



**Resilient Landscapes, Fire-Adapted Communities and  
Safe, Effective, Risk-Based Wildland Fire Response:**

**A Workshop to Help Stakeholders Implement the  
National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy  
in Wyoming and South Dakota**

**October 13-14, 2016 in Casper, WY**

**Workshop Report**

As the western arm of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy), the Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) works with stakeholders at all levels to help facilitate implementation of the Cohesive Strategy.



On October 13-14, 2016, over 100 stakeholders in Wyoming and South Dakota gathered in Casper, Wyoming to share expertise and case studies of collaborative efforts across the two states that are resulting in meaningful progress towards the three Cohesive Strategy goals:

Restore Resilient Landscapes,  
Create Fire Adapted Communities, and  
Improve Wildland Fire Response

Stakeholders ranging from state and regional agency leadership to line officers and local government participated in lively, interactive presentations and worked together in breakout sessions to develop recommendations for each state to increase the pace and scale of Cohesive Strategy implementation there.

By the end, participants were in solid agreement about the success of the workshop and looking forward to future similar gatherings to include even more stakeholders and updates about progress on the recommended actions.

### ***All Hands, All Lands***

***“The vision of the Cohesive Strategy is to safely and effectively extinguish fire; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and, as a Nation, live with wildland fire.”***



## Acknowledgements

On behalf of Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forester; Greg Josten, South Dakota State Forester; Jay Esperance, Director of South Dakota Wildland Fire and the Western Regional Strategy Committee, **THANK YOU** to the following people for their contribution to the planning, hosting, facilitating and logistics of this workshop:

Monty Bollock, SD Wildland Fire  
Kyle Cowan, BLM WY  
Tamara Dierks, SD Wildland Fire  
Carson Engelskirger, WY State Forestry  
Sirena Fugitt, USFS NIMO  
Melinda Gauthier, SD NRCS  
Craig Goodell, USFS/BLM PNW  
Mike Johnston, USFS Region 2  
Kelly Kane, USFS Region 2  
Marissa Karchut, USFS Region 2  
Katie Lighthall, Coordinator, WRSC  
Tony Mendes, FEMA Reg 8

Reed Oldenburg, WY State Forestry  
Paul Orbuch, USFS CS Liaison  
Jeanine Petterson, FEMA Reg 8  
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Richard Putnam, BLM WY  
Adam Spaulding, BLM WY  
Anthony Schultz, WY State Forestry  
Joe Stutler, Deschutes County  
Josh Van Vlack, WY State Forestry  
Marcus Warnke, SDDA, Forestry

And **SPECIAL THANKS** to the speakers who shared their expertise and case studies throughout the workshop to enhance the peer-to-peer learning among participants.

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## Workshop Objectives

- Develop a shared understanding about the Cohesive Strategy and how its three tenets are integrated at local, state, regional and national levels;
- Examine opportunities and challenges for implementation at local and regional levels;
- Develop recommendations to advance Cohesive Strategy implementation for local, state, tribal and federal consideration;
- Elevate opportunities for Wyoming and South Dakota to identify specific projects and/or to cooperate across boundaries;
- Discuss the future of federal funding in alignment with the Cohesive Strategy and how to work together to achieve more within the existing funding contexts;
- Activate a representative group of staff and leadership in each state that can serve to assist with Cohesive Strategy implementation going forward.



# Agenda

## Thursday, October 13, 2016 – North and Central Ballrooms

- 8:00 AM ☐ Coffee and meet/greet (breakfast on your own)  
Host: Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forester
- 8:30 AM ☐ Welcome Opening Remarks and Cohesive Strategy Support/Introduction
- Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forester
  - Greg Josten, South Dakota State Forester
  - Jay Esperance, Director of South Dakota Wildland Fire Division
  - Jacque Buchanan, Acting Regional Forester, USFS Region 2
  - Larry Claypool, BLM Associate State Director, Wyoming
- 9:15 AM ☐ Agenda Review
- ☐ Cohesive Strategy Context, Background and the Western Region
- Craig Goodell, OR/WA BLM, USFS Regions 6 & 10
  - Colin Hardy, Program Manager, Fire, Fuels, and Smoke Science, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station
  - Kate Lighthall, Coordinator, Cohesive Strategy, Western Region
- 10:00 AM ☐ Break
- 10:30 AM ☐ Case Studies
- Vestal Project, South Dakota – Marcus Warnke, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry; Ben Wudtke, Black Hills Forest Resources Association; Dave Mertz, Black Hills National Forest; Brandy Peterson, South Dakota Wildland Fire
  - Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition – Panel: Chief Willy Watsabaugh, Jackson Fire & EMS; Lesley Williams-Gomez, Fire Prevention, Information and Education, Bridger-Teton National Forest; Mike Johnston, Deputy Fire Staff, Bridger-Teton National Forest; Mack McFarland, Deputy FMO, Grand Teton National Park
- Noon ☐ Catered Buffet Lunch  
Host: Jay Esperance, Director, South Dakota Wildland Fire Division
- Life First Initiative – Sue Stewart, USFS Region 4
  - SD Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group – Dave Thom, Coordinator
  - Overview of state examples, introduction of facilitators – Paul Orbuch, USFS Cohesive Strategy Facilitator
- 1:30 PM ☐ State Breakouts  
Facilitators: Brad Purdy, Public Affairs Officer, BLM Wyoming, Marissa Karchut, Sustainable Operations Coordinator, USFS Region 2
- State examples of Cohesive Strategy implementation
  - Barriers to and opportunities for implementation
- 3:30 PM ☐ Break
- 4:00 PM ☐ Gather in Ballrooms, review breakout notes, additional Q & A
- Wrap Up – Jay Esperance, Director of SD Wildland Fire Division

## Agenda continued

5:00 PM  Adjourn

6:00 PM  No host networking in Remington's Restaurant

### Friday, October 14, 2016 – North and Central Ballrooms

7:30 AM  Coffee, (breakfast on your own)

Host: Greg Josten, South Dakota State Forester

7:45 AM  Opening remarks, recap of Day One - Greg Josten, South Dakota State Forester

8:00 AM  Case Study

- Pole Mountain Project – Josh Van Vlack, Assistant State Forester, Wyoming

8:30 AM  Perceptions and misperceptions of the Cohesive Strategy in Wyoming and South Dakota

Panel: Curtis Heaton, USFS Reg 2; Kyle Cowan, BLM; Anthony Schultz, WY; Tony Mendes, FEMA

- Implementing the Cohesive Strategy and achieving the three goals in context:
  - Fire adapted communities
  - Sagebrush habitat
  - Landscape scale resiliency
  - Joint prioritization of risk
  - Federal funding

9:45 AM  Break

10:15 AM  State Breakouts

- Continued barriers/opportunities discussion
- Develop regional and local level recommendations integrating the Cohesive Strategy in the context of the three goals and the vision

Noon  Working lunch

Breakout reports and next steps

1:30 PM  Recap, next steps

2:00 PM  Adjourn



# **Summary of Consensus Stakeholder Recommendations**

## **Summary for Wyoming:**

- A. Develop data clearinghouse for stakeholder data.
- B. Expand AOP meeting to cover more topics.
- C. Communicate (Life First) fire response approach in mountain pine beetle mortality areas both with internal and external audiences.
- D. Increase public support for managed fires for resource benefit.
- E. Develop state level wildfire communications coordination group.
- F. Create local-level coalitions to address wildfire communications and learning.
- G. Develop local leadership and processes at the grass roots level to build broader support.
- H. Expand use of Farm Bill authorities.
- I. Establish shared state/Federal staff position using multi-Agency funding and consider a potential WUI coordinator.
- J. Develop statewide collaborative agreement to share non-suppression costs.
- K. Develop and deliver a follow up Cohesive Strategy workshop for broader group of stakeholders.

## **Summary for South Dakota:**

- A. Communicate principles of Cohesive Strategy to small communities in SD.
- B. Develop Good Neighbor Authority master agreement between State and USFS.

## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Create a clearinghouse for stakeholder data**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Create a clearinghouse of data from partners, stakeholders for planning and coordination.

Use as tool to prioritize projects across the state. Include prescribed burns, weed treatments, thinning bug-kill areas and timber sale areas.

