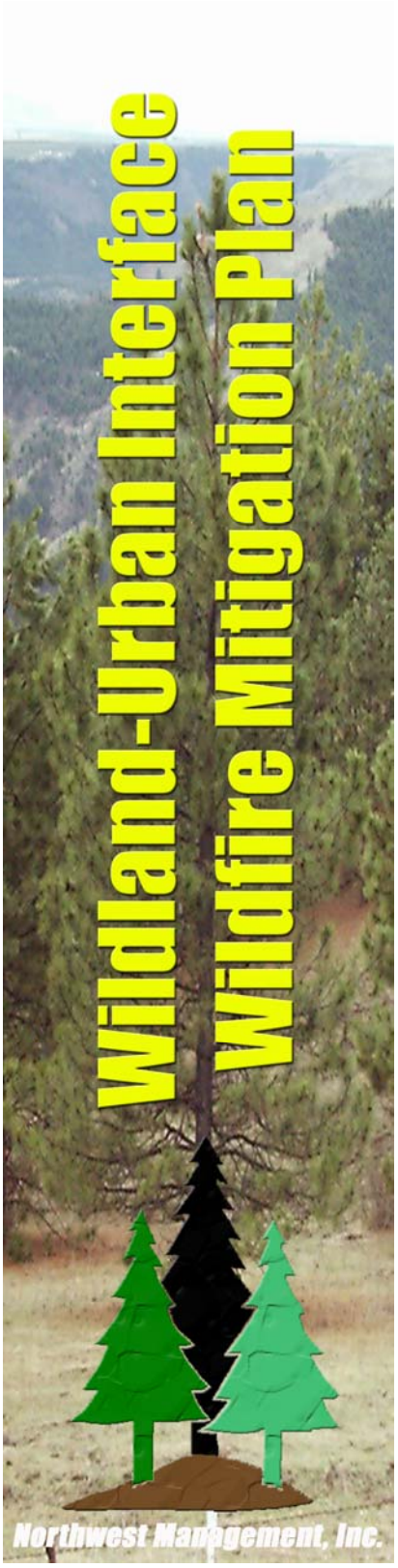

Nez Perce County, Idaho

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Appendices

March 28, 2005

Fire Mitigation Plan Mission Statement

To make Nez Perce County residents, communities, state agencies, local governments, and businesses less vulnerable to the negative effects of wildland fires through the effective administration of wildfire hazard mitigation grant programs, hazard risk assessments, wise and efficient fuels treatments, and a coordinated approach to mitigation policy through federal, state, regional, and local planning efforts. Our combined prioritization will be the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.

This plan was developed by the Nez Perce County Wildfire Mitigation Plan Committee in cooperation with Northwest Management, Inc., 233 E. Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow, ID, 83843, Tel: 208-883-4488, www.Consulting-Foresters.com

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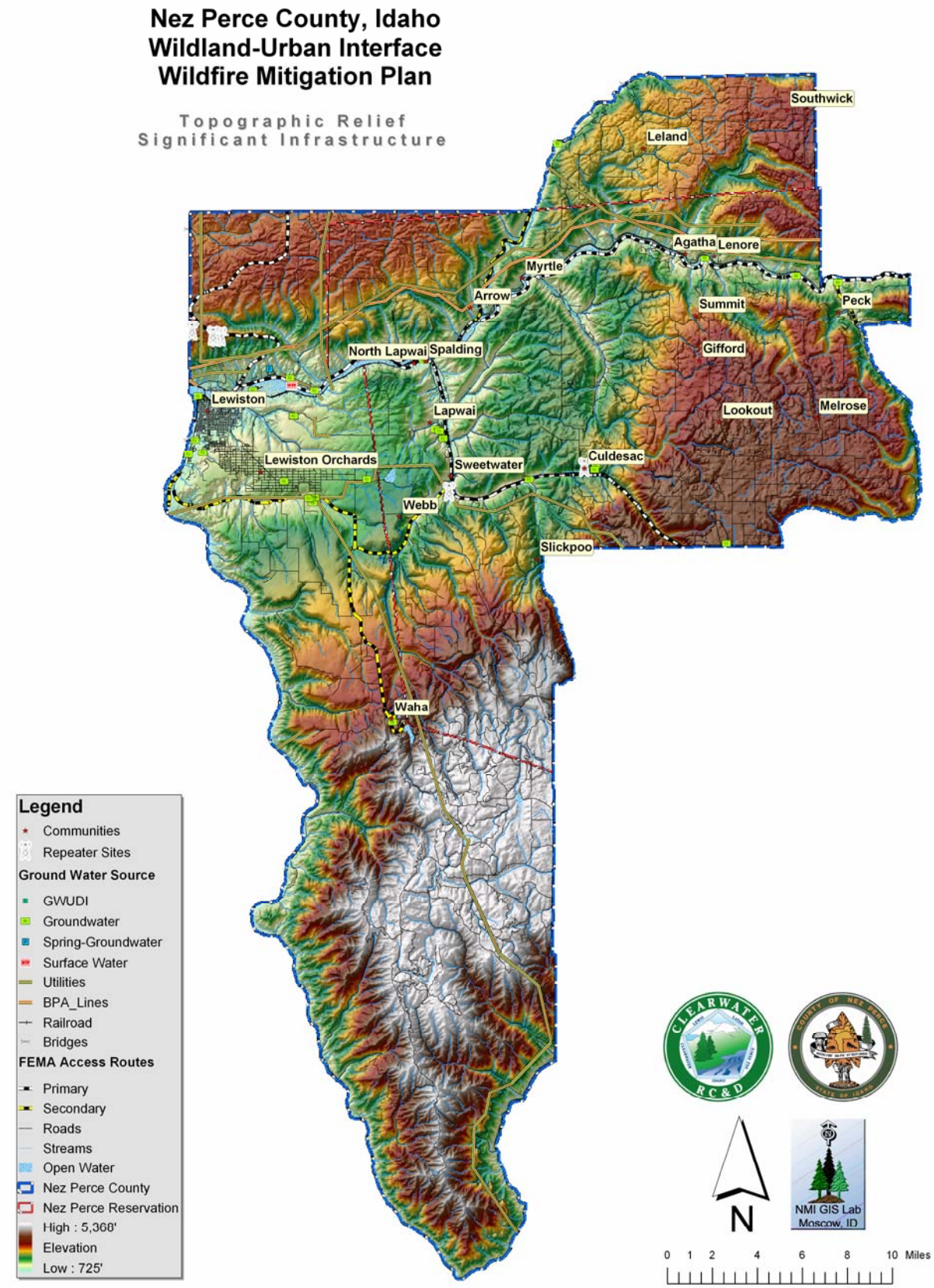
Appendix I: Maps

Map Legend

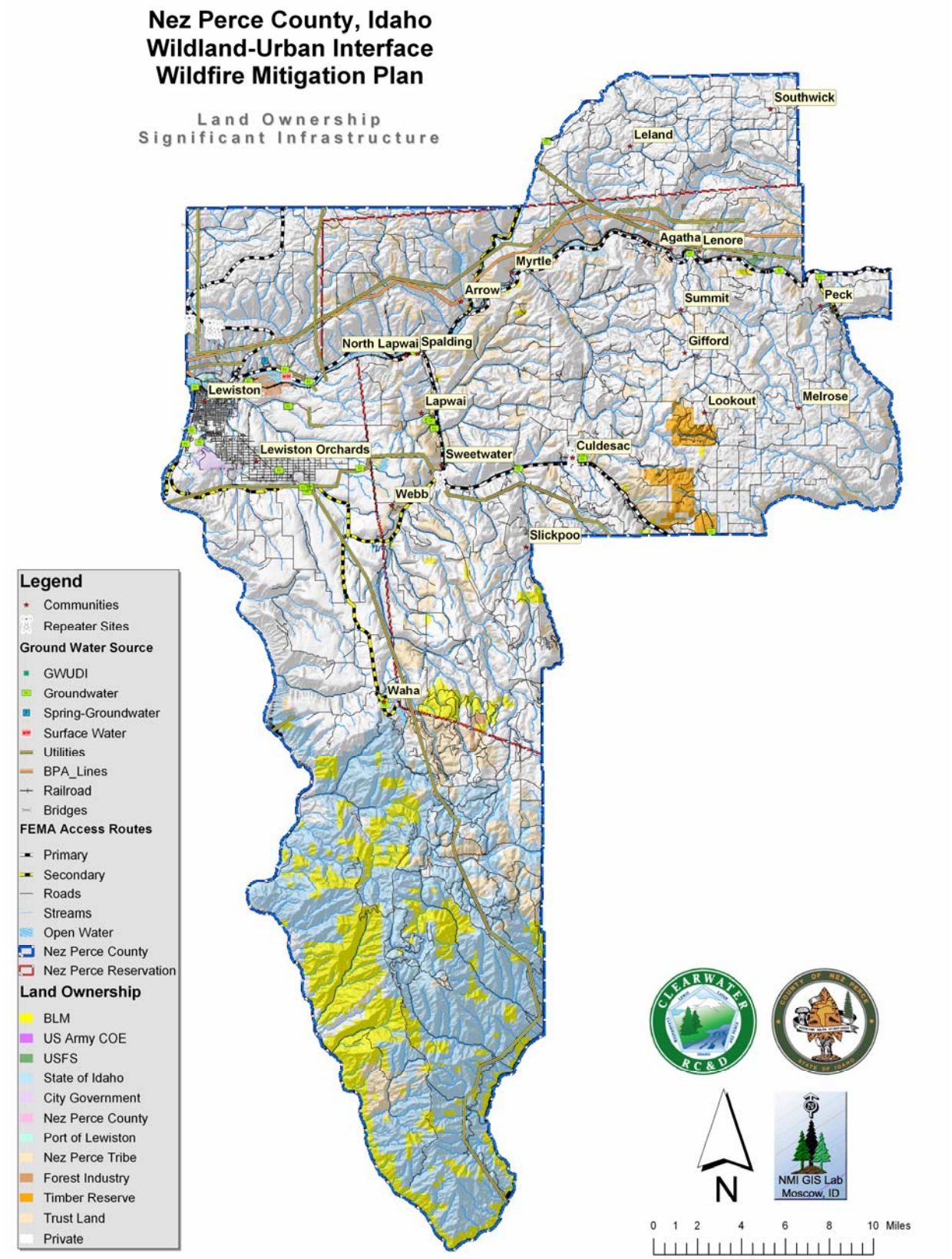
Northwest Management, Inc.
Geographical Information Systems Laboratory
233 East Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow, ID 83843 www.Consulting-Foresters.com

