

PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE STRATEGY

Podcast: Cohesive Strategy Phases, Dan Smith

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NARRATOR: You are listening to *In Brief* podcast, reporting progress toward a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy.

In this podcast, we hear from Dan Smith representing the National Association of State Foresters. The Cohesive Strategy is being implemented in three phases allowing stakeholders to systematically develop a dynamic approach to wildland fire.

The first phase, currently completed, is called a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy.

DAN: Phase one provides the foundation for the cohesive strategy. It's the national framework for the cohesive strategy. I'm very proud that we all in the wildland fire community nationally can show that we agree to a common mission statement, that we agree to address the three major areas, or we have three major goals that are national, and that we even developed guiding principles to help us obtain those goals. It's a great start or a great foundational document to work from phase one.

NARRATOR: The second phase is to develop regional goals, objectives, and portfolios of actions and activities within three regions identified nationally. Those regions are the Northeast, Southeast, and West.

DAN: Phase two, which is the development of regional assessments and strategies, by that being done at the regional level provides additional opportunities that we do identify and assess values, threats, and risk. The regions can produce their own objectives, actions, activities, and goals toward obtaining, protecting, and enhancing these values, and meeting the three goals that are identified.

NARRATOR: The third phase entitled, National Risk Trade-Off Analysis, will involve taking the qualitative information gathered in phase two and translating it in quantitative models. Scientists will be heavily involved in phase three.

DAN: While phase three will actually be in progress this coming fiscal year, it will involve conducting a national analysis, building on the work that was done in phase two. We

hope to create a national summary of regional alternatives and a description of tradeoffs associated with some of these alternatives. The role of science-based alternatives is going to be very important as we progress in phase three.

NARRATOR: This phased approach is designed to promote dialog among national, regional, and local leadership. Dan offers these observations on how the phases relate to each other and recognize values associated with each.

DAN: The protocols for developing phase two and phase three of the cohesive strategy, which is regional assessments and strategies, provide for the identification of different values and threats to those values across the landscapes, for example commercial timber. Objectives, activities, and alternative actions can be developed to protect or enhance these values, whether it's commercial timber or a rare species that needs additional protection. So, that's really the beauty of the protocols that have been established. It does allow us to identify and address various values and develop plans to protect and enhance those.

NARRATOR: This concludes our interview with Dan Smith representing the National Association of State Foresters. Other national, state, and local agency and non-government organization perspectives can be heard at www.forestsandrangelands.gov under Cohesive Strategy "In Brief" Podcasts [<http://www.fs.fed.us/strategy/podcasts.shtml>].