

**Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group  
Quarterly Meeting  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
June 6-7, 2006**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

PEGGY POLICHIO – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS – US FOREST SERVICE - CHAIR  
BRIAN SHIPLETT – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
DAVID JACKSON – BUREAU OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
DENNIS SEIDMAN – US FISH & WILDLIFE  
DOUG BROWN – IDAHO FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION  
JERRY MILLER – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR  
JIM CASWELL – GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION  
KEN KISER – US FOREST SERVICE REGION 4  
LEONARD WEH KING – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
LYNN BORDERS – IDAHO FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION  
MARK LARSON – IDAHO STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
ROBERT COPE – IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
RUSS MANWARING – IDAHO RC&D COORDINATOR  
TIM DROEGMILLER – NEZ PERCE TRIBE – BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS REP

**GUESTS**

ANDY BRUNELLE – US FOREST SERVICE  
BRETT INGLES – BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BRUCE MARTINEK – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CHRIS CHURCH - BOISE NF  
CRAIG FOSS – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
DAVE SUMMERS – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
DE DETHER - BOISE NF  
DENISE WHALEY – UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
GARY PHILLIPS - PAYETTE NF  
JASON BUTLER - BOISE NF  
JOHN FOWLER - SALMON-CHALLIS  
JOHN KIDD - CARIBOU-TARGHEE NF  
JONATHAN OPPENHEIMER – IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
KRISTA WAID – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
KURT NACCARATO – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
MATT FILBERT - SAWTOOTH NF  
PAT GARBUTT – US FOREST SERVICE REGION 1  
SUSAN GIANNETTINO – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SUZANNE SCHEDLER – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
TERRY ZUFELT – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
VICKIE ELLICKSON – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
WINSTON WIGGINS – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS DIRECTOR

**Tasks, Responsibilities, Timeframes:**

- Task 1: Brief Mr. Ryan White (Governor's natural resource advisor) suggested by Caswell
  - Polichio – Lead
  - Cope, Brunelle, Larson, Miller, Wehking
  - TBA as available
- Task 2: Survey fire districts on adoption of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code -
  - Larson – Lead
  - Report at September meeting
- Task 3: Review draft revision of *Western Governors' 10-Year Strategy and Implementation Plan* -  
Incorporate all new suggestions into revision

- Ingles – Lead
  - Polichio
  - Draft review at September meeting
- Task 4: Draft county plan prioritization template and letter of explanation for county working groups – have ready for next meeting (Sept. in Boise)
    - Oppenheimer – Lead
    - Polichio
    - Naccarato
    - Borders
    - BLM – Wehking will select delegate
    - Draft review at September meeting
- Task 5: Develop communications strategy
    - Ingles/Schedler Lead
      - Larson
      - Jackson
      - Naccarato
      - Polichio
      - Draft for review at September meeting
- Task 6: Divide counties and make direct contact with named county representative: This task and assignment are not entirely clear. Ingles to coordinate with members to ensure that all counties are assigned.
    - Ingles – Lead
    - Larson – Ada, Adams, Blaine, Camas, Franklin, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Teton, Valley, and Washington
    - Borders/Brown
    - Jackson
    - Manwaring
    - Report assignments and results at September meeting
- Task 7: Newsletter
    - Ingles – Lead
    - Schedler
    - Strive for release of first newsletter in advance of September meeting
- Task 8: Document to give instruction to new county commissioners (Cope I, II?)
    - Ingles – Lead
    - Schedler
- Task 9: Region 4 Above Base Criteria revision
    - Kiser – Lead
    - Polichio
    - Naccarato
    - Draft criteria for presentation at January meeting
- Task 10: Service visit requested by Bingham, Oneida, Minidoka, and Latah County
    - Polichio – Lead
    - August 14-18 tentatively scheduled
    - Coordinate with task group – involve interested agencies

Meeting is called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Peg Polichio – This meeting is being held in conjunction with Idaho Association of Counties Commissioners and Clerks Annual Meeting in order to facilitate communication and collaboration between the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group and the county commissioners – Key message is “What can we do to assist the counties?”

