



## Status Report

**Date: June 1, 2012**

**Subcommittee: Western RSC**

### **Accomplishments Since Last Report:**

The Western Region continues to revise the preliminary alternatives and performance measures for the Phase III Analysis. The Western Communications Strategy Group is developing a June update with success stories along with an outreach/feedback opportunity to stakeholders to provide comments on the preliminary alternatives and performance measures. The plan for the feedback is to guide the West with deliberations with existing alternatives and look for opportunities to develop additional alternatives/performance measures to be used for the analysis process. The West continues to engage the CSSC on weekly conference calls, bi-weekly calls for the Communications Strategy Group, and WRSC calls every three weeks. The West has completed the assignment for barriers and working with the CSSC to finalize the template for the Phase III report. A presentation to the Keep Oregon Green and the PNW Fire Management Leadership on CS occurred last week.

### **Planned Activities for Next Reporting Period:**

We will be working with the NSAT reviewing science and developing/refining alternatives and performance measures, which will be an ongoing endeavor. The Communications Strategy Group continues weekly conference calls and the West continues participating in the CSSC and WFEC scheduled calls. The West is on track with the Program of Work.

### **Issues Identified:**

WFEC approval of the template for Phase III to begin completion of “boilerplate” sections of the report

### **WFEC Decisions/Approvals Needed:**

**References: Immediate Success example and Possible Leads for Outreach are attached.**

### **Contact Information:**

Joe Stutler, Alan Quan or Joe Freeland

## SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE WESTERN REGION



### Upper Deschutes River Coalition

The Upper Deschutes River Coalition (UDRC) vision is a community and partners aware of issues, engaged, collaborating and acting together to create and maintain a healthy, scenic and sustainable environment where everyone is able to live their core values. The Coalition's mission is "to protect Upper Deschutes River Communities by restoring and sustaining healthy fire-resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat".

The Coalition, established in 2004 as a 501 c 3, has invested over \$600,000 in South Deschutes County with \$574,172 in fuel reduction on 600 one-half acre private lots in 26 member communities plus educational outreach. From 2005 to 2011, seventy five percent of 6,286 lots or 8,480 acres meet the defensible space standards as defined by Oregon Senate Bill 360. There are six Firewise certified communities in the Coalition's CWPP. About 4,627 lots are green low risk, 610 yellow or medium risk and 1,049 are red high risk fire rated lots. The Coalition's total value of sweat equity and funded fuel reduction work is estimated at \$515,579.

The Coalition's web site [www.udrc.org](http://www.udrc.org) contains fuel hazard risk rating maps for the 26 communities, annual reports and the 2012 operations plan.

The Coalition's Board is composed of one representative from each of the 26 communities and Partners including the USFS, BLM, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife, Deschutes County Forestry, Project Wildfire, La Pine Rural Fire Protection District, Trout Unlimited, Sunriver Anglers, Deschutes County Commissioners and Planning staff. The Board and Partners meet ten times a year and produce an E News quarterly.

#### Our Mission:

- Ensure healthy, fire-resistant forests – UDRC neighborhoods are thick with lodgepole and ponderosa pine and heavy undergrowth of bitterbrush and Manzanita. These overgrown conditions allow for high intensity, catastrophic fires that can destroy neighborhoods, wildlife habitat, river banks and the forests itself. The UDRC's goal is to reduce that risk and preserve the health of our forest by reducing hazardous vegetation to promote a more fire-resistant forest and protect neighborhoods and wildlife.

- Promote clean & abundant river flows – four rivers – the Big and Little Deschutes, Fall and Spring rivers flow majestically through Coalition neighborhoods and provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife such as Brown and Rainbow trout, otters and osprey. They offer abundant recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The UDRC's goal is to keep our rivers clean and healthy to sustain this resource for fish and wildlife, and recreation.
- Enhance beneficial wildlife habitat – healthy, fire-resistant forests and clean river flows come together to provide beneficial habitat for our community friends including elk, white tail deer, bald eagles, otters and osprey. The UDRC's goal is to bring together the diverse efforts of our neighborhood members to provide a balanced approach to sustaining these habitats.

### **2011 Accomplishments**

- Updated the Strategic Vision and Plan
- Bylaws updated to reflect current operations and organization
- Issued the 2011 Annual Report
- Created the 2012 Operations Plan
- Created the River Stewardship Guide
- Managed the two year \$100,000 Deschutes County fuel reduction sweat equity program
- Completed the neighborhood/community physical property evaluation inventory and mapping of all 26 UDRC neighborhoods for compliance to Oregon Senate Bill 360/Defensible Space guidelines.
- UDRC's Executive Director coordinating recreational projects for submittal to U.S. Senator Wyden's Central Oregon Recreational Asset Committee, South Deschutes County Committee.
- UDRC's Executive Director appointed to the USFS's Provincial Advisory Committee, Deschutes National Forest.
- Friends and Board members volunteered 9,354 hours valued at \$173,507.
- Coordinated 5<sup>th</sup> annual river sweep with Stop Oregon Litter & Vandalism on four rivers
- Coordinated recreational projects and submitted to U.S. Senator Wyden's Central Oregon Recreational Asset Committee, South Deschutes County Committee.

Upper Deschutes River Coalition  
P.O. Box 3042  
Sunriver, OR 97707

Date:

Dear Property Owner,

**Without cost to you,** you have the opportunity to have your lot in the Deschutes River Recreational Homesites # 1 – 5 area treated to reduce hazardous fuels in accordance with the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360) standards.

