

## **Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative**

### **Political Leveraging Strategy**

**Expected Outcomes:** Universal support from local, state, tribal and federal elected officials for the Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative (COCSI). These elected officials can demonstrate that support by influencing agency and stakeholder budgets in legislative deliberations which will over time, deliver financial program support to the collective efforts of the COCSI. These elected officials will carry the messages to other elected officials and agencies at their respective levels based on consistent feedback of progress with implementation.

**Sequential Path:** Local, state, tribal and federal elected officials will be briefed on the COCSI strategy, by individual briefings and briefing papers on success stories, and by stakeholders who describe “why” Central Oregon must have their collective support to be successful.

Specifically, elected officials will be encouraged to support the following tenets of the COCSI:

- Based on Central Oregon’s institutional history of collaboration, interagency cooperation and a shared vision of healthy landscapes, safe environments for citizens, vibrant economies and a culture of shared visions for the future, agencies and stakeholders can continue these traditions.
- Based on these cultural norms, Central Oregon is currently implementing all aspects and tenets of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy and these endeavors must be recognized nationally, within Oregon and locally to enable these programs to rise to the next level of effectively and efficiently implementing the Cohesive Strategy philosophy of an “all hands, all lands approach.”
- This recognition must include financial support for all agencies and stakeholder programs.
- The potential for leveraging resources for achievement under the Cohesive Strategy in Central Oregon is more than unique; there is no other geographic location in the United States strategically positioned to achieve the goals of the Cohesive Strategy for generations to come.

- The agencies and stakeholders in Central Oregon are acutely aware that without consistent support from elected officials, the opportunities for success significantly diminish.

**COCSI Coordination:** As we begin the political leveraging strategy, deliver the messages we are asking electeds to share and support, continue to tell the Central Oregon story, engage new stakeholders, engage Central Oregon media, develop and implement a COCSI communication strategy and provide logistical and program support, a COCSI Coordinator must be identified. In the interim, Joe Stutler and Katie Lighthall will provide those coordination duties.

**Legislative Day:** Following the briefings, the COCSI Steering Committee will invite local, state, tribal and federal elected officials to a Legislative Day in August 2015 (taking advantage of August recess of federal legislators). The intent is to bring these elected officials together for an understanding of the COCSI, seek their advice for next steps and develop a collective legislative agenda for implementation.

### **Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative Declaration**

**Celebration:** These elected officials will be invited, along with other senior agency officials and stakeholder representatives to a Declaration Signing Celebration in late September 2015. At this Celebration, all agencies and stakeholders within the COCSI will sign a Declaration of Support for the COCSI.