

Restoring and Maintaining Resilient Landscapes

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



Creating Fire-Adapted Communities

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



Responding to Wildland Fire

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



Get Involved

Inclusive involvement of the many and diverse wildland fire stakeholders ensures success for the Cohesive Strategy.

Engagement and outreach opportunities are being planned throughout the country. Watch for opportunities to engage in your area on the Cohesive Strategy Web site: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov>.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

October 2011

National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

*Nationally Informed, Locally Relevant,
Partnership Driven*



Cohesive Strategy Vision

Safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and, as a Nation, live with wildland fire.

What Is the Cohesive Strategy?

Property lines and jurisdictions seldom match up with ecosystem boundaries or the topography and vegetation that effect wildland fire behavior. Successful wildland fire management must involve many different people.

These people include those that own or manage the land, as well as those who don't. Those who don't own the land have interests in air quality, wildlife, water, and other ecosystem values affected both positively and negatively by fire.

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) is a collaborative effort to manage growing wildland fire challenges across all lands regardless of ownership. All members of the wildland fire community, including Federal, tribal, State, local and nongovernmental partners, are active participants.

A Phased Approach

The Cohesive Strategy is being implemented in three phases, allowing stakeholders to develop a dynamic approach to planning for, responding to, and recovering from wildland fire incidents.

Phase I: Develop the Cohesive Strategy foundation with the release of directional documents:

- “A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy”
- “The Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 Report to Congress”

Phase II: Develop regional assessments. The cohesive strategy divided the country into three regions—West, Northeast, and South. Each region is developing its own assessment, outlining wildland fire management goals, objectives, activities, and actions.

Phase III: Use regional assessments to develop a National Risk Tradeoff Analysis, weighing the benefits and costs of various management scenarios.



Active Collaboration

The Cohesive Strategy will better align decisionmaking at all levels—national, regional, and local. Strong partnerships forged during development of the strategy will enable stakeholders to work together to achieve mutually desirable goals. Active involvement of all members of the wildland fire community promotes ownership of wildland fire at all levels.

Impacts and Outcomes

Ultimately, the collaborative process behind producing the Cohesive Strategy will help members of the wildland fire management community make strategic and cooperative investments to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, promote fire adapted communities, and improve wildland fire response.