



## **Blaine County Fire & Rescue Consolidation Status**

**January 26, 2026**

# Executive Overview

- Nature of Brief

- Informational
- Source Documents (non-exhaustive)
  - Joint Power Agreement (JPA)
  - Bylaws for the Joint Board of Hailey/BC South/Ketchum Fire Protection District
  - Consolidation Master Playbook
  - Blaine County Fire Protection Districts Consolidation Plan
  - Joint Resolution Adopting Consolidation Plan

Problem Statement

The Boards of Fire Commissioners and City Councils of the participating agencies (BC South, Hailey, Ketchum, and Smiley Creek) recognize the need to consolidate their operations to enhance public safety, promote fiscal responsibility, and build community resilience in Blaine County. The Districts face shared challenges, including escalating costs, redundant administrative roles, and staffing shortages in small combination departments, necessitating a consolidation to leverage shared resources, eliminate redundancies, and foster collaboration.

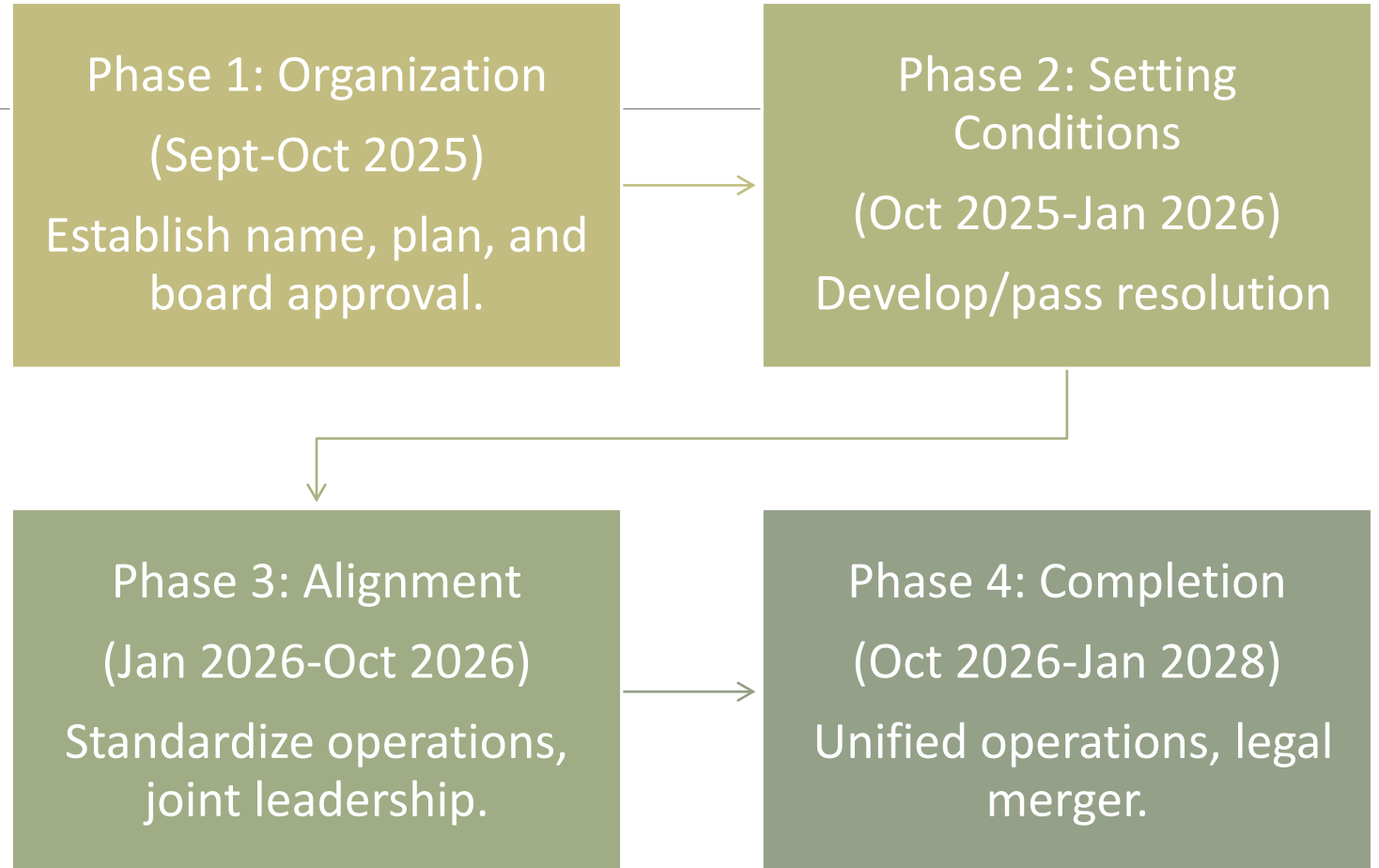
Context/Assumptions

- Effects
  - Communities involved will experience improved services and a balanced tax levy
- Impacts on Community, Governance, and Personnel
  - No loss in individual pay for personnel; improved efficiency and effectiveness for communities
  - Balanced tax levy and budget providing value to taxpayers; Oversight and transparency of governance
  - Stronger organization handling structure fires, EMS, wildland incidents, and technical rescues
  - Integrated BCAD for countywide EMS optimization

Desired Outcomes

- Unite BC South, Hailey, Ketchum, and Smiley Creek into Blaine County Fire & Rescue
