

**Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group Meeting
January 27-28, 2009
Super 8 Motel
Grangeville, Idaho**

Attendees:

ISFPWG	Committee Members & Guests	
Steve Kimball – NFP Coordinator	Brett Ingles – BSU (Facilitator)	Ruby McCollum - SRRFD
Dean Ellis – Idaho Fire Chief's Assoc	Lisa Canaday – FS- NPNF (notes)	Dennis McCollum - SRRFD
Mark Larson – State Fire Marshall	Jonathon Oppenheimer- ICL	Debi Ruppe - BHS
Tim Droegmiller – Nez Perce Tribe	Greg Gollberg – U of I	Charles Doty – Lewis County
Mark Stephensen – BHS	Robert Feeley – BHS	Ron Smith – Boundary County
Dave Hasz – IEMA	Jon Skinner – BLM	
Gary Brown – FS-R4	Karin Drnjevic- Lemhi County	
Kelly Cardoza – FWS	Rob Lundgren – Idaho County	
Bob Cope – IAC	Harry Steele – IDL	
Joe Daniels – IAC	Kurt Naccarato – IDL	
Craig Glazier – FS- R1	Ivy Dickinson – Nez Perce Tribe	
Susan Jenkins – FS –R1	Jerry Zumalt – Idaho County	
Leonard Wehking – BLM	Don Gardner – Clearwater County	
Dave Summers – IDL	Thom Hawkins – Nez Perce County	
	Doug Zenner – Nez Perce County	
	Don Davis – Lewis County	
	Dean Ferguson – Senator Minnick	
	Peter Stagner – Senator Crapo	

Follow up from October Meeting and Conference (Kimball): A quick reminder of our mission: the Idaho National Fire Plan Statewide Implementation Strategy incorporates a two-prong approach that focuses on the statewide working group and county interagency working groups. The State group guides and supports the county groups in identifying risks/hazards and implementing priority mitigation projects.

October meeting: We had a one day meeting October 7th. As a follow up to that meeting, the education subcommittee was to develop a clear statement of program needs and outreach for funds for the Idaho Firewise program.

Counties for Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group visits – wanted to visit Bingham, Ada, Valley, and maybe Idaho County. We will be sharing our followup with these counties during this meeting.

Home assessments – the goal is to provide a consistent approach and protocol for homeowners to use throughout Idaho.

We want to be prepared in case economic stimulus dollars are available for National Fire Plan work.

Committee Reports:

We have formed several committees that continue with ongoing work between meetings. The following is a report from each of those committees on their progress since the last meeting.

Restoration Committee:

Members: Steve Kimball, Kurt Naccarato, Bob Cope, Craig Glazier, Jonathan Oppenheimer.

The Committee has continued to track projects such as the Clearwater Basin Collaborative. The Coeur d'Alene Coalition worked with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest on a project called Blue Alder Restoration and Fuels project. They are also working on the Red Beauty project. Lemhi County is working with the Salmon River Restoration Group on the Hughes Creek Project, which is just about ready to be implemented. Also working on the River Breaks fuels-restoration project. The Committee wants to track other restoration and

rehabilitation projects. They are developing a learning module that goes through the principles and considerations of fire in the landscape to bring to restoration project teams. They will bring managers and ecologists together to develop this by spring. They would like to focus on the role of fire. This fits the ISFPWG goal of developing resources and materials that can be used at the local level to help local projects.

State Assessment of Forest Resources – would like to create a map showing polygons of hot spots in Idaho where there is a lot of need for state and private forestry programs. I.e. Schweitzer, and other areas of importance/benefits with high fire or forest health risks, other threats such as fish and habitat issues. Areas where 4 to 6 or more concerns/threats overlap each other may be considered a State hot spot. Which areas in Idaho could we tackle 5 or 6 projects with one grant?

The term, “restoration” means different things to different people. This committee is concentrating on fire and fuel elements of landscape restoration and managing fire’s role in fire-adapted landscapes. Focus of restoration plan is long term maintenance. Once an area is restored, we need to think about how it will be maintained. The working group needs to establish processes for post fire rehabilitation.

Economic stimulus – some early indications that there could be substantial funds for on-the-ground restoration work. Need to work with counties and groups to identify longer lists of restoration needs. CWPP’s should be up-to-date with priority work needs.

Education Committee:

Members: Jon Skinner, Greg Gollberg, Robert Feeley, Harry Steele, Dave Olson, Yvonne Barkley, Ivy Dickenson, Kelly Cardoza, Susan Jenkins, Steve Kimball

Last spring the Committee looked at our education efforts in Idaho, wanted to see how statewide education programs were going in other states. Had a couple of focus sessions to see if we developed a program, what it could look like.