The Upper Deschutes River Coalition is an organization of 20 neighborhoods acting collectively on natural resource issues within the region. The Coalition has received limited federal grant funding to perform hazardous fuels treatments to reduce wildfire risk for a limited number of private landowners in the area covered by the Coalition Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).



The photo on the left shows a lot in the DRRH 1-5 area that has not been thinned to reduce hazardous fuels. The photo on the right shows a lot that was treated by the Upper Deschutes River Coalition fuels reduction program. A wildfire entering a lot that has been thinned will usually drop to the ground reducing the risk of a crown fire. A properly thinned lot provides an area that can be used by firefighters to attack the spread of a wildfire and defensible space to protect homes.

The Coalition fuels reduction process includes thinning out the trees to a 10 - 12 ft distance between crowns favoring ponderosa pine; removing dying, dead, or diseased trees; thinning out smaller trees that rob nutrients from larger healthier trees; mulching slash and brush; cutting tall grass to 4 - 6"; and generally making the property owners' landscape healthier, aesthetically improved, and increasing the property value. Because the Coalition fuels reduction contract specifies a standard process, we cannot accommodate specific requests by the landowner.

If your property located at **16875 Glendale in DRRH # 1-5** were to be treated for fuel reduction by a commercial contractor, the cost would be an estimated \$2,000.00. Our service is at 'no charge' to you. However, based on our Coalition being a 501c3 non-profit organization and relying on donations for continued operation, a voluntary contribution would be very much appreciated and is tax deductible to you. **Attached is a donation form or visit [www.UDRC.org](http://www.UDRC.org) and use PayPal and a credit card.**

This free fuels reduction program is available for a limited time and applications will be accepted while funds are available. To apply for the **free fuels reduction program**, please read and sign the enclosed Access Permit and Release of Liability form and mail or fax back to us by **September 14, 2009**. Again, we would appreciate any voluntary tax deductible contribution.

*If you own more than one property, please fill out only one Access Permit and Release of Liability for each property owned, and please be sure to write in the lot and block number for each individual property.*

**Please mail or fax to:**

**Upper Deschutes River Coalition (UDRC)**  
**Attn: FUELS REDUCTION MANAGER**  
**P.O. Box 3042**  
**Sunriver, OR 97707**

Sincerely,

Name???

Upper Deschutes River Coalition  
Private Lands Committee  
Fuels Reduction Grant Manager  
Phone: (541)  
Email:

**Upper Deschutes River Coalition website:**  
**<http://www.udrc.org>**

**Upper Deschutes Resource Coalition Revised Community Wildfire Protection Plan:**  
**<http://www.udrc.org/cwpp/cwpp2007.pdf>**

**Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act Property Evaluation & Self-Certification Guide:**  
**<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/SB360/sb360.shtml>**

## **Success Story “Leads” May 15, 2012**

(From CS Phase II and Trip Report Summaries and other sources)

**4 Forests Restoration Initiative and linkage to Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership in Arizona.**

**Hughes Creek Project on Salmon-Challis National Forests in Idaho**

**Project Wildfire, Deschutes County Oregon**

**Las Alamos, New Mexico**

**Prescott WUI Community Commission, Arizona**

**Eager and Alpine Arizona, Wallow Fire (See USFS Report)**

**Dude Fire Restoration, Arizona**

**Siskiyou County “County Fire Panel”, Oregon**

**Quincy Library Group, (Contact: Frank Stewart) California**

**Whitefish Area FireSafe Council, Montana**

**Deschutes Collaborative Forest Restoration Project (contact: Katie Lighthall) Oregon**

**Paul Summerfelt from Flagstaff Fire Department has taken the 3 goals of CS and applied to his department and area (May Update Success Story).**

**Mike Morcom, State FMO for BLM Idaho will use the update of the Master mutual aid agreement and identify existing barriers for implementation, particularly for local government and volunteer fire departments.**

**Pam Ensley has some specific PNW lessons learned success stories she wants to post on the Western Portal that can be used for our outreach efforts.**

**Sue and Craig Glazier will begin exploration of an Island Park, Idaho collaboration effort with a current, interested county commissioner that is very excited about this topic and has connection bridges between the agencies and the community.**

**Boundary Waters Canoe Area MN 1999 Wind event/blowdown restoration efforts.**

**Hayman fire aftermath “lessons learned” and success stories, CO 2002.**

**Findings of Fourmile Canyon Fire Study, a 2010 fire near Boulder CO**

**Seeley-Swan Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

## **All 23 funded Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects:**

- Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater - \$1 million - Idaho
- Southwestern Crown of the Continent - \$1.029 million - Montana
- Colorado Front Range - \$1 million - Colorado
- Uncompahgre Plateau - \$446,000 - Colorado
- 4 Forest Restoration Initiative - \$2 million - Arizona
- Southwest Jemez Mountains - \$392,000 - New Mexico
- The Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project - \$829,900 - California
- Deschutes Skyline - \$500,000 - Oregon
- Tapash - \$1.63 million - Washington
- Accelerating Longleaf Pine Restoration - \$1.171 million - Florida
- Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project, California (PDF, 1.8 MB) - \$605,000
- Pine-Oak Woodlands Restoration Project, Missouri
- Shortleaf-Bluestem Community Project, Arkansas and Oklahoma
- Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters Project, Idaho
- Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative, Idaho
- Southern Blues Restoration Coalition, Oregon
- Lakeview Stewardship Project, Oregon
- Zuni Mountain Project, New Mexico
- Grandfather Restoration Project, North Carolina
- Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group Cornerstone Project, California
- Northeast Washington Forest Vision 2020, Washington
- Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration, Arkansas
- Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration and Hazardous Fuels Reduction, De Soto National Forest, National Forests in Mississippi



