



Executive Summary

Regional Transition Plan 2014-2015

The Value and Role of the Regional Strategy Committees (RSC) in implementing the Cohesive Strategy

The role of the Regional Strategy Committees (RSCs) is critical to the national implementation of the Cohesive Strategy. Social, political and cultural change occurs from both the ground up and the top down. The RSCs are an essential link to implement success under the three goals across landscapes at the most local levels. Through strategic leadership, a value-added collaborative structure and environment, and strategic communications, the RSCs will align with the transformational structure of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) to realize on-the-ground success across landscapes.

Critical success factors for the RSCs to succeed with CS implementation

- The RSCs recognize the value in collaborative behaviors that discourage the organizational and territorial “stove-pipe” management thinking that leads to fragmented efforts on the ground.
- The RSCs must build new and improve existing relationships to cultivate a culture of collaborative behaviors in which these changes are demonstrated, promoted and celebrated.
- The RSCs must help facilitate the cascade of decisions necessary to shift the current culture to one of co-management of risk.
- RSCs must involve senior regional leadership to engage all stakeholders to prioritize investments and resources, accept the trade-offs of short-term risk for longer-term benefits and achieve a greater collective investment.
- Across agency and organizational boundaries, with the support of senior regional leadership, the RSCs will seek to attain:
 - Strategic Alignment of Priorities— agreement of the same goals, principles and strategic course of action across each Region, consistent with WFLC strategic objectives and guidance.
 - Expanded Communications and Collaborative Engagement – shared information and resources, communications, governance, monitoring and accountability.
 - Programmatic Alignment – program objectives of individual agencies and organizations are explicitly supportive of the Cohesive Strategy goals and appropriate adjustments are made, while recognizing their disparate missions, roles and responsibilities, the cascade of decisions required and their fiscal realities and constraints.

What the WFLC can do to help ensure CS implementation success through the RSCs

- **Inspire Regional Senior Leaders through personal engagement** with State Foresters, Regional Foresters, State Fire Directors, key elected officials, Tribal leaders, and Fire Chiefs, etc. to establish and model the intent to transform the culture and behaviors within and among organizations to achieve the consequential changes needed to collectively reduce risk to landscapes, communities and firefighters across the regions.
- **Communicate through policy statements, strategic plans, program guidance and budgets** to regional counterparts the need to shift the current culture of territorial, “stove-piped” thinking about fire management to a new paradigm of shared vision, collaborative prioritization and decision making, and shared responsibility for meaningful wildfire risk reduction.
- **Actively encourage the participation of senior leaders** in regional CS strategic efforts to ensure their respective agency strategic plans, program direction, grant criteria, and budgets are coordinated as much as possible, to achieve the common goals within their own organizations and with their partners.