USDA Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy Roundtables Webinar: Recommendations and Next Steps
Agenda

Welcome

Overview of the Synthesis Report

Next Steps: Forest Service

Question & Answer Session

Adjourn
Wildfire Crisis Strategy Roundtables: Overarching Themes & Opportunities for Action

November 14, 2022
Roundtable Process

10 Roundtables
440 partners
519 Forest Service employees

November 14, 2022
Breakout Topics

*All included equity and inclusion

- Markets & Industry
- Workforce Capacity
- Cross-Boundary Partnerships
- Science Supporting Wildfire Risk Reduction
- Outcome-Based Prioritization & Metrics of Progress
Roundtable Reports

https://www.nationalforests.org/collaboration-resources/wildfire-crisis-strategy-roundtables

- 10 Regional Reports
- Intertribal Timber Council report
- **Synthesis Report**: Overarching Themes and Opportunities for Action
  - Executive Summary
Overarching Themes

1. Embrace changes to Forest Service business practices and shifts in agency culture
2. Improve internal and external communication related to the crisis and what is necessary for success
3. Recruit and maintain a workforce capable of meeting the necessary pace and scale of restoration
4. Update partnerships mechanisms and requirements for cross-boundary funding and implementation
5. Honor Tribal sovereignty and history; leverage learning, priorities, and capacity; and incorporate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK)
6. Build equity and resilience into planning and implementation
7. Expand markets and forest materials processing infrastructure
8. Build shared understanding and support for the use of fire as an essential tool for ecosystem resilience
9. Invest in open and transparent information sharing and use of shared data and models
10. Help decision makers and publics understand tradeoffs and benefits of management for forest resilience

November 14, 2022
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Thank you
**Fall 2021**
- **October:** Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team (WRRIT) established
- **November:** Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed

**Spring 2022**
- **April:** 10 initial investment landscapes announced to receive $131 million BIL investment

**Winter 2022**
- **January:** 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy announced
- **February:** Partnered with the National Forest Foundation to host roundtables across all regions

**Summer 2022**
- **June:** Roundtables concluded
- **August:** Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) passed

**Fall 2022**
- **October:** NFF released roundtable synthesis report
- **November:** Forest Service continuing to implement feedback and work towards additional investments
2022 PROGRESS IN SUPPORT OF THE WILDFIRE CRISIS STRATEGY

- All hands, all lands
- Community Resilience
- Reforestation
- Post-fire Recovery and Disaster Prevention
- Equity
- Tracking and Storytelling
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation
  - $5 billion to the agency for multiple programs/initiatives, including $1.1 billion for hazardous fuels work on National Forests
  - Down payment to launch the Wildfire Crisis Strategy
- Hazardous Fuels Treatments
  - WCS, Joint Chiefs, CFLR, regular appropriations
Initial Investment Landscapes, Joint Chiefs, and CFLR Projects

This map shows the distribution of Initial Investment Landscapes, Joint Chiefs, and CFLR Projects across the United States. The map highlights various regions with different projects and initiatives, including those that are approved and those that are not. The areas marked with different colors and symbols indicate the specific locations and types of projects being implemented.
YOUR ENGAGEMENT IS INFORMING THE AGENCY’S WORK

CHANGING HOW WE DO BUSINESS

- Improving our work with tribal nations
- Updated grants and agreements policy
- Change in prescribed fire practices
- Expanded partnerships
- Focus on capacity, including national hiring events
- Strengthening traditional markets and exploring innovative industry
CHANGING HOW WE PRIORITIZE INVESTMENTS

- Large scale investments
- Building additional considerations for the next suite of investments (IRA etc.)
  - Tribes
  - Underserved and socially vulnerable populations
  - Source water
  - Watershed health
  - Critical utility corridors
FUTURE ACTIONS

- Increase Capacity
- Streamline and Support NEPA
- Invest In/Leverage New Technology
- Retain portion of IRA funds for other investments
HOW CAN YOU CONTINUE TO ENGAGE?

• Amplify the message of why this work is important and the value of the tools we use to accomplish the work.
• Strengthen existing markets and facilitate wood product innovation and new markets.
• Engage further on the socioeconomic and diversity equity and inclusion piece of this work.
• Continue to stay engaged in project implementation.
• Help us understand policy needs and give us insight into policy limitations.
THANK YOU