

PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE STRATEGY

Podcast: Cohesive Strategy Goals, Dan Smith

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NARRATOR: You are listening to *In Brief* podcast, reporting progress toward a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy.

In this podcast, we hear Dan Smith, representing the National Association of State Foresters, as he talks about the three main Cohesive Strategy goals.

We asked Dan, “What do you hope will come out of the Cohesive Strategy?”

DAN: The cohesive strategy is successful when we meet or make significant progress on the three major goals identified in the strategy of reducing risks to landscapes and communities while providing a more effective response to wildfire.

NARRATOR: The Cohesive Strategy’s first goal is to enhance ecosystem health by restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes on regional and sub-regional scales.

The second goal is to help communities make themselves more resistant and resilient to wildfire.

The third goal is to develop improved response to wildfire.

DAN: I think some of the additional benefits of the cohesive strategy will include clarification of roles and responsibilities for the agencies and entities engaged in wildland fire management across the country. This should create a renewed and strengthened interagency approach addressing the issues of wildland fire across the country and actually reduce some of the interagency tensions that may be experienced in some locations today.

NARRATOR: The framers of the Cohesive Strategy feel that this is a proactive collaborative approach to solving the Nation’s complex wildfire issues, while involving all stakeholders. Dan summed up his views by saying:

DAN: We focus back on the three major emphasis areas or goals. If we have success in those three areas of at least making progress to making our landscapes more resilient, creating more fire-adapted communities, and providing a more effective response to

fire, we will have renewed and strengthened interagency relationships and created a better understanding of missions and roles and responsibilities in wildland fire across the landscapes and jurisdictions in the country. With all of us having a sort of a big-picture outlook on things, that can help us be more effective in our given areas.

NARRATOR: This concludes our interview with Dan Smith representing the National Association of State Foresters. Other national, state, and local agency and non-government organization perspectives can be heard at www.forestsandrangelands.gov under Cohesive Strategy “In Brief” Podcasts [<http://www.fs.fed.us/strategy/podcasts.shtml>].