

National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

What is the Cohesive Strategy?

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is an ongoing effort by Federal, Tribal, state and local governments and non-government organizations to address growing wildfire challenges in the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/>.

Addressing wildland fire is not simply a fire management, fire operations, or Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) problem – it is a larger more complex land management and societal issue. 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, live with wildland fire.*

Overarching Theme:

The Cohesive Strategy is about more than fire suppression.

Sub-themes and Supporting Points:

- *The Cohesive Strategy reflects the values and concerns of the public and all governments.*
 - The problems created by wildland fire affect all lands and all levels of government.
 - An effective strategy must be a “ground-up” effort, with wildland fire management personnel, the public and all levels of government actively involved.
 - There is no “one-size-fits-all” approach. A national strategy provides a common basis for determining the best course of action.
 - The Cohesive Strategy is designed to better align national level decision-making with regional and local interests.
- *The Cohesive Strategy relies on people working together.*
 - Wildland firefighting agencies need to cooperate and be respectful of each others’ process to work collaboratively for the good of all.
 - A national strategy must recognize the differences and tensions that exist among partners and stakeholders and why those differences exist.
 - An effective strategy guides all organizations to recognize and accept each others’ management differences and promote a cohesive response across all jurisdictions.
- *Wildfire is a dynamic process.*
 - Today’s longer fire seasons produce larger wildfires that are more difficult to put out. The Cohesive Strategy represents the creative thinking and cooperation needed to meet the challenges of a new kind of fire season.
 - Fire-adapted landscapes can become out of balance and vulnerable to fire, insects, and climate change. The Cohesive Strategy addresses these challenges by restoring fire-resilient landscapes.
 - The Cohesive Strategy is based on the best available science.

