

Chapter 5: Treatment Recommendations

5 Overview

Critical to the implementation of this Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan will be the identification and implementation of an integrated schedule of treatments designed to reduce the potential for wildland fire loss throughout Minidoka County. The treatments that are outlined in the following text and tables are designed to address wildfire vulnerabilities that have been identified throughout all stages of the planning process. Local knowledge of current conditions fire risks provides the basis for the proposed recommendations. Representatives from rural fire chiefs, federal land managers, county representative, the general public and provided necessary insight to develop treatments and strategies to best address the unique challenges of fire management in Minidoka County.

5.1 Fire Mitigation Opportunities

There are four basic opportunities for reducing the loss of homes and lives to fires. Local and federal fire suppression agencies have been quite active in Minidoka County and throughout southern Idaho in efforts to reduce adverse impacts from wildland fire. Many mitigation activities have been on-going within the county in years past. On-going activities should be encouraged and supported over the long-term. Those that have not been well-supported should be augmented to the greatest extent possible to further reduce fire risk within the county.

There are many single actions that can be taken, but in general they can be lumped into one of the following categories:

- Prevention
- Education/ Mitigation
- Readiness
- Building Codes
- Vegetation Modification

5.1.1 Prevention

The safest, easiest, and most economical way to mitigate unwanted fires is to stop them before they start. Generally, prevention actions attempt to prevent human-caused fires. Campaigns designed to reduce the number and sources of ignitions can be quite effective. Prevention campaigns can take many forms. Traditional “Smokey Bear” type campaigns that spread the message passively through signage can be quite effective. Signs that remind folks of the dangers of careless use of fireworks, burning when windy, and leaving unattended campfires can be quite effective. It’s impossible to say just how effective such efforts actually are, however the low costs associated with posting of a few signs is inconsequential compared to the potential cost of fighting a fire.

The Upper Snake River BLM, the US Forest Service and local fire departments have been very active over the years in the prevention campaign in southern Idaho. The prevision campaigns have often taken creative and very active forms. Frequent contact with recreational users and homeowners seem to have been very successful. Over time there has been a reduction in the number of human-caused fires within the Upper Snake River Plane. Much of this can be directly attributed to the continuing efforts of local and federal fire prevention campaigns.

Slightly more active prevention techniques may involve mass media, such as radio or the local newspaper. Fire districts in other counties have contributed the reduction in human-caused ignitions by running a weekly “run blotter,” similar to a police blotter, each week in the paper. The blotter briefly describes the runs of the week and is followed by a weekly “tip of the week” to reduce the threat from wildland and structure fires. The BLM and Forest Service have been a champion of prevention, and could provide ideas for such tips. When fire conditions become high, brief public service messages could warn of the hazards of misuse of fire or any other incendiary device. Such a campaign would require coordination and cooperation with local media outlets. However, the effort is likely to be worth the efforts, costs and risks associated with fighting unwanted fires.

Fire Reporting: Fires cannot be suppressed until they are detected and reported. As the number and popularity of cellular phones has increased, expansion of the #FIRE program throughout Idaho may provide an effective means for turning the passing motorist into a detection resource. The Upper Snake River BLM has been expanding this program along interstates and highways throughout southern Idaho. Further expansion of the program should be encouraged.

5.1.2 Education

Public education and awareness has been and will continue to be a cornerstone in fire mitigation strategies county-wide. Once a fire has started and is moving toward home or other valued resources, the probability of that structure surviving is largely dependent on the structural and landscaping characteristics of the home. Also of vital importance is the accessibility of the home to emergency apparatus. If the home cannot be protected safely, firefighting resources will not jeopardize lives to protect a structure. Thus, the fate of the home will largely be determined by homeowner actions prior to the event.

In many cases, homes can easily be protected by following a few simple guidelines that reduce the ignitability of the home. There are multiple programs such as FIREWISE that detail precautions that should be taken in order to reduce the threat to homes. Individual home site evaluations can increase homeowners’ awareness and improve the survivability of structures in the event of a wildfire. Maintaining a lean, clean, green zone within at least 100 feet of structures to reduce the potential loss of life and property is highly recommended. Assessing individual homes in the outlying areas can address the issue of escape routes and home defensibility characteristics. Educating the homeowners in techniques for protecting their homes is critical in these environments.

However, knowledge is no good unless acted upon. Education needs to be followed up by action. Any education programs should include an implementation plan. Ideally, funds would be made available to financially assist the landowner making the necessary changes to the home. The survey of the public conducted during the preparation of this WUI Fire Mitigation Plan indicated that approximately 46% of the respondents are interested in participating in this type of an activity.

