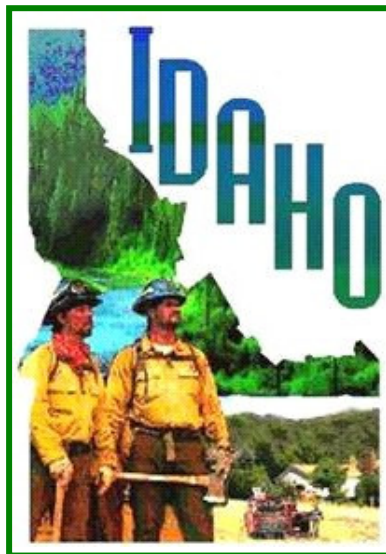
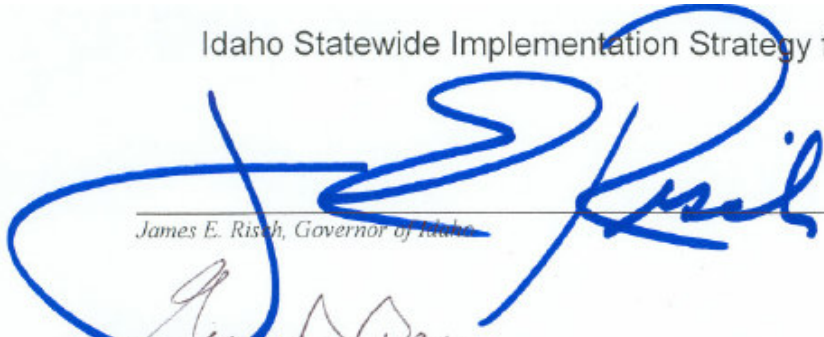


Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan

December 2006



Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan



James E. Risch, Governor of Idaho

December 12, 2006
Date



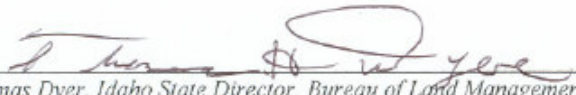
George B. Bacon, Acting State Forester, Idaho Department of Lands

12-12-06
Date



Richard A. Smith, Forest Supervisor, Boise National Forest, US Forest Service

12-12-2006
Date



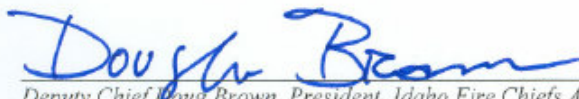
Thomas Dyer, Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management

12/12/06
Date



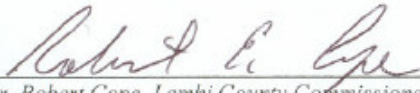
Robert A. Whistler, Northwest Regional Forester, Bureau of Indian Affairs

12 Dec 06
Date



Deputy Chief Doug Brown, President, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association

12 DEC. 06
Date



Dr. Robert Cope, Lemhi County Commissioner, Idaho Association of Counties

12-12-06
Date



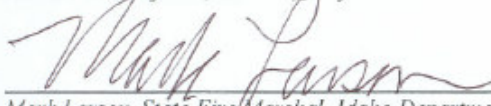
Morris Huffman, Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Association

12-12-06
Date



Major General Lawrence F. Lafrenz, Adjutant General
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

8 JAN 07
Date



Mark Larson, State Fire Marshal, Idaho Department of Insurance

12-12-06
Date

Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan

Purpose

Provide a collaborative framework for an organized and coordinated approach to the implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho. This will be accomplished through the maintenance of viable working groups at both state and county levels that meet the intent of the National Fire Plan, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

Background

In August of 2000, President Bill Clinton visited the Burgdorf Fire on the Payette National Forest in Idaho and directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to prepare a report that would recommend how best to respond to severe wildland fires, reduce the impact of such wildland fires on rural communities, and ensure sufficient firefighting resources in the future. This report, titled *Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment: A Report to the President In Response to the Wildfires of 2000* (approved September 2000), along with its associated budget is commonly known as the National Fire Plan.

