



Washington Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan

Achieving Better Fire Outcomes for
All of Washington



Wildfire Protection Strategy

- Currently under development...with final Plan this fall
- Complimentary to the 20-year FH Strategy...
 - *Restore and manage forested landscapes at a pace and scale that reduces the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires and increases the health and resilience of forest and aquatic ecosystems in a changing climate for rural communities and the people of Washington State. – Forest Health Program Mission*
 - *Working collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries and with engaged communities, we safeguard what we value. All of Washington is adapted and prepared, and our landscapes are healthy and resilient. We safely manage wildland fire and prevent human caused ignitions. - Draft Wildfire Mission*



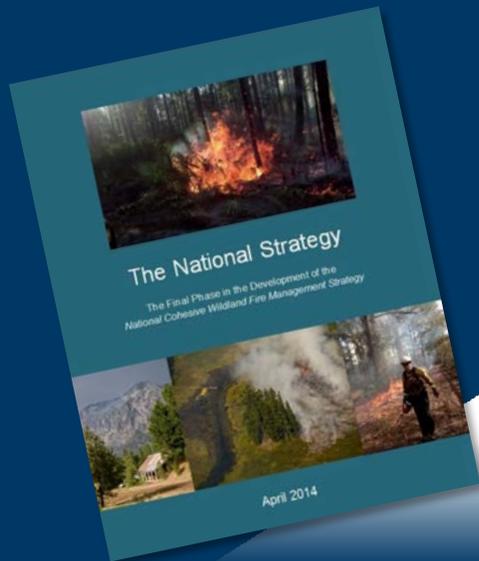
Anchored in The National Strategy

HIGH LEVEL GOALS

- Restoring and maintaining landscapes
- Creating fire adapted communities
- Responding to wildfire

KEY CHALLENGES

- Managing fuels and vegetation
- Reducing human caused ignition
- Protecting homes & community values
- Safely, effectively, & efficiently responding to wildfire
- *Post fire recovery*



National Strategy

Origins and Background

- In 2009, Congress passed the *Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act (FLAME)*. In the FLAME Act, building on earlier reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Congress directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to develop a national cohesive wildland fire management strategy.
- The third and final phase of the effort to develop a cohesive strategy culminated with the release of *The National Strategy: The Final Phase of the Development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (National Strategy)* and *The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: National Action Plan*.
- The *National Action Plan* is a companion to the *National Strategy* and supports its implementation. The *National Action Plan* is the result of a collaborative effort by Federal, state, local, territorial and tribal governments and non-governmental partners and public stakeholders.

Extensive Statewide Outreach



Summit
150
Attendees



Online Survey
846
Responses



35 1x1
Interviews



**3 Workshops &
open houses;**
Spokane,
Wenatchee
& Tacoma;
175 Attendees



**Briefings &
Discussion
Sessions**

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



Engaging Broad Interests





What We've Heard

- Widespread desire for/agreement on the need for thoughtful change
- Current system is overly taxed; not broken – Improved coordination & collaboration crucial “missing piece”; success requires sharing of resources at all points in the process
- Essential to work across jurisdictions, boundaries, in partnerships
- Need for a holistic, all hands-all lands, unified, borderless approach – before, during, after fire



What We've Heard...

- Communities are knowledge holders, must be engaged & supported throughout the fire cycle
- Meet people where they are at in their preparedness journey
- Core of the plan: a focus on healthy resilient landscapes & prepared resilient communities
- Response not the biggest issue, though improvements needed
- Standardized training & more of it is widely supported
- Broad support for more prescribed fire

What We've Heard...

- Many gaps exist – Unprotected land, succession planning, adequate, well-resourced workforce, LEP, training, consistent messaging...
- Lack of adequate, timely, consistent funding – we need to come together to make the case
- Solutions should address local needs; no one size fits all
- Need for, and address gaps in post-fire recovery; few specifics
- Plan should focus on a vision, solutions, actions to move forward



