

Washington Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan

Workshop



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF

NATURAL RESOURCES

HILARY S. FRANZ | COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



Washington Wildfire Protection Strategic Plan

**Achieving Better Fire Outcomes
for All of Washington**



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

dnr.wa.gov

WHY

DO WE NEED A

PLAN?

All Fires 2000 - 2017

▲ Fire greater than 10 acres

▲ Fire smaller than 10 acres

■ Large Fires 2000-2017

NOTE: Large Fires are defined by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group as fires that are greater than 100 acres in size and 100 acres in perimeter. Large Fires are not necessarily the same as the largest fires in a year.

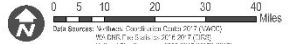
CANADA

IDAHO

OREGON



WILDFIRE



Data Sources: National Fire Plan Data Center (2017) (NFD); Washington State Department of Natural Resources; U.S. Fire Incidents 2000-2015 (NFIS); Data compiled by: Rob Davis, ERM/2018; 2018 Wildfire Data



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WHY

DO WE NEED A

PLAN?

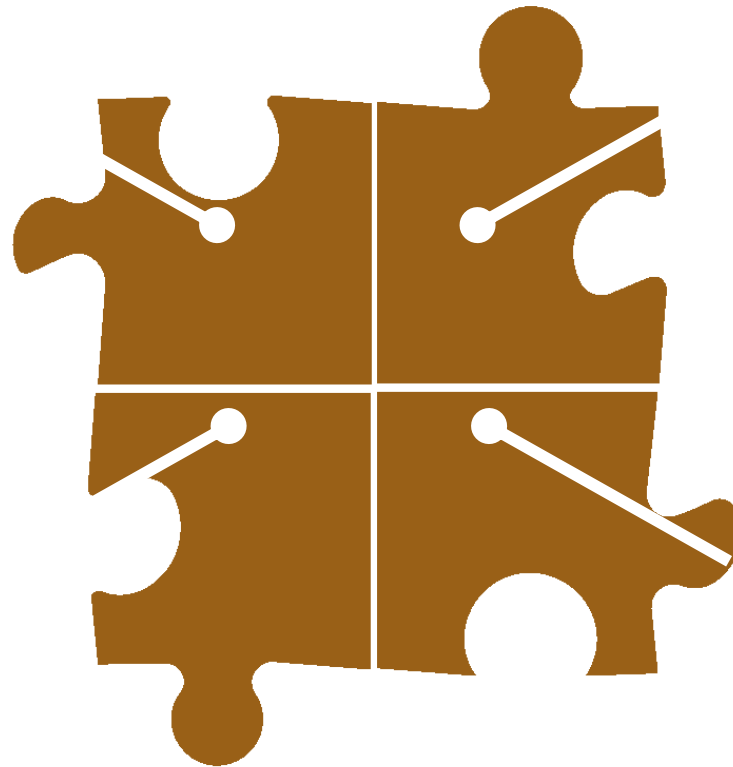
- ✓ **Increase in fires**
- ✓ **Greater losses**
- ✓ **Higher costs**
- ✓ **Strained, limited resources**
- ✓ **Greater fire risks expected**
 - ❖ **Past forest practices**
 - ❖ **Climate change**



Strategic Plan Purpose:

Obtain
identify
approach
solution
broader

Create
understand
of conditions
the
challenges
in the



vision,
s, and
n
tation

strategic
grammatic
t among
management
and
ons

Approach

Identify solutions,
opportunities, areas of
agreement,
disagreement



**Formulate draft
vision** and strategies



**Solicit broad based
feedback** Wildland
Fire Advisory
Committee, Agency
leads, community
groups, local
governments, tribal
nations, others