Spatial ability to plan fuels treatments across boundaries and make better decisions. Coordination on the front end with other ongoing or new efforts.

State has a grant to develop risk assessment tool for homeowners. In process. Perhaps should build just one platform instead of multiple. (Check Governor's forest advisory committee for overlapping recommendations on data and communications).

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

WY GIS at UW. Will need data sharing agreements (examples - counties).

WY GIS already supporting greater sage-grouse related data.

Personnel and funding needed.

**Who should work on this?**

All affected stakeholders, locally initiated, statewide application to avoid duplication.

**Proposed start date:**

Winter 2017

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing and required commitment to maintain and update data.

**How will success be measured?**

Stakeholders to provide, utilize, share and help maintain data. Agencies and groups are aware of each others' projects and information.



## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Expand AOP meetings to cover more topics**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Expand AOP meetings to cover more preseason topics. Consider Leader's Intent, agency concerns and past season topics.

Special annual topics to be determined. For example, sand table on cost shares, mini-AAR on past season issues, upcoming planned fuel treatments, etc.

Mostly focused on response but could include some fuels work or public communications coordination. Consider including county commissioners.

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Include same parties that attend now but expand based on topics.

Use existing meeting and expand it and to make most efficient use of participants' time.

Reach out to all other agencies to help set agenda on the front end.

Improved and expanded pre-season coordination as well as enhanced relationships will result. Also unknown outcomes based on additional topics addressed.

**Who should work on this?**

WY State Forestry Districts and/or Fire Wardens should continue to convene and collaboratively lead.

**Proposed start date:**

Spring 2017

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

If successful first meeting, ongoing annual meetings suggested.

**How will success be measured?**

Direct feedback from AOP meeting participants.

## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Communicate (Life First) fire response approach in mountain pine beetle mortality areas**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Consider the LIFE FIRST fire response approach to suppression in Mountain Pine Beetle killed forest and communicate it to responders and the public.

Use a 30,000 foot view because things can change and there are bug kill ranges beyond state borders too. National level help and attention may be necessary given geographic scope.

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Model areas with significant beetle kill timber.

Develop a communications plan that gets the message out internally and externally and can be used in AOPs and CWPPs and includes a map of impacted areas and communities.

Responder professionals to provide outreach to communities in advance of fire season.

Same coordinated message across agencies key for the public when fire spreads.

Outcome - pre season tactic development regarding response operations in MPB killed timber and stakeholder acceptance of giving up areas to respond in lower risk areas.

**Who should work on this?**

State wide working group (“interagency bug kill communications advisory group”) to include federal, state, tribal and local interests. May need state legislative and/or national solutions.

Region 2. Can also provide communications assistance staff support. Ground up and top down approach necessary.

**Proposed start date:**

ASAP

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing

**How will success be measured?**

AOP language development, CWPP revisions. Cost Share development. National and state mandated direction re: tactics and COP revisions. IRPG section development. Active suppression and safety for fire fighters

## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Increase public support for managed fires for resource benefit**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Increase managed fire for resource benefit and public support for it. Identify pathways to improve managed fire perceptions, practices and cost-share discussions.

In order to increase managed fire for resource benefit, need to increase public knowledge and acceptance as well as improve planning and management strategy.

Need to define what fiscal responsibilities are for each jurisdiction and hash it out ahead of time and not on the fly.

#### **How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Identify this issue at early season meetings. Interagency cooperation is key.

Elevate concerns and include county commissioners.

USFS has maps for each forest and meets with counties already. Need to build on this approach and include state.

#### **Who should work on this?**

All stakeholders, and need to include county commissioners. Include with AOP meeting or otherwise.

USFS federal forest staff to meet with each county on this topic already. Need to engage state as well and utilize its maps and meetings.

#### **Proposed start date:**

ASAP. Perhaps at spring AOP meeting.

#### **Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing

#### **How will success be measured?**

More managed fire on the ground and greater public acceptance.



## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Develop state level wildfire communications and coordination group**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Utilize a state level coalition to develop a communications coordination group that is responsible for developing and coordinating consistent messages to the public and to support Cohesive Strategy talking points and success stories. Identify and elevate local level messengers to deliver these messages.

#### **How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Start at local level with a working group of representatives engaged with CWPPs identified as high risk.

Engage local fire agency professionals and county commissioners.

Part of winter planning to develop and make consistent language on managed fires, Cohesive Strategy, Fire-Adapted Communities, safety, and fuels treatments.

Build ground up support from communities, get buy in from them by showing successes and use county commissioners and local fire wardens as messengers.

Demonstrate to locals the high risk of their community using fire map and other data and engage locals with those tools.

#### **Who should work on this?**

Coordination from state forestry would be optimal with district foresters and counties, stakeholders, and federal agencies.

#### **Proposed start date:**

Winter 2017.

#### **Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Update and review every few years and complete first cut within 1.5 years.

#### **How will success be measured?**

Develop and distribute 2-3 consistent talking points for delivery in 2017 fire season.

Consider additional acres treated and extent of public feedback after fire season.

## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Create local-level coalitions to address wildfire communications and learning**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Create coalitions at a level smaller than forest districts to address: wildfire response and mitigation communications; learning networks; recruitment of ambassadors; and work plans.

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Work with existing collaboratives or with state and county official assistance where they don't already exist.

**Who should work on this?**

All stakeholder and need to include county commissioners, fire chiefs and other local leaders. Include with AOP meeting or otherwise.

**Proposed start date:**

Spring AOP meeting.

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing.

**How will success be measured?**

Number of local coalitions formed or identified and made part of regular communications and learning processes.

## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Develop local leadership and processes at the grass roots level to build broader support**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Develop local leadership and processes at local level to build support for Cohesive Strategy objectives: Fire Adapted Communities, Landscape Resilience, and Safe and Effective, Risk-Based Response to Wildfire.

Local leaders should be economically able to participate, have a natural resources background and ability to devote time to communicating internally and externally.

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Recruit – communications strategy and PSAs to develop messages to begin process of sharing, explaining concepts and starting the public conversation. Follow up to this workshop.

Continue and expand state grants that support the Cohesive Strategy principles.

Focus early education efforts with fire departments and county commissioners. Use these participants to foster additional outreach to HOAs and communities. If successful, local champions emerge and want to foster additional projects, workshops, etc.

Different representatives identified depending on location. Not cookie cutter.

Could be local WUI coordinators sponsored presently by the state. 15 at present and consider how they might become the local representatives desired in locations where they already exist.

**Who should work on this?**

Overall state coordination with local folks taking it on. Current supporters including federal agencies and others already “in the band.”

**Proposed start date:**

ASAP.

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing.

**How will success be measured?**

Local representation and local champions/spokespersons to all Wyoming recommendations from this workshop would be a successful measure. Increase in number of fire adapted communities. Inter-agency SOPs that reflect Life First principles. Landscape scale projects that increase resiliency and protect communities.



## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Expand use of Farm Bill authorities**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Expand use of Farm Bill authorities including NEPA Cat Ex, Good Neighbor Authority, Insect/Disease Designation expansion from Governor.

3,000 acre NEPA Categorical Exclusion for insect and disease areas from the Farm Bill needs updating and expansion in the state.

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

State forestry and all Wyoming national forest supervisors met at the workshop to begin to identify additional insect and disease areas in need of treatment. When finally decided upon, the governor would nominate these areas for designation by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Existing collaboratives would be utilized on these designations as required by the Farm Bill.

Other Farm Bill authorities could also be considered for increased use in the state including Good Neighbor.

Increased flexibility on fuels treatments and planning efficiencies are some of the outcomes sought. Also sets in motion collaboration opportunities to develop cross boundary landscape scale treatments.

**Who should work on this?**

State Forestry, Forest Service and local collaboratives.

**Proposed start date:**

ASAP.

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Early 2017.

**How will success be measured?**

Another tool in the tool box to increase treatment of priority areas and diminish wildfire threat.

## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Establish shared state/Federal staff position using multi-Agency funding and consider a potential WUI coordinator**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Shared staff and funding sources to hire a person or persons to coordinate and facilitate multijurisdictional fuels work.

Local level and/or state level depending on funding and interest.

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Collaborative state/federal steering group to guide the position.

**Who should work on this?**

State forestry along with interested federal agencies.

