

Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group  
February 12-13, 2008, Boise, ID  
Meeting Notes

IN ATTENDANCE:

ISFPWG MEMBERS

STEVE KIMBALL – NFP COORDINATOR  
DAVID HASZ - IEMA  
DAVID JACKSON – BHS  
DENNIS SEIDMAN – US FISH & WILDLIFE  
DEAN ELLIS – IFCA  
GARY JARVIS – FS  
MARK LARSON – STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
MARK COMPTON – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ROBERT COPE – IAC  
RUSS MANWARING – RC&Ds  
TIM DROEGMILLER – NEZ PERCE TRIBE

GUESTS:

ALICIA BENNETT – USFS  
ANDY BRUNELLE – USFS  
ANN WALKER – OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
BRETT INGLES – BOISE STATE  
DAVE SUMMERS - IDL  
DEBBIE KNIGHT – ALLSTATE  
ELIZABETH MOCERI – ALLSTATE  
GORDON RAVENSCROFT – BOISE COUNTY  
GREG GOLLBERG – U of I

GUESTS (continued)

HARRY STEELE – IDL  
JANICE GORDON – USGS  
JENNIFER POLLOCK – USGS  
JOE TWITCHELL – SOUTHWEST IDAHO RC&d  
JON SKINNER – BLM  
JONATHAN OPPENHEIMER – ICL  
JULIE THOMAS – FS/MID SNAKE RC&D  
KIM REDMAN – ALLSTATE  
KRISTA GOLLNICK - BLM  
LAURA BARRETT – USFS  
LAYNE BANGERTER – SENATOR CRAPO'S OFFICE  
LORRAINE SIMONSON – RC&D  
MARK STEPHENSEN – BHS  
MARK WENDELSDORF, CHIEF – STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COMMITTEE  
MITCH SILVERS – OFFICE OF SENATOR CRAPO  
MORRIS HUFFMAN – WEST CENTRAL HIGHLANDS RC&D  
PAT DURLAND – NATIONAL FIREWISE COMMUNITIES  
PETE JOHNSTON – WOODY BIOMASS UTILIZATION PARTNERSHIP  
SUSAN GIANNETTINO – BLM  
SUSAN MARZEC – BLM UTAH STATE OFFICE  
VINCE MORENO – CONGRESSMAN SALI'S OFFICE

**February 12:**

**Meeting Overview, Introductions & Opening Remarks**

Brett Ingles opened the meeting and introductions were made. Steve Kimball welcomed the Working Group and guests and reviewed the purpose of the Working Group and the meeting.

**Sandpoint Meeting Follow-Up**

The group checked progress on action items from the Sandpoint ISFPWG meeting. Steve re-confirmed our mission, which is to work together to prioritize and implement Idaho's NFP strategy. Our strategy emphasizes supporting mitigation work at the county level. Most counties have active groups at the local level. All CWPPs have been completed, and most are up to date identifying priorities. Now our focus is going to the next level with the counties.

Reviewed notes and highlighted items from last meeting notes. Page 3; NFP Progress and communication plan. Some comments were received and incorporated.

“Protecting Idaho's Communities from Wildfire” video review. Highlights how homeowners can protect their properties and will be widely distributed. Success stories with governor doing introduction which they are still working on. A few copies of the early version are available for members to review. ETA is April now, as several gaps still exist but we are working re-filming portions.

New GIS Mapping. BSU person taking all Counties' WUI maps and placing them on NFP Working Group website. Click on County to get map and soon-to-come projects completed by county. Will be talking about it later and doing a DEMO. Currently, ½ of county WUI maps available. Many counties have maps but not in digital format. Roadless group may help get the remaining counties mapped.

Will be a gap of 6 counties or so. Polygon of treatments is not going to happen in near future. Points are available. Talk nationally about re-defining WUI to narrow down definition. Ann Walker: WFLC met last week; discussed 5 options to define WUI and will decide in June.

New guidance for CWPPs coming. Will not replace current guidance (adds to it). Discussions taking place about WUI definitions also. Population-based definition, geographically defined. Western States WUI working team reviewing definitions. WUI working team has website to describe what they are doing, but task group is new and things are just getting started.

State All-Hazard Mitigation Plan status. Plan is finalized and approved by FEMA. Copies available.

Insurance discussion. We will be discussing this issue with 5 insurance reps. Tomorrow we will discuss during working lunch

### **Agency Updates**

Bureau of Homeland Security - David Jackson: Working on grant process for those counties with FEMA-approved all-hazard mitigation plans. Shoshone County applied for a grant to develop their all-hazard mitigation plan. Benewah, Clearwater, Kootenai, and Lewis counties are applying for grant funding to complete their scheduled 5-year all-hazard mitigation plan updates. BHS is encouraging counties to consider using Red Zone in updating their WUI hazard vulnerability assessments. WUI project submitted from IDL/U of I for \$500,000 in McCall area. BHS expects it to compete well nationally. Congressional earmark received for Idaho for \$600,000 to reduce WUI hazard. BHS needs eligible candidates to apply by March 14, 2008. Must be on any land other than Federal. Flooding is an upcoming issue that Homeland Security is getting prepared for.

Idaho Association of Counties - Cope: Not much happening in DC or at legislature. Moving forward on Idaho Roadless Area initiative. Possible effect on this group fuels work possible in roadless areas. Commissioners' involvement in this group is important and will work on it this meeting. How is DRAFT EIS on roadless area being received? Involves tree cutting, so difficult to gain support for that. Message is to protect forest we need to manage. Governor really helping with consensus on this issue.

Idaho Department of Lands – Dave Summers: Idaho county working group is really getting active. Number of Idaho County projects coming forward. Working on prioritizing and getting to County Commissioner. Winston Wiggins hired to come together this spring for private and state lands protection policy in April. 37 grants in 21 counties are now active. 2007 was a record year for \$ spent on fires in Idaho. More IMT's (T1,2,3) than ever. Western Fire Managers will meet in San Diego. A west-wide Fire Risk Assessment is proposed (like the southern area assessment).

State Fire Marshal - Mark Larson: Red Zone funding did not happen, unfortunately. Heads up for insurance discussion tomorrow. Representatives from different parts of industry. Will be difficult to get them to commit to action. Good for starting dialog. Some positive things happening, i.e. AIG last summer in Ketchum. May stir other companies to be more involved. Problem identified in rural areas of local RFDs not interpreting codes the same way. So many different agencies locally make consistency difficult. Legislative issue coming up - fire safe cigarettes in 22 states.

Nez Perce Tribe - Tim Droegmiller: Continuing to set up FY08 fuels treatments. Requesting FY09 funding for fuels as well. In the process of hiring an FMO for tribe; position has been vacant since 2001.

IEMA - Dave Hasz: Mitigation grants are being worked on. Northern counties have been declared disaster due to snow load. Region-wide voluntary program to get planning and zoning developers,

etc., to think about defensible space. Information provided for Orofino Living on the Edge workshop this spring.

US Fish & Wildlife Service – Dennis Seidman: Working on re-organization due to retirements. Not much happening in Idaho. Deer Flats hiring WUI coordinator, which hopefully will become involved in this group. No fires effecting F&WS refuges in Idaho. F&WS treated many more acres than historically, why? Had the window for burning.

RC&D – Russ Manwaring: Continuing to work with local work groups; continuing local outreach. Four RC&Ds going to implement Red Zone. Completed in north central highlands. Red Zone highlighted additional areas that needed work, in addition to fire season 2007. Hard to imagine rangelands are hazardous in WUI, but there is a lot of work there. Biomass coordinator working with counties with intent of moving biomass from field to processing. Interest is peaking with structure now in place. More counties showing interest. Really beginning to cooperate, non-forest and forested counties working together. Julie Thomas will take Russ's place when he retires.

Idaho Fire Chiefs Association – Dean Ellis: Actively involved in legislation, proposed 436 and 437-involving International Fire Code. Different fire departments administer fire code differently. Also involved and supporting fire safe cigarette legislation. Supported fires in California but paperwork took too long. Also supported Castlerock and Donnelly fires in Idaho. Process of pay difficult for volunteers. Learned a lot this summer regarding the process. Supporting volunteer association for recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. 2008 conference scheduled in Garden City in March. Note that Castlerock fire was run really well with county, state, local, and federal cooperation.

