



NORTH IDAHO INTERAGENCY FIRE RESTRICTIONS & CLOSURES



TOOLBOX

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March 2008

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Interagency Contacts for Restrictions/Closures

Updated March 2008

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(208) 666-8652
email: tpaulson@idl.idaho.gov
Prevention Officer: <i>Harriet Steele</i>
3780 S. Industrial Avenue Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 666-8673
email: hsteele@idl.idaho.gov
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Unit Fire Management Officer: <i>Mark Grant</i>
3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 765-7499
email: mgrant@fs.fed.us
Assistant Fire Management Officer: <i>Craig Glazier</i>
3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 765-7494
email: cglazier@fs.fed.us
Public Affairs Officer: <i>Gail Aschenbrenner-West</i>
3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 765-7211; cell: (208) 661-8080
email: gaschenbrenner@fs.fed.us
Prevention Officer: <i>Sandy Groth</i>
11659 N. Airport Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83835
(208) 762-6902/6915
email: sgroth@fs.fed.us

Bureau of Land Management, Coeur d'Alene District Office
Assistant Fire Management Officer (Service First): <i>Bruce Martinek</i>
3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 769-5007
email: bruce_martinek@blm.gov
Public Affairs Officer: <i>Stephanie Snook</i>
3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 769-5004
email: stephanie_snook@blm.gov
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Fire Management Officer: <i>Tom Pakootas</i>
850 'A' Street Plummer, ID 83851
(208) 686-5306
Email: tapakootas@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Forest Manager: <i>Vacant</i>
850 'A' Street Plummer, ID 83851
(208) 686-1315
Email:
Asst Fire Mgt Officer/Prevention Officer: <i>Dan Vassar</i>
850 'A' Street Plummer, ID 83851
(208) 686-1501
email: dvassar@cdatribe-nsn.gov

See Appendix C for a list of additional contact personnel.

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this toolbox is to increase efficiency and consistency across all agencies when considering fire restrictions and/or closures in North Idaho (see Appendix A for an area map). The toolbox will assist agency administrators and tribal leaders in the development and implementation of fire restrictions and/or closures, tiering from the Statewide Plan. Refer to Appendix B for a listing of local plans and agreements.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Develop guidance for North Idaho to address fire restrictions and closures.
- Provide a framework that provides consistency for fire restrictions and closures.
- Provide guidance for agency administrators who develop and implement fire restrictions and closures.
- Provide direction for restriction/closure information to be posted on the Northern Rockies and Eastern Great Basin Coordination Centers websites.
- Facilitate strong interagency, intraregional, and statewide coordination and communication.
- Provide a working model of a communication plan.
- Discuss enforcement of fire restrictions and closures.

Consistency and coordination will encourage public acceptance, understanding, and compliance with restrictions and closures. Communication of clear, consistent messages to the public, forest and recreational users, partners, other agencies, and our own employees will eliminate the confusion that sometimes is associated with the restriction process.

A. Audience

The principal audience for this toolbox includes agency administrators and their staffs involved in the restriction process. It will provide insight into the scientific parameters that drive the fire restriction process. It will help to efficiently develop orders, implement restrictions and closures, and help the public understand the rationale and effects of fire restrictions and closures.

B. Interagency Coordination

Cooperating federal, state, and local agencies and tribes will benefit from a common procedure for fire restrictions and closures, especially when jurisdictional boundaries overlap in the restriction process. The goal is to coordinate with interagency partners and cooperating agencies to develop common processes whenever possible. It is the responsibility of each agency administrator to work with his or her key cooperators and

partners. In addition to the interagency contacts listed on page 4, Appendix C contains a listing of primary contact personnel.

C. Updates

If agencies or tribes would like to add or modify their appendix materials, the information should be sent to:

Craig Glazier, Deputy Forest Fire Management Officer
Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Supervisor's Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

E-mail: cglazier@fs.fed.us
Phone: (208) 765-7494
Fax: (208) 765-7307

To ensure incorporation into the annual toolbox update, new or modified information must be received prior to April 1st of each year.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

A. North Idaho Restrictions/Closure Coordinator

- Collects restriction, closure, and rescission information from all units.
- Facilitates the decision-making process.
- Forwards information to be posted on the Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) and the Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center (EGBCC) websites.
- Coordinates with the appropriate agency Public Affairs Officers (PAO).

B. Agency Administrator or Tribal Leader

- Makes decisions regarding closures, restrictions, and rescissions for their unit.

C. Fire Management Officer

- Monitors conditions on the unit, including the energy release component.
- Coordinates within their fire management area prior to making recommendations for restrictions, closures, and rescissions.
- Recommends restrictions, closures, and rescissions to the agency administrator or tribal leader.

D. Public Affairs Officer

- Prepares communication plan, if one is needed.
- Coordinates with other agencies, tribes, and interested public.
- Communicates restriction, closure, and rescission information.
- Coordinates with the North Idaho Restrictions/Closure Coordinator.

E. Law Enforcement Officer

- Reviews closure decision order (if required by agency direction) and ensures proper posting of document.

III. Indicators for Fire Restrictions and Closures

This section includes five criteria that should be used when considering restrictions/closures. The first criterion is quantitative and based on weather and burning conditions. The remaining four are more subjective and allow for broad discretion by the agency administrator or tribal leader considering local conditions and issues.

1. Energy release component and fuel dryness level.
2. Risk to firefighters and public safety.
3. Ongoing fire activity (number and size of fires) and suppression resource availability, including incident management teams.
4. Social, political, and economic impacts.
5. Increase or decrease in recreation use.

Refer to specific agency management plans for additional guidance and information. Appendix D contains a more detailed list of questions to consider when contemplating fire restrictions or closures.

A. Preparing Fire Restrictions and Closures

Agency administrators and tribal leaders are responsible for creating or modifying their restriction/closure orders. It is important to avoid making changes when there is likelihood that the restriction or closure will need to be re-imposed in the foreseeable future.

To facilitate consistency across North Idaho, enacting restrictions is triggered by gradual drying trends tracked by area-wide weather stations and the use of energy release component in conjunction with fuel dryness levels.

B. Energy Release Component/Fuel Dryness Level Recommendations

Energy release component (ERC) is generated using Fire Family Plus and the National Fire Danger Rating System. It is based on the estimated potential available energy released per unit area in the flaming front of a fire and is especially useful for correlating existing conditions against long-term records.

Use of the G fuel model best predicts long-term fire potential and is less subject to daily changes in weather. More consistency across the zone for restrictions/closures purposes is provided by using this fuel model.

By itself, 100-hour fuel moisture (FM) has a slightly higher correlation with large fire occurrence than ERC for many areas in the northwest, but the combination of the two measures generally improves the correlation. ERC is a composite of fuel moisture from all size classes of fuel, both living and dead, but it's heavily weighted toward the large 1000-hour FM and hence is a rather conservative measure, acting more slowly to daily fluctuations in air mass moisture.

On the other hand, 100-hour FM is much more responsive to daily moisture fluctuations. The two measures used in conjunction more equally weigh both the longer term moisture levels (ERC) and the more volatile daily moisture levels (100-hour FM). This combination of measures is the basis for the fuel dryness level (DL) for each of the zones in the North Idaho Interagency Fire Danger Rating Area. See Appendix E for tables specific to each zone.

IV. Progression of Restrictions and Closures

The progression from “no restrictions” to “restrictions” to “partial closure” to “full closure”, and back, should be viewed as a continuum. As fire danger and/or fire preparedness level changes, the jurisdictional agency evaluates risks and compares those risks to the potential costs and benefits of imposing varying degrees of restrictions and/or closures.

