

Most Critical Issues

Strategy to be longer term to allow implementation before issue is started- avoid program de jour.

As a forest resource manager, there must be a balance between suppression effort and preventative action

Resource Management
Protection of Wildlife
Restoration
Human safety & Health

Getting all entities of the community to work together on all levels – state, town, community, individual regarding regulatory processes.

Education constantly reinforced
Maintain ecology of areas
Public education
Funding sources

Consistent, common message regionally- awareness
Cooperative project with opportunities for shared learning across state lines
Build/develop markets for implementation projects- e.g. biofuels, recycling projects, transportation

Cohesion – it is the primary concern or goal

Smoke
Responsibilities & Role of Forestry
Risk assessment
WUI
Education
Place of Private Lands in Strategy
Environmental Impacts
Wildfires vs. WUI fires?

Actively manage fuels that consider public health balance with wildfire risk reduction
Allow reasonable access and incident management across ownerships to support neighboring jurisdictions
Develop national standards

What are federal, state, and municipal partners doing to collaborate on comprehensive fire management strategies?

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Fire depts. Are generally volunteer companies – they are main providers of fire dept services across much of NE States. How will the Strategy consider their financial issues (always strapped for personnel and resources) and how they play into fire management.

How will strategy define regional & local goals and objectives?

How will strategy differentiate responsibilities – for planning, fuels management, suppression
Over fragmented and sometimes multiple ownerships

Education

Regulatory processes

Public and firefighter safety

Funding mechanisms

Collaboration between entities

Reduce potential for a damaging fire

Sustainability

Bio diversity

Exchanges of information & more partnerships with all the various land management agencies

Re-evaluate current prescribed fire regulations for States

Funding and support from federal & state gov – will increase/decrease with the various administration changes

Smoke

Multiple landownership's – especially non-federal How we recognize responsibilities & interact with private land owners.

Volunteer Fire Department contributions to wildfire suppression

Fire Prevention – contribution of prevention in reducing bio-mass cause fire.

Zoning (local) for construction

Landowner requirement to manage lands adjacent to communities

Need for improved planning for future development

Assessments to show the needs for the ecosystems affected by development and establish rules to guide forest land management.

Priority Values & Attributes

Provide long term support to implement the priority actions identified in the CWPPs
Support preventative pro-active actions to reduce firefighter exposure during suppression.
Balance proactive pvt management with suppression efforts
Why isn't there a fire based component to the uniform construction code? Homes and businesses built in fire prone areas should have to meet a standard.

State & local budgets – high fiscal stress

Quality of Life
Communication and education

Protecting life
Reducing risk for the homeowner

Educating the homeowner etc fire risk and risk reduction
People's health/life
Lifestyle continuity
Green issues

How to bring NRCS to the table as a partner for development and implementation of programs and projects?
How to leverage private dollars from residents to assist with (a) protection (b) suppression (c) purchase of land for fuel break management?
How to capitalize on all possible relationships and programs to deliver fire programs – including working on private lands via NRCS EQIP to develop fire practices.

Standardize CAR assessments by geographic areas

Strategy needs to be longer- not just another program of the day
The state gets geared up with a new initiative and then there is a new initiative from the federal government. It's hard to keep up – Will funding be continuous?

What are the roles and responsibilities at the respective agencies (who write plans etc)
How can the regulatory agencies address implementation strategies?
Integration of prevention and education into the development of the strategy

Local & regional issues – what's planned land use look like?
Social-economic resources (how do we divide demands for recreation spaces)
Costs associated with fire response

Fire does not have boundaries- the public considers state –federal-city-county all one

Infrastructure and potential for unacceptable damages
Eco resiliency- for fire

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People in WUI areas need to commit to the course for wildfire prevention

More acceptance of Prescribed Fires

Improve communications & educate –public & private land owners on wildfire & Rx burn management.

What changes in public policies will provide the balance between public safety and ecosystems balance?

- Funding for needed maintenance of community protection elements

- Establish Forest land management best practices

- Tax incentives to forest land owners for following fire prevention best practices

- Tax incentives for home owners for maintaining safe communitiesⁱ

- Set standards to educate new homeowners about the environment in which they live.

Fire-adapted communities (continuity of lifestyle- best management practices)

Wildfire response (investment in suppression capacity – fed/state/local/tribal)

Ecosystems Management

Where is the WUI and what is the accepted way to assess that (Silvis lab model or something else?)

It should identify what is common across the US and still recognize what is different about us geographically (in other words- one size does not fit all)

Rating and Incorporating Risk

Mechanism for funding fire suppression or fire borrowing needs to be revised to prevent loss of S & P funds dedicated to NJ because of a bad fire season in California.

USDA-FS has a delivery system to the states through state foresters to address issues on mostly public lands. This cohesive strategy must incorporate USDA-NRCS and their delivery of assistance through districts to private lands- NRCS EQIP program can get resources to private landowners for fire management practices.