## Status Report

**Date: June 1, 2012**

**Subcommittee: Northeast RSC**

### **Accomplishments Since Last Report:**

The Northeast Region completed the Regional Barriers/Critical Success Factors Worksheet which identified the top five barriers and/or critical success factors facing the NE RSC, and provided it to the CSSC. The NE RSC met with the NSAT in Milwaukee WI, May 15-16 to develop "preliminary" alternatives and performance measures in SLC last week. The NSAT and representatives from the Northeast will continue viewing available science/data to quantify the performance measures and further refine the alternatives. There will be a face to face meeting in a location TBD, July 10-12. We are encouraged by the progress; the efforts between the Region and NSAT have been excellent. Last week, through NAASF, the NE RSC contracted with Larry Mastic to serve as NE RSC Coordinator for Phase III work. Larry is a retired Deputy Director for the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry. One of Larry's first assignments is to assist the NE RSC in establishing a communications and outreach work group, develop a communications plan for the group, designate a leader, and either hire or dedicate expertise among the Cohesive Strategy partners.

### **Planned Activities for Next Reporting Period:**

We will be working with the NSAT reviewing science and developing/refining alternatives and performance measures, which will be an ongoing endeavor. The NE RSC reviewed a communications and outreach briefing paper on its regular conference call May 24<sup>th</sup>, and decided how to proceed with establishing our Communications Working Group and acquiring technical support. The Northeast RSC continues bi-weekly conference calls and continues participating in the CSSC and WFEF scheduled calls. We will be reviewing the "preliminary" alternatives and performance measures that we received from the NSAT on May 24, and looking for RSC and Working Group feedback as we work with NSAT. Once the Phase III Analysis Report template is finalized, the NE RSC Working Group will begin the "boilerplate" completion of the document.

### **Issues Identified:**

None

### **WFEF Decisions/Approvals Needed:**

None

### **References:**

### **Contact Information:**

Brad Simpkins or Larry Mastic





## Status Report

**Date: June 1, 2012**

**Subcommittee: Southern RSC**

### **Accomplishments Since Last Report:**

- May 22-23 meeting with NSAT to define input from science models and performance measures
  - Set tentative steps forward for RSC and WG
  - Further defined input to NSAT process
- May 30 Meeting with Southern Forestry School Deans – CS opportunities
- May 31 meeting with Forest Landowners Association on opportunities for liability reduction and community protection
- Begin social network mapping design, funding dependant
- Finalize full time lead with Southern Governors' Association, funding dependant
- Reconnecting with Phase II stakeholders from PII national rollout

### **Planned Activities for Next Reporting Period:**

- Input from WG to NSAT and CRAFT Process
- TG meeting scheduled to confirm performance measurers for June deadline
- Input from social network mapping into stakeholder engagement process
- Early development of outreach products to stakeholders

### **Issues Identified:**

National v Regional contacts at conferences/stakeholder opportunities

### **WFEC Decisions/Approvals Needed:**

### **References:**

### **Contact Information:**

Mike Zupko  
Southern Governors' Association  
[mike@zup-co-inc.com](mailto:mike@zup-co-inc.com)  
770-267-9630



# Proposal

**Date:** May 23, 2012

**Subcommittee:** Cohesive Strategy Sub-Committee

## **Description of Issue or Assignment:**

The CSSC was tasked to create a list of barriers (things that must be removed or changed) and critical success factors (things that must be in place or continue) for the WFEC to consider addressing as part of the National Action Plan. Based on the collaborative discussions in Phase II, each region submitted to CSSC a list of items having the greatest impact to their success.

## **Discussion of Proposed Recommendation(s):**

The CSSC reviewed the items submitted from the regions. The attached list (Attachment 1, highlighted in yellow) reflects the review, consideration, and amendment to the regional lists by the CSSC. The CSSC considered the possible approaches for next steps in evaluating each item and developed a subsequent list of options on a tasking and next steps.

## **Identify Considerations:**

This assignment relates to the completion of the fifth element in the WFLC's Comprehensive Work Plan:

*"The intent of the National Action Plan is to capture the national issues identified at the regional and local levels and determine a course of action to be taken to evaluate, address, and potentially resolve these issues. The National Action Plan will be limited to addressing the barriers and proposed solutions identified in the Phase II Report as well as the barrier identified in the Regional Assessments."*

## **Rationale for Recommendation(s):**

The WFEC approval and tasking on next steps for evaluating the items represents a critical milestone in moving forward on the development of the National Action Plan.

## **Recommendation(s):**

The CSSC recommends that following process:

1. WFEC review of the barriers and critical success factors (Attachment 1, highlighted in yellow). Determine which items to further pursue.
2. WFEC determine appropriate staffing (subject matter experts, existing groups such as NWCG or others)
3. WFEC develop a tasking for assigned staff to complete for each item (such as evaluating the information provided by the regions, determining if the item is a valid national-level barrier, and recommending a course of action to resolve).



# Proposal

4. Once WFEC receives the feedback from the assigned staff, WFEC should consider garnering additional feedback from member organizations, and implementing recommended course of action.

