



Department of Natural Resources

Wildland Fire Management

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Website: www.dnr.wa.gov

September 11, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Allen Lebovitz, Chair, Wildland Fire Advisory Committee (WFAC)
Loren Torgerson, Wildland Fire Policy Advisor

From: George L Geissler
State Forester | Deputy Supervisor, Wildland Fire Management 

Subject: Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan Review

I am requesting the assistance of the WFAC in determining progress achieving the goals and outcomes contained in the [Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan](#), and to develop an addendum to the Strategic Plan which contains the review of progress made and any gaps and/or recommendations for amendments to the plan needed to address changes in conditions, rationale, or drivers considered when the plan was developed.

Background

The Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan was completed in 2018. The WFAC played a key role in the development of the Strategic Plan at that time, including vetting content and identifying the vision, goals, and outcomes.

The Strategy is considered a blueprint for effective wildland fire protection in Washington and has been used to inform policy, and resource development and allocation decisions. It is assumed that implementation and/or completion of individual strategies contained within the Plan represent progress toward achieving its overall goals and outcomes, fundamentally changing the future trajectory of wildland fire in Washington.

Task Overview

This request for review of the Strategic Plan is being made because of the significant changes that have occurred since its completion in 2018. DNR's organizational structure, policies, procedures, and funding in the five years since the Strategic Plan was finalized have undergone substantial changes, many specifically called for in the plan. Examples include increases in available suppression resources and establishment of new programs such as Community Resilience and Prescribed Fire.

Nationally there has been dramatically increased focus on wildland fire management by two administrations and Congress with the passage of numerous historic funding bills, an amendment to the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, and the commissioning of a forthcoming report of the Congressionally chartered [Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission](#).

The purpose of this task order is to employ the expertise, knowledge, and the constituent connections of the WFAC to help determine the extent of progress in achieving the goals and outcomes of the Strategic Plan, identify any recommendations for amendments to the Plan, and to provide the basis for development of future DNR program budgets and deliverable priorities. This review is critical to ensure the relevancy and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan.

All work products, recommendations, or other input will be communicated to the State Forester/Deputy Supervisor, Wildland Fire Management at the conclusion of the review. The input and recommendations received will be utilized to guide further implementation of the Strategy.

Task Outline

With the support of DNR Wildland Fire Management Division and Region staff presentations and written information, assist DNR by conducting a 5-year review of the Strategic Plan, providing an assessment of the extent strategies have been implemented, goals attained, and importantly, the anticipated outcomes achieved.

Specific tasks include:

- Review the strategies contained within the Strategic Plan and develop a request for information and data with which to evaluate the Plan, which shall be supplied by DNR staff.
- Assess the extent the strategies have been implemented and identify any gaps in implementation.
- Characterize the extent to which the goals of the Strategic Plan have been attained, and the anticipated outcomes achieved.
- Identify strategies that may no longer be relevant because circumstances have changed or that would now be ineffectual.
- Identify any new outcomes, goals, and strategies that are needed.
- Review and recommend metrics for DNR to measure progress toward achieving goals and outcomes.

Key Deliverables

Periodic updates on progress should be discussed during the scheduled WFAC monthly meeting. A project overview, analysis and recommendations on the identified topics will be compiled into a final report and submitted to the State Forester/Deputy Supervisor Wildland Fire Management by September 1, 2024, to allow time for development of any legislative needs or policy changes needed. The report created will be considered an addendum to the original strategic plan.

If there are any questions regarding request, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Cc: DNR Region Managers

Russ Lane, WA DNR Wildland Fire Management Division Manager

Katy Taylor, WA DNR Chief Operating Officer

Kelli Messegee, DNR Executive Assistant to the State Forester