



## Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy - Phase II Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Update – 10/21/11

Your voices continue to be heard! Two more ideas that have been incorporated into the *Western Regional Assessment and Strategy* and remain a critical part of the national discussion are introduced below. Please remain engaged and gear up for action on all of the immediate opportunities that have come out of Phase II here in the West.

### Home and Homeland

Tribal and other stakeholders expressed concern during the outreach effort that current management emphasis on the wildland-urban interface (WUI) creates an artificial distinction between “home” and “homeland” that often results in a lower priority for active management of the larger landscape.

*“WUI treated separately from the rest of the landscape violates the idea of integrated fire ecology on the landscape... A key point of the Cohesive Strategy is to get beyond WUI mentality – it’s about managing the land. Not just about protecting structures.”*

### Community Protection

Many stakeholder comments focused on encouraging and assisting communities to accept the risks of and take responsibility for being prepared for wildfires. There are over 70,000 communities at risk from wildfire across the United States. Community preparedness and action are critical to reducing and eliminating devastating losses.

*Each community has to define its own acceptable level of risk and protection based on the fire environment in which they live. Every community should strive to meet the goal of withstanding a wildfire that threatens life, property, infrastructure, and other values.*

Follow this link for more information and helpful hints: <http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/>

### Points of Contact:

#### **Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Lead**

Joe Stutler  
Deschutes County Forester  
[joest@co.deschutes.or.us](mailto:joest@co.deschutes.or.us)  
(541) 322-7117

#### **Western Working Group (WWG) Lead**

Joe Freeland  
BLM - Management and Program Analyst  
[jfreeland@blm.gov](mailto:jfreeland@blm.gov)  
(208) 387-5163

### For More Information:

On the Cohesive Strategy, please visit  
<http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/>  
On the Western Regional Strategy Committee, please visit:  
<http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/>

