



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Bill Owens  
Governor of Colorado  
Chairman

Janet Napolitano  
Governor of Arizona  
Vice Chair

Pam O. Inmann  
Executive Director

Headquarters:  
1515 Cleveland Place  
Suite 200  
Denver, Colorado 80202-5114

303-623-9378  
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:  
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 388  
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402  
Fax 202-624-7707  
[www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)

November 23, 2004

Mark Rey  
Chairman  
Wildland Fire Leadership Council  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources & Environment  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0108

Dear Chairman Rey:

The 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan agreed to by western governors and the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior in 2002 called for the establishment of a monitoring framework to evaluate performance of the Plan and set forth a number of performance measures. At its May 2004 meeting in Sacramento, California, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council asked the Western Governors' Association to assist it in developing a framework to monitor accomplishments under the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Among other items, the monitoring framework was to examine progress made in treating hazardous fuels, restoring healthy forests, and protecting communities and the environment from catastrophic wildfire.

In particular, WFLC requested WGA's assistance with the portion of the monitoring framework that was to address the collaborative elements of the 10-Year Strategy and HFRA. As called for by the Congress in 2001 and endorsed by western governors prior to and since that time, close collaboration among citizens and all levels of governments is paramount to successfully managing the wildfire threat across the nation. Understanding the effectiveness of this linchpin of the Strategy and the HFRA is a vital part of evaluating the performance of governments under these two policy frameworks.

Following the May WFLC meeting, WGA surveyed the experts on its Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC) regarding potential measurements of collaboration. Over 40 suggested measurements were received. They were subsequently narrowed to those below when the FHAC met in Phoenix in early November. Each of these proposals meets WFLC's criteria in that they are measurable across the affected federal agencies and, that they will not require the collection of extensive new information. Moreover, these inquiries will provide highly relevant information on government efforts to use the collaborative approach.

The measurements set forth below are in no particular order. They should all be strongly considered for inclusion in the final monitoring framework.

- A) What percentage of counties or communities, as determined by the state level collaborative body to need Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), have completed a CWPP?
- B) What is the number and percentage of hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration projects implemented annually that were identified in an existing CWPP?
- C) Of the hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration projects conducted each year, how many include a multiparty monitoring process with both governmental and non-governmental participants?
- D) What is the number and percentage of hazardous fuel reduction and forest restoration projects conducted each year that include lands from more than one jurisdiction or ownership?
- E) What is the number and percentage of acres treated each year for fuel reduction or restoration using each of the available tools and authorities, including timber sale contracts, service contracts, stewardship contracting, grants, agreements and force accounts?
- F) What is the number and value (in both real and percentage terms) of the contracts, grants, and agreements used to implement fuels reduction or forest restoration treatments and of those, what is the number and value implemented through non-federal entities located in the community or area where the work was performed?

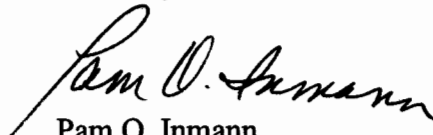
Some of these measurements may already be proposed in other portions of the draft monitoring framework. They are set forth again here to insure their inclusion, as phrased above, somewhere in the final document.

Finally, as called for in the HFRA, we will certainly improve the reliability and public acceptance of the findings of these and all the measurements in the final monitoring framework if we involve a diverse set of non-governmental local cooperators early and often. It should be a goal of the WFLC to ensure that federal land managers are trained and provided incentives to facilitate multi-party monitoring in the field.

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We hope the information set forth above is responsive to the request to WGA from the WFLC. WGA and the offices of Governor Kempthorne and Napolitano look forward to working with you to have these measurements included in the final monitoring framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam O. Inmann", written in a cursive style.

Pam O. Inmann  
Executive Director

cc: Governors Dirk Kempthorne and Janet Napolitano  
(WGA Lead Governors for Forest Health)  
WGA Forest Health Advisory Committee Members