

# 2023 INTERNATIONAL WILDFIRE CONFERENCE

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The Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the United States' forests and grasslands, to meet the needs of present and future generation.

We also employ the nation's largest wildfire organization.



# WILDFIRE AROUND THE WORLD

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## LANDSCAPE FIRE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

To address these challenges, countries from around the globe participated in the development of the Landscape Fire Governance Framework, a guiding document for all countries dealing with wildfires.



# WHAT'S AT STAKE

Fire activity is now year-round

# LANDSCAPE FIRE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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## FACTORS IDENTIFIED IN THE LANDSCAPE FIRE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- Persistent emphasis on fire exclusion
- Fire suppression
- Rapidly warming and drying climate



# OUR CHALLENGES

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## OUR FORESTS HAVE CHANGED

- For millennia, indigenous peoples routinely and intentionally burned vast areas of land for many reasons.
- Naturally ignited fires cultivated a healthy landscape that could withstand, and in many cases needed fire to thrive.



# WE MUST ACT NOW

We must continue to share knowledge of integrated fire management principals across countries and continents

# MOVING PAST A SILO MINDSET

Our old paradigm was to use limited funds and capacity to scatter small treatments across the landscape to the best of our limited ability in hopes they would deter wildfire when it came.



# A NEW PARADIGM

Increase the pace and scale of forest treatments to match the scale of the wildfire risk.



# WILDFIRE CRISIS STRATEGY

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## THE WILDFIRE CRISIS STRATEGY WAS RELEASED IN JAN 2022

- Safeguard communities
- Increase hazardous fuels treatment
- Promote community readiness
- Support postfire recovery
- Strategically placed treatments
- 250 high-risk firesheds in the West

# OVER THE COMING DECADE WE WILL...

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- Treat up to an additional 20 million acres of national forest lands.
- Work with partners to treat up to an additional 30 million acres of other federal, state, tribal and private lands.
- Follow up with maintenance treatments at intervals of 10 to 15 years.

HOW WE ARE DOING IT

# PRESCRIBED BURNING & MECHANICAL THINNING

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Our goal is to safely return  
fire to the land



# WORKING AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE

The landscapes range in size from thousands of acres to over 10 million acres.

In 2022, we funded treatment on 10 initial landscapes.

In 2023, we added an additional 11 landscapes.



# OUR PLAN PARALLELS THE LANDSCAPE FIRE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

01

Be impact oriented

02

Consider the knowledge of local communities by involving them in the decision-making process

03

Address the problem at a landscape level.

04

Make progress while in transition

05

Commit firefighting resources in a rational and efficient way

06

Evaluate our processes and aim for continued improvement.

07

Operate with flexibility



# HOW'S IT GOING?

The Wildfire Crisis Strategy

**2022**

**10 landscapes**

**\$131 million**

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Montana
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Washington

**2023**

**11 landscapes**

**\$490 million**

- Arizona
- California
- Idaho
- Nevada
- Oregon
- Utah
- Washington



We've committed to this work because it's the right thing to do not only for our country, but also for our planet.

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