The Committee didn’t want to recreate things, so they sent out a survey to a broad list of people interested in fire education in Idaho. The survey asked what people wanted to see on a fire education website. This resulted in identifying the 4 topics to focus on. The topics focus on how to be safe with fire, how to mitigate fire, the science of fire, and understanding fire management and the tools that fire managers have to manage fire, and roles and responsibilities of different fire agencies.

The Idaho Firewise Charter is nearly final; revised the mission statement, established a chair, and are looking to raise funds. Most of the focus is on the website and trying to interact with fire educators. Most people want prepackaged materials that they can take directly from the website, or modify for their own needs. Always open to ideas.

The committee wants to get something going before fire season starts. Currently, they are looking for assistance through the Americorp program. Would it be possible to take on an Americorp student to develop the Fire Squirts program, and offer it around the state? The committee will write a proposal in late February to bring one of those students on to spearhead some of those programs. They plan to start a quarterly newsletter. Interested parties can sign up for it on their website. First one will come out in March.

Website: they now have assignments to write the content. Want our website to provide pertinent information. Greg Gollberg, Program Manager for Frames (Fire Research And Management Exchange System) is on the Committee and helping with the website design. The group is trying to condense the information available to the public and separate information that will be available on the public website from that which will be available through a login to FRAMES.

Topics for the public site are: Fire Prevention, (Keep Idaho Green) (Harry Steele), Protecting your home and community, (Jon Skinner), Science of Fire, (Kelly Cardoza), and Wildland Fire Management (Robert Feeley).

Each of those topics has several subtopics. The name in parentheses is assigned to work on each of these topics. If you have a particular topic or subtopic that you don't see listed, please contact the person in charge of that topic to get your info added.

Gollberg then showed a demonstration of what the website would look like. Want the website to be interactive and give people the ability to comment on content on the site. Also want website to be available for people to ask a wildland fire question and get an answer from a professional. All material will be able to be printed from the website so that people could use it as part of a packet. Hope to launch the site on June 1st. They are trying to design the site so that people with dial up can easily access the site.

They will send the info out so that the counties can get it to their planning and zoning groups. Would like to see which bushes, grasses, etc. can be planted to keep a home safe. There is a new home construction checklist on the website. Website will be a work in progress. Face to face contacts will enhance local education efforts. They are trying to build a culture of awareness and responsibility.

Most people still look for an agency to protect their home from a fire. The website won't educate people by itself, we will need to use students and other volunteers to go out and educate people. A coordinator will be needed to sustain this project. The committee thinks that they would need \$90,000 to initiate the program this year. Brett, Steve, Rob Feeley, and Susan Jenkins will take the lead on making contacts to try to raise funds for this project. Several insurance companies, home improvement stores, etc. have expressed interest in helping with this project. If we do receive money this year, there might be ways to do additional projects that the agencies would like to do.

Another project is implementing Firewise day camps focusing on fire safety and fire ecology. It would be a week of activities revolving around those topics. Original goal was to implement those camps around the state. Will now do local camps and package the product and send it out. They will start out in the north central Idaho area.

Several counties have selected to use Title III funds. These funds can be used for firewise community activities and CWPP development/updates (as well as search and rescue). Those counties are: Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Boise, Bonneville, Camas, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Idaho, Lemhi, Shoshone, Valley and Washington. Four other counties opted for Title III but have amended these amounts due to the impact on PILT: Bear Lake, Caribou, Clearwater and Teton County. If money isn't spent by September 2012, it goes back to the federal government.

The Education Committee would like feedback on what's been done so far. This website is a resource of everyone in Idaho; we don't want it to be considered only a state-level resource and something that isn't connected to the local communities. Want counties to exchange and share materials. Want homeowners and other groups to be able to serve themselves and find the information. Eventually would like counties to share info with each other.

Communication Committee:

Members: Andy Brunelle, Harry Steele, Jessica Gardetto, Dave Olson, Gail West, Ivy Dickinson, Steve Kimball

The goal of the Committee is to share info on what the state working group is doing; get good info to the governor and his staff, the state delegation. Most members of the committee are public affairs specialists from their respective agencies. Communication Committee needs to show how we are spending money from the Fire Plan and what we are getting done. The committee also prepares briefings and news releases for the Governor and the State Forester. We didn't have a lot of fire activity last year, so we weren't able to use the public affairs cadre on active fire issues.

