

## Sacramento Forum Summary

### Most Critical Issues

- Integration of programs to achieve multiple resource objectives
- Utilization of local knowledge sources including traditional ecological knowledge
- Local capacity building
- Coordination of planning efforts, implementations actions and treatment priorities
- Development of local area operating plans
- Working across jurisdictional boundaries
- Development of research and monitoring protocols to inform an adaptive and cumulative decision making process
- Restoration of fire adapted ecosystems and human interacted natural fire regimes

- Better cooperation and a mutual aid with local departments as the mission has changed
- Better pre-incident planning, including cost share agreements
- More federal funding for fuels modification
- High turnover, rotation, transfer of federal employees
- Better local agreements w/one master agreement that can be adapted to meet local needs

- Healthy Forests Initiative/aggressive fuels management
- Population management/evacuation management
- Private property code compliance
- Cost considerations for local government
- Use MAST model (Mountain Area Safety Taskforce)

- Accept the existence of communities, with effort they will improve
- Alignment of priorities and objectives set with life and property
- Community engagement and responsibility, continue to improve
- Commitment to manage the environment for healthy, safe wildlands when in proximity to communities

- Convince the fire services to become proactive rather than reactive
- Commonality of message
- This needs to be an adhesive strategy; we all need to stick together
- It needs room for expansion and contraction

- Restoration/resiliency
- Watershed protection
- Reducing costs in an era of declining budgets
- Streamlining and consolidating planning across jurisdictions at the project level to improve implementation
- Define responsibilities (WUI, watershed protection) and who benefits and who pays (eg. municipal water districts that benefit from water that comes from public lands)

How do we balance fire response and landscape restoration and maintenance where human communities interface with high wildfire risk fuels?

How can fire threats to people and assets be balanced with a Mediterranean climate that is dependent on fire for ecosystem dynamics?

How can the framework and needs presented in CA's 2010 strategic fire plan be integrated into this cohesive strategy?

Wildfire affects all land regardless of ownership; how can strong cooperative planning and suppression partnerships be built and maintained with federal, state, and local agencies plus communities and other stakeholders?

Can complex issues be recognized through a strong emphasis on science and stakeholder partnerships?

- Smoke and other impacts on public health
- Water as a critical issue
- Continued movement of people into fire prone areas
- Limited and worsening budgets
- Local declining wood products economy
- Ecosystem services, such as trees to sequester carbon and wildlife/fish habitats
- Renewable energy considerations

Armoring communities

Airshed conflicts

Biomass to energy incentives

Segregating or blending mission in the WUI

WUI development standards, codes, ordinances

Hazardous fuels reduction and ESA

Rejuvenating vegetation management infrastructure and capability

How to keep from reinventing the wheel, time & time again. The wildland fire problem really hasn't changed since the "Big Burn" of 1910. It how we react to it. We keep reinventing old strategies and calling them new names. We need to get a solid focus on the wildland fire problem and create a top-down commitment from federal, state & local stakeholders.

No one entity can address the wildland fire issue/s alone. It must be a multi-party (federal, state, local) resolve valuing and using what each party brings to the table. Like all politics are local, so are relationships and tax dollars. "Silo building" must be eliminated and focus on the wildland fire corporate goal/s.

We must prioritize strategic initiatives for implementation. Focus on the best value of dollar investment for public safety and maintain long-term priorities. We need to pool our efforts and funds when addressing strategies.

The secret to any issue is how people relate to each other first, before we can really address the specific topic. Relationships and communications are paramount as economic

### **Priority Values & Attributes**

What are the consequences of continued fire suppression as a primary means of wildland fire management?

How do we utilize a collaborative approach to the development of local area wildland fire management plans while integrating mutually beneficial landscape restoration treatment practices and priorities?

How do we enhance resources utilized for traditional and cultural purposes and address sustainable tribal use and utilization of special forest products for treatment cost offsets while increasing specific species abundance, health and use quality?

