

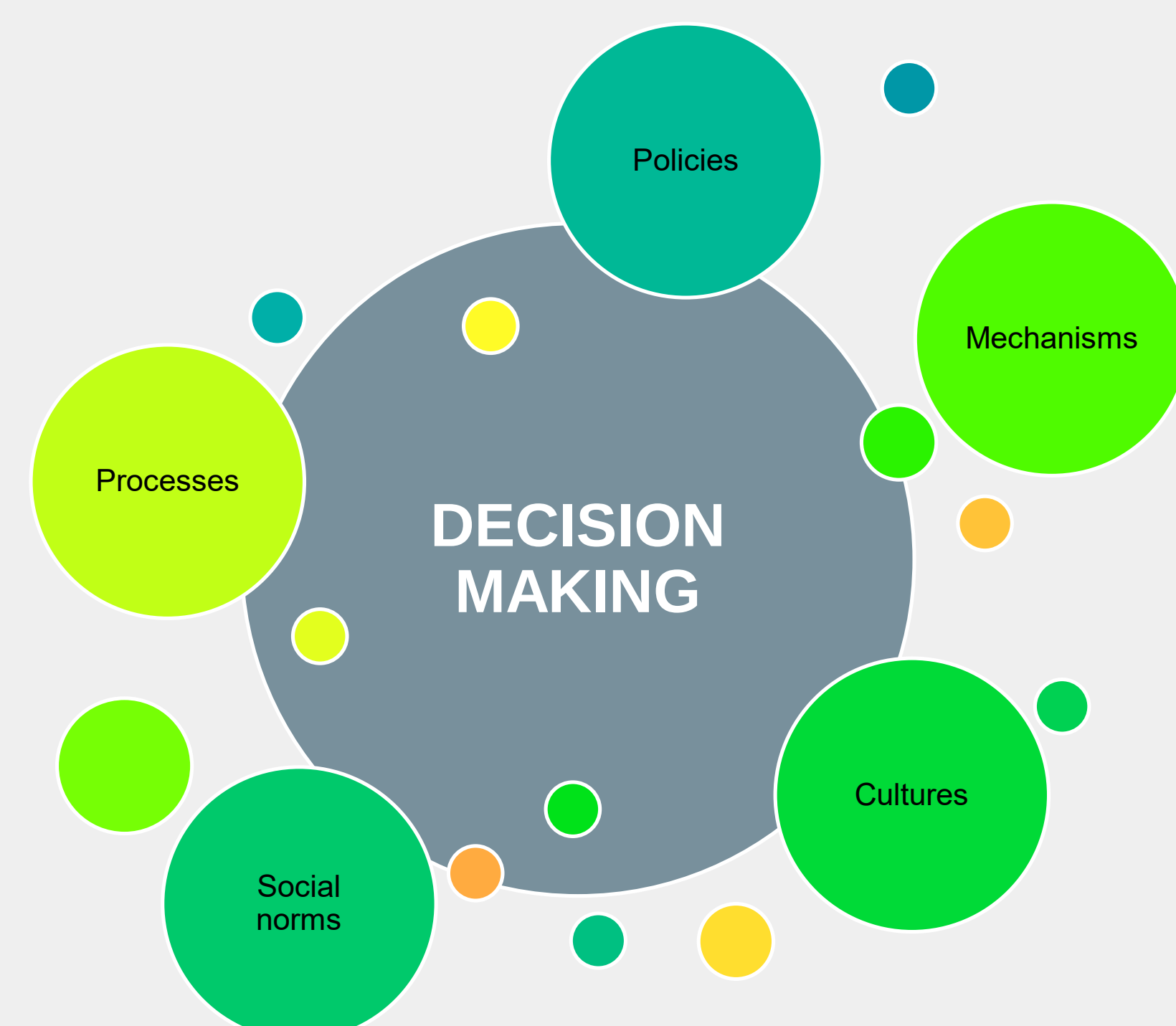


Challenges in the Wildfire Governance System

Benjamin J. Gray, Brett Alan Miller, Carina Wyborn, Laurie Yung, Maureen Essen, and Dan Williams – CoMFRT Governance Team



What is Governance?



How decisions about shared concerns are made in complex webs of individuals, organizations, agencies, rules, processes, and social and political cultures.

We are particularly focused on how informal process (such as social norms) interact with formal processes (such as policies).

Our Guiding Questions

- How are key players managing wildfire risk across boundaries and what processes and mechanisms would improve these efforts?
- How is knowledge about wildfire risk factors and the efficacy of different strategies shared among different organizations and individuals?
- What facilitates successful collaboration in wildfire risk management?

A Shared Understanding of Fire Risk

- Knowledge of wildfire risk factors and the efficacy of different management strategies is shared, but not uniformly.
- This means there are many people who look at the wildfire risk problem differently.
- This is important because research on “wicked problems,” like wildfire, suggests that different ways of understanding a problem can present challenges to collaboration.



This is a conceptual illustration of shared knowledge. The thickness of the red line indicates how much of the shared knowledge each person has.

1. Do the people you work with on wildfire share the same knowledge about what contributes to risk and which strategies work well to address risk?
2. If not, how does this affect your work?

Processes that Slow Cross-Boundary Wildfire Risk Mitigation



Key

Orange box = Formal challenge
Green box = informal challenge
Blue line = verified in data
Red line = uncertain about relationship

1. Do you these challenges resonate with your experience?
2. Are there other challenges you would include?

Preliminary Recommendations

- Include, prioritize, and incentivize collaboration in staff responsibilities.
- Identify appropriate mechanisms to support collaboration for mitigation; they may be different than those for incident response.
- View the time and effort required to establish collaborative efforts as an investment that will pay off in the future.
- Identify mechanisms or brokers to connect local, regional, and national wildfire networks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Methods and Participants

- 59 semi-structured interviews (by phone and in person), with staff from local, state, and federal agencies and NGOs.
- Cultural consensus analysis that used 115 individual responses from PSU’s social network survey.