## Decision Method used:

- Subcommittee Consensus
- Modified Consensus (explain, i.e. majority, super-majority)
- Chair Decision

## Contact Information:

Jenna Sloan 202-606-5858

## WFEC Decision:

- WFEC Approves
- WFEC Approves with Modifications (not required to resubmit for WFEC approval)
- Need More Information (required to come back to WFEC for approval)
- WFEC Does Not Approve

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Roy Johnson, DFO

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Date

*Notes regarding decision:*

	Landscapes	Fire-Adapted Communities	Response to Fire	Barrier	Critical Success Factor	Concise Description	What is the impact? What are the implications or what is the affect if the barrier was removed or the critical success factor was met?	Other Details Information and References	Existing Groups and Past Efforts Is there an existing group who could review and define a proposed actions to address the barrier or critical success factor?  Has there been a past effort(s) to address the barrier, if so by whom?	Potential Action(s) to be Considered
1	x				x	Need additional options for long-term contracts and agreements.				1. Pursue permanent authorization of Stewardship End Result Contracting. 2. Emphasize benefit to local economies as a best value selection criteria.
2	x				x	Need new technologies and local infrastructure for biomass removal and utilization.				1. Identify new technologies, 2. Identify existing technologies which are unutilized. 3. Encourage incentives through existing legislation or enact new legislation such as Farm/Energy Bill incentives that address industry needs.
3	x				x	Need clear direction across the country on effective, consistent, and appropriate use of Categorical Exclusions (CE).				1. Determine and define CE use and limitations. Example: pine thinning for biomass removal/reduction of hazardous fuels in an established pine plantation is a great use. Conducting widespread logging operations under the CE of hazardous fuels reduction across a larger landscape is not. 2. Develop guidance for use of CEs.
4	x	x			x	Need increased collaboration and alternative dispute resolution, to reduce litigation.				1. Examine legislative barriers that are impeding project implementation. 2. Pursue reform of current legislation to create incentives for collaboration to resolve issues rather than litigation (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Equal Access to Justice Act). 3. Identify Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programs, opportunities, and authorities. 4. Utilize existing ADR programs, opportunities and authorities.
5	x	x	x		x	Increase fuels management on private land. There is a need to increase private land management assistance to complement and implement broader fuel reduction-management objectives across fire prone landscapes. Incentives for private landowners are needed to increase the fuels management on private lands. Incentives may include providing cost share funds through current landowner assistance programs. There is a need to integrate federal and state level fuels and prevention programs and provide fuels management incentives to mitigate undesired fire effects and property loss.	Increasing incentives for private lands fuels mitigation will result in more acres being mitigated of undesired fire effects to the landscape/watershed and reducing the probability of fire damage/loss. It can also bring about multiple program integration to reach the same outcome on a larger portion of the landscape with more efficient leveraging of funding sources.	Could be integrated with various private and public land conservation and stewardship programs. Integration and coordination WUI planning with land management objectives. There is a need to integrate federal and state level fuels and prevention programs which integrate WUI protection planning with land management objectives and provide fuels management incentives to mitigate undesired fire effects and property loss.	The NRCS currently has the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), that covers many of the natural resource and fuels reduction needs addressed here. It is specifically geared to tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest landowners. Additionally the USFS has the Forest Stewardship Program. This program has specifically been coordinated within the Northeastern and Midwestern US and addresses the very needs that the cohesive strategy seeks including; risk management, communication, natural resources and fuels treatments across this landscape area served by the Northeastern region.	1. Develop landowner incentives (e.g., tax breaks, free disposal of material, increased use of Wyden Amendment and other finance or cost-share authorities). 2. Integration of fuels reduction and defensible space principles with private land management programs.
6	x	x			x	Need consistent laws pertaining to prescribed (planned) fire across jurisdictions.				
7	x				x	Need state-specific regulations on lightning ignitions.			Due to the complexities of managing wildfires on private lands and the small percentage of wildfires on private lands caused by lightning there will be little or no support to address state regulations on managing lightning ignitions. There are numerous national documents that provide direction for collaboration and communication for managing wildfires: Federal Guidance on the Revised Implementation of Federal Fires, National Master Cooperative fire Agreement Template and Guiding Principles Phase I	
8	x				x	Need standardized fire effects monitoring data that is available for other units and nationally.			This will take some work to develop as there is broad discussion and varying agreement as to what needs to be monitored for wildfire and prescribed fire. We (FWS) are currently working with our National Inventory & Monitoring Branch to develop a standardized protocol to address these issues.	1. Standardize fire monitoring data collection. 2. Develop national database for reporting monitoring data. 3. Issue direction for data collection of fire effects. 4. Issue guidance for reporting of fire effects data.
9	x	x			x	Allow use of BAER and BAR funding to extend beyond non-federal risk reduction from natural disasters to public safety. Need funding to support BAER and BAR activities		The language is quite specific in the Interagency Burned Area Emergency Response that funds can be used on non-federal lands and that the BAER & BAR funding must reduce the risk of natural disaster to public safety. Authorities do not exist that extend beyond natural disasters. Available funding is limited for these activities.		1. Issue appropriate authorities to extend beyond natural disasters. 2. Pursue funding availability to support any BAER or BAR activities on nonfederal land.
10		x			x	Need adequate state and/or local ordinances related to wildfire prevention which are enforceable.				1. Determine use and effectiveness of existing state and/or local ordinances related to prevention. 2. Establish new state and/or local ordinances related to wildfire prevention. 3. Issue authorities to enforce state and/or local prevention ordinances.

