WELCOME TO THE
REGION 5
WILDFIRE CRISIS
STRATEGY
ROUNDTABLE
3/16/2022
Today’s Agenda

• Welcome and Opening
• Partners in Leadership Panel
• 10-year Strategic Implementation Plan
  ▪ Overview and Plans for Engagement
• Questions and Answers
• What We Have Learned from Past Partner Input
• Closing
**fireshed** (def.): a landscape of roughly 250,000 acres in which an ignition can spread and expose communities to wildfire.
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

WILDFIRE CRISIS STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION
FOREST SERVICE WORK UNDER THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

- WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM – Hazardous Fuels
- NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
  - Recreation
  - Restoration
  - Reclamation
  - Roads/Trails
- STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY
  - Grants and Agreements
  - Firefighter Pay
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT – Supporting all efforts with up-to-date science
THE HISTORY

• More than 20 years of milestones have set the stage for our work today

THE NEED

• Wildfires have been growing in size, duration, and destructivity.
• Nearly a quarter of the contiguous United States remain at moderate to very high risk of severe wildfires.
• We must dramatically increase fuels and forest health treatments on America's forests.
CONFRONTING THE WILDFIRE CRISIS

The Forest Service wildfire crisis strategy combines an historic investment from congressional funding with years of scientific research and planning into a national effort that will dramatically increase the scale of forest health treatments.

+20 MILLION
Treating up to an additional 20 million acres of National Forest System lands.

+30 MILLION
Treating up to an additional 30 million acres of other Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands.

10 YEARS
Developing a plan for long-term maintenance beyond the 10 years.
HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS

Community exposure is a central factor in the strategy to confront the wildfire crisis. Other factors include Tribal and State plans, watersheds, equity, climate forecasts, and partner priorities.

Legend:
- High Risk Firesheds
- National Forest System Lands
IMPLEMENTATION

- Years 1-2. Early implementation.
- Years 3-10. The right work, in the right place, at the right scale.
AGENCY EXPECTATIONS

- Active management
- Engagement
- Equitability
- Accountability
WHAT’S NEXT?
PARTNER and EMPLOYEE ROUNDTABLES
(Feb – May 2022)

• **Purpose:** Targeted listening sessions to identify opportunities and challenges in getting to scale with fuels and fire risk management efforts.

• **Post Engagement:** Presentation of findings and recommendations to the Forest Service - National Leadership Council in June. A series of webinars for participants and interested publics to follow.

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OUR ASK TODAY

• WHAT are we trying to achieve?
• How can we reach these goals?

Let’s work together to shift the future for our forests
WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE IN 2031

- **Treated up to 20 million acres** on the National Forest System and an **up to 30 million acres** on other Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands in the West.

- A plan for long-term maintenance.

- A paradigm shift in the way we work.
Leadership Panel

• Jennifer Eberlien, Regional Forester
• Richard Barhydt, Director, Pacific Southwest Research Station
• Chief Joe Tyler, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
• Patrick Wright, Director, California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force
• Don Hankins, Co-Leader, Inter-Tribal Indigenous Stewardship Project
• Stacy Corless, Supervisor, Mono County; Past President, Rural County Representatives of California
• Russ Bacon, Deputy Team Lead, Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team (Forest Service Washington Office)
Wildfire Risk Reduction Partner Recommendation Analysis

February 2022
Overview and Context

• Forest Service plans to engage partners and employees around development and implementation of a **Strategic Implementation Plan** for wildfire risk reduction.

• Past recommendations from partners and agency employees provide **initial building blocks**.
Framing the analysis

Forest Service collected recommendation documents from partners – collaborative meetings, collaborative papers and reports.

- **Over 50 documents** were analyzed for issue and recommendations framing.
- Issues and recommendations were catalogued and **sorted into 11 topics**.
- Recommendations that arose frequently from many different sources and over multiple time periods were rounded up as **key themes**.
Key Themes

1. Provide sustained funding over multiple years.

2. Focus fire research with a social science lens.

3. Create and maintain consistent and collective leadership support.

4. Increase the agency’s ability to build and sustain partnerships and work with collaborative groups.
Recommendation Topics

- Incorporation of Best Available Science
- Prioritization and Planning
- Workforce Capacity
- Policy and Legislation
- Working Across Boundaries and Collaboration
- Funding and Finance
- Business Practices
- Industry and Infrastructure
- Equity and Inclusion
- Communication
- Monitoring and Evaluation
Where do we go from here?

This is what we’ve heard from partners and employees over the last 10-15 years.

• Some feed into requirements and abilities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
• Which still resonate for you?
• What new challenges, opportunities, solutions do you have?
THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING