



IDAHO STATE FIRE PLAN WORKING GROUP

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To: Boards of County Commissioners/County Contacts for National Fire Plan Implementation
County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups
Fire Departments and Districts

Re: Revision of the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan

Greetings once again from the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group! On behalf of the members of the Working Group, I would like to thank you for all that has been accomplished by Idaho's counties and fire districts in order to make our state more resistant to catastrophic wildfire. I would also like to inform you of some significant changes that have taken place to the way in which the National Fire Plan will be implemented nationally as well as statewide:

1. A revised version of the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan* (<http://www.westgov.org/wga/publicat/TYIP.pdf>) was adopted by the Western Governors' Association on December 7, 2006. This document provides more specific information as to how some of the broad goals of the National Fire Plan are to be achieved.
2. In response to this, a revised version of the *Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan* was signed by Governor Jim Risch as well as representatives from local, state, and federal government on December 12, 2006.

I urge you to take a close look at the following documents designed to help you understand some of the changes that are to take place to the way that fire-related grant and other assistance funds are managed within the state of Idaho. As you will see, **the formation and maintenance of County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups is now more important than ever towards the receipt of funding for hazardous fuels treatment projects and the Rural Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs.**

As always, if you would like more information about the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group or the National Fire Plan, please visit us at our website www.idahofireplan.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert E. Cope
Chairman
Lemhi County Board of Commissioners

A collaborative effort of the following member agencies and organizations:

Idaho Department of Lands ♦ US Forest Service ♦ Idaho Association of Counties ♦ Bureau of Land Management ♦ US Fish & Wildlife Service ♦
Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor ♦ Idaho Fire Chiefs Association ♦ Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security ♦ Idaho State Fire Marshal ♦
National Park Service ♦ Bureau of Indian Affairs ♦ Nez Perce Tribe ♦ Coeur d'Alene Tribe ♦ Shoshone-Bannock Tribe ♦ Office of the Governor
♦ Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Councils ♦

Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan

Guidance for County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups

The newly revised *Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan* creates a **partnership** between the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group and County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups, with collaborative responsibilities for each. We urge you to read over the entire document carefully in order to gain a complete understanding of the roles of both the state and the counties.

Some Important Highlights:

- A template for prioritizing hazardous fuels treatment and firefighting assistance funds is included. We encourage each County Wildland Fire Interagency Group to fill out this template in order to prioritize funding in the following categories:
 - Hazardous Fuels Treatments, Non Federal Lands
 - Hazardous Fuels Treatments, Federal Lands
 - Firefighting Assistance Funds
 - Other Prioritization Needs (optional)

This prioritization list is designed to make it easier for your county to amend your County Wildfire Protection Plan (a.k.a. County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan). It is an opportunity to update and identify new issues that may have arisen since your original plan was written without having to rewrite the entire plan.

- Changes in the prioritization processes will necessitate changes in the Rural Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs for FY2008. Those fire departments and districts that work through their local county working group will receive priority funding next year.
- At a *minimum*, each County Working Group should include membership from the following individuals:
 - A **county employee**—preferably a County Commissioner or Emergency Management Coordinator
 - A **local fire chief**—at least one, could have many involved
 - A representative from **Idaho Department of Lands**—may not be required in areas where IDL has little or no personnel (particularly south central Idaho)
 - A **local Federal official**—in order to truly be collaborative, representatives of Federal agencies must be involved in the County Working Groups
 - A **Tribal representative**—if appropriate

County Working Groups are also encouraged to include membership from other interested organizations and citizens who have an interest in fire planning, mitigation, or prevention.

- At a *minimum*, County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups should meet at least once per calendar year. We encourage County Working Groups to meet several times a year in order to ensure that their CWPP is being implemented effectively.
- We encourage County Working Groups to be *subcommittees* of an LEPC when appropriate. However, in most instances, members of the LEPC should not be identical to that of a county working group because LEPCs typically do not include Federal partners.
- It is the responsibility of each County Working Group to maintain a current copy of its CWPP and to ensure that the latest version of the document is on file with the Idaho Department of Lands.

Questions? Concerns?

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