The information on the attached maps was derived from digital databases from NMI's GIS lab. Care was taken in the creation of these maps, but all maps are provided "as is" with no warranty or guarantees. Northwest Management, Inc., cannot accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions, or positional accuracy, and therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this product. Although information from Land Surveys may have been used in the creation of this product, in no way does this product represent or constitute a Land Survey. Users are cautioned to field verify information on this product before making any decisions.

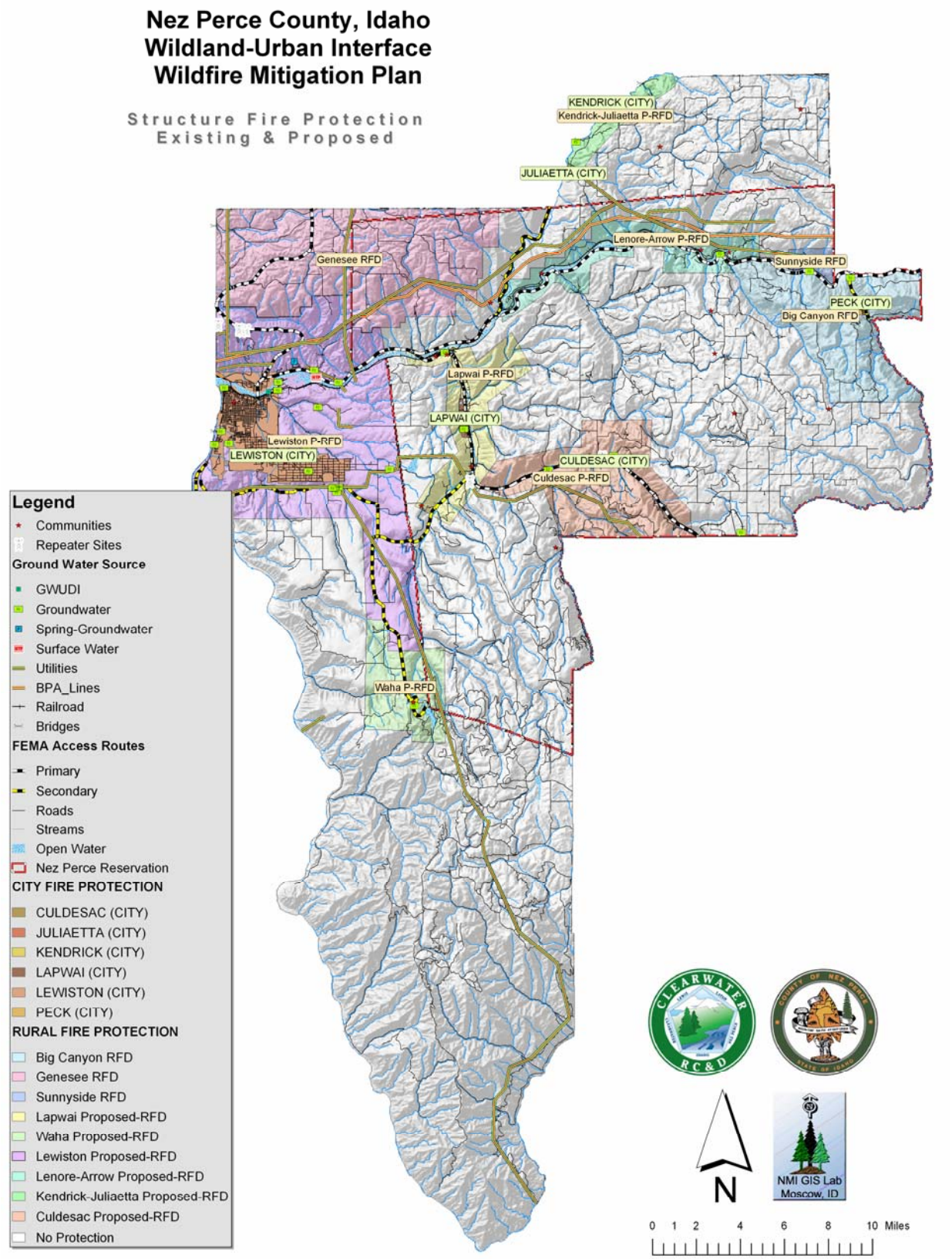
Shaded Elevation Relief of Nez Perce County



