



CHARTER
of the
WILDLAND FIRE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER REDUCTION
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force (WFST TF) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR).

B. Purpose and Scope

Wildland fire management challenges are significant and complex with increasing risks to communities and their values and a changing climate. Research, development, and science delivery are necessary to support the significant, long-standing challenges to managing and mitigating increasing wildfire risks. The establishment of this task force is intended to support the need for increased coordination and cooperation between the Federal agencies with wildland fire management and wildfire mitigation, response, and recovery responsibilities and the Federal organizations with science and technology functions.

The task force is to prepare with Federal wildland fire management and Federal wildland fire science and technology departments and agencies a report that identifies opportunities and mechanisms for increased coordination and cooperation to support the development, access, and application of science and technology in wildland fire management, response, and recovery. The document will align with the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* as well as the core capabilities in the mitigation, response, and recovery areas of the *National Preparedness Goal* as defined by PPD-8.

Increased coordination and cooperation will support the following three national overarching goals as defined in the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy*:

- “Restore and maintain landscapes: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.”
- “Fire adapted communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.”
- “Wildfire response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.”

C. Functions

The functions of the WFST TF include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Describe the current roles and responsibilities and establish a resource baseline that defines the current capacity for Federal wildland fire science and technology to address the current national-level challenges.
2. Measure and analyze progress on implementation actions identified in the SDR *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction - Wildland Fire Implementation Plan* and assess needs and opportunities.
3. Describe current and future national-level challenges for decreasing the undesired effects and increasing the desired effects of wildland fire.
4. Identify critical gaps and opportunities for long-term coordination and cooperation of Federal fire science across organizations to define strategic objectives, maximize efficiencies, and promote effective collaboration between wildland fire managers and decision makers.
5. Deliver a report that summarizes findings to the SDR for interagency clearance and public release.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the WFST TF:

Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Homeland Security
Department of the Interior
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Science Foundation

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the WFST TF:

Council on Environmental Quality
National Security Council Staff
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include such other Executive branch organizations, departments, and agencies as the WFST TF Co-chairs may designate.

E. Leadership and Reporting

The SDR Co-chairs shall appoint the Co-chairs of the WFST TF. The task force will be co-chaired by a representative from a wildland fire management, response, and/or recovery agency and a representative from a science and/or technology organization. The task force Co-chairs, or their designee, shall report on progress to the SDR principals at meetings of the SDR as requested.

F. Non-Federal and Private-Sector Interface

The WFST TF may work with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to secure appropriate non-Federal (tribal, state, local government) and private-sector advice, and will recommend to the SDR and/or the Office of Science and Technology Policy Liaison to the SDR the nature of additional non-Federal and private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The task force may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various non-Federal and private-sector groups consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

G. Termination Date

The task force shall terminate upon completion of its report summarizing the tasks defined in the functions by January 11, 2015.

H. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.