Each order developed involves implementation of progressively more limiting restrictions. Orders may include a combination of restricted activities and progressively be cumulative in nature—that is, more limiting orders may continue to implement restrictions developed earlier in the fire season, while geographic area closures continue to implement all previously developed restrictions, as appropriate. Within each order, the agencies have the option of adding controls to the restrictions and/or closures that are appropriate for the circumstances and that will best meet the fire restriction or closure objectives. See Appendix F for a general “quick reference” guide to activities affected by implementation of fire restrictions.

A. Potentially Limited Activities

The following general options will help agencies determine what activities of restriction/closure will be limited. These activities are typically limited when there is an increasing fire danger and/or an increasing preparedness level.

Initial restrictions are aimed at preventing the start of wildfires based on human activities that are known to be high risk, specifically smoking, campfires, and fireworks.

Stage 1: No smoking outside of vehicles or buildings. No open campfires outside of developed sites. No fireworks.

As the risks increase, the agencies may choose to restrict additional activities or place more restrictions on activities addressed in previous orders. This stage intensifies the restrictions from prior orders by focusing on activities that have a relatively high risk of causing a fire start. These activities will affect forest users and have additional economic impacts to contractors, permittees, and others. Therefore, limiting these activities may involve a consideration of decision checklist questions.

Stage 2: In addition to the agency’s prior restrictions, prohibitions are put in place for explosives, chainsaws or other internal combustion engines (possibly during certain hours), welding, and using a motor vehicle off developed roads. The order requires the use of approved spark arresters.

Terms used to describe Stage 2 restrictions such as “hoot owl” (prohibiting the operation of an internal combustion engine between 1:00 pm and 1:00 am, as authorized by the Idaho Statutes, Chapter 38-115) may be included in news releases and other communication materials, as deemed appropriate by the North Idaho Restrictions/Closures Coordinator.

B. Size and Scope of Restrictions and Closures

Restrictions or closures may be implemented on the smallest geographic scale to affect the fewest number of people, while still meeting the needs and objectives. This balancing of benefits and costs is based on carefully defining the need for the restrictions, the risks faced by the agency, the potential benefits of the restriction or closure, and the cost to the public, permit holders, and contractors, as well as the cost of implementation. Orders need to progressively focus on those members of the public and activities for which there is the least amount of control. This could force imposing restrictions upon activities of the general public before placing them on agency activities which are controlled by permits or contracts.

Special Considerations

Every restriction or closure must consider the right of access to private property and other outstanding private property rights.

Identifiable Area Boundaries

For ease of implementation and interagency coordination, a restriction or closure should be designed to cover an easily identifiable and logical geographic area. This may be a county, district or park boundary, watershed, or an area bounded by specified roads or topographic features.

All closures should be accompanied by a high-quality map clearly delineating the boundaries of the closure in such a manner that the public can readily locate those boundaries on the ground. As enforcement is a key component of every closure, the boundaries must be designed to facilitate compliance enforcement.

Multiple Area Restrictions

Various orders might be in effect in more than one specified area across the landscape. However, before making the decision to implement more than one specific restriction at a time on the landscape, there needs to be careful consideration of the potential for confusion and for potential effects on public and forest users.

Restrictions covering a small geographic area could be used when needed specifically for public or firefighter safety. An example would be to close the area within and around a wildfire, including the estimated maximum burned area indicated by the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA).

Other Options to Consider

An order may include the following to allow certain recreation activities:

- Allow day use only.
- Allow day use only at developed recreation sites.
- Allow overnight use in wilderness and parking at designated trailheads.

- Allow overnight use only in developed campgrounds.
- Allow overnight use only in developed campgrounds with full-time hosts.
- Allow day/overnight use in specified areas that are easy to patrol and monitor.
- Allow use only in developed sites along county/state highways.
- Allow fireworks where they are part of a public exhibit approved by the fire department.
- Allow fires in wood or charcoal stoves or grills within yards associated with a residence or on the premises of a business.
- Allow fires in cooking or heating devices if the fuel is kerosene, white gas, or propane.

C. Length of Time

Orders should only be considered with regard to long-term risks. It is important to avoid the appearance of constantly changing activities that are limited by restrictions. Once the decision has been reached that an order is appropriate, the order should remain in place until the danger has clearly passed. A short-term change in weather may give the appearance that the risk has passed, but if followed by a warm dry trend, the risks could again accelerate. While it is not prudent to impose more severe restrictions than are warranted, the evaluation of risk should be made over an extended timeframe.

When an order is no longer needed based on risk assessment, the order may be reduced to a less limiting restriction by implementing a new, supplemental, or modified order. In some instances, it may be more appropriate to phase out of restrictions, rather than immediately dropping to no restrictions.

D. Closures

Closures can vary from the partial closure of specific areas within a unit to full closure of the agency's jurisdictional areas. Closures are selected when the ability to mitigate risks using earlier restrictions are no longer viable. The social, economic, and political impacts of implementing full or partial closures at this point are outweighed by the benefits associated with virtually eliminating the potential for human caused fire starts.

Partial Closure Option: Partial unit closure, with very few exemptions (as detailed in the agency closure order).

Full Closure Option: Full unit closures, with very few exemptions (as detailed in the agency closure order).

E. Exemptions

Exemptions should be managed and mitigated according to risks and benefits. The rationale used by agencies for granting or denying exemptions should be documented in writing. Exemptions will be authorized through the individual agency or tribal procedures.

F. Rescinding Fire Restrictions and Closures

As conditions moderate, factors to consider when rescinding restrictions include ERC and dryness levels; firefighter and public safety risks; ongoing fire activity and suppression resource availability; social, political, and economic impacts; and recreation use.

The same coordination that takes place among interagency partners during the implementation of restrictions should be adhered to in the rescission process. Occasionally, an agency is ready to remove fire restrictions and other adjacent cooperators may not have received sufficient moisture or are faced with political considerations that keep them in a level of fire restriction. Coordination with adjoining units and interagency cooperators will help achieve desired consistent messages for the public. Communicate clearly in news releases the reasons for these differences in agency actions, and identify a point of contact for those cooperators for further information.

V. Developing an Order

Regulations and authorities vary between agencies; therefore, the approach to identify and implement restriction or closure strategies will vary. This includes the development steps, communication planning, and coordination with interagency partners.

Agency administrators will attempt to allow at least 96 hours for agencies to prepare for restrictions, before the restrictions go into effect. Because of the emergency nature of fire restrictions or closures, some steps in the process may be shortened or delayed. After the appropriate agency administrator signs the order, each agency will distribute the order to their public affairs officer and will send an electronic copy to the North Idaho restrictions/closure coordinator.

It is recommended that the North Idaho restrictions/closure coordinator identifies a lead interagency public affairs officer or public information officer to disseminate the order(s) and news releases to media and others as appropriate.

VI. Coordination and Communication Strategy

A. Pre-Decisional Coordination

Coordination is fundamental to compliance and support of fire restrictions and/or closures. All units within a zone should be included when discussing intentions.

Before implementing fire restrictions and/or closures, agency personnel need to develop a list of individuals to consult with, or to notify of, the impending restrictions and/or closures. A list of potential internal and external contacts is found in Appendix G.

Communication planning involves making decisions about program goals and objectives, identifying key audiences, and determining strategies to achieve overall program objectives. Although each situation requires specifically tailored elements, the overall approach is similar. Common steps include:

- Preparing action plans to achieve specific objectives.
- Determining the communication necessary to achieve understanding and commitment.
- Securing agreement among all key people on whom and what needs to be committed to the effort.
- Addressing internal and external communication.

Refer to the sample communication plan in Appendix H for assistance with the development of a communication plan and to Appendix I for information regarding prevention signing.

