

The Cohesive Fire Strategy: 2013 Year in Review

In 2013, the Cohesive Strategy effort achieved many major milestones. Working together, we have built a National Strategy, Regional Action Plans, and initiated implementation efforts. We have strengthened our relationships with stakeholders across communities affected by wildland fire and have taken action to promote collaborative wildland fire management. Take a look at our 2013 year in review.

January

The three regions undertook a comprehensive engagement process to develop Regional Action Plans.

Regional Strategy Committees, representing the cultural and geographic diversity of the nation started to gather collaborative inputs, analyze scientific information, and review fire management assets found in the Regional Risk Analysis Reports toward developing action plans to improve wildland fire management in relation to the goals of the Cohesive Strategy.



The National Science and Analysis Team (NSAT) also broke ground to develop a National Risk Analysis, based on regional information. [Read more about findings from Regional Risk Analysis Reports...](#)

February

Cohesive Strategy teams continue to expand information and understanding using New Media forums. Networking platforms now include [Facebook](#), [@US_Wildfire](#), a [CS News Feed](#), and centralized regional information can now be found on the [Regional Strategy Committees web pages](#).

March

Draft Regional Action Plans Offered for Public Comment

In the Regional Action Plans, the regions develop recommendations based on stakeholder feedback and analysis, and present a list of actions and tasks to address the goals of the Cohesive Strategy. Summary of public comments:

- [West](#) (PDF)
- [Northeast](#) (PDF)
- [Southeast](#)

April

Cohesive Wildfire Management Regional Action Plans accepted by the Wildland Fire Executive Council

Maximizing complementary resources is an important component of the Regional Action Plans. Actions focused on making current investments more effective and working to get better results are being prioritized. [See the Regional Action Plans...](#)

May

The Regions Establish and Implement Regional Action Plans

The effective implementation of a far-reaching and comprehensive Cohesive Strategy requires active collaboration. Regional Strategy Committees continue to reach out to interested parties through RSC networks, workshops, webinars, and other means.

June

[Exploring Policy Options and Opportunities within the Cohesive Strategy: Draft Report of the National Science and Analysis Team](#) was presented to WFEC. Public comments were accepted at the meeting, including feedback from partners including the National Fire Protection Association.

Regional Strategy Committees identified barriers and critical success factors that could impact the success of implementing the Cohesive Strategy. A lead agency, a point of contact, and potential task force membership was identified for each of the national barriers and critical success factors.

[See more NSAT presentation materials provided to WFEC...](#)

July

Drafting a National Strategy

After careful consideration of valuable comments received from WFEC members, political leaders, public and private organizations and citizens, the Science and Analysis Team began to draft a National Strategy for Wildland Fire Management. The National Strategy is designed to provide policy options to help decision-makers understand the risks and consequences of decisions and how they fit into the broader goals and objectives of the Cohesive Strategy.

August

Draft National Strategy Available for Public Comment

A 21-day period to receive input for consideration in the National Strategy was carried out. Feedback built on discussions and comment periods received during Phase I, II, and the first part of Phase III. Additionally, NSAT hosted webinars to further explain the science behind the strategy.

A draft Fuels Management Task Group Report was developed incorporating ideas, comments, and suggestions from a regional committees, national members, and agency personnel.

September

National Strategy Comments Reviewed and Incorporated into Second Version of National Strategy

Over 1,500 comments were received during the public and internal review of the National Strategy. A task force reviewed each comment individually and determined its disposition to edit and improve what ultimately is presented to the Wildland Fire Executive Council for consideration.

National Cohesive Strategy Direction to Wildland Fire Leadership issued by DOI and USDA Forest Service

International Fire Chiefs Association Issues Position Statement supporting Cohesive Strategy

[Read more about our partner support...](#)

October

Continued Work on Barriers and Critical Success Factors

On the pathway to cohesive wildland fire management, task force teams representing regional, state and federal interests continue to research and report on barriers that may block achieving CS goals.

November

WFEC Accepts *The National Strategy: The Final Phase of the Development of the National Cohesive Strategy*

The National Strategy links potential actions to specific locations – a key element not found in prior documents. The result is greater consistency and specificity in understanding national challenges, their underlying causes, and the management opportunities available to address them.

December

National Strategy and National Action Plan represent the Culmination of a Three-Phase Effort Fuels Management Barrier Team delivers final Report to WFEC – More to Come

We are closer than ever been to making a Cohesive Strategy into a platform where intellectual work, interests, institutional knowledge, resources, and capital can be aligned with Cohesive Strategy goals.

The National Strategy and the companion National Action Plan represent completion of the entire Cohesive Strategy effort initiated in 2009. By having a unifying National Strategy that clearly articulates priorities and addresses them through management options, we can more effectively ensure that interconnected resources are strategically targeted to deliver demonstrable and significant results.

As the Cohesive Strategy, including the National Strategy is implemented by organizations, stakeholders, and the public, continued collaboration is the key to our collective success.

More information is always available at [Forests and Rangelands: National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy \(http://forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/index.shtml\)](http://forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/index.shtml).