



Status Report

Date: August 17, 2012

Subcommittee: CSSC

Accomplishments Since Last Report:

- Work on Regional and National Action Plan Templates
- CSSC Chair Dan Smith coordination on completing barriers and success factors.
 - CSSC formatting barriers and success factors
- Work on future oversight document
- Initial draft on Phase III Report Timeline
- Initial work on performance measures

Planned Activities for Next Reporting Period:

- Continued discussions and work on Phase III Report Timeline
- Continued discussions and work on performance measures

Issues Identified:

WFEC Decisions/Approvals Needed:

- Regional and National Action Plan Templates
- Future oversight document

References:

- Proposal on Regional and National Action Plan Templates
- CS Future Oversight document

Contact Information:

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Regional Risk Analysis Report Templates

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary will include the highpoints of the report – the significant findings, recommendations, and conclusions.

A. Introduction

1. Cohesive Strategy vision, goals, performance measures and objectives as outlined in phase I as they relate to this regional risk analysis. Describe the framework and how these documents all fit together to portray the National Cohesive Strategy
2. Discussion that Phase III is not the end but a beginning including a brief discussion of the future expectations, why the Cohesive Strategy is important and how it can potentially impact future wildland fire management in the region.
3. Discuss communication efforts and provide a general description of how stakeholder information and feedback was used to frame actions common to all alternatives, alternatives, and performance metrics. Provide linkages to Appendices 5 and 6.
4. Discuss how science is being used to inform the CS through modeling and data analysis of actions under a range of alternatives.

B. Risk Analysis

The regional risk analysis will be told as a series of stories and will discuss the unique wildland fire issues in each region. The introduction to this section should describe the role stakeholder feedback contributed to the overall risk analysis process. A description of the data and modeling will be interwoven in the stories. Use graphics and charts as appropriate to illustrate the use of science in the planning and decision making process.

1. Key questions: Why is wildland fire an issue (why did we develop the CS)? How does wildland fire vary across the landscape? How can our management actions mitigate the impacts of wildland fire?
2. Describe comparative risk analyses, which include: characterization of risk, description of alternatives to address the risk, and the region's investment options based on the analysis.
3. Describe what was learned from the modeling results and describe the potential outcomes, trends, and investment options as it relates to key findings on Alternatives (i.e. are there some actions that have significant benefits over others, and was it unexpected?).

C. Alternatives

Include a description of how stakeholder feedback helped the RSC identify actions or elements common to all alternatives and range of alternatives considered.

1. Describe the range of feasible alternatives and key elements and emphasis actions, based on the actions described in Phase II.
2. Discuss the strengths and limitations of what can/can't be modeled at different levels, such as the local, county, state, and geographic area level throughout the Region.

3. Describe how decision-makers at various levels can use these alternatives and supporting information across the Region to select the best investment options. This would include the combination of factors/data that might guide decision-makers at various levels to choose one action or activity under the Regional Alternatives.
4. Describe Tradeoff's illustrating strategic investment options of the Alternatives actions/activities that are the priority. List the investment costs necessary to implement the actions or activities within each Alternative.

D. Performance Measures

Describe how the Region used social science and the values and beliefs provided during stakeholder feedback in identifying Regional performance metrics (e.g., relationship to values and beliefs identified in Phase II)

1. Discuss the National Performance Measures which are strategic, outcome oriented measures. All regions will use the National Performance Measures.
2. In addition, they may choose to develop specific regional performance measures to meet their needs. However, they must link to the national performance measures and goals.

If regions develop performance measures they will:

- a. Identify the Performance Measures for each goal and how PM's relate to the regional objectives identified in Phase II.
- b. Briefly describe how these PMs will be monitored to ensure achievement of the goals.
- c. Include information about how these PMs and actions in the regional action plan are connected.

This section will not get buried in the details – the details will be left for the implementation/action plans.

E. Recommendations and Conclusions

The linkage between recommendations and stakeholder feedback should be discussed in this section.

1. Describe the potential impact of the CS at all levels, recommendations on how this information may be used and what decisions could be made from it. (Emphasis goes on strategy in this report; implementation will be described in regional action plans.)
2. Describe recommendations on how to address or achieve the identified actions/activities, the desired future state of each region, and how the CS will help achieve that vision.

F. Next Steps

Sound stakeholder relationships are needed to respond to needs and actions identified during the risk analysis; expanded and improved collaboration is key to implementation activities.

1. Discussion of Post 2013 activities including the action plans and immediate next steps.
2. Set the stage for the reader to understand the Action Plans and the Communication activities.

Appendices

1. Glossary
2. Acronyms
3. References
4. Available Science/Models to better inform the decisions for implementing the Alternatives, monitoring data, and Performance Measures.
5. Communication Activities and Plans
6. Stakeholder Outreach and Feedback
7. Links to the Phase I and II reports and other key national and regional documents
8. Graphics
9. Other pertinent regional information
10. Committee/Workgroup Members

Completing the Action Plan Template

One of the deliverables of Phase III is the completion of a National Action Plan (as agreed upon in the Comprehensive Work Plan). The National Action Plan is to be completed by December 31, 2012. The template and examples below are intended to illustrate the minimum content components and format for the National Action Plan.

Complete National Action Plan

The intent of the National Action Plan is to capture actions the Wildland Fire Executive Council and the Wildland Fire Leadership Council have agreed to pursue now and into the next five years as a result of the national and regional dialogs in Phases II and III that will enable them to make progress in achieving the National Goals of the Cohesive Strategy. Specific actions in the National Action Plan are likely to be in response to:

1. the national goals and objectives (identified as outcomes in the Phase I Cohesive Strategy) and regional objectives (identified in Phase II Regional Assessments).
2. immediate opportunities for success identified in Phase II and refined in Phase III;
3. barriers and proposed solutions within the national decision-space;
4. information as a result of the regional or national risk analysis;
5. feedback received through the communication and outreach effort; and/or
6. feedback based on stakeholder involvement throughout Phase III.

National Action Plans also include the identification of performance measures. The action plans will identify who will do what, where, and by when. The National Action Plans create a mechanism for recording commitments made by the Wildland Fire Executive Council and Wildland Fire Leadership Council, provide an immediate and tangible product to report national successes to Congress and stakeholders, and ensure accountability in completing the actions. The actions in the National Action Plan document the initial efforts in implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy at the National level in an effort to make an immediate and positive difference on-the-ground.

It is recognized that further consideration and discussion of alternatives developed as part of the regional risk-analysis may be necessary before fully adopting and implementing the National Action Plan. Therefore, the National Action Plan actions may be limited to those actions/commitments that can be recorded now. Future discussion of the implementation of alternatives resulting from the regional risk analysis may supplement or amend the National Action Plans.

National Action Plan *Template*

The National Action Plan details the goals, objectives, outcome-based performance measures and priority implementation tasks at the National level to achieve the goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy. These actions, as identified by the Wildland Fire Executive Council and affirmed by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, will help provide focus in the Regions and enable the Nation to make progress in achieving the national goals in the three Strategy focus areas: Restore and Maintain Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Fire Response.

The tasks are consistent with the guiding principles established in Phase I of the development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:

- Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity.
- Sound risk management is the foundation for all management activities.
- Actively manage the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance with management objectives.
- Improve and sustain both community and individual responsibilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfire through capacity-building activities.
- Rigorous wildfire prevention programs are supported across all jurisdictions.
- Wildland fire, as an essential ecological process and natural change agent, may be incorporated into the planning process and wildfire response.
- Fire management decisions are based on the best available science, knowledge and experience, and used to evaluate risk versus gain.
- Local, state, tribal and federal agencies support one another with wildfire response, including engagement in collaborative planning and the decision-making processes that take into account all lands and recognize the interdependence and statutory responsibilities among jurisdictions.
- Where land and resource management objectives differ, prudent and safe actions must be taken through collaborative fire planning and suppression response to keep unwanted wildfires from spreading to adjacent jurisdictions.
- Safe aggressive initial attack is often the best suppression strategy to keep unwanted wildfires small and costs down.
- Fire management programs and activities are economically viable and commensurate with values to be protected, land and resource management objectives, and social and environmental quality considerations.

The National Action Plan defines and records the actions that will be undertaken at the national level over the course of the next five years to make progress toward achieving the National Goals of the Cohesive Strategy. The performance measures and implementation outcomes will enable all parties to assess and track progress toward the desired outcomes envisioned within each goal while the priority implementation tasks identify specific actions needed to realize measurable progress within the next five years.

National Strategy/Focus Areas - This section will discuss/describe the overall national strategy and/or emphasis areas. There will be overlap with the region's strategies/emphasis areas but there will likely be some things that are also unique to the national level. This section will serve to bridge the gap between the National Risk Analysis Report and the goals, objectives, performance measures and implementation tasks in the National Action Plan.

Restore and Maintain Landscapes

GOAL: *Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.*

National Objective:

- Risk to landscapes is diminished.

National Performance Measures:

1. *Acres and percent of the landscape that falls within the Historic Range of Variability*
2. *Percent of wildfires that burn in accordance with management objectives*

Implementation Tasks:

1. *Promote and use fire to emulate natural disturbance patterns to maintain and improve ecological systems, balancing social, cultural, and economic needs, especially over large contiguous landscapes*

Scope: National

Lead: USDA

Other Collaborators: NASF, DOI

Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing

2. *Manage wildfire for beneficial effects where it meets resource objectives and suppress them where they don't meet the resource objectives.*

Scope: National, Regional

Lead: NASF

Other Collaborators: Counties

Implementation Timeframe: Annual and ongoing

3. **Identify implementation tasks/actions/commitments**

Scope: Identify the scope (National, State, Cohesive Strategy Region, Local, etc.)