In October of 2000, Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act (PL 106-390), which amends pre-disaster mitigation planning efforts (as outlined in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988; PL 93-288). The Act requires that every state create a standard, FEMA-approved state hazard mitigation plan in order to remain eligible for grant funding in the event of a federally-declared disaster. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 also requires that *communities* (or counties) develop a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan in order to remain eligible for certain types of federal grant funding.

In August of 2001, the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy: A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment* was approved jointly by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and the Western Governors' Association. The *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy* sets forth the basic actions necessary for achieving the following goals:

1. Improve Prevention and Suppression
2. Reduce Hazardous Fuels
3. Restoration and Post-Fire Recovery of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems
4. Promote Community Assistance

In May of 2002, the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan* was announced jointly by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and the Western Governors' Association at a signing ceremony in Idaho City, Idaho. This document was subsequently revised in December of 2006 and includes specific information regarding

how each of the goals of the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy* will be achieved including level of collaboration, lead collaborators, and implementation timeframe.

In December of 2003, Congress passed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (PL 108-148). This legislation addresses many issues relevant and complementary to the National Fire Plan including expediting projects designed to reduce hazardous fuels in the wildland urban interface (WUI). The Healthy Forests Restoration Act also allows local entities to create Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) if they so choose. CWPPs are documents created by local entities (usually communities, cities, or counties) that compel federal agencies to give consideration to community priorities when developing fire management plans or when conducting hazardous fuels treatments.

The State of Idaho has chosen to use the term *County Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) to emphasize that these plans are developed and implemented at the county level rather than at the community level. For purposes of this document, “County Wildfire Protection Plan” or “CWPP” are used to denote a document that meets the intent of both the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan) and the Disaster Mitigation Act (as the Wildland Fire component of a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan).

I. History

This document appends the original *Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan*, adopted July 2002. The *Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy* was created after a series of listening sessions were held around the state to gather information regarding the implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho. The 2002 *Implementation Strategy* articulated a framework for collaboration and action that (a) established the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group, (b) emphasized a collaborative approach between state and county levels, and (c) called for the creation of county-level Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Plans prior to the passage of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. This document and its predecessor have been modeled after the national *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*.

The Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (State Working Group) is a collaborative body composed of individuals representing state and federal agencies, counties, tribes, and non-governmental organizations. The State Working Group provides the key link between national and local levels of government to implement the National Fire Plan. First formed during the spring of 2002, the State Working Group plays a leadership role in overseeing the adoption of County Wildfire Protection Plans in all forty-four of Idaho's counties, prioritization of assistance funding opportunities for hazardous fuels treatment, increased fire district capability, biomass utilization, and the development of policy decisions focused on the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems.

II. Overview of Strategy

This strategy has been adopted by the State of Idaho to provide a collaborative framework for an organized and coordinated approach to the implementation of the National Fire Plan, specifically the national *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*, as amended December 2006. Emphasis is on a collaborative approach at the county and state level.

The relationship between county and state levels is that of a *partnership*. While it is necessary for the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group to conduct certain administrative functions, County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups (County Working Groups) will act autonomously within their designated areas of impact, pursuant to State and Federal laws.

This *partnership* requires certain collaborative responsibilities at both county and state levels:

A. Countywide Collaborative Responsibilities

1. Counties are responsible for implementation and maintenance of their County Wildfire Protection Plans through their County Working Groups (with leadership provided by County Commissioners and assistance provided by state, federal, and tribal agencies and local expert advice). This will include:

- a. Maintenance of a diverse membership of stakeholders striving to achieve collaborative program delivery which, at a minimum, includes local, state, and federal officials.
- b. Regularly scheduled meetings of County Working Groups, with proper public notification.
2. County Working Groups will maintain correspondence with a representative of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group through their County Contact.
3. It is requested that County Working Groups annually submit a list of priority needs for hazardous fuels treatments (on both federal and non federal lands) and firefighting assistance funds to the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group in order to receive highest priority for assistance funding.
4. County Working Groups are encouraged to take the steps necessary to ensure that their CWPPs meet the standards set forth by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.
5. Counties will be responsible for providing updates made to their CWPPs to the Idaho Department of Lands.