5.1.3 Readiness

Once a fire has started, how much and how large it burns is often dependent on the availability of suppression resources. In most cases, rural fire departments are the first to respond and have the best opportunity to halt the spread of a wildland fire. For many districts, the ability to reach these suppression objectives is largely dependent on the availability of functional resources and trained individuals. Increasing the capacity of departments through funding and equipment acquisition can improve response times and subsequently reduce the potential for resource loss.

In order to assure a quick and efficient response to an event, emergency responders need to know specifically where emergency services are needed. Continued improvement and updating of the rural addressing system is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of a response.

5.1.4 Building Codes

The most effective, albeit contentious, solution to some fire problems is the adoption of building codes in order to assure emergency vehicle access and home construction that does not “invite” a fast and intense house fire. Codes that establish minimum road construction standards and access standards for emergency vehicles are an effective means of assuring public and firefighter safety, as well as increasing the potential for home survivability. County building inspectors should look to the fire departments in order to assure adequate minimum standards. Fire districts may want to consider apparatus that may be available during mutual aid events in order that the adopted standards meet the access requirements of the majority of suppression resources. In Minidoka County, such standards may be drafted in consultation with the Fire Chiefs and based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards in order to assure accessibility is possible for all responding resources.

Coupled with this need is the potential to implement a set of requirements or recommendations to specify construction materials allowed for use in high risk areas of the county. The Minidoka County Commissioners may want to consider a policy for dealing with this situation into the future as more and more homes are located in the wildland-urban interface.

5.1.5 Vegetation Modification

There are numerous methods by which vegetative modification can help reduce the manner in which vegetative fuels burn. Reducing fuelbed height and density through mechanical or chemical means can reduce flame length, rate of spread, and fire intensity when burned. That is, tall grass or brush burns with much more vigor than grass that has been mown. Controlling vegetation species composition can also reduce flammability across the landscape. Planting grass species that remain green for longer periods of time in efforts to control Cheatgrass invasion can reduce fire potential across a landscape. The BLM has often used a mix of crested wheat grass and other native grass species in fire rehabilitation efforts to reduce flammability across the landscape over the long term.

Targeted vegetation modification can be very effective in reducing fire occurrence. Ignition points in Minidoka County are frequently concentrated along the roads and railway lines that run through the county. These travel routes have historically served as the primary source of human-caused ignitions. In areas with high concentrations of resource values along these corridors, vegetative treatments such as mowing and planting of less flammable species may be considered in order to provide a fire break in the event of a roadside ignition. Access route mitigation can provide an adequate control line under normal fire conditions. Alternatively, permanent fuel breaks can be established in order to reduce the potential for ignitions originating from the main travel roads to spread into the surrounding lands.

5.2 Existing Practices That Should Continue

Minidoka County currently is implementing many projects and activities that have been successful in the potential for mitigating wildland fire risk within the county. By enumerating some of them here, it is the desire of the authors to point out successful activities.

- The dedication of Fire District Volunteers has contributes tremendously to the safety and well-being of residents of Minidoka County. Volunteer should be commended and

recognized for the sacrifices they make in order to provide the excellent level of community protection afforded to residents throughout Minidoka County.

- The aggressive Fire Prevention campaign by local fire departments, the Forest Service and BLM has contributed to a reduction in the number of human caused fires over time in Twin Fall County. The prevention program should receive necessary support over the long term.
- The BLM Rural Fire Assistance has made significant contributions to the capabilities of the rural fire districts throughout Minidoka County.
- Continued implementation of the Red Zone Program helps local authorities identify areas of high concern by gathering information on characteristics that result in high wildland fire hazard and nearby structure locations. Home site evaluations associated with this program not only help firefighters, they also facilitate education of homeowners on home protection and defensible space practices.

5.3 Mitigation Recommendations

As part of the Policy of Minidoka County in relation to this planning document, this entire **Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan** should be reviewed annually at a special meeting of the Minidoka County Commissioners, open to the public, where action items, priorities, budgets, and modifications can be made or confirmed. A written review of the plan should be approved by the Chairman of the County Commissioners, detailing plans for the year's activities, and made available to the general public ahead of the meeting (in accord with the Idaho Open Public Meeting Laws). Amendments to the plan should be detailed at this meeting, documented, and attached to the formal plan as an amendment to the WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan (signatures by the cooperators would be collected at the Chairman's discretion). Re-evaluation of this plan should be made on the 5th anniversary of its acceptance, and every 5-year period following.

