



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry: Supporting the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy – Northeast Regional Strategy Committee

Description:

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a collaborative effort to manage growing wildland fire challenges across all lands regardless of ownership. To address changing wildland fire challenges in the Northeast, Federal, Tribal, State, local, and private organizations have committed to a cohesive, strategic approach towards effective wildland fire management for multiple objectives, mitigation, and response.

The Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC) was organized in 2011 in support of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. It provides executive leadership, coordination, and guidance to carry out the NE RSC Regional Action Plan, while providing a forum for members to recommend and guide joint strategic direction on fire and land management activities.

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) is an active member of this committee, provides staff support for it, and manages grant agreements for its coordination and activities.

Key Issues:

These are the key NE RSC issues for each of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goals:

Goal 1: Resilient Landscapes

- Improve fire data, particularly regarding LANDFIRE (Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools Project) and wildfire reporting
- Increase fuels management (especially prescribed fire) on private land

Goal 2: Reducing Risk to Communities

- Increase the number of communities at risk with Fire Adapted Community Protection Plans

Goal 3: Safe, Effective, Efficient Wildfire Response

- Remove policy barriers and process complexities for sharing resources
- Improve the Priority Trainee Mobilization Program

Accomplishments/Project Status of the NE RSC and NA S&PF Involvement:

- **LANDFIRE Priority** – NA S&PF is part of an NE RSC interorganizational LANDFIRE Task Group that established a plan to address Northeast LANDFIRE data deficiencies and secured funding for a 3-year effort hosted by the State of Wisconsin. This project is implemented and ongoing. NA S&PF Fire and GIS staff will be investing a significant amount of time for the data project.
- **Reducing Risk to Communities** – NA S&PF provides grant funding and technical support for the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Hubs in Minnesota and New Jersey.
- **Communications and Outreach** – NA S&PF supported the NE RSC in the production of a monthly digital newsletter.
- **Wildfire Risk Reduction RFP** – This NA S&PF competitive grant program supports the implementation of the NE RSC Regional Action Plan by incorporating the National Cohesive Strategy's goals in the grant criteria.



Future Direction:

- The NA S&PF Fire and Aviation Management group will continue to provide operational support and manage grant agreements for the NE RSC and actively work on the LANDFIRE Priority.
- The NA S&PF Office of Communications will continue production of the monthly NE RSC electronic newsletter, develop a communications and outreach action plan, and provide communications support as needed.
- Working with the National Incident Management Organization and NE RSC, NA S&PF will support the expansion of training opportunities in the Northeast region, particularly in the area of prescribed fire.

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