

# ***Taking Concerted Action: Governmental Roles and Responsibilities for Community Wildfire Protection***



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# Presentation Overview

- *Wildfire in the Interface - factors and trends*
- *Governmental roles and responsibilities*
- *The interface fire triangle*
- *CWPP examples*
- *Improving multi-jurisdictional cooperation and mitigation strategies*

# Wildfire in the Interface

## *Some contributing factors and trends:*

- *Land ownership patterns*
- *Cycles of drought/insect attacks and disease*
- *Fire suppression and accumulation of fuel*
- *Exurban migration*
- *Rural economic transformation (natural resource to amenity-based)*
- *Incentives for growth*
- *Land use planning*
- *Home construction standards*
- *Perceptions of risk and protection*
- *Private property rights*

# Federal Policy Responses

National Fire Plan; Healthy Forests Restoration Act;  
Healthy Forest Initiative

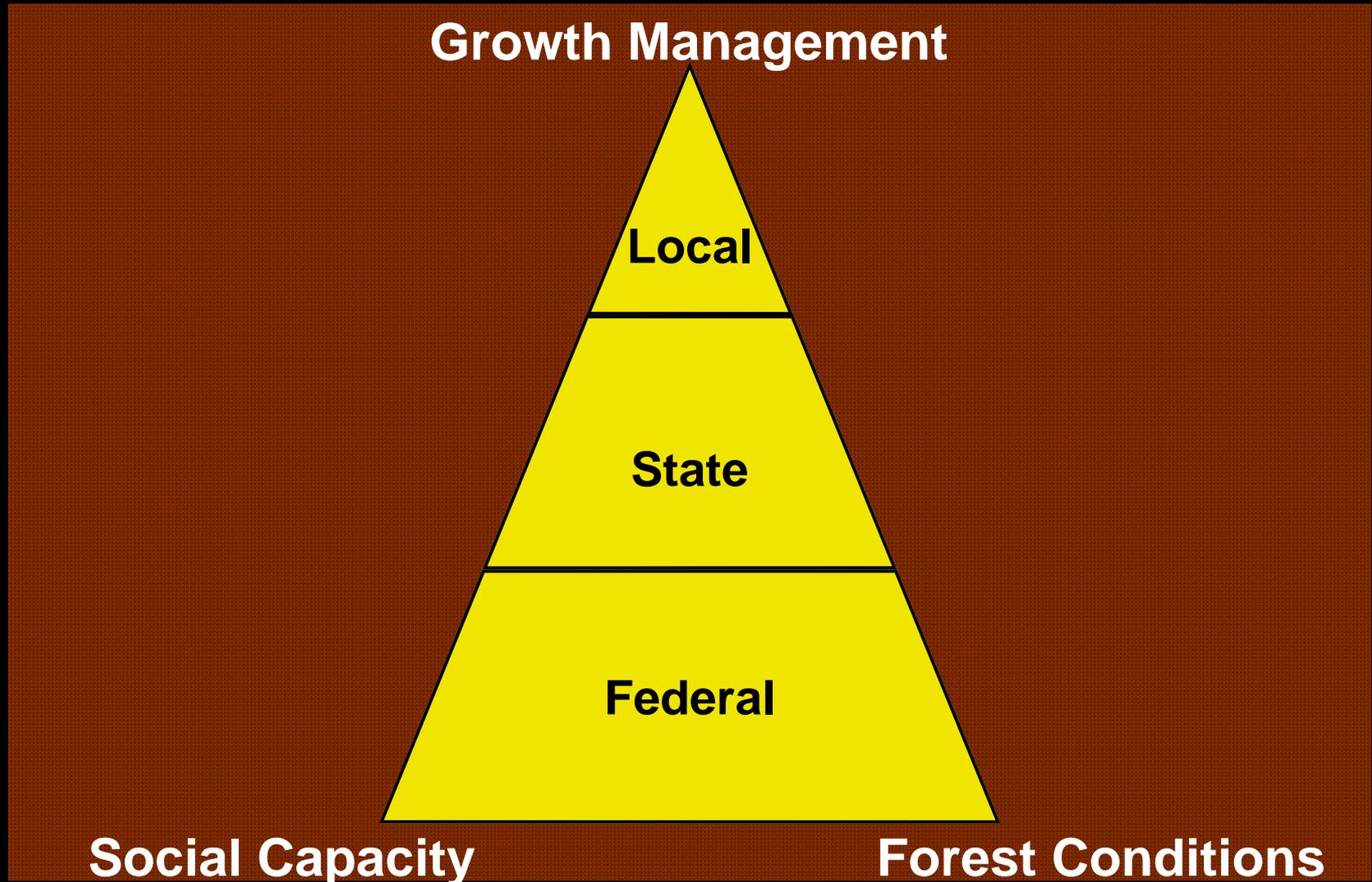
*“National funding trends reveal strong federal preference for fire suppression and hazardous fuels reduction... while complementary important programs like State and Local Assistance remain under-funded, severely limiting the extent to which many communities are able to prepare for fire.”*