- Agenda Review and call for additional topics
- All in attendance introduce themselves

Brian Shiplett

- Review of 2006 Volunteer Fire Assistance grant process and sub group prioritization.
  - Sub-group prioritization participants:
    - Mark Larson, Idaho State Fire Marshal
    - Doug Brown and Lynn Borders, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
    - Dale Anderson, Bureau of Land Management RFA
    - Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands Fire Bureau Chief
    - Kurt Naccarato, Idaho Department of Lands HFT Program Manager
    - Peg Polichio, National Fire Plan Coordinator USFS/IDL
- Discussion of funding bias for 2006 – Personal Protective Equipment the focus for VFA followed by Pagers, and Narrow Band Radios.
- Bureau of Land Management is focusing on Communications Equipment for RFA.
- All IDL Areas and Fire Districts, FS Forests, and Working Group members had the opportunity to review the applications and submit their comments to be considered in the sub-group prioritization process.
- ISFPWG members reviewed recommendations and all approved.

Kurt Naccarato

- Review of 2006 Community Fire Protection grant process and sub-group prioritization
  - Summary of funding situation and funds available to award by region.
  - All IDL Areas, FS Forests, and Working Group members had the opportunity to review the applications and submit their comments to be considered in the sub-group prioritization process.
- Summary of applications and individual project merit including applicant past performance and project viability.
- Prioritization sub-group participants:
  - Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands Fire Bureau Chief
  - Kurt Naccarato, Idaho Department of Lands HFT Program Manager
  - Peg Polichio, National Fire Plan Coordinator USFS/IDL
  - Jerry Miller, Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor
  - Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League
  - Robert Cope, Idaho Association of Counties
- ISFPWG members reviewed recommendations and all approved.

Comments:

Larson – Teleconference for VFA sub-group was open and frank and took “real” needs into consideration with input from all agencies. Very positive.

Cope – The process saved many man-hours that were consumed when the whole group was involved at every level. Those with detailed knowledge were at the table.

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## ***Western Governors' 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan***

Jim Caswell – Office of the Governor, Office of Species Conservation, Western Governors' Association, Wildland Fire Leadership Council

- Review of revision process and draft document *Western Governors' 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan*
  - Summary of document's history and the Administration's attempt to coordinate firefighting resources after the 2000 fire season.
  - 2004 WGA review of document to assess progress
    - Four goals at that time – Fuels, Suppression, Restoration, and Community Assistance
    - Collaboration key component to facilitate achievement of goals
    - December 2004 WGA presented to review to WFLC – WGA agreed to revise the 10-Year Strategy
    - By 2005 efforts began
      - Five groups to cover categories
      - Each sub-group consisted of a WGA representative and high-level agency representatives from many land management agencies
    - Draft revised document was reviewed and decision was made to embrace revision and bring to Sedona for Governors' signatures
    - Prior to Governor's meeting in Sedona, Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior gutted, particularly collaboration and performance measures and tasks.
      - USDA and USDOJ felt there were too many tasks and performance measures and no way to monitor them
      - Agencies did not want the responsibility
    - WGA was discouraged and felt that if the Federal agencies did not want to support the document, it wouldn't be successful
    - Taken off the WFLC agenda, and no decisions were made.
    - At following WGA meeting the document was again reviewed and revised. Work is ongoing.
    - Rather than wait until fall '06 WFLC meeting to approve, may have conference call prior.
- Review of current draft document:
- Introduction – Background information on document
- Section II –
  - Implementation and collaborative framework. Not a goal because maximum flexibility is needed. The framework is to outline features of good collaboration. Ideas and suggestions only.
  - Three tasks – not federal responsibility, but are non-governmental organization (NGO) responsibility.
  - WFLC wants to address collaboration and check pulse without this element being mandatory or measured.
  - WFLC will continue to send signals promoting collaboration with handbook, guidance, and mechanism for including NGOs. Want to change perception of closed" meetings and include all cooperators down to the local level.
- Goal I – Fire Prevention and Suppression
  - Two performance measures
    - Using "stratified cost index" – good tool and incentive to control costs and understand what drives fires to particular cost levels
  - Five tasks – all dealing with methods to improve suppression and prevention
- Goal II – Hazardous Fuels
  - Three performance measures crafted to meet intent

