



# The Future of Wildland Fire Science

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*Executive Director*

*Wildland Fire Leadership Council*



# Wildland Fire Leadership Council

## Membership

- DOI Associate Deputy Secretary and USDA Undersecretary (*co-chairs*)
- Department of Defense, Assistant Secretaries (2)
- FS and DOI Bureau Chiefs (BLM, FWS, NPS, BIA, USGS)
- FEMA/USFA Administrator
- Governor from the West – Gov. Bulloch, MT
- National Governors' Association – Gov. Fallin, OK
- National Association of Counties – County Commissioner, Lake Co. OR
- National League of Cities – Mayor, Colorado Springs
- Intertribal Timber Council – FMO, Spokane Tribe
- International Association of Fire Chiefs – Fire Chief, Santa Fe NM
- National Association of State Foresters – State Forester, Florida



# Wildland Fire Leadership Council

## Mission

- Dedicated to consistent implementation of wildland fire policies, goals and management activities.
- Provides strategic oversight to ensure policy coordination, accountability and effective implementation of long-term strategies.



# WFLC Approach

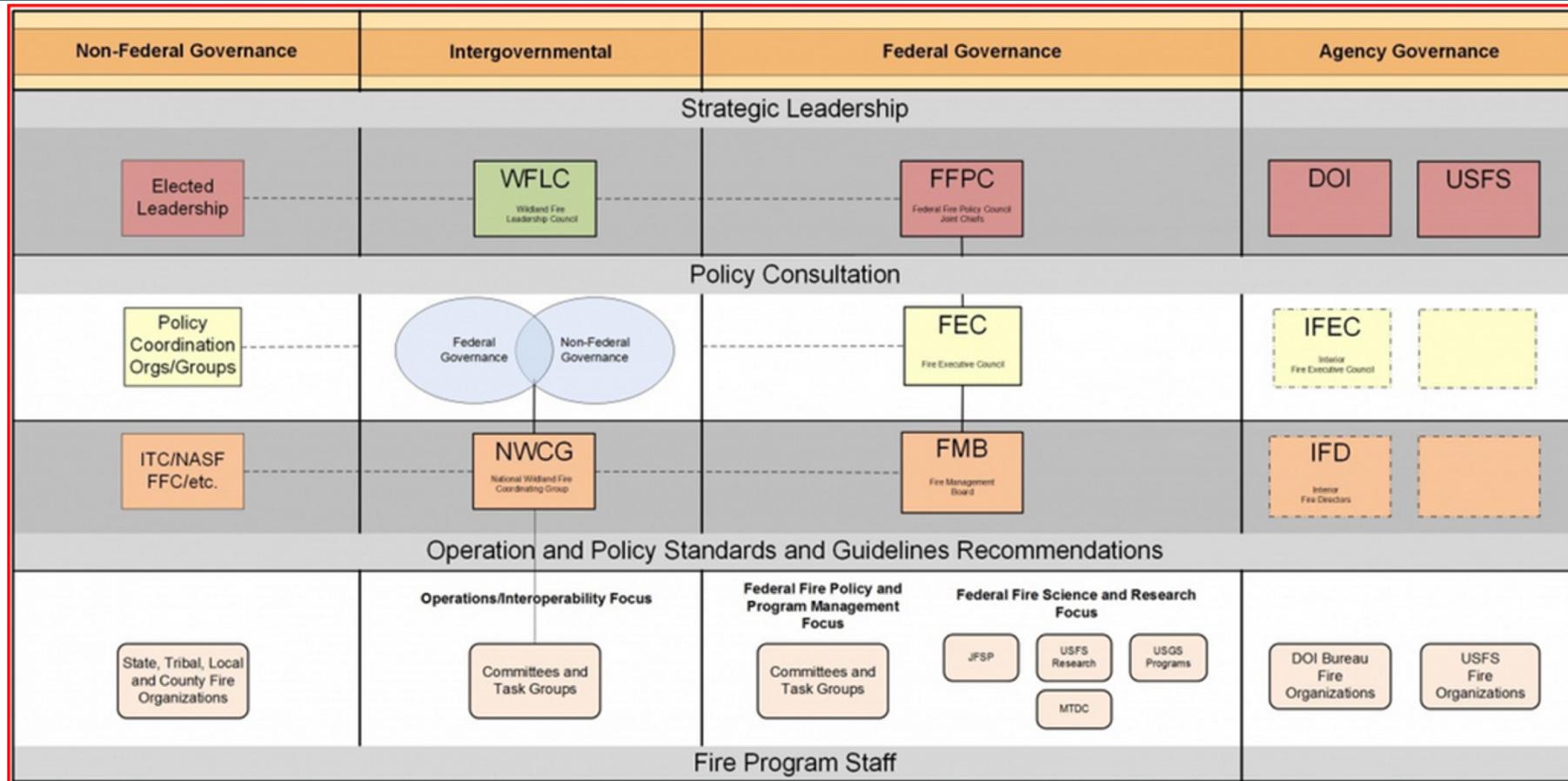
## Members and Partners

- Leaders' Intent
- Consistent Policy Implementation
- Strategic Oversight
- Accountability
- Shared Learning
- Building Networks (national)
- Joint Communications
- Moving Issues "Up"
- *Facilitating Relationships*

## Regional Strategy Committees

- Implementation at the local level
- Best Practices
- Shared Learning
- Building Networks (regional)
- Information and Education
- *Facilitating Relationships*
- *Leveraging and Expanding upon Successful Activities on the ground*

# Wildland Fire Governance Structure



# WFLC Strategic Foci

- Work Environment
- Joint Messaging (fire year, collective support)
- Active Management (increase, E.C., shared risk)
- Smoke Management and Air Quality
- Integrating Technology Across Organizations
- Workplace Challenges
- Mitigating Post Fire Impacts
- *Reducing Risk to Communities*
- *Efficient and Effective Response*

# National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

*“Safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, live with wildland fire.”*

## Elements of the Cohesive Strategy



# Evolution towards Cohesive Strategy

- Increasing Duration and Severity of Fire Seasons
- Decrease in Firefighting Workforce
- Reduced Resilience of the Landscape
- Increase in Development in the WUI
- Federal Fire Funding Challenges