Refine vision and
strategies; define
next steps



**Prepare
plan
document**

✓ **Anchored in the
national cohesive
strategy**

✓ **Builds on
past efforts**

✓ **Extensive
engagement and
outreach with
diverse interests**

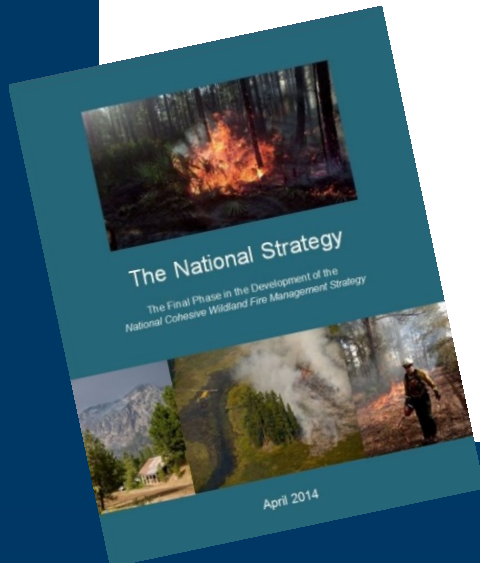


Anchored in The National Strategy

HIC

- R
- C
- C
- F

KEY CHALLENGES

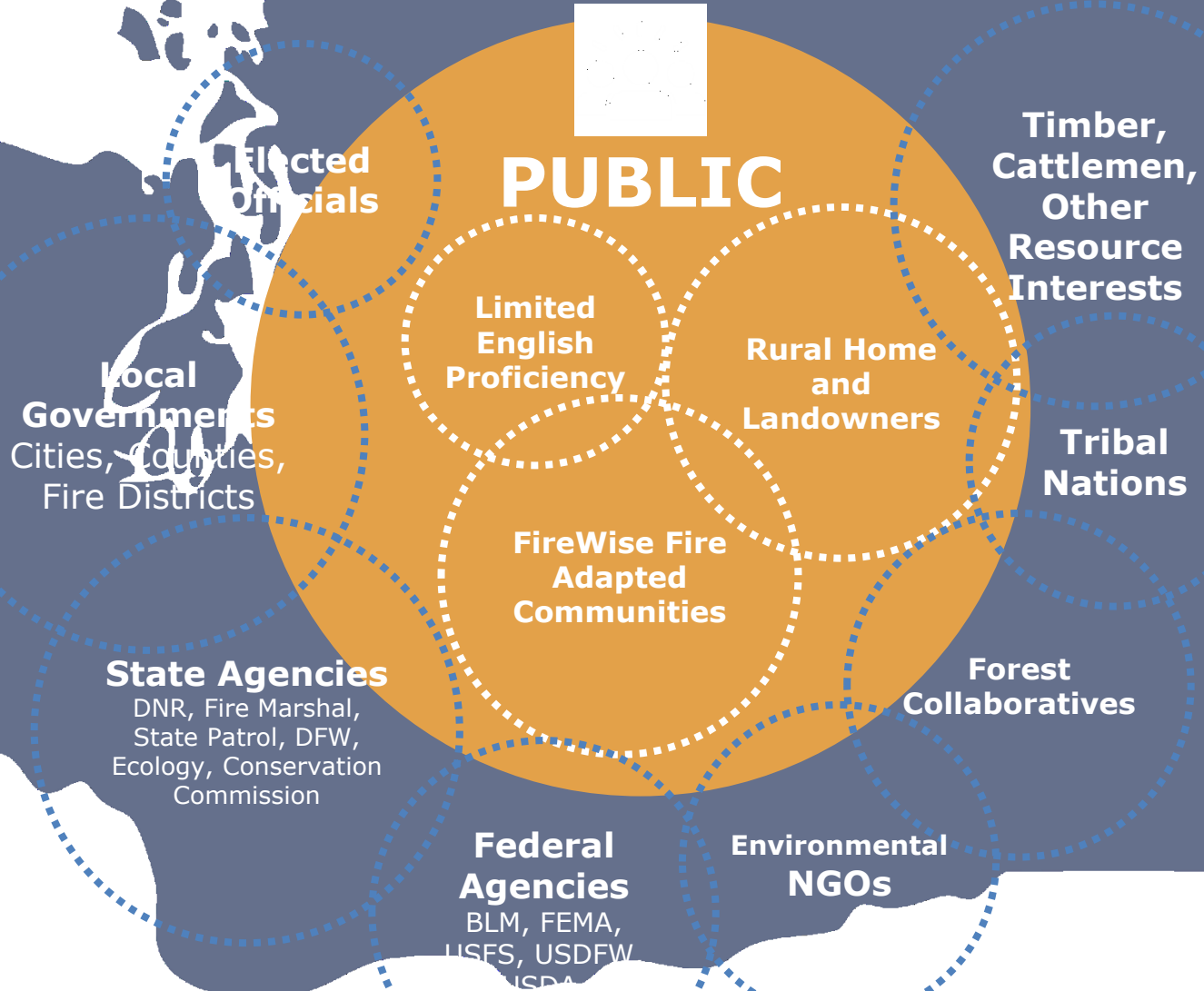


Builds on Complementary Efforts

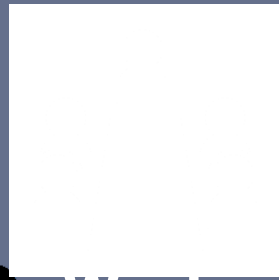
- Washington Forest Health Strategic Plan*
- Wildland Fire Advisory Committee
- Governor's listening sessions
- Lessons learned and best practices from other states



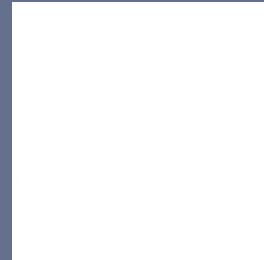
lands – All Lands



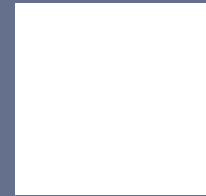
Statewide Outreach & Engagement



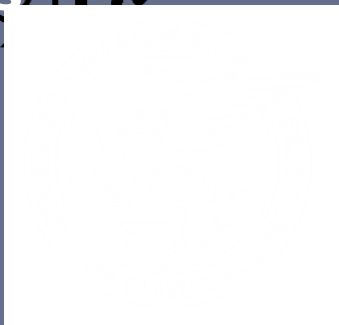
**Work
Groups**



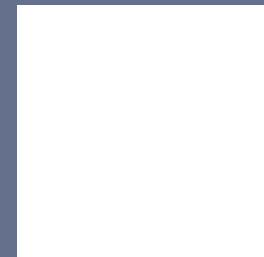
Interviews



Workshops



**Online
Surveys**



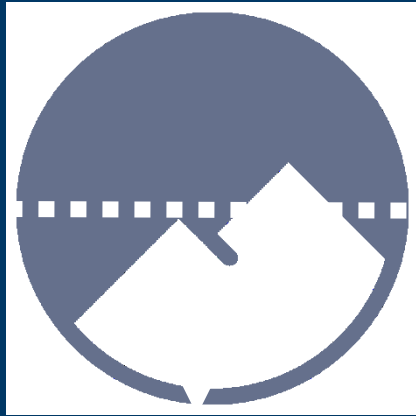
Convenings

- ✓ **Washington Wildland Fire Advisory Committee**
- ✓ **State Legislative Wildfire Caucus**
- ✓ **Land Management & Fire Response Agencies**



Timeline

JANUARY



Summit

FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL



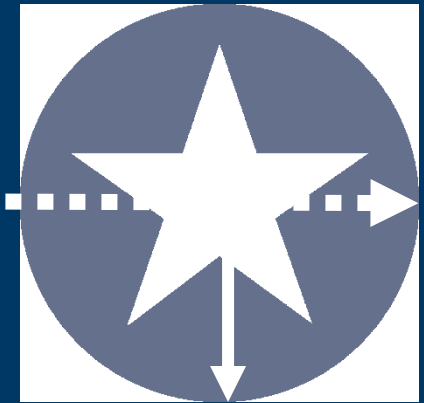
Engagement

MAY/JUNE



**Plan
Development
& Review**

JULY



Final



What we've heard thus far

- Widespread agreement on need for change! *"a paradigm shift"; a "landscape approach"*
- Current system is taxed; not broken
- Essential to work across jurisdictions, in partnerships
- Communities a key resource; must be engaged
- Existing jurisdictional & policy framework constrains ability to change



What we've heard thus far

- Many gaps exist – Unprotected land, succession planning, training
- Resources limited – need to come together to make the case
- Plan should focus on a vision, solutions, actions to move forward
- A focus is needed on post fire: floods, recovery, education
- Solutions should address local needs; no one size fits all