Annual Report: this will be the next information release to be sent out statewide. This is a communication tool used to show the work that is going on around the state. The ISFPWG has had an annual report since 2002. The report has evolved over time. Originally designed to communicate how much funding was provided to counties through the National Fire Plan. Now it showcases all aspects of the Fire Plan in Idaho and highlights successes that we have had. The 2008 report is in the draft stage now.

There also was a logo contest. The winning logo was voted on at the Idaho Wildland Fire Conference.

The "Are We Safe From Fire?" DVD can be downloaded from the FramingOurCommunity.org website (and the Idahofireplan.org site).

Suggestions for the annual report: What about CRP acreage? People lose a lot of acres and miles of fence when a fire hits this land. Need to work with the county people to resolve this issue.

Executive summary lists the funding and acres treated in Idaho, along with major accomplishments. Need to capture the working group meetings. IDL acres treated are more than double what is reported. Each agency should look at their numbers and verify. Brett used the NFPORS database to get the info.

Planning and Assessment: It is time to put renewed emphasis on CWPP's (County Wildfire Protection Plan).

All Hazard Plan status by FEMA: When we get to the point where all counties have a plan completed will counties go back to ask for funding to get their plan renewed? Yes, they should. Need to apply for a grant a year or two before it is time to renew. Some counties are worried that because the contractor completed their plan, they won't have enough expertise on board when it comes time to renew the plan.

Restoration of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems: would like more information on progress with this in the annual report. Looking for successes of good rehabilitation work on any lands, not just federal.

Small wood and woody biomass: group will be formed in 2009 in Northern Idaho.

Draft Annual Report that was handed out is not complete and there will be several success stories added before the report goes out.

Mark Stevenson would like to know if there is interest in helping out with the State All Hazard Mitigation Plan. Counties have to update their plans every 5 years, state has to update every 3 years. He would like to establish an executive task force as well as an executive fire council for the State All Hazard Mitigation Plan. He would like this group to have an ad hoc committee that would be a liaison with the advisory group to deal with the state on their revision. The group should come up with mitigation projects to list in the state plan. It would be limited in duration. Once the plan is complete, the job is done, until it is time for the next revision. This group has the subject matter experts to review the plan. Volunteers: Brett Ingles, Steve Kimball, Dean Ellis, Gary Brown.

Contact Brett if you see something that you would like to have added to the annual report. Steve will send out a list of the success stories. If you think of additional ones, please let him know. They will include Murphy and Chimney fire rehabilitation stories.

WUI Development Committee:

Members: Mark Larson, Brett Ingles, David Hasz, Dean Ellis, Robert Code, Dave Olson, Steve Kimball

This committee was formed as a result of our last meeting before the wildland fire conference. Mark Larson – discussed making the National Fire Protection Association standards available to the counties. Problem is multiple jurisdictions as well as other groups that have a hand in dealing with areas. They would like the standards to be used as a tool. Provide tools, advice and get people on a countywide basis that are involved in fire to work together. The standards will give people a place to start.

A uniform approach to this won't work throughout the state. Spent a lot of time talking about the little things that could go wrong, decided to put it out there and help the counties that wanted assistance. Inconsistency irritates public officials the most. We are to the point where we need the counties to develop these plans now and put something in place and tailor it to their local situation. Ordered a set of 4 documents (30 each) to distribute to the counties. Have a unique opportunity here, developers will comply with requirements in some areas but in others try to bend the rules.

Another new resource is Montana's new draft WUI legislation. They are working on a state guideline for construction standards. They were mandated to do this by the Montana State Legislature. In Idaho we'll encourage counties to develop guidelines that will work for them. **Action: Cope, Larson, Kimball and Ingles will visit with the commissioners and clerks at the IAC conference in Boise to discuss codes and ordinances. They will follow up with any interested counties.**

What do we do when a county commissioner asks for help? Ask them what they are doing? We can't have a pat answer for each question. Maybe point them to other counties to see what they are doing. Sometimes an out of town facilitator will help things go well due to the emotional nature of different agencies working together.

Most local fire fighters outside of the populated areas are volunteers. It is hard for them to leave their regular job to go out and do assessments and inspections.

Steve would like several counties to address development and develop a way to manage for safe, "firewise" new construction this year.

Idaho Home Assessment Cadre:

Lead members were Tim Droegmiller, Ivy Dickinson, Dave Summers and Susan Jenkins. The cadre was tasked with putting together an evaluation form that could be used throughout the state for home assessments. The team decided to use the term "Home Protection Zone Evaluation" rather than 'defensible space.'" Data from the document can be uploaded into RedZone software and used throughout the state. Intend to have 2 people doing every home site evaluation. They also wanted to be able to leave something with the landowner so they developed a form to do that. Wanted to stay away from the number issue, ie 1-40 is low, 40 and above is high. It was decided to designate the site as low, moderate or high.

