



Frequently Asked Questions about the Cohesive Strategy

Q: What is the Cohesive Strategy?

A: The Cohesive Strategy is a collaborative process with active involvement of all levels of government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public. The goal is to find 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. Cohesive Strategy is shorthand for A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The Cohesive Strategy is the shared perspectives and goals that emerged from a national collaborative effort. The shared perspectives and goals make it possible to implement the Cohesive Strategy through collective actions.

Update:

Over the last year, Regional Strategy Committees, representing the cultural and geographic diversity of the nation, have gathered collaborative inputs, analyzed scientific information, and reviewed fire management assets to address the increasing complexities of wildland fire management. Each region provided workable solutions braiding Federal, Tribal, state, local and private capabilities together to achieve landscape-scale results.

Full Reports and Executive Summaries are [Now Available.](#)

Q: Is the Cohesive Strategy a Policy? A set of ideas? Guidance?

A: The Cohesive Strategy is not guidance and it is not policy, at least not yet. It is more than a set of ideas. It is a description of the shared understandings about what we as a nation want with respect to wildland fire.

We want communities that are adapted to fire so that fire losses of life are as small as possible and people suffer few injuries or illnesses from being exposed to wildfire in or near their communities or while fighting fire. We want property and other community values-at-risk to be protected from wildfire. We also want to protect those wildland values important to communities that depend on fire. We want landscapes that are resilient to wildland fire and sustainable flows of services from fire dependent ecosystems. We want effective and efficient preparations for and response to fire that succeeds in preventing unwanted fires and quickly and safely extinguishing those that do start.

The Cohesive Strategy also describes why we want those things and suggests in broad terms how we will proceed to accomplish them. In short, it is a *strategy*.



Q: Why do we need the Cohesive Strategy?

A: Wildland fire burns across landscapes without regard for political jurisdictions, property lines or land management units. The effects of fire on wildlife, water, air quality, recreation, and communities extend far beyond the burn boundaries. Rural and urban economies depend on services generated by wildland ecosystems; most of those ecosystems depend on wildland fire of appropriate timing and intensity but can be damaged by fires that burn outside the range to which they are adapted. Seldom can one landowner or manager alone adequately influence fire across the relevant landscape. That requires collaboration among many stakeholders with different authorities and resources whether it is implementation of a community wildfire protection plan or restoration of fire resilience to a watershed hundreds of thousands of acres in size.

Q: Will there be targeted funding for this initiative?

Will the Cohesive Strategy affect how money is spent?

A: The Cohesive Strategy is focused on making current investments more effective and working within current programs to get better results with what we have. Collaboration is especially significant during times of economic stress.

Q: How can we tell if this approach makes a difference?

A: Sound scientific methods and performance measures will be used to monitor and evaluate actions that implement the strategy. Evaluation results will be used to guide action needed to make adjustments in policy or programming and to learn what works and develop best practices. Promising success stories from projects across the country showing evidence of significant impacts on landscapes, communities and fire response will be available to others to help them design and manage their own efforts to collaborate with others implementing the Strategy.

Q: What are the expected outcomes of the Cohesive Strategy on the ground?

Will it affect people on the ground and if so, how?

A: Local collaboratives will achieve most of the Strategy's accomplishments. Willing stakeholders working together on projects they identify and carry out will put the strategy to work on the ground. Almost everything that makes a real difference will be done through people on the ground taking the initiative to address local problems and opportunities.

More information is always available on www.forestsandrangelands.gov.