



# NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Oct. 28, 2020 | 11-2 pm MDT *Virtual Workshop*

## RESOURCES AND LINKS

The [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) is a strategic push to work collaboratively among all stakeholders and across all landscapes, using best science, to make meaningful progress towards the three goals:

1. Resilient Landscapes
2. Fire Adapted Communities
3. Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

**Vision:** *To safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, to live with wildland fire.*



### Regional Strategy Committees

<https://northeasternwildfire.net/>  
<http://www.southernwildfire.net/>  
<http://wildfireinthewest.org/>



ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA | OCTOBER 4-8, 2021

The International Association of Wildland Fire is presenting this workshop in partnership with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and the Western, Southeast and Northeast Regional Strategy Committees.

[Webpage](#)



## What is the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy?

The Cohesive Strategy is a strategic push to work collaboratively among all stakeholders and across all landscapes, using best science, to make meaningful progress towards the three overarching goals:

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

**Create fire-adapted communities:** Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to and recover from wildland fire.

**Safe & Effective wildland fire response:** All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient, risk-based wildfire management decisions.

The ultimate success of the Cohesive Strategy effort depends on how strategic direction and national priorities can be translated into the on-the-ground, local actions of agencies, organizations, governments, and individuals with meaningful, cumulative effects.

The vision of the Cohesive Strategy is *to safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, to live with wildland fire.*

## How do we get there?

The road to successful implementation is not easy, or quick. As the scale of wildfires grows, the scale of coordinated planning needs to expand accordingly. **Progress towards the three goals depends on the collective commitment by all stakeholders, at all levels, to take action toward meaningful reductions in risk in the short- and long-term.** Looking ahead, success will require:

- **Using all available technology and best science to assess risk.** This includes a variety of methodologies and new technologies to reveal current risk to communities and landscapes.
- **Collectively setting priorities and the co-management of risk, including preparation for and management of short- and long-term post fire impacts and events.** The most effective approach to wildland fire management is through a shared ownership of the challenges it presents and a shared commitment to meeting those challenges. This cross-boundary, cross-jurisdictional approach is best utilized before smoke is in the air.
- **Using all active management tools.** This includes prescribed fire and managed fire when and where it's appropriate, based on the priorities and co-management of risk described above.
- **Focusing on broad outcomes.** An accounting of acres (lost and/or treated) is no longer an accurate depiction of successful outcomes in terms of landscape and community resiliency. They indicate outputs based on program accomplishment or fire impacts but they do not address broad-scale risk reduction or large-scale community protection. Focusing on large-scale outcomes, across ownerships and boundaries, will allow for safer, more effective management and response strategies.



The Cohesive Strategy represents the culmination of a collaborative effort by federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, non-governmental partners and public stakeholders, using best available science and data, to make meaningful progress towards the three overarching goals. The Cohesive Strategy also provides the strategic direction necessary to achieve the following vision for the next century.

**Vision:** *to safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.*

**Overarching goals:**

- **Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes** – landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire, insect and disease related disturbances.
- **Create Fire Adapted Communities** – Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to and recover from wildfire.
- **Ensure a safe, effective and risk-based wildfire response** – all jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient, risk-based wildfire management decisions.

**Management Options:**

**Prescribed fire**

An effective, cost-efficient tool in areas with fire-adapted or fire-dependent vegetation.

**Manage wildfires for resource objectives**

The use of unplanned ignitions for ecosystem restoration or hazardous fuels reduction.

**Fuels treatments using mechanical, biological, or other non-fire methods**

Mechanical thinning, herbicide use, mowing or grazing for ecosystem restoration and wildfire risk reduction.

**Homes and community action**

Actions by the property owner to reduce ignition potential to homes, and the protection of individual homes during an incident.

**Building codes**

A focus on building materials and construction standards to reduce potential loss.

**Reduce accidental and intentional ignitions**

Implementation of locally tailored prevention efforts.

**Prepare for large, long-duration wildfires**

Enhancement of wildfire response preparedness in areas more likely to experience large, long-duration wildfires.

**Protect structures and target landscape fuels**

Emphasize structure protection and conduct landscape resiliency operations when conditions permit.

**Protect structures and target ignition prevention**

At the community level, emphasize both structure protection and wildfire prevention to enhance the effectiveness of initial response.