



## New Techniques for Fire Planning in the Wildland-Urban Interface through the Changing Roles Professional Development Program & Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Training

**The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy** is a national collaborative effort to bring a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to address wildland fire management challenges. The Strategy directs wildland fire planning activities and has three primary goals: restore and maintain landscapes, develop Fire-Adapted Communities, and improve wildfire response.

InterfaceSouth's Changing Roles Professional Development Program and Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment (SWRA) training are two programs created to build skills and provide tools needed for natural resource professionals to tackle wildland-urban interface (WUI) challenges in the South. A group of government agencies and partners recently came together to host training sessions around these programs for professionals and community members in Texas.

The Changing Roles curriculum is categorized into four modules, covering WUI issues and connections, managing WUI forests, land-use planning and policy, and communicating with WUI residents and leaders. Organizers were sure that materials were flexible so it could be adapted to meet the needs of any organization who works with WUI landowners.

The SWRA component of the training illustrated wildfire risk through the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Through this program, mitigation

measures are focused to address levels of wildland fire risk concerns. The objective of the SWRA training is a trained, multi-agency workforce focused on achieving measurable results in the higher levels of wildfire risk across the state, as identified and corroborated by the SWRA.

The Changing Roles curriculum and SWRA were developed to assist natural resource professionals in conserving, protecting, and enhancing natural resources today and into the future through local and regional collaboration. By providing opportunities for collaboration and cooperation, agencies and groups share ideas and accomplishments, build upon each other's strengths, and create plans for a concerted effort to significantly impact future sustainability of natural resources in the WUI. The workshops provide an informational foundation, but it is the work the participants produce in the field as a result of the training that will make the biggest impact in Texas and the South.

Success stories highlight regional wildland fire accomplishments that support implementation of the national cohesive wildland fire management strategy in the Southeast. The stories demonstrate how the Southeast is improving its "fire resiliency" through technology, education and outreach, forest management, collaboration, and more. Success stories also serve as a model for other communities to follow.

Partners attended workshops and are implementing the new techniques taught in the modules to reach landowners and communities in WUI areas. Furthermore, meeting participants helped form new partnerships and encouraged collaboration in the field.

#### Additional Information

Changing Roles: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/products/changing-roles>

Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment: <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com>

**Partners:** U.S. Forest Service, Southern Group of State Foresters, Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Park Service, Association of Consulting Foresters – Texas Chapter, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Southern Regional  
Extension Forestry