Online Survey Summary Findings



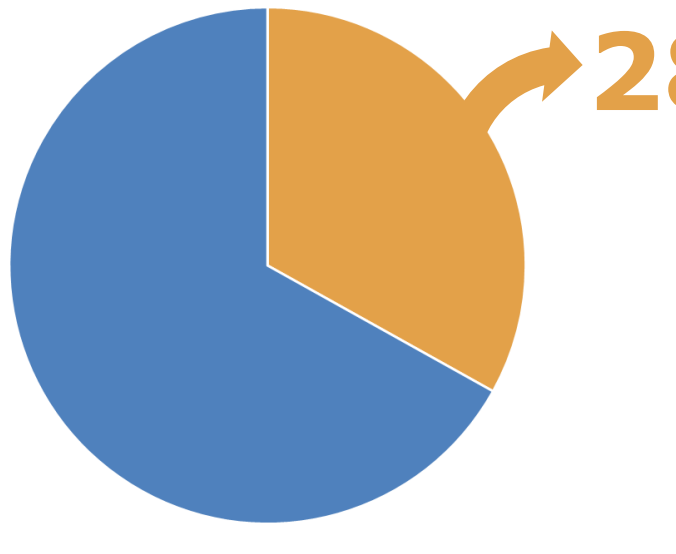
Topics Covered in Survey

- Barriers, Effectiveness, Priorities
- Resilient Landscapes
- Human Caused Prevention
- Fire Adapted Communities: Preparedness
- Response
- Other
 - Unprotected lands
 - Outreach strategies effectiveness
 - Coordination & working together
 - Leadership/Management effectiveness



Input from the Public & Practitioners

Widely distributed online survey



846

Responses

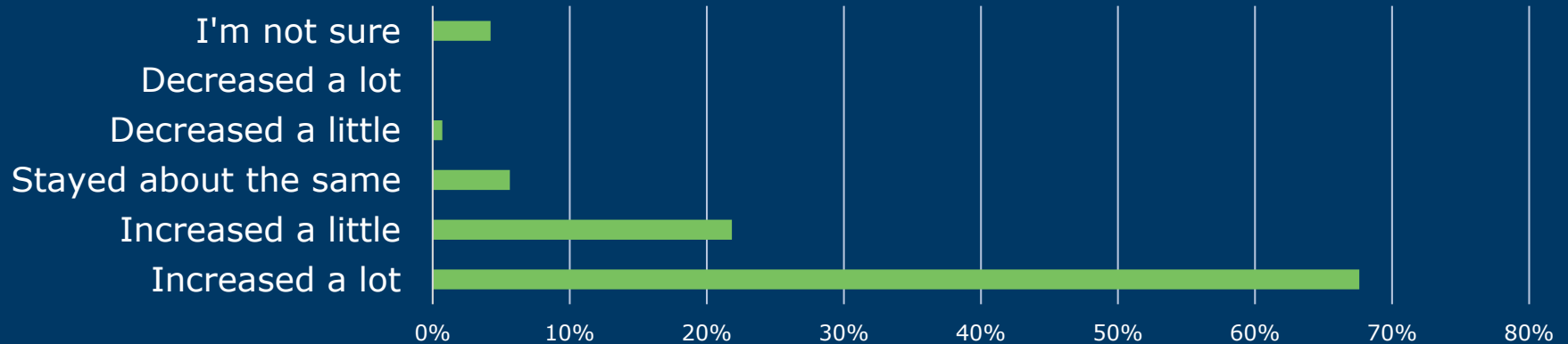
280 = public,
landowner/managers, others
(non-practitioners)

- **44%** live in a rural area
- **44%** in a small or medium sized city
- **81%** affected by smoke
- **21%** losses
- **58%** live within 10 miles of a recent fire

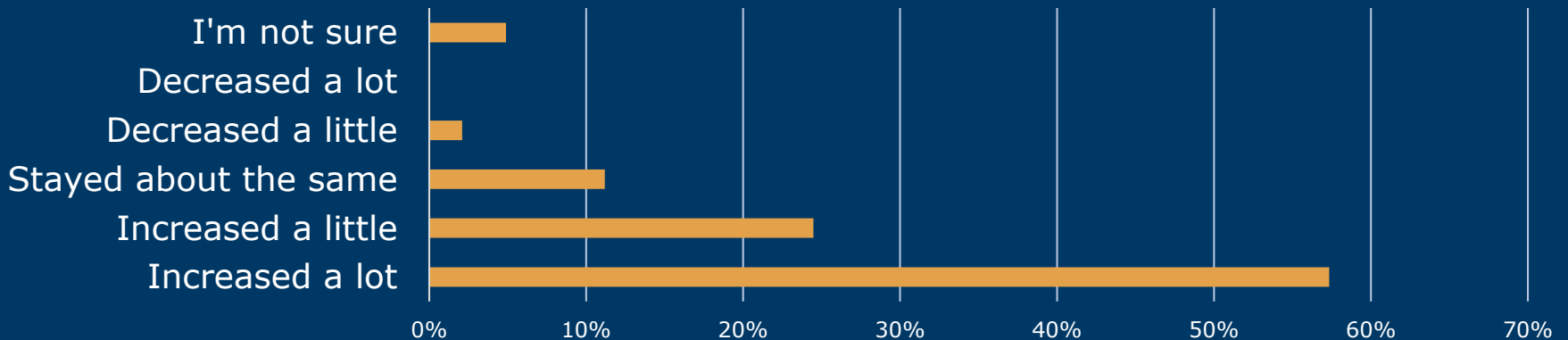


Public: Perceptions about fire risk

How has the risk from wildland fires changed in the last 10 years?