B. Statewide Collaborative Responsibilities

1. Statewide implementation of the National Fire Plan will be provided by the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group.
2. The State Working Group will provide administrative guidance to County Working Groups.
3. The State Working Group will prioritize assistance funds as needed or requested on a statewide scale.
4. The State Working Group will directly communicate with members of County Working Groups through a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter.
5. One or more State Working Group members will be responsible for maintaining direct contact with a designated County Contact within each County Working Group.
6. The State Working Group will maintain a web-based information system.
7. Idaho Department of Lands will maintain an online database of CWPPs as provided by County governments.
8. The State Working Group will provide guidance to County Working Groups in order to help each county maintain its County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in compliance with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

III. County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups

These groups are collaborative, countywide working groups tasked with the responsibility of implementing their County Wildfire Protection Plans. They are autonomous bodies that may provide recommendations to state and federal land management agencies regarding management of lands in order to reduce wildland fire risks to communities and the environment.

A. Composition

1. Each county in Idaho is requested to continue to utilize or reconvene a County Working Group. At a minimum, each County Working Group should contain *at least* one individual who represents each of the following interests:
 - a. County Commissioner, Emergency Management Coordinator, Planning and Zoning representative, or other county employee (lead convener)
 - b. Local Fire Chief (preferably a member of a Local Emergency Planning Committee)
 - c. Idaho Department of Lands representative, as appropriate
 - d. Appropriate Federal Fire Management Representatives—includes the dominant federal land managers in a particular county. This may include individuals from one or several federal agencies.
 - e. Tribal Representative, as appropriate
(NOTE: Some areas may not have state or tribal representation.)
2. In addition, County Working Groups are encouraged to include individuals who are committed to the goals of the National Fire Plan in order to ensure that a number of stakeholder interests are represented. This may include those who represent the following interests:
 - a. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chair
 - b. Bureau of Homeland Security Area Field Offices
 - c. State Fire Marshal's Office
 - d. Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)
 - e. Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 - f. Environmental or Conservation Groups
 - g. Forest Products
 - h. Contractor or Consulting Forester
 - i. Interested Citizens and Community Leaders, as appropriate
 - j. Homeowners' Associations
 - k. Other officials, as appropriate

B. County Contact

Each County Working Group shall designate one of their members as a County Contact between their group and the State Working Group (who shall maintain similar contacts). This will provide for direct information sharing between county and state levels.

C. County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

Each County Working Group shall be responsible for ensuring that their CWPP meets the following minimum standards as outlined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act:

1. *Collaboration*: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.

2. *Prioritized Fuel Reduction*: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
3. *Treatment of Structural Ignitability*: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
4. Additionally, County Working Groups are encouraged to define and geographically delineate *wildland urban interface* (WUI) areas within their county. If County Working Groups do not choose to define and geographically delineate their WUI areas, the WUI will be defined as “.5 miles from structures on flat ground and 1.5 miles from structures on hillsides or slopes” as set forth in §101(16) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

The State Working Group, along with state and federal agencies, will be available to assist counties in any manner deemed appropriate. In many cases, required adjustments to the existing plan, if any, will be included as a brief addendum.

D. CWPP Updates

1. It is the responsibility of the County Commissioners and/or the County Working Group to ensure that a current copy of a County’s CWPP is on file with Idaho Department of Lands. The copy on file with Idaho Department of Lands, along with the project prioritization list (described in Section E below), will be used to determine the prioritization of grant applications.
2. It is also the responsibility of the County Commissioners/County Working Group to ensure that appropriate signature pages (for CWPPs) have been sent to Idaho Department of Lands.