11		x			x	New housing developments must provide adequate water supply, wildland fire mitigation plans, and consultation with appropriate wildland fire jurisdictions.					1. Engage elected officials at all levels – city, county, state, tribal, and federal.
12		x			x	Utilize FEMA pre-disaster mitigation program to maximize fuels reduction across the landscape with emphasis on private lands.	Currently FEMA has pre-disaster mitigation grants available but less than 1% of those funds go towards wildland fire mitigation. If those funds could be significantly increased, much more investments could go towards private lands.	Currently, although FEMA has the program, they do not have the expertise or staff to effectively implement the program. FEMA has very limited use of NEPA Category of Exclusions. Most projects funded by FEMA require then to go through an Environmental Assessment prior to award. Through their granting process FEMA will not fund prescribed fire or slash burning due to liability issues? It makes perfect sense for both existing and increases in this program to be "block grant" awarded to either federal or state agencies with expertise to complete the projects. Block grants to the states would eliminate the costly NEPA process of analyzing fuels reduction activities on private lands, and provide for the expertise that would allow other tools such as prescribed fire and slash pile burning.	This has never been attempted, so no previous action.		1. Expand FEMA pre-disaster mitigation and disaster assistance grant programs. 2. Consolidate FEMA assistance program with DOI or Forest Service programs, or 3. Provide "Block Grants" to State's.
13		x			x	Create WUI management areas on public lands within existing federal Land and Resource Management Plans are consistent with CWPP WUI boundaries.	This would positively reinforce utilizing existing authorities under HFRA and HFI; these WUI Management Areas would square up with WUI identified in CWPP's and significantly increase treatments.		None that I'm aware of, but this one could certainly build traction in a much needed area for both resilient landscapes and Fire adapted communities.		1. Evaluate existing plans to determine inconsistencies. 2. Develop a plan amendment schedule.
14		x			x	Need revised standardized guidance and direction for fuels treatments on federal land to enhance fire adapted communities and landscapes.	If barrier is removed, DOI agencies will be able to effectively target fuels treatment dollars to achieve integrated Cohesive Strategy goals for fire adapted communities and landscape resilience.	Currently guidance and direction comes from HFPAS and OMB, emphasis is to prioritize WUI treatments, with approximately 90% of the HFR funds going to this endeavor. However, a gap exists between the DOI agency missions, which are different for NPS, FWS, BLM and BIA, and the WUI emphasis. For example, spending HFR funds in Yosemite to reduce fuels around structures, in and adjacent to the park, does not fully advance the NPS mission, and in fact could have severe consequences if a large portion of the park burns in a mega-fire and the critical value of Yosemite (including the tourism economy) are lost.	PriceWatersCooper is including this issue in their review of DOI agencies.		1. An action can be to move from a national criteria based allocation model, to a process that considers the core principles of the Cohesive Strategy and funds the federal organizations at the regional levels and allows for management discretion at the local level that takes into account, priorities, capabilities, and the changes in individual project dynamics.
15		x			x	Need an effective CWPP implementation and monitoring process			This has been done. There is a CWPP guide for this that has been distributed and is available nationally		1. Develop a protocol for monitoring CWPP implementation and effectiveness.
16		x			x	Develop a common system to characterize and rate fire-adapted communities; to track individual community progress; to prioritize investment; and to allow for identification of trends across communities.	This would create a common understanding and mechanism for tracking progress in FAC in each region. The standards could also be used for investments from all stakeholders.	NFPA definition of Fire Adapted Communities.	Both NFPA, the FireWise Community Program along with IAFC Ready, Set, Go! Are all working toward this Goal		Utilize NFPA, IAFC, and other stakeholders to facilitate and devise this system.
17		x			x	Need to reduce the cost-recovery liability burden on individuals and communities that create defensible space.					1. Pursue related actions through local or state legislation (e.g., Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Protection Act).
18		x			x	Determine the vulnerabilities of systems to secondary effects (e.g., flooding, debris-flows, sedimentation, ash build-up) recovery needs, and roles and responsibilities.					1. Develop and implement rapid assessment process
19		x			x	Need vegetation disposal for property owners (e.g., chipping, local disposal sites).					1. Create disposal systems where they do not exist. 2. Maintain disposal systems where they exist. 3. Conduct education to inform private landowners of the opportunities.
20		x			x	Need zoning laws that require defensible space prior to development.					
21		x			x	Need building codes for nonflammable materials.					
22		x			x	Need revised state or local level burning regulations.					
23			x		x	Need radio compatibility between digital, analog, narrowband, and wideband systems.					1. Identify all radio incompatibility issues to be resolved.
24						Resolve and simplify frequency use authorization and licensing processes for all agencies (local, state, federal and tribal).					
25			x		x	Need secure responder frequency spectrum.					1. Promote new federal legislation
26			x		x	Need to share funds, resources, authorities, and responsibilities for fire response.					1. Improve cooperation among agencies, fire departments, state, tribal, and other entities. 2. Develop new mechanisms for cost-sharing.
27			x		x	Need to track accidents, incidents, and "no fault" close calls to support a safety culture that effectively assess risks and offers acceptable safe practices.					1. Develop a national health and safety reporting system for all wildland agencies and jurisdictions.
28						Need an intergovernmental wildland fire governance structure to serve the needs of all jurisdictions in both wildland fire and all-risk incidents.	All stakeholders with wildland fire responsibilities would be represented by either NWCG or another entity who represents all interests.	NWCG does not satisfy this need fully, for example most municipalities are not represented by NWCG nor are the standards recognized.	Past efforts have only looked @ NWCG affiliation. Currently the RPL (recognition by prior learning) has been modeled in the south and sponsored by BLM, FEMA is now taking the model and expanding.		1. Expand scope of NWCG.