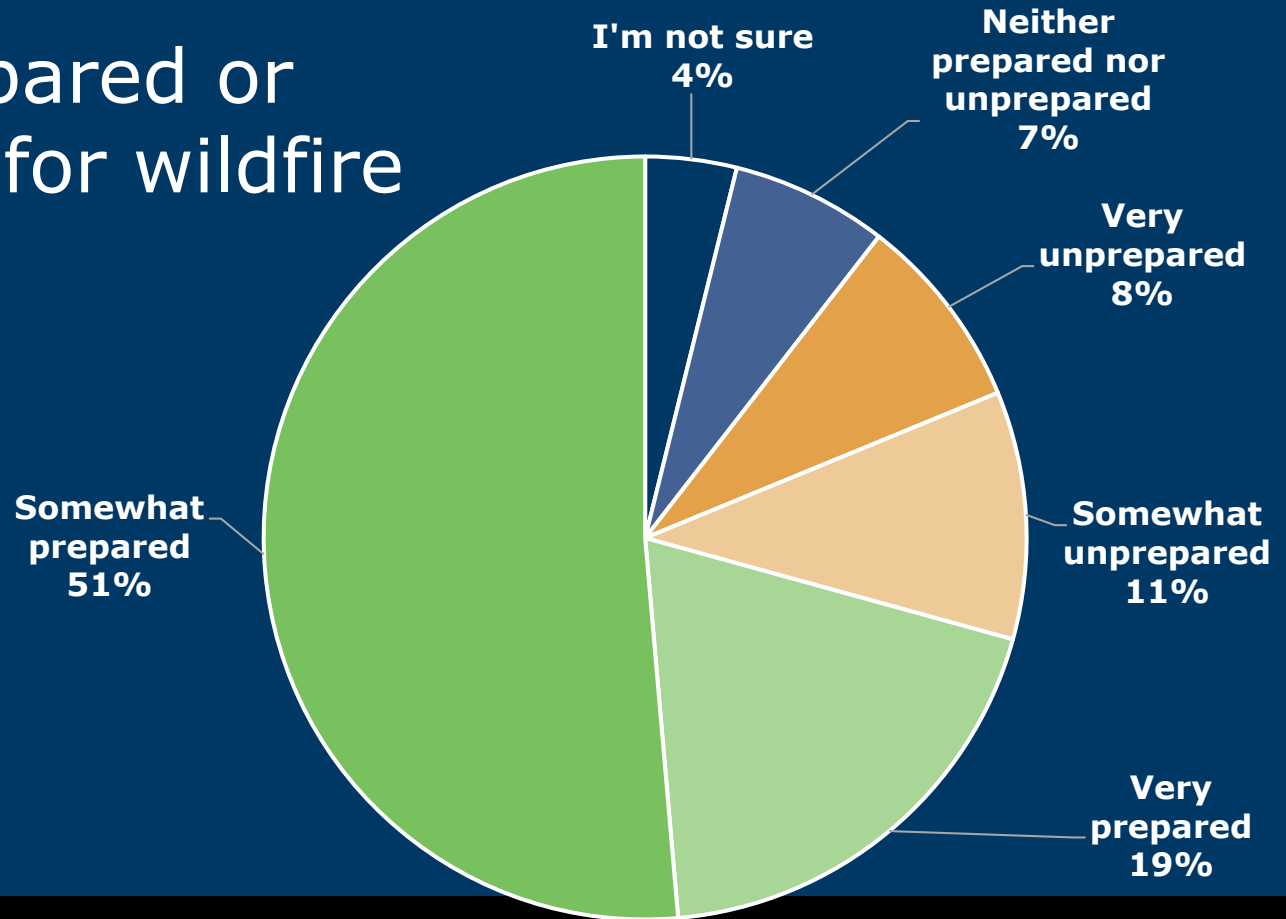


Likelihood of large fires increasing in next 10 years



Many Public Respondents feel at least somewhat prepared

Q: How prepared or unprepared for wildfire do you feel?



Activities and Involvement

79%

**managed
vegetation**

(somewhat, a great deal)

52%

**highly/very
satisfied** with
agencies
efforts

75%

**house/property
more fire resistant**

(somewhat, a great deal)

25%

**somewhat /
very
dissatisfied**

48%

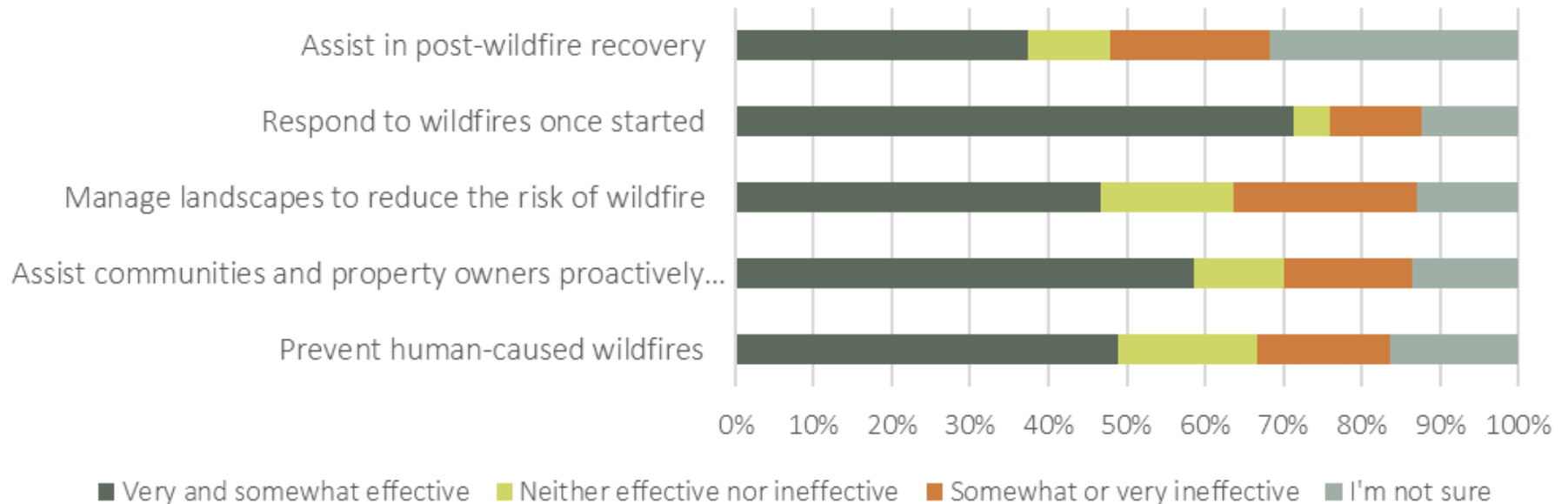
**participate in
programs**

Firewise USA, Collaborative, Fire Adapted Community, Protection Plan Committee, other; generally considered effective (60-96%)