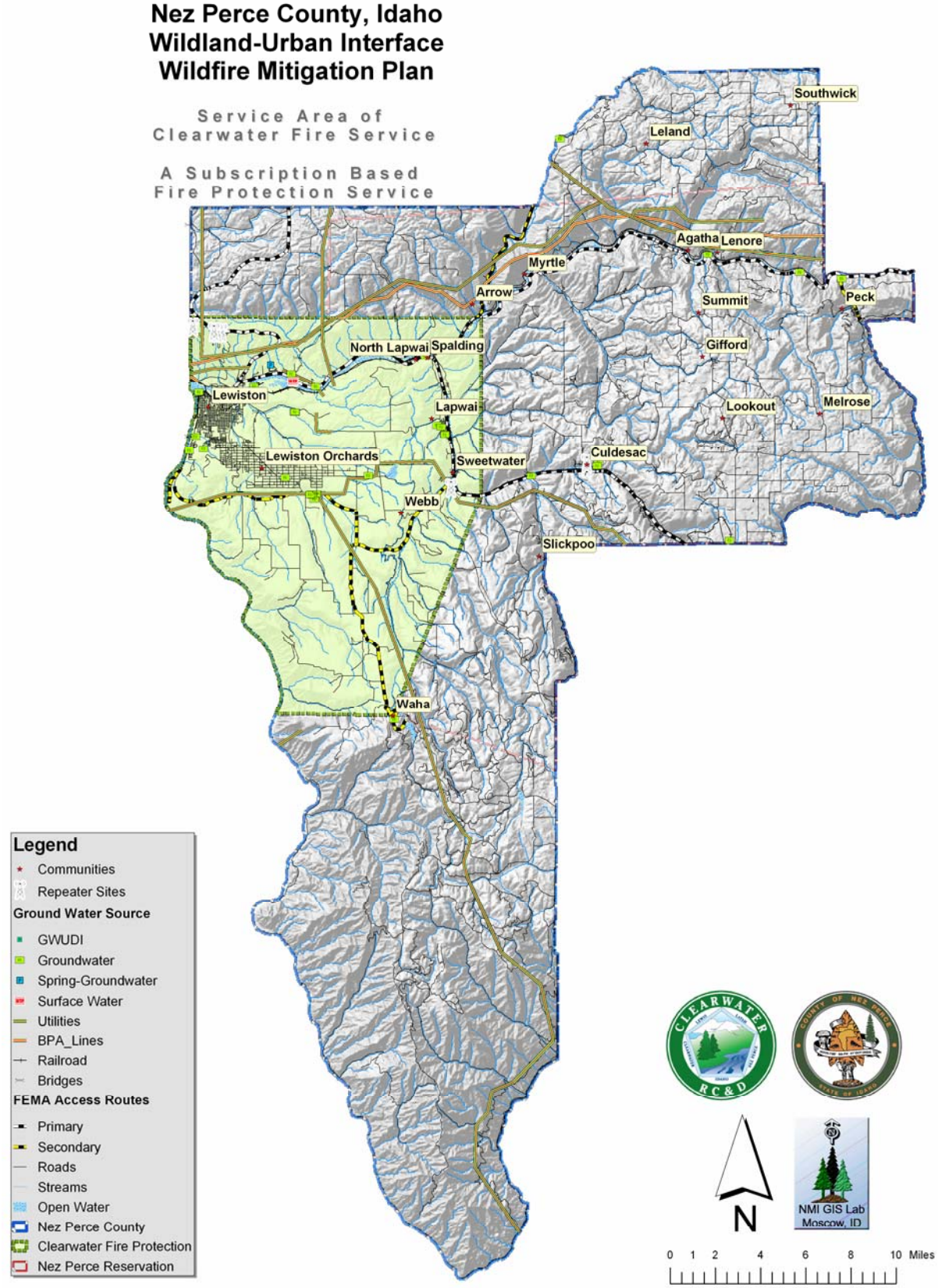
Nez Perce County Ownership Map



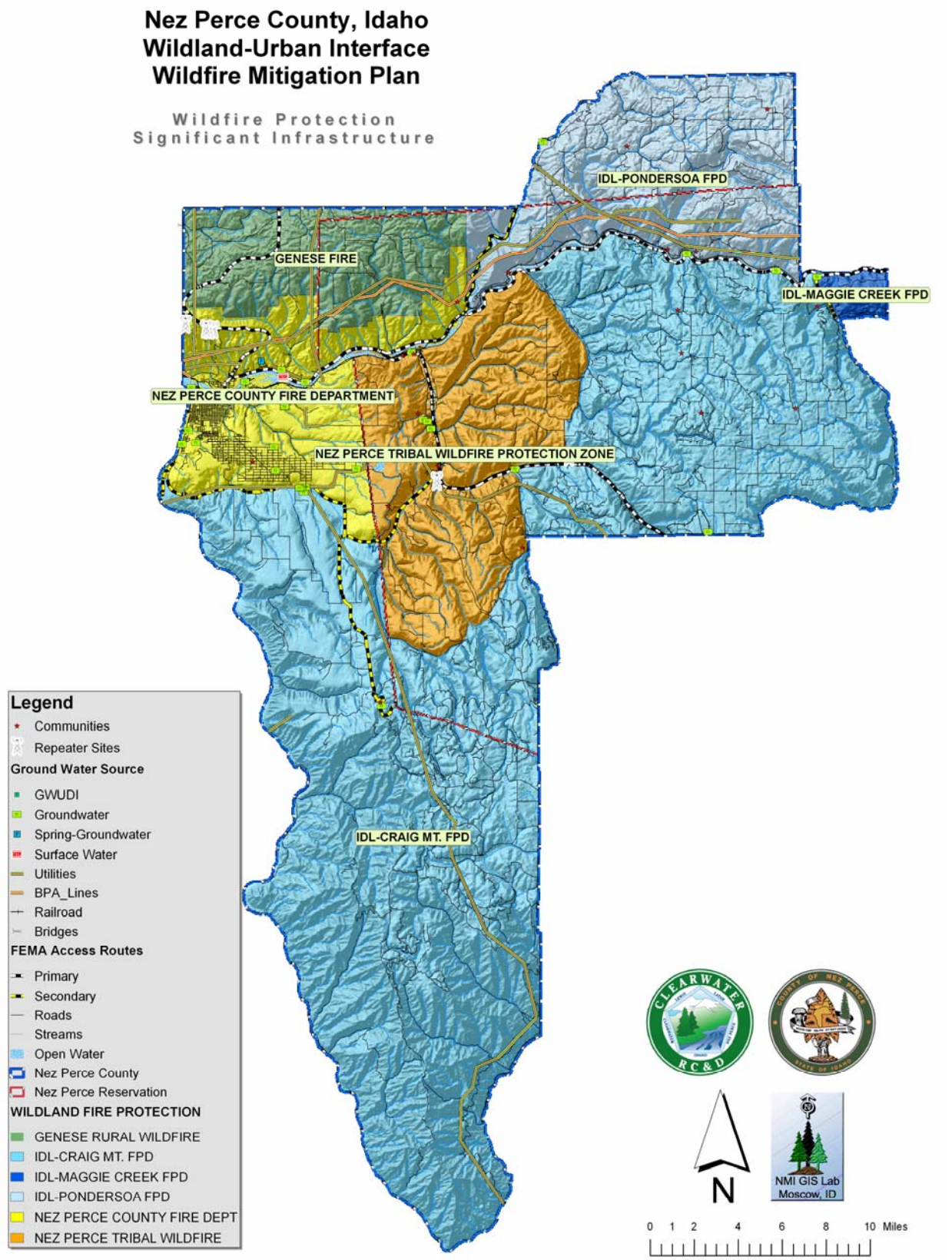
City & Rural Fire Districts



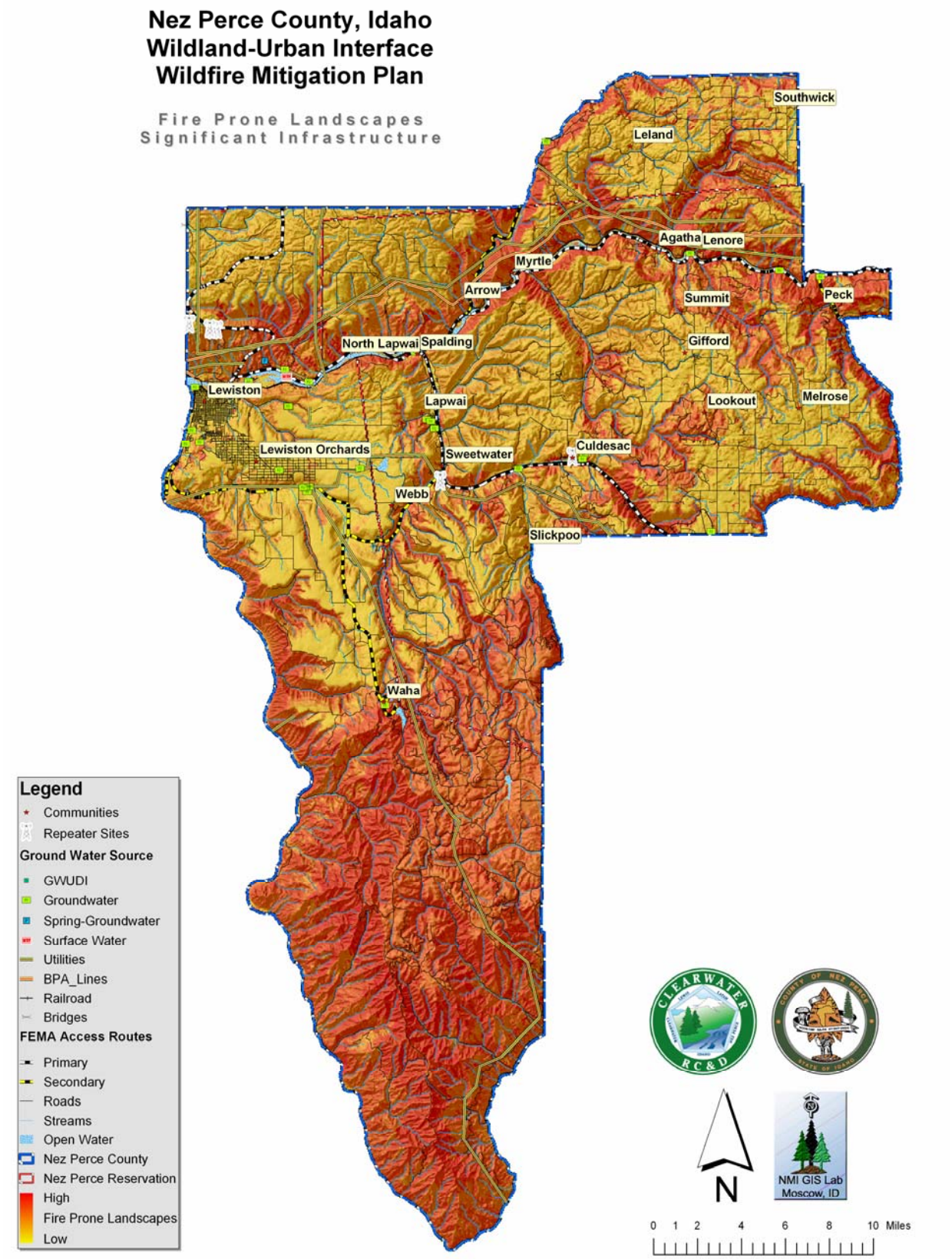
Clearwater Fire Protection Service Area