Lead: Identify a lead who will work with other collaborators to ensure accomplishment of the task

Other Collaborators: Identify others who will work with the lead to ensure accomplishment of the task

Implementation Timeframe: Identify specific timeframes to accomplish the tasks

Fire-Adapted Communities

GOAL: *Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.*

National Objectives:

- Risk of wildfire impacts to communities is diminished.
- Individuals and communities accept and act upon their responsibility to prepare their properties for wildfire.
- Jurisdictions assess level of risk and establish roles and responsibilities for mitigating both the threat and the consequences of wildfire.
- Effectiveness of mitigation activities is monitored, collected and shared.

National Performance Measures:

1. *Number and percent of communities-at-risk covered by a CWPP or equivalent that are improving their wildland fire preparedness. Evidence that a community is improving its wildland fire preparedness can be represented by any of the following:*
 - a. *Adoption of “Firewise” or equivalent standards to safeguard property*
 - b. *Adoption of “Ready, Set, Go!” or equivalent standards to prepare for fire and evacuation*
 - c. *Enaction of mitigation/fire prevention ordinances*

- d. *High priority hazardous fuels identified in a CWPP or equivalent plan are reduced and/or maintained at appropriate fuel levels*

Implementation Tasks:

1. *Prioritizing CARs in greatest need of CWPPs and encourage development and implementation of CWPP and Firewise or equivalent concepts*

Scope: National, Regional, local

Lead Collaborators: USDA, NASF

Implementation Timeframe: December 2013

2. **Identify implementation tasks/actions/commitments**

Scope: Identify the scope (National, State, Cohesive Strategy Region, Local, etc.)

Lead: Identify leads who will work with other collaborators to ensure accomplishment of the task

Other Collaborators: Identify others who will work with the lead to ensure accomplishment of the task

Implementation Timeframe: Identify specific timeframes to accomplish the tasks

Wildfire Response

GOAL: *All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.*

National Objectives:

- Injuries and loss of life to the public and firefighters are diminished.
- Response to shared-jurisdiction wildfire is efficient and effective.
- Pre-fire multi-jurisdictional planning occurs.

National Performance Measures:

1. *Percent increase in the number of states with statewide mutual aid agreements compared to prior years*
2. *Percent change in number of firefighter injuries and firefighter fatalities during wildfire suppression activities compared to previous years*

Implementation Tasks:

1. *Institutionalize the use of spatial analysis tools to evaluate strategies for response*

Scope: National, Regional

Lead:

Other Collaborators:

Implementation Timeframe: December 2014

2. Xxx

Scope:

Lead:

Other Collaborators:

Implementation Timeframe:

Completing the Action Plan Template

One of the deliverables of Phase III is the completion of a Regional Action Plan by each RSC (as agreed upon in the Comprehensive Work Plan). Regional Action Plans are to be completed by December 31, 2012. The template and examples below are intended to illustrate the minimum content components and format for each Regional Action Plan.

Complete Regional Action Plans

The intent of the Regional Action Plan is to capture actions the RSC has agreed to pursue now and into the next five years as a result of the regional dialogs in Phases II and III that will enable them to make progress in achieving the three National Goals of the Cohesive Strategy. Specific actions in the Regional Action Plan are likely to be process-related and in response to:

1. the national goals objectives (identified as outcomes in the Phase I Cohesive Strategy) and regional objectives (identified in Phase II Regional Assessments).
2. immediate opportunities and successes identified in Phase II and refined in Phase III;
3. barriers and solutions within the region's decision-space;
4. the pursuit of one of the initial or refined alternatives in whole or in part;
5. information as a result of the regional or national risk analysis;
6. feedback received through the communication and outreach effort; and/or
7. feedback based on stakeholder involvement throughout Phase III.

Regional Action Plans also include the identification of performance measures. The action plans will identify who will do what, where, and by when. The Regional Action Plans create a mechanism for recording commitments the RSCs have made, provide an immediate and tangible product to report regional successes to Congress and stakeholders, and ensure accountability in completing the actions. The actions in each Regional Action Plan document the initial efforts in implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy at the regional and local level in an effort to make an immediate and positive difference on-the-ground.

It is recognized that further consideration and discussion of alternatives developed as part of the regional risk-analysis will be necessary before adopting and implementing any alternative regional strategy. Therefore, the Regional Action Plan actions will be limited to those actions/commitments that can be recorded now. Future discussion of the implementation of alternatives resulting from the regional risk analysis may supplement or amend Regional Action Plans.

Xxx Regional Action Plan *Template*

The xxx Regional Action Plan details the goals, objectives, outcome-based performance measures, implementation outcomes, and priority implementation tasks for the xxx Cohesive Strategy Region. These actions, as identified by the Regional Strategy Committee, will enable the Cohesive Strategy Region to make progress in achieving the overarching national goals: Restore and Maintain Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Fire Response.

The tasks are consistent with the guiding principles of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:

- Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity.
- Sound risk management is the foundation for all management activities.
- Actively manage the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance with management objectives.
- Improve and sustain both community and individual responsibilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfire through capacity-building activities.
- Rigorous wildfire prevention programs are supported across all jurisdictions.
- Wildland fire, as an essential ecological process and natural change agent, may be incorporated into the planning process and wildfire response.
- Fire management decisions are based on the best available science, knowledge and experience, and used to evaluate risk versus gain.
- Local, state, tribal and federal agencies support one another with wildfire response, including engagement in collaborative planning and the decision-making processes that take into account all lands and recognize the interdependence and statutory responsibilities among jurisdictions.
- Where land and resource management objectives differ, prudent and safe actions must be taken through collaborative fire planning and suppression response to keep unwanted wildfires from spreading to adjacent jurisdictions.
- Safe aggressive initial attack is often the best suppression strategy to keep unwanted wildfires small and costs down.
- Fire management programs and activities are economically viable and commensurate with values to be protected, land and resource management objectives, and social and environmental quality considerations.

The Regional Action Plan defines and records the actions that cohesive strategy region intends to undertake now and over the course of the next five years to make progress to achieve the three National Goals of the Cohesive Strategy. The performance measures and implementation outcomes will enable all parties to assess and track progress toward the desired outcomes envisioned within each goal while the priority implementation tasks identify specific actions needed to realize measurable progress within the next five years.

Regional Strategy/Emphasis Areas – In this section each region will discuss/describe their overall strategy and/or emphasis areas for the region. This section will serve to bridge the gap between the Regional Risk Analysis Reports and the goals, objectives, performance measures and implementation tasks in the Regional Action Plan.

Restore and Maintain Landscapes

GOAL: *Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.*

National Objective:

- Risk to landscapes is diminished.

National Performance Measures:

1. *Acres and percent of the landscape that falls within the Historic Range of Variability*
2. *Percent of wildfires that burn in accordance with management objectives*

Regional Objectives:

- *Build and maintain resiliency in Southeastern landscapes through strategic use of prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, grazing, etc, and manage wildfire where and when appropriate based on ownership and landscape context*
- Xxx
- Xxx

Regional Performance Measures:

1. *Acres and percent of the landscape that falls within the Historic Range of Variability*
2. *Percent of wildfires that burn in accordance with management objectives*
3. *Acres burned or otherwise treated*
4. *Number of integrated land-use and fire management plans in place*
5. *Number of multi-jurisdictional treatments implemented*
6. Xxx
7. xxx

Implementation Tasks:

1. *Promote and use fire to emulate natural disturbance patterns to maintain and improve ecological systems, balancing social, cultural, and economic needs, especially over large contiguous landscapes*

Scope: Regional, local

Lead: NASF

Other Collaborators: USDA, DOI

Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing

2. *Manage wildfire for beneficial effects where it meets resource objectives and suppress them where they don't meet the resource objectives.*

Scope: Regional, local

Lead: NASF

Collaborators: Counties

Implementation Timeframe: Annual and ongoing

3. **Identify implementation tasks/actions/commitments**

Scope: Identify the scope (National, State, Cohesive Strategy Region, Local, etc.)

Lead: Identify leads who will work with other collaborators to ensure accomplishment of the task (make sure the lead and additional collaborators track with the scope and the task)

Collaborators: Identify other collaborators to work with the lead

Implementation Timeframe: Identify timeframes to accomplish the tasks and achieve the performance measure targets that are set including annual and longer-term targets.

Fire-Adapted Communities

GOAL: *Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.*

National Objectives:

- Risk of wildfire impacts to communities is diminished.
- Individuals and communities accept and act upon their responsibility to prepare their properties for wildfire.
- Jurisdictions assess level of risk and establish roles and responsibilities for mitigating both the threat and the consequences of wildfire.
- Effectiveness of mitigation activities is monitored, collected and shared.

National Performance Measures:

1. *Number and percent of communities-at-risk covered by a CWPP or equivalent that are improving their wildland fire preparedness. Evidence that a community is improving its wildland fire preparedness can be represented by any of the following:*
 - a. *Adoption of “Firewise” or equivalent standards to safeguard property*
 - b. *Adoption of “Ready, Set, Go!” or equivalent standards to prepare for fire and evacuation*
 - c. *Enaction of mitigation/fire prevention ordinances*
 - d. *High priority hazardous fuels identified in a CWPP or equivalent plan are reduced and/or maintained at appropriate fuel levels*

Regional Objectives:

- *Support development of, and maintain engagement with communities by developing and leveraging partnerships through community wildfire planning for improved preparedness*
- *Eliminate loss of life and minimize loss of structures*
- *Coordinate public policy and shared responsibility across jurisdictions*
- **Xxx**

Regional Performance Measures:

1. *Number of communities-at-risk covered by a CWPP or equivalent that are improving their wildland fire preparedness. Evidence that a community is improving its wildland fire preparedness can be represented by any of the following:*
 - e. *Adoption of “Firewise” or equivalent standards to safeguard property*
 - f. *Adoption of “Ready, Set, Go!” or equivalent standards to prepare for fire and evacuation*
 - g. *Enaction of mitigation/fire prevention ordinances*
 - h. *High priority hazardous fuels identified in a CWPP or equivalent plan are reduced and/or maintained at appropriate fuel levels*
2. Xxx
3. Xxx

Implementation Tasks:

1. *Provide Firewise or equivalent presentations and conduct education/outreach to local communities to raise awareness of wildland fire hazards and promote community action to reduce risk*

Scope: Regional, local

Lead Collaborators: USDA, NASF

Implementation Timeframe: 2013 – 2015, and ongoing as necessary

2. *Prioritizing CARs in greatest need of CWPPs and encourage development and implementation of CWPP and Firewise or equivalent concepts*

Scope: Regional, local

Lead Collaborators: USDA, NASF

Implementation Timeframe: December 2013

3. **Identify implementation tasks/actions/commitments**

Scope: Identify the scope (National, State, Cohesive Strategy Region, Local, etc.)