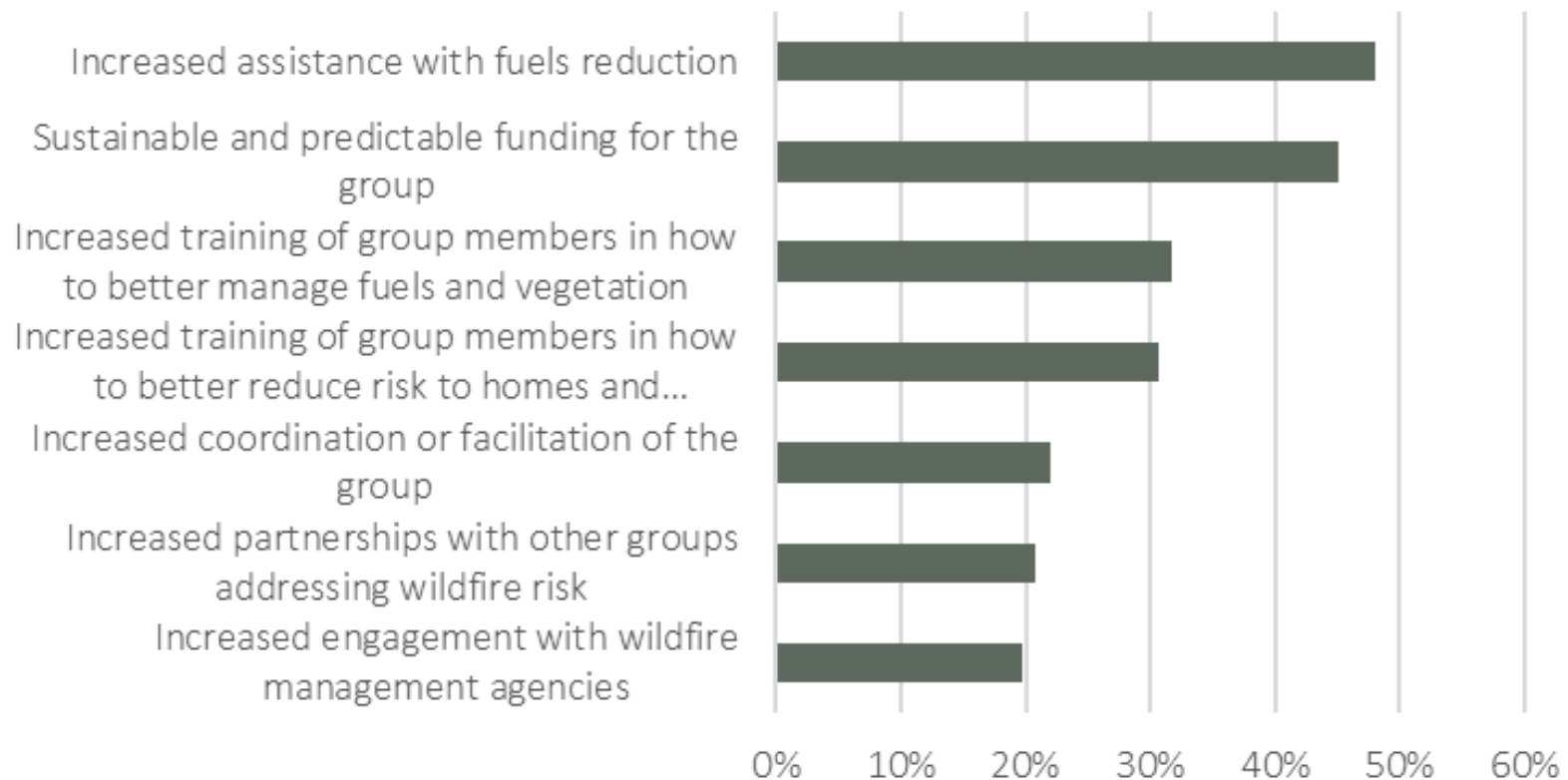
Public Perceptions of Agency Effectiveness

How effective are efforts by wildfire and land management agencies in your area to:



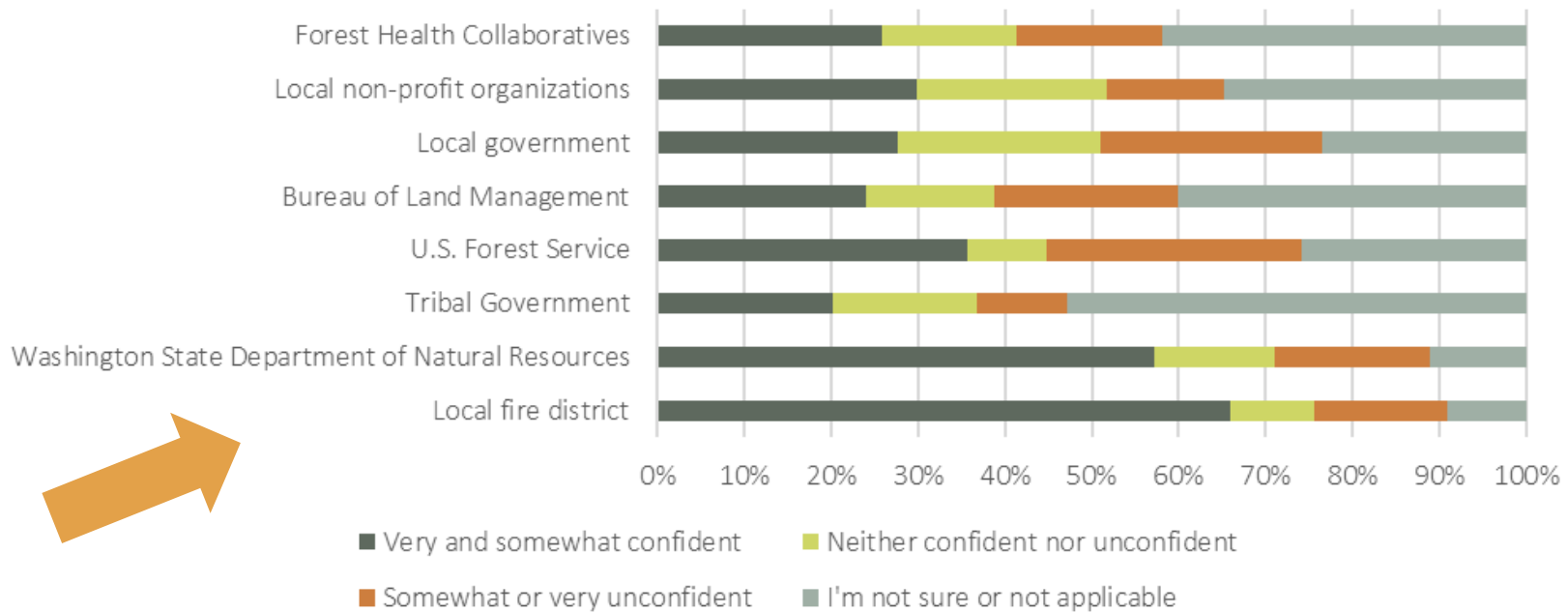
Public: Top changes to improve community-based group effectiveness