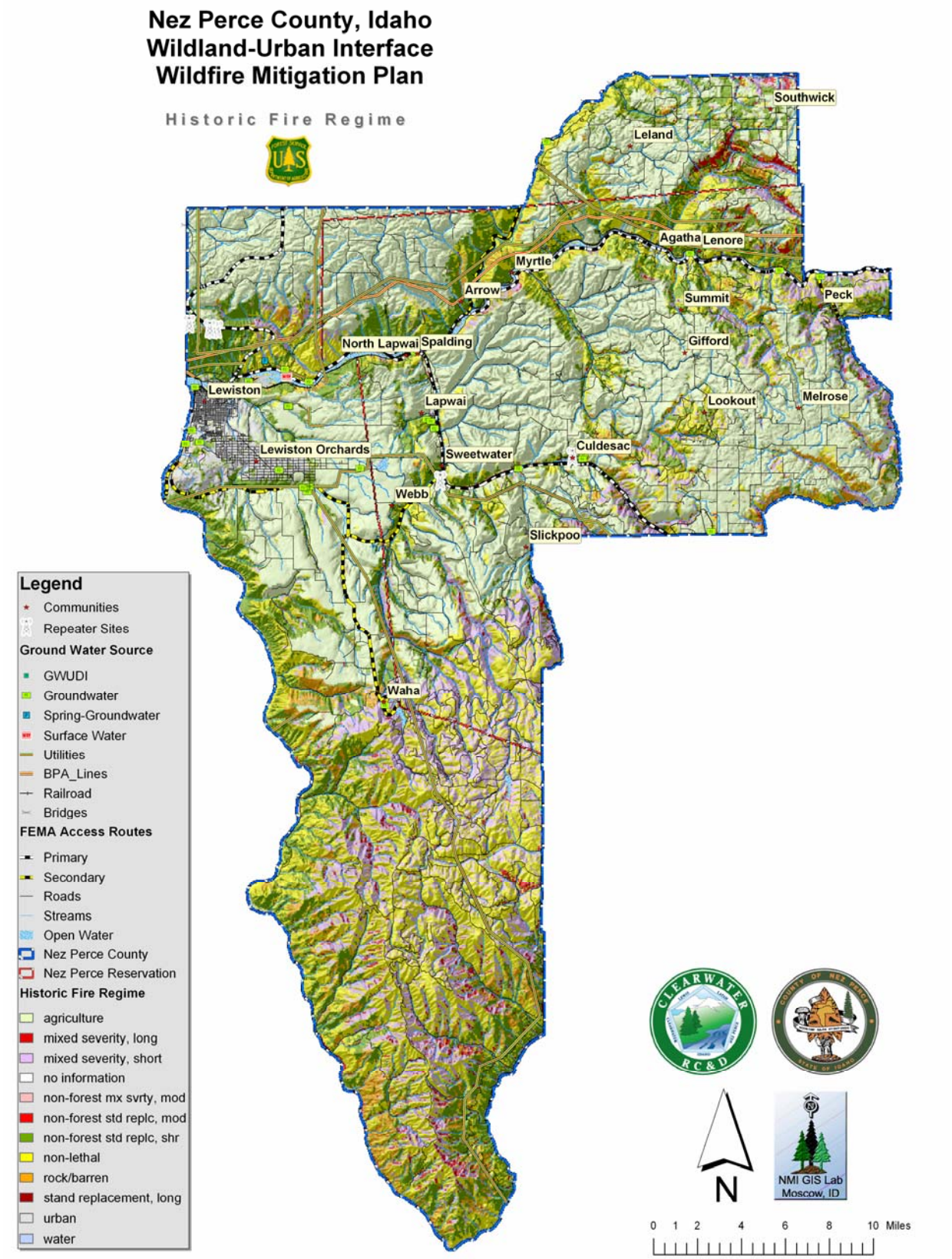
Wildland Fire Protection in Nez Perce County



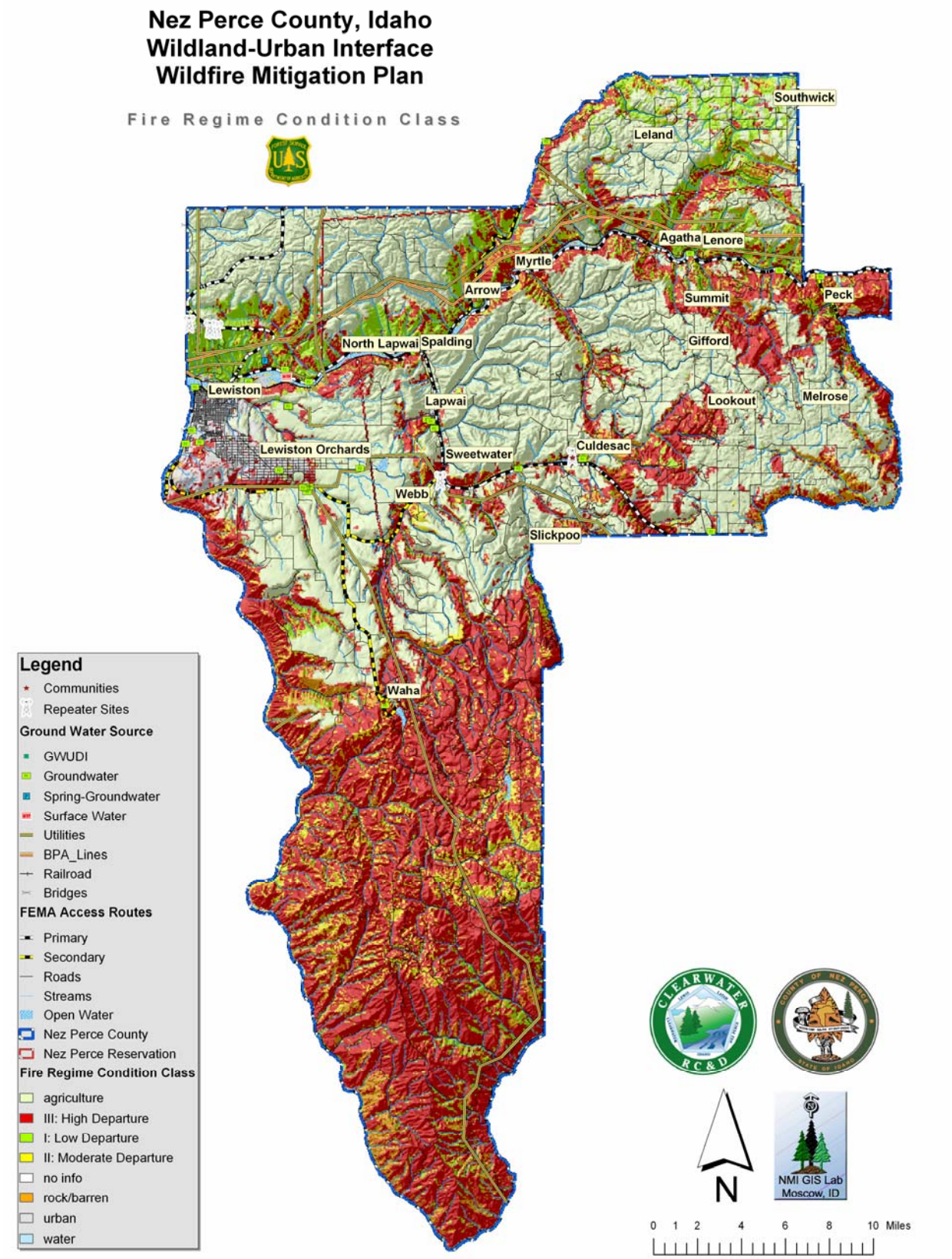
Fire Prone Landscapes in Nez Perce County



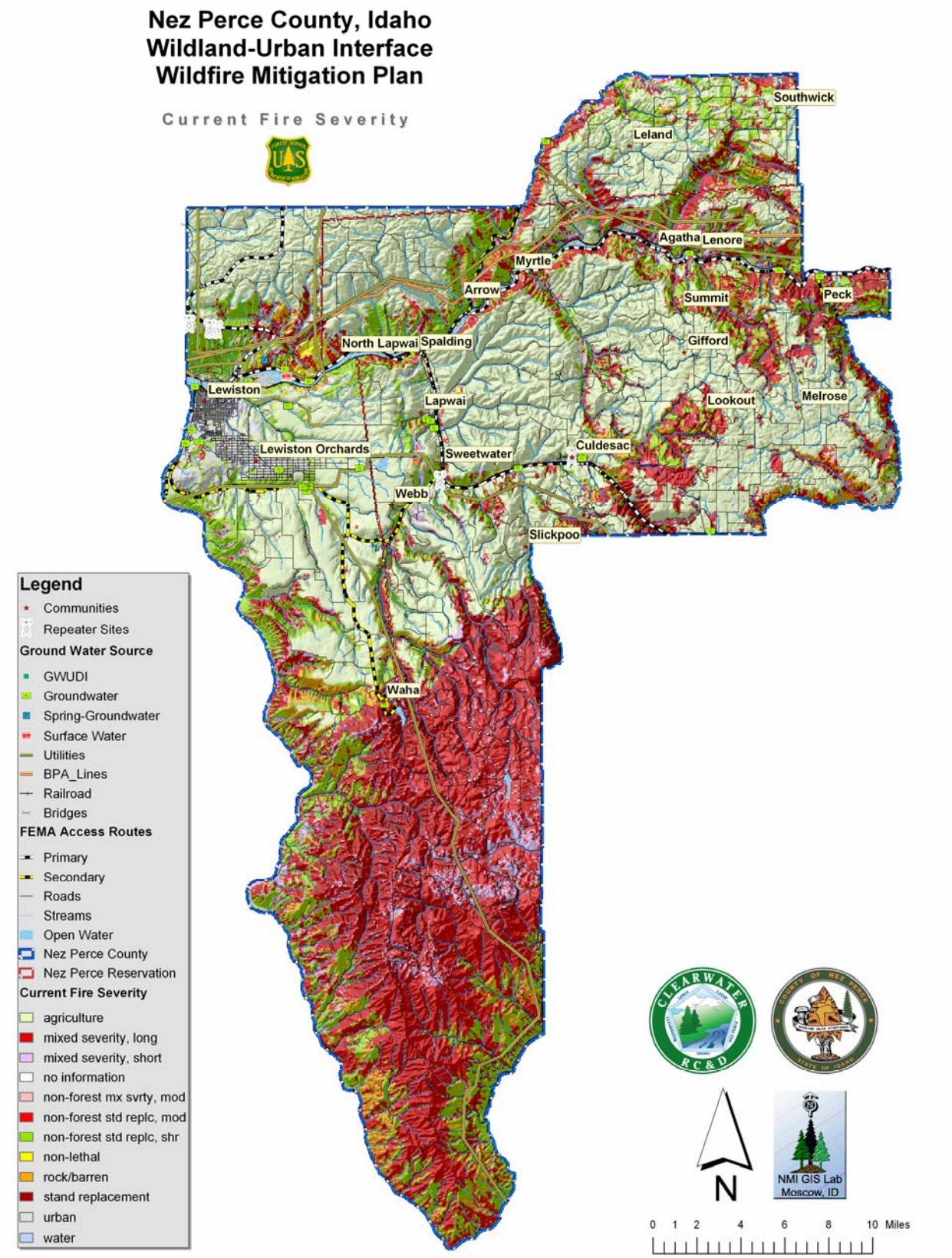
Historic Fire Regime in Nez Perce County