On March 12th, there will be a home assessment calibration day in Coeur d'Alene, will be visiting 2 homes in that area. Meet at the IDL office at 1:00 tentatively if interested in attending. **The March 12th Home Assessment field day was cancelled due to IDL travel restrictions.**

They looked at the NFPA 1144 which is a form that is used across the country to do these evaluations. Incorporated a lot of this form into the Idaho forms. The goal is that the form will be adopted at a statewide level. Would like everyone to fill this form out and add any additional information. Would like to be in a train the trainer mode where they go to fire depts. and train them to do these assessments.

The group will work with the RedZone software producers so that every time the software is ordered from Idaho it will come with this form loaded. This form is optional so that if a fire district already has a detailed form that they are using, they don't have to switch to this. The group looked at a lot of forms when they were developing this form, so they are probably similar forms.

Are counties/fire districts required to do something once they get this information? No, but their hope was that it would be in a database somewhere that would identify the low, medium and high risk homes as well as water sources, etc.

Once this is final the form will be sent out all over the state and they will be encouraged to use this form as their home assessment form of choice so that we can be consistent. We would like to maintain the standing group that developed the form and use them for training. There may be funding from the Dept. of Homeland

Security if counties have an All Hazard Plan in place that identifies that they want to do these assessments. Should show that they would like to do them, how much they think it would cost, etc. It would be good if the plan shows a sense of urgency in doing these assessments. We need to find other ways to fund these surveys. This would be a great way to employ a lot of people in a short amount of time if we get some economic stimulus dollars. If the project can evolve into a hazardous fuel reduction project, may be able to get grant dollars. Also need to talk to homeowners about what to expect if there is a fire heading their way. This is a fundamental principle that needs to be broadly implemented. People need to understand if their home is at risk so that they can do something about it.

Along with developing the forms, the Cadre developed a general protocol. They would like to emphasize that this is education driven. Purpose is to educate people that are living in a WUI situation. The first protocol is homeowner contact. Want to make sure that the homeowner is engaged as much as possible. We don't just want to go in cold and say that we are doing assessments today. Assessments are voluntary and can be scheduled. The other part is inspections. No fewer than 2 people doing an assessment. One person is dealing with the form and GPS, etc., and the other is talking to the homeowner looking for a teachable moment. Re-evaluations – how often do we go out, what is the priority, visiting a place we've already visited, or assessing a new place?

Some homeowners were worried that they might lose their insurance if they had a high hazard rating. Some people don't like their information made available publicly. When people realized that the information being collected would also be beneficial to them in a medical emergency, they were much more receptive to this.

Grant Updates:

Mark Stephensen, BHS: went over which areas received grant awards, how much and what the money was used for. 24 counties in Idaho have FEMA approved multi jurisdiction all hazard mitigation plans. All counties should have one by December 2009.

Should receive a minimum of \$500,000 in the future, but we can always submit projects to try to increase this amount.

The Bureau of Homeland Security hosted a workshop last year on how to apply for FEMA grants. Homeland Security is very good at helping agencies/counties with the application. PDM grants will start in June. Panel will be seated the 1st or 2nd week in December.

Kurt Naccarato, IDL: IDL provided funding for 12 counties from the Western States Fire Management Program. Those counties were: Bannock, Lemhi, Franklin, Camas, Lincoln, Benewah, Shoshone, Valley, Boundary, Kootenai, and Bonner. Funding for the Community Fire Protection program has stayed constant for the past several years. CFP applications will be out in May. Volunteer Fire Assistance applications will be out in the next couple of months. The response time is really short on these applications. Because of that, counties should have a pool of projects lined up with a basic application done. Projects should be written up with the scope and any collaborative partners listed.

In the last couple of years, the Western States grant money is where we have gotten a lot of our money. We have received really good ratings on our applications. That means the counties are really in tune with what needs to be done.

IDL will also receive approximately \$2 million from the TARP legislation (the bank bailout bill). A number of projects will be funded with this money once it has been received. There is an acres target associated with this money (assumed to be 2700 acres).

Jon Skinner, BLM: 3 Nat'l fire programs – community assistance \$585,000, rural fire assistance \$365,000 to 57 depts., Ready Reserve program – trains rural fire depts. for free. Community assistance – we aren't able to ask for money, we just have to use any money leftover after we meet our burning target. Ready Reserve – money received was increased this year. If anyone is offering training in wildland fire, let them know, they can help provide funding. WUI/non WUI budget stayed flat last year.

