

NFLC Value Statements

October 2017

The following represents the context and values underpinning the NFLC program of work:

The Wildland Fire System must continually evolve and improve to meet the demands of changing environmental and socio/political conditions. There are three primary focus areas that must be addressed to maintain stability in the system and ensure effective service delivery:

- creation and maintenance of fire resilient landscapes
- delivery of efficient and effective response operations
- establishing necessary infrastructure to support personnel

In a limited budgetary and workforce environment, investment of time and money must be prioritized across all three focus areas to produce desired outcomes. Understanding the interconnectivity of focus areas and how investment tradeoffs affect each is essential to maximizing the return on any investment.

Fire Resilient Landscapes

In order to maximize opportunities to manage fires with the least firefighter exposure while achieving response and land management objectives, it is imperative to create natural and social landscapes that are resilient to the effects of wildfire. This will require substantial investment in initiatives to define clear intent, reduce fuel loads, establish defensible space around high valued resources, create social license, and institute response parameters that facilitate wildfire occurring how and where we want. This is the work of the entire agency and will ultimately allow for greater focus on non-fire activities as the required effort to manage incidents decreases due to increased operational decision space.

Delivery of Efficient and Effective Response Operations

Wildfire Response operations are complicated and require a multitude of operational systems to seamlessly integrate to produce effective and efficient outcomes. If any one component fails or is inefficient, the entire system suffers. The system requires substantial investment in maintenance and upgrades to sustain and adapt to evolving conditions. There are several components to the system:

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| - Personnel | - Equipment |
| - Technology | - Training |
| - Operational controls and oversight | - Infrastructure |

Investments in some aspects of any component are necessary to operate in the real time environment while other investments take years to produce returns but are necessary to meet future conditions. Organizational design is also essential and must be done in a manner that enables decisions to be made that support national and local interests, demands accountability and enable learning to promote the positive and remove negative incentives and actions.

Infrastructure to Support Personnel

People are the backbone of any high functioning organization and require care to create a productive and supportive work environment. Wildland fire response generates dangerous work conditions that results in mental stress, physical harm and even death. There is no way to avoid this but it is imperative to create institutional infrastructure to manage these inevitable outcomes.