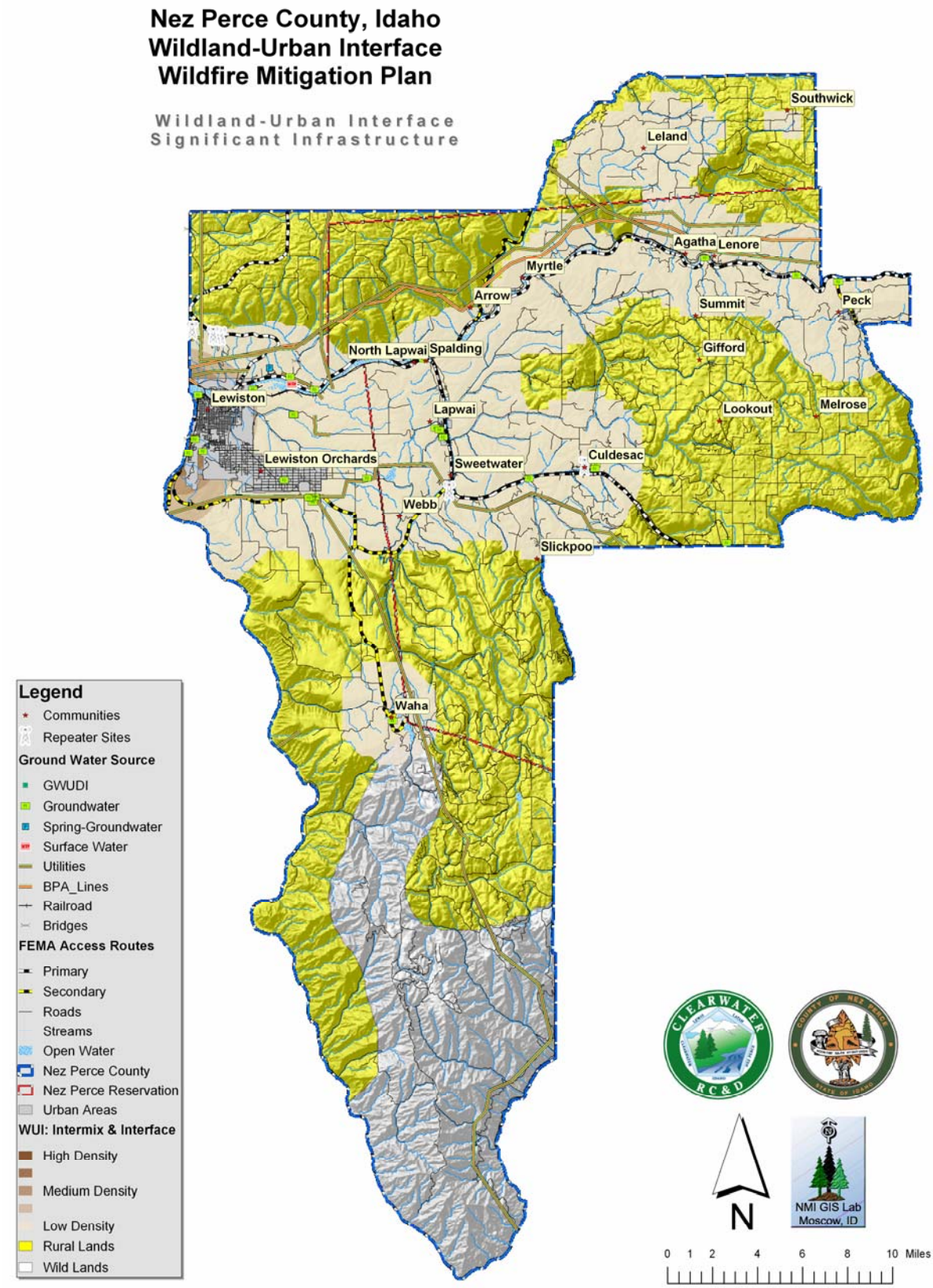
Fire Regime Condition Class in Nez Perce County



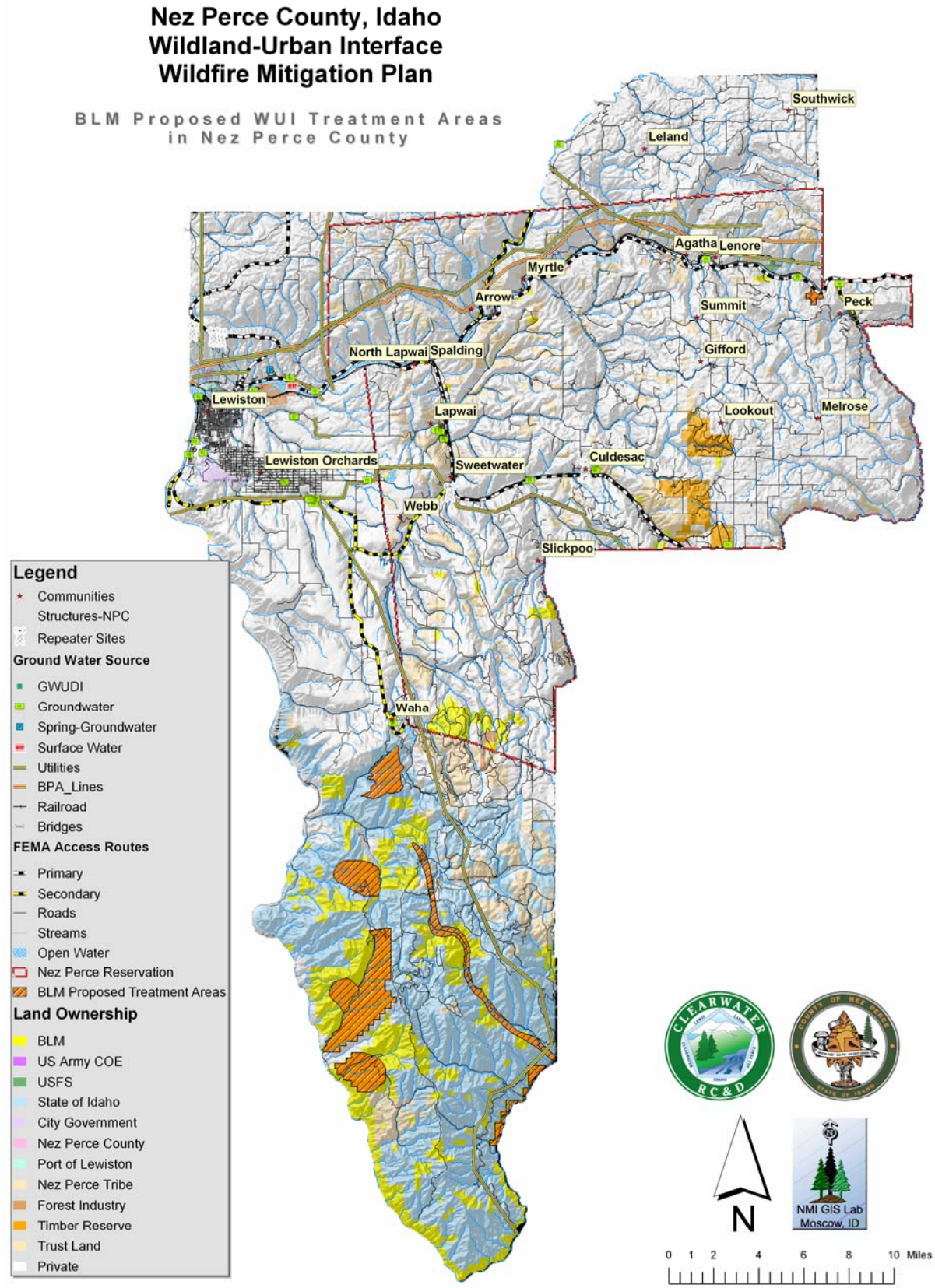
Current Fire Severity in Nez Perce County



Wildland-Urban Interface and Significant Infrastructure



Proposed Treatment Areas of the BLM



Appendix II

Public Mail Survey

Public Letter #1

mailed on October 19, 2004

Northwest Management, Inc.
Natural Resources Management

233 E. Palouse River Drive
PO Box 9748
Moscow, ID 83843
Tel: 208-883-4488
Fax: 208-883-1098
www.Consulting-Foresters.com

Providing a Balanced Approach to Natural Resource Management

Nez Perce County Wildfire Mitigation Plan Survey

October 19, 2004

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Nez Perce County Resident:

Thank you for taking fifteen minutes of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. We are working with the Nez Perce County Commissioners' Office and a host of fire protection and disaster relief organizations in Nez Perce County to update the **Nez Perce County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan.** As an individual who lives in Nez Perce County, you know that the urban-rural interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to wildland fires.