Treatments have been divided between those that should be targeted at county level and those that are specific to individual fire districts. The mitigations recommendations are based on the findings discussed in detail in Chapter 4: Summaries of Risks and Preparedness.

Considering the differing land management philosophies of land management agencies, the county, and private landowners, it is reasonable to expect that consensus building will be necessary before some projects are fully implemented. Combined with other factors such as budget shortages, policies, and interest in participation, it is quite likely that implementation will occur at differing degrees and timeframes over the long-term.

The following Mitigation Recommendations follow a format that identifies a specific **Action Item**, followed by a **Treatment Category** that is tiered to both the National Fire Plan and FEMA. The **Goals and Objectives** of each Action Item are then identified, followed by the **Responsible Organization** for coordinating and implementing the proposed Action Item. Finally, the **Planning Horizon** identifies time frames and estimated costs of implementation, when applicable.

The Federal land management agencies in Minidoka County, specifically the Bureau of Land Management, and the state land management agency, the Idaho Department of Lands, are participants in this planning process and have contributed to its development. Where available,

their schedule of WUI treatments has been summarized in this chapter to better facilitate a correlation between their identified planning efforts and the efforts of Minidoka County.

5.3.1 Treatment Categories

5.3.1.1 WUI Safety and Policy

Wildfire mitigation efforts must be supported by county policies and regulations that maintain a solid foundation for safety and consistency. Because these items are regulatory in nature, they will not necessarily be accompanied by cost estimates. These recommendations are policy related in nature. It is likely that debate and formulation of alternatives will serve to make these recommendations suitable and appropriate for Minidoka County.

Prioritization of activities recommended in this plan should be made by the Minidoka County Commissioners consistent with the recommendations made in Chapter 1 of this document. During the annual review of this plan, reprioritization can be justified in response to changing conditions and funding opportunities.

5.3.1.2 People and Structures

Many of the recommendations in this category involve education and increasing awareness of the residents of Minidoka County. Continuing public education is essential to increase the awareness of the factors that contribute to the wildland fire hazard in Minidoka County. Although prevention campaigns and public education efforts have been quite successful in many areas, there is still much that residents can do to protect themselves and their property from wildland fire.

In addition to those items enumerated in Table 5.1, residents and policy makers of Minidoka County should recognize certain factors that exist today, that in their absence would lead to an increase in the risk factors associated with wildland fires in the WUI of Minidoka County. These items listed below should be encouraged, acknowledged, and recognized for their contributions to the reduction of wildland fire risks:

- **Livestock Grazing** in and around the communities of Minidoka County has led to a reduction of many of the fine fuels in rangelands throughout Minidoka County. Domestic livestock not only eat these grasses, forbs, and shrubs, but also trample certain fuels to the ground where decomposition rates may increase. There are ample opportunities throughout the county to continue grazing. This will continue to contribute to the economic output of the county as well as reduce fine fuel loading. Livestock grazing in this region should be encouraged into the future as a low cost, positive tool of wildfire mitigation in the Wildland-Urban Interface and in the wildlands.

5.3.1.3 Infrastructure

Significant infrastructure refers to the communications, transportation (road and rail networks), energy transport supply systems (gas and power lines), and water supply that service a region or a surrounding area. Protection of these elements is critical in protecting the health, safety and economy of Minidoka County.

Communication Infrastructure: This component of the WUI seems to be diversified across the county with multiple source and destination points, and a spread-out support network. Although site specific treatments will impact local networks directly, little needs done to insure the system's viability.

Transportation Infrastructure (road and rail networks): This component of the WUI has some potential limitations in Minidoka County. The hub of Minidoka County's transportation network is located in the Rupert-Heyburn area. Specific infrastructure components have been discussed in this plan.

Ignitions along highways are significant and should be addressed as part of the implementation of this plan. Various alternatives from herbicides to intensive livestock grazing coupled with mechanical treatments, have been utilized in other counties southern Idaho. As part of the multi-agency team WUI team proposed in the previous section, these corridors should be further evaluated with alternatives implemented. A variety of approaches will be appropriate depending on the landowner, fuels present, and other factors. These ignitions are substantial and the potential risk of lives to residents in the area is significant.

Many roads in the county have limiting characteristics such as narrow travel surfaces, sharp turning radii, low load limit bridges and cattle guards, and heavy accumulations of fuels adjacent to some roads. Roads that have these inferior characteristics and access homes and businesses are the priority for improvements in the county.