29	x			x	Allow new interpretation and engagement with key partners to take advantage of flexibility that currently exists, but may not be exercised for fear of litigation.	Landscape-scale restoration is often difficult to achieve due to complex process requirements of federal laws, rules, and policies; therefore landscape-scale restoration may not be achieved.			1. Encourage federal agencies to use authorities under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) and the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) to expedite the planning/collaboration process used to treat large landscapes.
30	x			x	Need flexibility for implementing actions following uncharacteristic wildland fire events.				1. Work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality to maximize flexibility for implementing actions following uncharacteristic wildland fire events..
31			x	x	Inefficiencies in the national qualification standards and procedures must be addressed to increase response capabilities. Develop one wildland fire qualification standard for the federal, state, tribal, and local wildfire community.	1. Responding to wildland fire events is a complex, interagency task. Many resources that would otherwise be available for mobilization are unavailable because of cumbersome qualification standards and procedures. As a result, resources are not available for mobilization. See Item 28. 2. A shorter time period to have more resources available for mobilization. Better coordination between and among local, state, tribal and federal agencies who are investing in training. A clear definition of position requirements for training and experience.	1. Responding to wildland fire events is a complex interagency task. Many resources that would otherwise be available for mobilization are unavailable due to cumbersome qualification standards and procedures. As a result, resources are not available for mobilization. 2. Build on existing success (e.g., IQCS, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Service First). Should accept experience, training and qualification classes, nomenclature of DHS/NIMS as well as the National Fire Administration. 3. We have a national tracking system for resource mobilization which is ROSS. We need to shorten time for qualifications which is part of the NWCG Workforce Development Goal and IMT Succession Project so work is in progress	1. Past efforts have only looked @ NWCG affiliation. Currently the RPL (recognition by prior learning) has been modeled in the south and sponsored by BLM, FEMA is now taking the model and expanding. 2. The US Fire Administration has a fire crosswalk qualification system that is recognized by the NWCG and recognizes prior obtained skills of structure fire departments. This system has provided an avenue to incorporate fire personnel into interagency fire organizations where agencies have chosen to recognize them.	1. Build on existing success (e.g. Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and Service First to develop a national qualification system to track federal, tribal, local, state, and private community responders. 2. Incorporate the USFA crosswalk as a component of the National Wildland Qualification System.
32			x	x	Need universally available alternative wildfire management strategies such as managing lightning-caused fires.		There is an inability to manage for landscape resilience and resource benefit. Many states have laws that require all wildfires to be suppressed. Alternative wildfire management strategies such as managing lightning-caused fires are not universally available to all wildland fire management agencies, especially state agencies, which have responsibility for managing wildland fires on private lands.		1. Manage wildfire strategically to restore and maintain landscape resilience by addressing state-specific regulations on [managing] lightning ignitions. Further exploration may identify areas where compatible management objectives exist. Implementation strategies should be developed for when and where natural ignitions could be managed for landscape resilience and resource benefits.
33			x	x	Must be able to effectively and efficiently share resources. Need to remove policy barriers and process complexities which affect the ability to effectively and efficiently share resources, not only for wildfire, but for fuels and prescribed fire work.	1. Qualification standards pose barriers to sharing resources when the USDA Forest Service follows one set of rules, while all other state and federal agencies follow the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1. 2. Budgeting policies limit the ability of agencies to share resources. Changes in the federal agencies fiscal policies have eliminated the ability of federal agencies to facilitate the movement of resources on non-federal fires. This will result in larger fires and greater losses.	As budgets decline and skill gaps grow, reliance on a mobile skilled workforce is one option, while local expertise is developed. One example is the new national template for cooperative fire agreements, which is designed so cooperators are responsible to bill the end user. Processes for updating and revising agreements are slow and cumbersome.	1. The guidance for cooperative fire agreements is currently under development and billing procedures have not yet changed. 2. The change in federal agency fiscal policy will adversely impact the availability of state resources and will dismantle the Interagency Wildfire Resource System.	1. Improve organizational efficiencies and wildfire response effectiveness. (consolidation, transfers of response responsibility where it makes sense, and similar solutions.) 2. Address preparedness strategically for greater efficiency and cost effectiveness. 3. Develop a flexible and mobile response capacity, given changing fire seasons and fuel events. 4. Identify and correct policy barriers that prevent the effective sharing of resources. 5. Identify complexities that need to be simplified in order to efficiently share resources.



## Briefing Paper

**Date: May 23, 2012**

**Subject: Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012**

- Information
- Discussion Leading to a Decision
- Decision

### **Desired Outcomes:**

Inform the WFEC members about the background for and status of the Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 project.