This year we are taking a proactive role in reducing fire starts and reducing wildland fire-caused casualty loss in your area. We are inviting you to help yourself and your neighbors by taking a proactive role as well by completing and returning the attached survey.

We are developing improved predictive models of where fires are likely to ignite, locating and identifying high risk landscape characteristics, advancing improved land management practices to reduce fire rate-of-spread on forestlands and rangelands, and working with rural landowners to create asset protection zones around homes and buildings so that fires are controlled BEFORE they take a landowner's valuable possessions. It is the last of these goals that we need your help with.

We would like you to complete the attached survey about your home's preparedness in the case of wildland fire. Your responses will be kept completely confidential and released only in summative form. This questionnaire will allow us to identify key criteria that may place your home and the homes of your neighbors at the greatest risk. We will use this information to develop mitigation activities that may lead to saving your home and the community you live in. If certain questions are not applicable to your home do not provide an answer and move on to the next question.

We have sent this letter and survey to only a select number of people living in Nez Perce County. Because of this, your response is very important to our efforts and the application of our findings to your home and to your community. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the self-addressed envelope.

We would like to thank you for your assistance on this project with a small token of appreciation. During the development of this project, we are completing some very advanced mapping of Nez Perce County. We have created detailed maps showing roads, rivers, elevation, fire prone landscapes, potential fire ignition locations, plant cover characteristics, and even orthophoto coverage (black and white images taken from high elevation) with features over them. These maps are printed at 8.5” x 11” sizes. If you give us a legal land description, we will make a high resolution map of this property and send it to you. The map might be the locale of your home, your property, or even your favorite recreation spot. When you complete your survey, please mark which map coverage you would like, and we will custom color print this map for you and send it at no charge. It is our way of thanking you for your input to this very important project.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this project or this survey please contact me or Tom Richards at the Northwest Management, Inc. office in Moscow, Idaho at 208-883-4488.

Sincerely,

William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

Project Manager, Nez Perce County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan

Northwest Management, Inc.

Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan

Public Survey

1. Do you have a home in Nez Perce County?
   - O Yes
   - O No
2. Is this your primary residence?
   - O Yes
   - O No
3. Which community do you live closest to?

   _____
4. Does your area have 911 emergency telephone service?
   - O Yes
   - O No
5. Is your home protected by a rural fire department?
   - O Yes
   - O No
6. Is your rural address visible and identifiable from the primary access road to your residence?
   - O Yes
   - O No
7. What type of roof does your home have (please mark one):
   - O Composite
   - O Wooden shake (shingles)
   - O Ceramic tiles
   - O Aluminum, tin, or other metal
   - O Other (please indicate: _____)
8. How many trees are there within 250 feet of your home?
   - O None
   - O Less than 10
   - O Between 10 and 25
   - O More than 25
9. How many trees are there within 75 feet of your home?
   - O None
   - O Less than 10
   - O Between 10 and 25
   - O More than 25
10. What additional type of vegetation is within 75 feet of your home? Check all that apply.
    - O None
    - O Grass
    - O Brush

11. Do you have a lawn surrounding your home?
    - O No
    - O Yes, if yes is it kept green and trimmed all summer?
        - O No
        - O Yes

12. How long is your driveway, from the main road to your home parking area? Please indicate distance units in feet or miles.

    _____ O Feet O Miles

13. How wide is the running surface of your driveway?
    - O 6 ft – 9 ft
    - O 10 ft - 13 ft
    - O 14 ft - 17 ft
    - O 18 ft +

14. If your driveway is over 1/4 mile long, does it have turnouts that would allow two emergency vehicles to pass each other?
    - O No
    - O Yes

15. What type of surfacing does your driveway have?
    - O Dirt
    - O Gravel/rock
    - O Paved

16. What is the lowest overhead obstruction in your drive way (i.e. Powerline, archway, tree branches, etc.) in feet? _____ ft.

17. Choose the most accurate description of the <u>steepest grade</u> of your driveway:
    - O Flat. No grade.
    - O Moderate. Some grade, may have to use 4 wheel drive in slippery/icy conditions.
    - O Steep. Difficult for 2 wheel drive vehicles to pass, 4 wheel drive a must in slippery/icy conditions.

18. If the primary access to your home were cut off because of a wildfire, would you have an alternative route to escape through?
    - O No
    - O Yes

19. Please indicate which of the following items you have available at or near your home that could be used in fighting a wildland fire that threatens your home (mark all that apply)
    - O Hand tools (shovel, pulaski, etc.)
    - O Portable water tank
    - O Stationery water tank
    - O Pond, lake, or stream water supply close
    - O Water pump and fire hose
    - O Equipment suitable for creating fire breaks (bulldozer, cat, skidder, etc.)

20. Please indicate which of the following types of media you and your household obtain information from on emergencies situations within the county.
    - O Television
    - O Radio (AM or FM)
    - O Newspaper
    - O Police Scanner
    - O Other

21. Please indicate any emergency services training anyone in your household have received.

Type of Training	No	Yes
Wildland Fire Fighting	O	O
City or Rural Fire Fighting	O	O
EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)	O	O
Basic First Aid/ CPR	O	O
Search and Rescue	O	O

22. Do you conduct a periodic fuels reduction program near your home site such as grass or brush burning?
    - O No
    - O Yes
23. Do you know the dates of the State of Idaho Open Burning Season?
    - O No
    - O Yes
24. Do livestock (cattle, horses, sheep) graze the grasses and forbs around your home?
    - O No
    - O Yes

25. Use this exercise below to assess your home's fire risk rating:
Circle the rating that best describes your home.

	Fuel Hazard Rating Worksheet	Rating
Fuel Hazard	Small, light fuels (grasses, forbs, weeds, shrubs)	1
	Medium size fuels (brush, large shrubs, small trees)	2
	Heavy, large fuels (woodlands, timber, heavy brush)	3
Slope Hazard	Mild slopes (0-5%)	1
	Moderate slope (6-20%)	2
	Steep Slopes (21-40%)	3
	Extreme slopes (41% and greater)	4
Structure Hazard	Noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding materials	1
	Noncombustible roof and combustible siding material	3
	Combustible roof and noncombustible siding material	7
	Combustible roof and combustible siding materials	10
Additional Factors	Rough topography that contains several steep canyons or ridges	+2
	Areas having history of higher than average fire occurrence	+3
	Areas exposed to severe fire weather and strong winds	+4
	Areas with existing fuel modifications or usable fire breaks	-3
	Areas with local facilities (water systems, rural fire districts, dozers)	-3

Calculating your risk:

Fuel Hazard _____ x Slope Hazard _____ = _____
Structural Hazard + _____
Additional Factors (+ or -)_____
Total Hazard Points = _____

Extreme Risk = 26 + points
High Risk = 16–25 points
Moderate Risk = 6–15 points
Low Risk = 6 or less points

26. If offered in your area, would members of your household attend a free, or low cost, one-day training seminar designed to teach homeowners in the rural–urban interface how to improve the defensible space surrounding your home and adjacent outbuildings?
    - ○ No
    - ○ Yes
27. How do you feel Wildland Fire Hazard Mitigation projects should be **funded** in the areas surrounding homes, communities, and infrastructure such as power lines and major roads?

	Mark the box that best applies to your preference		
	100% Public Funding	**Cost-Share (Public & Private)**	**Privately Funded (Owner or Company)**
Home Defensibility Projects	○	○	○
Community Defensibility Projects	○	○	○
Infrastructure Projects Roads, Bridges, Power Lines, Etc.	○	○	○

Thank you very much for completing this survey and sending it back to us. This information will be combined with other data to assess the greatest threats to defending homes and adjacent buildings in the rural–urban interface where wildland fires are common.
Please place the completed survey and the Map Request Form in the self-addressed envelope and place it in the mail for return to us. Thank you!

