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NACo applauds wildland report to Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today applauded presentation of two reports to Congress addressing critical wildland fire management challenges across the country.

The reports – which provide the framework for a comprehensive strategic effort to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, create fire-adapted communities, and respond to wildfires – were released March 28 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI). They were developed through the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC), an intergovernmental body of federal, state, tribal and municipal stakeholders. NACo’s representative on the council is Lake County, Ore. Commissioner Dan Shoun.

“After months of work, I am pleased that Congress now has a comprehensive game plan to address dangerous and costly wildfires,” Shoun said. “The next step is working with our partners in developing regional strategies to address wildfire challenges faced by fire and natural resource managers and the fire community at all levels.”

Shou was appointed by U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to represent county government’s interests on the council.

Shoun is a member of NACo’s Public Lands Steering Committee and the Western Interstate Region (WIR). He is also Co-Chair of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Public Lands Steering Committee.

NACo has long believed that there is a clear and imminent danger to public forest resources and adjacent communities stemming from years of fire suppression and other management decisions. In addition to increased fuel densities, past management decisions have led to unhealthy forests that are much more susceptible to insect infestation, disease, and catastrophic wildfire.

“These devastating wildfires threaten our communities and local budgets year after year,” Shoun said. “Today, we are closer than ever to implementing effective solutions to protect our communities and precious resources.”

Click here to access the reports. For more information contact NACo’s Ryan Yates at 202.942.4207.

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government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.