



WFLC MISSION: Established in 2002, the Council provides strategic direction to ensure policy coordination, accountability and effective implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and related long-term strategies. This collaborative environment helps to ensure effective and efficient wildland fire management, promote fire-adapted communities, and create resilient landscapes to achieve long-range benefits for society and nature.

KEY ISSUES FACING THE WILDLAND FIRE SYSTEM: *The yearly number of acres burned is on the rise along with an increase in severe impacts to communities and landscapes. These key issues must be addressed to alter these trends:*

Impacts of climate on forests and rangelands – A changing climate has lengthened fire seasons into fire years. Drought persists and species distribution across landscapes show signs of altered ecological states.

Fire adaptation in communities and engagement at the local level – Communities across the country need education and assistance to prepare for, respond to and recover from wildland fire.

Forest and range management and restoration – Cross-boundary, collaborative pre-fire fuels management and post-fire rehabilitation and restoration are crucial to landscape health and resiliency.

Firefighter Workforce Challenges – Resources, training, pay parity and workplace environment issues continue to be a challenge across the entire wildland fire management system.

Public understanding and acceptance of land and wildland fire management – Today’s fire and fuels management are complex as are many of the issues facing our nation’s forests and rangelands. The general public does not understand these complexities or their solutions.

WFLC STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Changing the Trajectory of Wildland Fire / Accelerating Implementation of the Cohesive Strategy – Due to many factors, wildland fire continues to present challenges. The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a solid framework pulling together a multitude of partners and approaches. Expand those approaches and accelerate implementation across the nation.

Mitigating Post Fire Impacts – Develop opportunities to increase the pace and scale of pre- and post-fire activities that mitigate wildfire impacts to landscapes and communities. Overcome challenges related to emergency stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of impacted lands.

Enhancing Smoke Management and Air Quality - Minimize air quality impacts from wildland fire over the long-term, improve the resiliency of landscapes to wildfire, and increase the health and safety of communities, firefighters, and the public by using fire as a land management tool.

Elevating a Forest, Rangeland and Wildland Fire Climate Resilience Strategy – Build a whole-of-government strategy that connects the influence climate is having on wildland fire and landscape resiliency and the positive contributions that forests and rangelands make to slowing climate impacts.

Increasing Equity and Environmental Justice – Ensure access to programs and activities, and reduce barriers and burdens related to creating resilient landscapes and resilient communities to lessen the impacts of fire.

Improving Workplace and Workforce Issues – Foster safe, positive work environments including addressing harassment in all forms across all interagency land management and wildland fire agencies. Additionally, address capacity, capability, recruitment, retention, and consistency across the workforce.



WFLC Priorities cont.

Increasing Use of Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool – Prescribed fire is a traditional, effective, and cost-efficient way to restore landscapes and reduce the risk of wildfire. Most landscapes are fire adapted or fire dependent and the ecological benefits of prescribed fire are innumerable. Continue to understand the challenges associated with utilizing this management tool and overcome barriers to further its use.

Building Resilient Communities by Reducing Hazards and Risk - Build a suite of enabling conditions for the creation and enhancement of fire adapted communities while increasing management activities across all lands to reduce hazards that contribute to the risk of catastrophic wildfire to communities.

Integrating Technology and Data Across the Wildland Fire System - Better integrate and develop systems to share information, data, and tools across agencies and with partners.

Expanding Large Landscape, Cross-Boundary Collaboration and Sharing Stewardship – Through collaboration and joint prioritization, increase the pace and scale of collective investments and management actions that reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire across landscapes that when threatened, also threaten adjacent watersheds, communities, economies, and other natural resources.

Aligning Invasive Species and Wildfire Management – Integrate coordinated fire and invasive species management strategies and actions.

WFLC MEMBERSHIP: The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (Council) is an intergovernmental committee of federal, state, tribal, county, and municipal government officials convened by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Homeland Security, and Defense dedicated to promoting consistent wildland fire policies, goals, and management activities. *These relationships, especially between federal and non-federal members, are critical for continuous coordination in planning and implementing key policies impacting activity on the ground.*

Membership on the Council includes the following federal officials:

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** – the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, the Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and the Chief of the Forest Service;
- **U.S. Department of the Interior** – the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget and the Directors of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Geological Survey;
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** – the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration; and
- **U.S. Department of Defense** – the Assistant Secretary for Energy, Installations and Environment and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support for Civilian Agencies.

The Council includes seven non-federal members comprised primarily of senior elected officials of state, tribal, county, and municipal governments. These members, acting in their official capacities, include:

- **State Governor** who is a member of the National Governors' Association;
- **State Governor** who is from the Western United States;
- President of the **Intertribal Timber Council** acting in his or her official capacity as an elected representative of a federally-recognized tribe;
- **County Commissioner** who is a member of the National Association of Counties;
- **Mayor** who is a member of the National League of Cities;
- **State Forester** at the request of his or her Senior Elected Official; and
- **Fire Chief** of a State or any political subdivision thereof, at the request of his or her Senior Elected Official.

WFLC is supported by an executive director at the national level and three chartered regional committees that facilitate on-the-ground implementation of strategies and strategic engagement with a multitude of partners at the regional, tribal, state, and local levels.