- Five tasks dealing with maintenance of abated/treated fuels – how long does this last and how to report
  - Goal III – Restoration
    - A – Fire Adapted Ecosystems
      - Three performance measures that focus on wildland fire use, the number or percent of natural ignitions where wildland fire actually played out
    - B – Fixing the Black
      - Two performance measures
      - Three tasks
  - Goal IV – Community Assistance
    - Three performance measures dealing with CWPPs and biomass
    - Eight tasks that are fairly complex. Recommend the ISFPWG spend some time reviewing before document becomes final.
  - Document not seen as having huge amount of utility at ground level, more so at the National Level and as tool to encourage sub groups that form as a result.
  - Governor Napolitano of Arizona will be assuming the WFLC chair now that Dirk Kempthorne is Secretary of the Interior.
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### ***Idaho 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan***

Ingles – Review of draft revision of *Idaho 10-Year Strategy and Implementation Plan*. Goal of document is to have counties develop viable working groups that meet Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) and Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) guidance.

- Summary of process to date
    - Ingles revised document based on suggestions from January meeting of ISFPWG
    - Conference call with Larson, Ingles, Manwaring, and Polichio to further revise
  - No agreement reached by ISFPWG to write letter to governor asking for County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans to become officially known as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
  - Document may need one more paragraph to describe relationship between types of plans – goal to meet FEMA and HFRA direction
  - County plans ensure wall-to-wall coverage to greatest degree while community-scale plans leave gaps
  - Include in document - if community develops plan it should be incorporated in to the county-level plan
  - Be consistent with HFRA when defining WUI
  - Clear purpose stated in front of document to create viable county wildland fire working groups
  - Terminology regarding county plans and CWPPs is confusing and unclear. Terminology will be made uniform throughout the document.
  - Page 4 – “IDL representative as appropriate...” How is this rectified when IDL not a participant in county wildland fire working group? Should IDL have an ex officio membership? All agree that local participation (as close to) at least at review level to participate and sign off on plan
  - Lead for county wildland fire group has responsibility to keep IDL informed
  - National goals may or may not fit with those at state and local level
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Pat Garbutt – US Forest Service Region 1 - Northern Region Fuels Specialist

- PowerPoint presentation – overview of Region 1 hazardous fuels mitigation projects
  - FS making sure projects are identified in county plans
  - Projects rolled into “regional” target so alternate areas can be treated if first choice can not be funded
  - Exceeded regional target and told to keep implementing projects

- National Fire Plan very dynamic – watershed issue an example of course correction after only two years
  - Difference between “restoration” and “rehabilitation” important – can be blurry when talking about forest health
  - Catastrophic build up of fuels
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## Agency Updates – members and guests