**Proposed start date:**

Negotiate agreement ASAP.

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing. Coordination and funding needs for staff hired.

**How will success be measured?**

Increased number of high priority fuels projects planned and accomplished on the ground across boundaries.

## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Develop statewide collaborative agreement to share non-suppression costs.**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Statewide collaborative agreement on all topics. Outcome is a state-wide agreement that allows for resource sharing among all land management agencies to facilitate prescribed fire, training opportunities, fuels reduction, all hazard response, public education, etc .

Many existing agreements that should be consolidated to simplify and coordinate better.

Start broad maybe using five state GAC being developed.

#### **How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Updating master agreement this spring and add an agenda item to consider additional topics ready for 17/18 season. Use a similar process to that used for statewide fire agreement.

Take advantage of each other's rules and regulations to leverage efficiency.

#### **Who should work on this?**

Everyone in statewide fire agreement including Regions 2 and 4, all other federal agencies and state.

#### **Proposed start date:**

This winter in conjunction with other meetings.

#### **Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing, with first agreement completed by 2018.

#### **How will success be measured?**

Evident efficiencies. Less barriers to good collaborative work.



## **Wyoming Recommendation:**

### **Develop and deliver a follow up Cohesive Strategy workshop for broader group of stakeholders.**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Develop and deliver a follow up Cohesive Strategy Workshop with broad stakeholder participation. Include NGOs, outfitters, guides, grazing permittees, Tribal governments, state and federal fish and game, and private landowners.

#### **How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

State level organizer and driver necessary.

Across the board better understanding of Cohesive Strategy, planning, shared goals and shared priorities resulting in a unified mission.

#### **Who should work on this?**

Led by state but lots of federal agency cooperating agency collaboration and assistance.

#### **Proposed start date:**

Kick off in advance of other topics from Casper workshop.

#### **Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Workshop would be starting point but ongoing discussions at more local levels would be an outcome.

#### **How will success be measured?**

Increased buy in and understanding of management practices and forest programs.

More effective expenditure of resources to address highest priority areas identified.

## **South Dakota Recommendation:**

### **Communicate principles of Cohesive Strategy to small communities**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Communicate the benefits of “good fire.” Encourage cultural shift across SD, that “fire is ours, not yours or mine.” Utilize partners to carry those messages (Fire Safe Council, Conservation Districts, Black Hills Advisory Board, Mountain Pine Beetle group, HOAs, VFDs, etc.)

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Marketing/promotion of same/consistent ideas, messages to the right audiences

Hire communications specialist, utilize partner PIO/PAOs, utilize multiple methods & technology, networking approach, targeted audiences.

Develop (identify groups, audiences) messaging and use their networks and get it out.

Tim Weaver will attend next Fire Safe Council meeting on October 20th to ask if they will include these communications in their messaging efforts.

Educate the Black Hills Fire Advisory Board about the need for consistent messaging around the CS goals and see if they will include these communications in their messaging efforts.

**Who should work on this?**

All partners, stakeholders.

**Proposed start date:**

ASAP.

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

Ongoing.

**How will success be measured?**

Broader support for good fire, resulting in increased managed fire and prescribed fire on the ground.

## **South Dakota Recommendation:**

### **Develop Good Neighbor Authority Agreement between South Dakota and USFS**

**Recommended action item (what do we want to accomplish and at what level? Regional, state or local).**

Develop GNA agreement between state and federal agency - USFS

**How will we do it and what is the anticipated outcome?**

Proceed with development and get appropriate signatures. Promote the agreement widely.

**Who should work on this?**

USFS and SD. Harris Maceo will initiate at USFS Region 2.

**Proposed start date:**

ASAP.

**Proposed completion date (or ongoing):**

2017.

**How will success be measured?**

Federal lands will be treated by state.

## Workshop Evaluation Synopsis

**At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to complete an evaluation.** Thirty-nine (39) evaluations were received.

Question 1: This workshop helped me better understand the Cohesive Strategy.

54% greatly    33% somewhat    13% neutral

Question 2: I learned how my role/position could help implement the CS in my state.

35% greatly    59% somewhat    6% neutral

Question 3: The pace and style/format of the workshop was effective.

23% greatly    23% somewhat    10% neutral

Question 4: The case studies were relevant in showing how the CS is being implemented.

37% greatly    53% somewhat    10% neutral

Question 5: Were the breakout groups productive?

47% greatly    44% somewhat    9% neutral

Question 6: Did your group come up with useful recommendations?

39% greatly    56% somewhat    5% neutral

\*\*There were no votes for workshop value being “not at all” or “very little.”

Question 7: What other recommendations(s) would you make in regards to content to enable us in better/future workshops? Feedback has been ranked by number of comments:

1. Work group report-outs were redundant, only once at the end is necessary.
2. Each state should offer more local or sub-geographic workshops with a broader, diverse group of stakeholders, using a similar agenda and objectives.
3. Networking opportunity was great.
4. Presence of leadership and true implementers was outstanding.
5. The proof of the successful outcome of the workshop will be the follow up on the recommendations.
6. Desire to focus more on the response and fire adapted communities CS goals, with emphasis on WUI.
7. The Life First presentation was outstanding.
8. Smaller breakouts (too big for Wyoming) would be more effective.
9. Need more time for policy/program differences from agencies/stakeholders.

## Attendees and Contact Information

Last Name	First Name	Title	Agency/Organization/ Collaborative Group	State	Email Address
Alexander	Joseph	Forest Supervisor	USDA Forest Service, Shoshone National Forest	WY	jgalexander@fs.fed.us
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Bousman	Joel	County commissioner	Sublette County	WY	joel.bousman@sublettewyo.com
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DeFord	Ryan	Fire Training Specialist	WY state forestry	WY	ryan.deford@wyo.gov
Dierks	Tamara	Logistical Help	SD Wildland Fire	SD	tamara.dierks@state.sd.us
Esperance	Jay	Director	South Dakota Wildland Fire	SD	jay.esperance@state.sd.us
Fallbeck	Christopher	AFMO	WSFD	WY	chris.fallbeck@wyo.gov
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Fugitt	Sirena	Emergency Management Specialist	USFS - NIMO	TX	sirena.fugitt@gmail.com



Last Name	First Name	Title	Agency/Organization/ Collaborative Group	State	Email Address
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Josten	Greg	State Forester	SD Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry	SD	Greg.Josten@state.sd.us
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Maceo	Harris	Wilson	U.S. Forest Service	CO	hmaceo@fs.fed.us
McCarthy	Jacob	Assistant District Forester	Wyoming State Forestry Division	WY	jacob.mccarthy@wyo.gov
McFarland	Mack	Fire Manager	National Park Service/Grand Teton/Teton Interagency Fire	wy	MACK_MCFARLAND@NPS.GOV
Mendes	Tony	Mitigation Specialist	FEMA Region VIII	CO	tony.mendes@fema.dhs.gov