Kelly Cardoza, USF&WS: didn't have any community assistance or hazardous fuels programs at all last year, and it doesn't look like they will this year either. They will have some rural fire assistance money this year.

Tim Droegmiller discussed BIA: have the same programs as BLM and the USF&WS since they are all under the Dept of Interior.

Dean Ellis: Fire Chief Assn. Firefighter license plate fund: the Fire Chief Assn receives money from purchase of the firefighter license plate fund which they use for firefighter education.

County Working Group Visits: Didn't visit Ada and Bingham counties.

Blaine County (Steele, Kimball)

Good attendance, 1 homeowner was present, and the workshop was well received. They visited the homeowner's subdivision as a result of their presentation. Blaine County has an incredible website. They developed a fire wise garden so that people could see the plants that are fire wise for their area. They also had a school garden project. Blaine County perceives that they are highly organized, capable and ready to go. They don't have a working group that meets regularly, but they are very comfortable with where they are at. A lot of the homes in the area are 2nd homes for many people. Might be a good idea to get the property managers together and talk to them about the fire wise program.

Oneida County (Daniels, Kimball)

Steve met with the Commissioners, county emergency, fire chiefs, BLM, FS in November. Really good attendance, all of the agencies were there. Discussion was excellent, talked about the CWPP. Communications is an issue, concern about federal agency firefighting tactics; they do things differently than the locals. Talked about collaborative joint training and homeowner education, Title III funds, codes and new construction regulations, stay and defend, and grant opportunities. They want to do RedZone surveys. Fire Chiefs talked about inadequate equipment and storage. They would like to get a joint equipment storage facility.

Camas County (Steele)

There is not a lot to do in Camas County. Most of the county contains agricultural ground. Around 40 people attended. Toured the area where hazardous fuel treatment had occurred.

Washington County (Cardoza and Ingles)

Chiefs from Weiser, Midvale and Cambridge were in attendance as well as a Homeland security representative, Washington County weeds, Forest Service, and RC&D. They talked about building codes, and the RedZone. They have done several assessments.

Valley County (Naccarato)

Has really gotten back up on its feet, have had several meetings. Commissioners seem to be really engaged.

Next Counties to visit: Bingham County is setting up a meeting in the spring.

Ada County has had some elections which have changed the players, so we should visit them. No specific projects to report at the county level, but the City of Boise seems to be interested.

Teton County has had a turnover of county officials. We've done several projects in that area.

Bear Lake County has 2 new commissioners with several large subdivisions going in.

Agency Updates (Cope-Daniels): ID Association of Counties: Idaho roadless rule went into effect last week, the Wilderness Society challenging the rule. Power lines will be coming through the gateway from Wyoming all the way to Boise – trying to get counties to realize that they need this power. There is disagreement between where the power line should be. This is a very large project. Base of poles is 12-20 feet in diameter and will

go as deep as 70 feet in the ground in some places. Watching to see what the new administration will propose for energy development. Clean Water Restoration Act is still here.

IDL (Naccarato-Summers): in a pinch now that the governor has cut their budget by 4%, last week said they wanted to take away another 3%. Travel curtailed unless mission critical. Cuts are supposed to be permanent. Fire season was not that bad last year.

R1 Forest Service (Glazier-Jenkins) – 2009 continuing resolution funded \$4 million to Region 1 of the Forest Service. Nat'l Wildfire Coordinating Group released memo concerning revisions to the federal fire policy. Planned and unplanned ignitions will have changes this summer – the objectives for the fire could be changed. February 9-10 will have a video conference session dealing with and explaining the new policy. Later in the month they will have a video conference session for practitioners.

ID Fire Chiefs Assn. (Ellis)– trying to keep their heads above water, annual conference is in Idaho Falls May 7-9, will be supporting legislation for line of duty deaths, length of service award, volunteer fire depts. and recruitment and retention. Not proposing any legislation.

Nez Perce Tribe (Droegmiller)– working on fuels treatment project with Nez Perce County at Soldiers Meadows. Working on project in Lewis County (Winchester) doing fuels treatment around homes on private land that is adjacent to tribal land. Clearwater County is working with the Sunnyside Rural Fire Dept. for a fuels break for a subdivision there. For first time ever they are trying to keep their seasonal fire crew busy year round doing fire education, fuel zone projects, and doing things in house rather than contracting out.