Governor's Office - Mark Compton: No update. Snow dominating life with Homeland Security.

US Forest Service Region 4 - Gary Jarvis: Reminder that Gary represents the FS in only the southern portion of Idaho. Budget received for FY08 which is pretty good at flat. Big issues include many wildfires consumed projects intended to be treated. HFI Categorical Exclusion (CX) held up in court so FS can't use for future projects in WUI. 37,000 acres were treated in southern Idaho in 2007. 90,000 acres tied up in south Idaho in the CX, so trying to figure out what to do. Some doing EAs. Is the work going to continue or just stop all together. 600,000 acres of FS lands nationally tied up in CX. Above base projects now require "success stories" once completed. PR folks helping get success stories out so if anyone has one Gary can help post. Success stories are very useful in many different venues politically. How will fuels CX and 2007 fire season effect above base program? Don't know yet but trying to adapt but likely won't be treating as many acres.

US Forest Service Region 1 - Laura Barrett: WUI and FPA discussion is prevalent in north Idaho. WUI definitions are important and linked to several efforts. Region 1 went to integrated strategy for prioritizing funding. WUI and municipal watersheds get highest priority. Fuels and other FS funding priorities together. 30% of funding will be prioritized separately in 2009. Asking questions about longevity of treatments in WUI. 2007 fire season causing public reaction in particular regarding Appropriate Management Response (AMR). Perception is we are standing back and watching, which is not the strategy. Expectation of the public and what our teams should or shouldn't do on fires. Expectation is there due to historic actions. Should be clear direction from FS.

BLM Idaho - Krista Gollnick-Waid: BLM Idaho is working on 2008 Fire Season Action Plan to ensure we are prepared for 2008 if it is a season like 2007. Also planning fuels program for FY08 and 09 with budget looking flat. DOI agencies working on risk assessment process to prioritize for FY09 which will effect up to 15% of budget, but Idaho appears to be competing well. Ramping up for interagency fire planning effort to begin in June. New FPA model is more robust, including fuels treatment options, prevention options, large fire modeling, and preparedness which will provide information to inform budget for all agencies.

## **Review of 2007 Progress and Overall Program**

**WUI Mapping Feature:** The group reviewed the WUI mapping that is being added to the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG) website. BSU working with ISFPWG to get WUI maps on site for about ½ of counties. Can't download data but can just view. Getting a lot of requests for actual data but don't have that available currently. Bonner County is actually using data layers to enhance their CWPP data. Can also view location of 2006 projects in point layer. Projects are from NFORS or State. Can add fields as needed. Several counties like Lemhi have a WUI map but not in digital format. Will not use Idaho Statewide WUI map to fill in where counties don't have data, will only use CAR points unless data is included in CWPP. Ann Walker (Oregon Rep) suggested using Statewide WUI as a default if no other CWPP layer is available. This layer, though not endorsed by counties, is more interagency as reviewed by tech team than single agency layer might be. Suggestion to get technical group back together to advise on this project. Kimball commented that counties are the drivers and not the state group so, if counties don't get data to us, then group might consider that. Ingles will get website address to group so everyone can review to highlight where data has not been received.

**Priorities for 2008 and How did we do in 2007?** The ISFPWG Annual Report is being developed, and we need members to provide data to complete 2007 treatment numbers as soon as possible. Goal today to be aware of kind of information needed and to discuss other items needed in year-end report.

### **Draft outline of Annual Report:**

Add Washington and Bingham Counties to list of Support to County Working Group. Encouraging counties to have post-fire season review to discuss what they can do and how things went.

### **What do counties think of our progress?**

Ten out of 44 surveys sent to counties returned with response to group. Counties that responded think they're doing well and that is due to active local interagency groups. State Working Group support questions indicate they don't perceive receiving much support from State Working Group.

Kimball—Need to step up our communications efforts between the counties. Cope—Need to have closer contact with Sharon Burke, IAC, than we currently have.