Energy Transport Supply Systems (gas and power lines): (Minidoka County - Appendix I) A number of power lines pass through Minidoka County. Many of these pass through undeveloped, rangeland areas that are subject to wildland fire events. In cases where non-flammable steel support structures are used, there is little direct threat of power supply damage. However, where wooden power poles have been used, there is some risk of failure. Since retrofitting of these infrastructure components is not practical, no such recommendations will be made.

Water Supply: In some areas of Minidoka County, irrigation water is derived from surface flows that feed larger irrigation network that sustain the county's agricultural economy. High intensity wildfires threaten quality of these surface water sources by removing the organic material and vegetation that keeps sediments from entering streams.

5.3.1.4 Resource and Capability Enhancements

There are a number of enhancements that could increase the capabilities of rural fire districts county-wide. Satisfying these needs will assist in increasing the ability of rural departments to suppress fires quickly, reducing the potential for loss of valued resources. As mentioned previously, the cooperative effort between the BLM and the rural fire districts dramatically increases fire suppression effectiveness county-wide.

5.3.1.5 Regional Land Management Recommendations

Wildfires are an inevitable component of rangeland ecosystem that cover the northern portion of Minidoka County. Active land management that modifies fuels, promotes healthy range and forestland conditions, and promotes the use of these natural resources (consumptive and non-consumptive) will insure that these lands have value to society and the local region. We encourage the Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho Department of Lands, Industrial land owners, private land owners, and all other landowners in the region to actively administer their Wildland-Urban Interface lands in a manner consistent with the management of reducing fuels and risks in this zone.

5.4 County-Wide Recommendations and Activities

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items Applicable at the County Level

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
<p>5.1.a: Develop a formal WUI Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from all fire and emergency service entities to coordinate and develop strategies to advance fire mitigation activities county-wide.</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures, infrastructure, and ecosystems</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures, infrastructure, public and firefighter safety and ecosystems by coordinating efforts and improving communication avenues between all parties to make informed decisions about wildfire issues.</p>	<p>County Commissioners, Rural Fire Districts, Mid-Snake RC&D, Emergency Services, BLM, and all departments and entities responsible for safety of Minidoka County Residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 (2004) activity: Develop committee, to prioritize and implement the recommended treatments and to build upon the momentum generated during the Minidoka County Fire Mitigation planning process. The committee will serve to bring all involved parties together to further build and discuss issues pertinent to providing safety to residents county-wide. Members potentially to include land management organizations and companies, private landowners, and fire protection personnel.
<p>5.1.b: Continued public education campaigns through targeted media campaigns, brochure and leaflet distribution, mailings, billboards, door-to-door visits, and any other means by which to communicate the need for fire safety throughout Minidoka County.</p>	<p>People and Structures</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by informing the general public of the wildland fire issue and providing the information and resources they need to act accordingly.</p>	<p>County Commissioners, Rural Fire Districts, Mid-Snake RC&D, Emergency Services, BLM, Forest Service, and all departments and entities responsible for safety of Minidoka County Residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to form a county-wide public education working group to strategize on methods and tactics to maximize outreach effectiveness. Identify and coordinate mitigation opportunities and work as a single cohesive unit to see projects through. Determine needs for educational material and advertising budgets.
<p>5.1.c: Begin discussion to develop county-wide burn permit policy and enforcement mechanism.</p>	<p>WUI Safety and Policy</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by reducing the potential for escaped agricultural fires from jeopardizing life and</p>	<p>County Commissioners in cooperation with Rural Fire Districts and BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately recommend BLM update burn permits to include physical address. Year 1 discussion and debate as to rules and regulations and enforcement mechanisms.

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items Applicable at the County Level