Last Name	First Name	Title	Agency/Organization/ Collaborative Group	State	Email Address
Mertz	Dave	Natural Resources Staff Officer	Black Hills National Forest, USFS	SD	dmertz@fs.fed.us
Miller	Jay	Forest AFMO	MBRTB Forest Service	WY	jwmiller@fs.fed.us
Neighbors	Rance	AFMO Fuels	BLM	WY	rneighbo@blm.gov
Nicholls	Carol	Coordinator	Weston County Fuel Mitigation Program	WY	wildfireprotection@rtconnect.net
O'Connor	Tricia	Forest Supervisor	Bridger-Teton National Forest	WY	poconnor@fs.fed.us
Oldenburg	Reed	Senior Resource Forester-Fuels	Wyoming State Forestry Division	WY	reed.oldenburg@wyo.gov
Opperman	Todd	Deputy FMO	Yellowstone National Park	WY	todd_opperman@nps.gov
Orbuch	Paul	USFS CS Liaison	USFS Cohesive Strategy Western Facilitator	CO	porbuch@gmail.com
Pardue	Travis	Assistant District Forester	Wyoming State Forestry Division	WY	travis.pardue@wyo.gov
Petersen	Brandy	Urban Interface Technician	SD Wildland Fire	SD	brandy.petersen@state.sd.us
Pollet	Jolie	Acting Deputy Assistant Director	BLM Fire & Aviation	ID	jpollet@blm.gov
Purdy	Brad	Public Affairs Specialist	BLM Wyoming State Office	WY	bpurdy@blm.gov
Putnam	Richard	State Fuels Lead	BLM	WY	rputnam@blm.gov
Reynolds	Daron	Fuels Specialist	Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest	WY	dsreynolds@fs.fed.us
Russell	Brian	Assistant District Forester	Wyoming State Forestry Division	WY	Brian.russell@wyo.gov
Schultz	Anthony	Fire Management Officer	Wyoming State Forestry Division	WY	anthony.schultz@wyo.gov
Schweitzer	Laura	Assistant State Forester - Cooperative Forestry	Wyoming State Forestry Division	WY	laura.schweitzer@wyo.gov
Severson	Dan	Refuge Manager	US Fish and Wildlife Service	ND	dan_severson@fws.gov
Spaulding	Adam	Dispatcher	BLM, High Plains Dist.	WY	aspaulding@blm.gov
Spencer	Duane	Field Office Manager	BLM Buffalo Field Office	WY	dspencer@blm.gov
Stewart	Susan	Regional Fire Director	US Forest Service R4	UT	sastewart@fs.fed.us
Stover	Chris	DAFMO-Fuels	USFS, SD-BKF, Mystic RD	SD	cstover@fs.fed.us
Strom	Kirk	FMO	BLM WY HPD	WY	kstrom@blm.gov
Stumbough	Grant	Partnership Liaison	WY NRCS	WY	grant.stumbough@wy.usda.gov
Stutler	Joe	Senior Advisor	Deschutes County	OR	joe.stutler@deschutes.org
Terry	Dick	District Forester D-1	Wyoming State Forestry	WY	dick.terry@wyo.gov
Thom	Dave	Coordinator	Black Hills Regional MPB Working Group	SD	dthom@gwtc.net

Last Name	First Name	Title	Agency/Organization/ Collaborative Group	State	Email Address
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Wakefield	Tim	District Manager	Bureau Of Land Management	WY	twakefie@blm.gov
Walker	Shane	District Ranger	MBRTB, Douglas Ranger Dist.	WY	mwalker@fs.fed.us
Warder	Jon	FMO	USFS Bighorn NF	WY	jwarder@fs.fed.us
Warnke	Marcus	Senior Forester; Forest Health	SDDA Resource Conservation & Forestry	SD	Marcus.Warnke@state.sd.us
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Watsabaugh	Willy	Chief	Jackson Hole Fire/EMS	WY	wwatsabaugh@tetonwyo.org
Weaver	Tim	Lieutenant	Rapid City Fire	SD	tim.weaver@rcgov.org
Welle	Thomas	Manager - Denver Field Office	National Fire Protection Association	CO	twelle@nfsa.org
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Weydeveld	Chris	Fuels Mitigation Coordinator	Washakie County Firewise	WY	trees@wytfs.com
Wiggins	Randy	State Forester	Wy NRCS	WY	randy.wiggins@wy.usda.gov
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Wright	Paul	Fuels Mitigation Coord	Sheridan County	WY	Sustainableforestryconsulting@gmail.com
Wudtke	Ben	Forest Programs Manager	Black Hills Forest Resource Assoc	SD	bwudtke@hills.net
Wynn	George	Deputy Firewise Coordinator	Washakie County, Wyoming	WY	gwynn@wytfs.com



The Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) is chartered by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and is tasked with facilitating implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) across the Western United States.

Utilizing its members and Senior Regional Leaders, and through a variety of communications tools, methods and activities, the WRSC utilizes existing systems and networks to foster and advance alignment, engagement, communications and integration of the philosophy and principles of the Cohesive Strategy across boundaries and within stakeholder groups.

More information about the Cohesive Strategy and hundreds of examples of Cohesive Strategy successes and lessons learned can be found at:

**[wildfireinthewest.blogspot.com](http://wildfireinthewest.blogspot.com)**.

**Contact:**

Kate Lighthall, Coordinator, WRSC

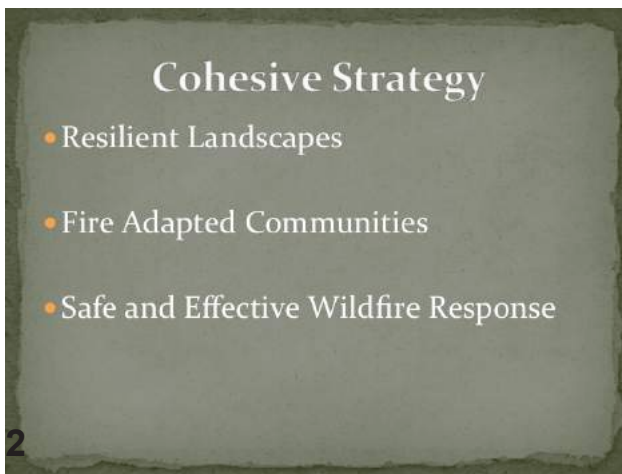
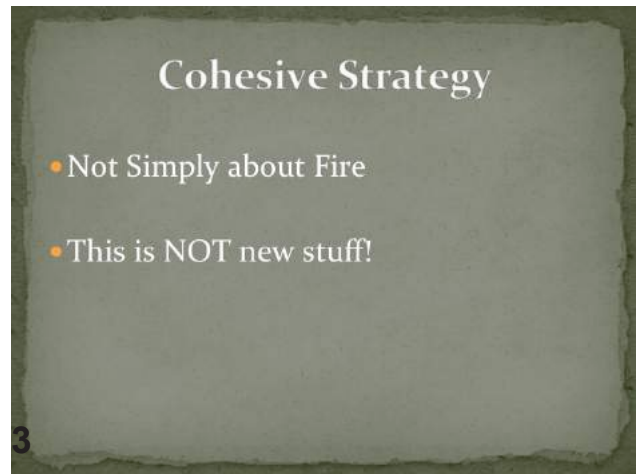
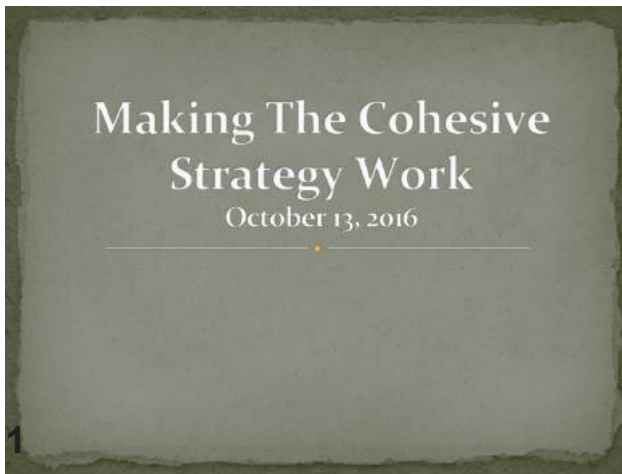
Email: [westerncohesivestrategy@gmail.com](mailto:westerncohesivestrategy@gmail.com)

Phone: 541-408-3048

# Appendix A

## Power Point Presentations from Speakers

### Making the Cohesive Strategy Work by Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forester





# Science to Support Implementation in the Interior West by Colin Hardy, PhD

Program Manager, Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science Program  
USDA Forest Service;  
Rocky Mountain Research Station



## SCIENCE TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

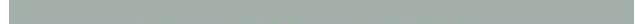
Danny C. Lee, PhD – Science Co-Lead  
Director, Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center  
USDA Forest Service

Tom Quigley, PhD – Science Co-Lead  
Senior Advisor for Management and Science  
METI

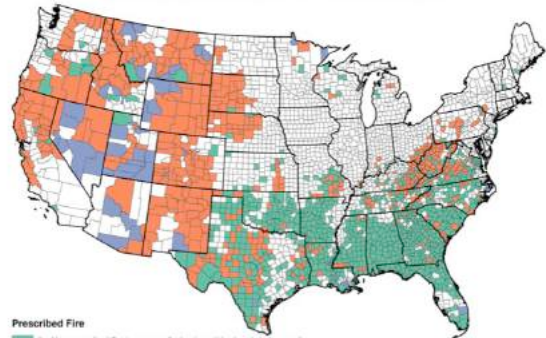
## SCIENCE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE INTERIOR WEST

Colin C. Hardy, PhD – “Messenger”  
Program Manager, Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science Program  
USDA Forest Service; Rocky Mountain Research Station

1



## Prescribed Fire – Possibilities



Prescribed Fire  
 A – Use prescribed fire to manage fuels where it is already being used  
 B – Consider expanding use of prescribed fire  
 C – Consider prescribed fire, but on a limited basis

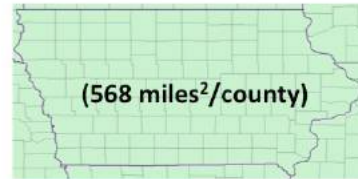
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## General Science Approach

- Draw from multiple data sets spanning the range of biophysical, social, and economic factors in addition to wildland fire statistics.
- Use a mix of statistical and geospatial techniques to create a nationally consistent classification system – landscape and socio-economic classes.
- Match policy or management options to characteristics of each county.
- Blend options spatially and institutionally to create a national strategy (role of the larger CS governance).