E. Project Prioritization

In order to more easily facilitate the *Prioritized Fuel Reduction* requirement of a CWPP, each County Working Group will be requested to annually submit the following prioritized project lists to the State Working Group:

1. Hazardous fuels projects to be conducted on *non federal lands*. This list will be used to help determine the hazardous fuels priorities of each county, particularly to aid with the distribution of hazardous fuels reduction assistance funds on private lands.
2. Hazardous fuels projects/restoration projects to be conducted by *federal* agencies on *federal lands*. This list will be used by federal agencies to help determine which projects are deemed to be of greatest importance at the county level as well as to better coordinate between projects performed on private and state or federal lands. This list should not be interpreted to be complete nor does it take the place of the federal agencies’ decision/public participation process.

3. Firefighting equipment or other firefighting resources. This list will be used to help determine funding of the Rural Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs and to refer projects to other funding resources.
4. Other prioritization needs.

Each list will be considered an addendum to a county's CWPP. A sample County Working Group Prioritization Letter is included as APPENDIX A. A County Working Group may change any and all of these prioritized lists *at any time* as their needs change (any change in priorities should be sent to Idaho Department of Lands). If County Working Groups do not create any or all of these prioritized lists, prioritization will be determined by the original plan or the most recent addendum to that plan.

F. Frequency of Meetings

1. County Working Groups should meet on a regular basis (several times per year) to ensure that sufficient progress is maintained towards the implementation of their CWPPs. At a *minimum*, County Working Groups should meet at least once per year in order to ensure prioritization of projects and provide addenda to their plans as described above.
2. All County Working Group meetings should be open to the public and advanced public notification should be provided.

G. Role of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)

It may be appropriate for County Working Groups to maintain a close relationship with LEPCs. However, in most instances, members of the LEPC should not be identical to those of a County Working Group because LEPCs typically do not include federal partners. The County Working Group may be a subcommittee of the LEPC.

H. Role of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&Ds)

If no County Working Group is currently in place, local RC&Ds—if requested by a County Commissioner—may be available to assist in reconvening a County Working Group. If requested, local RC&Ds may also be utilized to assist County Working Groups with preparing updates to CWPPs, to aid in project development, and to facilitate grant management.

IV. Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group

This group will disseminate information; provide oversight and prioritization at a statewide scale; and accomplish additional tasks as the group deems necessary to facilitate the implementation of the National Fire Plan within Idaho. This group will also be available for advice and counsel to County Working Groups.

A. Composition

1. The core of the State Working Group will consist of individuals who represent the following interests:
 - Idaho National Fire Plan Coordinator (Chair)
 - Idaho Department of Lands
 - Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
 - Idaho State Fire Marshal
 - Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor
 - Idaho Tribal Representative(s)
 - Office of the Governor
 - Resource Conservation and Development Councils
 - Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
 - Idaho Association of Counties
 - USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - USDI Bureau of Land Management
 - USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
 - USDI National Park Service
 - USDA Forest Service
2. Individuals representing other interests and agencies may be added to the group through a majority vote. Additionally, *ad hoc* members or those supplying technical or administrative assistance may join the group on a non-voting basis.

B. Prioritization of Assistance Funding

1. The State Working Group will prioritize assistance funding for hazardous fuels treatment, fire district capability, biomass utilization, or other National Fire Plan related projects as requested by state and federal agencies.
2. The results of this project prioritization will be made available to the public.

C. Correspondence with County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups

1. The State Working Group shall designate an individual or individuals to provide direct contact between their group and a County Contact within each County Working Group. This will provide for direct information sharing between county and state levels.
2. The State Working Group will directly communicate with members of County Working Groups through a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter as well as through a web-based medium (described in Section F below).

D. County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Guidance

1. The State Working Group will provide guidance, if requested, to County Working Groups in order to help them implement their CWPPs.

2. The State Working Group, in conjunction with Idaho Department of Lands, will maintain information regarding the current status of CWPPs. CWPP updates may be sent to:

Idaho Department of Lands
Bureau of Fire Management
3780 Industrial Avenue S.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

-or-

sschedler@idl.idaho.gov

E. Frequency of Meetings

The State Working Group will meet a minimum of three times per year, with each meeting taking place in a different part of the state.