BLM (Wehking): redefining the boundaries of the fire policy, it isn't a new fire policy, just redefining the old one. Used to not be able to change our minds on how we were managing a fire. Now we can. Waiting for the economic stimulus package, wondering how it will be measured, how can it be used? They would like to use it for landscape treatment projects, and other things. Shelf stock of projects has limited life to it. They would not have any more projects ready to go after 1-2 years. Biggest problem to getting projects on the shelf is getting through NEPA. Last summer they arrested someone in Canyon County around Parma who was a serial arsonist. This person had started 7 fires; it went to US Court last week. Judge Windmill presided over this, BLM presented a very good case, and the jury deliberated 45 minutes and found the person guilty on 6 out of 7 charges. The person was a volunteer firefighter out of the Parma Fire Dept.

If we have a couple of years where we don't have a fire season we could experience apathy from the public, they won't be as excited about our programs. We need to communicate to them that this won't be a permanent situation.

Question from Nez Perce County: Why isn't Idaho Fish and Game here? They own a lot of land, but they only manage for one use, so the timber just dies. Their attitudes and agenda are different than IDL. At the county level we should be trying to get landowners and other players together to work on our issues. Idaho Dept of Lands does all of their work for them. The Clearwater Management Council takes care of land from Kooskia to Lewiston, it spans 5 counties. They've had the same experience with Fish and Game.

Fish and Wildlife Service (Cardoza) – a lot of uncertainty with what the new administration and economic stimulus package will bring. They are doing basic preseason things working on agreements, getting ready for spring burning.

R4 Forest Service (Brown) – policy statement will be updated, and wildland fire decision support system will have fire behavior projection and decision tools. Right now just the Forest Service is using it. Wildfire Situation Analysis (WFSA) is being replaced by Wildfire Decision Support System (WFDSS).

Idaho Emergency Managers Association (Hasz) – grants have dwindled dramatically from Bureau of Homeland Security. In 2008, Lewis County will have less than \$26,000, down from \$200,000 a few years before. They are starting to back off of the 700 megahertz radio system. It only works in flatland areas and is

not very good in mountainous areas. Wherever your digital cell phone will work, that is where these will work. The self contained breathing apparatus bells were messing with the transmission.

State Fire Marshal (Larson) – The Fire Marshal’s office is facing cutbacks like all other state agencies. Since they aren’t laying people off, they will have to cutback other places. He has cut back on the travel, memberships, and other things. As far as being involved in this group, his boss thinks it is a wonderful idea to stay involved.

Peter Stegner – Senator Crapo’s office – stimulus package update – request for \$1.52 billion of money that is yet to be funded out of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The new stimulus bill has passed through the House Finance committee, would include \$300 million to federal agencies. Senate is looking at \$3.9 billion to go to various federal agencies.

Day 2

How are things going with the ISFPWG and NFP implementation in Idaho?

What’s Going Well?	What Needs to be Improved?
Relationships/communications between groups and counties	Relationships between groups and counties
Working with the Forest Service & BLM	Road maintenance charges
Reaching out to other groups	Not sure where to engage or back out
Letter to county re: WUI development	Intimidated by Federal Fire Plan at first
Diversity in our group	Interface with the public
Going to different places for meeting	Keeping communities informed on fire wise info/funding
Task force committees working well	Development of the website
Targeting counties that aren’t up to speed	Not much progress on fire wise program
Diversity of issues	Put state fire risk map on website/display at meetings
Great progress on Idaho Fire Wise	
Group works well together	
Development of the website	
Group is open/accepting of new ideas	
Group is willing to do what is necessary	
Group is a model for other groups forming	

How can we be stronger?

- Build our relationship with the Governor’s office

How can we do better work with the counties?

- Some of our programs will allow others to talk about us

2009 Priorities and Goals

- Support the county interagency working groups and implementing County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
 - motivation might be to receive grants
 - if counties want to use HFRA funding, they need a CWPP completed.
- Inform and align Idaho’s wildfire community. Lead the ISFPWG in mission to provide statewide oversight and support for the National Fire Plan program.
- Develop new “Idaho Fire wise” Statewide Education Program

- Ivy Dickinson is the contact for the youth day camp
- Day camps for youth should be a high priority
- Identify more opportunities for utilization of woody biomass.
 - need to do something else rather than burn piles
 - need to figure out what our role is in this area
 - look for ways to utilize wood rather than burning it

Follow up: think about additional tasks that could be added to the woody biomass utilization goal.

Central Idaho Fire Co-Op (Susan Jenkins)

The group has just recently been formed and has had 3 meetings so far. Next meeting will get Board of Directors established, set meeting dates in different geographic areas. Next steps: fire education goals; work with local groups/counties on their goals.

Coops in the state of Idaho: Susan will send Steve a message with the different coops in the state.

