



CONFRONTING THE WILDFIRE CRISIS: MILESTONES IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGY

HISTORIC FIRE YEAR

More than **7.4 million acres burned**—more than twice the average annual area burned for the previous 17 years.



WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS

A study published by the Rocky Mountain Research Station estimated that **73 million acres** on the National Forest System were at **moderate to high risk of catastrophic wildfire**.

EMMITSBURG 13 MEETING

Partners in the wildland fire community met to **discuss a common strategy** for coping with rising fire year severity and growing wildfire risk.



INCREASING THE PACE OF RESTORATION AND JOB CREATION ON OUR NATIONAL FORESTS PUBLISHED

The Forest Service **renewed its commitment** to restoring forests on a landscape scale by **expanding** collaborative partnerships, **improving** and **accelerating** stewardship contracting, and other means.

OMNIBUS BILL/“FIRE FUNDING FIX”

Congress **passed legislation** providing a long-term funding fix that established 2015 as the baseline for firefighter appropriations and off-budget funding that reduced the need to borrow funding from nonfire programs.

JOHN PHIPPS TESTIMONY

The Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry called for changing the trajectory of fuel buildups by **scaling up fuels and forest health treatments** by at least two to three times.



OMNIBUS BILL

The **Consolidated Appropriations Act** directed the Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior to provide “**an estimate of the Federal investment required to treat and restore all acres classified as being at high or very high risk** on the 2018 Wildfire Hazard Potential Map.”

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

The **Senate passed a bipartisan bill investing** about \$5.5 billion in natural-resources-related infrastructure, including a 5-year investment of about \$3 billion in restoring ecosystems and reducing wildfire risk.

WHITE PAPER

Rocky Mountain Research Station drafted a White Paper outlining a **10-year plan to reduce wildfire risk in the West**, including up to **\$20 billion in new Federal spending** on the National Forest System and up to **\$30 billion on other lands**.



2000 NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

A **national plan was created** with five goals, including reducing hazardous fuels on the Nation’s forests and grasslands.

2001 10-YEAR STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A **strategy was adopted** for reducing wildfire risk, followed by an **implementation plan** for preventing and suppressing wildland fires, restoring ecosystems, and helping communities protect themselves from wildfire.

2002

2003

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

Congress **passed legislation** to reduce wildfire risk by adding new categorical exclusions to extend the area of fuels and forest health treatments on Federal lands in the West.



2008

2010 COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM

The program has **funded more than 20 large-scale projects nationwide** with goals to restore forest health and reduce wildfire risk across shared landscapes.

2012

2014

NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A **national strategy was adopted** with three central goals: restoring fire-adapted ecosystems on a landscape scale, building fire-adapted human communities, and responding safely and effectively to wildland fire.



2018

OMNIBUS BILL/“CASE FOR CHANGE”

Due to rising wildfire risk, Congress asked the Trump administration to “review and update the National Fire Plan, as needed.” In response, the Forest Service launched “The Case for Change,” which led to **creation of a year-round workforce for wildfire response**.

2020

“THOUGHT PIECE”

At the request of Congress, the Forest Service **delivered a “thought piece” paper on how to greatly scale up fuels treatments** and the projected costs of doing so.

PARTNER ENGAGEMENTS

Forest Service leadership met with member of the National Association of State Foresters, American Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, American Forests, and other organizations to **agree on a common vision for the future of America’s forests**.

“NATIONAL FIRE PLAN 2.0” VISIONING

The Forest Service **engaged** National Forest System directors and others in **analyzing** the Nation’s wildfire crisis in the West and **planning** for reducing wildfire risk.



2021 LEAD EXECUTIVE NAMED

Chief Randy Moore named **Brian Ferebee to lead a team** that will operationalize the 10-year strategy, if funded.

2022 STRATEGY LAUNCHED

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced launch of **Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America’s Forests**.