



Success Stories from the Western Region

Flagstaff Fire Department Wildland Fire Management

In a location averaging hundreds of ignitions per year, the Flagstaff Fire Department Wildland Fire Management mission is to “create and maintain a sustainable healthy forest ecosystem and a FireWise community, thereby protecting and enhancing public safety and community well-being.” This is consistent with the goals of the National Cohesive Strategy.

The greater Flagstaff area is a community of 75,000 people surrounded by the Coconino National Forest, one of the more extensive Ponderosa Pine forests in the nation. The Department has been active for many years with the Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership and the Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council in the development of innovative plans to protect their community from the impacts of wildfire. In 2005 the community developed a comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Plan covering over 900,000 acres of mixed ownership surrounding Flagstaff.

In the past year, the Flagstaff Fire Department has developed a localized version of the Cohesive Strategy, using a list of performance measures organized by the three goals, as presented at right. They integrated their Department’s five core disciplines into the strategy, and are using them to track accomplishments internally. This is an outstanding example of a local effort that could very easily be applied more broadly to include all ownerships such as the state and federal lands surrounding the community.

Flagstaff FD Cohesive Strategy Local Goals

GOAL #1: Our forests are resilient to disturbances in accordance with management objectives as identified in the City’s Forest Stewardship Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, site-specific Vegetation Management plans, Rx-Fire plans, the City Land Code, and other planning documents.

GOAL #2: Our community (populations and infrastructure) can withstand a wildland fire without loss of life and property because we have assessed our level of risk via the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other assessment documents/ processes, and practice a shared responsibility for mitigating both the threat and the consequence via application of the Flagstaff Wildland Urban Interface Code and other professional resource management standards, engagement of stakeholders and partners, use of volunteers, collaboration with partners, and grant management.

GOAL #3: We practice making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildland fire management decisions.

For more information on Flagstaff Fire Dept. Wildland Fire Mgmt:
<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=132>

To learn about collaboration on the Cohesive Strategy see our Partner Perspectives and Success Stories at:
<http://forestsandrangelands.gov>





Cohesive Strategy Performance Standards & Reporting Process – Flagstaff FD

GOAL #1: Our forests are resilient to disturbances in accordance with management objectives as Identified in the City's Forest Stewardship Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, site-specific Vegetation Management plans, Rx-Fire plans, the City Land Development Code, and other planning documents.

Outcome: Risk to resiliency of our forests is diminished: sustainability is enhanced.

Discipline: Hazard Mitigation

Metrics:

1. Marking - # Parcels and # Acres
2. Thinning - # Parcels and # Acres
3. Hazard Trees - # Identified and # Removed
4. Debris Disposal - # Parcels and # Acres (pile burning, chipping, hauling)
5. Broadcast Burning - # Parcels and # Acres (ecosystem enhancement)

GOAL #2: Our community (populations and infrastructure) can withstand a wildland fire without loss of life and property because we have assessed our level of risk via the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other assessment documents/processes, and practice a shared responsibility for mitigating both the threat and the consequence via application of the Flagstaff Wildland Urban Interface Code and other professional resource management standards, engagement of stakeholders and partners, use of volunteers, collaboration with partners, and grant management.

Outcome: Risk to Flagstaff is diminished; community well-being is enhanced.

Discipline: Prevention

Metrics:

1. Home/Properties Inspections - # EXISTING Homes/Properties
2. Development Reviews- #NEW Parcels and # Acres
3. FireWise Communities - # New

Discipline: Preparedness

Metrics:

1. Engagement of stakeholders/partners - # Events and # Hrs
2. Volunteers - # Hrs. Provided
3. Grants - # and \$ Received

GOAL #3: We practice making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildland fire management decisions.

Outcome: Risk to the public and emergency personnel is diminished, and response and recovery is efficient and effective.

Discipline: Response

Metrics:

1. Emergency Operations Center - #Events; (Incidents and Trainings)
2. Training - # hrs. Received by Staff and # hrs. Provided to Cooperators (Wildland Fire/Emergency Management)
3. Certification - # hrs. engaged with AZ Red Card Committee, NWCG, etc. to obtain/maintain professional wildland fire/emergency management skills and standing
4. Effect - # Fires and # Acres (both Treated and Untreated Parcels)

Discipline: Recovery

Metrics:

1. Reimbursements - # and \$ Submitted AND # and \$ Received
2. Assessments & Plans - # Prepared