- Leverage shared resources, eliminate redundancies, and foster collaboration
- Deliver enhanced fire suppression, EMS, and rescue operations across Blaine County
- Prioritize public safety, fiscal responsibility, and community resilience
- Respect the legacy of all joining districts while adapting to growing demands

# Overview of the Four- Phase Process



Incorporates Idaho Code requirements (e.g., notifications, hearings, recordings).

# Consolidation Focused Efforts

**BLAINE COUNTY  
FIRE & RESCUE**

## CONSOLIDATION MISSION

The mission of Blaine County Fire and Rescue is to unite our fire protection districts into a single, resilient organization that delivers exceptional fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, wildland response, and hazardous materials mitigation across Blaine County. We are committed to enhancing public safety, promoting fiscal responsibility through balanced tax levies and shared resources, fostering professional growth for our dedicated personnel, and building community trust through transparent, efficient, and collaborative operations—ensuring no loss in individual pay while optimizing services for all residents and visitors.

## FOCUS AREAS

- Enhanced public safety and service delivery
- Fiscal responsibility and equitable tax burden
- Personnel support, retention, and professional growth
- Efficient governance, transparency, and smooth transition

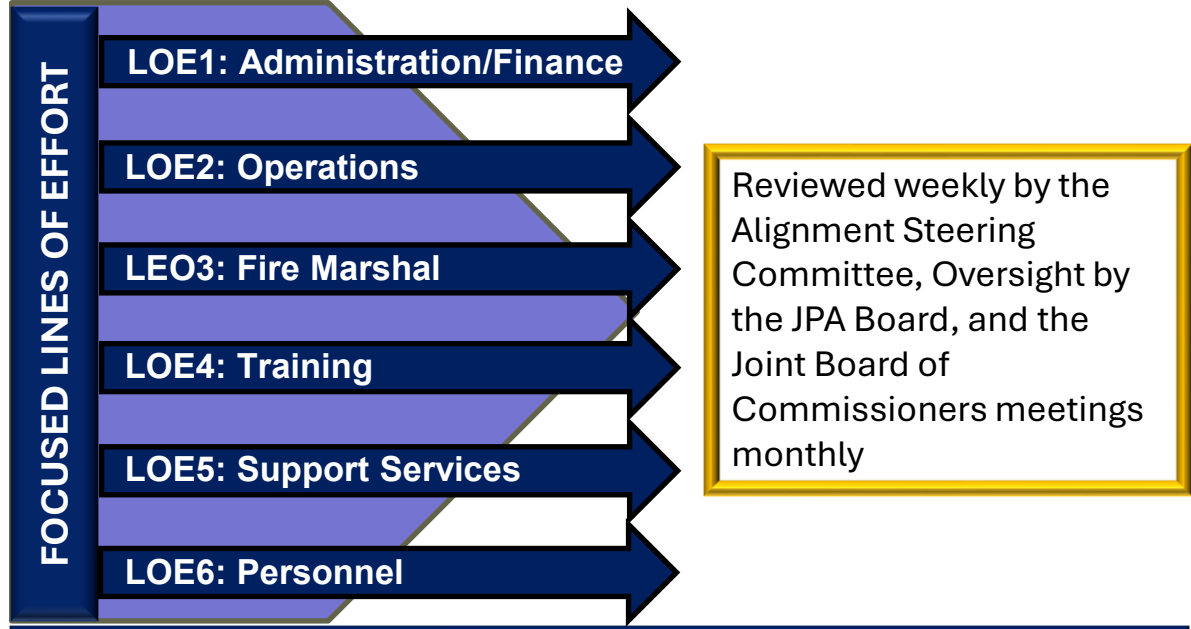
## PRIORITY CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Escalating costs and financial pressures
- Staffing shortages and retention difficulties
- Redundant roles and operational inefficiencies
- Resistance to change and governance risks

## ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS / OPT'S

Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Board  
Alignment Steering Committee

## APPROACH SG LOE'S



## ENDURING STATES

- No gaps in the delivery of public safety to the community
- Joint training focused on assimilation into common procedures
- Focus on achieving State and National standards

# Consolidation Results and Enduring Challenges

## AUTHORITIES

### Idaho Code Title 31, Chapter 14

- § 31-1413 - Consolidation of Districts
- § 31-1414 - Election for the Consolidation of Districts
- § 31-1416 - Fire Protection Districts Are Governmental Subdivisions of Idaho and Bodies Politic and Corporate
- § 31-1423 - Levy — Recommended Levy — Election

### Idaho Code Title 63 (Revenue and Taxation)

- § 63-215 - Legal Description and Map of Boundaries to Be Recorded and Filed
- § 63-802 - Limitation on Budget Requests — Limitation on Tax Charges — Exceptions

### Idaho Code Title 34, Chapter 14 (Uniform District Election Law)

Idaho Code Title 74, Chapters 1-2 (e.g., public hearings, transparent communications in the plan)

### Federal National Labor Relations Act

IAFF Local 3426 CBA

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- TBD

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- Oversight: Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
- Program Management: Alignment Steering Committee
- Program Integration and Execution: Joint Board of Commissioners (2026: BC South, Ketchum, Smiley Creek)(2027: BCFR, Hailey City Council)
- Other coordinating stakeholders: Blaine County Commissioners, Blaine County Ambulance District (BCAD), Blaine County Emergency Communications (BCEC)

## MILESTONES

- OCT 25 – BC South/Ketchum Joint Resolution Adopting Consolidation Plan
- JAN 26 – Hailey City Council votes to explore consolidation through JPA
- JAN 26 – First JPA Board Meeting
- MAR 26 – Smiley Creek joins BC South/Ketchum Joint Resolution Adopting Consolidation

