APPENDIX C

Historic Fire Data:

- ***Historic Fire Data Sources***
- ***Map of Blaine County Historic Fires on Private and Public land***
- ***Critical Weather Days for the Ketchum/Sun Valley Areas***

The following Historic Fire Information is available through the Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office as part of the Idaho Fire Incident Reporting System for:

- *Ketchum Rural Fire District as a spreadsheet of historic fires*
- *Wood River Fire Protection District as a spreadsheet of historical fires*

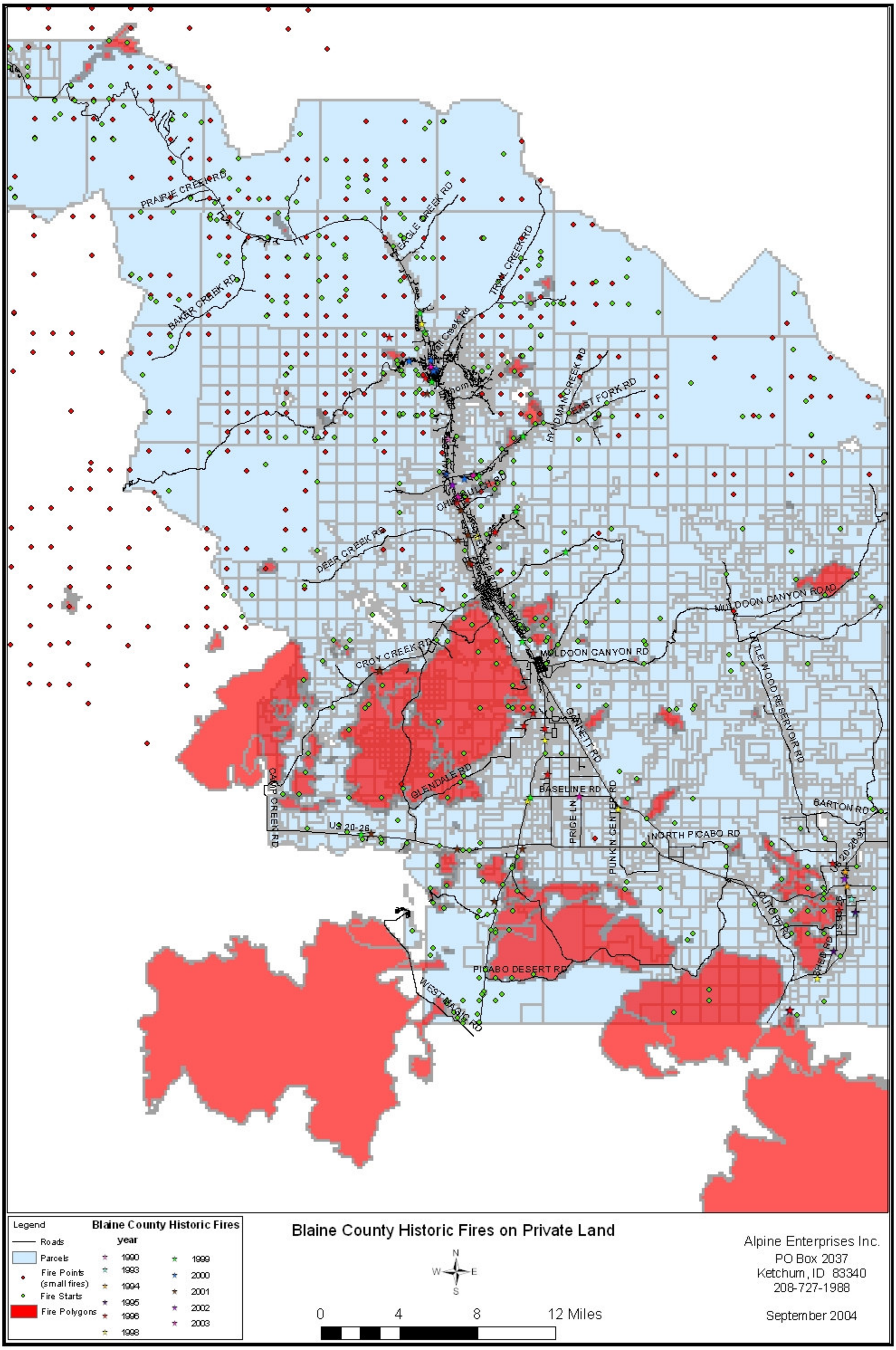
The following Historic Fire Information is available from Chief John Adamson of the Carey Rural Fire District for:

- *The Carey Rural Fire District list of historical fires*

Historic Fire Map

This map has been created from data compiled from various fire agencies throughout Blaine County. It represents where non-structure fires have occurred in the county over the past decade. Also shown on the map are the parcel lines for all of Blaine County and all county roads.

United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management historic fire data was provided by the respective agency. These points and areas were incorporated on to the Historic Fire Map. However, location of the USFS small fires (represented by points) has been generalized within each Section by the United States Forest Service to ease their data management.