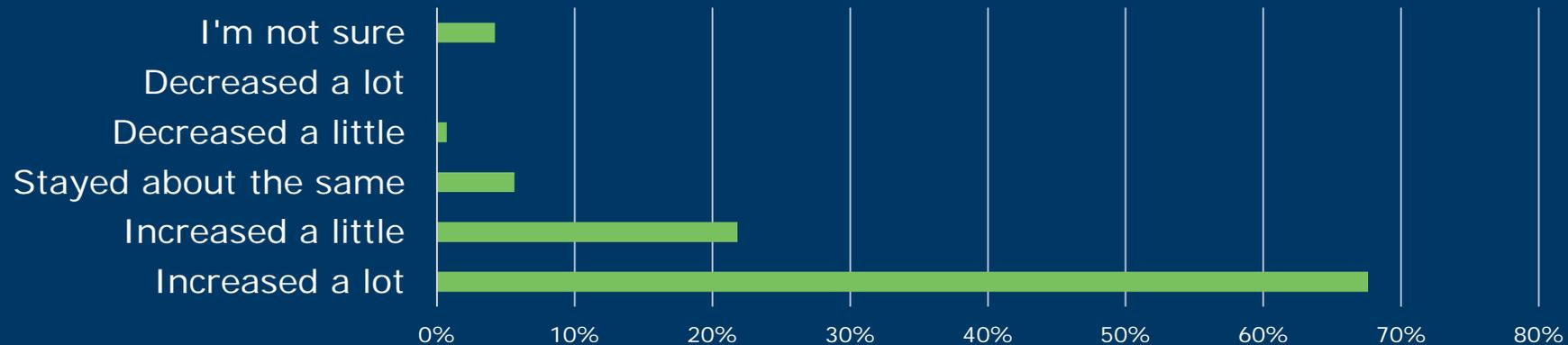


Better Fire Outcomes for All

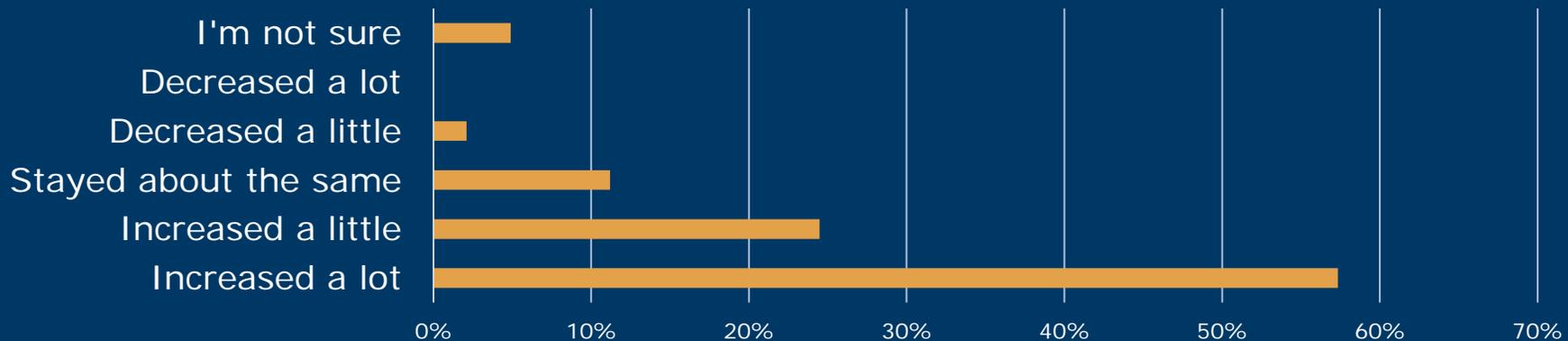
- Zero loss of life
- Reduced property losses
- Manageable fire risks are significantly reduced; risk transference is minimized
- Ecosystems & communities are resilient; able to withstand or benefit from fire
- Everyone is better able to live with wildfire & prepared for the wildfire regimes of the future
- All lands have a level of wildland fire protection commensurate with the risk

Perceptions about wildfire risk

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



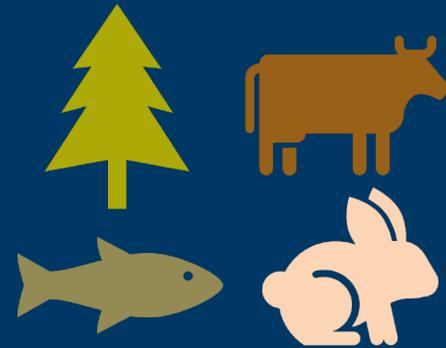
Likelihood of large fires increasing in next 10 years



Vision



Borderless
Unified approach
Empowered communities



Healthy lands



Before, during, & after
Proactive
Living with fire
Local



Reliable funding
High-quality,
sustainable staffing

Goals & Outcomes

GOALS

1. **Washington’s preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities and systems are fully capable, integrated, and sustainable.**
2. **All at-risk communities are prepared and adapted for current and future fire regimes.**
3. **Landscapes are resilient** —able to withstand or benefit from fire.
4. **Response is safe and effective** – wildfires that threaten community and critical ecosystem values are suppressed; where allowable, fire is used to improve future wildfire outcomes.

OUTCOMES

1. **Safely managed fire.** Eastside fires are smaller and less intense. Westside is prepared for increased wildfire.
2. **Human-caused fires are virtually eliminated.**
3. **Reduced costs, risks, and losses:** Community and economic losses from wildfires are minimized. Costs to manage, respond to, and recover from wildfires are reduced.
4. **Healthy ecosystems.**
5. **Resilient communities.**



