

# Region 8 Wildfire Crisis Strategy Roundtable Agenda

Day 1 Opening Kickoff: May 17, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Day 2 Employee Roundtable: May 18, 2022, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm EDT

Day 3 Partner Roundtable: May 19, 2022, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm EDT

## Meeting Goals

Wildfires in the U.S. have been growing in size, duration, and destruction over the past 20 years, reaching crisis proportions in the West. 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.

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

- 10-year strategy: [Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A New Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America's Forests](#)
- [Implementation plan](#)
- [Confronting the Wildfire Crisis](#) (USDA Forest Service website)
- [Synthesis of Partner Recommendations](#)

## Day 1: Opening Meeting for All Invited Partners and Employees – May 17, 2022

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
1:00 pm EDT	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Housekeeping & Agenda Review	<b>NFF Facilitator</b>
1:05	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ken Arney</b>, Southern Regional Forester</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand</b>, Director, Southern Research Station</li> <li>• <b>Mark Goeller</b>, Vice Chair, Southern Group of State Foresters</li> </ul>
1:25	<b>Partners in Leadership: Panel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tom Lowry</b>, Senior Director of Natural Resources, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma</li> <li>• <b>Cornelius Blanding</b>, Executive Director, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund</li> <li>• <b>Mark Melvin</b>, Chair, The Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils</li> <li>• <b>Andres Villegas</b>, President &amp; CEO, Georgia Forestry Association</li> </ul>
1:45	<b>10-year Strategic Implementation Plan Overview</b>	<b>Jason Kuiken</b> , Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team Deputy
2:00	<b>Q&amp;A with all leaders</b>	<b>NFF Facilitator, All Leadership</b>
2:35	<b>Recognizing What We've Heard and Overview of Roundtables</b>	<b>Rachel Neuenfeldt</b> , Engagement Specialist, Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team
2:45	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ken Arney</b>, Southern Regional Forester</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand</b>, Director, Southern Research Station</li> <li>• <b>Mark Goeller</b>, Vice Chair, Southern Group of State Foresters</li> </ul>
2:55	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>NFF Facilitator</b>
3:00 pm	<b>ADJOURN – Thank you for attending!</b>	

## Day 2: Roundtable for Employees (May 18) and Partners (May 19)

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER(S)
10:00 am EDT	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Housekeeping & Agenda Review	<b>NFF Facilitator</b>
10:10	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ken Arney</b>, Southern Regional Forester</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand</b>, Director, Southern Research Station</li> </ul>
10:15	<b>Breakout Sessions Round 1</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Science Supporting Wildfire Risk Reduction</li> <li>2. Cross-Boundary Partnerships</li> <li>3. Workforce Capacity</li> <li>4. Markets and Industry</li> <li>5. Outcome-Based Prioritization and Metrics of Progress</li> </ol>	<b>Each Breakout Group will have:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Facilitator</li> <li>• Note-Taker</li> </ul>
11:00	<b>BREAK</b>	
11:15	<b>Breakout Sessions Round 2</b> (Repeat the process above)	
12:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00	<b>Reconvene and send to breakout groups</b>	<b>Facilitator, All</b>
1:05	<b>Breakout Sessions Round 3</b> (Repeat the process above)	
1:50	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:00	<b>Report outs by Breakout Group Facilitators</b>	<b>Facilitators</b>
2:30	<b>Closing Comments from Regional Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ken Arney</b>, Southern Regional Forester</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand</b>, Director, Southern Research Station</li> <li>• <b>Leadership Partners</b></li> </ul>
3:00 pm	<b>ADJOURN – Thank you for participating!</b>	