How do we empower land managers and partners to utilize strategic treatments and planned ignitions outside natural fire occurrence intervals to assist in the restoration of fire regime condition class??

How can we enable the use of prescribed natural fire within naturally occurring fire return intervals to address public health smoke impacts while restoring FRCC and ecosystem function?

How do we address threats to endangered species and associated habitat variability needs across broader landscapes?

How do we achieve consistency in treatment objectives and outcomes across multi-jurisdictional boundaries and land management designations?

How can cooperation with stakeholders and the subsequent need for replicability, transparency and accountability in a collaborative planning framework be achieved?

Decentralization of power from local federal offices putting district rangers more in power

How can we reduce the NEPA and CEQA requirements and time for fuel reduction, especially adjacent to communities?

Ability of small communities to become more fire-adapted

Roles and responsibilities of local, state, federal for WUI and watershed protection

What values, assets, and concerns have existing fire planning efforts identified?

What are areas of greatest hazard/risk?

What is role of increased uncertainty from changing climate and other factors?

What assets have the most value when considering life, property, public health, water, wood, including carbon storage or loss, and ecosystem health or protection?

What can be done to improve wildfire resistance of assets?

In many areas, wildfire is both essential to how ecosystems develop and survive and a threat to public safety, public health, and asset loss; is there a balance?

A recognition that values are transitory and based on locale

Fire adapted ecosystems must be managed to ensure resiliency and sustainability over time

Improve the sophistication of our approach to realize the value of ecosystem services, improve funding to manage fuels and engage the beneficiaries in this management

What are the values at risk?

How do the local priorities match with state/federal priorities?

Do we plan, prepare, respond, restore within a “silo” approach?

Do we focus on a common good? If so, why?

How does one level of government affect another level of government?

How can we prevent people who are making decisions without knowledge and experience from negatively impacting others?

What are the bureaucratic barriers that impede goal achievement?

How does one direct another party to do something when that party lacks the knowledge, skills and resources to succeed?

### **Rating and Incorporating Risk**

How can local collaborator involvement inform construction of definitions, weights, rankings and priorities?

How can we compare the relatively low risk of frequent prescribed natural fire and planned ignitions with relatively high risk of reactionary response to wildfire burning the same area at longer intervals?

How can we restore natural background smoke emissions while addressing the potential health impacts to local communities affected by 100 years of fire suppression and associated fuels accumulation?

How can we prioritize treatment of private in-holdings, community infrastructure, cultural resources and previously utilized and/or other appropriate control features to enable the restorations of fire as a cultural and ecological process, while allowing for the achievement of multiple resource objectives within restoration landscapes?

How can we define prescribed natural fire (wildland fire use) to include planned ignitions in areas treated and during periods of natural ignition potential with conditions that would be conducive of generating intensity and duration characteristics of presuppression condition class or indigenous reference condition?

How can we remove personal liability from individual responsible for initiating planned ignitions at the edges of fire season while maintaining accountability for these actions during high risk periods?

How can performance measures be designed and adopted that create a basis for cooperative learning and information sharing across multi-jurisdictional landscapes and over time?

How can we protect, promote, enhance and restore species interactions and ecological processes and associated forest composition and structure, while providing for a consistent and sustainable flow of timber and non-timber forest products to offset treatments costs, while ensuring appropriate levels of harvest for traditional and cultural purposes and uses?

How can collaborative GIS based decision support systems be used to help evaluate risks and benefits to cultural and natural resources, air quality, long term comprehensive economic evaluation and other attributes over time so that decision support and analysis have integrated real world outputs that are standardized and adaptive yet easily tailored to match local conditions and priorities?

The questions need to be consistent so there is one answer. Currently there are multiple efforts asking different questions (FPA, Farm Bill, WESTAR, etc). This confuses the public, making it difficult to prioritize and allocate resources.

What is the definition of WUI, and can it be mapped so that consistent assessments can be developed across jurisdictional boundaries?