Overarching Strategy



Map Wildfire Risk
Across the Landscape

Identify Gaps in Protection,
Response and Infrastructure

Develop Strategies and
Actions Focused on
Mitigating Risk

Implement Strategies
and Actions Through
Broad Engagement



Outcomes:
Reduced Risk and
Losses
More Manageable Less
Intense Wildfires





Strategic Directions

New approaches are foundational to the plan

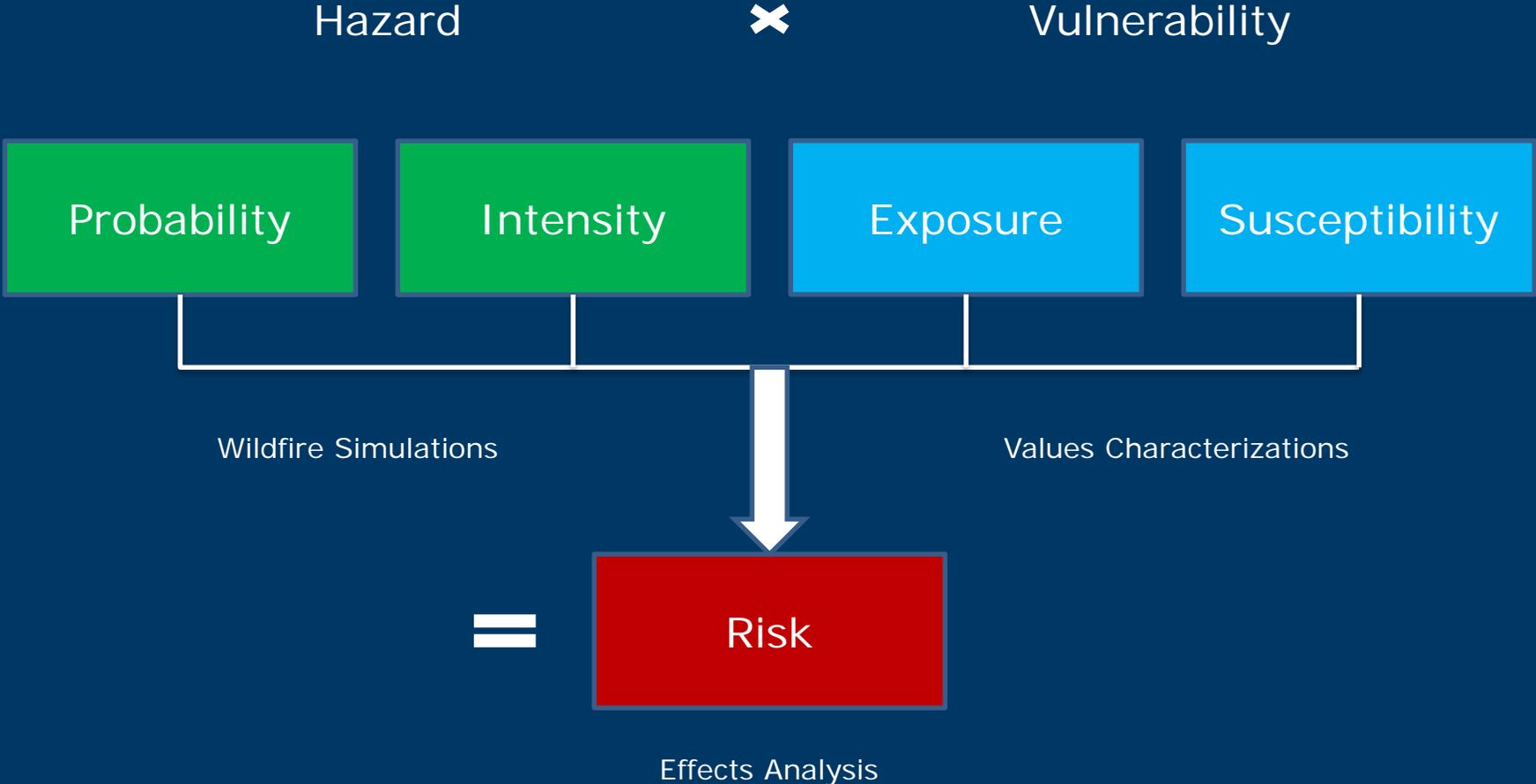
- Increase focus on resilience & prevention, & preparedness to reduce reliance on response, and to reduce losses, & associated costs
- Fully adopt and implement a cohesive All-hands, All-lands approach
- Focus on protecting and enhancing both community & ecosystem values
- Engage communities throughout the fire cycle; support all landowners and communities
- Strategically invest in resilience, protection, & risk management to deliver a long term return on investment
- Prepare for more wildland fire: 2015 a typical year; address wildfire on west side of the state

Proposed Priority Near Term Actions

1. Create the capacity to assess the risks to high value resources and assets at the landscape/regional level
2. Increased investments in fuels treatments and community adaptation and preparedness to mitigate identified risks
3. Develop and deploy new approaches to more effectively engage and empower individuals, landowners, and communities to prepare for and mitigate wildfire risks
4. Provide sufficient resources for a highly capable, well-supported workforce and infrastructure for wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery
5. Establish effective wildland fire protection for all lands in Washington
6. Provide the leadership to coordinate & collaborate with all wildland fire management agencies to improve preparedness and response
7. Identify, build support for, and secure new funding mechanisms/sources to achieve actions



Wildfire Risk



Upcoming...

- <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/StrategicFireProtection>
- The draft Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan will be available for feedback until October 5th.

