



## Raise Your Voice: NE RSC Invites Comment on Report

### Stakeholder Comment Opportunity on the Draft Northeast Regional Risk Analysis Report

The development of the National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) is designed to be an iterative process with affected stakeholders and is being completed using a phased approach. Phases I and II have been completed. Phase III involves creating a range of investment options for each of the three Cohesive Strategy goals that can be supported using available science and information within each Region. This process is currently underway. All of the options are considered feasible approaches to addressing the three goals of the Cohesive Strategy. Comparative evaluations of the options will illustrate the relationships between goals and options within each Region as well as help to identify opportunities, risk factors, and barriers that may influence the ability to implement the option. This information will then be used to develop action plans that serve as a basis for aligning the actions of agencies, tribes, individuals, and groups working toward common goals of the Cohesive Strategy. The Northeast Region's draft Risk Analysis Report is available on the NE RSC website: <http://sites.nemac.org/northeastcohesivefire/about-you/>

The NERSC is seeking stakeholder review and comments through October 7 to help:

- Understand major issues or areas of concern not captured or addressed in the characterization of the NE region's fire situation in the risk report.
- Identify issues and concerns not addressed well by the options analyzed in the risk report.

Identify *examples of successful* implementation and/or barriers to successful implementation that are consistent with the draft Report.

The NERSC will use your feedback to finalize the Regional Risk Analysis Report and as a starting point for developing a Regional Action Plan that will guide the Cohesive Strategy implementation effort over the next 5-10 years.

There are two ways to participate:

- Use the weblink to the draft report and comment form available on the site. The comment period is open from **October 1-7, 2012**.
- Join the webinar on **October 4, 2012 at 3:00 PM EDT**. Register for the webinar: <https://www.livemeeting.com/lrs/8002989786/Registration.aspx?pageName=jb1x5tjnlzt29tj7>

### Regional Strategy Committees and the NSAT confer in Denver

In September the three Regional Strategy Committees and the National Science and Analysis Team (NSAT) held a joint meeting in Denver for the purpose of exchanging the information and findings from the science analysis of wildland fire data and issues. The NSAT provided national as well as regional data results which explored ignitions, fuels, suppression response, weather and demographics. These data were then used to illustrate the options, available to wildland fire agencies, which can impact the occurrence, size and effect of wildfires. The options by which the agencies can have an effect are: fuels treatments, response capacity, prevention programs, and exposure reduction.

Each region had the opportunity to meet with members of the NSAT to further evaluate and refine data needs for the analysis. Map and data needs were identified which would describe current conditions and opportunities for each of the goals and options that have been identified by the NE RSC. These data will be used in the Regional Risk Analysis Report that is currently in draft stage. An example of the type of data analysis being conducted is below.

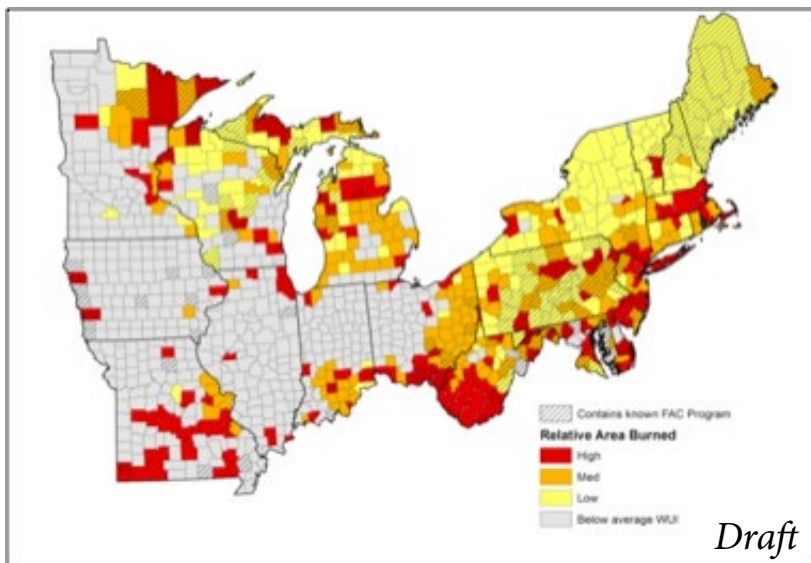
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Cohesive Strategy National website: [www.forestsandrangelands.gov](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov)



*This figure illustrates where fire-adapted community programs corresponds with fire risk for the Northeast. Fire hazard is based on the combined wildfire and outdoor fire occurrence records in federal, state and local (NFIRS) datasets. Counties in gray have below average WUI, based on census and land cover characteristics. Hashed counties have at least one known program.*

The NE RSC is assessing many data analyses in the development of the regional risk assessment.

**For Your Information:**

The Northeast RSC as well as the other regional strategy committees is on schedule to wrap up the Phase III portion of the Cohesive Strategy. Following is the timeline we are using:

- October 15 Phase III Regional Risk Analysis Report completed
- October 16 Begin work on the Regional Action Plan
- November Dates TBD – Stakeholder comment on the draft Regional Action Plan
- December 21 Final Regional Action Plan submitted

Your engagement in developing the reports is important to the NE RSC to help define roles and actions for wildland fire management in the Northeast. To keep current on what is happening in Phase III, visit the NE RSC website and contact the members listed there.

**Success Story Profile:**

*Highway 1 Fire 2012, Minnesota*

On May 17, 2012, a wildfire was started by a downed power line that quickly threatened town of Ely, MN. Due to a coordinated response by Federal, State and local resources, residents were safely evacuated and shared aviation assets were quickly and efficiently dispatched to the fire. The collaborative efforts of the Minnesota Incident Command System partners contributed to the favorable outcome of the fire.



*The Benefits of Fuels Treatment Program on the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Michigan*

An active fuels treatment program on the Seney NWR in Michigan pays dividends for the local community and the USFWS in the suppression of the Pine Creek fire in May 2012. Fuels treatments which have occurred over the last several years created more favorable conditions for containing the fire and increased firefighter safety.



Find success stories from the NE at:  
<http://sites.nemac.org/northeastcohesive-fire/about-you>  
See our national Partner Perspectives and Success Stories at:  
<http://forestsandrangelands.gov>