**Interagency Talking Points for the 2018 Wildfire Year (v.4 draft for final review folder - Lauren)**

The past several fire years have taught the Northwest to be prepared for anything. Through these long, grueling seasons we have a deepened appreciation that we depend on close collaboration with our partners to address growing wildfire issues. We continue to work together at all levels on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. This is especially important given the hotter and drier than average conditions expected in the Pacific Northwest this summer.

The National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy provides us with a framework to face this together as one response system. The three goals of the Cohesive Strategy are:

* To create more fire-resilient landscapes
* Establish and maintain fire-adapted communities
* Conduct safe, effective, risk-based wildland fire response

The vision is to safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a region and nation, to live with wildfire. In addition, many agencies have made it a priority to prevent human-caused wildfires whenever possible to protect life, property and natural resources.

**Our highest priority is the safety of our firefighters and the public.**

* Our goal is that all responders return home safely.
* We will implement plans that more reliably protect responders and the public, while defending communities, property and the land.
* Communities play a vital role in being prepared for wildfire. Everyone needs to know and understand their personal and community evacuation plans, and be prepared to heed them.

**Fire Prevention**

* Nationally, people, not lightning, start more fires on the landscape, and many of those start near the home. Prevent wildfires!
* The top three human causes of wildfire in the Pacific Northwest are equipment, debris burning and escaped campfires.
* At home, pay attention to current fire restrictions for your address. If you are traveling, find out the fire restrictions for your destination. Check with the local land manager because many lands have different fire restrictions.
* A single spark is all it can take to start a wildfire. Be careful with any activity that can produce a spark. For example, a mower blade striking a rock can produce a spark that can set dry grass on fire.
* Predictable is preventable. Predict the outcome of your behavior. If you think what you are doing might create a spark that could start a fire, find an alternative to that activity or reschedule it to a less fire-prone time of day or time of year.

**Fire-Adapted Communities**

* Fire is a natural part of the Pacific Northwest. Creating fire-adapted communities can reduce the potential to cause loss of life and damage to property or infrastructure.
* All of us in the Northwest need to know the wildfire risk where we live, work and recreate. There are many resources available online to help communities adapt to wildfire.
* When residents of a fire-prone community clear brush, trees and other flammable materials away from their homes and other structures (within 30 feet), it helps keep residents and firefighters safe.
* People can more effectively protect their community from wildfire by working together to make their surroundings fire adapted. Talk with your neighbors and make a plan to address wildfire!

**Fire-Resilient Landscapes**

* Although wildfire is a natural part of the Northwest landscape, because of long-term drought and changing vegetation conditions, millions of acres of forests and grasslands are at risk for severe wildfire.
* Northwest forests and grasslands will be healthier and better able to withstand wildfire if the buildup of hazardous vegetation and woody debris is reduced through treatment. Examples include mechanical thinning and prescribed burning at times when conditions are right.
* Managing the landscape also reduces the overall volume of smoke when wildfires do occur.

**Safe and Effective Wildfire Response**

* Our wildland fire system relies on consistent interagency cooperation. Strong, enduring collaboration across federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, with private firefighting partners, is essential to achieving our shared mission to safely and effectively respond to wildfire.
* Agencies use the right tool in the right place at the right time to respond to wildfires.