

Wildfire Crisis Strategy Roundtables: Breakout Discussion Questions

Science Supporting Wildfire Risk Reduction

Topics may cover best available science, application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, use and sharing of data, challenges and successes of technology.

ALL ROUNDTABLES

1. Is science being used effectively to inform fuels and fire risk reduction? Why or why not? What do you see as current gaps and information needs in the science on fuels and fire risk reduction? (for instance, local fire history maps to inform treatments, smoke emissions and prescribed fire, best practices related to streams and fuels work, wildlife mitigations, etc.)?
2. Have you seen successful examples of projects that have incorporated Indigenous and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledge? What made them successful? How might we build on those successes?
3. From your experience, what have you observed about information sharing across communities, agencies, disciplines, and scales (local, regional, national)? What does success look like?

EMPLOYEE ROUNDTABLE (if there is time):

4. How do staff stay abreast of the best available science? What would make it easier for you to engage in and stay abreast of new science? What types of science products do you rely on for this work (e.g. journal articles, GTRs, briefs, webinars, other)?

Cross Boundary Partnerships

Will explore the work of coalitions, levels of support, partnerships.

1. What are examples of successful cross-boundary partnership tools and approaches that we should build on? Where are the gaps?
2. In your experience, what are the barriers (financial, technical, capacity) to engaging underserved communities in cross-boundary planning or management implementation? What resources are needed to increase engagement and inclusion of these communities?
3. In many states, the Forest Service is working closely with tribal, local, and state governments and partners to move forward on Shared Stewardship. How can the 10-year plan build on the foundation of Shared Stewardship or other regional/national efforts to advance forest resilience at larger scales?
4. What process or policy barriers to cross-boundary partnerships have you encountered that could impede progress in addressing forest resiliency and wildfire risk?
5. If you were in charge, what would be the first action you would take regarding cross-boundary partnerships to most effectively address forest resiliency and fire risk?

Workforce Capacity

Will explore what it means to build and sustain an inclusive workforce, ways to work together, coordination (internal and external):

EMPLOYEE ROUNDTABLE:

1. What key workforce skills and knowledge are needed for fuels reduction work within the Forest Service? (If there is time/interest can discuss what is needed from partners).
2. How might we ensure our workforce is well-positioned to engage and support underserved and socially vulnerable communities (including tribal communities) as we implement the 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy?
3. What are the major constraints around Forest Service workforce capacity (numbers, training, skills, support, interest)?
 - a. How is your Forest/Region/Unit working to overcome these constraints?
 - b. Are there existing training and workforce development programs we should leverage?
4. What tools can the agency use to help address these capacity constraints? (Examples may include use of the Enterprise model to bring in additional capacity as needed or using a surge capacity workforce model to expand the Forest Service workforce in response to the wildland fire crisis).
5. What are the benefits and drawbacks to mobilizing the wildland fire suppression workforce to help address issues of capacity around fuels reduction work? Should we mobilize this workforce?

PARTNER ROUNDTABLE:

1. What are key workforce skills and knowledge that are needed for fuels reduction work within your industry/agency/organization? (If there is time/interest can discuss what is needed from the agency).
2. How might we ensure our workforce is well-positioned to engage and support underserved and socially vulnerable communities (including tribal communities) as we implement the 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy?
3. Where does your industry/agency/organization fit in this discussion of capacity? What major constraints are you facing around workforce capacity (numbers, training, skills, support, interest)?
 - a. How is your industry/agency/organization working to overcome those constraints?
 - b. Are there existing training and workforce development programs you are leveraging?
4. How can the Forest Service help to address these capacity constraints? Where does the agency need to focus in order to be helpful in this fuels reduction work?

Markets and Industry

Will explore current market capacity and room for innovation.

1. How robust are forest markets and processing infrastructure in your area? (Think traditional, small-diameter, non-traditional forest products, and wood innovation like biochar and nanotech.)
2. What are the challenges to healthy traditional and innovative forest products markets in your area? How can we overcome these challenges?
3. What opportunities are there to expand market potential and access to these markets in tribal and underserved communities? What would be critical to making these efforts successful?
4. How might the Forest Service and partner agencies/industries/organizations work together to grow markets and market potential? Who needs to be a part of this conversation that may not traditionally have been involved?

Outcome-based Prioritization and metrics of progress

Will explore how we achieve landscape scale outcomes, tools, timing, coordination

1. What approaches are you using to prioritize treatments on your landscape? How are tribes, local/state governments, and partners involved? What is working well, and what additional support do you need?
2. In your prioritization processes, how have the needs of underserved and socially vulnerable communities (including tribal communities), and the impacts on these communities, been considered? How might we continue to consider and address these needs and impacts as we move forward?
3. What planning tools are you currently using or interested in using, and why? (e.g., scenario planning, PODs analyses, community network mapping, or other approaches)
 - a. Are you using advanced technology (e.g., remote sensing and LIDAR) to assess conditions? Are there technologies you would like to use but lack access to?
4. In prioritization efforts, we are currently looking at how to incorporate risk to communities, water supplies and water infrastructure. Will also identify critical ecological values, ecosystem services, economic values, cultural and historic significance, and areas of social importance.
 - a. What's missing? Other values or needs?
5. Are there examples of large-landscape metrics and monitoring systems that you think are successful? What makes them successful?