2

Iowa  
Counties

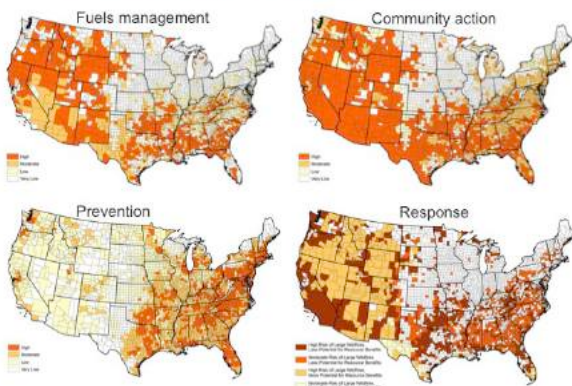


(4253 miles<sup>2</sup>/county)

Wyoming  
Counties  
(7.5 X larger)

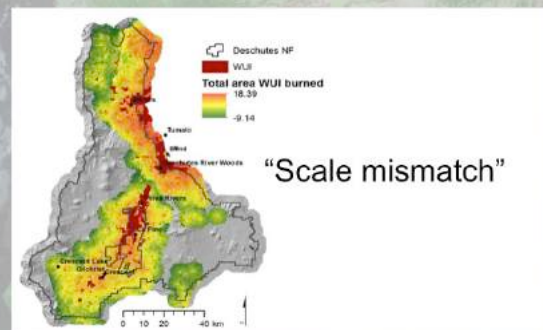
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## Spatial Display of (ranked) Options



3

## Mapping firesheds and sources of risk

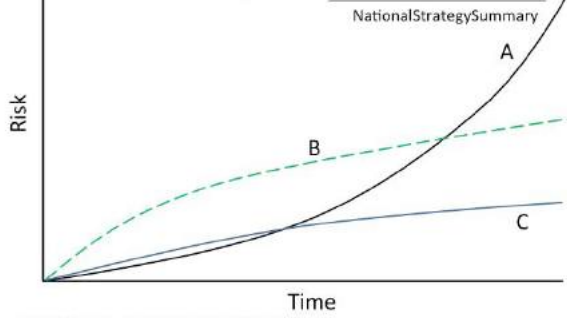


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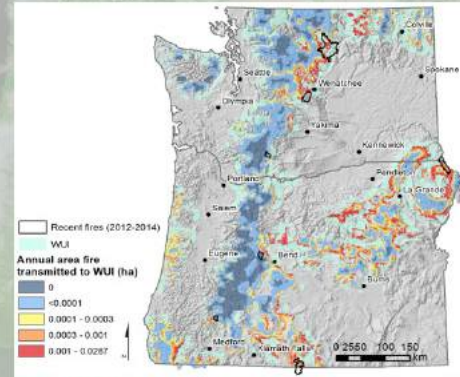
01/25/14

"An unavoidable tenet of risk management is that choices made today affect all future options."



- 7
- A Continuation of current policies and actions
  - B Return to historical levels of wildland fire
  - C A mix of prudent policies and actions that effectively reduce long-term risk (C).

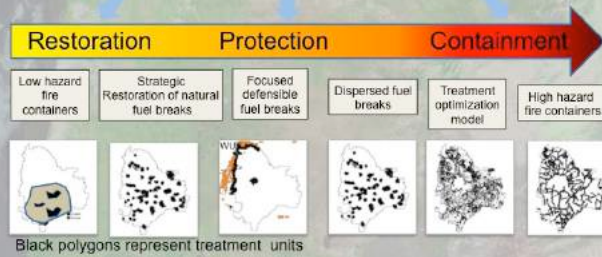
### Firesheds in the Pacific Northwest



10

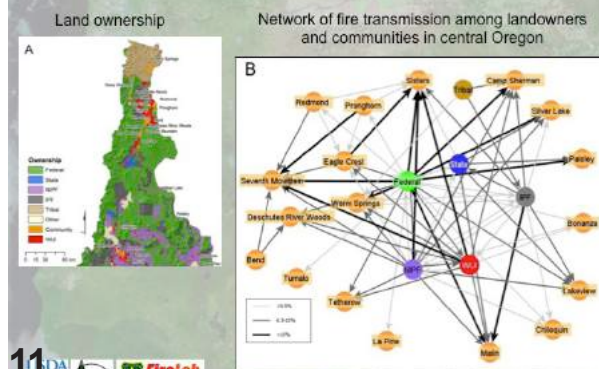
### Landscape Fuel Treatment Strategies for Specific CS goals

Fire resilient landscapes, Fire adapted communities, Wildfire response



8

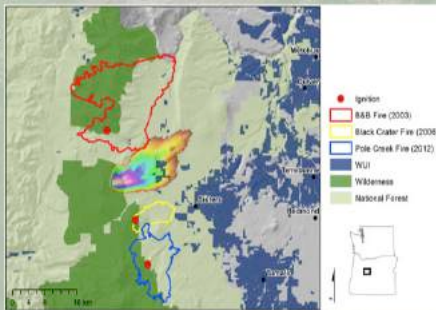
### Networks around communities



11

### Mapping risk transmission among landowners with simulation modeling

- Fires are simulated using historical weather
- Ignition source and perimeters are analyzed to measure cross boundary impacts



9

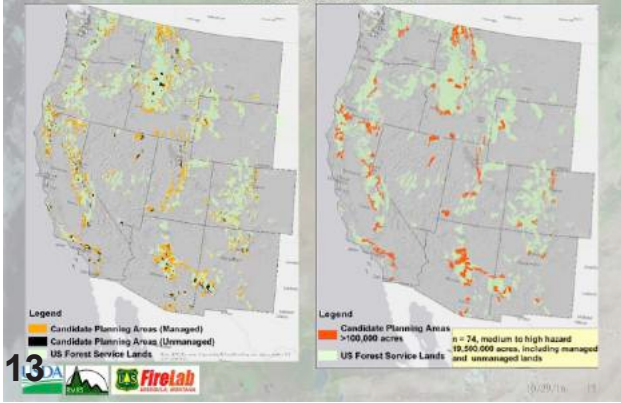
"Show me the top 50 communities in the western US that are threatened specifically by FS wildfires"

J. Hubbard, 2016

12



## Where are the locations on national forests that transmit fire?



13

## Cohesive Strategy National Goals

- Restore and maintain resilient landscapes
- Fire adapted communities
- Response to wildfire



17

## Characterizing risk and mitigation capacity on each spatial component

**Exposed community factors (zone 2)**

- Hazard (home length)
- CWP plan that includes lands at risk
- Firewise activities etc.
- Development density
- Jurisdictional boundaries (e.g. fire districts)

**FS Source (zone 3)**

- Amount of transmitted fire (light, moderate)
- Fire adapted forest that fit restoration objectives
- Operability constraints (roads, slope, etc.)
- Existing planning efforts (CFLRP, CWPP)

**Community scale factors (zone 1)**

- Community level support for investments
- Zoning and covenants
- Liability, incentives, capacity



**FS Non Source (zone 4)**

- Forest capacity and NEPA shelf
- High suppression costs
- Track record on HF activities
- Planning Infrastructure
- Economic, infrastructure
- Existing planning efforts (CFLRP, CWPP)

