our best estimate of the future

Funding, we need long-term program sustainability and the WUI/NWUI issue that pits communities against the natural resources that sustain them

Understanding the roles and responsibilities between levels of government

Outreach and education as to homeowner and local govt. responsibility

Mission capability

Planning for climate change

Technology advancements to achieve mandated fire program integration and collaboration

Coordinated fire staffing between all levels

Air Quality, how to strike a balance

Are we serious about change, do we have realistic expectations?

It's hard to look ahead and be proactive when we're all 120% overbooked with daily workload

Balance the needs and impacts of the human environment with the natural environment

Being able to clearly articulate the strategy

Recognize fed, state and local collectively in the development of the strategy

Preparedness, response, recovery

Common, understandable terminology

One National Fire Policy

Seamless management of FF resources

Well defined authorities and responsibilities of fed, state, local

DHS role and responsibility

Cost share agreements

Agreements between entities

Building codes and ordinances

Private land owner Firewise ethics

### **Priority Values & Attributes**

If we put the energy (training development, technology, research) into prevention that we put into suppression what would happen? If we reduced human caused fires by 25% how would that affect our fire programs?

How to define value in human context as it defines the wildland fire management program at the local level where the social, economic, and environmental values may conflict.

How can we use a set of values in scenario planning to help develop the preferred alternative.

Ask people their core values and they can probably be related to a land management value

What is their concept of "home" just the house or is the larger environment equally important?

Fire happens; it is not a battle. How do we get out of the battle mentality? WE keep losing the battle—how do we change that perception?

Relate to core values—family, home, community

Who is our customer? What do they want?

What is our purpose, goal, objective; priorities of the fire organizations in the land management agencies?

What does Congress expect? Why? Do they need to be educated?

Do we really need a computer model for every decision?

How do you value natural communities?

What are the public's priorities? What is the value of Federal lands to the public?

Redefine WUI to include surrounding natural intrinsic values that support/sustain them

How will this strategy be used by governments at all levels; how can we assure the will is there to make change happen?

Public understanding that fire is a process they have to live with as part of the environment they chose to live in

Who and how should we pay for suppression response? Need to look at FEMA FMAG grants to see if this is helping or hurting the solution. Counties can ignore the growing risk posed by unsafe developments knowing they will be financially rescued when the big one occurs.

How do we use a bottom-up approach local, state, fed? Local levels should drive priorities and highest levels should coordinate efforts

How does it build the framework to maintain operational visibility?

How are different fire policies integrated?

What issues are there between fed and state policies?

How do we pay for incidents seamlessly?

What are the authorities and responsibilities of all FF agencies?

What are the pay disparities between fed, state, local and how to deal with differences?

How does DHS fit into Incident Management?

### **Rating and Incorporating Risk**

How are you defining risk? How do our landowners perceive risk? How much risk is associated with human caused fires? What risks are associated with human caused fires? How does risk relate to human caused starts? About 50% of human caused starts occur in the WUI where most of our values are found.

Consistent definition of probability x consequence and recognize that it is not about only looking at the negative consequence but also the positive in truly building a complete decision tree when considering risk.

Weights, Ranking and Priorities should be defined locally based on management planning and the NEPA process. Building confidence and trust with the public and maintaining it will be required or decisions come back to short-term social value over everything else..."not in my backyard".

Are values clearly defined and agreed upon? No value=no risk.

Can those values actually be "protected"? How and at what cost?

Who's risk? Risk versus responsibility

Need to look at risks from both fire and fire exclusion

Risk tolerance is low for short-term risks and high for long-term risks, need to rebalance

How do we educate the public (private landowners) about the risk they create but fail to accept responsibility for?

Need to ensure equitable valuation/weighting of non-monetary values. Part of the risk to these values may be in doing nothing from a fuel treatment/fire disturbance standpoint

How can we geospatially measure WUI that realistically captures risk

Use simple terms

Use concept of 3 zones of response; community, managed wildlands, wilderness

Consider risk of burning vs not burning

What is risk and how does it differ between agencies?

How do risk, authorities and responsibilities integrate between agencies?

How does each agency value the risk decisions of another?

## **Time Frame**

The next 2-3 years. Why? Administrations change and then our priorities usually get rearranged a bit.

Multiple election cycles, 4+ years w/revisiting, reinforcing concepts on a preset agenda

Focus on 10 years with an eye out to 25+ years

Ten years, as it takes the land managers that long to effect change and evaluate if it is making a difference. Anything shorter never gets a chance or can be fairly evaluated.

10-15 years

10-20 years, there is no quick fix

## **Land Unit Plans, State Risk Assessments, CWPPs, Land management regulations**

What are the levels of human caused fire activity? Reservation level risk assessments.

What are the goals and what have they defined as the short and long term objectives to meet them and have they been evaluated with the best available science to know if they are achievable or sustainable given the constraints of society, economics and the environment?

It is the same for any plan...federal, state, local or intergovernmental.

This question appears to be too "in the weeds" for a national cohesive strategy. All plans need to be tied together.

Are our land management planning processes meeting our needs?

How do these plans transfer risk to or from different jurisdictional and private land owners responsibilities

How not to lose this critical input

What are the commonalities and differences in these documents?

How do we bridge the differences?

**All things considered – most significant issue**

Recognizing agency differences, missions and roles.

Are we putting enough fire and fuels treatments on the landscape or will nature deliver on its own terms when conditions permit and land managers will have little to say about it?

Safety is really a priority, not just a slogan. No house or landscape is worth a life!

Clearly define the mission of the land management agency fire programs and ensure stable funding to accomplish it

Responsibility including self-responsibility  
Changing the culture of fire with the public

Develop a common understanding of local, state,, and federal wildland fire policy

Emphasis on true interagency partnerships  
Keep it simple and understandable

Seamless exchange of resources response  
Untangling authorities, responsibilities and payments