Top 3 Changes to Improve Effectiveness



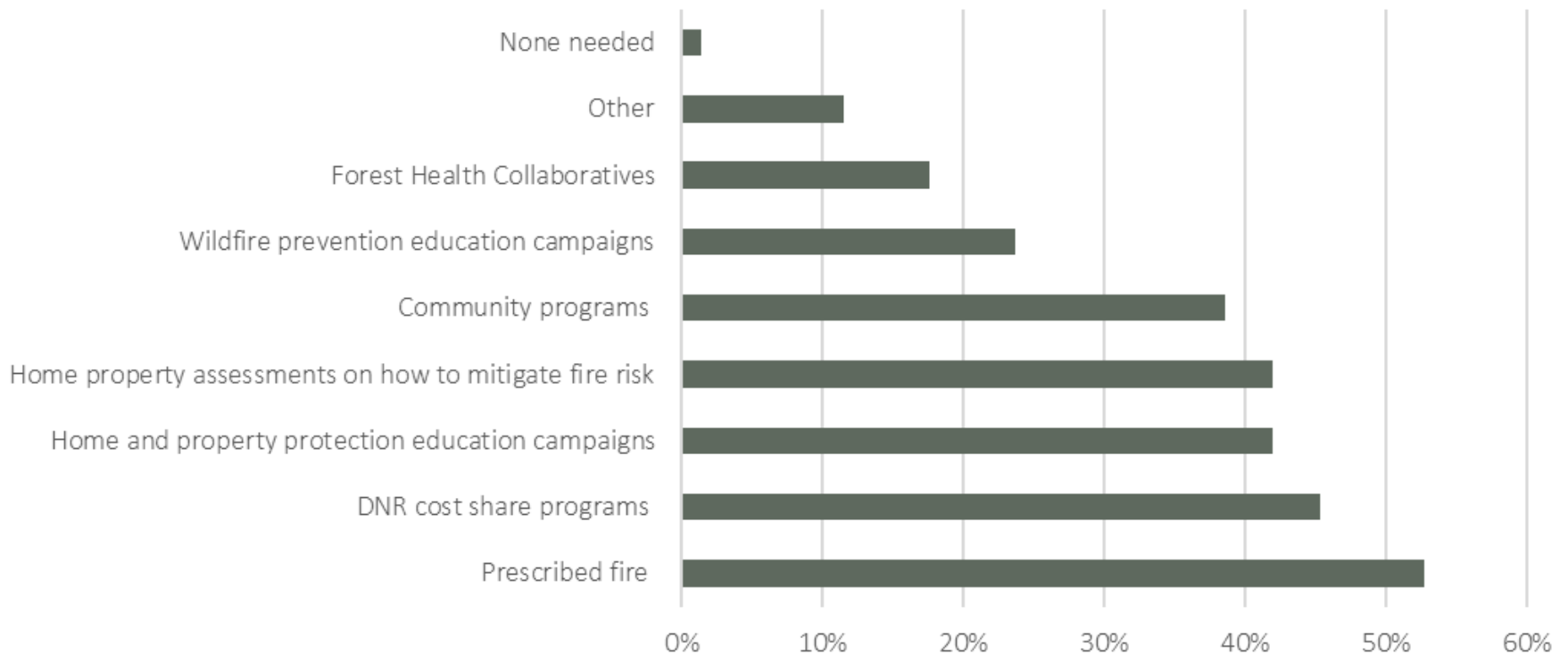
Public Level of Confidence in Wildfire Agencies & related Organizations

What is your level of confidence in the ability of the following agencies and organizations to make the right decisions to reduce the risk of wildland fires to your property and public safety before a wildfire?



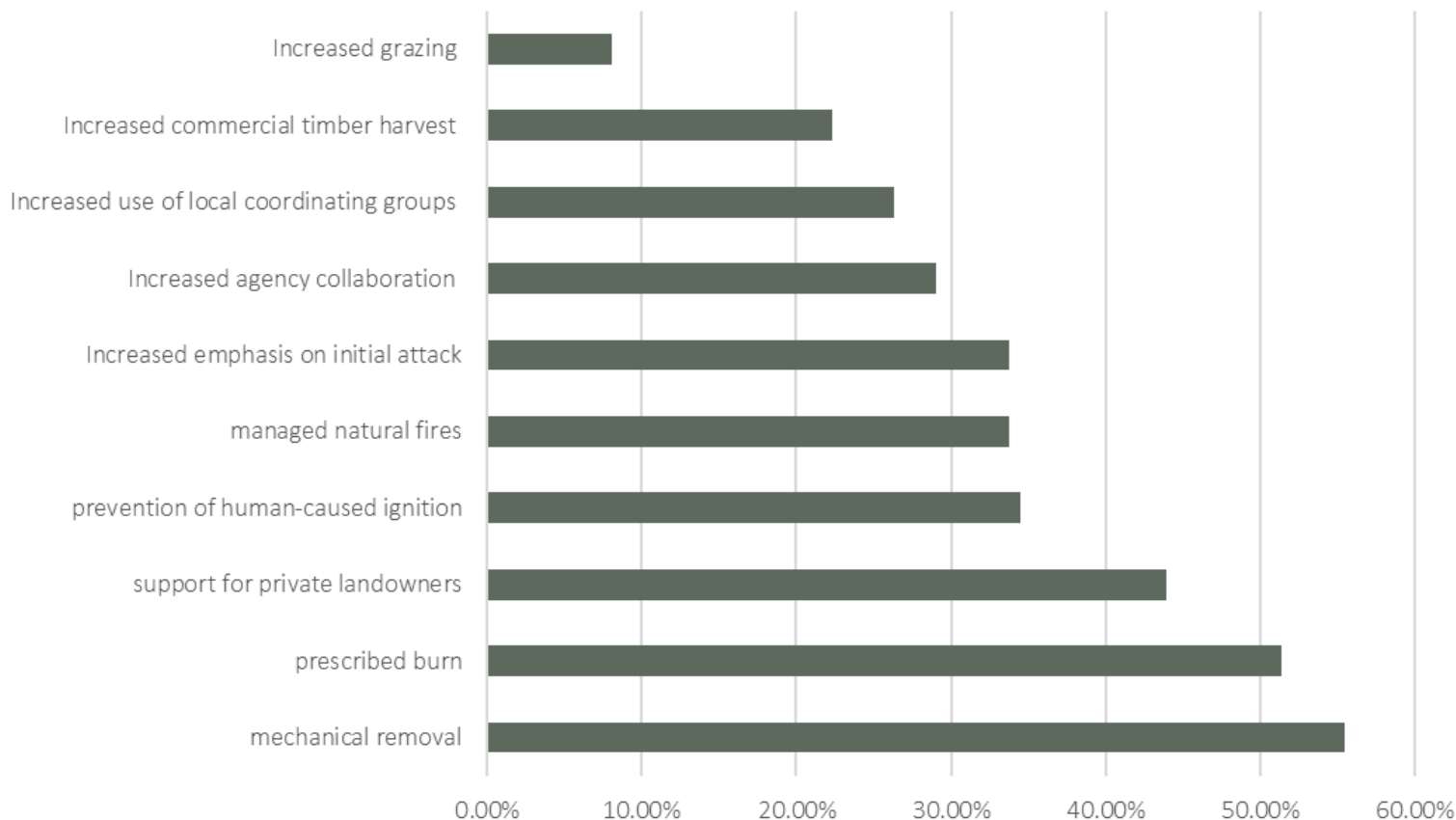
Public Top Priorities for improvement/investment

