

## Draft Timeline and Interactions Leading to the National Risk Analysis Report and Action Plan

*Excerpted from the WFLC-Approved Cohesive Strategy Comprehensive Work Plan:*

### National Risk Analysis Report

The National Risk Analysis Report will be developed as a result of the regional analyses and Regional Analysis Reports. The a risk analysis pursued within each region will not be completed at the national level; however a national group will be able to interact with the regional analyses to assess and define national findings. The National Risk Analysis Report will provide an executive summary of the risk analyses; document the risk analysis process including an explanation on risk characterization; summarize the regional analyses; describe the national-level findings and commitments based on regional risk analyses; and document the next steps for the cohesive strategy effort.

### National Action Plan

The intent of the National Action Plan is to capture the national issues identified at the regional and local levels and determine a course of action to be taken to evaluate, address, and potentially resolve these issues. The National Action Plan will be limited to addressing the barriers and proposed solutions identified in the Phase II Report as well as the barrier identified in the Regional Assessments.

Date (Meeting Group)	Lead	National Risk Analysis	National Action Plan
April 17	CSSC	<b>National Risk Analysis Section Leads</b> will provide to the CSSC an estimated completion date for each of their respective sections on the April 17 CSSC call.	
April 19 (WFEC)	CSSC	<b>National Risk Analysis Report Outline and Timeline for Completion</b> A National Risk Analysis Template with planned deadlines for completion of each of the sections will be provided to WFEC.	
	NSAT	<b>WFEC Discussion and Input to the NSAT</b> On April 19 NSAT will present to WFEC (anticipate 1 hour) information describing the approaches being used in the tradeoff analysis, what they intend to deliver the first week in June, and what they intend to document in the science report that will be submitted to peer review and available in September. They expect from that discussion to have the kind of feedback about the analysis that will allow them to move forward with the analysis.	
April 29 or 30	NSAT	<b>NSAT and Science Advisory Team Preparation for May 3</b> April 29 or April 30 NSAT plans to have a conference call with the WFEC advisory group and get their feedback about the	

(Science Advisory Team)		information to be shared with the WFEC on May 3. The intent is to share the presentation information and discuss how best to make it meaningful for the May 3 meeting with WFEC.	
April 30	Comm Team	<b>Implementation Framework Draft Completed</b>	
May 3  (WFEC)	NSAT	<b>WFEC Interaction and Guidance for National Analysis</b> May 3 NSAT will present to WFEC (anticipate 2 hours) information on 2 of the broad issues – landscape resilience and risk to fire adapted communities – and begin the discussion of how that information is useful for the tradeoff discussions that will launch in June. This will include a discussion of the type of options that are possible to consider in the deliberations at multiple scales (national, regional/state, and local). They expect to come away from the meeting with an understanding of what type of information will be most useful for the discussions in June and how best to present the information for those discussions.	
May 17  (WFEC)	Chair, Fuels Success Factor Group		<b>Fuels Task Group Recommendations</b> Presentation by the Fuels Task Group on the recommended course of action for addressing the assigned barriers. WFEC recommendation to the CSSC on how actions and outcomes should be incorporated into the Nat’l Action Plan.
	Shari (DFO)		<b>Additional WFEC Taskings for the Nat’l Action Plan</b> WFEC discussion of critical success factors and barriers. Discuss additional taskings to analyze actions for other barriers and success factors.
WFEC two day face-to-face meeting the week of June 6-7  (WFEC)	NSAT	<b>Trade-off Analysis Presented and WFEC Recommendation on Content for National Report</b> Savannah, GA (State Forester Meeting) First week in June NSAT expects to have a two day meeting with the WFEC where the tradeoff analysis outcomes are presented and the information is made available from the analysis to the WFEC. It is their expectation to interact with the WFEC to answer questions and provide follow-up information from the discussions about tradeoffs and to understand whether any additional work is needed for the immediate discussions moving forward. They expect WFEC to make decisions about	