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<p>5.1.d: Adopt and enforce applicable components of NFPA code 1144 that address the unique needs of Minidoka County. Ensure policy addresses the specific needs of fire suppression resources, building materials and applies to subdivisions as well as new single home construction.</p>	<p>WUI Safety and Policy</p>	<p>property. Protection of people and structures by applying a standard of road widths, access, water supply, and building regulations suitable to insure new homes can be protected while minimizing risks to firefighters.</p>	<p>County Commissioners in cooperation with Rural Fire Districts Planning and Zoning and Building Department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 debate and adoption of revised code (2004). • Adopt recommended codes. • Ensure enforcement of codes by building department. • Integrate into county Comprehensive Plan
<p>5.1.e: Draft letter to Eastern Idaho and Union Pacific Railroad concerning vegetation treatments along railroad and compensation for railroad fires.</p>	<p>Infrastructure and WUI Safety and Policy</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by reducing number of railroad fires.</p>	<p>County Commissioners in cooperation with Rural Fire Districts.</p>	<p>Engage surrounding counties and fire districts in an effort to gauge interest and begin negotiation with railroads to reduce in incidence of wildland fire ignitions from this source.</p>
<p>5.1.f: Develop comprehensive fire district growth plans that address issues associated with growing populations and integrate into county Comprehensive Plan.</p>	<p>Resources and Capabilities and WUI Safety and Policy</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by incorporating new developments and structures into fire protection districts.</p>	<p>Rural Fire District in cooperation with County Commissioners and Planning and Zoning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 (2004): Establish community growth benchmarks for the expansion of district resources. • Expand fire districts' planning horizon beyond five-years. • Ongoing Activity: Evaluate need to expand district resources as set benchmarks are reached. • Integrate plan into county Comprehensive Plan
<p>5.1.g: Purchase of Fire Works Trunk to assist with Youth and Adult Wildfire Educational Programs</p>	<p>People and Structures</p>	<p>Protect people and structures by increasing awareness of WUI risks, how to recognize risk factors, and how to modify those factors to reduce risk</p>	<p>Mid Snake RC&D, Idaho Department of Lands, USFS Sawtooth NF, BLM, Local School Districts and Local Fire Departments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To start immediately using existing educational program materials and staffing. Costs initially to be funded through existing budgets for these activities to be followed with grant monies to continue the programs as identified in the formal needs assessment. • Education will be on-going over the long term
<p>5.1.h: Develop agreement with private landowners for</p>	<p>People and Structures,</p>	<p>Protection of people and</p>	<p>Rural Fire Districts in cooperation BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop agreement and compensation mechanism for access and use of private water supplies during

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items Applicable at the County Level

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
access and use of water sources during fire emergencies.	Infrastructure	structures by enhancement of infrastructure	and local landowners	emergency responses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will occur concurrently with Augmentation of Water Resources action item identifies by district in the tables to follow.
5.1.i: Continuation and Expansion of the Red Zone Program county-wide.	People and Structures, Resources and Capabilities	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by identifying factors that contribute to interface risk prior to a fire event to assure public and firefighter safety	To be implemented by Rural Fire Departments, Mid-Snake RC&D and the BLM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: Training, software and hardware purchases. • Needs: Determine needs by district, but will include laptops, GPS, digital camera, palm pilot, software.
5.1.j: Addition of mobile repeaters.	People and Structures, Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures and firefighter safety by establishing and maintaining clear lines of communication.	Rural and Wildland Fire Districts in cooperation with the Mid-Snake RC&D.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine districts that would benefit most from mobile repeaters.
5.1.k: Develop strategy to assure radio frequency compatibility between Rural Fire Districts, dispatch, the BLM, and other emergency services during wide band to narrow band conversion	People and Structures, Resources and Capabilities	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by assuring good lines of communication during emergency response.	Rural districts, the BLM, and Emergency Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 (2004): Engage, Emergency Services, Federal Agencies, Rural Fire Departments in developing strategy for conversion. • Discuss timelines for implementation between committee members.
5.1.l: Hire Technical Assistance Coordinator/Special Project Leader to aid in grant writing, coordination of training and equipment needs, and administration of funds county-wide.	People and Structures, Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by coordinating county needs and by facilitating writing of district and county grants for fire and	Rural Fire Districts in cooperation with Emergency Services Office and County Commissioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin discussion between county commissioners and Emergency Services to determine position location and essential functions.

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items Applicable at the County Level

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
5.1.m: Establish programs to assist in the Retention and Recruitment of Volunteer Fire Fighters	People and Structures	other special projects. Protection of people and structures by increasing recruitment and retention of qualified, skilled firefighters.	Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with state legislature and a broad base of county citizenry to identify options, determine plan of action, and implement it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Year Planning Horizon, extended planning time frame • Target an increased recruitment (+10%) and retention (+20% longevity) of volunteers • Year 1 (2004): Develop incentives program, which may include health insurance, supplemental insurance, and other incentives.
5.1.n: Develop and Post FEMA “Emergency Evacuation Routes” along the identified Primary and secondary access routes in the county.	People and Structures, Infrastructure	Protection of people and structures by informing residents and visitors of significant infrastructure in the county that will be maintained in the case of an emergency.	County Commissioners in cooperation with Rural Fire Districts and Roads Department.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of signs (2004). • Posting roads and make information available to residents of the importance of Emergency Routes
5.1.o: Fuels mitigation of the FEMA “Emergency Evacuation Routes” in the county to insure these routes can be maintained in the case of an emergency.	People and Structures, Infrastructure	Protection of people and structures by providing residents and visitors with ingress and egress that can be maintained during an emergency.	County Commissioners in cooperation with Rural Fire Districts and Roads Department.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full assessment of road defensibility and ownership participation (2004). • Implementation of projects
5.1.p: Update and improve Road Signing and Rural Addressing compliant with NFPA standards for visibility throughout Minidoka County	People and Structures, Infrastructure	Protection of people and structures by reducing emergency response time.	Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update rural addressing and assure that SIRCOMM, rural fire departments, sheriff, and all emergency services are aware of new addresses • New subdivisions should be signed with names as well as county grid addresses to assure consistency in addressing throughout the county

