



Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy - Phase II

Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Update - July 15, 2011

Purpose:

The *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* (Cohesive Strategy) and *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009* chart a critical new path forward in wildland fire management, one that represents the needs of all cooperators. Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy engages stakeholders in three regions (West, Northeast, and Southeast) to develop assessments outlining wildland fire management goals, objectives, actions, and activities. The regional assessments will be used to complete a National Risk-Tradeoff Analysis (Phase III), which will illustrate the benefits and costs, monetary or otherwise, of various management strategies.



Cohesive Strategy Regions: West, Northeast, and Southeast

Current Activities:

Western stakeholder outreach is moving forward as a series of in person and virtual focus sessions. Written input is welcome through an online comment form and members of the Western Working Group and WRSC are interacting directly with communities of interest to document their views. Working together we can meet the many wildland fire management challenges we face.

Virtual Focus Sessions (Geographic Area)		In Person Focus Sessions (Location)	
July 12	Great Basin	June 28	Boise, ID
July 19	Southwest / Rocky Mountains	July 14	Sacramento, CA
July 27	Tribes / BIA		
July 27	Northern Rockies / Pacific Northwest		
July 27	Final west-wide forum (if needed)		

National Goals and Draft Western Regional Goals:

Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes

- Restore and maintain landscape biodiversity
- Restore and maintain landscapes to enhance their fire resilience, retain historic values, and facilitate adaptation to climate change
- Protect water resources and watersheds
- Foster local economies that support, maintain, and enhance working landscapes
- Promote western heritage (including tribal and non-tribal values)

Create Fire Adapted Communities

- Preserve life, protect health, and insure safety
- Protect property and infrastructure
- Encourage community and individual responsibility for maintaining a fire adapted community



Respond to Wildfires

- Protect the safety of responders and the public
- Enhance cooperation and collaboration in planning, training, and response
- Apply cost-effective response assessment and ensure response is consistent with values being protected (private, tribal, public, and private land and natural resources)
- Respond to climate change, increased WUI encroachment, and fuel accumulations through all stages of wildland fire response in a balanced, cost-effective, and efficient manner
- Consider post-fire impacts of natural hazards on responders and communities during the wildland fire response

Timeline:

2010: To complete Phase I of the Cohesive Strategy and define the three National Goals, 14 forums were held; more than 400 participants shared their feedback on wildfire management related issues.

July 2011: The Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) is conducting stakeholder outreach to inform the western regional assessment goals, objectives, and actions. Your written comments are welcome online at <http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/comment-form/> through July 29.

August 2011: The outreach team completes content analysis and summary of public input. The WRSC and Working Group meet in Lakewood, CO to refine the western regional assessment for submission to the Wildland Fire Executive Committee (WFEC).

September 2011: The western regional assessment is completed, accepted by the WRSC, and brought together with the other regional assessments (Northeast and Southeast) as input to the National Risk-Tradeoff Analysis (Phase III).

Points of Contact:

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For More Information:

For more information on the Cohesive Strategy, please visit <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/>
For more information on the Western Regional Strategy Committee and opportunities to provide input, please visit: <http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/>