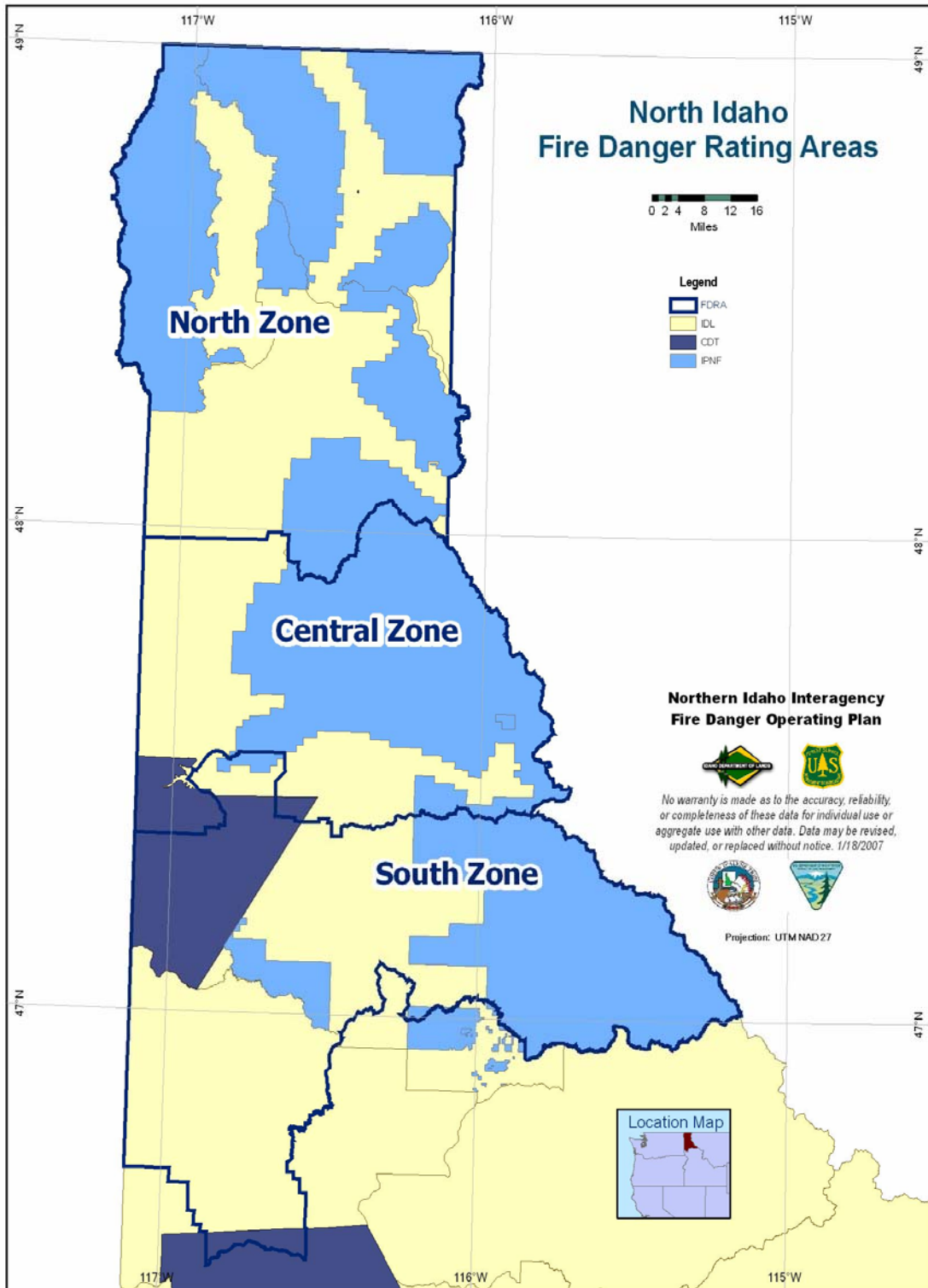
B. Post-Decisional Communication

Implement your plan's notification strategy when you have a signed restriction or closure order. Work closely with your public affairs office to make sure all those interested and affected by the decision are notified in a timely manner.

Send cooperating agencies electronic copies of the following:

- Restriction and/or closure order
- Any accompanying maps
- Restriction and/or closure news release (refer to Appendix J for sample news releases)

APPENDIX A: Area Map



APPENDIX B: Local Agreements

- Idaho Cooperative Fire Protection and Stafford Act Response Agreement
- Statewide Annual Operating Plan
- Annual Operating Plan (for CDC)

All plans and agreements are maintained on file at the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Dispatch Center in Hayden, Idaho. Please contact the CDC center manager at (208) 772-3283 for document access or additional information.

APPENDIX C: Primary Contact List

Agency	Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Center	Center Manager	Sally Estes	762-6904	saestes@fs.fed.us
	Asst Center Manager-IA	Gary Weber	762-6911	gaweber@fs.fed.us
	Asst Center Manager-Coordination	Julia Genre	762-6903	jgenre@fs.fed.us
IPF/Supervisor's Office	Intelligence Dispatcher	Debby Atencio	762-6910	datencio@fs.fed.us
	Interagency FMO	Mark Grant	765-7499	mgrant@fs.fed.us
	Deputy Forest FMO	Craig Glazier	765-7494	cglazier@fs.fed.us
	Operations Team Leader	Dave O'Brien	765-7319	dobrien@fs.fed.us
IPF/Priest Lake RD	Forest Supervisor	Ranotta McNair	765-7210	rmcnair@fs.fed.us
	FMO	VACANT		
	AFMO	Matt Butler	443-6849	mobutler@fs.fed.us
IPF/Bonnars Ferry RD	District Ranger	VACANT		
	FMO	Kirk Westfall	267-6719	kwestfall@fs.fed.us
	AFMO	Dan Myers	267-6754	dmyers@fs.fed.us
IPF/Sandpoint Rd	District Ranger	Linda McFaddan	267-6701	lmcfaddan@fs.fed.us
	FMO	Dave Lux	265-6662	dlux@fs.fed.us
	AFMO	VACANT		
IPF/Coeur d'Alene River RD	District Ranger	Dick Kramer	265-6601	rkramer@fs.fed.us
	FMO	Sam Gibbons	769-3035	sgibbons@fs.fed.us
	AFMO	Shawn Pearson	783-2126	smpearson@fs.fed.us
IPF/St Joe RD	AFMO	Dave Brown	769-3042	dcbrown@fs.fed.us
	District Ranger	Randy Swick	769-3001	rswick@fs.fed.us
	FMO	Jim Bartlett	245-6204	jbartlett@fs.fed.us
	AFMO	Destry Scheel	245-6218	dscheel@fs.fed.us
IDL/Coeur d'Alene Staff Office	AFMO	James Grasham	245-6062	jgrasham@fs.fed.us
	District Ranger	Chuck Mark	245-6001	cmark@fs.fed.us
	Chief, Bureau of Fire Management	Brian Shiplett	666-8650	bshiplett@idl.idaho.gov
	Operations & Fire Safety Program Manager	Tom Paulson	666-8652	tpaulson@idl.idaho.gov
IDL/Priest Lake Area	Operations Chief-North	Roger Jansson	666-8605	rjansson@idl.idaho.gov
	Fire Warden	Dan Brown	443-2516	dbrown@idl.idaho.gov
	Asst Fire Warden	Jason Betz	443-2516	jbetz@idl.idaho.gov
IDL/Kootenai Valley Area	Lands Area Manager	Mick Schanilec	443-2516	mschanilec@idl.idaho.gov
	Lands Area Mgr/Fire Warden	Scott Bacon	267-5577	sbacon@idl.idaho.gov
IDL/Pend Oreille Lake Area	Asst Fire Warden	Eric Haase	267-5577	ehaase@idl.idaho.gov
	Fire Warden	Chris Remsen	263-5104	cremsen@idl.idaho.gov
	Asst Fire Warden	VACANT		
IDL/Cataldo Area	Lands Area Manager	Ed Robinson	263-5104	erobinson@idl.idaho.gov
	Fire Warden	Len Young	682-4611	lyoung@idl.idaho.gov
	Asst Fire Warden	Kjell Truesdell	682-4611	ktruesdell@idl.idaho.gov
IDL/Mica Area	Lands Area Manager	Bob Burke	682-4611	bburke@idl.idaho.gov
	Fire Warden	Gary Darrington	769-1577	gdarrington@idl.idaho.gov
	Lands Area Manager	Mike Denney	769-1577	mdenney@idl.idaho.gov
IDL/St Joe Area	Fire Warden	John Pollard	245-4551	jpollard@idl.idaho.gov
	Asst Fire Warden	Josh Harvey	245-4551	jharvey@idl.idaho.gov
	Lands Area Manager	Ken Ockfen	245-4551	kockfen@idl.idaho.gov
IDL/Ponderosa Area	Fire Warden	Roger Kechter	877-1121	rkechter@idl.idaho.gov
	Asst Fire Warden	Jason Svancara	877-1121	jsvancara@idl.idaho.gov
	Lands Area Manager	Sam Charles	877-1121	scharles@idl.idaho.gov
Coeur d'Alene Tribe	FMO	Tom Pakootas	686-5306	tapakootas@cdatribe-nsn.gov
	Forest Manager	VACANT		
Bureau of Land Management	District FMO	Bruce Martinek	769-5007	bruce_martinek@blm.gov
	District Fire Use Specialist	Lonnie Newton	769-5017	lonnie_newton@blm.gov
Idaho Parks & Recreation		John Franks	366-2394	jfrank@idpr.idaho.gov
US Army Corps of Engineers		Dave Heiman	437-7229	David.A.Heiman@usace.army.mil
USFWS/Kootenai NWR		Steve Pietroburgo	(509) 684-8384	steve_pietroburgo@fws.gov