Blaine County Historic Fires on Private Land

Alpine Enterprises Inc.
PO Box 2037
Ketchum, ID 83340
208-727-1988

September 2004

Critical Fire Weather Days for the Ketchum / Sun Valley Areas

Weather Zones 407 and North End of 409
2001 - 2003

Deification of Critical Weather/Fuels: Standardized criteria for issuance of Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches in the Great Basin area are a combination of weather and critical fuels conditions. A standardized set of Red Flag Criteria have been developed to simplify issuances and to facilitate coordination and ensure continuity between neighboring NWS offices as well across land management administrative boundaries. **(Wind gusts > 25 mph for any 3+ hours in ID mountains, western WY, central and eastern UT. AND Relative Humidity is < 15%)**

2001 Red Flag Warnings:

Date	Cause
May 31, 2001	High Winds
June 21, 2001	High Winds
June 24, 2001	High Winds
October 4, 2001	Low Relative Humidity (RH)

2002 Red Flag Warnings:

Date	Cause
July 8, 2002	High Winds / Low Relative Humidity (RH)
July 11, 2002	Low Relative Humidity (RH)
July 12, 2002	Low Relative Humidity (RH)
July 14, 2001	Dry Thunderstorms / High Winds
August 15, 2002	High Winds
September 3, 2002	High Winds
September 4, 2002	High Winds
September 14, 2002	Low Relative Humidity (RH)
September 15, 2002	Low Relative Humidity (RH)

2003 Red Flag Warnings

Date	Cause
July 8, 2003	High Winds / Passing Cold Front
July 13, 2003	High Winds / Low Relative Humidity (RH)
July 19, 2003	Dry Thunderstorms
August 12, 2002	Dry Lighting / High Winds
August 15, 2003	Dry Lighting / High Winds
September 16, 2003	High Winds
September 23, 2003	Low Relative Humidity (RH) / High Winds

The valid time will be determined at the time of the request. Most spots contain three periods, usually "TODAY", "TONIGHT", and "NEXT DAY," but users will indicate which periods for which a forecast is needed.

c. Procedures

Internet-based NWS Spot is the standard for requesting and retrieving spot forecasts and should be used when available. They are accessible via web sites of the NWS offices that serve the Great Basin area and on the coordination center web sites, found in Appendix B.

When Internet access is not possible, spot forecasts may be requested and disseminated via phone or fax using the backup spot forecast request form found in Appendix G. Spot forecasts will generally be available within 60 minutes of the time the NWS office receives the request. Spot forecasts may be requested well in advance of a planned project, for example, the night before. In such situations, it is strongly recommended that the requestor indicate the latest time he or she needs the forecast returned. NWS should be contacted if a spot forecast is not available within this time frame.

The requestor should provide information about the location, topography, fuel type(s), top and bottom elevations of fire or project (if appropriate), size of fire or project, ignition time (if appropriate), and a contact name(s) and telephone number(s) of the responsible land management personnel. The request will also include quality, representative observations at, or near, the site.

d. Spot Forecast Feedback Requirement

Land management should provide feedback to the NWS forecasters on the quality and accuracy of the spot forecast. Feedback should also be relayed to GACC meteorologists. Responsibility for providing fireline observations for the verification of forecast accuracy rests with the land management agencies, as outlined under, "Fire Weather Observations," Section V-F.

3. Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches

The Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Watch program is designed to provide land management officials with advance notice of weather conditions that, when coupled with critical fuels conditions, can lead to extreme fire behavior or heightened potential for large fire starts. It is implicit that firefighter and public safety is of the utmost importance. Identification of Red Flag events is a shared, collaborative responsibility between land management officials and NWS fire weather forecasters. Land management officials must identify critical fuels conditions. Weather forecasters must identify weather conditions that will contribute to extreme fire behavior or heightened large fire potential.

A Red Flag Warning shall be issued when Red Flag weather criteria (defined below) are forecast to occur within the next 24-hours or are already occurring, and are coupled with critical fuels conditions.

A Fire Weather Watch shall be issued when there is a high potential for Red Flag weather criteria to be met in the 12-72 hour time frame. The watch may be issued for all, or selected, portions within a fire weather zone or region.

a. Criteria

Standardized criteria for issuance of Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches in the Great Basin area are a combination of weather and critical fuels conditions. A standardized set of Red Flag Criteria have been developed to simplify issuances and to facilitate coordination and

ensure continuity between neighboring NWS offices as well as across land management administrative boundaries. While no set of criteria can possibly accommodate all areas equally within the Great Basin, land management officials and their servicing NWS office may address local concerns not specifically accounted for in the standard criteria.

IF
Fuels are critical

THEN

IF

Wind gusts ≥ 30 mph for any 3+ hours in NV, UT west deserts, Snake River Plain in ID
or
≥ 25 mph for any 3+ hours in ID mountains, western WY, central and eastern UT

AND

Relative Humidity is ≤ 15 percent.

OR

IF

Dry thunderstorms with areal coverage of widely scattered (≥15%) in a Fire Weather Zone.

