



Interior Redecorating: DOI's Fire Program Assessment 2012

Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012

Efficiency is the aim. Awareness of “*duplicative administrative management organizations*” in the Department of the Interior’s wildland fire programs, at multiple levels, is driving the July 19th report on the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill. The House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations directed the Department “to complete an assessment of these Wildland Fire programs in order to determine the most cost effective and efficient means of providing comprehensive fire management services in support of Departmental and bureau missions, and to better direct scarce resources from duplicative administrative management organizations to focus resources on protection of lives, property, and natural and cultural resources.”

The expected outcome of the Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 (IFPA) includes:

- Affirming any efficiencies and effectiveness in the Department's wildland fire management organization/program.
- Identifying areas where additional efficiencies can be achieved and duplication of efforts eliminated, leading to more funding on the ground where it is most needed.

A report to Congress is due post Assessment. More information about IFPA can be found at <http://www.myfirecommunity.net/Neighborhood.aspx?ID=1054>.

National Science and Analysis Team Update

Regional Alternatives Development Workshop

Incorporating best available science and information is a critical part of Phase III of developing the National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy. On May 10-11, the National Science and Analysis Team met with the Western Regional Strategic Work Group to develop alternative investment strategies as part of their risk-analyses and to serve as a foundation for developing Regional action plans. During the two-day workshop data was shared and discussed surrounding critical success factors that may require additional consideration and analysis. The workshops was designed to allow a comprehensive view of the Cohesive Strategy; participants considered how prioritization, budgeting and policy choices may affect the fire community at large. Ultimately, information drawn from the workshops and Phase I and II reports will be described in the Phase III report.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for July 17-18.

Give Your Feedback on the Latest CS Efforts!

From **June 11** through **June 29**, you can provide feedback on the preliminary alternatives and performance measures being developed by the Western RSC, at: <http://cohesivefire.nemac.org/webform/western-comment-form>



Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Update

WRSC Members Brief Forestry Leaders

On May 17, WRSC members Joe Stutler, Ann Walker, Sam Foster and Bob Harrington provided a briefing for the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition in Salt Lake City. The Western Forestry Leadership Coalition represents a unique partnership between state and federal government forestry leaders, and is comprised of 34 members from across the federal and state agencies of the West.

In his summary of the meeting Stutler reflected, "...How the Cohesive Strategy was indeed different than past efforts was a common theme... The universal response both days was that we're implementing a strategy and not a plan. That response really seemed to resonate well with people."

Joe continued "...On two occasions, with direct conversations with State Foresters and Regional Foresters, we talked through real life situations each were having in their respective states and gave several examples of how the goals of the Cohesive Strategy would work for them to resolve issues that were directly related to Cohesive Strategy implementation."

Engaging a wide variety of stakeholders is a high priority for the WRSC. Connecting with land managers at the leading edge of wildland fire management in the West during the WFLC meeting helped generate energy and attention for successful implementation of the Cohesive Strategy's three goals.

The fire adapted community website is now live! **Fireadapted.org**

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Success Stories & Lessons Learned

This month we feature the Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council, and the Upper Deschutes River Coalition.

A major focus of Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council's activities since its formation has been the creation of continuous shaded fuelbreaks west and southwest of Whitefish. Yellow lines on the map show areas of completed work, and red lines denote areas planned for future implementation.

The Upper Deschutes River Coalition is an organization of 20 neighborhoods acting collectively on natural resource issues within



the region. Their fuels reduction for private landowners operates at no cost to the landowner, and treated 8,480 acres from 2004-2011.

Find success stories from Western stakeholders at:

<http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesiv/efire/about-you/>

See our national Partner Perspectives and Success Stories at: <http://forestsandrangelands.gov>