The above list indicates key personnel associated with or affected by this plan. Unless specified, all area codes are 208.

APPENDIX D: Restriction and Closure Decision Checklist

The following are questions to be considered when contemplating a fire restriction and/or closure. The factors that form the basis for the decision should be documented.

What is at risk?

- Public and firefighter safety
- Public and private property
- Natural resources

What are you trying to achieve?

- Reduced human caused starts
- Public and firefighter safety
- Are there other ways of achieving your objectives?

Are adequate fire resources available?

- Is there the ability to effectively handle initial attack?
- Are there enough engines, air tankers, helicopters, crews, and other similar resources available?
- Are there adequate incident management teams available?

What is the predicted weather for the next several weeks?

- What are the lightning predictions?
- Will there be low relative humidity during the day and poor nighttime recovery?
- What are the expected temperatures (maximum/minimum)?

What is the daily fire occurrence situation?

- Are there multiple starts?
- Are fire occurrences and associated control problems increasing or decreasing?
- Are the daily fire starts more attributable to human causes or lightning/natural causes?

Is an increase/decrease in recreational visitor days (i.e., holidays and special events) expected?

What are the socio-economic considerations?

- Will there be direct and/or cumulative impacts on rural economies, tourism, and authorized permittees?
- Has the right message been given to the public and other stakeholders to establish groundwork for restrictions/closure?
- Is it possible to minimize effects on the local community and users while achieving desired objectives?
- What is the wildland urban interface complexity?
- What is the public desire for recreation opportunities and events?

What actions are being taken by surrounding land managers and by local, state, or tribal authorities?

What direction is in the land management plan for the affected area?

- Are there research natural areas or other special interest areas that may be affected?
- Are there wilderness areas or wild and scenic rivers that may be affected?

What is the workload associated with restrictions and closures?

- Will the workload associated with fire closures compete with fire management?
- Would it be appropriate to use refunds or fee reductions for reservations, certain uses, and contracts?
- Are personnel available to provide public information and post the order on the ground and on the Internet?
- Are there adequate personnel for patrol and enforcement?

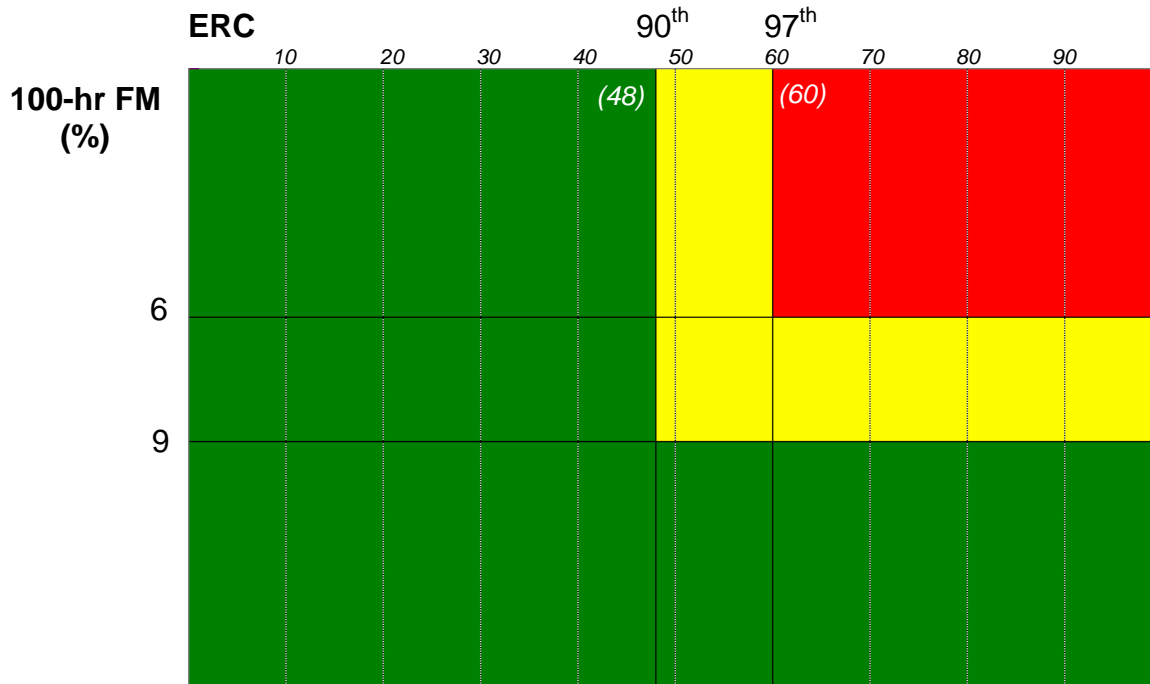
Will the restrictions/closures be enforceable?

- Is law enforcement involved early in the consideration of a restriction or closure?
- Will entry/activity permits be issued, and if so, in what situations and under what conditions?
- Is consistent and highly visible signage available?
- Is there a common goal among all affected or concerned agencies?

Are there preparations for the next phase, whether that would be a higher or lower level of restriction, closure, or rescission of an order?

