



Cohesive Strategy Key Messages

Purpose and Intent of Cohesive Strategy

The National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy is an all-lands approach that reaches across jurisdictional boundaries. This strategy – born from an act of Congress (Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Conservation Act of 2009) and overseen by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC) is leading the way towards a more cohesive approach to how all stakeholders manage wildland fire.



Historical Background to Cohesive Strategy

In response to the danger, impacts and costs of large fires, Congress passed the 2009 FLAME Act, which:

- Directed the USDA and DOI to develop a new Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy.
- WFLC established to provide oversight and direction.

The Vision of Cohesive Strategy is to:

- *Safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed.*
- *Use fire only when allowable.*
- *Manage our natural resources.*
- *Live with wildland fire.*

Three Phases of Cohesive Strategy

To facilitate stakeholder participation in planning for, responding to, and recovering from wildland fire incidents the CS has three phases. These are:

- Phase I: Development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (*complete*).
- Phase II: Development of Regional Strategies and Assessments (*complete*).
- Phase III: Implementation (*Current phase*).

More than a Fire Management Issue...

- Wildland fire is more than a fire management, fire operations, or Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) challenge. Wildland fire is a complex land management and societal issue. The Cohesive Strategy addresses these issues directly.
- CS is an “**All-Lands, All-Hands**” approach to improved wildland fire management, engaging stakeholders from all levels of government, NGOs, and people with interests in wildland fire, working together collaboratively.

Three Principal Goals of CS

- **Restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes:** - a recognition of the lack of ecosystem health within many of our forests and rangelands across the country and the need to address it.
- **Creating fire-adapted communities:** acknowledging the need to develop options and opportunities to engage communities at the lowest level to help them become more resistant to wildfire threat.
- **Effectively responding to wildfire:** a critical component to insure all levels of government, local, state, tribal and federal, work together when wild fire occurs.

*Prepared by NPS Division of Fire and Aviation Management, Branch of Wildland Fire.
For more information, contact [William Kaage@nps.gov](mailto:William.Kaage@nps.gov).*