

CHARTER

PARTNERS IN FIRE EDUCATION

January 22, 2009

Members of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) have a mutual interest in informing internal and external audiences about the role of wildland fire. Collaboration between federal agencies, tribes, states, local government and citizens is established in the WFLC Memorandum of Understanding as essential to implement Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and related long-term strategies to address wildfire suppression, assistance to communities, hazardous fuels reduction, habitat restoration, and rehabilitation of the Nation's forests and rangelands.

All of the meetings and other activities carried out under this Charter will be guided by the principles of collaboration established in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan Update (December 2006).

Purpose

This Charter:

1. Clarifies the intention of the WFLC that partners and stakeholders need to work together to further develop and implement Goal 3A Task 2 in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan:
“Further develop and implement a public education campaign such as the National Wildfire Coordination Group's (NWCG) Wildland Fire: A Natural Process to Complement Smokey Bear's Message of Fire Safety. The campaign will emphasize fire's role in ecosystems and the benefits of fire management to ecosystems and public health and safety”;
2. Establishes the principles of collaboration necessary to advance an interagency/stakeholder wildland fire education campaign and ensures that a balance of interests is achieved in creating the chartered group; and
3. Specifies responsibilities and defines approaches to be used.

Authority

This Charter is established under the intent of the WFLC to develop a plan for an education component consistent with Goal 3A Task 2 of the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan Update (December 2006) associated with the National Fire Plan.

Executive Committee Membership

An Executive Committee is created and chartered with membership comprised of a representative of each of the following organizations:

- US Forest Service
- United States Department of the Interior
- Western Governors' Association

The Executive Committee shall coordinate the efforts of the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee Membership

A Steering Committee is created and chartered with membership comprised of a representative of each of the following organizations:

- US Forest Service
- US Department of the Interior
- Western Governors' Association
- Intertribal Timber Council
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group
- National Association of State Foresters
- The Nature Conservancy
- Other members as determined necessary by the WFLC

The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by members of the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and one non-federal stakeholder, as designated by the Western Governors' Association. These co-chairs shall comprise the Executive Committee.

Responsibilities

Executive Committee Responsibilities

- Establish a small group to conceptualize the products
- Delegate tasks to subcommittees and approve work items to complete products
- Monitor subcommittees' progress and communicate progress with all Steering Committee members
- Identify and resolve conflicts and explicitly explain conflict resolution process
- Coordinate full Steering Committee membership review and approval of products
- Create schedule for getting feedback at appropriate points

Steering Committee Responsibilities

- Stay informed, involved, provide input
- Overall direction for the creation of the products
- Provide timely feedback on draft products
- Accept/recognize deadlines and time frames

Product

By December 31, 2009, the Executive Committee shall deliver to the WFLC a plan to implement Goal 3A Task 2 with internal support of the agencies, with specific agency/organizational responsibilities, timetables, and funding estimates.

In developing the plan, the Executive Committee will direct the Steering Committee to:

1. Develop proposed messages for internal audiences, building upon the findings of the June 2008 Partners in Fire Education (PIFE) Report. Draft messages for approval will be developed and submitted to the Executive Committee by Spring, 2009.
2. Develop a proposed common set of external audience messages, building upon the tools identified by the PIFE, and the internal education and messaging above, to increase understanding of and support for the ecological role of fire among the general public.
3. Develop a recommendation for delivering internal and external messages.

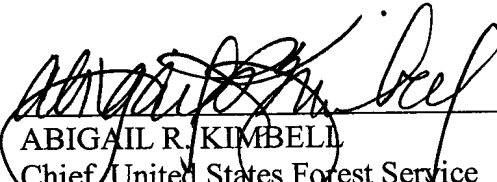
All parties agree to support their designated members at no cost to other parties unless specific agreement for such exchange of funds is arranged. Designated members will have their agencies' and/or organizations' backing for necessary time and travel commitments to fulfill their responsibilities to this Charter.

Adoption and Implementation of the Plan

Upon receipt of the Executive Committee plan, the WFLC shall review the plan and, with any changes or modifications, approve it for implementation through existing interagency mechanisms (such as NWCG) or new interagency mechanisms as appropriate.

This Charter is effective on the date of approval of the undersigned official and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2014 unless extended by WFLC.

Approval


ABIGAIL R. KIMBELL
Chief, United States Forest Service
WFLC Chair

1/23/09
Date