DC Forum Comments Summary   May 5th

Most Critical Issues

Scope of the Fuels problem

Develop a common cross agency understanding of how to characterize wild land fire risk and vulnerability based on best available science

What are the major fire science contributions of the Forest Service and DOI that will support the cohesive strategy?

Finding the right balance and priorities between protecting communities and restoring ecological resilience of fire adapted ecosystems

Restoring ecosystems in collaboration with other forest service programs and partners (states, tribes, industry etc) as part of the secretary's shared vision (4 pillars, all lands)

Climate change – how do we incorporate adaptation into treatments for future protection?

How local communities and individual decisions (land use development) affect fire risk? What are the appropriate roles & responsibilities to address this risk?

What kind of local, state, and federal policies are affecting fire risks Proposals to change these policies?

What key values/objectives should drive investments in fuels treatment funded by federal govt?

Most effective use of meteorological and climatologically information form NOAA on time scales from the immediate (spot forecasts) to multi decadal scale.

Integration of meteorological and climatologically data sets, forecasts, and standardized fire parameters (such as soil moisture and terrain) into decision support tools for fire managers to improve information communication and dissemination.

Very high resolution, coupled with fire spread models which integrate weather, fire and smoke information into predictions at resolution of less than 1 km.

Increased density of wild land fire environment observations to support firefighters in real time, fire scale modelers who need to validate their models, and those who perform climate assessments

Increased leveraging of federal, state, and university/research resources to support operational product innovation.

Strengthen partnerships with social scientists to ensure the fire weather information provided is actionable and easily interpreted by decision makers

Integration of climate information into planning for mitigation and adaption strategies

Fire Fighter & Public Safety

How to communicate risks to stakeholders to enhance effective mitigation strategies, nit just suppression needs

Mitigation – an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

Education – recognizing importance of prevention, understanding consequences of inaction

Developing an effective strategy for dealing with the declining health of Americas forests

Strategy for dealing with the use of fire on the landscape and how wild land fire protection will be dealt with

Provide a clear understanding of federal, state, tribal, and local jurisdiction roles & responsibilities relating to wild land fire

How do you communicate risk to the public and translate that into action?

Relationship between green building and fire resistant building?

Relationship of money spent on mitigation vs. suppression?

How to measure effective of mitigation and fire wise communities
(Needs data and research)

Relationship of wildfire to other hazards – especially landslides & fire commenced hazards

Priority Values & Attributes

Will CS have Educational strategy & tools – not only the public – but those that have to manage fire incidents and communicate

Can we provide consistent information across all US ecosystems for these tasks?

What are threats or stressors to long-term sustainability?
    To social and economic sustainability – threats to WUI and jobs
    To ecological sustainability – threats to water, T&E species

Conduct integrated vulnerability assessments- based on threats and values, what key indicators should we monitor?>

What is the agency's capacity to respond? To reduce fuels?

Where is the forest industry infrastructure? Ability to help accomplish integrated treatments?

Beyond community fire risks, other ecological values, including need for open space/landscape level at appropriate scale to maintain viability of wildlife and plant species to adapt to climate change?

How can participating agencies best work together to increase the accuracy of fire weather observations and improve the modeling of fire and smoke dispersion?

What are the requirements for smoke and air quality forecasts from NOAA?

How can we improve the delivery of fire weather information and ensure its integration and communication using GIS systems to ensure maximum accuracy

What are the climate information needs? Observations?

Process to educate the public

Address what other national plans exist and how they interact

The NFP addresses 5 key points – firefighting, rehabilitation, hazardous fuels reduction, community assistance and accountability- how will the CS differ from the NFP?

How will CS incorporate the QFR?

Balance between mitigation and suppression
Balance between environmental vs. economic protection/restoration
Balance between community economic development needs vs. public's risk communication needs/

<u>Rating and Incorporating Risk</u>

Public safety is the highest, but how do we evaluate local and individual actions that affect risks and societal costs (public cost, economic, ecological costs)

How important is this factor in assessing wild land fire potential in the near, intermediate, and long term?