- Naccarato – Idaho Department of Lands
  - County Wildland Fire Mitigation groups making progress, some are able to stand alone.
  - Challenges are being encountered in south east Idaho recruiting contractors.
  - Project in Stanley Basin is great example of forest health projects combining with hazardous fuels treatment.
  - County and Forest Service collaboration well on projects around the state.
  - In North Idaho, FS, BLM, IDL, and private landowners are working well together to plan and implement projects.
  - Shoshone County continues to be HFT success story.
- Summers – Idaho Department of Lands
  - Idaho County project coordinator Jim Davis is doing great job.
  - County was really behind the eight ball until they hired the county coordinator.
- Droegmiller – Nez Perce Tribe and BIA Representative
  - Several prescribed burns taking place on reservation.
  - Seven Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grants.
  - Up and running in the field
- Seidman – US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - Not a lot in Idaho this year
  - BLM – US F&WS conference call on RFA
  - First fire on refuge
- Miller – Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor
  - State of Idaho’s economy
  - Idaho 3.5% unemployment rate
  - Serious shortages in skilled and semi-skilled trades
  - Federal funding is down as a result of Katrina
  - Fuel prices affecting public works projects
- Manwaring – Idaho RC&Ds
  - Funding from BLM to review and update county plans
    - Approximately 16 in the works
    - some RC&Ds working with counties on “All Hazard” plans
  - Facilitating recruitment of contractors
  - Five of nine RC&Ds have funded fire education coordinators
  - Working with subdivisions on Planning and Zoning – handouts and education
  - Fire information displays at kiosks – 45<sup>th</sup> parallel and local libraries
  - Not happy with assisting business in biomass areas – can’t get financial commitment and tough to finance
- Cope – Idaho Association of Counties
  - Turnover of county officials will hurt. May start November 1.
  - More counties becoming aware of National Fire Plan issues – some think it applies to timber counties only – a challenge in the Snake River Plain
- Caswell – Office of the Governor
  - Ryan White is the new Natural Resources person in the Governor’s office. Need to set up meeting with him and brief on ISFPWG and related issues.
- Oppenheimer – Idaho Conservation League
  - Working on Forest Health Advisory Committee to help rewrite the *10-Year Strategy*

- Working in Coeur d'Alene area to build trust in region
  - Trying to facilitate conservation groups' participation at the county level – will meet with anyone to discuss how ICL can be more effective in this area.
- Wehking – Bureau of Land Management
  - Funding going down
  - BLM workforce planning – reevaluate positions to keep boots on the ground
  - Need to fill Dale Anderson's position
  - Loss of RFA for 2007 – loss of Ready Reserve
  - Training academies vs. training units
- Ellickson – Keep Idaho Green
  - Reduced funding
  - Reduced media campaigns – smaller scale
  - Support Northern Rockies and Great Basin committees
  - Poster contest
  - Web site support
  - Firewise workshop at Worley, Idaho, in June
- Kiser – US Forest Service Region 4
  - Consolidated Grant
    - State Fire Assistance (SFA) will probably have a decline in regional program – NFP component has strong support with Western States Fire Managers
    - Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) No discussion of decline
  - Above Base Program R4
    - Reevaluate criteria
    - Support in R4 for committee prioritization efforts
  - Community Fire Protection funding – fight to have approved with decline in dollars
    - Need success stories to support value of program
- Phillips – US Forest Service – Payette National Forest
  - Prescribed burn of 7,500 on Payette NF – broke fuels funding and target
  - Meadowslope – beginning treatment – not all details available
  - Circle C – great example of HFT
- Larson – Idaho State Fire Marshal
  - Rise in significant development – facilitate, coordinate, provide information to county commissioners and planning and zoning coordinators – enable structural entities to work well together
  - Building codes not state code – some are
  - Fire code statewide standard locally enforced with fire district responsibility
  - Fireworks law not happening – voted to send it back to sponsor
- Brown – Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
  - Applauded Fire Marshall for work on Fireworks Law
  - Summary of Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Project
    - Intrastate mutual aid
    - Interstate mutual aid
    - Prevention, planning, risk methodologies, resource management, quantify resources
    - Fire Chiefs Association is lead agency with Bureau of Homeland Security partner
      - 25 committee members
    - Three stakeholder meetings – Working Group members are invited
    - Visit [www.IAFC.org/mutualaid](http://www.IAFC.org/mutualaid) International Association of Fire Chiefs web site
    - If you would like to work on the Idaho mutual aid project contact Doug Brown, President IFCA

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## Day 2 – June 7, 2006

8 a.m. to 9 a.m. – Prepare for presentation to Idaho Association of Counties Commissioners and Clerks

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. – Presentation

### OBJECTIVES

- (1) Inform audience who the Working Group is and what we are trying to accomplish.
- (2) Provide rationale as to why they should get involved – convene working groups.
- (3) Articulate local responsibilities.
- (4) Seek input and guidance as we update our Idaho Implementation Strategy