14

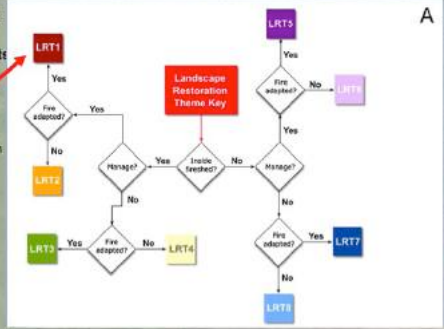
**Firesheds** – FS lands that potentially transmit fire to the wUI

## Mapping CS goals

**Manage** – lands are available for mechanical treatments

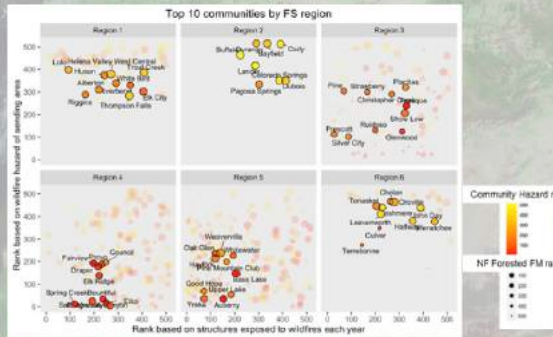
**Fire adapted** – dry forests targeted for restoration

**Example**  
 LRT1 Dry forest inside community fireshed; high management potential; fire adapted.



18

## Investment Strategy 4--Top 10 in each region



15

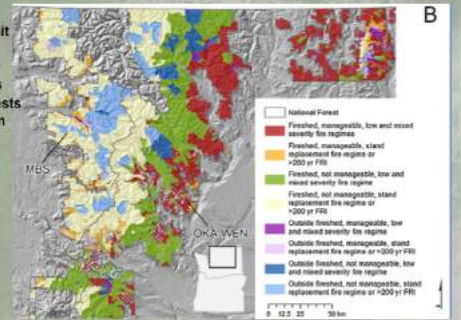
top 8 for R2 since there are only 8 communities on our list that received more than 1 hu/year of

**Firesheds** – FS lands that potentially transmit fire to the wUI

## Mapping CS goals

**Manage** – available for mechanical treatments

**Fire adapted** – dry forests targeted for restoration



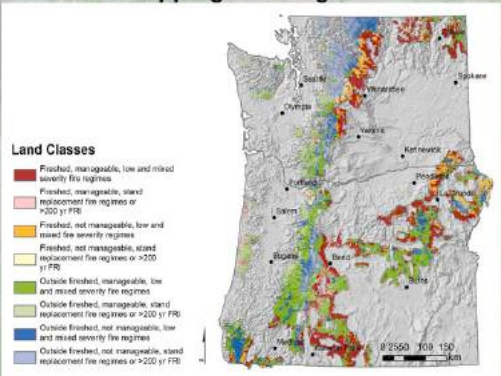
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## Top 10 per region



16

## Mapping the CS goals



20




# Cohesive Strategy - History and Context

## by Craig Goodell

Fire Ecologist, BLM OR/WA, US Forest Service PNW/AK

**Cohesive Strategy**

## History and Context



Craig Goodell  
Fire Ecologist  
BLM OR/WA  
USFS PNW/AK

1

### Vision




"Safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed, use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, live with wildland fire."

5

### We Have Crossed a Threshold

- Excess energy stored in vegetated ecosystems due to management activities and fire suppression for 100+ years.
- Climate Change/Drought – longer and more extreme fire seasons.
- The Wildfire Paradox – (Calkin, et al., 2014)



2

### Cohesive Strategy Principles

- Engages stakeholders, managers and scientists
- Based on best available science
- Emphasizes partnerships and collaboration
- Balances long-term goals and near-term outcomes
- Approach needs to be a "from-the-ground up" effort

6

### National Fire Plan - 2001

↓

### 2009 FLAME ACT

↓

### National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

(Completed and signed by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture in April, 2014)



3

### National Goals:

- **Restore and Maintain Landscapes:** Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.
- **Fire-adapted Communities:** Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
- **Wildfire Response:** All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.



7

### National Cohesive Strategy

- A **national, collaborative** approach to addressing wildland fire across all lands and jurisdictions
- Developed with input from wildland fire organizations, land managers and policy-making officials representing all levels of governmental and non-governmental organizations

4

### Implementation of the Cohesive Strategy Requires:

- **Strategic Alignment**, where all parties agree to the same goals, principles, and strategic course of action;
- **Collaborative Engagement**, which includes governance, shared information and resources, communications, and monitoring and accountability;
- **Programmatic Alignment**, where individual agency or organization objectives are explicitly supportive of the National Cohesive Strategy goals.



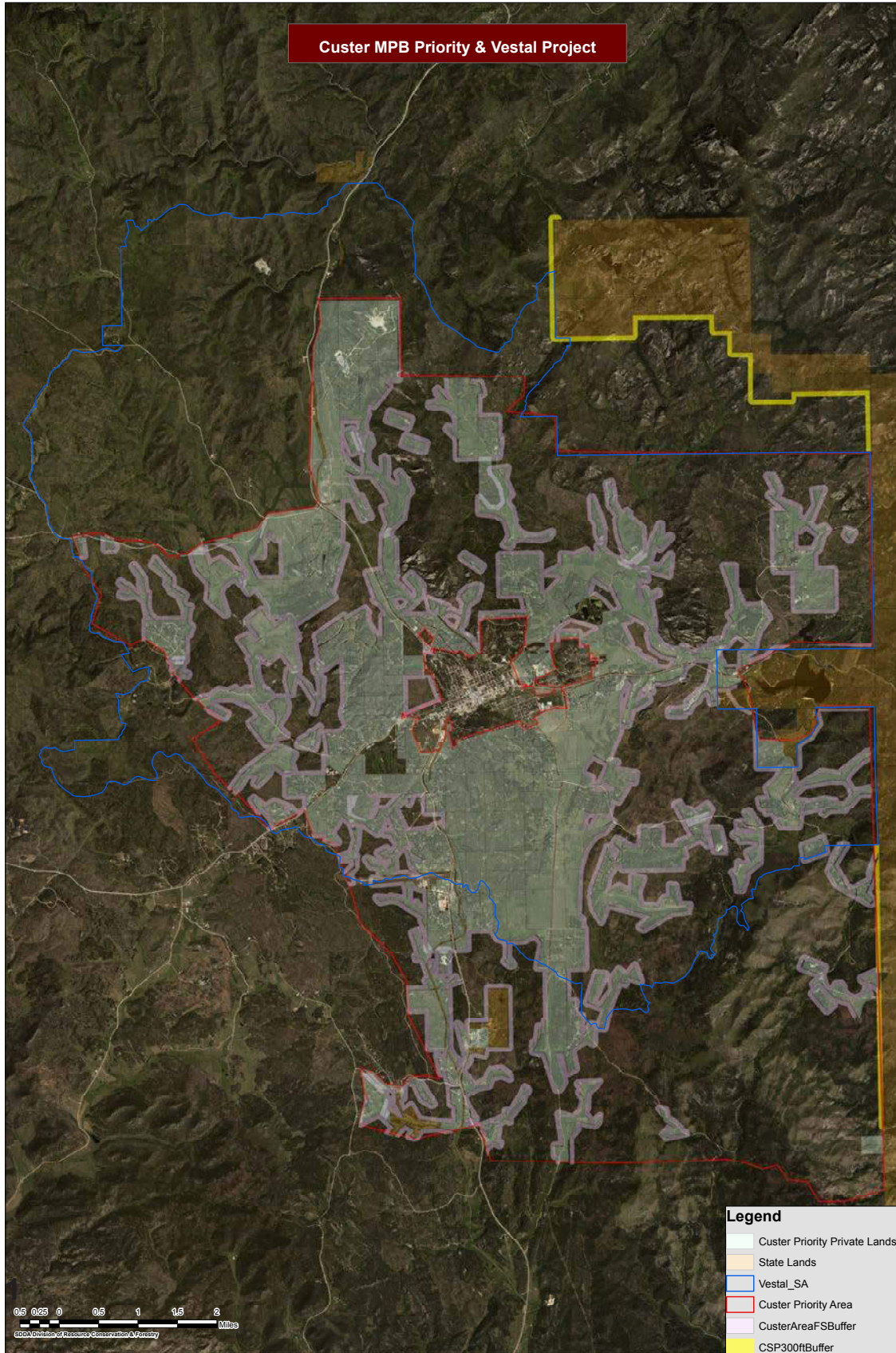
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# Vestal Project, South Dakota Case Study