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items Applicable at the County Level

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
<p>5.1.q: Roadside vegetation treatments to reduce flammability of fuels immediately adjacent to roads at high risk of ignitions.</p>	<p>People and Structures, Infrastructure</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by reducing probability of ignitions along travel corridors.</p>	<p>County highway department, BLM, and other responsible agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatments may include mowing, herbicide treatments or other treatments to reduce flammability. • This item is applicable to county and state roads not specifically identified by fire district.
<p>5.1.r: Draft letter to County Road Departments and State Highway Department outlining the need for roadside management and priority areas for treatment.</p>	<p>People and Structures, Infrastructure</p>	<p>Protection of people and structures by reducing probability of ignitions along travel corridors.</p>	<p>County Commissioners, Rural Fire Districts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft letter as upon plan completion. Gauge interest in surrounding counties for a possible multi-county letter.
<p>5.1.s: Access Improvements of bridges, cattle guards, and limiting road surfaces</p>	<p>People and Structures, Infrastructure.</p>	<p>Protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and economy by improving access for residents and fire fighting personnel in the event of a wildfire. Reduces the risk of a road failure that leads to the isolation of people or the limitation of emergency vehicle and personnel access during an emergency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Roads and Bridges Department in cooperation with BLM, State of Idaho (Lands and Transportation), and forestland or rangeland owners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 (2004): Update existing assessment of travel surfaces, bridges, and cattle guards in Minidoka County as to location. Secure funding for implementation of this project (grants) • Year 2 (2005): Conduct engineering assessment of limiting weight restrictions for all surfaces (e.g., bridge weight load maximums). Estimate cost of \$150,000 which might be shared between County, BLM, State, and private based on landownership associated with road locations. • Year 2 (2005): Post weight restriction signs on all crossings, copy information to rural fire districts and wildland fire protection agencies in affected areas. Estimate cost at roughly \$25-\$30,000 for signs and posting. • Year 3 (2006): Identify limiting road surfaces in need of improvements to support wildland fire fighting vehicles and other emergency equipment. Develop plan for improving limiting surfaces including budgets, timing, and resources to be protected for prioritization of projects (benefit/cost ratio analysis). Create budget based on full assessment
<p>5.1.t: Investigate funding opportunities for paid, full time rural fire chief positions county wide. Also, investigate potential for full or part time assistant positions.</p>	<p>People and Structures, Resources and Capabilities</p>	<p>Enhance fire protection capabilities by providing opportunities for rural chiefs to seek</p>	<p>Rural Fire Districts in cooperation with County Commissioners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine district needs and seek all available funding sources.

Table 5.1. WUI Action Items Applicable at the County Level

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
		opportunities to advance the departments.		

5.5 West End Fire Protection District- Recommendations and Activities

Table 5.2. WUI Action Items identified for the West End Fire District.

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
5.2.a: Work in conjunction with BLM to establish house apparatus at northern end of district.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.	West End Fire and BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue conversation with BLM to develop agreement.
5.2.b: Acquisition of an additional wildland engine or other needed apparatus.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.	West End Fire in conjunction with the BLM's Rural Fire Assistance program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine needs immediately. • Work in conjunction with BLM Rural Fire Assistance program
5.2.c: Consider funding Fire Chief and training officer as paid, compensated positions.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by increasing ability of district to keep pace with training and administration needs.	West End Fire and County Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of funding opportunities and development of position descriptions.
5.2.d: Consider expansion of West End district to provide coverage to Kamima area	WUI Safety and Policy	Protection of people and structures by providing fire protection coverage to unprotected areas.	Local residents in cooperation with the County Commissioners and rural and wildland fire districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage community members as soon as possible to determine interest.
5.2.e: Augment emergency water supply through	Resources and Capabilities,	Protection of people and structures by	West End Fire, BLM and private landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify locations immediately to be incorporated into the plan

Table 5.2. WUI Action Items identified for the West End Fire District.