Order Your Nez Perce County Area Map

FREE

As a token of appreciation for completing and returning this survey, we would like to send you a detailed map of your favorite area. Complete this form and return it to us with your survey and we will custom print a color map of your property and send it to you. Maps are produced by NMI during the winter months of December, January and February. Expect your maps to arrive in the mail during this time.

What is the legal land description of the property you want mapped (must be in Nez Perce County).

_____ T _____N, R _____ E.

or describe the area _____

_____

About how many acres is the parcel you want mapped? _____ acres

What would you like printed as the title of the map? (Five or less words, please print)

_____

Please select which coverage (only one per map) you would like as the primary theme:

- O Land Ownership Categories (over shaded relief map)
- O Ortho photo (limited availability)

Maps may include:

- Roads
- Streams & rivers
- Community locations
- Building locations

Please verify your name and full address here so we can send your map to you:

Our records indicate that your address is:	If this is incorrect please correct it here:
Name	_____
Address	_____
City State Zip	_____

Public Letter #2

sent as a postcard on October 28, 2004

October 28, 2004

Dear Nez Perce County Resident:

About a week ago, I mailed you a letter and a brief survey concerning the wildfire situation in your community. That survey is instrumental to the success of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan we are developing in conjunction with the Nez Perce County Commissioners Office. We have received responses from many families in the area and we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has participated. However, we still have not received completed surveys from many homes in the region. If you have not returned the completed survey to us yet, please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it in the self-addressed envelope provided with the letter.

Your responses are very important to this effort which will recommend the location and type of wildfire mitigation projects to be implemented in the area of your home. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Project Leader Tom Richards or me at 208-883-4488. If you did not receive my original letter, or if you misplaced your survey, you can request a new one at the number below or write me requesting another survey.

William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

Northwest Management, Inc. Natural Resource Management
233 Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow ID 83843
Tel: 208-883-4488, Fax 208-883-1098, http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com/

Public letter #3

Sent on November 5, 2004, and included a replacement survey (not included here).

Northwest Management, Inc.
Natural Resources Management

233 E. Palouse River Drive
PO Box 9748
Moscow, ID 83843
Tel: 208-883-4488
Fax: 208-883-1098
www.Consulting-Foresters.com

Providing a Balanced Approach to Natural Resource Management

Nez Perce County All Hazards Mitigation Plan Survey

November 5, 2004

Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Nez Perce County Resident:

Thank you for taking some of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. About two weeks ago, I sent you a letter and package of materials much like this one. In it, I asked if you would please assist our efforts by reading, filling out, and returning a survey concerning a **Fire Mitigation Plan** we are preparing for Nez Perce County in cooperation with the Nez Perce County Commissioner's Office and a host of fire protection and disaster relief organizations in Nez Perce County. While we have received excellent responses from many residents of the area, we have not received them from everyone**. If you have completed and returned your survey, please accept our sincere thanks!** If you have not returned the completed survey, please do so as soon as possible.

As an individual who lives in Nez Perce County, you know that the urban-rural interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to wildland fires. This year we are taking a proactive role in reducing fire starts and reducing wildland fire-caused casualty loss in your area. We are inviting you to help yourself and your neighbors by taking a proactive role as well by completing and returning the attached survey.

We are developing improved predictive models of where fires are likely to ignite, locating and identifying high risk landscape characteristics, advancing improved land management practices to reduce fire rate-of-spread on forestlands and rangelands, and working with rural landowners to create asset protection zones around homes and buildings so that fires are controlled BEFORE they take a landowner's valuable possessions. It is the last of these goals that we need your help with.

We would like you to complete the attached survey about your home's preparedness in the case of wildland fire. Your responses will be kept completely confidential and released only in summative form. This questionnaire will allow us to identify key criteria that may place your home and the homes of your neighbors at the greatest risk. We will use this

information to develop mitigation activities that may lead to saving your home and the community you live in. If certain questions are not applicable to your home do not provide an answer and move on to the next question.

We have sent this letter and survey to only a select number of people living in Nez Perce County. Because of this, your response is very important to our efforts and the application of our findings to your home and to your community. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the self-addressed envelope.

We would like to thank you for your assistance on this project with a small token of appreciation. During the development of this project, we are completing some very advanced mapping of Nez Perce County. We have created detailed maps showing roads, rivers, elevation, fire prone landscapes, potential fire ignition locations, plant cover characteristics, and even orthophoto coverage (black and white images taken from high elevation) with features over them. These maps are printed at 8.5” x 11” sizes. If you give us a legal land description, we will make a high resolution map of this property and send it to you. The map might be the locale of your home, your property, or even your favorite recreation spot. When you complete your survey, please mark which map coverage you would like, and we will custom color print this map for you and send it at no charge. It is our way of thanking you for your input to this very important project.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this project or this survey please contact me or Tom Richards at the Northwest Management, Inc. office in Moscow, Idaho at 208-883-4488.

Sincerely,

William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.
Project Manager, Nez Perce County All Hazards Mitigation Plan
Northwest Management, Inc.

Appendix III

Potential Funding Sources

Program:	**Rural Fire Assistance**
Source:	Bureau of Land Management
Description:	BLM provides funds to rural fire departments for wildfire fighting; also provides wildland fire equipment, training and/or prevention materials.
More info:	Dale Anderson, RFA Coordinator, BLM, 208-373-3861; dale_anderson@blm.gov

Program:	**Communities at Risk**
Source:	Bureau of Land Management
Description:	Assistance to communities for hazardous fuels reduction projects in the wildland urban interface; includes funding for assessments and mitigation planning.
More info:	Jon Skinner, Idaho BLM, 208-373-3854

Program:	**State Fire Assistance**
Source:	US Forest Service
Description:	USFS grants to state foresters through state and private grants, under authority of Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. Grant objectives are to maintain and improve protection efficiency and effectiveness on non-federal lands, training, equipment, preparedness, prevention and education.
More info:	www.fireplan.gov and www2.state.id.us/lands; Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands 208-666-8650

Program:	**State Fire Assistance Hazard Mitigation Program**
Source:	National Fire Plan
Description:	These special state Fire Assistance funds are targeted at hazard fuels treatment in the wildland-urban interface. Recipients include state forestry organizations, local fire services, county emergency planning committees and private landowners.
More info:	www.fireplan.gov and www.fs.fed.us/r4 and www2.state.id.us/lands; Jean Kaysen, Idaho Department of Lands 208-769-1525

Program:	**Volunteer Fire Assistance**
Source:	US Forest Service
Description:	Provides funding and technical assistance to local and volunteer fire departments for organizing, training and equipment to enable them to effectively meet their structure and wildland protection responsibilities. US Forest Service grants provided to state foresters through state and private grants under the authority of Coop Forestry Assistance Act.
More info:	www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa ; Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8650

Program:	**Forest Land Enhancement Program**
Source:	US Forest Service

Description: The 2002 Farm Bill repealed the Forestry Incentives Program (authorized in 1978) and Stewardship Incentive Program (1990) cost share programs and replaced it with a new Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). FLEP purposes include 1) Enhance the productivity of timber, fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water quality, wetland, recreational resources, and aesthetic values of forest land through landowner cost share assistance, and 2) Establish a coordinated, cooperative federal, state and local sustainable forestry program to establish, manage, maintain, enhance and restore forests on non-industrial private forest land.

More info: www.usda.gov/farmbill

Program: **Federal Excess Property**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: Provides assistance to state, county and local governments by providing excess federal property (equipment, supplies, tools) for wildland and rural community fire response.

More info: www2.state.id.us/lands; George Riffle, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8664

Program: **Economic Action Program**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: A USFS, state and private program with involvement from local Forest Service offices to help identify projects. Addresses long-term economic and social health of rural areas; assists the development of enterprises through diversified uses of forest products, marketing assistance, and utilization of hazardous fuel byproducts.

More info: www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/community/; Bob Ford, Idaho Department of Commerce, 800-842-5858

Program: **Forest Stewardship Program**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: Funding helps enable preparation of management plans on state, private and tribal lands to ensure effective and efficient hazardous fuel treatment.

More info: www2.state.id.us/lands; G. Kirk David, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8626

Program: **Community Planning**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: USFS provides funds to recipients with involvement of local Forest Service offices for the development of community strategic action and fire risk management plans to increase community resiliency and capacity.

More info: www.idoc.state.id.us; Bob Ford, Idaho Department of Commerce, 800-842-5858

Program: **Firefighters Assistance**

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and US Fire Administration Program

Description: Financial assistance to help improve fire-fighting operations, services and provide equipment.

More info: www.usfa.fema.gov

Program: **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program**

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Description: Emergency management assistance to local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans.

More info: www.usfa.fema.gov; Steven Weiser, Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services, 208-334-3460

Program: **Idaho Forestry Assistance Program**

Source: Idaho Department of Lands

Description: Funding available to assist with organizing, training, and purchasing fire fighting equipment.

