

# Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities

Taking the Long-Term Perspective for  
Wildland Fire Management

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# Purpose of Today's Session

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- ❑ Begin to think in strategic, long run (20-30 years) terms
  - ❑ Understand some of the forces that will drive the wildland fire program and community
  - ❑ Explore and challenge the assumptions underlying our current program
  - ❑ Assess rates of change, as well as direction of change
  - ❑ Begin to chart a new strategic direction
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# How We Got to Today

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- Vigorous fire exclusion policies of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century: understanding of the role of fire in resources management; consequences of vigorous suppression
  - Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: National Fire Plan
    - Fuels
    - Growing urbanization
    - Federal-Nonfederal partnerships
  - The future....???
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# The 2005 Quadrennial Fire Review

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- Defense Department's QDR as model; envisioned as a 4<sup>th</sup> year assessment by the federal wildland fire management agencies and their partners of current capabilities and future needs.
  - Used regional panels of researchers & experts that reviewed current assumptions about the fuels and fire environment and identified significant demographic, environmental, technology, and social/economic issues and trends.
  - Four major "driving forces" for the future were analyzed using future projections: Drought & Climate Variation, Fuel Conditions, Demographics in the WUI, and Public Expectations
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# The 2009 QFR

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## □ 2007 Research Phase

- White Papers on Fire/Resource Management Issues and presentations for the Fire Research Forum.
  - “New Assumptions” Papers on Enterprise/Technology Future Strategies
  - Posting of Background Papers and Presentations for field comment and discussion
  - Fire Research Forum to assess findings and implications
  - Research Summary Report
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# 2009 QFR

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## □ 2008

- Working Panels (5 planned)
- Integration Panel Review and preparation of Final Draft Report
- Review and approval through governance process
- December: Final Approval

## □ 2009

- January 20, 2009 – QFR Final Report Released
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# Plan for the Day

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In the Morning....

- Presentations on four key strategic drivers:
  - Drought and Climate Variation
  - Vegetation Changes and Fuel Conditions
  - Demographics
  - Public Expectations

After Lunch...

- Discussion of the strategic drivers
  - Developing an approach for a long-run strategy for wildland fire management
  - Ranking Priorities in terms of risk and strategic importance in WFLC's view?
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# What We Need From You

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- Critically assess the presentations
  - Be prepared to discuss and answer:
    - What are our current assumptions about long-term drivers?
    - What might be new assumptions?
    - What are the risks or threats to our ability to deliver an effective and efficient wildland fire management program?
    - What priority should be placed on the risks or threats?
    - What is the role of the WFLC with respect to responding to long term drivers?
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- Developing an approach for a long-run (20-30 year) strategy to address each of these high priority threats and opportunities
    - What strengths exist to build on?
    - What weaknesses or barriers have to be mitigated in order to be successful?
    - What additional information or analysis is needed?
  - Discuss next steps, including October 2007 meeting
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