		what recommendations they want documented so they can be fleshed out in the national risk analysis report and national action plan. WFEC will then make assignments to CSSC to prepare documentation supporting the WFEC outcomes of deliberations & prepare for interactions with WFLC & others.	
June 21 (WFEC)	CSSC	<b>Final Recommendations on National Report Content</b> WFEC will provide the CSSC with final recommendations based upon the modeling and follow-up work with the NSAT.	
Late June	WFLC	<b>Possible WFLC call to update them on the outcomes of the NSAT Analysis and the National Report Content</b>	
July 5 (WFEC)	WFEC		
July 15	CSSC		Complete National Action Plan Template and submit to WFEC for the July 19 WFEC mtg
July 15- July 30  (Internal review)	CSSC	<b>Initial Report Draft and Internal Review</b> By July 15 the CSSC will prepare an initial draft of the report that will be provided to agencies and organizations for internal and external review between July 15 and 30. The results of this internal review will be shared with WFEC on August 2. (CSSC is proposing that we either don't send the report out for formal public comment OR that we have the CSSC members interact with their constituents and any public comments are funneled through the organizations represented on the CSSC.)	
July 19 (WFEC)	WFEC		
August 2 (WFEC)	CSSC	<b>Results of the Internal Review and Adjustments to Report Recommendations</b> The results of this internal review will be shared with WFEC on August 2. (Note: WFEC needs to decide if there will be a public comment period specifically to comment on the National Report)	
August 9	WFEC	WFEC will submit to the CSSC any changes in recommendations based upon the internal review by Aug. 9.	
August 15	CSSC		<b>CSSC will provide to the regions and CSSC members instructions on what to submit for consideration in the National Action Plan (format and content)</b>
August 16 (WFEC)	WFEC		

Sept 3	CSSC	<b>Final Draft National Risk Report to WFEC</b> The CSSC will submit a final draft of the risk analysis report to WFEC on September 3.	
Sept. 6 (WFEC)	WFEC	WFEC will review and discuss the National Report	
Sept 13	WFEC	Final comments from WFEC to CSSC on the National Report.	
Sept 18	CSSC	<b>CSSC will have incorporated any WFEC comments.</b> Draft will be final and will begin review process through FS/USDA and DOI for OMB and Secretarial approvals.	
Sept. 18 – Dec 9	FS/DOI	<b>Shepherding the National Report through surname.</b>	
Sept 20 (WFEC)	WFEC		
October	WFLC	<b>Conference call with WFLC members</b> Update them on the process/timeline/draft report and to schedule an in-person meeting for mid-December or January.	
October	NSAT	Science Report Peer review process occurring.	
October 4 (WFEC)	WFEC		
October 15	CSSC/ RSCs		<b>Priority national actions to be considered for inclusion in the Nat'l Action Plan</b> are due to CSSC.
October 18 (WFEC)	WFEC		
Nov 1 (WFEC)	WFEC		
Nov 15 (WFEC)	WFEC		
December 6 (WFEC)	WFEC		
December	NSAT	<b>NSAT Report submitted for publication</b>	
Dec 13	CSSC		<b>CSSC will complete initial draft of the National Action Plan</b> and submit to WFEC
Mid-Dec	WFLC	<b>Possible WFLC in-person meeting</b> (or, more likely, in January)	
Dec 20 (WFEC)	WFEC		<b>WFEC to review and provide comments on National Action Plan</b>
January	CSSC		<b>Public stakeholder engagement on National Action Plan.</b> CSSC will need assistance in providing resources to conduct this process and in analyzing the results (perhaps a contractor?)

January	Secretaries	<b>Final National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy (National Risk Analysis Report) will be delivered to Congress</b>	
Feb 28	CSSC		<b>Final draft of the National Action Plan provided by the CSSC to the WFEC</b>

## Cohesive Strategy Tradeoff Analysis Update 4/18/2013

1. Danny Lee and Tom Quigley – Co-Leads
  - a. Team members are working hard and making good progress .
  - b. Much of the ongoing analyses are being conducted by a small team in Asheville, including Steve Norman, Jim Fox, Karin Rogers, and Matt Hutchins. Others NSAT members are being consulted or engaged as needed and time allows.
  - c. Plan another work meeting away from our home offices May 6-10, probably in DC
  - d. Expect to have information ready for discussions with the WFEC and others the first week in June
  - e. Expect to have a draft science report by end of September that will be submitted for peer review
2. Reminder of assignment made to the NSAT regarding a national analysis
  - a. NSAT proposed a national analysis consisting of four steps:
    - i. An in-depth analysis of wildland fire issues and interrelationships among biophysical and socio-economic drivers
    - ii. Identification of broad policy options that involve multijurisdictional issues and tied to major themes
    - iii. Estimation of the projected consequences or effects of the various options on important measures or values
    - iv. Preparation of final reports
  - b. “Policy options” are being broadly interpreted as strategic direction that would lead to greater or less emphasis on different mixes of management actions in different contexts and locations. At least five major themes would be examined:
    - i. Loss of fire resilient landscapes
    - ii. Human caused ignitions
    - iii. The risk of wildfires damaging communities
    - iv. Uneven or inefficient response capacity
    - v. Rising suppression costs
  - c. Analysis and subsequent discussion within reports will be guided by concerns for program effectiveness, economic efficiency, practicality, and social impacts.
3. Analytical Approach
  - a. Begin with the broad Cohesive Strategy goals and key issues that have been identified. Restate these as a series of questions that lend themselves to analysis, e.g., how can we ...?
  - b. Assemble lots of data. Clean up, standardize, and summarize to a common analysis unit—the county.
  - c. Drawing from previous conceptual models (from Phase II), design influence diagrams/Bayesian models to explore relationships and issues across the county
  - d. Use the models and county-level data to identify commonalities and geographical differences among counties.
  - e. Develop classification trees to classify counties into subsets that share common characteristics relative to the issues being examined. Suggest management options (prescriptions) tailored to each group or class of counties.
  - f. Integrate across issues, looking for synergistic and antagonistic actions that might suggest unavoidable trade-offs or compromises that must be made.
  - g. Describe opportunities for implementation – how information might inform decisions at various scales and in various venues
    - i. National federal agency
    - ii. National congressional discussions

- iii. Regional
- iv. State
- v. Local – use as setting context for their decisions
- vi. No single decision is likely – a cascade of decisions is more likely with the possibility of all being informed with consistent information and a chance at least to understand how one decision might influence risk at other scales and in other areas

**Date:** April 19, 2013

**Group/Person Submitting Status Update:**

Wildland Fire Executive Council

**Background:**

This status report covers the accomplishments related to the Cohesive Strategy as well as the assignment on Governance that WFLC gave to the WFEC at their April 17, 2012 meeting.

**Accomplishments to Date:**

Governance Tasking

On March 19, WFEC held a meeting and received recommendations from the Governance Subcommittee regarding intergovernmental wildland fire governance. The results and resulting WFEC recommendations are documented in the attached proposal.

Cohesive Strategy

On April 5, WFEC held a meeting to review and accept the Cohesive Strategy Regional Action Plans and agreed on the draft activities and timeline for completing the Cohesive Strategy National Action Plan and Report. The Regional Action Plans were accepted by WFEC to inform the development of the National Action Plan.

On April 19, WFEC accepted the updated activity and timeline for completing Phase III of the Cohesive Strategy which was submitted by the Cohesive Strategy Subcommittee (CSSC). Updated schedule is attached.

**What Remains to be Done:**

As documented in the attached schedule, both the National Action Plan and National Report remain to be completed.

**Issues for WFLC Consideration:**

**Recommendation(s):**

1. WFEC recommends that WFLC schedule a meeting in \_\_\_\_\_ to receive final WFEC advice to be delivered to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture regarding the Cohesive Strategy and its implementation.
2. WFEC recommends that WFLC issue a letter indicating their continued commitment to the completion and implementation of the Cohesive Strategy
3. WFEC recommends acceptance of the attached Governance proposal



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**WFLC Decision:**

- WFLC Approves
- WFLC Approves with Modifications (not required to resubmit for WFLC approval)
- Need More Information (required to come back to WFLC for approval)
- WFLC Does Not Approve

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WFLC Chair

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Date



## Proposal

**Date:** March 28, 2013

**Group/Person Submitting Proposal:** Wildland Fire Executive Council

### **Description of Issue or Assignment:**

This proposal is in response to the Wildland Fire Intergovernmental Governance tasking that WFLC assigned to WFEC on April 17, 2012.

The intergovernmental activities associated with the development and implementation of the Cohesive Strategy, along with the inevitable changes in scope and focus of wildland fire required that the Wildland Fire Governance be reviewed and improved.

### **Discussion of Proposed Recommendation(s):**

Over time roles, functions, membership, and responsibilities of many of these organizations have become less distinct, creating confusion about decision making and creating cumbersome processes. Last year two initiatives were launched to review, update, and streamline governance to create a structure where the right people are involved in making the best decisions at the right time. From an intergovernmental standpoint the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) tasked the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC) to review the current interagency wildland fire governance and make recommendations.

The WFEC deliberations have resulted in the following:

1. A WFLC charter has been developed to complement the existing MOU.
2. WFEC has an updated charter effective March, 2013. However, additional issues remain that will require discussion.
3. NWCG's MOU has been extended through October, 2013. The extension was done to allow time for discussion and decision on NWCG executive board (EB) membership. NWCG discussions have concluded regarding membership and interaction with MOU signatories is needed to affect a change in membership that can be reflected in the charter.
4. A wildland fire governance diagram has been created that displays relationships between organized groups. It is not meant to depict supervision or oversight of employees or groups.

