Washington Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan Workshop
Washington Wildfire Protection
Strategic Plan
Achieving Better Fire Outcomes for All of Washington
WHY
DO WE NEED A PLAN?
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:

**Define** a vision, high level strategies, and near term implementation actions.

**Create** a shared understanding of conditions on the ground; challenges faced in the future.

**Obtain** input, identify new approaches, solutions, and seek broad based support.

**Promote** strategic and programmatic alignment among wildfire management agencies and jurisdictions.
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

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
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
PUBLIC

- All Hands

- All Lands

Limited English Proficiency

FireWise Fire Adapted Communities

Rural Home and Landowners

Elected Officials

Local Governments
Cities, Counties, Fire Districts

State Agencies
DNR, Fire Marshal, State Patrol, DFW, Ecology, Conservation Commission

Federal Agencies
BLM, FEMA, USFS, USDFW, USDA, NRC

Forest Collaboratives

Tribal Nations

Timber, Cattlemen, Other Resource Interests

Environmental NGOs

Timber, Cattlemen, Other Resource Interests

Other Resource Interests
Statewide Outreach & Engagement

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

- 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

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?

- I'm not sure
- Decreased a lot
- Decreased a little
- Stayed about the same
- Increased a little
- Increased a lot

Likelihood of large fires increasing in next 10 years

- I'm not sure
- Decreased a lot
- Decreased a little
- Stayed about the same
- Increased a little
- Increased a lot
Many Public Respondents feel at least somewhat prepared

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

- Very prepared: 19%
- Somewhat prepared: 51%
- Somewhat unprepared: 11%
- Very unprepared: 8%
- Neither prepared nor unprepared: 7%
- I'm not sure: 4%
Activities and Involvement

- **79%** managed vegetation (somewhat, a great deal)
- **75%** house/property more fire resistant (somewhat, a great deal)
- **48%** participate in programs (Firewise USA, Collaborative, Fire Adapted Community, Protection Plan Committee, other; generally considered effective (60-96%))
- **52%** highly/very satisfied with agencies efforts
- **25%** somewhat / very dissatisfied
Public Perceptions of Agency Effectiveness

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

- Assist in post-wildfire recovery
- Respond to wildfires once started
- Manage landscapes to reduce the risk of wildfire
- Assist communities and property owners proactively...
- Prevent human-caused wildfires

Legend:
- Very and somewhat effective
- Neither effective nor ineffective
- Somewhat or very ineffective
- I'm not sure
Public: Top changes to improve community-based group effectiveness

Top 3 Changes to Improve Effectiveness

- Increased assistance with fuels reduction
- Sustainable and predictable funding for the group
- Increased training of group members in how to better manage fuels and vegetation
- Increased training of group members in how to better reduce risk to homes and...
- Increased coordination or facilitation of the group
- Increased partnerships with other groups addressing wildfire risk
- Increased engagement with wildfire management agencies
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?

- Forest Health Collaboratives
- Local non-profit organizations
- Local government
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Tribal Government
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Local fire district

- Very and somewhat confident
- Neither confident nor unconfident
- Somewhat or very unconfident
- I'm not sure or not applicable
Public Top Priorities for improvement/investment

Top Priority Programs/Activities for Improvement/Increased Investment

- None needed
- Other
- Forest Health Collaboratives
- Wildfire prevention education campaigns
- Community programs
- Home property assessments on how to mitigate fire risk
- Home and property protection education campaigns
- DNR cost share programs
- Prescribed fire
Public: Most important actions to take to reduce wildfire risks & impacts

Most Important Actions

- Increased grazing
- Increased commercial timber harvest
- Increased use of local coordinating groups
- Increased agency collaboration
- Increased emphasis on initial attack
- Managed natural fires
- Prevention of human-caused ignition
- Support for private landowners
- Prescribed burn
- Mechanical removal

0.00%  10.00%  20.00%  30.00%  40.00%  50.00%  60.00%
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greatest Barriers</th>
<th>Local Fire</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inconsistent funding for prevention, preparedness</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lack of alignment of land management policies across agencies</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>existing forest health practices</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insufficient funding for response</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effectiveness at Elements of the Cohesive Strategy

MOST: Responding to wildfire & protecting homes

- Responding to wildfires
- Protecting homes, communities, and values at risk
- Preventing human-caused ignitions
- Creating and maintaining resilient landscapes
- Assisting communities in post-fire recovery

Bar chart showing the effectiveness of the Cohesive Strategy elements:

- Responding to wildfires: 80% Very, 20% Somewhat
- Protecting homes, communities, and values at risk: 50% Very, 50% Somewhat
- Preventing human-caused ignitions: 40% Very, 60% Somewhat
- Creating and maintaining resilient landscapes: 30% Very, 70% Somewhat
- Assisting communities in post-fire recovery: 20% Very, 80% Somewhat
Top Priorities to improve wildfire outcomes

Support personnel
Build awareness & change behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Priorities for improvement, investment to improve outcomes</th>
<th>Local Fire</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide support for WF fighters, improve welfare</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>build awareness &amp; change behavior in communities</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>provide adequate training</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide consistency in approaches, policies, and practices</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>increase # and capabilities of permanent WF personnel</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resilient Landscapes: Top Priorities

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resilient Landscape Priorities</th>
<th>Local Fire</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Fire</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Removal</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Logging</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed Fire</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grazing</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Human Caused Ignition: Top Priorities

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Caused Ignition</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>targeted outreach</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work w/ partners</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>share info w/ communities</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collect data</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>messaging</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Living with Fire: Top Priorities

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living with fire Priorities</th>
<th>Local Fire</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete assessments</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cost-share</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>planning process</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>firewise</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evacuation</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Response: Top Priority Actions

**Improved fuels management**
- Better integration/coordination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>response priorities</th>
<th>Local Fire</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>improved mgmnt of hazardous fuels across boundaries</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>better integration/coordination across agencies</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alignment of policies</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>additional personnel</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regionalized approach</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air attack support</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assign responsibilities for unprotected areas</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Response Practices Most Needing Improvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response practices most in need of improvement</th>
<th>Local Fire</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>availability of personnel</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>initial attack response</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>availability of aircraft</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>availability of equipment</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cooperation between agencies</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coordination: **most needing Improvement**

Most: Improving resiliency of landscapes
Districts and DNR in agreement, except that Districts see greater need for improvement in prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordination needed</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Combined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to improve resiliency in landscapes</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to proactively protect communities</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to prevent wildland fires</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in post fire recovery</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to respond to wildfires</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?
• 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 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?
- 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.
Our Vision, Part 2
1. Think about today

2. Use this word cloud as a guide

3. Write your vision statement on the sheet provided

4. Place it in the container provided
THANK YOU!
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK, visit: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/StrategicFireProtection