Top Priority Programs/Activities for Improvement/Increased Investment



Public: Most important actions to take to reduce wildfire risks & impacts

Most Important Actions



Public: Unprotected lands

- 60% support locally based solution
- Funding from:
 - New state assessment on unprotected lands
 - Increase in fire district assessments
 - *Less support for property tax or sales tax increase.*



Practitioners Survey summary



Practitioners Responses

846 Total

466 Professionals

98 volunteers

- **229** DNR
- **175** Local Fire District
- **22** local government
- **29** Federal
- **92** All others



Greatest Barriers to improved wildfire management

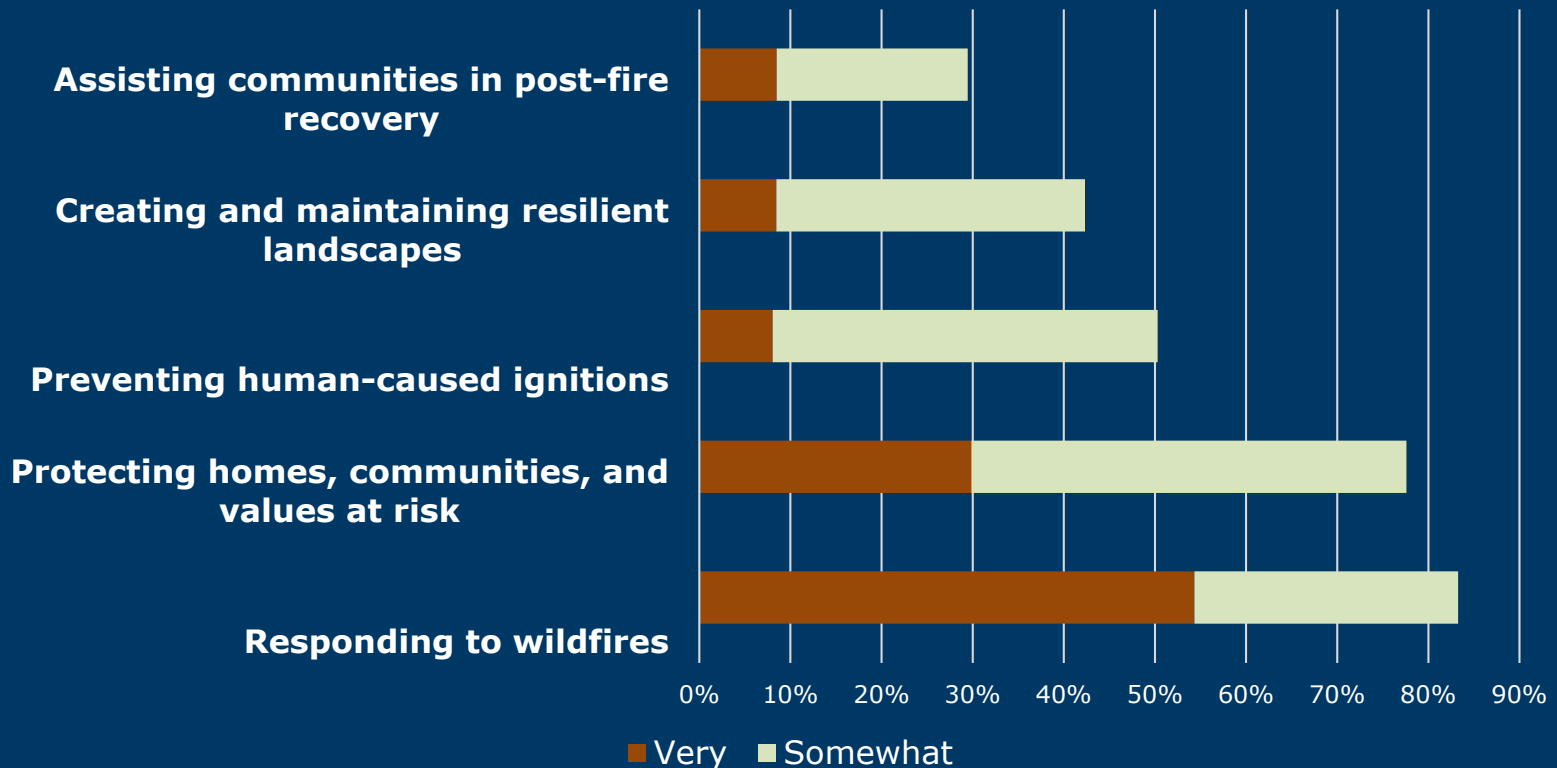
➔ Funding top issue, but divergent views between local fire districts and DNR

Greatest Barriers	Local Fire	DNR
inconsistent funding for prevention, preparedness	49%	61%
lack of alignment of land management policies across agencies	36%	45%
existing forest health practices	48%	43%
insufficient funding for response	54%	39%



Effectiveness at Elements of the Cohesive Strategy

MOST: Responding to wildfire & protecting homes



Top Priorities to improve wildfire outcomes

Support personnel

Build awareness & change behavior

Top Priorities for improvement, investment to improve outcomes	Local Fire	DNR
Provide support for WF fighters, improve welfare	40%	45%
build awareness & change behavior in communities	56%	40%
provide adequate training	38%	36%
Provide consistency in approaches, policies, and practices	36%	38%
increase # and capabilities of permanent WF personnel	25%	34%