### **Goals and Actions for 2008**

Kimball provided a draft of Goals and Actions for the Working Group—

- A. Support to Counties – CWPP Updates and Implementation
  - 1) Attend County Working Group meetings & support county priorities
  - 2) Provide info, templates, and tools to county WGs
  - 3) Provide funding through grant programs to counties
- B. Continue Strengthening ISFPWG and aligning the Idaho Fire Plan Community
  - 1) Continue leadership and oversight of statewide National Fire Plan work
  - 2) Share information & ideas across counties and agencies (FRAMES)
  - 3) Increase awareness of statewide issues and progress (implement Communication Plan)
  - 4) Increase discussion of county building regulations throughout the state
- C. Promote/Support Restoration, Rehab, and Education
  - 1) Provide information, templates, and tools to county working groups
  - 2) Provide funding for projects
  - 3) Host or attend field trips for demonstrations and idea exchange
  - 4) Share issues and progress with statewide NFP community

- 5) Host a fall statewide National Fire Plan Conference
- D. Integrate NFP program with other State and Private Forestry Programs in Idaho
- 1) Develop a State Assessment showing statewide conditions and various risks across ownerships
  - 2) Work with counties to develop projects to address multiple threats and purposes across ownerships

Other issues—a two-state project would be rated higher by Western competitive grant process.

**Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC)**, Mark Wendelsdorf, Caldwell Fire Chief  
The idea of the council is to try to establish interoperable communications after the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Council meets monthly at Gowen Field. Statewide Operational Needs Assessment is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of October 2008. One of the main purposes of the document is to develop a design build RFP together in order to build the system. The single most important element is to have everyone operating in a single band of spectrum (700 MHz). Wherever you are in the state, you will be able to communicate with your home base through a master switch. Currently assessing location of towers for the plan. Can utilize towers in same vicinity simultaneously. Summary - Get involved with communication plan. Idaho is one of the leaders in interoperable community, but need more involvement. Contact your county emergency manager and make sure you know your representative on the SIEC. Some organizations won't be switching over but, we will be able to cross-band. Don't know why the federal partners are reluctant to switch over, but think it is because does not work in mountainous areas or rural areas. Concern with applying 700 megahertz statewide.

### **Strengthening State Wildfire Community: FRAMES**

#### **Fire Research and Management Exchange Systems (FRAMES) - Gary Gollberg University of Idaho:**

Purpose of FRAMES: ISFPWG and County Working Groups-joins these groups together.

Partners Idaho Conservation League, Boise State University, University of Idaho, Idaho State Park and Rec., and Others

Is there a need for a web system to bind us all together and share information? History of FRAMES - U of I started concept, USGS is a huge partner future of Science delivery technology transfer Resource, management, and technology. FRAMES has a public web site and an intranet site for the Idaho National Fire Plan Community. Different people can have different accesses to different areas of the site. Different user groups can use it and post it out for the public. FRAMES can be tailored to our individual needs. Click on county and it takes you to a page of info on that county, but using the tabs you have other tools available like calendar, set up folders with all kinds of documents you can put in it. There is a discussion tab where all kinds of topics can be discussed. We envision starting simple – Counties share working group meeting dates and notes. Work toward more information sharing and dialog.

Dave Olson-Boise National Forest Public Affairs - Software can be used for the public to find out how the communities are dealing with the social effects. Dialog with the communities about effects and use FRAMES as a centralized discussion area. Have opportunities to have community have like a town meeting.

Feedback from counties: Concern about upkeep of calendars and participation level.

Challenge: One concern of the group is who is responsible for getting information and entering it in posting it and keeping all of it up to date. Good question and answer system  
Hope to have DOI fund and Department of Ag

Follow up: A subcommittee will promote using FRAMES and do some demonstrations. Ingles and Kimball will contact ISFPWG members to form a subcommittee.

**Connecting with Legislature and Public - Andy Brunelle:**

Lance Bangerter - Senator Crapo's Office:

1. Murphy Complex-tribes out of power 7 days, ranchers-suppression site
2. Castlerock-Structure protection

Funding agencies and fire-figure out what agencies really feel they need and give it to us but way over budget Encourage stewardship projects

Dustin Miller - Senator Craig's Office:

Primary focus is resources-do you have what you need?