Do the counties see the Co-Ops as a benefit? In North Idaho there is a disconnect between the Co-Op and the county.

Co-Ops could be a liaison between the community and the county. The Central Idaho Co-Op went to all of the county fire working group meetings to talk about the formation of the CoOp.

LEPCs and health districts, cities, land management agencies also should be involved in this. Purpose of Co-Op could be to coordinate the activities of multiple groups and send them down the same path.

WUI groups are confusing to the public; fire Co-Ops are visible and understandable.

Don't want the counties to be surprised by what the Co-Op is doing. Need to keep them in the loop.

It would be good for all Co-Ops around the state to be linked together and communicating with each other.

Can WUI money be legally handed down to a Co-Op group for fire education? Possibly if they could show on the ground work being done.

Another possibility is to use Title III funds. Secure Rural Schools Act to be used to replace timber that isn't being cut on federal lands. Some counties have little if any federal lands.

Idaho County Update – Rob Lundgren, Jerry Zumalt, Dave Summers

The County has received \$516,398 in grants.

Salmon River Rural grant is for doing Red Zone work. Have a grant to do roadside cleanup around the Elk City/Dixie area. They then showed pictures of different projects that they have done. They are hoping that in 2 years they will have a woody biomass unit (gasifier) in Elk City to produce electricity. Clark Woodward is putting on a RedZone training in Grangeville on February 12th.

Has anyone tried to contact the community action agencies about buying cords of wood to distribute to families that need it? Title II (RAC) funding could also be used to do this. The county is checking into this. The RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) has been used to move the wood in another area in the past.

They will be talking to the Idaho County Fire Chiefs about lining up projects in the future. Having a fire mitigation coordinator in the county is a tremendous asset to the county. If other counties would like to pursue this, they should call Idaho County and talk to Rob Lundgren or Jerry Zumalt.

Idaho County has gone from being reactive to being proactive. They meet 4 times per year. They meet at certain times of the year to take advantage of due dates for grant proposals. They will be working on a grant proposal project to protect the Grangeville watershed from fire.

They are trying to figure out how landowners can take more responsibility for their properties in case of fires in the Salmon River area.

Water Shield project – a new method to protect structures by using a water curtain around the structures. Dave Summers showed a DVD by Dave Clampitt who developed this. You can go to DaveClampitt.com to get more information on the Water Shield. It is a shake shingle roof protection system. It costs \$8 for the plans, and approximately \$200 to build the structure. This is a very inexpensive way to protect your roof. This system could also be used on metal roofs to moisten the pine needles that are in gutters. **Dave will work with Brett to put information about this on the Idahofireplan.org website.**

They feel that the county is on the leading edge of their hazard plan. There are a lot of projects that have already been done, but there are still more projects to be done. City of Grangeville doesn't have well defined subdivisions that allow for fire breaks. Need to look for other individual mechanisms to motivate homeowners. Maybe newspaper articles highlighting people that are taking care of their property.

It would be great to hire a coordinator for the Idaho Fire wise program. That would be the only way that the program would take off from a website to something else.

Follow up: discuss the possibility of having an Idaho Firewise Program Coordinator at the next meeting.

Clearwater County Update – Don Gardiner

Don is the Emergency Coordinator for Clearwater County, firefighter and fire prevention officer for the City of Orofino.

They have had a defensible space project in the Twin Ridge Fire District, 44 homeowners participated, 115 buildings protected and 80 acres treated. They needed to do this because the average age of a firefighter in that area is 63.

Twin Ridge area is trying to become a Firewise Community.

Grangemont – Wells Bench Project

They put in a fuel break, 50 feet wide x 23 miles. They used their easement right as a county to do the fuel break and matched the funds with county equipment and labor.

An immediate result of their fuel break project was the effect they had when they had 4 fires, then 10 fires the next day. It was very easy and quick to take care of all of those fires except for 2 which were within the city limits. The City of Orofino didn't want to participate in the fuel break project.

There is a problem with the land above the Dworshak Dam right-of-way. The Corps of Engineers has a right-of-way a certain distance from the water, but they don't have any money to treat the land.

Orofinofire.com has info on their 2009 Clearwater Fire Academy, which will be March 13-15 in Orofino. Cost is \$40 which includes lunches and a BBQ dinner on Saturday.

Clearing out hazards in the County – seems like an endless project. It is slow going, but getting done.

Other County Updates

Nez Perce (Hawkins, Zenner) – Soldier's Meadows update – they are putting in a 300+ acre fuel break, mostly 100 yards wide, more on Fish and Game and Tribal ground. There are 14 units that all have different prescriptions because the wood is different. Hoping to award the chipping contract this summer, but need to get the burned wood out first. Project involves several agencies. The project is important because they don't have fire chiefs in that area.