Controversial mindset and approach demeans the value of natural resources and landscapes (until there is a flood following the fire).

Risk to life and property is immediate and secondary effects loom when the natural environment is dismissed or ignored.

Risk is relevant to point of view but should be considered across a continuum of time.

### **Time Frame**

The Cohesive Strategy should be a living document that can facilitate adaptation to local needs without an expiration date but allowing for the stipulated five year review with a variable review period waiver to account for completion and/or compilation of critical findings.

The cohesive strategy should be addressing both short term (FF and public safety, improved resistance of assets) and long term wildfire issues (ecosystem resilience).

None; make it iterative and timeless

Due to changing political transitions, the strategy should span an initial six-year block with four-year increments in reality. In a perfect world, the strategy should be a twenty –year cycle to truly establish the strategy and be able to monitor its effectiveness.

5 years

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

How can we ensure that existing land unit plans are incorporating the findings of the Cohesive Strategy, intergovernmental partnerships, CWPPs and fire adapted communities, state risk assessments, and local land management ordinances and regulations?

How can coordination of local planning efforts occur in regards to ongoing planning, policy, regulation and program integration development and/or revision occur?

How can intergovernmental compacts integrate multiple program objectives and facilitate baseline compensation for planning and implementation partnerships to achieve balance spending, consistent treatment outcomes, and reduced dependence on outside resources over time?

How can local capacity building help facilitate understanding of planning outcomes and location of completed treatments during management of planned and unplanned ignitions utilizing outside resources?

How can local planning and completed implementation efforts be formulated into concise statements and/or visual representations that will facilitate expedited review, compliance, and consistency by IMTs or other out of area resources?

How can existing land unit plans be expanded or revised to include a collaborative strategy for managing planned and unplanned ignitions as correlated with specific times, places or within areas prepared to allow fire regime restoration with fewer outside resources?

Reduce the NEPA and CEQA requirements and time for fuel reduction, in and near communities

Map inter-relation, overlap, redundancy and conflicts between different planning processes and efforts. Validate consistency and relevancy to determine what current planning gets work done and where it can be improved.

What can be done to reduce wildfire risk at individual, project, community, regional and statewide levels?

What kinds of priorities for action have been identified?

What kind of post-fire analysis is being conducted and what can we learn from those efforts?

The strategy should be a comprehension of principles of landscape and people management to achieve a sustainable environment/ecosystem over time.

Local agreements and planning efforts can reflect these values.

First, there needs to be a national data layer showing the: incident of wildland fires, wildland fire hazard areas, WUI areas, ember zones, areas that have modern WUI building codes, areas that have less than modern WUI codes, special needs populations, special local hazards, areas that have aid agreements, fire response capability, fire history maps, communities that have taken preparation steps, etc.

Data for analysis is not readily available for the entire nation. Before a national strategy can be fully developed, one must use actual data to understand a community's capability and threat.

### **All things considered – most significant issue**

Large fire cost containment through local capacity building, pre and post-fire management activities, parity amongst partner organizations and actions across landscapes, and reduced dependency on emergency spending.

Fuels management; we can't change topography, wind, weather...only the fuels

The environment needs to be managed with acceptance of people living within and the need to protect them appropriately, responsibly, and realistically

Effective communication between all stakeholders

Taxpayers/citizens have an expectation of entitlement and level of service. There are unlimited financial resources to fund our society. We need to educate ourselves in the consequences of this type of thinking.

Wildfire in the WUI, impacts of wildfire on public safety, public health, and loss of assets and resources.

Mission creep and recognition of the tension that exists in the wildland agency work force required to operate in the WUI

Create a vehicle to ensure engagement of all stakeholders in the dialogue to: ensure the viability and productivity of natural ecosystems and their contribution to the quality of life of American citizens; ensure the security of communities, infrastructure and people; remove dichotomy and confusion from wildland agency missions.

Commitment (financial, relationships & sweat investment) by key stakeholders to addressing the wildland fire problem.