Lead: Identify leads who will work with other collaborators to ensure accomplishment of the task

Other Collaborators: Identify others who will work with the lead to ensure accomplishment of the task

Implementation Timeframe: Identify specific timeframes to accomplish the tasks

Wildfire Response

GOAL: *All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.*

National Objectives:

- Injuries and loss of life to the public and firefighters are diminished.
- Response to shared-jurisdiction wildfire is efficient and effective.
- Pre-fire multi-jurisdictional planning occurs.

National Performance Measures:

1. *Percent increase in the number of states with statewide mutual aid agreements compared to prior years*
2. *Percent change in number of firefighter injuries and firefighter fatalities during wildfire suppression activities compared to previous years*

Regional Objectives:

- *Increase firefighter safety by using risk management*
- *Increase and leverage resource capability and capacity. Streamline and support training across all areas to maximize effectiveness*

Regional Performance Measures:

1. *Percent increase in the number of states with statewide mutual aid agreements compared to prior years*
2. *Percent change in number of firefighter injuries and firefighter fatalities during wildfire suppression activities compared to previous years*
3. Xxx
4. Xxx

Implementation Tasks:

1. *Institutionalize the use of spatial analysis tools to evaluate strategies for response*

Scope: Regional, local

Lead Collaborator(s):

Implementation Timeframe: December 2014

2. Xxx

Scope:

Lead:

Other Collaborators:

Implementation Timeframe:



Proposal

Date: August 15, 2012

Subcommittee: Cohesive Strategy Sub-Committee

Description of Issue or Assignment:

One of the deliverables of Phase III is the completion of a Regional and National Action Plans (as agreed upon in the Comprehensive Work Plan). The Action Plans are to be completed by December 31, 2012. The templates and examples provided are intended to illustrate the minimum content components and format for the Action Plans.

Discussion of Proposed Recommendation(s):

The intent of the Action Plan(s) are to capture actions the RSC, Wildland Fire Executive Council, and the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (respectively) have agreed to pursue now and into the next five years as a result of the national and regional dialogs in Phases II and III that will enable them to make progress in achieving the National Goals of the Cohesive Strategy.

The Action Plan(s) create a mechanism for recording commitments and provide an immediate and tangible product to report successes to Congress and stakeholders, and ensure accountability in completing the actions. The actions in the Action Plan(s) document the initial efforts in implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy at the National level in an effort to make an immediate and positive difference on-the-ground.

Identify Considerations:

Action Plans also include the identification of performance measures. The action plans will identify who will do what, where, and by when. It is recognized that further consideration and discussion of alternatives developed as part of the regional risk-analysis and national risk-analysis reports may need to be considered in relationship the identified actions. Therefore, the Action Plan(s) actions may be limited to those actions/commitments that can be recorded now. Future discussion of the implementation of alternatives resulting from the regional risk analysis/national risk analysis may supplement or amend the Action Plans.

Rationale for Recommendation(s):

The WFEC approval in moving forward on the development of the Action Plan(s) templates.

Recommendation(s):

The CSSC recommends the following:



Proposal

1. WFEC review of the Action Plan templates.
2. WFEC provides feedback and changes as appropriate.
3. WFEC approves and provides associated direction.

Decision Method used:

- Subcommittee Consensus
- Modified Consensus (explain, i.e. majority, super-majority)
- Chair Decision

Contact Information:

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WFEC Decision:

- WFEC Approves
- WFEC Approves with Modifications (not required to resubmit for WFEC approval)
- Need More Information (required to come back to WFEC for approval)
- WFEC Does Not Approve

Shari Eckhoff, DFO

Date

Notes regarding decision:



Status Report

Date: 17 AUGUST 12

Subcommittee: WRSC

Accomplishments Since Last Report:

Thank you letters out to stakeholders/partners who commented on the Western Region Primary Alternatives and Performance Measures solicitation request.

Responded to a request for information concerning the WRSC/WRSWG Survey Monkey on fire management in western Communities.

Provided input to the CSSC on the Barriers document as well as the National Communications SC request to add to the Regional report template.

REV. 1 of Regional Report boiler anticipated to be completed and forwarded to WRSC by 17AUG12.

Submitted Success Story we received from Joe Stutler concerning a fuels reduction project in Aspen Lakes Oregon between Cloverdale FD and Cyrus family property.

Planned Activities for Next Reporting Period:

Continue path forward on all deliverables. REV. 2 of Regional Report pre NSAT analysis.

NSAT/All regions meeting Denver September 4-7.

Issues Identified:

No new issues identified

WFEC Decisions/Approvals Needed:



Status Report

None for this meeting, monumental for upcoming meetings.

References:

http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/success/stories/2012/12_or_cfd_FireAdaptedCommunities.shtml

Contact Information:

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Status Report

Date: August 17, 2012

Subcommittee: Southern RSC

Accomplishments Since Last Report:

- WG activity on risk analysis report and minor interaction with science team
- Finalizing barriers document with CSSC Chair Dan Smith
- Finalizing social networking process and initial calls to gain input from contractor
- Completion of contract with Southern Regional Extension Forester for communications and coordination activities
- Proposal for communications evaluation of regional communications strategies and campaigns.
- National CS Communications call on coordination
-

Planned Activities for Next Reporting Period:

- Continued development of risk analysis report with WG
- Development of longterm support needs for South – RSC
- Determination of stakeholder input sessions in Sept/Oct
- Development of materials for partner sessions with CS discussions
- Direct contacts to minimally active stakeholders and participants
- More aggressive development of success stories

Issues Identified:

WFEC Decisions/Approvals Needed:

References:

- **SERSC Monthly Report**
- **TxWRAP Success Story**

Contact Information:

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The South's engagement in a national strategy to restore forests, create fire adapted human communities and protect people and homes through effective fire response...

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (**Cohesive Strategy**) builds on successes of the past while incorporating a new collaborative approach to managing a complex national problem — wildfire. This new approach includes all the partners involved in fire and land management and gives each a voice and a role in addressing a collective problem. Stemming from the FLAME Act of 2009, Phase II of the strategy was completed earlier this spring and we are currently embarking on Phase III where regional risk analysis reports and action strategies are being developed through information and modeling provided by a national science team.

The Southeastern Regional Strategy Committee (SERSC) was formed in 2011 as a body to oversee and offer strategic direction to the creation and subsequent implementation of a host of strategies to help minimize impact from wildfires through maximizing effectiveness to the management of land, protection of communities and response to fire.

The intent of this monthly report will be to inform stakeholders, agency members and constituents not only the current status of the operational aspects of the SERSC, but more importantly the strategies, emphasized alternatives and options we all have within the land management and fire community. Through well informed decision making processes and coordinated activity, collectively we can approach many of these challenges to reduce threat, enhance protection and create communities that are adapted to the fire regime many in the South live within.

Science Team Meeting with RSC in July

The National Science and Analysis Team (NSAT) met with the SERSC and working group (WG) in Atlanta July 23 – 25 to begin evaluating alternatives for the implementation stage of the Cohesive Strategy. The NSAT shared a series of modeling tools and national data sets represented geospatially to help evaluate proposed alternatives currently being discussed across the South. Included, but not limited to the evaluation and modeling are:

- Scope of the current wildfire situation
- Evaluation of options to reduce risk
- Comparison of current management alternatives
- Costs of current management alternatives
- Historical fire data and response to alternatives
- Building of performance measurers to track successful activity

Over the next month, the SE WG will be working closely with the NSAT to refine the inputs, help inform our decisions and develop emphasized alternatives to be included in the regional risk analysis report to be completed middle of October.

Success Stories

This month we feature a success from Texas on the TX Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal
<http://sites.nemac.org/southeastcohesivefire/>

See our national Partner Perspectives and Success Stories at: <http://forestsandrangelands.gov>



Southern Regional Strategy Committee (SERSC) Update

Stakeholder Input Opportunities –

Over the upcoming months, we will be creating several formal and multiple (ongoing) informal opportunities to provide input to the discussion on collectively addressing the challenge of wildfire in the South. Whereas various documents will be produced using the best available information at that time, the implementation and activity will be continuous and build upon lessons learned and success as we go. We are also embarking on a social network mapping project through the Southern Regional Extension Forester's office to help identify additional stakeholders currently not directly involved in providing input to the cohesive strategy development in the South. By doing so, we hope to identify groups, organizations and individuals with perspectives that have not been commonly heard from through the process to date.

September 15 through early October will be the timeframe for the next "formal" process for input. We will most likely be conducting a series of forums, both in person and web based, to gain input on the Southern Risk Analysis Report that is currently being constructed with input from the National Science and Analysis Team. Once dates and locations are confirmed, we will share through our stakeholder network. As the report will contain science based modeling, an outcome will be the development of "emphasized alternatives" that managers at a variety of levels can utilize to explore decision space and better understand how decisions impact the ability for creating fire adapted communities, resilient forests and help increase effectiveness during wildfire response.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing – Informal input (contacts below)

September 15 to Early October – Formal stakeholder sessions and web-based structure

SERSC Lead Contact:

Mike Zupko
Southern Governors' Assoc.
mike@zup-co-inc.com
(770) 267-9630

Working Group Lead Contact:

David Frederick
Southern Group of State Foresters
firerepsgsf@charter.net
(334) 590-6711

National Prescribed Fire Use Report Released

Prescribed fire is an important component of our natural southern landscape and understanding our management activities is extremely important. The intent is to help drive additional prescribed fires in the future, learn from those in the past and serve as a baseline for activities pertaining to fire as a management tool. Look for more information on impediments identified in the next newsletter.