### **Introduction / Background:**

The House Appropriations Committee urged the Department of the Interior to examine potential duplication in the wildland fire management program, which is currently operated by the Office of Wildland Fire and the four bureaus with wildland fire management responsibilities—the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

### **Key Points:**

On April 9, 2012, the contract to conduct the Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 (the Assessment) was awarded to PricewaterhouseCoopers (the Assessment Team). The scope of the Assessment will reach out to each discipline of the Department's wildland fire management program and will include the Office of the Secretary—OWF, BLM, BIA, FWS, and NPS. The Assessment will be an all-inclusive study of the wildland fire management program in order to develop a realistic set of options for the most cost-effective, efficient means of providing a comprehensive suite of wildland fire management services to support Departmental and bureau missions. It is not just a "fire operations" review but will include an assessment of programs at the national, regional, and local levels and across disciplines within the wildland fire organization. Consideration will be given to possible alternatives to streamline the wildland fire governance structure from the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

**Organizations and Functions to Review:** Thirteen areas have been identified for review. They are:

- management structures that include but are not limited to oversight, governance, reporting, budgeting and performance, communications, policy issuance;
- administrative organizations including but not limited to human resource services, acquisition, finance, budget, financial assistance, facilities, health and safety;
- fire planning and environmental compliance;
- prevention and preparedness;



## Briefing Paper

- hazardous fuels and biomass utilization;
- protection and suppression;
- smoke management and air quality;
- post-fire stabilization and burned area rehabilitation;
- facilities construction and maintenance;
- fire science;
- rural fire assistance;
- fire management-related aviation management activities; and
- International cooperation.

**Communication Strategy:** It is the intention of the Project Management Organization to keep stakeholders at all levels involved and informed during the Assessment process. The Office of Wildland Fire is working together with external affairs personnel from each of the DOI Bureaus and Forest Service to ensure the timely dissemination of information.

Information is current and available on the DOI Office of Wildland Fire website (<http://www.doi.gov/pmb/owf/ifpa.cfm>) and through a public Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 neighborhood established on the MyFireCommunity.net site at: <http://www.myfirecommunity.net/Neighborhood.aspx?ID=1054>.

Site visits and telephone interviews are underway by the Assessment Team. The timeframe for completion of the Assessment is extremely short. Therefore, a set of survey questions, developed by the Assessment Team, are available on the Office of Wildland Fire website at: [http://www.doi.gov/pmb/owf/How\\_You\\_Can\\_Contribute.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/pmb/owf/How_You_Can_Contribute.cfm). This survey is available to any federal or tribal member directly or indirectly involved in wildland fire management.

**Project Management Organization:** The Project Management Operation (PMO) is comprised of a Project Leader, Contracting Officers, Contracting Officer's Representatives (CORs), Steering Committee, Executive Advisory Group, and a Project Working Team.

Project Leader is the primary liaison with the Assessment Team; supports/leads the Steering Committee and Executive Advisory Group; has ultimate responsibility for communications and outreach; and will interface with the Project Working Team.

CORs monitor and oversee contract performance; communicate with the Assessment Team; and approve payment of invoices.

The Steering Committee is responsible for strategic direction; identifying issues and questions; monitoring and providing project oversight; reviewing deliverables; evaluating alternatives; and accepting deliverables.





## Briefing Paper

The Executive Advisory Group provides advice on direction and scope; monitors and provides oversight; reviews deliverables; facilitates acquisition of resources; and communicates with their respective organizations.

The Project Working Team (PWT) represents the Office of the Secretary and each of the four bureaus, as well as partner organizations such as the USDA Forest Service, U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Office of Aircraft Services (OAS), and Bureau of Reclamation. The PWT will facilitate identification and gathering of information; provide technical expertise, review and comment on deliverables, facilitate communication and outreach within their respective organizations; identify issue for study; and advise the entire PMO regarding study issues and deliverables.

**Assessment Process:** With the assistance of the working team, the Assessment Team will gather information, perform site visits, and conduct interviews at all levels of the Department's wildland fire management organization, including members of key fire governance organizations such as the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

The Assessment will be focused specifically on the Department of the Interior's wildland fire management program. However, due to the level in which OWF and the bureaus collaborate and coordinate with our partners at the USDA Forest Service, there will be some information gathered, interviews and site visits conducted, much as information will be collected from the USGS and BOR.

**Assessment Tasks and Timeframes:** The Assessment Team will complete three tasks with the following timeframes:

- Task 1 is to identify opportunities for improvement by July 3, 2012;
- Task 2 is to develop recommendations for restructuring by August 23, 2012; and
- Task 3 is to formulate an implementation plan by October 17, 2012.

A report is due to the House Appropriations Committee upon conclusion of the Assessment.

**Expected Outcome of the Assessment:** Expectations of the Assessment project include:

- affirmation of efficiencies and effectiveness within the Department's existing wildland fire management organization/program; and
- identification of potential areas where additional efficiencies can be achieved and where duplication of efforts could be eliminated that will ultimately lead to more funding on the ground where it is needed most.



## Briefing Paper

### References:

The Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 website:

<http://www.doi.gov/pmb/owf/ifpa.cfm>

The Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 MyFireCommunity.net Neighborhood:

<http://www.myfirecommunity.net/Neighborhood.aspx?ID=1054>

### Contact Information:

Jim Douglas, Project Leader, (202) 208-7754, [james\\_douglas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:james_douglas@ios.doi.gov)

# Fuel Reduction and Fire Response on Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation Wisconsin

In 2003 the Great Lakes Agency started Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuel reduction projects on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) near Hayward, WI. The first project that was done was fuel reduction, and fuel breaks around two communities, Drytown, and Water tower. These areas have a 100 acre young red pine plantation in the center that is about 20 years old with grassy openings. The area was showing an increase of juvenile fire starts, most of which had been suppressed at small acreages (>5). This area had the potential for intense fire behavior on the very high fire danger days.