Castlerock-Private property issue-

Federal Land Managers can't manage the land they have. Public land managers to manage the land and then let politicians get out of the way!

Vince Moreno-Congressman Sali's Office State Assistant

Learning concerns

1. Perception from communities on Wildfire: Why does it seem like the fires are being allowed to burn?
2. Communication
3. Management-hands tied by bureaucracy, individuals do minor restoration projects why can't they?

**Building a Woody Biomass Utilization Industry in Southwest Idaho and Beyond – Pete Johnston and Morris Huffman: PowerPoint Presentation**

- Created four-county partnership, the woody biomass utilization partnership
- Council School biomass burner heats two schools \$45,000/year
- Counties in Idaho needing to create employment
- New air quality regulations, rural communities have high unemployment rates, we are wasting wood products
- Why Southwest Idaho partnership? Forested lands here produce the most timber
- Keep more young people in the rural areas to help economy
- Broaden diverse people in rural area
- Reduce biomass waste
- More schools on board with having biomass burners for heating the schools
- Idaho Power is having a lot of biomass waste not being used when they clear for power lines
- Website up and running some time in July for waste to be listed, etc.
- Sawmill in Emmett up and running this spring, depending on the market
- Domestic pellet plant in Mountain Home in the building process right now.
- New round log plant in Horseshoe Bend
- To be able to use this waste locally would be very beneficial as we wouldn't have to truck it out like we do now

**Red Zone PowerPoint - Dave Summers:**

Software program – fire oriented – software for developing wildfire pre-planning – ESRI business partner – ESRI map engine – eliminates paper – creates reports – can export it to PDF or Word or print – has a statistics wizard, where you can query, for example the team can have all the information for a specific location/area – can create map books for field crews – reference grid lat/long tics – symbol sets can be created easily, unlimited flexibility – download Garmin tracks – document organizer, add your own PDFs, fill in and save, combine pages to create incident action plans – trying to tie in with NOAA.

[www.redzonesoftware.com](http://www.redzonesoftware.com)

\*\*It is only as good as the information you have in there, so you have to update constantly.

**February 13:**

**Education & Prevention – Pat Durland**

**Firewise:**

Wildfire – The Enemy

Manage fuels around structures; this will help prevent homes from burning.

Fire-resistant landscaping.

1993 – Firewise was born.

1996 – The Firewise home page was created – [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

Million hits a month on the website.

1999 – Firewise Communities Workshops

1998 – A research breakthrough! – Big crown fire flames burn out in about 50 seconds. – Crown fire must be less than 100 feet from a structure to ignite a wood wall; firebrands do not ignite walls –

33 feet – heavy char; few ignitions

66 feet – no char or scorch

The Firewise 'Aha!' – Research convinced us that homeowners could take control of their properties. Our focus turned to the home ignition zone. Refers to the '100-200' around a house and its attachments. (Homeowners are not prepared to evacuate, they don't have a plan to get themselves out and their animals.)

Can just manipulate the fuels around structures, it doesn't have to be gone completely on the property.

2001 – Firewise Communities/USA Pilot – 2-yr pilot project testing the Firewise communities/USA process was launched.

2002 – Firewise Communities/USA Adopted – became national program through a MOU.

Firewise Communities/USA Standards:

Wildland fires can occur in areas of residential development without the occurrence of disastrous loss.

In fact, a house and its surrounding community can be compatible with the area's ecosystem.

Firewise Communities is a catalyst for change – working together, communities can --- and do --- affect their area.

Our involvement today-319 communities & 47 states – we identify and encourage residential developments to participate in the program.

Firewise home page as a primary resource – is maintained constantly.

Publish successful communities – has ideas for problems that were already solved in certain communities. Encourage community success – recognize them.

Help homeowners create plans to meet their needs, with coop assist w/state, feds and local fire depts.

Easy-to-follow process – energize neighborhoods.

Community ignition zones are appearing all over – all over the country.

Change our thinking from response to prevention.

Backyards & Beyond conferences – bi-annual nationally. November 6-8? In Tampa, Florida.

Firewise principles into state, county and municipal building codes - firewise vision is being realized – across the country.