F. Website

1. The State Working Group, under direction of Idaho Department of Lands, will maintain a web site that includes, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. Policy and Guidance.
 - b. A listing of all delivery systems for National Fire Plan funding including a brief description of grants available by all agencies, purpose of grants, timelines for grant applications, and a grant managers contact list.
 - c. Status of mitigation planning effort by county.
 - d. Useful examples and templates from throughout the state such as:
 - (1) Successful grant applications.
 - (2) Completed Wildland Fire Hazard Mitigation Plans/CWPPs.
 - (3) Contracting instruments.
 - (4) Contact lists.
 - e. A list of links to other National Fire Plan websites or other sites of interest.

The Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group website may be accessed at www.idahofireplan.org.

G. Annual Report

Each year, Idaho Department of Lands will develop an Annual Report detailing National Fire Plan activities on non federal lands in Idaho that includes information regarding disbursement of assistance funding, annual accomplishments, and agency updates. Annual Reports may be viewed on the web at www.idahofireplan.org.

**APPENDIX A: CWPP Addendum For
County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups**

This template may be used by County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups in order to more clearly express their priorities for hazardous fuels treatments, firefighting assistance, or other needs related to the National Fire Plan. Although the form is not required, **those County Working Groups that choose to submit this document will receive priority consideration for competitive grant and assistance funding programs.** This document provides your County Working Group with the opportunity to provide direct input into the process used to determine how National Fire Plan funds are distributed. If your Working Group would like to provide more project detail, you may attach additional sheets to this form or create your own document.

You may submit this document by mail or e-mail to:

Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
c/o Idaho Department of Lands
Bureau of Fire Management
3780 Industrial Avenue South
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
sschedler@idl.idaho.gov

A. County Working Group Membership

Please list the members of your County Working Group who were involved in this decision making process including their affiliation and job title (if necessary):

Coordinator: _____
Other Members: _____

B. Hazardous Fuels Treatments, Non Federal Lands

Please provide a list of hazardous fuels treatment projects that your group would like to see conducted on *private* lands. There is room available to include five projects, but you may provide more if you would like. Projects should be delineated by a specific boundary (i.e. subdivision, community, or watershed; simply stating “the eastern portion of the county” would not be specific enough). **This list of priorities may be changed at any time as projects are completed or as conditions warrant.**

Example: Castle Mountain Creeks Subdivision (adjacent to Garden Mountain BLM project, already completed)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

C. Hazardous Fuels Treatments, Federal Lands

Please provide a list of hazardous fuels treatment projects your group would like to see conducted on *federal* lands. For projects conducted within the wildland urban interface (WUI), it may be appropriate to include the adjacent community or subdivision. However, it is also appropriate to include those federal projects outside the WUI. **This list of priorities may be changed at any time as projects are completed or as conditions warrant.**

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

D. Firefighting Assistance Funds

Please provide a list of firefighting needs for fire departments within your county. The list may include tangible resources like fire trucks and hoses, safety or communications equipment like Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and radios, as well as training and assistance with the creation of new fire districts. The purpose of this list is to create better awareness of resource needs within the county and to better allocate resources between various grant and assistance programs at the state level. Even though the needs of a number of different fire departments or districts are to be listed here, **the needs of each fire department or district will be evaluated independently.** If fire entities are unable to develop a countywide priority list, they may list the priorities of each department or district separately. **This list of priorities may be changed at any time as projects are completed or as conditions warrant.**

Example: 1. Creation of a new fire district in a rural portion of the county.
 2. Equipment for fire districts #1 and #2
 3. New fire house for district #4

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

Please attach another sheet if necessary.

E. Other prioritization needs (optional)

What other needs do you have within your county? Any type of program not covered above may be included here such as homeowner education, a WUI Coordinator, adoption of WUI codes or ordinances, Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) requests, etc.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

F. WUI Map

If your working group has made any changes to your wildland urban interface (WUI) map, please include a copy of the map (e-mail preferred to sschedler@idl.idaho.gov).

G. Document Prepared by:

Name: _____

Title: _____