Resilient Landscapes: Top Priorities

- ➔ Prescribed Fire top priority for both Locals & DNR
- ➔ More mechanical removal 2nd

Resilient Landscape Priorities	Local Fire	DNR
Prescribed Fire	71%	85%
Mechanical Removal	68%	63%
Commercial Logging	35%	50%
Managed Fire	31%	35%
Grazing	26%	12%



Human Caused Ignition: Top Priorities

- Targeted outreach
- Working with partners to coordinate WF prevention messages

Human Caused Ignition Priorities	Local Fire	DNR
targeted outreach	54%	51%
work w/ partners	45%	48%
share info w/ communities	32%	30%
collect data	21%	20%
messaging	20%	19%



Living with Fire: Top Priorities

Complete pre-fire assessments of home & property considered most important

Living with fire Priorities	Local Fire	DNR
Complete assessments	68%	58%
cost-share	39%	51%
planning process	34%	32%
firewise	42%	37%
evacuation	34%	30%



Response: Top Priority Actions

Improved fuels management

Better integration/coordination

response priorities	Local Fire	DNR
improved mgmnt of hazardous fuels across boundaries	32%	47%
better integration/coordination across agencies	43%	41%
alignment of policies	30%	36%
additional personnel	20%	32%
regionalized approach	41%	31%
air attack support	39%	20%
assign responsibilities for unprotected areas	34%	28%



Response Practices most needing improvement

➔ Personnel!

Response practices most in need of improvement	Local Fire	DNR
availability of personnel	51%	56%
initial attack response	48%	34%
availability of aircraft	41%	23%
availability of equipment	32%	34%
cooperation between agencies	32%	39%



Coordination: most needing Improvement

Most: Improving resiliency of landscapes

Districts and DNR in agreement, except that Districts see greater need for improvement in prevention

Coordination needed	moderate	significant	combined
to improve resiliency in landscapes	31%	49%	80%
to proactively protect communities	40%	33%	73%
to prevent wildland fires	42%	26%	68%
in post fire recovery	32%	31%	63%
to respond to wildfires	34%	17%	51%



Today's agenda

- Vision: Worksheet 1
- Goals: Worksheet 2
- LUNCH
- Strategies: Worksheet 3
- Vision statement



Our Vision

- ✓ **Broad**
- ✓ **What we aspire to, as a State**
- ✓ **Where we want to be in 10 years**
- ✓ **Inspiring**
- ✓ **More than we can do alone**

STEPS

1

**Work as
individuals**

2

Work in pairs

3

**Work as a
table group**

4

**Turn in your
group's vision**



Goals

Anchored in The National Strategy

Resilient
Landscapes

Fire-Adapted
Communities

Safe, Effective
Response

Prevention of
Human-caused
Ignition



Goals Anchored in The National Strategy

What does success with this goal look like in Washington state?

For Washington, make the goal more:

- Specific
- Achievable
- Measureable
- Time-bound (add a timeline)



Goals Anchored in The National Strategy

- ✓ Work on one goal at a time (20 min. each)
- ✓ Identify a table captain

For each goal:

1. Work first as an **individual** on Worksheet 2.
2. **Share your ideas** with your group. Add sticky notes to the table paper.
3. Group similar sticky notes together. Work as a **table group** to discuss and refine.
4. Choose 1-2 ideas, per goal, to put up on the wall.



Goals Anchored in The National Strategy

- **What does success with this goal look like in Washington state?**
- **How will we measure it?**

For Washington, make the goal more:

- Specific
- Achievable
- Measureable
- Time-bound (add a timeline)



LUNCH!

Back at 12:45 PM



Strategies

Session 1 – Pick a session to join!

- Deployment of people and equipment during wildfire season
- Wildfire management across boundaries
- Human-caused ignition and prevention
- LEP/vulnerable communities
- Post-fire recovery

Different topics will be available in Session 2



Strategies

Session 2 – After lunch

- Community and individual planning and action
- Prescribed fire and smoke management
- Training and retaining the firefighting force
- Unprotected and under-protected lands
- Create your own



Strategies

Step 1: Identify a table captain.

Step 2: Brainstorm with your group!

- What are desired outcomes in 5 to 10 years in this area?
- What changes, if made, would enable success and move the ball on this issue?
- What strategies and solutions should be included in the strategic plan?

Step 3: Explore 2-3 strategies in detail.



Strategies: Session 1

Deployment of people and equipment during wildfire season

- Firefighter safety, operations, policy, deployment (incl. wildfire contracts & IMT), planning

Wildfire management across boundaries

- Policies, operations, coordination, communication, overall decision making; systems view at state, regional, & local levels; co-management of risk across boundaries

Human-caused ignition and prevention

- Engagement, tools, coordination

Strategies: Session 1

LEP/vulnerable communities

- LEP populations; equity – improving outreach, engagement, resource provision, operational support, etc. before, during, and after wildfire to support the safety and preparedness of highly vulnerable communities

Post-fire recovery

- Engagement, resources, policy, and operations; what services to be provided by whom (e.g., relocation assistance); how to capitalize on the moment; how to address post-fire flooding; etc.



Strategies

Step 1: Identify a table captain.

Step 2: Brainstorm with your group!

- What are desired outcomes in 5 to 10 years in this area?
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Strategies

Session 2 – Pick a session to join!

- Community and individual planning and action
- Prescribed fire and smoke management
- Training and retaining the firefighting force
- Unprotected and under-protected lands
- Create your own



Strategies: Session 2

Community and individual planning and action

- Community and individual preparation, incl. evacuation planning, Firewise activities, personal preparedness, community wildland-urban interface codes, effective community engagement, etc.

Prescribed fire and smoke management

- Policy, operations, communications, and prescribed fire training



Strategies: Session 2

Training and retaining the firefighting force

- Training, succession planning, integration of state & local resources, firefighter retention, current approach to staffing the firefighting force, etc.

Unprotected and under-protected lands

- Range lands, ag lands, etc.; vegetation and fuels on non-forested lands; policy change; resource prioritization and needs

Create your own



Strategies

Step 1: Identify a table captain.

Step 2: Brainstorm with your group!

- What are desired outcomes in 5 to 10 years in this area?
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Step 3: Explore 2-3 strategies in detail.



THANK YOU!





FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK, visit:
<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/StrategicFireProtection>



