



Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy - Phase II

Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Update – 11/04/11

Your voices continue to be heard! In order to make a difference in the large task of creating and maintaining resilient landscapes, we will need to make better use of *and* look beyond the traditional resources of public agencies to accomplish this task and the other shared national goals of the Cohesive Strategy, creating fire-adapted communities and improving wildland fire response.

Fully Utilizing Existing Authorities

There are various laws and policies that can appear to be barriers to implementing projects on the ground. Often, however, it is the implementation of those laws, authorities, and policies that have delayed or stopped projects. Pursuing constructive reinterpretation of authorities may help streamline agency and collaborative processes. Specific laws, programs, and policies explored by the Western Regional Strategy Committee include the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), working with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Stewardship End Result Contracting.

Using Economic Principles to Achieve Ecosystem Objectives

Western stakeholders expressed the need to maximize return on investment and use economic principles to achieve environmental objectives. Both ideas are central to achieving the restoration and fuels treatments needed to support resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and effective wildfire response. There are two basic ways to maximize return on investment – reduce the cost of the investment and/or increase the returns. Sometimes those returns will come partially from sale of products or from exchanges of products for services. What can we do now, right here to get a start?

Follow this link for more information on these and other ideas shared during western stakeholder outreach to support the Cohesive Strategy: <http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/>

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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/>