APPENDIX E: Dryness Level Tables

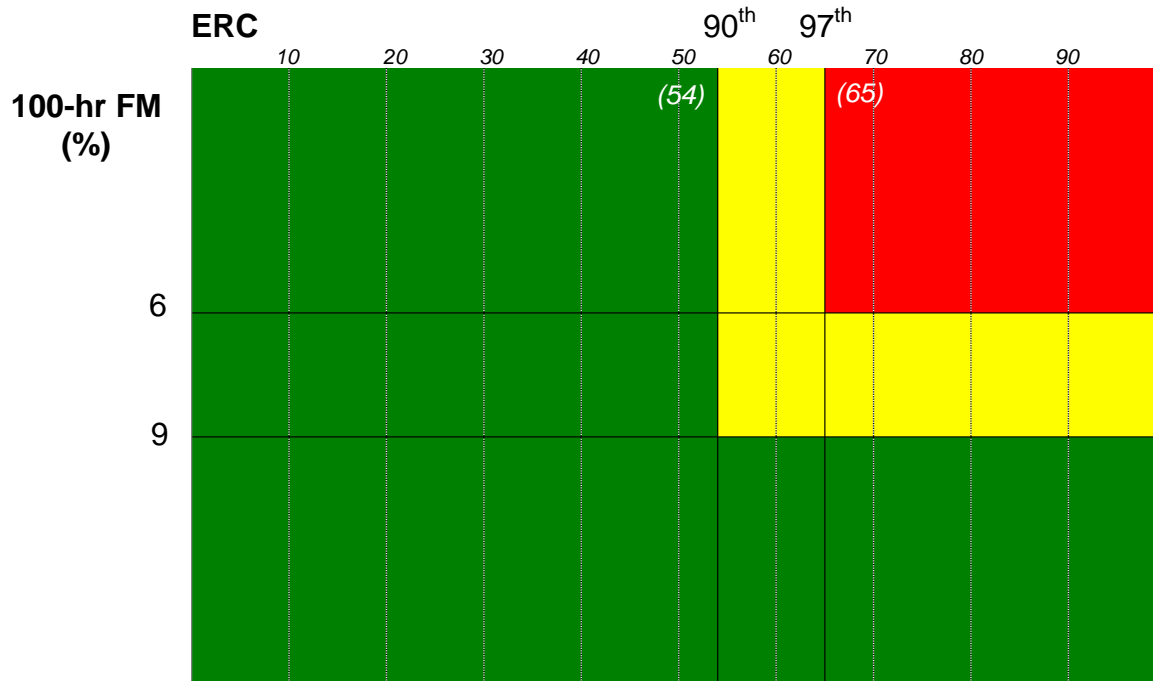
Bonniers RAWS Dryness Level



- Green Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in little risk for large fires.
- Yellow Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in an average risk for large fires.
- Red Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in a higher than average risk for large fires, given ignitions.

Fuel dryness only represents one component of large fire potential. This process is implemented when the 1000-hour fuel moisture level reaches 12%.

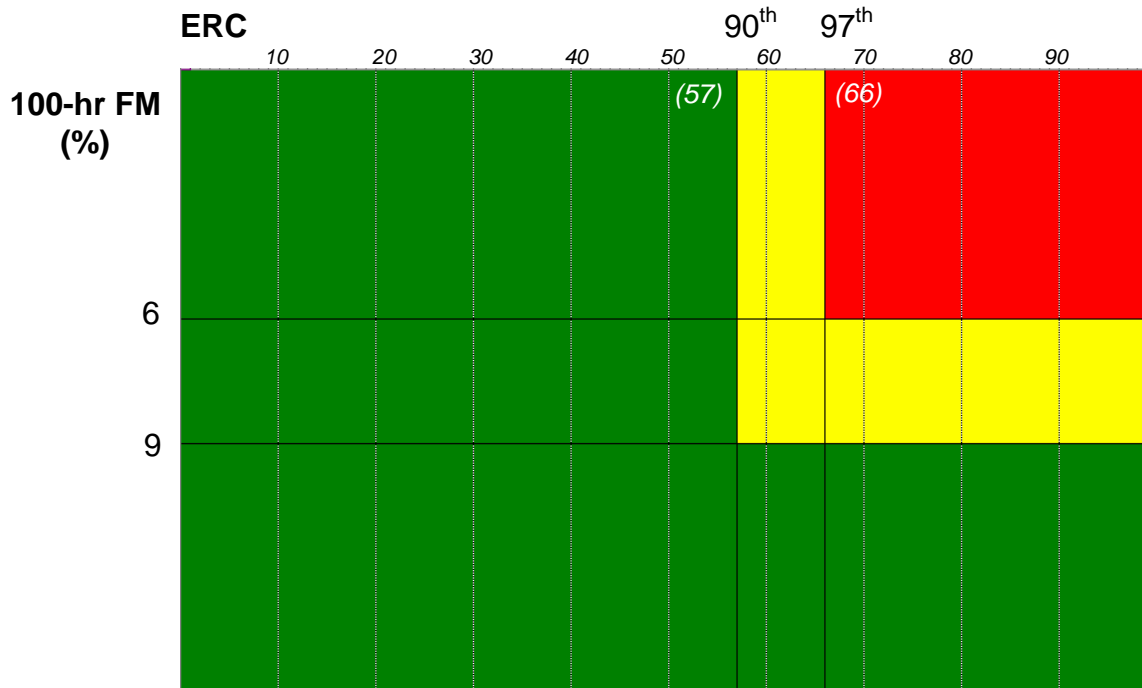
Hoodoo RAWS Dryness Level



- Green** Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in little risk for large fires.
- Yellow** Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in an average risk for large fires.
- Red** Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in a higher than average risk for large fires, given ignitions.

Fuel dryness only represents one component of large fire potential. This process is implemented when the 1000-hour fuel moisture level reaches 12%.

Potlatch RAWS Dryness Level



- Green** Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in little risk for large fires.
- Yellow** Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in an average risk for large fires.
- Red** Combinations of ERC and FM100 that historically have resulted in a higher than average risk for large fires, given ignitions.

Fuel dryness only represents one component of large fire potential. This process is implemented when the 1000-hour fuel moisture level reaches 12%.

APPENDIX F: North Idaho Fire Restrictions Quick Reference Guide

This general guide is intended to clarify various activities allowed/restricted under Stage 1 & Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. An exemption to the restriction of an activity may be considered, but must be explained and described clearly to provide general public understanding. Permits can be issued on a case-by-case basis for an exemption.

ACTIVITY	Stage 1	Stage 2
Fires allowed within a metal fire ring or grate.	Y	N
Fires allowed within rock fire rings.	N	N
Fire allowed with on/off switch such as: enclosed gas, propane, or butane-type camp stoves.	Y	Y
Use of 'tiki' lights... (why? open flame)	N	N
Charcoal fires allowed within metal BBQ (i.e., portable Weber-type BBQ)	N	N
Woodstoves allowed within cabins. <i>Must have spark arrestor or wire mesh screens over stove pipes.</i>	Y	Y
Woodstoves allowed within canvas wall tents.	N	N
Smoking allowed in enclosed vehicle or building, at an improved place of habitation, developed designated recreation site or stopped within an area 3-foot in diameter that is cleared of all flammable material.	Y	Y
Allows use of generators placed on area cleared of flammable material. <i>Must have spark arrestor.</i>	Y	Y
Logging Operations:	Y	Y**
Allows use of Chainsaw, log skidding activities, or delimiting operations. Allows loading and hauling operations to occur on a cleared landing site.	Y	Y
Allows Road Maintenance Operations	Y	Y
Allows Road Building operations to occur - PIONEERING stage.	Y	Y**
Allows Trail Maintenance - brushing, mowing, weed whacking	Y	Y**
Allows welding, use of acetylene torches.	Y	Y**
Allows use of explosives.	Y	Y**
Allows the use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices.	N	N

**** Activities affected by Stage 2 'Hoot-Owl' time periods (no use of internal combustion engines between 1:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M.).**

**** Activities affected by Stage 2 ‘Hoot-Owl’ time periods:**

Prohibiting the operation of an internal combustable engine between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M. (‘hoot-owl’) is authorized by 38-115 of the Idaho Forestry Act. The intent of this restriction is to regulate use of a chainsaw, operating skidding equipment, blasting and/or welding.