## Identify Considerations:

Adherence to the following guiding principles was considered during the development of a new Intergovernmental Wildland Fire Governance Structure.

The Intergovernmental Wildland Fire Governance Structure will:

1. Promote an effective and efficient Wildland Fire Management Program.
2. Have clear authorities with defined roles and responsibilities.
3. Limit overlap where we can; where overlap is inevitable, establish collaboration protocols.
4. Determine appropriate decision maker based on risk management
5. Make decisions at the lowest appropriate and accountable level.
6. Facilitate timely decisions based on need and risk.
7. Have closed loop governance, no loose ends.
8. Determine participation at the right level. Participation means active engagement.
9. Be FACA compliant
10. Enable well informed, sustainable, and timely decisions

## Rationale for Recommendation(s):

### WFLC Charter

Although WFLC operates under an existing MOU, creation of a charter would clarify roles and responsibilities in association with other intergovernmental and federally centric governance bodies.

Included in the WFLC charter is the creation of a formal vice-chair. This is to document the clear authority of someone to be responsible for running the WFLC meetings when the chair is absent.

Finally it is the recommendation of WFEC that the vice-chair should come from the larger membership of WFLC rather than only from the federal membership for greater intergovernmental participation from members.

### WFEC Charter

WFEC's charter has been updated to meet FACA renewal requirement with a few modifications. However, meeting this deadline left unanswered questions regarding state representation in WFEC membership, as well as omissions on agency authority. We recommend bringing the topic of WFEC membership and other charter edits back for discussion in an administrative meeting during the spring of 2013.



## Proposal

### NWCG Charter

A draft charter for the NWCG has been developed taking into consideration input from the NWCG Executive Board as well as conversations with federal fire senior executives. Some issues related to membership need to be resolved. All signatory entities must review the final NWCG charter to gain agreement before it is ready for signature.

### Intergovernmental Wildland Fire Governance Diagram

A diagram has been created to show the intergovernmental wildland fire organizations and their relationship to the federal and non-federal centric wildland fire organizations. There are lines of communication as well as lines of authority depicted.

### **Recommendation(s):**

1. WFLC should accept the proposed WFLC Charter.
2. WFLC agrees to review future modifications to the WFLC charter.
3. WFLC supports the further discussion necessary between federal fire executives, ITC, NASF, and any other non-federal wildland fire governance groups as appropriate to address NWCG membership requirements and any other issues related to the NWCG charter.
4. WFLC should accept the intergovernmental diagram depicting relationships between organized groups.

### **Decision Method used:**

- WFLC Consensus
- Modified Consensus (explain, i.e. majority, super-majority)

### **Contact Information:**

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WFLC Chair

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Date

## **WFEC Priorities List from April 18, 2012 Admin Session**

### **Can address immediately – within the next year**

- Assign WFEC members a success story assignment on each agenda
- Develop governance philosophy – goal toward behavioral changes
- Develop our own transition plan for WFEC sustainability and leadership in midst of political changes
- Develop schedule of WFEC/Regional Subcommittee meetings in their territory
- Each WFEC member provide name/face for the summer contingency plan
- Evaluate depth of participation and/or communication of CS - Are all interests appropriately represented?
- Figure out how to better incorporate success stories in communications
- Figure out how to incorporate NWCG issues into WFEC – including incident management
- Formally update WFEC Charter before /2
- Governance Structure
- Performance measures – how can WFEC help in that process?
- Review WFLC MOU to refine their vision so WFEC can do our job better
- Serious Accident Investigation protocol
- Validate subcommittee membership and WFEC liaison to each (annually)

### **Short term - Can address in the next 2 years**

- Cohesive Strategy
- Communications strategy for long term sustainability
- FPA – connect with non-federal partners
- Help facilitate solutions on the biomass and wood products industry
- National Subcommittee establishment to address alternatives and actions
- Partnership coordination on operational issues
- Phase III – Cohesive Strategy
- QFR – action plan
- Read CS documents and put WFEC action plan together to address barriers and new information
- Review previous studies on issues related to wildland fire, determine progress, and take appropriate steps

### **Long term - ongoing issues**

- Coherent National Wildland Fire doctrine
- Consider the role of WFEC in program effectiveness studies (e.g. fuels treatment, cost of fire suppression)
- Develop strategy on sustaining workforce on wildland fire
- Ensure WFEC goals/tasks are related to the 3 foundational goals of the Cohesive Strategy
- Fire ecology – have WFEC be the group the one to elevate issue in the country
- Fuels policy – make sure various policies are coordinated
- Monitor Buy-in of the Cohesive Strategy - How effective? Balanced?
- Research lessons learned from National Fire Plan development