Safety

Health

Damaging Wildfires & Environmental Impact

Human life

Ratio of fire fighting resources to public served and natural resource hazard rating?

What value is recalculated and assigned to different suppression strategies – e.g. if you/we change – “let it burn”, at what point do landowners become nervous or their risk has increased and at that point will they pay? This becomes the value?

How to stress the importance of individual home-owners responsibility

To incorporate corporate wildfire costs /forest value losses in repetitive damage

Most mitigation strategies focused on other natural hazards – not most frequently encountered.

Where is the real wildfire program?

Not just in the big forest areas- it's in the WUI

How do we identify it and prioritize it?

What is the primary ignition source and how can these be reduced?

Community – reduce potential exposure & wildlife

Federal – risk to firefighters & civilians

Chaos for non-cooperating agencies

Public and firefighter safety

Appropriate measure of risk to include

- Potential of a damaging fire

- Resilience of vegetation community adjacent to development

- Assessment of structures/values at risk

Improve forest-management practices on state and federal lands – especially where WUI is

Higher gov emphasis on wildfire (i.e. FEMA) vs. flooding & hurricanes

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Clearly define what constitutes high risk based on ecosystems, fire history, population factors (demographic trends) building codes

Weight- based on fuel type & occurrences

Priorities (Actions) should consider changes to zoning & association covenants

In rating risk across the landscape (multiple priorities & land ownerships) what are the common factors & data that can be analyzed between federal/state/local lands? To get an overall picture. This is a challenge because the way we may not readily have consistent state level data which can inform the analysis compare to federal land data.

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Time Frame

5 years

10 years

3-5 years review – 2 to 6 years

3-5 years (1 year to introduce, 2nd to implement, 3 to evaluate)

5 years

10 years- reviewed every 5

10 plus years

5-7 years

5 years -- Change it administratively

10 years

3-5 years

5-10 years

Nothing more than 10 years (5 years is far too short since it may take that much time to write up strategy and begin implementation).

5 years To show changes in localities supported by county, state, and federal assistance. That will reach a balance between community protection/ecosystem balance as part of reducing fire suppression costs and loss.

5-10 years – vision of desired results should last much longer (20-40 years)

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

In New Jersey- have large amount of private lands that would help reduce risk is there was cost share \$ for practices available through NRCS/SCD- Districts. Practices that involve restoration and preventative practices like fuel breaks, fire breaks, fire roads on private lands.

Fire wise, CWPP, RSG are most critical

Conservation Landscape Initiatives

Can the multitude of plans be coordinated for reporting, updating, standardizing?

How does the strategy reconcile interface fires with remote (no where) fires?

Use funding across budget lines to incorporate components of all plans into a single document.

Education & Public Information programs

Fire Programs

NPS resource management plans are often weak and as a result RMPs often become defector land mgt plan- as it pertains to fire management objectives.

How realistic will management actions mentioned within strategy be implemented- across all elements of land management?

What has worked to this point promote by federal assistance or relates to federal lands?

What have communities initiated that have made a difference in reducing loss and improving security?

The 2008 Farm Bill requirement to conduct statewide Forest Resource Assessment & prepare the state strategy covers all lands, programs, and resources. This is different from the NE Wildfire Risk Assessment (NWRA) which deals only with fire risk. Many states used the NWRA “to inform” the statewide Forest resource assessment.

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All things considered – most significant issue

Long-term investments in preventative measures identified in CWPPs

Safety and health of the general public with minimal environmental impact.
Protection of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources

A core plan with regional customization –
Coordination with all the counterparties and stakeholders

Funding of projects

Who are the responsible parties- what is their level of responsibility to the issues (behind the plans etc)

What are the obstacles to implementation

What key element moves people and the process from education to action?

Understanding the importance of the Volunteer fire Companies in the Northeast. They are the initial attack forces

Once it is all figured out- how is funding provided and by who and how?>

Collaboration between all levels to develop an understanding of the objectives of the strategy

Consider the fact that the FS delivers programs in individual boxes with lots of different requirements – that are not coordinated to be comprehensive- much less cohesive across the landscape

Individual responsibilities – from planning through suppression & funding

Responsibility & accountability

Removing barriers to cooperation between federal agencies, states, and communities

Also education and public outreach

Having federal, state, county, local public private put all on the same sheet of music with regards to wildfire response, management, and property protection. Need to be wary of federal examples that are solely based on western cases or fire philosophy. Keep strategy focus on regions- I.e. mid Atlantic states, emphasize large landscape views- as opposed to small areas- towns and countries.

The local responsibility to protect communities and what assistance is needed to make that happen. Role of Forest stewardship plans in support of fire actions on private lands

The desired results and how we will measure them

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ⁱ The parable of the good intentions – State of New Jersey proposed to Insurance companies that there be a savings (cost reduction) in premiums for any homeowner who complied with defensible space requirements- Insurance companies refused to do so- but offered to increase premiums for identified homeowners who did not meet state certification.