Equipment with Internal Combustion Engines *NOT AFFECTED* by the ‘hoot-owl’ hours under Stage 2 include:

Generators used by campers and campground hosts	They need to be placed in a cleared out area; they need to be in good working condition; must have spark arrestor. A fire extinguisher placed nearby would improve safety.
Driving a passenger car, pickup, motorcycle, ATV's, etc.	Must remain on designated trails and Forest system roadways.
Logging Operation - Loading/Decking logs at a Landing Site ONLY.	May occur all day on a cleared landing. Required one-hour patrol following completion of all work. <i>(For chainsaw operation see below)</i>
Logging Operation - Hauling	

Equipment with Internal Combustion Engines *AFFECTED* by ‘hoot-owl’ hours under Stage 2 include:

Operating Chainsaws.	Includes all chainsaw use performed on the harvest unit, and processing/limbing operations on the landing site.
Operating Delimiting Equipment.	Includes automated delimiting equipment situated on the landing site.
Operating Skidding Equipment.	Includes skidding operations on the harvest unit, and skidding of logs to the landing site.
Operating Acetylene or other torch, welding operations.	Only allowed with an emergency work permit.
Use of explosives.	For new or existing road or trail reconstruction/decommissioning/maintenance.
Operating backhoes, excavators, dozers, and includes other brush-removal equipment.	For new or existing road or trail reconstruction/decommissioning/maintenance. Exemptions may be considered if adequate water source is available (case-by-case).

APPENDIX G: Potential Internal and External Contact Lists

Potential Internal Contacts

- Aviation and Fire Management
- Law Enforcement and Investigations
- Range, Recreation, Wilderness, and Heritage Staff
- Contracting and Acquisition Management
- Oil, Gas, and Minerals
- Lands Special Uses
- Timber
- Office of the General Counselor or Solicitor

Potential External Contacts

- State and local public land, fish & game, park, and forest management units, and local fire departments
- BLM, BIA, USFWS, DOE, NPS, USFS, USACE, DHS
- Tribes
- Fire management staff and appropriate fire dispatch centers
- Northern Rockies and Eastern Great Basin Interagency Coordination Center – Fire Information
- Researchers
- Congressional members
- Governors Office
- State officials and land and resource agencies
- Emergency Management Office, Bureau of Disaster Services, and Bureau of Homeland Security
- State parks
- Transportation departments
- State wildlife agencies
- County and city officials
- General public
- Private landowners

- Commercial interests
- Vendors
- Chambers of Commerce
- Visitor and Convention Centers
- Permittees and contractors
- Grazing permittees
- Oil and gas lessees
- Special use permittees (utility, research, outfitter guides, lodges, resorts, etc.)
- Timber Sale contractors
- Construction contractors
- Service contractors
- Supply contractors
- Mining operators
- Concessionaires
- Cooperators and volunteers
- Non-Government interest groups and partners

APPENDIX H: Communication Plan (Area Closure) – Sample

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Communication Objectives

- A. Inform the internal and external audiences that closures are in place.
- B. Maintain or enhance the credibility of agency managers in providing for public safety, resources, property, and firefighter safety.
- C. Maintain or enhance cooperative relationships among affected agencies.
- D. Emphasize the areas that are OPEN to minimize impact to economy.
- E. Keep the message alive until closures are lifted.
- F. Maintain excellent documentation.

Key Messages

- The issues taken into consideration when determining whether or not to close an area are: 1) ERC and DL; 2) risk to firefighters and public safety; 3) ongoing fire activity and suppression resource availability; 4) social, political, and economic impacts; and 5) recreation use.
- The closure area will reopen when the appropriate land managers determine that environmental conditions have moderated and significantly reduced the risk of wildfire to a manageable level and that hot, dry conditions will not quickly return.
- Closing an area is not as simple as closing a gate. Closures are logistically complex and take time to implement.
- Closing a public use area is an extreme, “last resort” fire prevention tool. Restrictions are only effective in reducing the occurrence of fire. Recent fire behavior demonstrates that risk has increased.
- Closures are not guarantees against wildfires, but they do reduce the chances more than fire restrictions.
- It costs about \$7 thousand a day to close public land. It costs about \$250 thousand to \$1 million a day to fight a wildfire.

Examples

- Approximately ___ percent of the area remains OPEN!
- Fines for violating the area closure are a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$5,000. (Will vary by individual agency).

Monitoring the Results

This communication strategy is one of the tools an agency can employ as a step toward fire prevention. Success will be measured by the satisfaction of agencies and partners that they are informed and have sufficient tools to assist in informing the public and enforcing the closures, and by the number of human caused fire starts.

Examples of Information Team Roles

These positions may be filled internally or externally through other agencies:

- Information Team Leader
- Information Center Manager
- Key Support and Center Staff
- Prevention Specialist(s)

COMMUNICATION PLAN TASKS LIST – SAMPLE

Task	Person	Target Date	Communication Objective(s)
Draft and finalize news release			A-D
Prepare press kits			A-F
Prepare maps			A-F
Host press conference and fax press release state-wide immediately following			A-D
Set up and staff information center			
Distribute closure info to community			A-F
Phone calls to key partners/permittees			A-C
Distribute news release internally and externally (include RO, state-wide prevention teams, other agency PAOs, Congressionals, etc.)			A-C
Make copies (per contact list) of flyers/maps/etc.			
Draft and finalize talking points			A-F
Draft and finalize flyers			A-F
Coordinate with agency and local law enforcement to establish criteria for whom to call for closure violations			B, C

(continued next page)

Task	Person	Target Date	Communication Objective(s)
Clip and file all news articles	Information Center Staff	Daily	E
Maintain and file all phone logs	Information Center Staff	Daily	E
Check Agency, and NRCC web sites for updates	Information Center Staff	Daily	E
Monitor and post to Inciweb	Information Center Staff	Daily	
Answer phone calls, distribute information to public/media	Information Center Staff	Daily	A-F
Staff Info Center (phone #)	Information Center Staff	Daily	A-F
Maintain schedule of people / duties	Lead PIO/Center Manager	Daily/Weekly	F
Track rumors and report to Lead IO	Center Manager		
Daily Briefings	Lead PIO	Daily	F
Keep IC/Manager informed of any potential adverse public reaction	Lead PIO	As needed	A-C
Maintain unit log (ICS form 214) and running narrative of Info Center operations	Center PIO	Daily	F
Manage electronic and hard copy documentation files	All	Daily	F
Arrange for media interviews	Lead and Center PIO	As needed	A-F

COMMUNITY CONTACT LOG – SAMPLE

Community Contact Log			
Point of Contact	Contacted By	Date	Followup
Gyms and Fitness Centers			
Video Stores			
Sporting Goods Stores			
Airports, Bus Depots, and Train Stations			
Grocery Stores			
Youth Hostels			
Hotels, Motels, Resorts			
Car Rental Agencies			
Shopping malls			
Plant Nurseries			
Superstores			
Farm & Feed			
Book Stores			
Gas stations			
Chamber and Visitor Centers			
Public Lands Information Centers			
Public Utility Companies			
Sheriff and Police			
Departments			
Service Groups			
Private Campgrounds			
Community Churches			
Post offices			
Health Care facilities			

APPENDIX I: Interagency Prevention Signing – Examples

Information and guidance regarding wildfire prevention signing is available from many sources. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has developed a series of publications focusing on wildfire prevention, with the “Wildfire Prevention Sign and Poster Guide” (NFES 2753) designed to specifically address prevention signing. This publication includes sign examples and additional sources of information. The following are a few examples of signs with a prevention message:

**PLEASE
HELP PREVENT FOREST
FIRES**



**FOLLOW THESE
SAFE FIRE RULES:**

BEFORE YOU BUILD YOUR CAMPFIRE

1. Select a spot away from logs, grass, stumps, small trees and steep slopes.
2. Dig a hole for your fire.
3. Ring fireplace with rocks.
4. Clear all flammable material away from fireplace for at least 5 feet above and on all sides.
5. Keep fire small.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR CAMPFIRE

1. With a shovel mix all ashes and coals well with water or dirt. Keep mixing until you're sure it's out—cold!
2. Feel all ashes and coals with bare hands to make sure fire is out—cold!
3. Before leaving, check campsite for sparks from your fire.