# Consolidation Overview

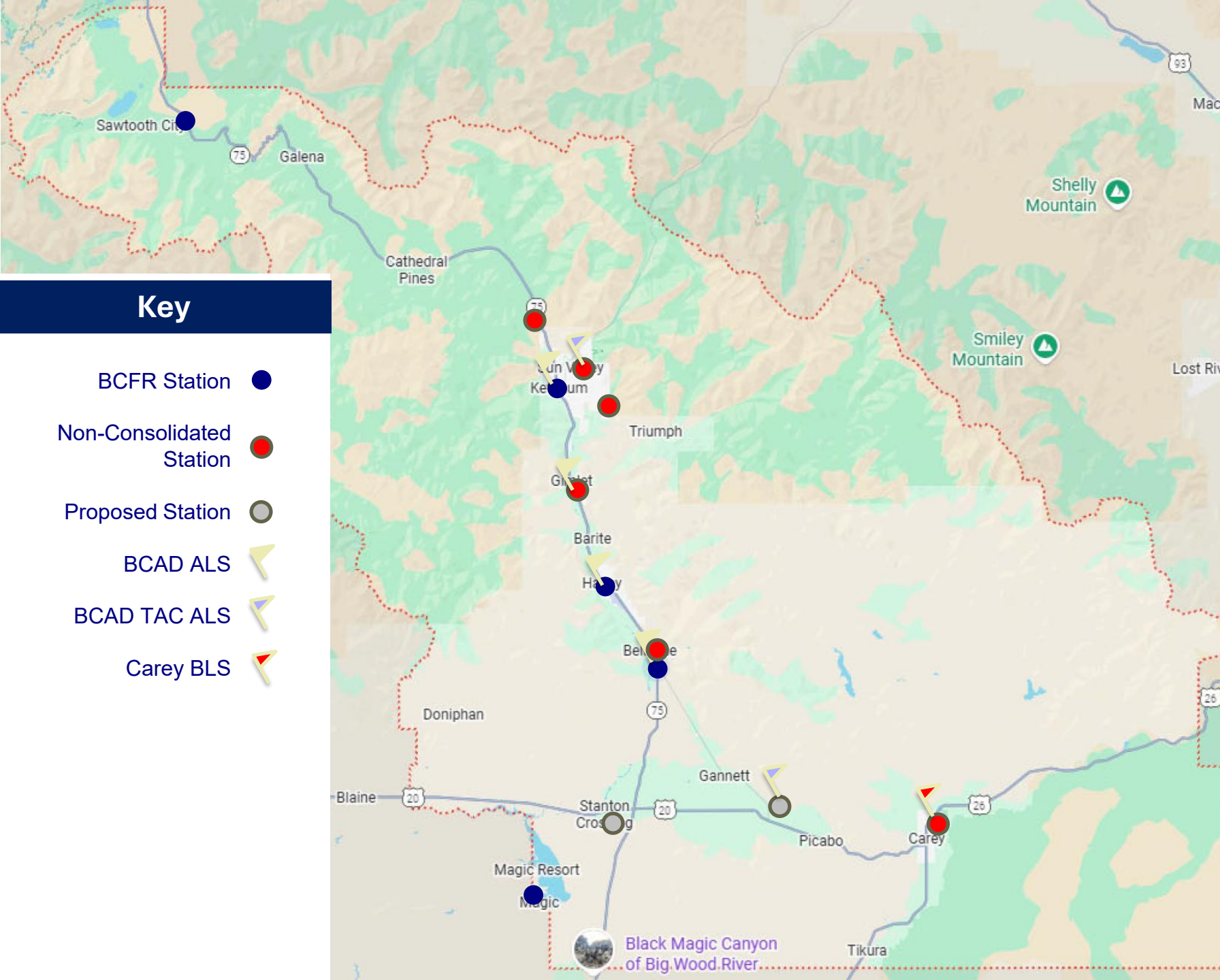
## Operational Goals

- Core stations to be staffed with 5 personnel
- Implement 4 staffed ALS transporting ambulances
- Improve ambulance coverage by staffing a “TAC” shift ambulance for surge capability
- Consider county growth in the south for future station placement
- Balanced technical rescue teams
- Improved dispatching to make efficient use of resources

## Assumptions

- Current committed agencies will complete the consolidation process
- BCAD 2026 Levy approval will support the expansion plan
- Joint operations begin OCT 26