Marcus Warnke, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry; Ben Wudtke, Black Hills Forest Resources Association; Dave Mertz, Black Hills National Forest; Brandy Peterson, South Dakota Wildland Fire

Marcus Warnke:

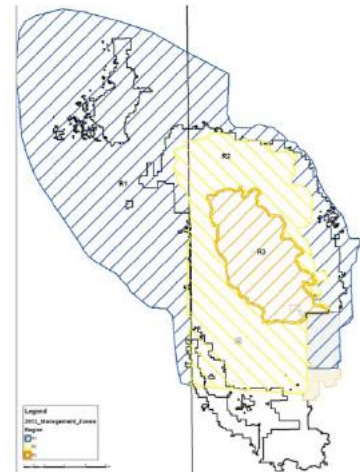




Ben Wudtke:



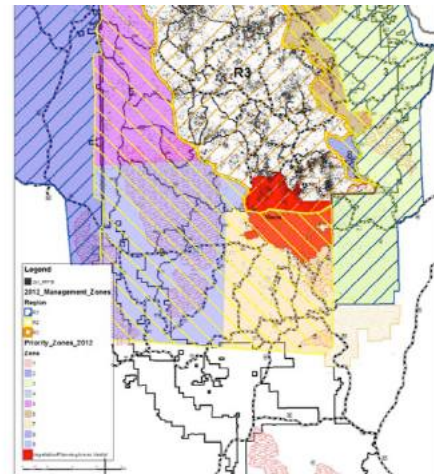
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4



3



5



Brandy Peterson:

## Custer 100% Cost-Share Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Picture Slide Show

6

2 Hour Road Fuels  
Before Treatment  
(SDWF Black Hat Handcrew)



10

## South Dakota Wildland Fire



7

2 Hour Road Fuels  
During Thinning  
(SDWF Black Hat Handcrew)



11

Little Teton Fuels  
Before Treatment



8

2 Hour Road Fuel  
After Thinning  
(SDWF Black Hat Handcrew)



12

Little Teton Fuels  
After Thinning



9

Big Rock Park  
Chipping Project  
(SDWF Black Hat Handcrew)



13



# Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy

by Dave Thom, Coordinator

## Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group



### MPB and "Conservation Leaders"

1. The epidemic/s (1997 to present)
2. "Independent actions" (1997 to ~2010)
  - States and federal gov't.
  - County and city governments.
  - Private landowners. Utilities.
3. "Conservation Leaders" a collaborative response. *"BH Regional MPB Strategy"*

4

## Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy

### Presentation

1. Introduction
2. Epidemic status
3. *BH Regional MPB Strategy*
4. Accomplishments and Investments
5. Looking ahead – (creating resilient forests)
6. Collaboration – what we learned

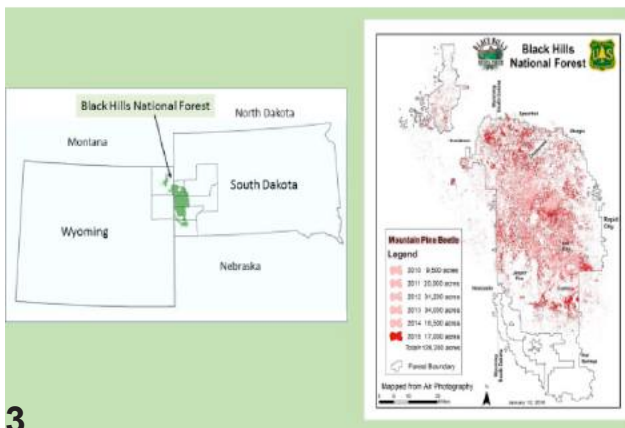
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## Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle "Working Group"

A collaborative "all lands" approach to combating the mountain pine beetle.

- Counties (commissions, W&Ps, NRDs)
- State of SD Resource Conservation & Forestry
- State of WY Forestry Division
- Black Hills Forest Resource Association & Neiman TC
- Federal: USFS, NPS, BLM, & NRCS
- Black Hills Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. (administrative entity)

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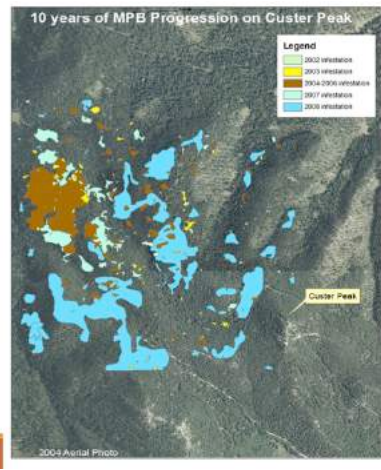
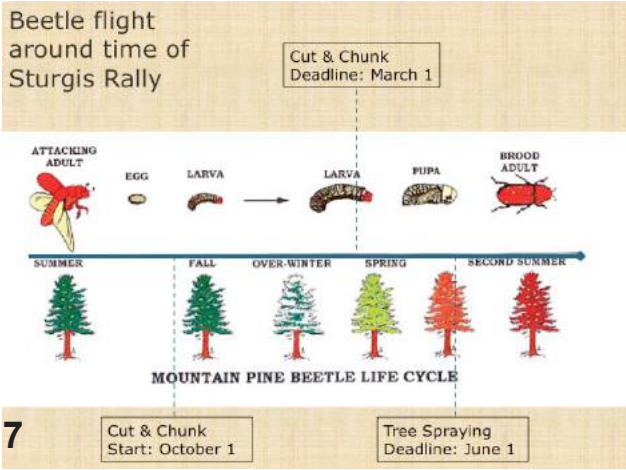


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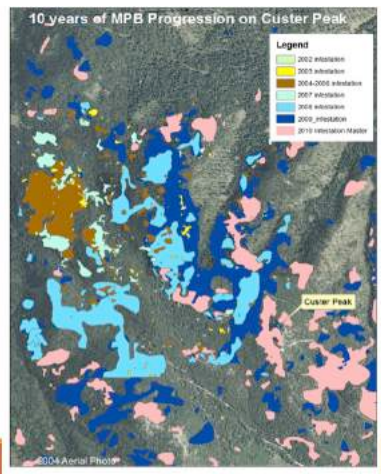
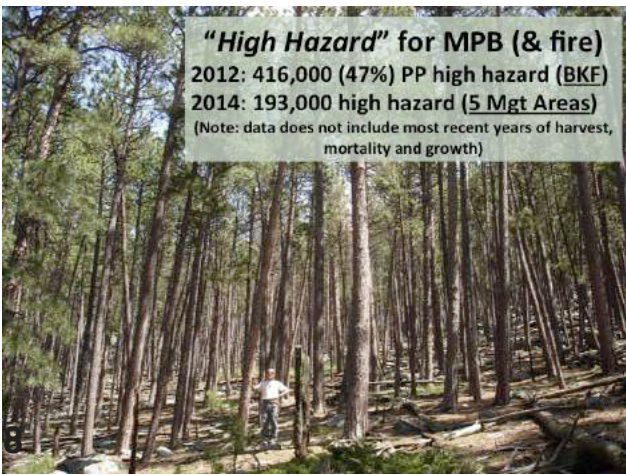


