

Wildland Fire Leadership Council
Conference Call – VIA ZOOM
September 29, 2020. 1100 am – 100 pm EDT

CALL SUMMARY – via ZOOM

Council Members (Principals or alternates)

Jim Cason (DOI), Jim Hubbard (USDA-NRE), Vicki Christiansen (FS), Mike Nedd (BLM), Shaun Sanchez (FWS), Jennifer Flynn (NPS), Johnna Blackhair (BIA), Jim Reilly (USGS), Keith Bryant (FEMA-USFA), Ryan Orndorff (DoD), John Suthers (NLC), Matt Kingsley (NACo), Vern Stearns (ITC), Patrick Holmes (Gov. Bullock-Western Governors), Laura McCarthy (Gov. Lujan-Grisham – NGA), George Geissler (NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC) and Mike Zupko (WFLC Executive Director). RSC representatives, senior staff and other interested participants were also on the call.

Meeting Objective: The meeting will be focused on allowing the WFLC principals or their designated alternates to directly interact and discuss Executive Order 13855 and more specifically, Section 5, around the wildfire strategy. Brief updates from WFLC policy priorities will also be given.

Opening Remarks – Chair, Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, DOI and Co-Chair, Jim Hubbard, Under Secretary, USDA, both offered welcome remarks.

Roll Call of Principals/Alternates by organization – Mike Zupko, Executive Director, WFLC, conducted the roll-call for the principals for each organization represented.

Agenda Review and Call/Zoom process – Zupko briefly reviewed the agenda, the intent of the meeting to focus on Executive Order 13855 and gave a brief overview of how we planned to use the Zoom technology to help in facilitation of presentations and discussion of the WFLC principals.

2020 Fire Year Status and Overview – Patty Grantham-FS, Grant Beebe-BLM and George Geissler-NASF, presented a brief power-point of the 2020 fire year status to date. **ATTACHMENT I.**

Executive Order 13855, Wildfire Strategy Requirements

Objective: *To understand the intent of Executive Order 13855 and to specifically contribute to Section 5, specific to the development of a wildfire strategy due December 31, 2020, with federal, state, tribal and local input.*

Outcomes: *General understanding of the E.O., enhanced insight to current draft of Section 5, wildfire strategy and an opportunity to provide insight and input to Section 5, wildfire strategy.*

- Leadership opening remarks - Cason and Hubbard offered opening remarks to set the state for feedback from WFLC principals.
- Introduction of Presenters and Discussion Facilitators – Zupko introduced Erin Connelly, FS, and Kristi Swartz, DOI, as the primary presenters to overview the E.O.
- Overview of E.O. - Connelly and Swartz gave a power point presentation overviewing the E.O. and the work that has been to date between FS and DOI. **ATTACHMENT II.**

- Current Status of Section 5, Wildfire Strategy - Connelly and Swartz gave a deeper dive into Section 5, which is specific to development of a focused wildfire strategy, and how they have responded to specific issues raised in the E.O.
- Questions and Answers Specific to Overview - Jaelith Hall-Rivera, FS, and Jeff Rupert, DOI, helped to facilitate Q and A from WFLC members.
- Facilitated Conversation and Input from WFLC Members- *Rivera*, Rupert and Zupko facilitated discussion and input from WFLC members. Connelly and Swartz captured input as appropriate.
- Wrap up and What's Next – Zupko will distribute the draft strategy later this week. WFLC members will be given until Friday, October 30, to provide their comments back to Zupko. He will then compile and provide a package to Connelly and Swartz for consideration as they complete the strategy going forward. Zupko will work with them to incorporate any concerns or opportunities from the WFLC perspective over the following couple months.
- Final Leadership Remarks - Cason and Hubbard wrapped up the session with their expectations of the wildfire strategy going forward.

WFLC Policy Priorities Updates – Zupko gave an extremely brief update on the following priorities due to time limitations. (Additional information can be found in the 09-15-20 Deliverables document.)

- Large Landscape, Cross-boundary framework and criteria
- America Burning: WUI
- National Invasive Species Council coordination
- Mitigating Post Fire Impacts
- Smoke Management and Air Quality

Misc. Items

- Next WFLC virtual meeting, **December 3, 1100-100 EST** focus on EPA *Comparative Assessment of the Impacts of Controlled Versus Uncontrolled Fire (CAIF): A Case Study of the Western U.S*
- OMB Comments - Adrienne Lucas, Deputy Associate Director - Natural Resources, OMB, thanked WFLC for their consideration of the strategy and appreciation for the work WFLC has had ongoing for the past few years. Lucas committed to continue working together on issues, especially around active management.
- Closeout - Hubbard and Cason thanked everyone for their participation and input on the call today and pointed at the opportunity to continue the conversation around smoke management and air quality on the next WFLC interaction.