

Restoration of the Eastern Forest Landscape with Fire: Wildfire Crisis Strategy Roundtable for the Northeast and Midwest

Agenda

Day 1 Opening Kickoff: May 31, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT

Day 2 Employee Roundtable: June 1, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT

Day 3 Partner Roundtable: June 2, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT

Meeting Goals

As an ecological and cultural process, fire has shaped the diversity of life on this planet. Over the past century, fire exclusion, suppression, accumulating fuels, and a warming climate have altered forest conditions, giving way to increased risk of extreme wildfire conditions. Wildfires in the U.S. have been growing in size, duration, and severity over the past 20 years, reaching crisis proportions in the West. In the East, the lack of fire on the landscape has led to decreased forest health, productivity, and resilience. This national emergency calls for decisive actions to protect people and communities and improve forest health and resilience. In response, the USDA Forest Service is developing a comprehensive 10-Year Strategic Implementation Plan with employees and partners to support the management and restoration of millions of acres of land toward improved forest health and watershed function and the protection of human infrastructure. This is an Implementation Plan for the national 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy, which builds on the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy*.

To facilitate the development of this plan, the Forest Service, in coordination with the National Forest Foundation, is hosting roundtable discussions in each of the nine Forest Service regions as well as nationally to engage employees and partners in the process.

The goals of the Roundtable are to:

- Share information, goals, and timelines for the 10-Year Strategic Implementation Plan;
- Collect partner and employee input to inform the Plan;
- Provide an opportunity for dialogue among Forest Service leaders and partners to identify key needs and opportunities of the Plan; and
- Gauge on-going levels of interest and determine ways to leverage that interest and energy.

Meeting Materials

- **National Documents and Resources:**
 - 10-year strategy: [Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A New Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America's Forests](#)
 - [Implementation plan](#)
 - [USDA Forest Service Confronting the Wildfire Crisis Website](#)
 - [Wildfire Risk Reduction Partner Recommendation Analysis and Synthesis](#)
- **Regional Documents and Resources:**
 - [Northeast Region Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#)
 - [Northeast-Midwest Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal](#)

Day 1: Opening Meeting for All Invited Partners and Employees – May 31, 2022

TIME (CT)	AGENDA ITEM
1:00 pm	Welcome & Introductions: National Forest Foundation (NFF) Facilitator Housekeeping and Agenda Review
1:05	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Owens, Regional Forester, Eastern Region • Cynthia West, Station Director, Northern Research Station and Forest Products Lab
1:25	10-year Strategic Implementation Plan Overview Brian Ferebee , Chief Executive of Intergovernmental Relations, USDA Forest Service
1:40	Partners in Leadership Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patty Cormier, State Forester and Director, Maine Forest Service • Mary Huffman, Director, Indigenous Peoples Burning Network and Fire Science, The Nature Conservancy • Scott Crist, Fire Management Officer, Shawnee National Forest, Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service • Daniel C. Dey, Project Leader and Research Forester, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service
2:20	Q&A with All Leaders: NFF Facilitator and all kickoff speakers
2:45	Recognizing What We've Heard and Overview of Roundtables Rachel Neuenfeldt , Engagement Specialist, Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team, USDA Forest Service
2:55	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Owens, Regional Forester, Eastern Region • Cynthia West, Station Director, Northern Research Station and Forest Products Lab
2:58	Next Steps: NFF Facilitator
3:00 pm	ADJOURN – Thank you for attending!

Day 2: Roundtable for Forest Service Employees (June 1) and Partners (June 2)

TIME (CDT)	AGENDA ITEM
10:00 am	Welcome & Introductions: National Forest Foundation Facilitator Housekeeping and Agenda Review
10:10	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Owens, Regional Forester, Eastern Region • Cynthia West, Station Director, Northern Research Station and Forest Products Lab
10:15	Breakout Sessions Round 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Science Supporting Wildfire Risk Reduction 2. Cross-Boundary Partnerships 3. Workforce Capacity 4. Markets and Industry 5. Outcome-based Prioritization and Metrics of Progress <p><i>Note: Each Breakout Group will have a facilitator and notetaker.</i></p>
11:00	Break
11:15	Breakout Sessions Round 2 (Repeat the process above)
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00	Reconvene and send to breakout groups
1:05	Breakout Sessions Round 3 (Repeat the process above)
1:50	Break
2:00	Report-outs by Breakout Group Facilitators
2:30	Closing Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Owens, Regional Forester, Eastern Region • Cynthia West, Station Director, Northern Research Station and Forest Products Lab
3:00 pm	ADJOURN – Thank you for participating!