  - Fire Borrowing
  - Structure of Funding

*(this was the early and mid-2000's...any similarities to now?)*



# Evolution towards Cohesive Strategy

- National Fire Plan
- Multiple extremely expensive fires in mid-2000s
- “Emmitsburg 13”
  - 2008 @ National Fire Academy
  - “Call To Action” - business as usual not working
- Looking towards a new path forward
- **2009 FLAME Act** - Directs Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
  - New strategic approach
  - Cost-effective allocation
  - Reinvestment of non-fire programs
  - No additional funding





*The Cohesive Strategy is not a new program – it is a mechanism to promulgate a way of behaving that prioritizes and leverages resources, collaborates across jurisdictions, programs and physical boundaries, and ensures shared-decision space to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives.*



### Three Goals

- Restore and Maintain Landscapes
- Fire Adapted (human) Communities (FAC)
- Effective and Efficient Wildfire Response

**AND the intersection of the goals**



## Resilient Landscapes

*Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives*

## Fire Adapted Communities

*Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property*

## Wildland Fire Response

*All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions*





**Action**  
 Innovative Overarching  
 Principled Partnership  
 Transnational Stakeholders  
 Transformation • Integrated  
**Leadership**  
 Active Tenets  
**Institutionalize**  
 Risk Management Collective  
 Co-management  
 Shared Non-prescriptive Wildland  
 Vision Collaborative Accept  
**Success**  
 Framework  
 Long-term  
 Outreach Communities Mitigate  
 Strategic  
 Engage Responsibilities  
 Change Cohesive  
 Leverage



# Smoke Management and Air Quality

## Case Study for Engagement

- Large body of work from multiple perspectives
- Short-term needs
  - impacts of policy on management
  - Impacts of management on health and wellness
  - Impacts of exclusion
- Long-term needs
  - Broader understanding of differences between types of fires
  - Larger scale studies to incorporate multiple factors
- *How can this be done in times of constricting funding?*



- *Federal Role (DoD, land agencies, EPA, FEMA, GAO/OMB)*
- *State Role*
- *Private Role*
- *University Role*
- *NGO Role*
- *Others?*

## **Zupko's Musings on the Future**

# *Questions and Discussion*

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