In early 2012, The Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils, Inc. in coordination with the National Association of State Foresters released a technical report (01-12) documenting nationally, total prescribed fire acreage across the nation for a single year (2011), information on state prescribed fire programs and impediments limiting prescribed fire use.

The South showed how active our prescribed fire program is within forested landscapes by capturing 82% of the total prescribed fire acres in forested landscapes and 51% of all prescribed fire acres, including agricultural burning.

This report is an important compilation as it is the first time ever, with some level of confidence; a majority of prescribed fires were captured through reporting.

For a copy of the report, please go to:

<http://www.prescribedfire.net>

REGIONAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE/NATIONAL SCIENCE & ANALYSIS TEAM – DENVER AGENDA

PURPOSE: Share NSAT Phase III DRAFT analysis results and documentation with RSC's(10-12 members/RSC); NSAT interactions with RSC's on interpretations of results from the Phase III analyses; Address questions/issues about the NSAT analyses, interpretation, and documentation; RSC deliberations on conclusions to be included in their individual RSC Phase III reports. (VTC, Live Meeting, and conference lines are available.)

SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

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| Welcome & Introductions | 8:00 - 8:30 |
| NSAT-Presentation of analysis process, data, models, analyses | 8:30 - 12:00 |
| LUNCH | 12:00 - 1:00 |
| Q&A session | 1:00 - 2:00 |
| RSC BREAKOUTS (Rooms: W-Columbine; S-Mile High; NE-Rocky Mtn) -RSC will discuss data, models, analyses -RSC will document interpretation of data and analyses; Identify additional needs from NSAT | 2:00 - 5:00 |
| DAY-END STATUS CHECK | 5:00 - 5:30 |
| WET Meeting (writers/editors) | 5:30 - 6:30 |

SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

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| MORNING CHECK-IN | 8:00 - 8:30 |
| RSC BREAKOUTS (NSAT members will join each breakout) -RSC will identify data/analyses most relevant for each alternative -RSC will identify actions/activities that are more likely to reduce risk relative to data, analyses -RSC will outline prioritized data, analyses, actions, and activities for report -RSC will develop concepts/stories for resilient landscapes, fire response, and fire adapted communities as they relate to actions/alternatives and potential outcomes | 8:30 - 5:00 |
| WET Meeting (writers/editors) | 5:00 - 6:00 |
| CSSC Meeting (tentative) | 6:30 - 8:00 |

SEPTEMBER 7, 2012

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|---|--------------|
| RSC REPORT OUT -RSC report 30 minutes/Q&A 10 minutes | 8:00 - 10:00 |
| NSAT REPORT OUT | 10:15 -10:30 |
| REGIONAL REPORT – GENERAL OUTLINE | 10:30 -11:00 |
| NATIONAL REPORT – HOW REGIONAL INFO WILL BE INCLUDED | 11:00 -11:30 |
| COMMUNICATIONS TEAM | 11:30 -12:00 |
| WRAP-UP/NEXT STEPS | 12:00 -12:30 |



Proposal

Date: August 17, 2012

Subcommittee: Cohesive Strategy Sub-Committee

Description of Issue or Assignment:

Barriers and Critical Success Factor Report to WFEC

On July 6, 2012 WFEC tasked the CSSC and RSC Chairs to revise the Barriers/Critical Success Factors (CSFs) Spreadsheet (11 previously identified as priority) based on comments received from WFEC. The tasking also included: analyze the responses related to prioritization including questions that have H/M/L for an answer; determine relative priority and update spreadsheet in priority order and deliver to WFEC. An extension on completion of the tasking was granted by WFEC for August 13, 2012

Discussion of Proposed Recommendation(s):

Attached are is a table on the 11 Barriers/CSFs that depict the top 5 priorities (tier 1) and the remaining 6 priorities (tier 2).

Tier I Priorities:

- Increase Fuel Management on Private Lands
- Increase Fuels Management on Federal lands
- Inefficiencies in National Qualification Standards
- Remove Policy Barriers and Process Complexities for Sharing Resources
- Growth Management, Land Development and Zoning Laws

Tier 2 Priorities

- Enforceable State/Local Ordinances
- FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
- Rating Fire adapted Communities
- Investment in Fire Fighting Workforce
- Improve Fire Data
- Intergovernmental Wildland Fire Governance

Identify Considerations:

It is important to recognize at this point in time, the critical success factors and barriers could be included in regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors/barriers that are national in scope.

Rationale for Recommendation(s):

WFEC direction and path forward on managing and addressing the barriers and critical success factors.



Proposal

Recommendation(s):

The CSSC recommends the following:

1. WFEC approval of barriers and critical success factors.
2. WFEC provides direction on path forward to address the barriers and critical success factors.

Decision Method used:

- Subcommittee Consensus
- Modified Consensus (explain, i.e. majority, super-majority)
- Chair Decision

Contact Information:

Sandy Cantler 202-205-1512
Henry Bastian 202-606-3206

WFEC Decision:

- WFEC Approves
- WFEC Approves with Modifications (not required to resubmit for WFEC approval)
- Need More Information (required to come back to WFEC for approval)
- WFEC Does Not Approve

Shari Eckhoff, DFO

Date

Notes regarding decision:

National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

Barriers and Critical Success Factors

August, 2012

During Phase II of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy), each of the three Regional Strategy Committees (RSCs) – Northeast, Southeast, and West – identified barriers and critical success factors that would impact their ability to be successful in implementing the Cohesive Strategy. The terms as used in this process are defined as:

Barriers – Must be removed in order for the Cohesive Strategy to be successful.

Critical Success Factors – Must be present for the Cohesive Strategy to be successful.

When the regional lists were combined into a master list, over fifty barriers and critical success factors had been identified by the regions. The Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC), through the Cohesive Strategy Subcommittee (CSSC), tasked the RSCs with further defining the factors and creating a sub-list targeting the highest priority factors that reasonably could be addressed within the next five years.

The row labels in the following tables were adapted from the original factor spreadsheet. Several of the labels are described in more detail below.

Impact – What are the potential implications or effect if the barrier is removed or the critical success factor is met?

Supporting Details – Additional information and references

Existing Groups and Past Efforts – Is there an existing group that could review and define proposed actions to address the barrier or critical success factor? Has there been a past effort(s) to address the barrier; and if so, by whom?

The last three rows – Impact on Achieving Objectives, Probability of Success, and Investment of Resources Versus Benefit – were added following the WFEC members' review of the highest priority barriers and critical success factors identified by the RSCs. The responses, when combined for each factor, represent the WFEC's assessment of the likelihood of achieving a positive outcome.

Each of the 11 barriers and critical success factors (CSF) that follow was selected by the RSCs as being the highest priority barriers/CSFs to be addressed in order to contribute to the successful implementation of the Cohesive Strategy. These barriers/CSFs were further stratified into two tiers.

Tier 1 (blue headings) – Contains the most urgent of the RSC's highest priority barriers/CSFs

Tier 2 (tan headings) – Contains the remainder of the RSC's highest priority barriers/CSFs

Finally, the number in parentheses in the heading of each table corresponds to the barrier or critical success factor number in the original master barrier and critical success factor spreadsheet.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (5): *Increase Fuels Management on Private Land*

| | |
|---|--|
| Tier (Priority) | 1 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes • Fire-Adapted Communities • Response to Fire |
| Description | There is a need to increase private land management assistance to complement and implement broader fuel reduction management objectives across fire prone landscapes. Incentives for private landowners are needed to increase the fuels management on private lands. Incentives may include providing cost share funds through current landowner assistance programs. There is a need to integrate federal and state level fuels and prevention programs and provide fuels management incentives to mitigate undesired fire effects and property loss. |
| Impact | Increasing incentives for private lands fuels mitigation will result in more acres being mitigated of undesired fire effects to the landscape/watershed and reducing the probability of fire damage/loss. It can also bring about multiple program integration to reach the same outcome on a larger portion of the landscape with more efficient leveraging of funding sources. Treated areas must be maintained. Increases in the acres treated results in reduced wildfire risk to the public and firefighters and reduced wildfire suppression costs. |
| Supporting Details | Could be integrated with various private and public land conservation and stewardship programs. Integration and coordination of WUI planning with land management objectives. There is a need to integrate federal and state level fuels and prevention programs which integrate WUI protection planning with land management objectives. There must be social incentives in addition to financial incentives. The emphasis must be at the local level which requires active engagement with constituents at that level. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | The NRCS currently has the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) that covers many of the natural resource and fuels reduction needs addressed here. It is specifically geared to tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest landowners. Additionally, the USFS has the Forest Stewardship Program. This program has specifically been coordinated within the Northeastern and Midwestern U.S. and addresses the very needs that the Cohesive Strategy seeks, including, risk management, communication, natural resource management and fuels treatments across this landscape. States utilize hazardous fuels mitigation funds via State Fire Assistance (NASF-USFS). |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop landowner incentives (e.g., tax breaks, free disposal of material, increased use of Wyden Amendment and other finance or cost-share authorities). 2. Integration of fuels reduction and defensible space principles with private land management programs. 3. Integrate USFS and NRCS funding and programs to achieve success. Work with NRCS, FSA, and other USDA agencies to better incorporate and/or incentivize prescribed burning on tribal and private lands. 4. Work with EPA to reduce restrictions to the use of prescribed fire due to smoke tolerance and emissions (air quality). Part is education of the general public; the other part is education/science working with EPA on short term effects verses long term impacts and extent of emissions. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | High |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Medium |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (14): *Increase Fuels Management on Federal Land*