The County has established a WUI committee. People are really amazed by the IDL “Your fuels, your problem, create defensible space” poster. It is a great poster to have in a planning and zoning office. People that are building/moving into subdivisions are floored by this poster. They will be starting an education process on WUI in the Lewiston Morning Tribune. Hope to educate people in a 5 county area. They will also be creating the Southwick Rural Fire District, which encompasses parts of 3 counties. Waha is an area with 157 homes, no fire dept, with a subdivision that you can’t drive a fire truck through because the water lines are buried shallow, and it is thick with Douglas fir. They did a demo home and didn’t get any calls. Have had public meetings to start a fire district and no one is interested. Recently during the Chimney Fire, everyone evacuated.

Lewis County – (Don Davis, County Commissioner) – wanted to get more fire protection in the county, so they established a fire district in the Winchester area. Craigmont is now trying to get one. After that the whole county will be covered with fire districts. They are looking for fire equipment that people no longer need. If anyone is looking to start a fire district, he is willing to visit with them and share his experiences. The Nez Perce Tribe is going to do a fuels project in Nez Perce County in the Winchester area, doing defensible space treatments. The 5 county area works well together.

Clearwater Restoration Update – Joyce Dearstynne

The Clearwater Basin collaborative was convened by Senator Crapo. Their purpose is to provide recommendations for administrative and legislative people on the Clearwater and Nez Perce forests. They looked for a variety of people that were willing to be collaborative to solve the problems that they face in the forest health arena. They have met 6 times, and accomplished a lot in that short time.

They have 3 working groups – forest health and function, rural economics, public recreation.

They are developing a draft work plan. They have gone on a field tour with Idaho Forest Industries and Three Rivers Timber and visited the Crooked River Stewardship project..

They like to look at projects early on so that they can address any problems.

Each member had to agree to be on the group for 2 years. They are all volunteers. There are approximately 26 members working in this collaboration. All now share a common vision. The Forest Service funded the initial facilitation and meeting. The Forest Service doesn’t sit at the table; they are a resource to the collaboration. They present projects to the group that are “shovel ready”. They started a list of priority sites that they will look at for treatment.

Their work is driven by the work that the county has done. Their group is involved in the design of the projects when it is an agency project so that they understand and give feedback as to what their concerns are. The purpose is to reduce the appeals and litigation. They want their concerns heard ahead of time so that the decision is less likely to be appealed. They are mostly advisory to the agencies. They are looking at doing a Clearwater Basin management plan with lands that run across federal, BLM, and private land. They hope to do a demonstration project showing that noxious weeds and disease knows no boundaries. Will see in stream fish habitat, bank stabilization, re-vegetation, fuels reduction, all watershed based. The group is open to all methods of hazardous fuel reduction and treatments.

Senator Crapo is very dedicated to this group and in keeping a collaborative approach and keeping projects out of the courts. At the last meeting they had representatives from Congressman Minnick’s office. Minnick is looking at possible future legislation regarding the Clearwater Basin Collaboration group.

They track every stick that comes off and evaluate what was done with it. They want to track the socio-economic component of it. Does it create jobs, if so, how many?

Joyce just received an award called the “Purpose Prize”. This is an international award that she didn’t apply for. They chose 76 people from around the world to honor with this award.

Follow Up/Next Meeting: The location will be Salmon, Idaho on June 2-4th with an optional evening working group meeting, and possibly a field trip on one of the days.

New Development: Due to a conflict with the IAC meeting, the June meeting will now be held June 10-11 in Salmon (2 full days- travel on June 9 and 12) . It will possibly be held at the Brooklyn Annex. Directions and lodging suggestions will be sent out. Gary Brown will work with the Forest Service on finding a note taker.

Some Topics for next meeting:

- Check in with Lemhi and Custer Counties on their progress
- BLM would like to discuss Idaho State mapping project (WUI map) from Idaho State University with Kevin Conran speaking
- Legislative update
- Progress with other counties and communities
- Above Base meeting
- 2010 Idaho Wildland Fire Conference
- 1910 Fire Commemoration in 2010

Note: The group should consider Blaine County (Hailey or Ketchum) for the fall meeting as they have been asking to host a meeting for some time.

What about dedicating more time in the fall for a county sharing period? Could set aside 1-1 ½ days for counties sharing with each other? Travel funding may be an issue in getting counties at such a sharing meeting.

Kamiah is sponsoring the Idaho State fire school on June 12-14.