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
establishment of dry hydrants and cisterns at designated locations	People and Structures, Infrastructure	improving water accessibility.		
5.2.f: Acquisition of necessary radio equipment for communication with BLM	Resources and Capabilities	Increase firefighter safety by improving tactical operations during mutual aid responses.	West End Fire District and BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess needs and acquire equipment.
5.2.g: Wildfire risk assessments of at-risk homes.	People and Structures	Protect people and structures by increasing awareness of specific risk factors of individual home sites in the at-risk landscapes. Only after these are completed can home site treatments follow.	To be implemented by County Commissioners Office in cooperation with the West End Fire Department, Mid Snake RC&D and the BLM . Actual work may be completed by Wildfire Mitigation Consultants or trained volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 300 homes in the area need assessments. Cost: Approximately \$100 per home site for inspection, written report, and discussions with the homeowners for cost of \$30,000. Benefit/cost ratio for this assessment is approximately 217:1. Action Item: Secure funding and contract to complete the inspections during years 1 & 2 (2004-05) Home site inspection reports and estimated budget for each home site's treatments will be a requirement to receive funding for treatments through grants.
5.4.h: Home Site WUI Treatments for at risk homes identified as per 5.4.g above.	People and Structures	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Minidoka County	County Commissioners in cooperation with Fire Mitigation Consulting company and Rural Fire Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate 150 homes estimated need treatments estimated at \$1,000 per home for a total cost of \$150,000 and a benefit cost ratio (including assessment and treatment) of 87:1. Actual funding level will be based on the outcomes of the home site assessments and cost estimates Home site treatments can begin after the securing of funding for the treatments and immediate implementation in 2004 and will continue from year 1 through 5 (2008).
5.4.i: Increased wildland and structural training for department members.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.	Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the BLM and USFS for wildland training opportunities and with the State Fire Marshall's Office for structural fire fighting training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 (2004): Develop a multi-county training schedule that extends 2 or 3 years in advance (continuously). Identify funding and resources needed to carry out training opportunities and sources to acquire. Year 1 (2004): Begin implementing training opportunities for volunteers.

5.6 Minidoka County Fire District- Recommendations and Activities

Table 5.3. WUI Action Items identified for the Minidoka County Fire District.

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
5.4.a: Pursue planned construction of new fire station at north end of district.	Resources and Capabilities, People and Structures	Protection of people and structures by increasing district capabilities by providing facilities for training and housing of additional equipment	Minidoka Rural Fire District and County Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to develop planning horizon and other outfitting needs for incorporation into this plan.
5.3.b: Augment wildland capabilities of rural districts through acquisition of additional apparatus	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.	Minidoka County Fire in conjunction with the BLM's Rural Fire Assistance program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to determine specifics
5.3.c: Augment emergency water supply through establishment of dry hydrants and cisterns at designated locations	Resources and Capabilities, People and Structures, Infrastructure	Protection of people and structures by improving water accessibility	Minidoka County Fire in cooperation with BLM and Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine specific areas for immediate incorporation into the plan.
5.3.d: Secure funding for training officer for coordination of district training needs.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by increasing training level of fire personnel.	Minidoka Rural Fire Department in conjunction with commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine job description and funding needs for position. • Investigate funding opportunities.
5.3.e: Increased wildland fire structural training for department personnel.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.	Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the BLM and USFS for wildland training opportunities and with the State Fire Marshall's Office for structural fire fighting training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 (2004): Develop a multi-county training schedule that extends 2 or 3 years in advance (continuously). • Identify funding and resources needed to carry out training opportunities and sources to acquire. • Year 1 (2004): Begin implementing training opportunities for volunteers.
5.5.f: Road-side fuels	People and	Protection of	Fish and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 (2004): Update existing assessment of roads in Minidoka

Table 5.3. WUI Action Items identified for the Minidoka County Fire District.