OBSERVE SMOKING RULES

Smoke only

1. Inside vehicles on surfaced roads (use ash tray).
2. In occupied camps.
3. At places of habitation.
4. When stopped in cleared areas at least 2 feet in diameter—then—be sure it's out.

**LEAVE A CLEAN CAMP & A DEAD FIRE
REMEMBER
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT
FOREST FIRES**



SFD 1980 536 954 3653-1

**Permits Required
For Debris Burning**



**REQUIRED
FOR CAMPING**



on undeveloped sites



FIRE DANGER



**No Chainsaw
Use After 1p.m.**



Stage I Fire Restrictions

NO FIRES OR CHARCOAL BURNING
*Except in Metal Fire Grates in specified
Developed Campgrounds & Picnic Areas:*

NO SMOKING *Except within a vehicle, building or
cleared area 3 ft. in diameter*



Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

In Effect as of July 20, 2007



No Fire or charcoal

except in **specified** developed recreation sites

YES

--Enclosed gas, propane, or butane type camp stoves

NO

--Fires or charcoal within rock fire rings and the use of wood-burning stoves in canvas wall tents



No Smoking unless in an enclosed vehicle or building or stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is cleared of flammable material. (such as a road or gravel camp spot)

For more information call your Local Fire Agency



Fire Restrictions

July 20, 2007



No Campfires



No Charcoal Grills



Stoves OK



APPENDIX J: NEWS RELEASE SAMPLES – Entering Stage I Restrictions



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Harry Steele, Idaho Dept of Lands (208) 666-8673
Gail West, Forest Service (208) 765-7211; Tom Pakootas, Coeur d'Alene Tribe (208) 686-5306
Stephanie Snook, BLM (208) 765-5004

FIRE RESTRICTIONS GO INTO EFFECT FOR NORTH IDAHO'S PUBLIC LANDS

COEUR D'ALENE (July 18, 2007)—Above-normal temperatures, below-normal precipitation, dry forests and an increasing level of fire activity have prompted the State of Idaho to implement fire restrictions for State and private lands in Idaho.

Beginning Friday, July 20, 2007, Stage 1 fire restrictions will be in effect for the Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Fire restrictions for the Bureau of Land Management go into effect statewide on Thursday, July 19, 2007.

Effective at 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 20, the following actions are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire (see list on page 2 for exemptions on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests);
- Smoking except in buildings, vehicles or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

No fires or charcoal fires are allowed within rock fire rings, nor are fires in wood burning stoves in canvas wall tents. Fireworks and pyrotechnic devices are banned from all public lands year-round. However, enclosed gas, propane or butane-type camp stoves and lanterns are allowed.

Lands within city boundaries are exempt from Stage 1 restrictions. Please check with local fire authorities for information on any other restrictions or exemptions.

Restrictions on campfires and smoking are the first step in a series of increasingly more restrictive measures that can be implemented by fire managers to prevent new fire starts. Persons who start wildfires may be held liable for suppression costs, fines and violations.

For more information on local area fire restrictions and fire information, please contact your local public land management agency or visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/cdc> or <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/index.htm>

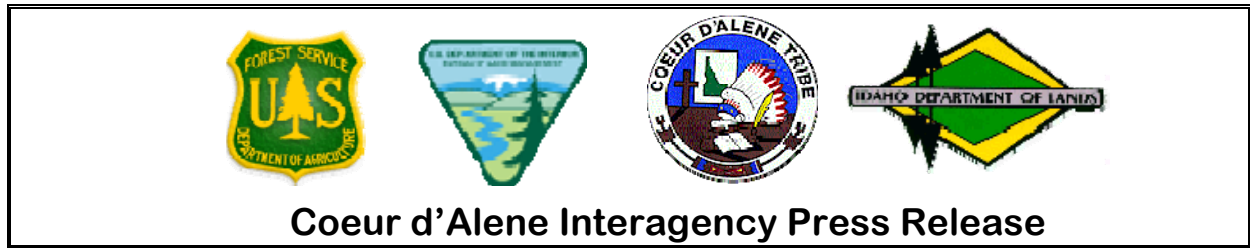
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS CAMPGROUNDS	
Where Campfires are Allowed During Stage I Restrictions	
Ranger District	Developed Recreation Site
Priest Lake RD	Outlet Campground
	Osprey Campground
	Luby Bay Campground
	Kalispell Island Sites
	Bartoo Island Sites
	Hills Resort
	Elkins Resort
	Priest Lake Marina
Sandpoint RD	Sam Owen Campground
Bonnars Ferry RD	Meadow Creek Campground
	Copper Creek Campground
	Robinson Lake Campground
Coeur d'Alene River RD	Beauty Creek Campground and Day Use
	Bell Bay Campground and Day Use
	Mokins Bay Campground
	Bumblebee Campground
	Honeysuckle Campground
	Devils Elbow Campground and Group Site
	Kit Price Campground
	Berlin Flats Campground
St Joe RD	Shadowy St Joe Campground
	Packsaddle Campground
	Turner Flat Campground
	Tin Can Flat Campground
	Conrad Crossing Campground
	Spruce Tree Campground
	Emerald Creek Campground
	Cedar Creek Campground
	North Fork Joe Campground

FIRE SAFETY TIPS:

- Never leave any fire unattended.
- Avoid driving or parking on dry grass as vehicle exhaust systems can start fires.
- Make sure your trailer is roadworthy and is not throwing sparks.
- Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) users should stay on existing roads and trails and are required to equip their vehicles with spark arresters. ALWAYS pack a bucket, shovel and fire extinguisher in your vehicle.

To report a fire, call the nearest fire department or 911.—

NEWS RELEASE SAMPLES – Entering Stage II Restrictions



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Bill Love, Idaho Dept. of Lands (208)263-5104
Gail West, Forest Service (208) 765-7211; Stephanie Snook, BLM (208) 765-5004

INCREASED FIRE RESTRICTIONS FOR NORTH IDAHO'S PUBLIC LANDS

COEUR D'ALENE (July 31, 2007)— Continued hot, dry conditions have prompted public lands' officials to increase fire restrictions for federal, State and private lands in North Idaho.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 3, 2007, Stage II fire restrictions will be in effect for state and private lands, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

Effective at 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 3, the following actions are prohibited:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire;
2. Smoking except in buildings, vehicles or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material;
3. Operating, using or possessing motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

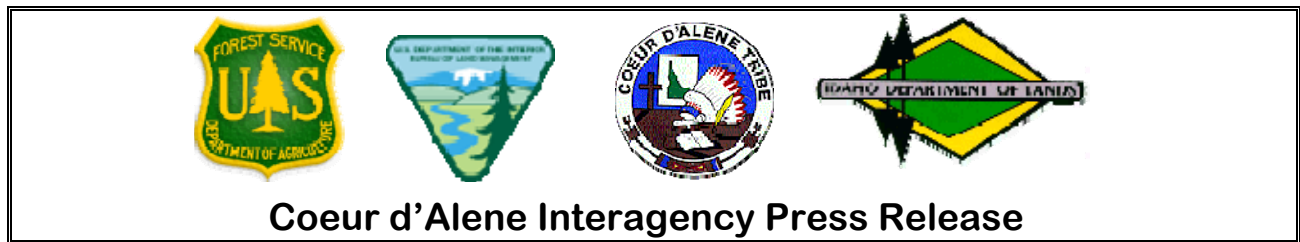
Stage II restrictions also include the following prohibitions from 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. ("hoot owl" hours for woodcutters and commercial operators) which require a one-hour patrol (fire watch) following these activities:

4. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine for felling, bucking skidding, processing , road building and woodcutting during industrial operations or fire wood gathering; and
5. Blasting, welding or other activities that generate flame or flammable material.

