

The Cohesive Strategy

A Collaborative Approach to Today's Wildfire Challenges

Overview

The Cohesive Strategy now stands as a foundational document, articulating our shared vision and national goals for the future of fire management: Restoring and Maintaining Resilient Landscapes, Creating Fire Adapted Communities and Effectively Responding to Wildfire. ([A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#), Transmitted to Congress March 2011).

Talking Points

1. The Cohesive Strategy Responds to Today's Wildfire Challenges with Collective Action

Results: Over the past year, Regional Strategy Committees, representing the Southeast, Northeast, and West, got together, compared missions, notes, and resources. Regional teams represented by Federal, Tribal, state, local and private interests, then strategized how-to potentially leverage funding and labor to achieve Cohesive Strategy Goals.

- [Regional Risk Analysis Reports](#) – completed November 2012. The Reports describe an analysis of data and information, combined with region-specific historical knowledge and firefighting assets, suggesting solutions that extend wildfire capacity.
- [Regional Action Plans](#) – drafts complete, pending review and concurrence. The Action Plans get into the details-the who, what, where and when-of regional implementation actions identified within the next five years.

2. Next Steps - Science-Based National Risk Trade-Off Analysis and Report

Status: Due June and Fall 2013, deadlines subject to change due to sequestration.

- **National Trade-Off Analysis** – an analysis of significant policy choices related to five major issues facing fire management: loss of fire resilient landscapes; human caused ignitions; the risk of wildfires damaging communities; uneven response capacity; and rising suppression costs.
- **National Risk Trade-Off Report** –the report will further describe and illustrate best investment options outlined in the analysis, to reduce wildfire risk within the context of current conditions, it's more or less an extension of the analysis but described in less technical terms.

3. The Path Forward – Institutionalizing Cohesive Strategy Goals and Concepts

- Identification, sharing and prioritization of best practices and success stories within the regions.
- Task Groups have formed to address barriers and critical success factors.
- Performance measures that may include outcome-based, output, activity tracking or other measures to track progress toward achieving the three CS goals.
- Commitments achieved by the Cohesive Strategy have created an environment considerably more focused toward a common vision of collaborative wildland fire management.
- Cohesive Strategy success and strength will lie in its ability to motivate potential changes through decisions within the individual agencies, organizations, and partners involved in wildland fire issues.

For more information: www.forestsandrangelands.gov