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
treatments along entrance of Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge.	Structures, Infrastructure	people, structures, and ecosystems reducing probability of vehicle ignitions.	service	County as to location. Secure funding for implementation of this project (grants). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 (2005): Specifically address access issues listed in column one, plus recreation areas, and others identified in assessment. • Year 3 (2006): Secure funding and implement projects to treat road-side fuels.
5.3.g: Acquisition of necessary radio equipment for communication with BLM.	Resources and Capabilities	Increase firefighter safety by improving tactical operations during mutual aid responses.	Filer Rural Fire District and BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess needs and acquire equipment.
5.2.h: Wildfire risk assessments of homes in on the Snake River Canyon Rim and other high-risk areas within the district.	People and Structures	Protect people and structures by increasing awareness of specific risk factors of individual home sites in the at-risk landscapes. Only after these are completed can home site treatments follow.	To be implemented by County Commissioners Office in cooperation with the Rural Fire Departments, Mid Snake RC&D and the BLM. Actual work may be completed by Wildfire Mitigation Consultants or trained volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 300 homes in the area need assessments. • Cost: Approximately \$100 per home site for inspection, written report, and discussions with the homeowners for cost of \$30,000. Benefit/cost ratio for this assessment is approximately 217:1. • Action Item: Secure funding and contract to complete the inspections during years 1 & 2 (2004-05) • Home site inspection reports and estimated budget for each home site's treatments will be a requirement to receive funding for treatments through grants.
5.2.i: Home Site WUI Treatments for at risk homes identified as per 5.2.h above.	People and Structures	Protect people, structures, and increase fire fighter safety by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Minidoka County	County Commissioners in cooperation with Fire Mitigation Consulting company and Rural Fire Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate 150 homes estimated need treatments estimated at \$1,000 per home for a total cost of \$150,000 and a benefit cost ratio (including assessment and treatment) of 87:1. • Actual funding level will be based on the outcomes of the home site assessments and cost estimates • Home site treatments can begin after the securing of funding for the treatments and immediate implementation in 2004 and will continue from year 1 through 5 (2008).

5.7 Rupert City Fire Department- Recommendations and Activities

Table 5.4. WUI Action Items identified for the Rupert City Fire District.

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
5.3.a: Augment wildland capabilities of rural districts through acquisition of large capacity water tender and heavy wildland fire engine.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.	Rupert City Fire Department in conjunction with the BLM's Rural Fire Assistance program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to determine specifics
5.3.b: Increased wildland fire structural training for department personnel.	Resources and Capabilities	Protection of people and structures by direct fire fighting capability enhancements.	Rural and Wildland Fire Districts working with the BLM and USFS for wildland training opportunities and with the State Fire Marshall's Office for structural fire fighting training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 (2004): Develop a multi-county training schedule that extends 2 or 3 years in advance (continuously). • Identify funding and resources needed to carry out training opportunities and sources to acquire. • Year 1 (2004): Begin implementing training opportunities for volunteers.
5.3.c: Acquisition of necessary radio equipment for communication with BLM for communication during mutual aid responses.	Resources and Capabilities	Increase firefighter safety by improving tactical operations during mutual aid responses.	Filer Rural Fire District and BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess needs and acquire equipment.
5.2.d: Wildfire risk assessments of homes in on the Snake River Canyon Rim and other high-risk areas within the district.	People and Structures	Protect people and structures by increasing awareness of specific risk factors of individual home sites in the at-risk landscapes. Only after these are completed can home site treatments follow.	To be implemented by County Commissioners Office in cooperation with the Rural Fire Departments, Mid Snake RC&D and the BLM . Actual work may be completed by Wildfire Mitigation Consultants or trained volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: Approximately \$100 per home site for inspection, written report, and discussions with the homeowners for cost of \$30,000. Benefit/cost ratio for this assessment is approximately 217:1. • Action Item: Secure funding and contract to complete the inspections during years 1 & 2 (2004-05) • Home site inspection reports and estimated budget for each home site's treatments will be a requirement to receive funding for treatments through grants.
5.2.e: Home Site WUI	People and	Protect people,	County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate 150 homes estimated need treatments estimated at \$1,000

Table 5.4. WUI Action Items identified for the Rupert City Fire District.

Action Item	Treatment Category	Goals and Objectives	Responsible Organization	Action Items & Planning Horizon
Treatments for at risk homes identified as per 5.2.h above.	Structures	structures, and increase fire fighter safety by reducing the risk factors surrounding homes in the WUI of Minidoka County	Commissioners in cooperation with Fire Mitigation Consulting company and Rural Fire Districts	<p>per home for a total cost of \$150,000 and a benefit cost ratio (including assessment and treatment) of 87:1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual funding level will be based on the outcomes of the home site assessments and cost estimates • Home site treatments can begin after the securing of funding for the treatments and immediate implementation in 2004 and will continue from year 1 through 5 (2008).