- **Robert Cope (Lemhi County Commissioner Representing IAC) /Peg Polichio (IDL/Forest Service National Fire Plan Coordinator )**
  - Introduce group; Who We Are and What We Do; NFP & HFRA background; County Plans as Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Idaho; briefly discuss handout with all-agency accomplishments in Idaho
- **Brian Shiplett (IDL – Fire Bureau Chief)**
  - Fire season 2006 outlook
  - Durable County Working Groups – the most important long term benefit of NFP
- **Leonard Wehking (BLM – State FMO)**
  - County Plans/Community Wildfire Protection Plan compliance: Why this is important.
- **Ken Kiser (Forest Service Coop Fire Specialist)**
  - Cooperative State & Private programs & R4 Above Base Program for project selection by State Working Group
- **David Jackson (Bureau of Homeland Security Hazard Mitigation Specialist)**
  - How this activity supports all-hazards risk reduction through mitigation planning to support why they should get involved.
- **Doug Brown (Idaho Fire Chiefs Association)**
  - Idaho Fire Chiefs - fire protection issues the IFCA would like to get on the table with the IAC for further discussion. Those issues involve the need to address (statewide) the IFC requirements for water supplies in developing rural areas and the need for mandatory fire department plan reviews for all new construction in rural areas.
- **Mark Larson (State Fire Marshal)**
  - Why Now! Why local and state coordination and project alignment are essential. The value of the Working Group.
- **Jerry Miller (Idaho Dept of Commerce and Labor Rural Development Specialist)**
  - What we can do to help.
- **Russ Manwaring (representing Idaho RC&D Coordinators)**
  - What we can do to help.
- **Q&As: Full Working Group - Field Questions (20 minutes or more remaining for questions)**
- **Winston Wiggins (State Forester/ Director, Idaho Department of Lands)**
  - Wrap up

Suggestions from Commissioners for WUI Conference topics – Best Practices, Community Involvement, Success Stories, Model P&Z Ordinances, Case Study of CWPP

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Ken Kiser – US Forest Service Region 4 – Above Base Project Prioritization

- Overview of Above Base program
- Introduction of Forests and request for 15-minute presentation per project
- Please refer to individual project descriptions posted with these notes.
  - Salmon-Challis National Forest – John Fowler
    - Garden Creek Municipal Watershed
  - Caribou-Targhee National Forest – John Kidd
    - Hollows
    - Palisades
    - Portneuf-West Bench – Pebble Basin
  - Payette National Forest – Gary Phillips
    - Cuprum
    - Yellow Pine
  - Sawtooth National Forest – Matt Filbert
    - Stanley Basin – Cow Camp
    - Warm Springs
    - Beaver Creek
  - Boise National Forest – Chris Church, De Dether, Jason Butler
    - Pine Featherville
    - Shoreline
    - Star Ranch
- Recommendation to revamp criteria before next meeting
- Working Group input on project prioritization invaluable to FS at regional level
- Would like to see a model across regions for Above Base project prioritization
- Forests were asked by Working Group if this process was of value to them, and all Forests concurred that it was
- Forests asked Working Group same question in return, taking into consideration that FS Region 1 and Idaho Bureau of Land Management do not participate in this process with their projects. Working Group consensus was positive, provided much useful and educational material.

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Denise Whaley – Visiting University of Idaho student – senior thesis is Wildland Urban Interface

- General impression of ISFPWG meeting – Very collaborative, productive, easy going yet accomplish a great deal.

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New Topics

- Bingham, Oneida, Minidoka, and Latah County Commissioners asked for a meeting with Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group representatives. Peg Polichio to arrange.
- Fall meeting to coordinate with WUI conference – Boise, Idaho, September 28 and 29, 2006
  - IDOCL meeting room, Ingles will coordinate
  - Prioritization template
  - Implementation Strategy
  - Communication Plan
- January meeting tentatively SE Idaho

Meeting adjourned 3:45 p.m.