



National Wildfire
Coordinating Group
Wildland/Urban Interface
Working Team



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STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

In 1974, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) was formed to expand operational cooperation and coordination among federal agencies and the National Association of State Foresters. Working Teams were established by the NWCG to examine specific problem areas in fire management and recommend solutions. It was deemed necessary to develop a team to address the Wildland/Urban Interface issues. In 1999, the NWCG tapped the existing Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Advisory Group to form the basis of the Working Team.

As the Working Team evolved, it became clear that longer-term thinking was necessary to develop effective implementation strategies. In Fall of 2003, the Working Team hired ECONorthwest to assist in the development of a strategic plan that includes priorities to make the team an effective and viable group well positioned to address the complex issues surrounding Wildland/Urban Interface Fire, now and into the foreseeable future.

Purpose

The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide a framework for the types of projects and activities the Working Team will focus on over the next five years. The plan establishes goals, strategies and actions that are intended to guide the Working Team's activities and help establish priorities. The strategic plan is implemented through the annual work plans that are developed by staff and reviewed and approved by the Working Team.

Vision

The WUI Working Team's vision statement is:

*Wildland fires can occur in areas of residential development
without the occurrence of disastrous loss.*

Mission

The WUI Working Team's mission statement is:

*To promote community-wide responsibility in the use of technology, policy and practices that minimize
the loss of life and property to wildland fire independent of fire fighting efforts.*

Goals and Strategies

GOAL 1: Promote community solutions to prevent or reduce the impact of WUI fires.

Strategy 1.1. Provide information, educational materials, and technical assistance that promote societal and individual behavior change relative to the linkage between natural systems and the built environment.

Strategy 1.2. Promote community specific solutions that advocate for local ownership and responsibility of WUI problems and outcomes.

GOAL 2: Develop and promote effective practices on the part of agencies and homeowners during WUI events.

Strategy 2.1. Raise community awareness and encourage effective actions during WUI events.

Strategy 2.2. Advocate policy and practices of fire management and suppression activities to reduce risk to lives and property in the WUI.

GOAL 3. Provide leadership and coordination among agencies, organizations, and partners for implementing WUI strategies

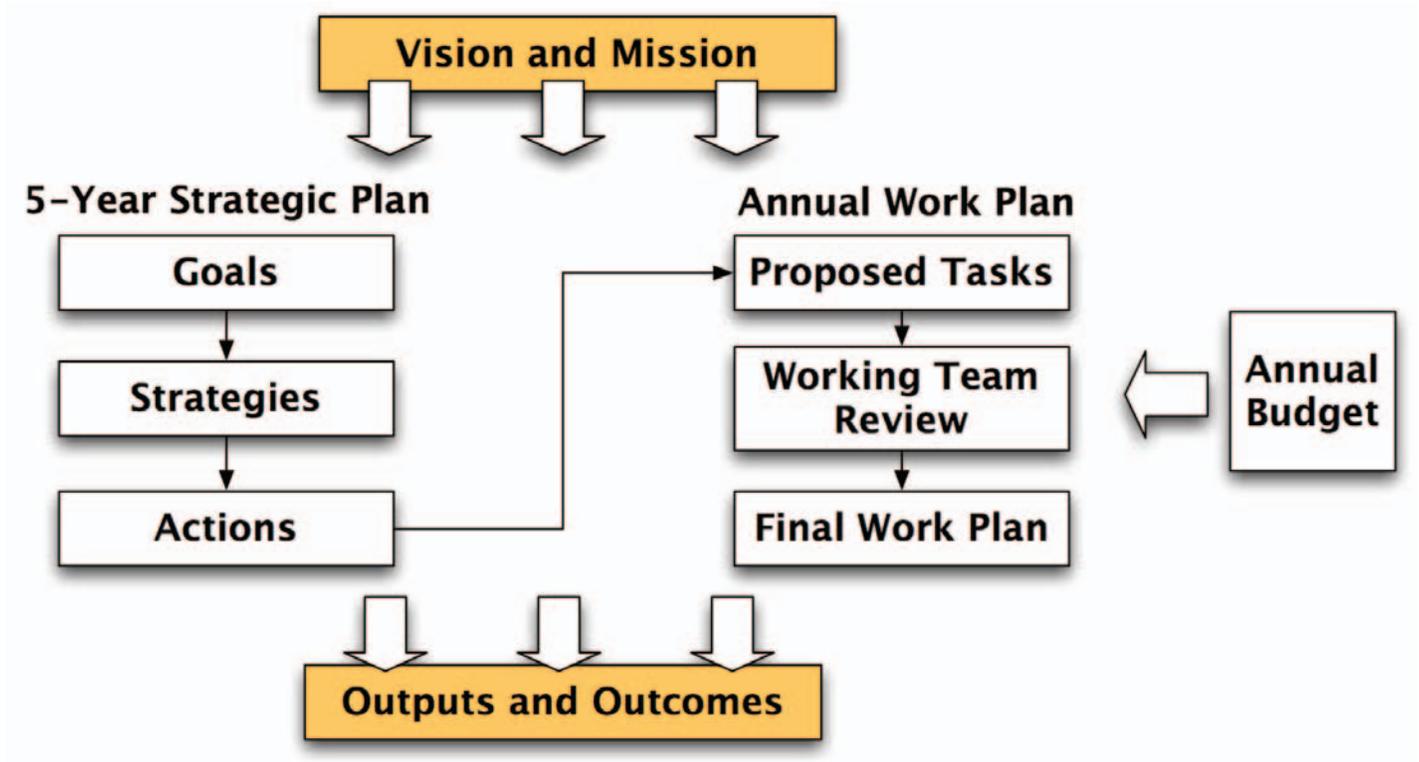
Strategy 3.1. Pursue active participation and encourage support of WUI Working Team goals and strategies among Working Team organizations.

Strategy 3.2. Strengthen communication and coordination among WUI Working Team agencies, other NWCG working teams, non-profit organizations, and private sector partners to effectively deliver wildland urban interface programs and messages.

Strategy 3.3. Develop and support partnerships among non-member agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector that assist NWCG member agencies and organizations in addressing wildland urban interface issues.

How the Plan Works

WUI Strategic Plan Diagram



The strategic plan provides the framework for activities the Working Team will focus on over the next five years. A strategic plan—even a good one—does not guarantee success, however. Success is measured by outputs and outcomes.

The process of developing the annual work program, in general terms, is as follows:

- Working Team members, member organizations, and stakeholder groups propose tasks (all proposed tasks must come through a WT member). Proposed tasks include cost estimates.
- The Working Team reviews all of the proposed tasks at their mid-year meeting. The tasks are evaluated for consistency with the strategic plan and for their budget implications.
- The Working Team prioritizes proposed tasks and directs staff to prepare a draft work program.
- The draft work program is submitted to the USDA Forest Service for review and approval.

The strategic plan provides guidance for the annual work program, but does not identify annual priorities. This architecture is intentional: the Working Team developed the strategic plan in a manner that allows flexibility to respond to emerging issues and redirect resources on an annual basis as necessary.

The NWCG Wildland / Urban Interface Working Team

The following agencies and organizations are members of the NWCG Wildland / Urban Interface Working Team and were instrumental in the creation of the 2005-2009 Strategic Plan.

The NWCG Wildland / Urban Interface Working Team Members

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Fish & Wildlife Service
 - National Park Service
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Emergency Management Association
- National Fire Protection Association
- US Fire Administration

Consultant Team

- ECONorthwest