January 26, 2026



## Key

BCFR Station ●

Non-Consolidated Station ●

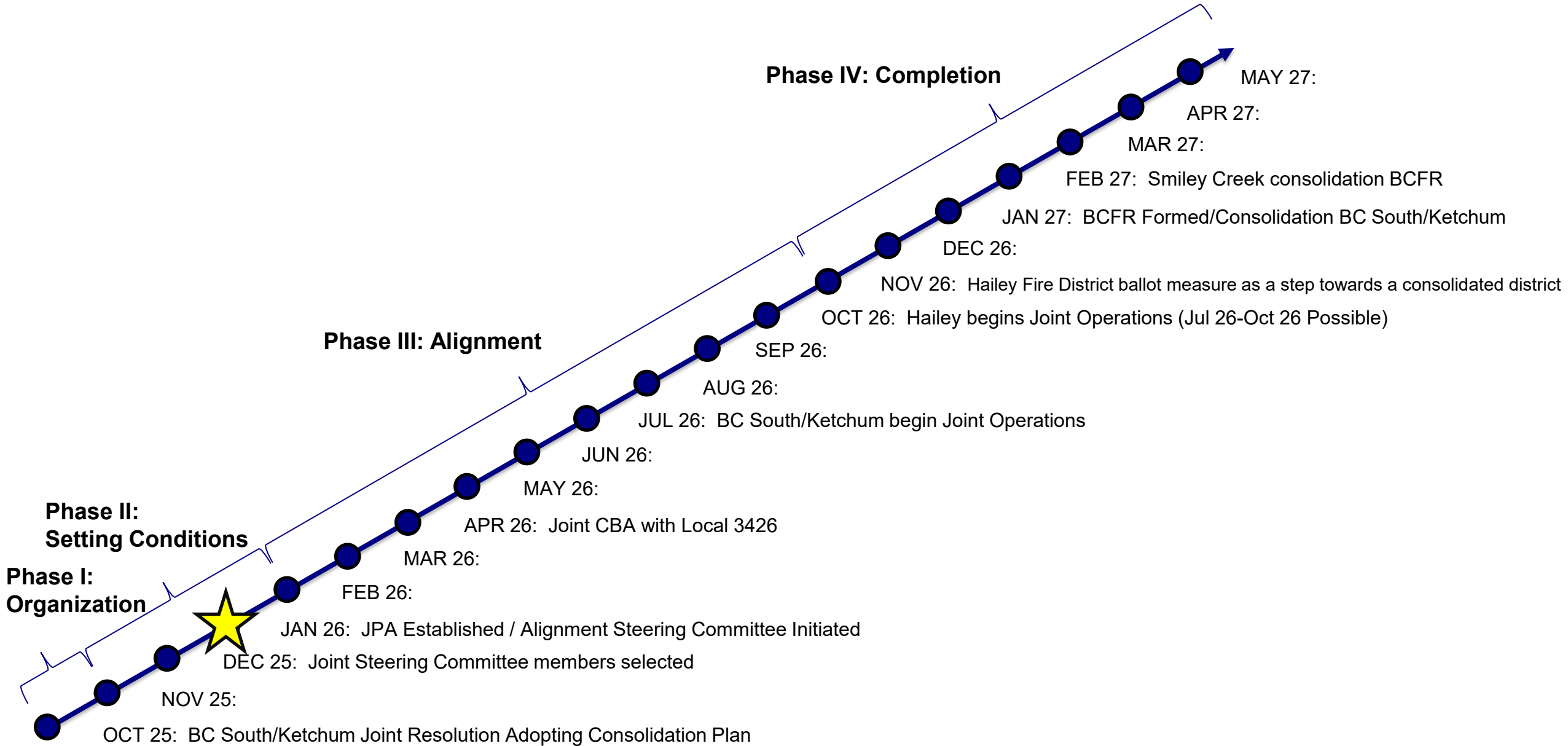
Proposed Station ●

BCAD ALS ▲

BCAD TAC ALS ▲

Carey BLS ▲

# Plan of Action and Milestones














# Assumptions/Risks

Issue/ Risk	Description	Lead	Participants	Dates	Comments

\* We will assign a lead and supporting decision makers to focus on turning assumptions into facts and mitigating risks.

# Alignment Status

Status to Completion	Category	Lead	Comments
	Assimilation		
	Finance		
	Administration		
	Operations		
	EMS		
	Communications		
	Fire Marshal		
	Training		
	Support Service		
	Volunteer/POC		
	Local 3426		