Under Stage II fire restrictions, open campfires are prohibited in all areas including developed recreation sites. Enclosed gas, propane or butane-type camp stoves and lanterns are allowed as is OHV travel on designated trails and roads. Spark arrestors are required. People also are required to be in possession of an axe, bucket, and shovel while on public lands. The year-round ban on fireworks and pyrotechnic device remains in effect.

Lands within city boundaries are exempt from Stage II restrictions. Please check with local fire authorities for information on any other restrictions or exemptions. For more information on local area fire restrictions and fire information, please contact your local public land management agency or visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/cdc> or <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/index.htm>

NEWS RELEASE SAMPLES – Rescind Stage II Restrictions



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Harry Steele, Idaho Dept of Lands (208) 666-8673

FIRE RESTRICTIONS LOWERED FOR NORTH IDAHO'S STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE LANDS BY LABOR DAY WEEKEND

COEUR D'ALENE (August 29, 2007)—The State of Idaho will lower fire restrictions for State and private lands in Idaho this week, as will Federal land managers in North Idaho.

Stage II fire restrictions will revert back to Stage I fire restrictions on Friday, August 31, 2007, for the Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Bureau of Land Management.

Fire danger, although remaining high to very high, has lessened due to shorter daylight hours and increased humidity recovery after sunset. However, fire managers urge caution for those who may be operating motorized equipment in forested or grassy areas.

Effective at 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 31, the following actions are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire (see attached lists for exemptions);
- Smoking except in buildings, vehicles or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

No wood fires or charcoal fires are allowed within rock fire rings, nor are fires in wood burning stoves in canvas wall tents. However, enclosed gas, propane or butane-type camp stoves and lanterns are allowed. Fireworks are banned from all public lands year-round.

Updated information on Stage I fire restriction exemptions will be posted to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center website beginning Friday, August 31 at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/index.htm> The on-line list also includes exemptions outside of designated Wilderness areas on the Clearwater National Forest and Nez Perce National Forest.

Lands within city boundaries are exempt from Stage 1 restrictions. Please check with local fire authorities for information on any other restrictions or exemptions. Information on local area fire restrictions and fire information also can be obtained by contacting your local public land management agency or visiting: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/cdc> or <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/index.htm>

(more)

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS CAMPGROUNDS	
Where Campfires are Allowed During Stage I Restrictions	
Ranger District	Developed Recreation Site
Priest Lake RD	Outlet Campground
	Osprey Campground
	Luby Bay Campground
	Reeder Bay Campground
	Beaver Creek Campground
	Kalispell Island Sites
	Bartoo Island Sites
	Hills Resort
	Elkins Resort
	Priest Lake Marina
Sandpoint RD	Sam Owen Campground
Bonnars Ferry RD	Meadow Creek Campground
	Copper Creek Campground
	Robinson Lake Campground
Coeur d'Alene River RD	Beauty Creek Campground and Day Use
	Bell Bay Campground and Day Use
	Mokins Bay Campground
	Bumblebee Campground
	Honeysuckle Campground
	Big Hank Campground
	Devils Elbow Campground and Group Site
	Kit Price Campground
	Berlin Flats Campground
St Joe RD	Shadowy St Joe Campground
	Packsaddle Campground
	Turner Flat Campground
	Tin Can Flat Campground
	Conrad Crossing Campground
	Fly Flat Campground
	Spruce Tree Campground
	Emerald Creek Campground
	Cedar Creek Campground
	North Fork Joe Campground

(more)

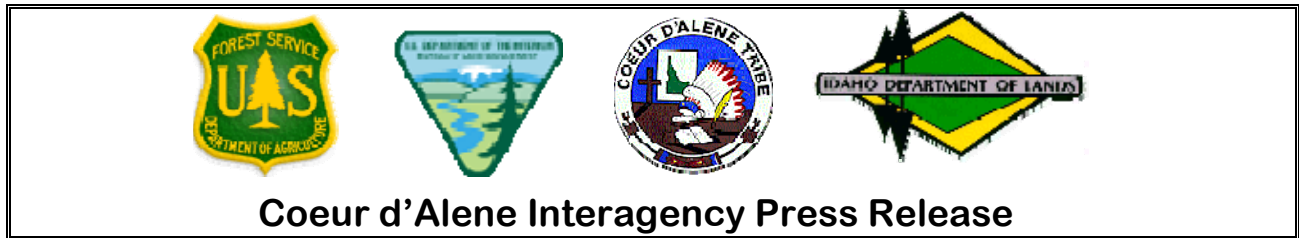
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION SITES Where Campfires are Allowed During Stage I Restrictions	
Coeur d'Alene Field Office	Killarney Lake Boat Launch & Campground
	Huckleberry Campground
	Mica Bay Boater Park
	Blackwell Island Recreation Site
Clearwater River Recreation Sites	McKay's Bend Campground located at Myrtle
	Pink House Campground (open to fires within developed fire rings)

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS Where Campfires are Allowed During Stage I Restrictions	
Mica Supervisory Area	Farragut State Park
	Wolf Lodge Campground
	KOA of Coeur d'Alene Resort
Cataldo Supervisory Area	Albert's Place
West St. Joe Supervisory Area	<p>On private non-industrial land, within one quarter mile of the St. Joe River from the confluence of the St. Joe River and Coeur d'Alene Lake to the confluence of the St. Joe River and Marble Creek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campfires will be permitted between the hours of 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM, in established fire rings within this designated corridor. Campfires outside this described permitted area are <u>not</u> allowed until further notice.

COUNTY LANDS Where Campfires are Allowed During Stage I Restrictions	
Boundary County, ID	Twin Rivers Canyon Resort: Campfires in developed sites only, 7 p.m. to 9 a.m.

NEWS RELEASE SAMPLES – Rescind Restrictions



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Harry Steele, IDL (208) 666-8673

Sandra Groth, Forest Service (208) 762-6902

Stephanie Snook, BLM (208) 769-5004

FIRE RESTRICTIONS RESCINDED FOR STATE OF IDAHO

COEUR D'ALENE (September 19 2007)—The State of Idaho will rescind fire restrictions for all State and private lands effective on Friday, September 21, 2007. No further fire restrictions will be in place after this date for 2007.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also will rescind fire restrictions on its lands statewide beginning on September 21.

On September 7, 2007, Stage I fire restrictions were rescinded on all Idaho Panhandle National Forests' lands. Restrictions also were lifted on September 7 for Bureau of Land Management lands, and private and State lands within Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone, Latah, and Clearwater counties.

State and Federal public land managers expressed appreciation for the public's cooperation in adherence to fire restrictions this season.

Property owners and residents interested in reducing fire danger in preparation for next year's fire season can find helpful information by visiting: www.firewise.org and clicking on the "resources" link. Additional information can be obtained by contacting your local public land management agencies. Don't wait until it's "too late!"

(end)