*Increase defensible space, ladder fuel removal*

With consultation from the tribe and the foresters we decided not to remove any of the pines because of their value. The fuels treatments implemented were; increasing the defensible space around homes, create fuel breaks around the plantation, mowing of the high ignition areas, and reducing the ladder fuels between the breaks and homes.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> it was a Red Flag day with the humidity's around 15% temperature in the 80's and winds out of the west at 12-17 gusting to 25. The area WIDNR had pre-positioned extra staff and tractor plows from the southern part of the state because of the extreme fire danger. The GLA-BIA contracts to the state all wildland fire suppression at LCO, however the BIA staff was on call.

The fire started at around 1300 on the west side of a red pine plantation. Eric Crowe chief of the LCO VFD was the first on scene, and the WIDNR was not far behind them. The WIDNR Hayward Ranger Kim Lemke was the Incident Commander. With the extreme fire conditions the fuels in the area, and being in the WUI, he ordered additional resources from local fire departments, and law enforcement. Six fire departments the Sawyer Cty Sheriff, and LCO Police had the evacuation of 55 homes underway within 13 minutes of the initial report. A SEAT was ordered after initial size up to support the tractor plows and structure branch.



*LCO VFD preparing to fight fire when it drops to the ground*

## Fuel Reduction and Fire Response on Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation Wisconsin



*Sustained Crown Fire going through plantation; fuel treatment around the LCO Boys & Girls Club*

The fire moved quickly to the east through one pine plantation and into a young aspen regen stand and then continued into the Drytown pine plantation. When the fire hit the Drytown plantation the winds picked up and it quickly became a sustained crown fire heading toward about 55 homes to the east. The suppression started at the heel of the fire and worked the flanks with 2 tractor plows on each flank; they were going indirect and burning out the line as they progressed. There was a 10 foot wide break constructed to stop surface fires in 2003/04, that is still maintained every spring, that was between the plantation and the woods directly adjacent to the homes. The crown fire easily jumped the break and went to the woods adjacent to the homes. A 60' area around the homes had all the ladder fuels chipped in 2004. Because of this treatment the fire fell to the surface and the firefighters were able to safely suppress the fire before reaching the homes. Eric Crowe the LCO VFD said "Without those treatments, the fire would of for sure got into the big pines next to the houses and we would have had no chance to save the homes until after the fire went by." That fuels treatment along with the good coordination between fire departments and the WIDNR saved the structures.



*Aerial view after the fire was contained*

## Fuel Reduction and Fire Response on Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation Wisconsin



*Whole tree biomass removal; by local contractor for OSB plant furnace.*

After the fire the BIA LCO field foresters worked on getting the dead and dying trees out. They found out the local OSB factory would be interested in the trees as biomass for their furnaces. A contract was signed and they started whole tree cutting and hauling to the plant 7 miles away. With the trees now gone there is still going to be fire danger to the homes, from the tall grasses that have replaced the trees in the past. We are looking into prescribed fire to treat the grasses and eliminate the fire hazard in the future.

In conclusion, the BIA Great Lakes Agency WUI fuel treatments combined with the great coordination of suppression efforts between the WIDNR, Lac Courte Oreilles, Town of Hayward, City of Hayward, Bass Lake, Stone Lake, Round Lake, Spider Lake fire departments, LCO Police Department, Sawyer County Sheriff's Department, and the LCO Utilities, who had to increase water to the community fire hydrants, saved 25 homes considered to be in imminent danger and a total of 55+ saved if the fire would have continued to spread through the homes.

## **WFEC Priorities List from April 18, 2012 Admin Session**

### **Can address immediately – within the next year**

- Assign WFEC members a success story assignment on each agenda
- Develop governance philosophy – goal toward behavioral changes
- Develop our own transition plan for WFEC sustainability and leadership in midst of political changes
- Develop schedule of WFEC/Regional Subcommittee meetings in their territory
- Each WFEC member provide name/face for the summer contingency plan
- Evaluate depth of participation and/or communication of CS - Are all interests appropriately represented?
- Figure out how to better incorporate success stories in communications
- Figure out how to incorporate NWCG issues into WFEC – including incident management
- Formally update WFEC Charter before /2
- Governance Structure
- Performance measures – how can WFEC help in that process?
- Review WFLC MOU to refine their vision so WFEC can do our job better
- Serious Accident Investigation protocol
- Validate subcommittee membership and WFEC liaison to each (annually)

### **Short term - Can address in the next 2 years**

- Cohesive Strategy
- Communications strategy for long term sustainability
- FPA – connect with non-federal partners
- Help facilitate solutions on the biomass and wood products industry
- National Subcommittee establishment to address alternatives and actions
- Partnership coordination on operational issues
- Phase III – Cohesive Strategy
- QFR – action plan
- Read CS documents and put WFEC action plan together to address barriers and new information
- Review previous studies on issues related to wildland fire, determine progress, and take appropriate steps

### **Long term - ongoing issues**

- Coherent National Wildland Fire doctrine
- Consider the role of WFEC in program effectiveness studies (e.g. fuels treatment, cost of fire suppression)
- Develop strategy on sustaining workforce on wildland fire
- Ensure WFEC goals/tasks are related to the 3 foundational goals of the Cohesive Strategy
- Fire ecology – have WFEC be the group the one to elevate issue in the country
- Fuels policy – make sure various policies are coordinated
- Monitor Buy-in of the Cohesive Strategy - How effective? Balanced?
- Research lessons learned from National Fire Plan development