Insurance companies looking at these communities differently? The insurance companies are encouraging homeowners in high risk areas to do firewise stuff to their properties.

**KEEP IDAHO GREEN (KIG) - Harry Steele & Jon Skinner:**

Director of Keep Idaho Green is Harry Steele (IDL)

- Initially sponsored by the junior chamber of commerce in 1946.
- GUBERIF program (Firebug Spelled Backward)
- Decline of KIG - the 2000-National Fire Plan changed the focus to community protection.
- Keep Green programs in Washington, Utah, Montana, and Oregon.
- Oregon has a dynamic program (Keep Oregon Green association) – look up their website.

- Idaho Currently – outdated website – Smokey Bear message geared toward children – no media or ads campaign – weak public presence.
  - Do we want to reinvigorate KIG?
  - Fire prevention/education message is getting more complicated:
  - What is causing fires and who is our target audience? Debris-caused and a lot of misc.
  - Be the umbrella association using ISFPWG website. Could have resources, training, conference schedules, and communication hub. Provide support to other fire groups.
  - 2 levels to the program – statewide & local – develop message, responsible choice is the overall theme for education – have effective campaigns.
  - Advertising – inventory ad messages and materials available or used in the past – identify what is still need – use an ad agency for artwork and templates, design materials and methods that would be most efficient.
  - How to fund KIG? Include in state fire agreement; have agencies share costs; solicit funding from private orgs & businesses such as Idaho forest products commission, etc; and state/federal grants.
  - We need you ... to form a sub-committee that makes decisions on future direction of KIG. Develop funding sources. Determine whether to stay with KIG name .....
  - Short term proposal – create a formal team to explore revitalizing KIG. Work to enhance the ISFPWG website to house the KIG web page.
  - BRING BACK THE GUBERIF? Some benefits, but consider new icons.
  - Ideas about should we keep the name KEEP IDAHO GREEN? If we change it, what do people think it should be? Suggestion: keep Idaho green from wildfires!! – keep Idaho alive – keep Idaho safe from wildfires?? – keep Idaho from burning (from wildfires)?
  - SUGGESTION – have a statewide contest with the communities for name ideas.
  - KIG – organize all of the agencies/groups so that everyone is on the same page – be the umbrella for all the organizations.
  - Keep communities involved.
  - Come up with a new slogan – one that will get the attention of younger people.
  - What is the program going to encompass? Similar to firewise or other programs? First decide what you want to accomplish, what the target is; then go talk to the professionals to have them help reinvent this program.
  - We need to come up with something completely different – something that is going to last and stay with the public.
  - Media and ad campaigns need to be constantly updated in order to work well, once the public has seen it, they will stop looking at it unless it is consistently updated.
  - What is the next step – what is the action item from this meeting?
    - Form a subcommittee to start this up
    - Form this committee, then have another meeting once the committee has done some research and come up with ideas/plans.
- Committee members:  
Julie Thomas  
Lorraine Simonson  
Laura Barrett  
Susan Jenkins  
Jon Skinner  
Dean Ellis  
Tim Droegmiller  
Ivy Dickinson
- What would the focus be of this committee?
  - Start being proactive instead of reactive.
  - Biggest steps we need to take are concerning communication and education.

- This is a short-term committee that will have a few meetings before the next conference and help frame a proposal.
- Bound this committee to what we want to accomplish. (Also, have the group look at funding sources.)
- Need to come up with a vision of what we want to accomplish so that the marketers know what to come up with for us.
- Are we duplicating efforts or are we trying to bring several programs together under the umbrella.
- Will have 2 or 3 conference calls then report back to this group (ISFPWG) at the next meeting.