*(Gregory 2005)*

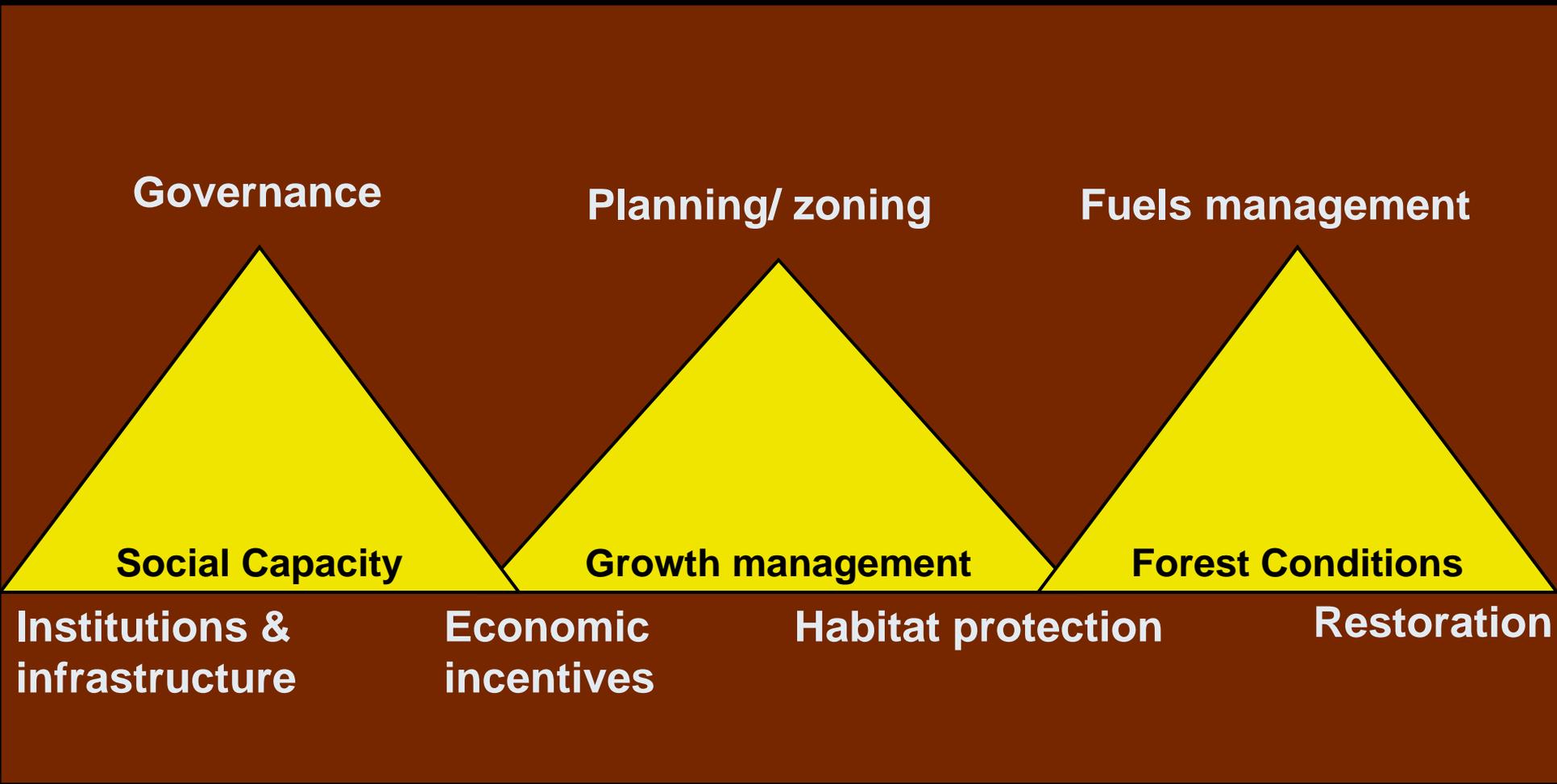
# Governmental Roles and Responsibilities

- *Planning, zoning and code enforcement (state, local)*
- *Property tax assessments-incentives (state, local)*
- *Landowner education/ outreach (local, state)*
- *Economic development and utilization (local, state, federal)*
- *Forest restoration/ mitigation (federal, state, local).*
- *Risk/hazard assessment (local, state, federal)*
- *Structure protection and wildland first response (local, state, federal)*
- *Wildland fire suppression (federal and state)*