THEN

Issue Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch

These criteria assume the following:

i. In the absence of local (CWFA) agreements, NFDRS Adjective Rating (as displayed on the WFAS website) must be = or > Very High.
ii. The mid-point of a forecast range is the breakpoint for watch/warning issuance. Additionally, forecast ranges should not exceed 10 mph.
iii. Wind gusts speed must be from NWCG compliant RAWS stations (20-foot) or a NWS/FAA ASOS station (10 meter). Wind gusts speed measurements from other observation platforms will be used upon agreement between NWS and land management agencies.

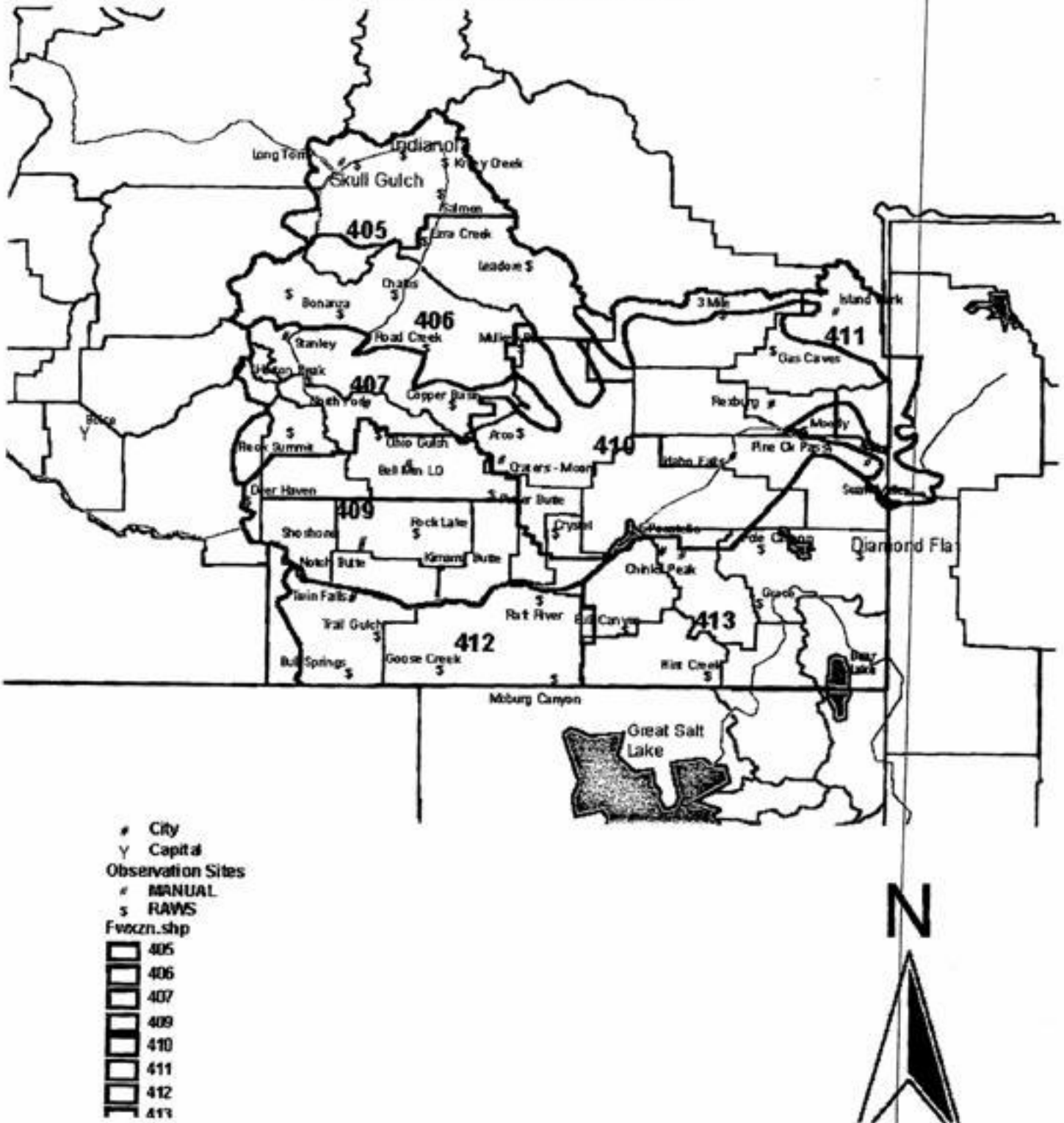
Additional (optional) criteria will be left to agreements between local NWS offices and land management agencies within their CWFAs. These may include but are not limited to: location-specific, alternative values to the standard criteria above; Haines Index; windshifts; cold frontal passages (CFP); first lightning after extended hot, dry period; drought; poor overnight RH recovery; or combinations of any of these. Additional criteria can be implemented as justification for a warning ONLY after coordination with neighboring NWS offices, local land management officials and Predictive Services meteorologists.

In rare situations, forecasters may issue a watch or warning for conditions which do not meet the established criteria but in their best judgement, and after coordination with local land management officials, will contribute to extreme fire behavior or heightened large fire potential.

b. Product Format and Content

A Red Flag Warning/Fire Weather Watch statement (RFW) will be used for issuing, updating, and canceling all Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches. This message will include:

SE Idaho Fire Weather Zones and Observation Sites



http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pocatello/images/fwxzonemap03.png

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