



## **National Cohesive Strategy**

### **Direction to Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Leadership**

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (“Cohesive Strategy”) recognizes that the interconnected challenges in 21<sup>st</sup> Century wildland fire management require integrated solutions. The challenges we face in the stewardship of our forests and rangelands relate not only to the health of the ecosystems themselves, but also to social, economic, and cultural factors that influence the use, condition, and resilience of these lands. The realities of today’s wildland fire environment highlight the importance of working together – across landscapes and with our partners – to achieve the Cohesive Strategy goals. The three goals of the Cohesive Strategy are to:

**Restore and Maintain Landscapes:** *Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.*

**Create Fire-Adapted Communities:** *Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.*

**Respond to Wildfire:** *All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.*

Many of you, along with many of our non-federal, state and local government, and tribal partners, have been actively engaged throughout the development of the Cohesive Strategy. Thank you. It is because of your involvement and your investment of time and energy that we have been successful in developing such an inclusive, robust, all-lands national strategy for the future of wildland fire management.

The Cohesive Strategy establishes a framework for wildland fire management stakeholders and interested parties for working together cooperatively to share information and make sound decisions at all organizational levels, across geographic locations and scales, on all ownerships. Consequently, the Cohesive Strategy also supports regional wildfire planning in all areas of the nation. Neither the Cohesive Strategy nor regional wildfire planning efforts create or change regulations or authorities.

In the coming months we will be completing the National Wildland Fire Management Risk Analysis and Cohesive Strategy (National Strategy) and a National Action Plan. These milestones represent completion of the third and final phase of Cohesive Strategy development; however our responsibilities do not end there. To realize the vision of the Cohesive Strategy and to achieve its three principal goals we must continue internal and external engagement throughout implementation. Fundamentally, implementation means incorporating the principles and concepts of the Cohesive Strategy into our normal business activities. Implementation is not over and above our regular wildland fire program activities; rather implementation is about *how* we conduct those activities.

**Key Expectations of Cohesive Strategy Implementation:**

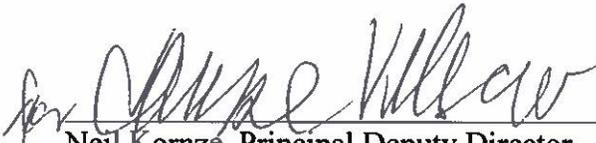
- Agency Engagement and Leadership
- Strategic and Accountable Partnerships
- Data-Driven Decision Support
- Investing In and Building Organizational Capability
- Alignment of Resources to a Unified Cohesive Strategy

As implementation activities begin at the national, regional, and local level we fully expect managers, supervisors, and employees of our agencies to act on the content and the spirit of the Cohesive Strategy. We will have to build upon the work that has already occurred in Phases One through Three, which has included the efforts already recognized from many of our staff. Implementation should take place in the context of existing partnerships, councils, organizations, and arrangements, though some adjustments or enhancements may be necessary. Decisions in that regard should be made at the most appropriate organizational level of our agencies, working with partners and stakeholders.

Success in protecting our landscapes, communities, and responders will require all of us to do our part. As we consider what is at stake – lives and valued tribal, cultural, and natural resources – we are convinced that collectively we can and will meet the challenge.

To become more involved, or to learn more about the background, phases, successes, and latest updates surrounding the Cohesive Strategy effort, please visit [www.forestsandrangelands.gov](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov).

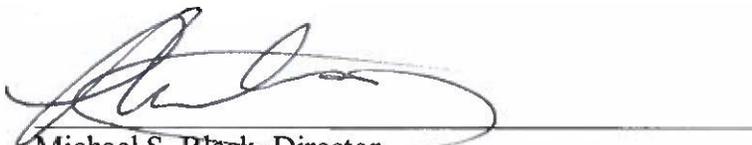
Thank you for your leadership, engagement, and commitment to implementing the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

  
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Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management

9/26/13  
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Date

  
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Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director  
National Park Service

10/25/13  
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Michael S. Black, Director  
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9/25/2013  
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