# Interface Fire Triangle

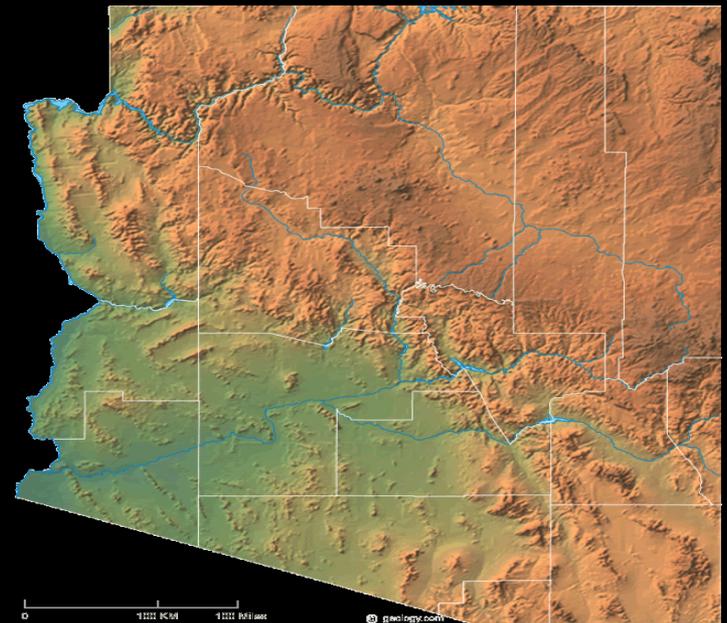
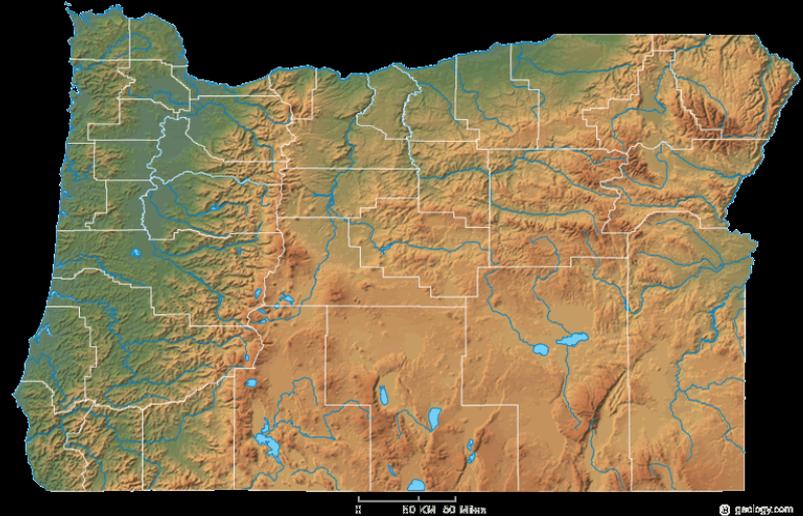


# Interface Fire Triangle



# Case Studies

- *City of Ashland, OR*
- *Josephine County, OR*
- *Wallowa County, OR*
- *Communities of the Sitgreaves NF, AZ*
- *Greater Flagstaff AZ*



# Community Examples Forest Conditions

## *Flagstaff, AZ*

- *Interface fuels and prescribed burning program*

## *City of Ashland, OR*

- *LSR protection and prescriptions by Plant Association Group*

## *Josephine County, OR*

- *BLM prescriptions across public and private lands*

Fuels management

Forest Conditions

Habitat protection

Restoration



# Community Examples Growth Management

*Greater Flagstaff, AZ:*

- *FIREWISE construction standards*

*Sitgreaves NF, AZ*

- *Integrated land use and structural building codes*



# CWPP Examples

## Social Capacity

### *Sitgreaves NF, AZ*

- *Intergovernmental agreement and CWPP coordinator*
- *10 yr Stewardship contract*

### *Wallowa County, OR*

- *Emergency response planning*

### *Josephine County, OR*

- *Collaborative risk assessment*

Governance

Social Capacity

Institutions &  
infrastructure

Economic  
incentives

# Improving Multi-jurisdictional Mitigation Strategies

- *Move beyond suppression and fuel reduction*
- *Provide incentives for comprehensive approaches*
- *Promote cooperation between all levels of government*
- *Involve state and local fire agencies in forest restoration mission*
- *Growth management*

Questions?



# Governmental Roles and Responsibilities

*Voluntary and contractual (i.e. conservation districts, homeowners associations and voluntary associations):*

- Rule establishment and enforcement*
- Peer and mentor relationships*
- Education/ outreach/ assistance*
- Diffusion of technology and innovation*

# Governmental Roles and Responsibilities

## *State, County and Municipal:*

- Land use/community planning and zoning*
- State and local code/law enforcement*
- Tax incentives-assessments*
- Homeowner education/outreach/assistance*
- Land and resource planning and management*
- Forest restoration/prescribed burning*
- Wildland fire prevention/suppression and structure protection*

# Governmental Roles and Responsibilities

## *Federal:*

- Land and resource planning and management*
- Federal law enforcement*
- Wildland fire prevention/suppression and structure protection*
- Forest restoration/prescribed burning*
- Incentives/assistance for state and local government*

# The Problem

***“The epoch of big-government fire protection has ended, and we need to let local communities have more say in how lands are protected and to hand over to them more obligations to do it” (Pyne 2004).***

# Community Examples

## City of Ashland OR

<i>Social capacity</i>	<i>Forest conditions</i>	<i>Growth mgmt.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Homeowner education/outreach program</i></li><li>• <i>Monitoring proposal</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Focus on federal land</i></li><li>• <i>Priority treatment areas and detailed prescriptions</i></li><li>• <i>Habitat protection measures</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Residential landscape ordinance</i></li></ul>