Does the Strategy have the potential to facetiae cost s savings to the American public?

Does the CS champion interagency efficiency, break down communication barriers and provide a mechanism to realize a new way for the federal government to work collaboratively?

Will propose strategy save lives and mitigate catastrophic loss via proactive use of information, intelligence, and forecast tools?

What are the impacts of the strategy on climate, ecosystems, and communities

Metrics for evaluating social dimensions
Means to consider consequences of local plans (LIKE FIREWISE) aligned to national actions

Local fiscal consequences – to what extent can local jurisdictions assume the costs for suppression?

How does CS communicate risk? Probabilities consequences fire vs. smoke?

<u>Time Frame</u>

Should focus on what can be done in short term (2-5 years) with an eye towards the 10 year time frame to match interagency long-term planning goals.

5 years. If Congress believes that a strategy is imperative to addressing wild land fire management, then implementation of a strategy should be forth with. An agencies strategy implemented over a five year period will force change.

5 years- with short term and long term goals

5 years – tied to LMP Comprehensive Evaluation Reports
10 years – is longest any longer and it gets stale

Should be 10 years – revised every 5

10 years- hard to plan beyond this – but should have flexibility based on questions being asked.

10 years – if longer too abstract, if shorted not strategic
Updated every 3 years
Strategy should have short term, intermediate and long term components

10 years and then update

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

What plans are in place to protect ecosystems, communities?

What are the impacts on the climate system?

What weather and fire danger warning products make you take action and what is the most efficient and effective way to design/provide our weather and climate information to support decision makers

Are weather warning programs meeting land management and public defense needs?

Overlap is confusing – how to integrate them all & provide deal with tradeoffs
Better modeling needed

Land fire
Land management planning

All things considered – most significant issue

Fuels treatment program... costs, funding, investment, workforce, markets, infrastructure, objectives, metrics, risk benefit, needs, impediments, scope...

Getting ahead or at least keeping up with increasing threat of uncharacteristic wildfires, using integrated and collaboratively developed priority landscape management treatments

Needs to address congressional concerns- but how to do that within time frame without compromising broad, collaborative approach.

In this difficulty budget environment, we must support the leveraging of expertise and resources across multiple agencies and organizations to improve operational services towards saving lives and property

To that end - Identifying a modeling strategy as part of the cohesive strategy – which will require partnerships to leverage the best models (e.g. for climate scenarios

Public education on fire and its benefits and risks – to establish understanding of short and long term fire management (whether we will fight or let it burn)

Suppression vs. mitigation –
Cost containment short/long term

Stakeholder cooperation and acceptance. This includes the public, local, state and federal agencies, developers and lastly political leaders who must show more political will in recognizing that the types of changes needed might not be viewed favorably by the public.

Cooperation between various special interests. How do we balance the interests of various groups with the need to manage and threat the wild lands?

Statistics are allover the board - # of homes lost to wildfire, costs etc. Need to get everyone on the same page.

How do you communicate risk to public in a way that motivates action—actions that include: 1. individual responsibility 2. Demands for govt action (local-sate-fed) demand builders/developers to do better

<u>Other</u>

How does CS fit into landscape scale restoration?

What enticements, hooks are available to integrate projects, funding to implement large scale treatments?

How does CS fit with recent legislation and authorities, such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape restoration Program, Stewardship End-results contracting, and the philosophy of the FY 2011 Budget proposal?

How does Cs encourage and engage people to think beyond individual resources or programs to truly integrate and focus on a desired landscape. Examples – Habitat for only wildlife, trees for only products, fuels for only hazard reduction?

How does CS engage non-traditional partners?

Tribal Forest Protection Act?

How do we get through regulatory agencies and agendas such as renewable fuel from federal lands, EPA smoke regulations from prescribed fire or heat and power form biomass versus wild land fire effects?