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|--|---|
| Tier (Priority) | 1 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes • Fire-Adapted Communities • Response to Fire |
| Description | <p>1. Need revised standardized guidance and direction for fuels treatments on federal land to enhance fire adapted communities and landscapes.</p> <p>2. Landscape scale restoration is often difficult to achieve due to the complex process requirements of federal laws, rules and policies. New interpretation and engagement with key partners can take advantage of flexibility that currently exists, but may not be exercised for fear of litigation.</p> |
| Impact | If guidance is revised, DOI agencies will be able to effectively target fuels treatment dollars to achieve integrated Cohesive Strategy goals for fire adapted communities and landscape resilience. Increased acres treated on federal lands reduces wildfire risk to the public and firefighters, and results in reduced wildfire suppression costs. |
| Supporting Details | Currently, guidance and direction comes from HFPAS and OMB. The emphasis is to prioritize WUI treatments, with approximately 90% of the HFR funds going to this endeavor. However, a gap exists between the DOI agency missions, which are different for NPS, FWS, BLM and BIA, and the WUI emphasis. For example, spending HFR funds in Yosemite to reduce fuels around structures in and adjacent to the park does not fully advance the NPS mission, and in fact could have severe consequences if a large portion of the park burns in a mega-fire and the critical values of Yosemite (including the tourism economy) are lost. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | DOI Fire program Assessment. NWCG Fuels Committee has been involved with fuels allocations and processes. The use of the Good Neighbor authority was approved by Congress in 2009 for projects in Colorado and Utah. The authority enables state agencies to act as an agent for the federal agency to complete similar or complementary forest and land management activities across state, federal and private landowner boundaries. The Authority has not been widely used due to limited application and problematic contracting requirements. |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move from a national criteria based allocation model to a process that considers the core principles of the Cohesive Strategy and funds the federal organizations at the regional levels, and that would also allow for management discretion at the local level that takes into account priorities, capabilities, and the changes in individual project dynamics. If standard guidance and direction for fuels treatments is modified it must be done at the Department level, between USDA and DOI, with discussion of the relationships to state, tribal and private partners. 2. Encourage federal agencies to use authorities under the Healthy Forest Restoration act (HFRA) and the Health Forest initiative (HFI) to expedite the planning /collaboration process to treat large landscapes. 3. Integrate Community Wildfire Protection Plans with agency land management and/or fire management plans to facilitate fuels treatments across multiple jurisdictions (RSC level). 4. Support the Good Neighbor Authority Act and broaden the use of the Act's provisions to other states where local interest and support exists. 5. Seek relief from impediments in the Forest Service Planning Rule for fuels management. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | High |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Medium |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

| CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (20): <i>Growth Management, Land Development and Zoning Laws</i> | |
|---|--|
| Tier (Priority) | 1 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-Adapted Communities • Response to Fire |
| Description | Need growth management, land development, and zoning laws that require defensible space and wildland fire risk reduction actions as communities develop; and the maintenance of wildland fire risk reduction practices, e.g., defensible space, fire resistant construction, hazard reduction, etc. |
| Impact | Reduced risk to firefighters and homeowners, reduced suppression costs, and lower insurance rates. |
| Supporting Details | Mostly a local government issue but national support and coordination are needed. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | NFPA has completed national surveys on zoning laws. Additional information is available from the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition and NWCG WUI Committee. NACO, IAFC, NGA, and NLC have also contributed. |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work through NGOs (American Planners Association, builders and other organizations and NACO/League of Cities/Mayors Conference) at the national level to develop a list of best practices and model zoning laws/development standards. 2. Work with the insurance industry on products that motivate homeowners to create fire adapted homes/communities – create a model fire adapted community concept that can be replicated in high fire prone areas resulting in reduced fees and higher ISO ratings. 3. Construct a federal incentive program to reimburse for the creation of fire adapted communities through CWPPs and other comprehensive community planning practices (FEMA and/or USDA/DOI). 4. At Federal Agency, State and local government level develop codes and standards for developing and maintaining Fire Adapted Communities reflecting regional and local wildland fire risks to Human Communities, including landscape and structure components/issues. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | High |
| Probability of Success | Low |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Medium |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

BARRIER (31): *Inefficiencies in the National Qualification Standards*

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|--|---|--|
| Tier (Priority) | 1 | |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Fire | |
| Description | <p>Inefficiencies in the national qualification standards and procedures must be addressed to increase response capabilities. Develop one wildland fire qualification standard for the federal, state, tribal, and local wildfire community. Currently NWCG PMS 310-1 provides qualifications for national mobilization and recognizes the ability to accept qualifications of local jurisdictions while in those jurisdictions. These standards are in sync with FEMA NIC efforts to bridge the gap with local government.</p> | |
| Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many resources that would otherwise be available for mobilization are unavailable because of cumbersome qualification standards and procedures. As a result, resources are not available for mobilization. 2. Better coordination between and among local, state, tribal and federal agencies who are investing in training. A clear definition of position requirements for training and experience. 3. NWCG develops and maintains interagency qualifications and training standards. Implementation is the responsibility and decision of the individual agencies. | |
| Supporting Details | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build on existing success (Recognition of Prior Learning [RPL], Service First). Should accept experience, training and qualification classes, and nomenclature of DHS/NIMS as well as the U.S. Fire Administration. 2. We need to shorten time for qualifications which is part of the NWCG Workforce Development Goal and IMT Succession Project. Agency support for implementation is required. | |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Past efforts have only looked @ NWCG affiliation. Currently, RPL has been modeled in the south and west and sponsored by BLM; FEMA is now completing the RPL guide materials. 2. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has a fire crosswalk qualification system that is recognized by the NWCG and recognizes prior obtained skills of structure fire departments. This system has provided an avenue to incorporate fire personnel into interagency fire organizations where agencies have chosen to recognize them. 3. NWCG Evolving Incident Management (IMT Succession Project): strategic implementation plan is complete and work units with leads are identified. | |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WFEC should consider tasking the NWCG Executive Board to provide a plan for implementation of Section 5 Incident Capacity/Workforce Development/IMT Succession from the Evolving Incident Management Report 10/17/2011 (Single Qualification System, Alternative Qualification Pathways, Experimental Training, Wildfire and Incident Management Academies, Position Task Books, Previous Experience Credit, Mentoring Programs). 2. Build on existing success, e.g., Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and Service First, to develop a national qualification system to track federal, tribal, local, state, and private community responders. 3. Continue to utilize the USFA crosswalk as a component of the National Wildland Qualification System. Expand the concept. | |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | Medium | |
| Probability of Success | Medium | |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Medium | |
| Recommended Disposition | <p>Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope.</p> | |

| BARRIER (33): Remove Policy Barriers and Process Complexities for Sharing Resources | |
|--|--|
| Tier (Priority) | 1 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes • Response to Fire |
| Description | Need to remove policy barriers and process complexities which affect the ability to effectively and efficiently share resources, not only for wildfire, but for fuels and prescribed fire work. The statutory authority for the USFS to pay for state resources responding to another state's incident, even though the receiving state reimburses the USFS for those responding resources, has been questioned. |
| Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualification standards pose barriers to sharing resources when the USDA Forest Service follows one set of rules, while all other state and federal agencies follow the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1. (USFS requires 5901 but NWCG PMS 310-1 is the standard for national mobilization.) 2. It is an appropriate and key role for the USFS and other federal agencies to maintain a national and regional mobilization system to facilitate the coordinated mobilization of suppression resources, including state-sent local resources, to support fire suppression efforts nationally. 3. If not resolved, this issue is likely to restrict mobilization of key resources for the protection of private, state and local government lands. |
| Supporting Details | As budgets decline and skill gaps grow, reliance on a mobile skilled workforce is one option, while local expertise is developed. Processes for updating and revising agreements are slow and cumbersome. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The guidance for state to state mobilization and fire billing cooperative fire agreements is currently under development and billing procedures have not yet changed. 2. A USFS/NASF task group has developed recommendations for addressing the authorities issues for the USFS, and developed a potential work around if needed. 3. NWCG task team has worked on revisions to the national template for the Master Cooperative Wildfire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. 4. Cohesive Strategy foundational documents: Mutual Expectations for Preparedness and Suppression in the Interface, The Responsibilities, Authorities, and Roles of Federal, State, Local and Tribal Governments. |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NWCG to complete revisions to the Master Cooperative Wildfire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. 2. Rectify authority issues via federal legislation, for the USFS to mobilize state and local resources via the Master Cooperative Wildfire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement, or implement a work around. 3. Identify and correct policy barriers that prevent the effective sharing of resources. 4. Local government needs national clarification on structure protection verses wildfire suppression and who pays. 5. Identify complexities that need to be simplified in order to efficiently share resources. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | High |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | High |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

| CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (10): <i>Enforceable State/Local Ordinances</i> | |
|--|---|
| Tier (Priority) | 2 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-Adapted Communities |
| Description | Need adequate state and/or local ordinances related to wildfire prevention which are enforceable. |
| Impact | Reduced number of human caused wildfires. Cost-benefit ratio of fire prevention versus the cost of fire suppression. |
| Supporting Details | Issue appears to reside at local and state level rather than federal level. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | Southern WUI Center-Prestemon Study. Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Committee-NASF, USFS. Ad Council may have additional information, as well as the NWCG Communication, Education and Prevention Committee. NACO, IAFC, NGA, and NLC have also contributed. |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement coordinated information sharing between RSCs regarding successful state and local government community growth management planning and enforcement that results in sustainable wildfire risk reduction in WUI communities. 2. Work through NGOs (NACo, League of Cities, etc.) to develop a list of WUI Codes, growth management policies and land development regulations, special wildland fire risk reduction ordinances, and best management practices related to community risk reduction and prevention from wildfire from across the Nation, and develop into an information and education program to State and local government agencies responsible for community development. 3. Work with Congress and Federal agencies to tie incentive programs related to development (e.g., community development grants) to be scored higher for programs that incorporate prevention programs into their State and local government development requirements (the carrot). 4. Tie federal funding requirements to the presence of enforceable state and/or local community wildfire risk reduction ordinances with an emphasis on prevention (the stick). |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | Medium |
| Probability of Success | Low |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | High |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

| CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (12): FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program | |
|---|---|
| Tier (Priority) | 2 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-Adapted Communities |
| Description | Enhance FEMA pre-disaster mitigation program to maximize fuels reduction across the landscape with emphasis on private lands. |
| Impact | Currently FEMA has pre-disaster mitigation grants available but less than 1% of those funds go towards wildland fire mitigation. If those funds could be significantly increased, much more investments could go towards private lands. |
| Supporting Details | FEMA has very limited use of NEPA Category of Exclusions. Most projects funded by FEMA require them to go through an Environmental Assessment prior to award. Through their granting process FEMA will not fund prescribed fire or slash burning due to liability issues. It makes perfect sense for both existing and increases in this program to be "block grant" awarded to either federal or state agencies with expertise to complete the projects. Block grants to the states would eliminate the costly NEPA process of analyzing fuels reduction activities on private lands, and provide for the expertise that would allow other tools such as prescribed fire and slash pile burning. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | This has never been attempted, so no previous action. Hazardous fuels mitigation on private lands is supported by National Fire Plan funding through State Fire Assistance from USFS. |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise FEMA grant guidelines that require direct funding of projects on private lands, eliminating the need for NEPA, and to include funding for prescribed fire. 2. Transfer FEMA assistance program and funding to USFS State and Private programs or provide block grants to the states. 3. Increase the amount of FEMA funds available for pre-disaster mitigation. 4. If FEMA determines that it needs to directly fund projects, have FEMA establish NEPA Categories of Exclusion, which would reduce NEPA costs and timeframes, making more funds available for project work, and would accelerate project approval. 5. Have FEMA reduce the cumbersome reporting requirements for reimbursement. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | High |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Medium |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

| CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (16): <i>Rating Fire Adapted Communities</i> | |
|---|--|
| Tier (Priority) | 2 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-Adapted Communities |
| Description | Develop a common system to characterize and rate fire-adapted communities (FAC); track individual community progress; prioritize investment; and to allow for identification of trends across communities. |
| Impact | This would create a common understanding and mechanism for tracking progress in FAC in each region. The standards could also be used for investments from all stakeholders. |
| Supporting Details | NFPA and NWCG definition of Fire Adapted Communities. Maintain the full intent of the CS goal of fire adapted communities. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | The Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (USFS, NFPA, IAFC, NASF, IBHS, and others), the FireWise Community Program, along with IAFC Ready, Set, Go!, are all working toward this goal. NASF provides national guidance to states for identifying communities at risk and prioritizing risk reduction projects. NASF provides an annual report on the number of communities at risk to wildfire. |
| Potential Action(s) | Utilize Regional Strategy Committee Chairs, NFPA and the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition, IAFC, NASF, and other stakeholders to facilitate and devise this system. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | Medium |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Medium |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

| CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (39): <i>Investment in Firefighting Workforce</i> | |
|--|---|
| Tier (Priority) | 2 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes • Fire-Adapted Communities • Response to Fire |
| Description | Investment in firefighting workforce. Need to invest in human capital at the field level. Budget cuts are reducing the number and quality of the on-the-ground firefighting workforce. Budget cuts always seem to land at the field more than at the national level. |
| Impact | Continued and increased investment in the firefighting workforce is necessary in order to maintain capacity to respond to wildfire as well as mitigate fire hazards. A lack of investment in the firefighting workforce will lead to fewer firefighters on the ground, reduced safety, reduced capability at accomplishing local projects, and reduced initial attack success. In the long term we face a generation gap in the fire workforce available for future leadership of the program. |
| Supporting Details | Impacts all agencies and organizations with wildland fire responsibilities – local, state and federal. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | NWCG Evolving Incident Management (IMT Succession Project) strategic implementation is complete and assignments to work units with leads are in progress. Section 5 workforce development has not yet been officially tasked to a work unit. The USFS and others are developing Workforce Succession Plans. |
| Potential Action(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a fire program that focuses efforts on maintaining and developing field level leaders and workforce. 2. WFEC should task the NWCG Executive Board to provide a plan for implementation of Section 5 Incident Capacity/Workforce Development/IMT Succession from the Evolving Incident Management Report 10/17/2011 (Single Qualification System, Alternative Qualification Pathways, Experimental Training, Wildfire and Incident Management Academies, Position Task Books, Previous Experience Credit, Mentoring Programs). |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | High |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | High |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR (42): *Improve Fire Data*

| | |
|--|--|
| Tier (Priority) | 2 |
| National Goals Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes • Fire-Adapted Communities • Response to Fire |
| Description | Landfire: The accuracy of various aspects of the Landfire data is questionable, even when used at intended scale. Landfire data is being used nationally to depict existing vegetation, surface and canopy fuels, fire regime condition class, and estimates of national fire hazard/risk. Without accurate data, many assumptions and actions based on this data will be compromised. |
| Impact | More realistic and accurate depiction of where wildland fire hazard/risk actually occurs across the country, which can be used to base decisions upon. More people willing to utilize this data for broader collaboration efforts. |
| Supporting Details | For the SE and NE regions particularly, Landfire data and the inaccurate analysis created at a national view are barriers to these two regions playing on a level field nationally. It is a barrier to being able to accurately predict and plan. Many state wildfire agencies have weighed in on the need to improve the accuracy of Landfire. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | There is no effective, consistent way to provide feedback and critical review to the Landfire team. If feedback is given, there is no guarantee that suggested improvements will be conducted, and no feedback for why suggestions are not incorporated. |
| Potential Action(s) | Present the issues to the Landfire Executive Oversight Group. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | Medium |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Low |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

| BARRIER (28): Intergovernmental Wildland Fire Governance | |
|---|---|
| Tier (Priority) | 2 |
| National Goals Addressed | n/a |
| Description | Need an intergovernmental wildland fire governance structure to serve the needs of all jurisdictions in both wildland fire and all-risk incidents. |
| Impact | All stakeholders with wildland fire responsibilities would be represented by either NWCG or another entity that represents all interests. The current charter for NWCG requires national wildland fire management responsibilities. |
| Supporting Details | NWCG does not satisfy this need fully; for example, each of the RSCs reported that municipalities do not feel they are adequately represented by NWCG, nor are the standards recognized. |
| Existing Groups and Past Efforts | Past efforts have only looked at NWCG affiliation. WFEC current tasking for governance is in progress. |
| Potential Action(s) | 1. Reexamine the membership of the NWCG Executive Board to ensure local government is adequately represented . 2. WFEC report findings and recommendations on wildland fire governance to WFLC. |
| Impact on Achieving Objectives | Medium |
| Probability of Success | Medium |
| Investment of Resources versus Benefit | Medium |
| Recommended Disposition | Critical success factors and barriers could be integrated into regional and national analysis reports and action plans. WFEC/WFLC will determine how to proceed with those critical success factors and barriers national in scope. |

Topic: Cohesive Strategy Subcommittee Transition

Focus: Future Governance and Oversight of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

Date: August 10, 2012

The WFEC has convened a task group to work on governance concerns brought up earlier this spring by the CSSC. The task group has received the memo titled “**Observations and Discussion for Improving the Nation’s Wildland Fire Organization Governance Cohesive Strategy Subcommittee, March, 2012**”. Within that document, the CSSC acknowledged the need to address the transition of governance and future oversight of the Cohesive Strategy upon completion of Phase III. The following observations relevant to the CSSC are shown below:

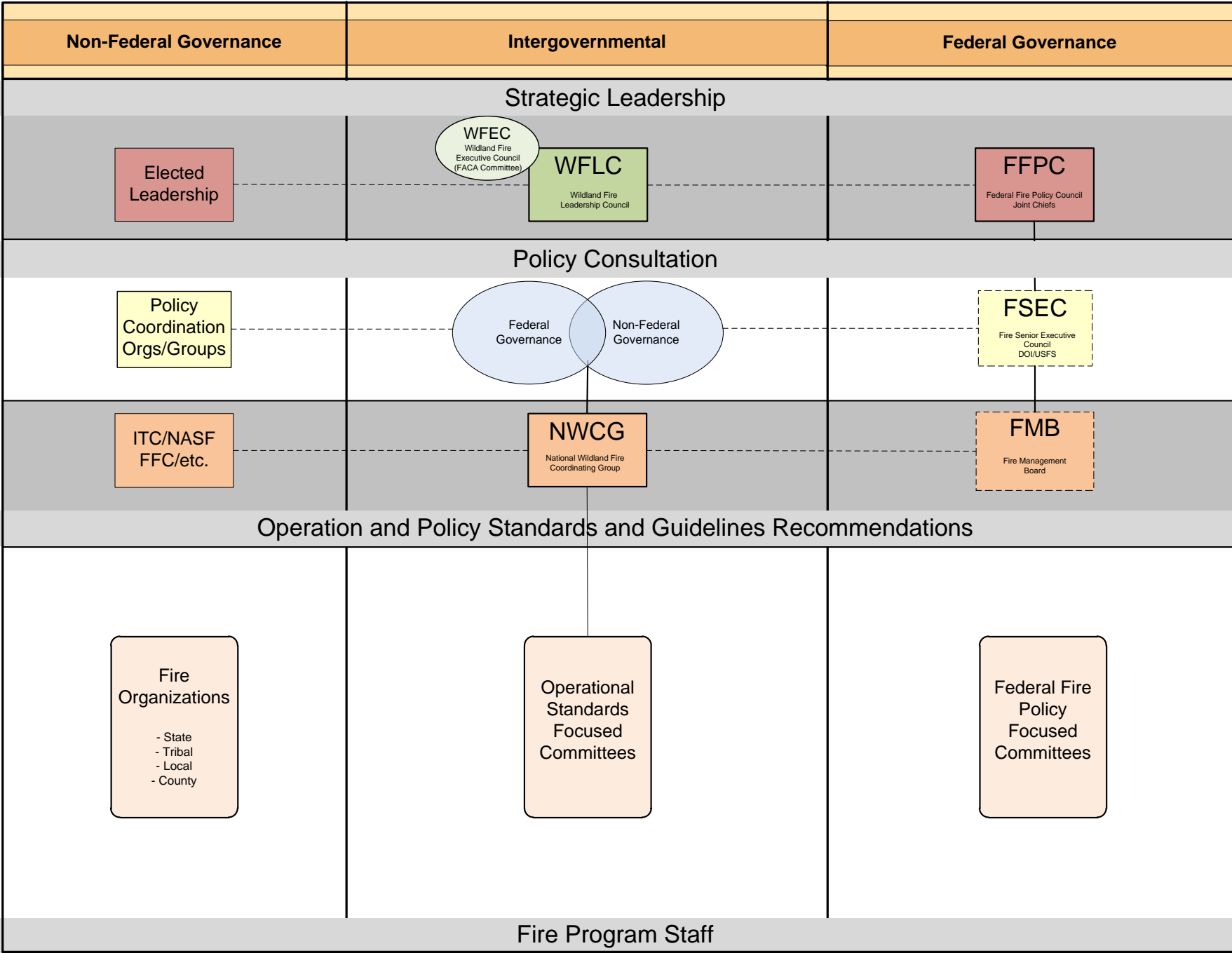
- **BACKGROUND**-The CSSC has been instrumental in identifying the details within three phases of an effective cohesive strategy in order to address the three primary factors of our nation’s wildland fire problems. With the transition between Phases 1 and 2, the authorities and processes associated with the CSSC have changed. It is uncertain if the CSSC needs to exist once the development of the Cohesive Strategy is complete. The role of wildland fire entities in the implementation/maintenance of the Cohesive Strategy needs to be determined, groups such as the NWCG, NMAC, Geographic Area Coordinating Groups and others. Difficulties and complexities of process, such as the back/forth of proposal papers between the WFEC and the CSSC, have become very apparent and are creating increased concern about the effectiveness of the current governance structure.
- **OBSERVATIONS**-Review charter of the CSSC and make changes to reflect the gradual phase out or dissolution of this committee. This committee was established to assist with the development of the Cohesive Strategy as called for in the FLAME Act. At the completion of Phase III reports and the implementation of these recommendations, the tasks and charter of the CSSC will be completed. It is anticipated that the leadership and authorities of the WFLC and the WFEC will be strong and capable of meeting the challenges that will arise in our wildland fire organizations.

It is anticipated that Phase III of the Cohesive Strategy will be completed in the early spring of 2013. Implementation of national and regional action plans will require coordination, support, oversight, and monitoring and reporting of accomplishments. To provide for a solid and timely transition of the CSSC, we offer the following considerations to WFEC and the governance task group:

- 1) Each region is currently evaluating a future structure that will work on implementation and evaluation of measurers after Phase III. The regional structure/leads/chairs could logically play a role coordinating both regional activities as well as nationally for WFEC and WFLC into the future.
- 2) WFEC create and oversee a core group to provide oversight of future CS activities associated with implementation and institutionalizing the CS. This core group could be comprised of the Regional Chairs (or their assigned representatives) and a couple of support staff. This core group would become a subcommittee chartered under the WFEC.
- 3) WFEC could assign responsibility for oversight and coordination of activities to an existing group such as the NWCG and/or NWCG sub-committees.
- 4) As national tasks arise, WFEC can create or task existing groups to accomplish the work.
- 5) WFEC could provide direct oversight of future CS activities and implementation.
- 6) CS activities could be aligned through a modified governance structure.

Conceptual Wildland Fire Governance Structure

August 14, 2012



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Cohesive Strategy – Phase III Report Timeline

| Date | Report | Action |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Oct 15 | Regional Risk Analysis | RSCs submit to CSSC |
| Nov 2 | National Risk Analysis | WET submits report to CSSC |
| Nov 12 | Regional and National Risk Analyses | CSSC reviews, edits, and submits Regional and National Risk Analyses to WFEC |
| Nov 16 | Regional and National Risk Analyses | WFEC discusses reports |
| ??? | Regional and National Risk Analyses | WET and/or CSSC completes WFEC edits/revisions to Regional and National Risk Analyses and resubmits to WFEC |
| Nov 30 | Regional Action Plans | RSCs submit to CSSC |
| ~Week of Dec 3 or 10 | Regional and National Risk Analyses | Teleconference with WFLC to brief them about Regional and National Risk Analyses |
| Dec 7 | National Action Plan | WET submits to CSSC |
| Dec 7-14 | Regional and National Action Plans | CSSC reviews and edits Regional and National Action Plans |
| Dec 14 | Regional and National Action Plans | CSSC submits Regional and National Action Plans to WFEC |
| Jan 18 | Regional and National Action Plans | WFEC discusses reports |
| ~Jan 23 | Regional and National Action Plans | WET and/or CSSC completes WFEC edits/revisions to Regional and National Action Plans and resubmits to WFEC |
| ~Jan 28 | Regional and National Risk Analyses and Action Plans | WFEC submits all 8 reports to WFLC |
| ~Late Feb/early Mar | Regional and National Risk Analyses and Action Plans | WFLC meets to discuss all 8 reports |
| ~Mar 15 | Regional and National Risk Analyses and Action Plans | CSSC completes WFLC edits/revisions to Regional and National Risk Analyses and Action Plans |

Red = Risk Analyses
Aqua = Action Plans
Olive = all reports

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WFEC Priorities List from April 18, 2012 Admin Session

Can address immediately – within the next year

- Assign WFEC members a success story assignment on each agenda
- Develop governance philosophy – goal toward behavioral changes
- Develop our own transition plan for WFEC sustainability and leadership in midst of political changes
- Develop schedule of WFEC/Regional Subcommittee meetings in their territory
- Each WFEC member provide name/face for the summer contingency plan
- Evaluate depth of participation and/or communication of CS - Are all interests appropriately represented?
- Figure out how to better incorporate success stories in communications
- Figure out how to incorporate NWCG issues into WFEC – including incident management
- Formally update WFEC Charter before /2
- Governance Structure
- Performance measures – how can WFEC help in that process?
- Review WFLC MOU to refine their vision so WFEC can do our job better
- Serious Accident Investigation protocol
- Validate subcommittee membership and WFEC liaison to each (annually)

Short term - Can address in the next 2 years

- Cohesive Strategy
- Communications strategy for long term sustainability
- FPA – connect with non-federal partners
- Help facilitate solutions on the biomass and wood products industry
- National Subcommittee establishment to address alternatives and actions
- Partnership coordination on operational issues
- Phase III – Cohesive Strategy
- QFR – action plan
- Read CS documents and put WFEC action plan together to address barriers and new information
- Review previous studies on issues related to wildland fire, determine progress, and take appropriate steps

Long term - ongoing issues

- Coherent National Wildland Fire doctrine
- Consider the role of WFEC in program effectiveness studies (e.g. fuels treatment, cost of fire suppression)
- Develop strategy on sustaining workforce on wildland fire
- Ensure WFEC goals/tasks are related to the 3 foundational goals of the Cohesive Strategy
- Fire ecology – have WFEC be the group the one to elevate issue in the country
- Fuels policy – make sure various policies are coordinated
- Monitor Buy-in of the Cohesive Strategy - How effective? Balanced?
- Research lessons learned from National Fire Plan development

August 7, 2012

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: John Thomas, Deputy Fire Chief
Cloverdale Fire Department
541-548-4815

Matt Cyrus
Property Owner & Cloverdale Fire Department
541-771-4960

Fuels Reduction Pays Off

Late Sunday evening, August 5th, 2012, a large storm cell moved across central Oregon, laying down over 3,300 lightning strikes. 17 fires were reported overnight and several more “sleeper fires” were discovered the next morning on August 6th.

One of lightning strikes spiraled through a ponderosa pine tree and transferred its electrical shock to a juniper tree less than 10 feet away, igniting the tree and nearby grasses on the Cyrus Family Property just north of Aspen Lakes Development, five miles east of Sisters, OR.

Matt Cyrus, the property owner and firefighter with the Cloverdale Fire Department was the first on-scene and found a small brush fire burning in the bunch grass under the trees.

“The flames were only about 6” tall when I arrived and my first thought was, ‘the fire is doing just what we expected!’” says Cyrus referring to the area he previously treated specifically to reduce the rate of fire spread and increase the chance of suppression when a fire occurred.

“We have been worried about that slope since we bought the property,” explains Mr. Cyrus. “Given the right dry, hot, windy conditions, we knew we could lose the trees on the property and potentially the subdivision at the top of the hill”.

Cyrus knew it wasn’t IF, but WHEN a fire would occur on the property. As a lifelong resident of the area Matt Cyrus is familiar with fire season here. As a firefighter, Cyrus is familiar with fire behavior and how flames can spread quickly across a landscape. This, he explains, is why he took a proactive approach to the threat of wildfire on his property.

In a partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Deschutes County including funding from FEMA’s Pre Disaster Mitigation grant program, Cyrus was able to treat over 500 acres of land that provided a significant buffer of protection to his land and nearby subdivisions at high risk of wildfire.

Cyrus and his family took their understanding of fire behavior a step further when they developed the Aspen Lakes Community in 1996. “We constructed Aspen Lakes with Firewise principles in mind from the start,” recounts Cyrus. Defensible space and a landscaping approach that is mindful of fire behavior were key attributes in the development of Aspen Lakes. In 2009, Aspen Lakes was recognized as a Firewise Community by the Firewise Communities USA program.

