

**Northeast Region
Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy**
Restoring Resilient Landscapes - Creating Fire Adapted Communities - Responding to Wildfires

**3rd Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop
Lands Successfully in Plymouth, Massachusetts**



Almost 400 years after the pilgrims landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, over 200 wildland fire leaders, managers, scientists, and practitioners from 47 states and 4 countries gathered from October 21 -24, 2019, to share wildland fire management experiences, tools, and knowledge. The workshop attendees were welcomed with keynote talks by **Chuckie Green, Natural Resources Director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe** (figure 1) and **Jim Karels, Florida State Forester**.

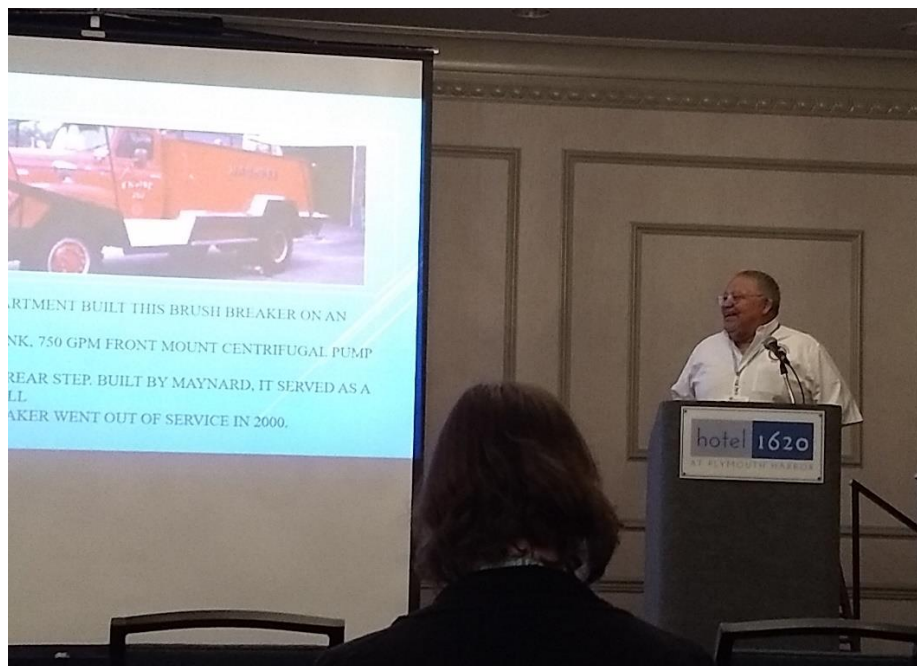


Figure 1: Chuckie Green, Natural Resources Director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe welcomes the workshop attendees and provides a tribal history of the area. Photo: L. Mastic

Among several excellent panel presentations was the regional wildland fire perspectives provided by **four state foresters** from across the country (figure 2).



Figure 2: State Foresters Panel - from left to right, Kasey KC, NV; Jim Karels, FL; Laura McCarthy, NM, Brad Simpkins, NH; and Pete Church, MA as the moderator, provided state and regional wildland fire perspectives. Photo: L. Mastic

A highlight of the week was a field trip to **Myles Standish State Forest** (figures 3 & 4) home to one of the most volatile forest ecosystems (pitch pine barrens) in the Northeast.



Figure 3: Chief Ed Bradley, Plymouth Fire Chief and Dave Celino, MA Chief Fire Warden, share Partnership information with attendees at Myles Standish State Forest at one of the 42 active fire towers in MA. Photo: L. Mastic



Figure 4: Art Canterbury (USFWS), center, shares wildland fire management and wildlife habitat objectives at Myles Standish State Forest; Rich Schenk, CT DEEP (left), and Joel Carlson, NE Forest and Fire Management LLC (right) look on. Photo: L. Mastic

Jim Hubbard, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (figure 5), told the workshop attendees that for the first time in nine years, the U.S. Forest Service ended the fiscal year without depleting its fire suppression budget and having to borrow money from other projects to continue fighting wildfires. Beginning this year, the departments of Agriculture and the Interior will be able to tap a separate \$2.25 billion fund to continue firefighting once the Forest Service's \$1 billion main suppression fund has been exhausted. That fund is scheduled to grow by \$100 million a year for the next seven years.



Figure 5: Jim Hubbard, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Photo: L. Mastic

Jim also announced that the **4th Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Workshop** will be held **October 26-30, 2020** in Asheville, North Carolina. *Mark your calendars!*

The **3 Regional Cohesive Strategy Committees (West, Southeast, and Northeast)** would like to express their many thanks to those who helped make this workshop a success:

- The **International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF)**, Mikel Robinson, Executive Director, and Kim Skufca, Executive Assistant
- The **National Cohesive Strategy Workshop Planning Committee** Chairs (Joe Stutler (Deschutes County), Tami Parkinson (USFS RD&A), and Dave Celino (MA DCR) and the many members from across the country
- The **Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact** led by Tom Parent, Executive Director and the Compact Incident Management Team (IMT) (Rick Schenk, Incident Commander (IC) that ably provided on-site support
- Dave Celino, MA Chief Fire Warden and his staff from the **Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR)**
- The **Hotel 1620** in Plymouth, MA
- The many fine sponsors, fire science exchanges, and other exhibitors

For additional information and workshop presentations (when posted) go to:

[The 3rd Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop](#)

Compiled by: Larry Mastic, NE RSC Coordinator; November 1, 2019