**BOISE COUNTY WORKING GROUP:**

**BOISE COUNTY WUI MITIGATION PROJECTS**

- 1908 Square miles
- 84% owned by federal & state government
- Approx 8,000 perm residents
- 10 volunteer firefighting stations
- Lack of defensible space in developments/home areas
- Projects: Star Ranch, Garden Valley, Lowman, Idaho City & Valley of the Pines
- Most of the county is in severe fire zones
- Fire plan – primary goal to improve radio communications.
- Developments where homes too close together, now getting involved ahead of time w/developers/contractors so that there are fire plans established before hand
- Doing more evaluations county-wide
- Have advertised for mitigation work in the Terrace Lakes subdivision
- Suggesting more than one way in and out of subdivisions
- Completed to date - Mitigation on 102 homes and 175 acres
- Boise County recognized the International Fire Code
- Accomplished Red Zone mapping in conjunction with USFS Type 2 team during the Trapper Ridge Fire
- Part of an RC&D grant application to have Red Zone completed in Garden Valley
- Moved the county to an ESRI GIS database. Will receive our 911 mapping data base in March. At this time Boise County Dispatch will have full mapping for fire. LE and other responders.
- Added 2 radio repeater sites in 2007 and will complete 1 more in 2008 for a total of 6 sites.
- Working towards enhanced 911 in 2008 – 2009.
- Re-write the 2003 Boise County fire mitigation plan. The WUI mapping is already under contract to be completed by March.
- Emergency Managers are part-time or have this as an additional duty – not optimal.
- Commissioners seldom have state or federal officials come and visit.
- One of the best exchanges/interactions was at a regional meeting at WCH RC&D. One with IDL, BHS, realtors/similar groups, P&Z, Commissioners, etc. would be great. These are easier for feds to meet w/more then one county at a time, more efficient.

**ELMORE COUNTY: (see handout)**

**Elmore County Forest Stand Improvement and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project**

- Thinning – forest health
- Example 1 – crowded, unhealthy, susceptible to disease. (used chipping, more efficient)
- Example 2 – ladder fuels present
- Fuels reduction
- Example 1 - Prune and harvest trees to avoid overcrowding.

- Example 2 – reduce ladder fuels by clearing brush.
- Example 3 – create proper tree-to-tree spacing and tree-to-structure spacing (majority of healthy dominant trees remain) – homeowners didn't want their good shade trees cut down, just added space outside their property boundaries.
- Student conservation corp. helped with doing this project
- Fire-up program in June (used scientific students from the Meridian School District)
- How is this program accomplished? – local, county, state, federal partnership
- Potential sites identified for this program
- On site planning
- Met with landowners, had a forester with them
- On site implementation verification

**FALL NFP CONFERENCE: (Ingles)**

2008 Idaho Wildland Fire Conference: October 8-9 (see handout)

Topics from this group:

- Restoration – rangeland and forest restoration, Mike Pellant and Don Major as speakers. Gordan Foster – possible speaker.
- Land use planning – good topic to discuss – need speaker ideas (general discussion topic)
- Attitude of let burn – public's opinion (topic)? Should we address this at this conference? Speaker? - local public showing up (some with equipment) and wanting to help fight the fire, we can't let them without formal training. Counties involvement (do more to help counties understand decisions regarding agency response and management.
- Propose a fee of \$75 to attend the conference (includes 3 meals)
- Do scholarships – Ingles will put something out on this and check into this.
- Ingles will work with the subcommittee to develop the workshop and outreach to Idaho National Fire Plan Community.

**WORKING LUNCH WITH:**

**Key players: Chief Mark Larson, State Fire Marshal; Debbie Knight, Territorial Product Manager, Allstate Insurance; Elizabeth Mocer, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, Allstate Insurance; Kim Redman, Property Services Manager, Allstate Insurance**

- Relationship building – believe in affordability insurance – building Firewise insurance standards.
- Extra set of guidelines for high fire risk areas Initiative implemented last may here in Idaho – to find out where the high fire risk areas are and low risk so they can offer homeowners with products that are reasonable. When a customer asks what they can do, Allstate refers them to the Firewise website and help them develop a defensible area around their homes/property.
- Homes that are older, if lost and have to be rebuilt, will have to be rebuilt to code, so the homeowner should have more insurance so that the rebuild to code would be completely covered. They would have to get an inspection to determine how much it would cost to rebuild to code.
- If the natural fuels line is at least a 1,000 feet from the home, Allstate will insure this home. The first 200 feet are critical for defense.

**NEXT MEETING:**

18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of June for the next meeting – McCall Field Campus, University of Idaho

**Critique of this meeting** – lunchtime working group was excellent – few more action items and less education at the next meeting.