



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354



November 6, 2013

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors, All Regions
Attention: Forestry/Fire Management
Fire Management Officers
Agency Superintendents

From: Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management

Subject: National Cohesive Strategy Direction to Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Leadership

In the coming months, teams from across the nation will be completing the final phase of the Cohesive Strategy. A great deal of work has been invested to develop this national framework thus far. Within the Cohesive Strategy document is the National Wildland Fire Management Risk Analysis and associated Action Plan. These documents specify tasks to be taken by all partners which, when accomplished, will help the nation fulfill the vision of the National Strategy.

Unlike other documents, Cohesive Strategy provides a framework for wildland fire management stakeholders. The framework is intended to create a common platform that allows all parties to work together cooperatively, share information and make collaborative, sound decisions that positively affect the landscape.

Attached is a memorandum from the Department of Interior Bureau leadership that asks managers, supervisors and employees across Indian Country to act on the content and spirit of the framework. The key expectations identified require all levels of leadership to be engaged. Through your commitment, the National Strategy will be realized and the partnerships cultivated will strengthen the Bureau's ability to achieve its wildland fire management mission to protect human life, restore cultural landscapes, and support tribes in reaching self-determination.

Thank you for your participation and support.

Attachment



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 21st 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.

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



Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director
Bureau of Land Management

9/26/13

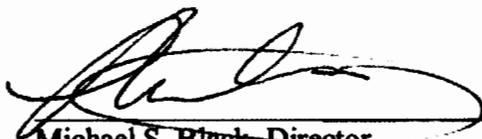
Date



Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director
National Park Service

10/25/13

Date



Michael S. Black, Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs

9/30/13

Date



Daniel M. Ashe, Director
Fish and Wildlife Service

9/25/2013

Date