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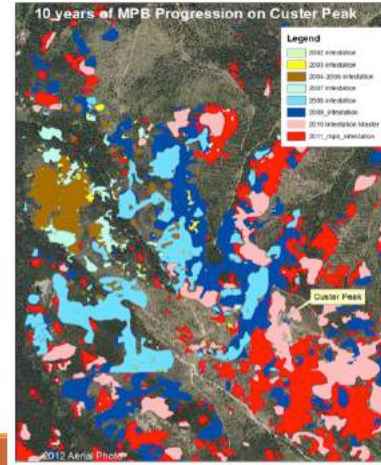
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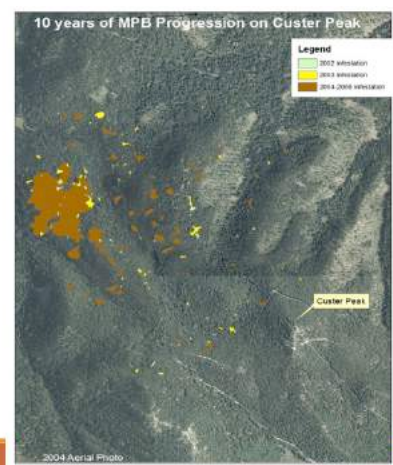
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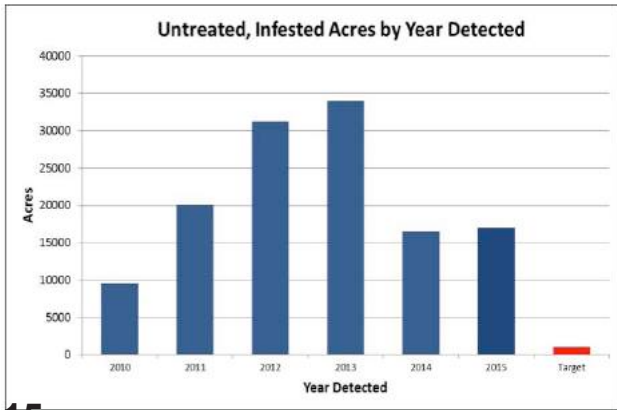
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## Making a Difference... Treatment Options

### Remove infested trees and thin (timber harvest)

- Cost effective
- Landscape-level
- Removes beetles
- Treats fuels
- Resilient forest



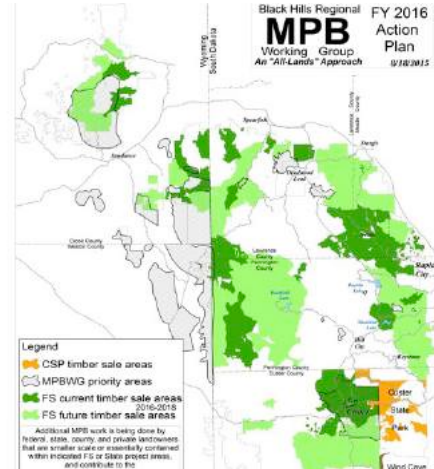
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### Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy

(4 goals, 10 strategies, 30 actions)

- Goal 1 - Reduce MPB populations
- Goal 2 - Create & maintain healthy forests
- Goal 3 - Retain forest products infrastructure
- Goal 4 - Protect people and communities

16



20

### Making a Difference... Treatment Options Non-Commercial (treat in place) - "Cut and Chunk" - best tied to timber harvest in focused areas; follow-up



17

### 2012-2015 Accomplishments (4 years) - "All Lands" -

- Goal 1 - Suppress MPB Populations**
  - o ~1.2 million infested trees (non-commercial...cut/chunk)
  - o ~ 1.4 million infested trees (timber sales)
  - o **Annually** ~212,000 ac/yr (non-commercial & timber sales)
- Goal 2 - Healthy Forests**
  - o Thinned = 125,000 acres (timber sales)
  - o Trees Sawmilled = 6.0 million trees
  - o Non-commercial Thinning = 46,338 acres
- Goal 3 - Forest Industry**
  - o 1,500 jobs; \$120 million/year

21

e.g. 3X multiplier:  
2013 - 20 trees  
2014 - 60 trees  
2015 - 180 trees  
2016 - 540 trees  
(jackstraw, long pieces)

18

Investment Summary 2012-2015 (rev. 10/15/15)					
Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy					
Working Group Entity	INVESTED FY 2012	INVESTED FY 2013	INVESTED FY 2014	INVESTED FY 2015	Average Annual Investment
SD Counties (county funds)	\$ 1,766,483	\$ 1,162,110	\$ 1,282,673	\$ 891,161	\$ 1,275,607
Neiman Timber Co.	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 392,018	\$ 200,000	\$ 223,005
State of South Dakota	\$ 2,785,808	\$ 3,738,648	\$ 2,947,514	\$ 2,377,509	\$ 2,962,370
Private Land Owners (SD)	\$ 726,645	\$ 269,560	\$ 274,292	\$ 162,961	\$ 358,365
Crook & Weston Counties	\$ -	\$ 919,000	\$ 1,078,601	\$ 1,099,876	\$ 774,369
State of Wyoming	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,084,341	\$ 346,085
Black Hills National Forest	\$12,742,646	\$10,175,000	\$12,589,792	\$11,858,600	\$11,841,510
Mt. Rushmore Nat. Mem.	\$ 27,200	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,650	\$ 17,463
Bureau of Land Mgt (SD/WY)	\$ -	\$ 130,000	\$ 233,000	\$ 239,000	\$ 150,500
Nat. Resource Cons. Service	\$ 225,148	\$ 241,218	\$ 369,276	\$ 378,735	\$ 303,594
<b>TOTAL PARTNER INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$18,403,930</b>	<b>\$16,843,536</b>	<b>\$19,735,148</b>	<b>\$18,316,833</b>	<b>\$18,252,866</b>

22



## Investment

	<u>2015</u>
MPB Suppression*	= \$7.0 million (~40%)
Forest Health**	= \$11.3 (~60%)
Total 2015	= \$18.3 million
4-Year Average	= \$18.3 million
Total (4 years)	= \$73.3 million

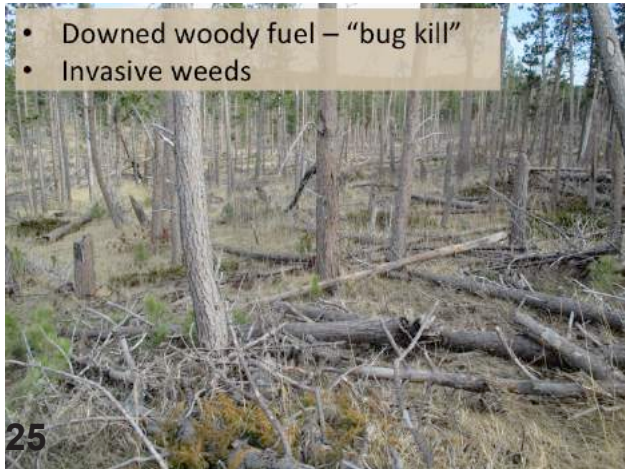
\* Beetle treatment, ROW, prevention

\*\* Commercial and non-commercial thinning

23

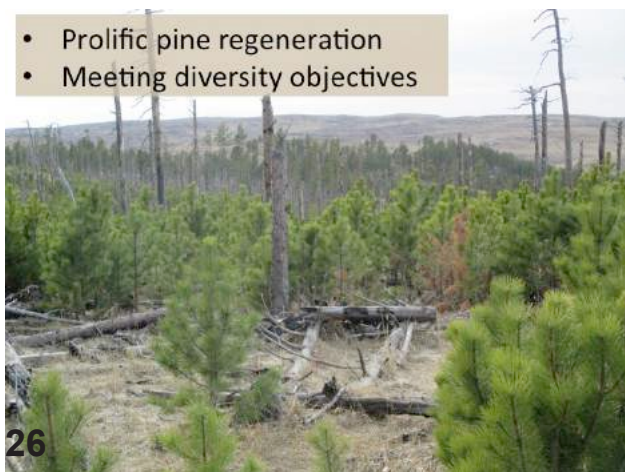
## The Future (postlude and prelude)?

24



- Downed woody fuel – “bug kill”
- Invasive weeds

25



- Prolific pine regeneration
- Meeting diversity objectives

26



27

Safety along roads, trails, utilities



Retain forest products industry

28

## Black Hills Resilient Forest Strategy

### ....Conservation Leaders group...

- Black Hills Regional MPB Strategy... until epidemic is over
- Forestry/fuels ... working group or partnership
- Invasive weeds ... *Black Hills Invasive Plant Partnership*

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## **Collaboration** **...what we've learned...**

- 1) Organization acceptance (within and between entities)
- 2) Sharing ideas and reach mutual understanding
- 3) Right people/entities involved including science
- 4) Communication (respectful, internal and managed)
- 5) Coordinated media plan
- 6) Flexibility and responsiveness
- 7) Collaboration critical to funding, policy & public support
- 8) Administrative options: contracting/hiring/agreements

**Relationships, relationships!**

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