Sunday night’s fire proved the effectiveness of fuels treatment on the landscape. The 2,400 square foot fire stayed low, never reaching more than 18” in height, even with the wind on it.

“It only took 30 seconds to put out,” boasts Deputy Fire Chief John Thomas at Cloverdale Fire Department. “The fire behaved exactly as we expected in an area that had been prepared for fire,” Thomas adds. “If Matt Cyrus hadn’t thinned some of the juniper and reduced the sage and bitterbrush under the trees, that fire would have moved from the ground to the trees quickly, and up the hill into Panoramic Estates where we would have had a disaster on our hands,” says Thomas referring to the 113-home subdivision less than an eighth (1/8) of a mile away.

This small and relatively uneventful fire provides testimony to the effectiveness of fuels reduction in keeping fires manageable and preserving the natural beauty of the landscape.

For more information about the effectiveness of fuels reduction and how property owners can take a proactive approach in protecting their property and communities, contact Project Wildfire at 541-322-7129. For information about becoming a Firewise Community, visit www.firewise.org.

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Web Tool lets Texans know fire risk in own backyard

Wildfire is a serious threat to the people, property, and natural resources across Texas. Just last year, a devastating wildfire season led to the destruction of nearly 3,000 homes – a tragedy Texas Forest Service doesn't want repeated.

With rapid population growth into Wildland Urban Interface areas and trends showing an increasing frequency of elevated fire weather conditions, wildfire will continue to be a major concern moving forward. Creating heightened awareness of wildfire risk issues and working with communities to develop sound prevention and mitigation strategies are becoming increasingly important to ensure safety. The Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal is a new resource to help address this growing concern.

Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, or TxWRAP, is the primary mechanism for the Texas Forest Service to deploy risk information and create awareness about wildfire issues across the state. TxWRAP is comprised of a suite of web tools tailored to support specific workflow and information requirements for the public, local community groups, government officials, professional hazard-mitigation planners, and wildland fire managers. Collectively these tools provide the baseline information needed to support mitigation and prevention efforts across the state.

TxWRAP allows users to identify wildfire threats for a particular area based on landscape characteristics, historical fire occurrence, weather conditions, terrain and potential fire behavior. It also routes users to resources that can help them implement wildfire prevention practices.

Accessible at texaswildfirerisk.com, the web tools are free to use. Professional users such as civic planners, wildland fire managers and elected officials can use TxWRAP to generate a detailed report - packaging all the wildfire risk data for their community. Such a tool can be useful in defining mitigation options, allocating resources and prioritizing programs to better protect communities.

Developed by Texas Forest Service GIS specialists, TxWRAP is the first web portal of its kind in the nation granting public access to risk assessment data that previously hasn't been readily available, particularly in a user-friendly format.

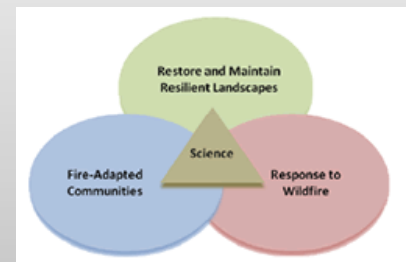
Texas Forest Service Director Tom Boggus called the website a "holistic approach to Texans helping Texans mitigate their wildfire risk." This can and should be a 'game changer' for Texans as they learn what their risks are and how to mitigate them," Boggus said. "It is a tool that neighbor can pass on to neighbor, making Texas a safer place to live."

The portal has been utilized by many members of Texas, from politicians, planners and managers across the state as a tool to help mitigate future disasters and enhance community preparedness.

Cohesive Strategy Overview

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a collaborative process with active involvement of all levels of government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public, to seek national, all-lands solutions to wildland fire management issues.

The Cohesive Strategy will address the nation's wildfire problems by focusing on three key areas: Restore and Maintain Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Response to Fire.



For planning and strategy development purposes, the country was split into 3 regions. The SE is made up of the 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Phase II was recently completed where each region built objectives out of the national goals. Currently, a risk analysis is being performed through a science network and each region will be developing alternatives on how to further reduce risk.

More information is available at:

<http://sites.nemac.org/southeastcohesivefire/>



TxWRAP – A Southern Success Story

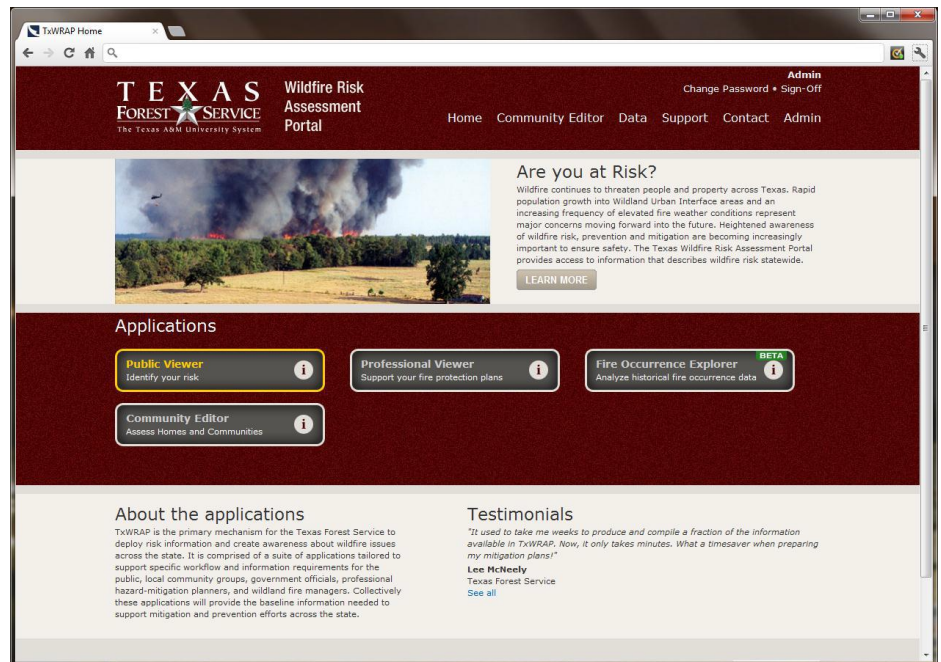
TxWRAP currently has four main applications:

Public Viewer - Users can zoom to any place in Texas to ask “What's Your Risk?” They will be able to find their risk level within a two-mile radius, plus information on how to reduce their risk.

Professional Viewer - Local governments will be able to better plan their wildfire protection with this tool. The highlights include the capability to define a project area, generate a detailed risk summary report, and export and download wildfire risk GIS data.

Fire Occurrence Explorer - Users will be able to analyze historic fire occurrences. This will help them sort out previous causes of fire in their area.

Community Editor – Certified users will be able to assess, collect, and manage risk assessment information collected for individual communities and homes.



In addition to the applications, TFS is also working on a plan to divvy up the volunteer firefighter funds available in the midst of a very costly wildfire season. “TFS is seeking input from constituent fire departments on how to best incorporate and implement wildfire risk into the ranking system,” said Texas Forest Service spokeswoman Linda Moon. “An electronic survey is being developed and on schedule to be distributed in November.”

FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON TxWRAP, PLEASE CONTACT: TOM SPENCER tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu (979) 458-6530 or CURT STRIPLING cstripling@tfs.tamu.edu (979) 458-7332

THANKS TO TEXAS FOREST SERVICE – LINDA MOON & CURT STRIPLING FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PAPER.

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Interior's Office of Policy Analysis: Wildland Fire Management Seminar/Webinar

Speaker: Danny C. Lee, Director Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center, USDA Forest Service
Topic: Using Science to Inform Policy: A Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management
Date: September 10, 2012
Time: 12:15 - 1:15 pm (Eastern)
Where: Rachel Carson Room (Basement Cafeteria of the Main Interior Building, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC)

Please join Interior's Office of Policy Analysis on September 10 for its monthly speaker series, which will feature a discussion on the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* (Cohesive Strategy). Planning for and responding to wildland fires involve complex management tradeoffs that transcend jurisdictional boundaries, single agency objectives, and individual stakeholder values. The Cohesive Strategy is a multi-year effort to broadly address these challenges and explore solutions that satisfy the needs of local communities, states, tribes, federal agencies, and non-governmental partners. A structured planning process that helps clarify objectives and predict possible outcomes to multiple values at risk is being used within the Cohesive Strategy to enhance collaboration and promote integration. Managers and stakeholders have teamed with scientists and analysts to explore a range of available options for creating resilient landscapes, promoting fire-adapted communities, and ensuring safe and effective response to wildfires. Analyses have involved assembling national datasets and implementing sophisticated and transparent approaches to modeling and analysis. This presentation will focus on the role of science and analysis to support development of the Cohesive Strategy from the perspective of one of the lead scientists involved in this effort.

The Cohesive Strategy is available at:

http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/documents/reports/phase2/CSPhaseIIReport_FINAL20120524.pdf

We welcome you to attend at DOI but encourage those participating by webinar to group together in conference rooms to share teleconference lines. Please join the webinar 10-15 minutes early to avoid technical difficulties logging in.

To join the Webinar

1. Please open an internet browser and click on the following link, or copy and paste it: <https://doilearn.webex.com/doilearn/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=685081067>
2. Enter your name and email address.
3. Enter the session password: This session does not require a password.
4. Click "Join Now".
5. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

To join the session by phone

Phone Number: 800-857-0282

Participant passcode: 2997918

For assistance: Call National Business Center Telecommunications at 202-208-3412.

Please note that this is a moderated call. You will be asked to identify yourself before being joined to the conference. You will be placed in a listen-only mode until it is time for questions.

For additional information about this event, please contact Tamera Bassford at:

tamera_bassford@ios.doi.gov