More info: www2.state.id.us/lands/Bureau/FireMgt/Fire_assistance.htm; Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8650

Program: **Community Facilities Loans and Grants**

Source: Rural Housing Service (RHS) U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

Description: Provides grants (and loans) to cities, counties, states and other public entities to improve community facilities for essential services to rural residents. Projects can include fire and rescue services; funds have been provided to purchase fire-fighting equipment for rural areas. No match is required.

More info: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov;/or local county Rural Development office.

Program: **Sale of Federal Surplus Personal Property**

Source: General Services Administration

Description: This program sells property no longer needed by the federal government. The program provides individuals, businesses and organizations the opportunity to enter competitive bids for purchase of a wide variety of personal property and equipment. Normally, there is no use restrictions on the property purchased.

More info: www.gsa.gov

Program: **Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property**

Source: U. S. Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Description: Program provides reimbursement to fire service organizations that have engaged in firefighting operations on federal land. Payments can be for direct expenses and direct losses.

More info: www.fema.gov

Program: **Fire Management Assistance Grant Program**

Source: Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA

Description: Program provides grants to states, tribal governments and local governments for the mitigation, management and control of any fire burning on publicly (nonfederal) or privately owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The grants are made in the form of cost sharing with the federal share being 75 percent of total eligible costs. Grant approvals are made within 1 to 72 hours from time of request.

More info: www.fema.gov

Program: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

Source: Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA

Description:	Provides states and local governments with financial assistant to implement measures to reduce of eliminate damage and losses from natural hazards. Funded projects have included vegetation management projects. It is each State's responsibility to identify and select hazard mitigation projects.
More info:	www.fema.gov

Program:	**Boise State University Wildland Fire Academy**.
Source:	Partnership between BSU and SWIFT (Southwest Idaho Fire Training, a group including the BLM, Forest Service, and the Idaho Department of Lands).
Description:	Provides a full range of fire training classes during one week in June at the Selland College of Technology on the BSU campus. Tuition is required. Open to federal, state, local fire fighters, contractors, and the public. Housing is available on campus. (Separate from, but in conjunction with, this academy, BSU recently began offering an associate degree program in fire science.)
More info:	BLM training officer, 208-384-3403, or BSU's Selland College, 208-426-1974.

Appendix IV

Training Programs

Program: **National Fire Academy Educational Program**

Source: National Fire Academy, U. S. Fire Administration, FEMA

Description: Provides training to people responsible for fire prevention and control. Training is provided at the resident facility in Emmetsburg, Maryland, and travel stipends are available for attendees. The course is available to any individual who is a member of a fire department; attendees are selected based on need and benefit to be derived by their community.

More info: www.fema.gov

Program: **Emergency Management Institute (EMI), Independent Study Program**

Source: EMI Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA

Description: The program currently provides 32 courses in emergency management practices to assist fire department managers with response to emergencies and disasters. Several courses could apply to fires in rural interface areas.

More info: www.fema.gov

Research Programs

Program: **Forestry Research** (Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act)

Source: U S Forest Service

Description: Awards grants for research in a wide array of forest-related fields, including forest management and forest fire protection.

Contact: www.fs.fed.uslinksresearch.html

Private Foundations

Source: **Idaho Community Foundation**

Description: Provides grants for community development, human services; past grants have been awarded for equipment and an array of firefighting and rescue needs. Grants range from $250 to $25,000.

Deadline: Feb 1 for northern region; Nov 1 for statewide cycle

More info: Contact foundation for application information packet: 210 S. State Street, Boise, ID 83702; 208-342-3535; info@idcomfdn.org; www.idcomfdn.org

Source: **The Allstate Foundation**

Description: Provides grants for community development, government/public administration, safety/disasters. Grants average $1,000 to $10,000.

Deadline: None

More info: Guidelines available by mail request only: 2775 Sanders Rd., Suite F3, Northbrook, IL 60062-6127; www.allstate.com/foundation/

Source: **Plum Creek Foundation**

Description: Provides grants for community projects in areas of company operations. In 2000, grants were awarded to a volunteer fire department and a county search & rescue unit. An application form is required. Grants average around $5,000.

Deadline: None

More info: Contact foundation at 999-3rd Ave, Suite 2300, Seattle, WA 98104; 206-467-3600; www.plumcreek.com/company/foundation.cfm; foundation@plumcreek.com

Source: **The Steele-Reese Foundation**

Description: Provides grants for rural development and projects that benefit rural areas; Idaho is one of several areas in which the foundation funds projects. Have funded projects for emergency volunteers and fire protection districts in the past. Grant amounts fall within a wide range. The foundation requires three copies of the request letter; no application form is required.

Deadline: April 1

More info: 32 Washington Square West, New York, NY 10011. Info on Idaho programs:

406-722-4564

Appendix V

Laws Governing Fire Districts in Idaho

In 1943, the Idaho legislature passed, and Governor C.A. Bottolfsen signed, the Idaho Fire Protection District Law. The law specifically recognized the legality of all fire protection districts and the legality of their officers existing prior to its passage. Pre-existing districts were instructed to comply with the provision of the law as soon as they could conveniently do so. Since that time, the law has been amended over two dozen times. The most comprehensive revision of the law occurred in 1994. The 1994 revisions stipulated that all districts created or annexed during the twelve-month period prior to June 1, 1994 were considered to be in full compliance with all applicable laws regardless of prior interpretations.

The basic purpose of the 1994 revisions was to establish procedures for the formation, operation, and dissolution of fire protection districts in the State of Idaho.

What follows is a general description of the steps needed for fire district formation, the expansion of an existing district to take in new territory, and to consolidate two of more districts into one district. Please note that whenever a reference is made to the singular action of one Board of County Commissioner hereafter in this description, it may include joint action taken or required by two or more boards of county commissioners where two or more counties are involved in fire district formation. This also applies to annexation of new territory, or consolidation of two or more fire districts in different counties. Boards of Commissioners in two or more counties are authorized by law to act jointly if a fire district has territory within each county. It is always best to seek competent legal advice if the intent is to form, annex, or consolidate districts.

Additional Information. For additional information regarding fire district officers, duties and responsibilities, operations of the Fire District Board of Commissioners, cooperative arrangements, finance, etc., refer to the Handbook for Idaho Fire Protection Districts.[1]

I. Creation of a New Fire Protection District

A fire protection district may be created in any portion of a county that is not already organized into a district. Three steps must be followed to establish a fire protection district:

1) The proponents of the new district must file a petition with the Board of County Commissioners;
2) The Board of County Commissioner must hold a public hearing before the new district is formed; and
3) The qualified electors within the proposed district must approve the district's formation.

1) Filing the Petition: The first step in creating a fire protection district is to draw up a petition requesting its creation. The petition must designate the boundaries of the district, identify the proposed name, and include a map of the district. It must be signed by at least twenty-five property owners in the proposed district whose property holdings total at least 1,000 contiguous acres or

[1] Handbook for Idaho Fire Protection Districts. Bureau of Public Affairs Research. University of Idaho 2002. More information on how to obtain a handbook is found at the website: http: //www.uidaho.edu/bpar/fire.html

have an assessed valued of at least $500,000 and are not currently included in any existing fire district.

The petition must be presented to the Board of County Commissioners and filed with the Clerk of the Board. The petition and supporting documents must be available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk from the time of filing until the election.

The petitioners must deposit with the Board enough money to cover the costs of advertising and hold the election to create the district. The Board determines the amount required and the funds must be deposited prior to the Board's publishing notice of the hearing for creation of the district. If the district is organized, the petitioners are reimbursed from the first tax money collected by the newly formed district for the advertising and election costs.

Any area within a city may be included within a fire protection district by resolution or ordinance of its governing board.

2) The Hearing: The Board of County Commissioners must set a time for a public hearing on the petition between four and six weeks after it has been filed. If the proposed fire protection district is located in two or more counties, the boards of commissioners of the affected counties must coordinate the hearing date and the publication of the hearing notice so that only one hearing is held. The hearing must be held in the county with the largest area in the proposed fire protection district. The boards of county commissioners representing the affected counties are authorized to act in a joint manner.

For three successive weeks prior to the hearing, the Board must publish notice of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in which the proposed district is to be located. The notice must include a description of the proposed district and its boundaries, the date of the public hearing, and state that all taxpayers within the proposed district may appear and express their views on the organization of the district and its boundaries. At the hearing, all objections are presented to the Board. After considering all testimony, the Board decides whether to deny the petition, grant it as filed, or grant it with modification. If the petition is granted, the Board of County Commissioners fixes the boundaries of the proposed district and files a map of the district with the Clerk of the Board.

3) The Election: After the Board of County Commissioners set the boundaries of the district, the Clerk of the Board must twice publish a notice of the election in a newspaper published within the county or counties affected to determine whether or not the district should be organized. The notice must clearly designate the names and boundaries of the proposed district and require voters to cast ballots containing the words "fire protection district, yes," or "fire protection district, no." The first notice must be published not less than 12 days prior to the election and the second not less than five days prior to the election. If the proposed fire protection district is to be located in two or more counties, the boards of county commissioners will conduct the election on the same day in each county.

Voter qualifications for a fire protection district election are the same as for other state elections: a qualified voter must be United States citizen, be at least 18 years old, and be residents of the state or the county for at least 30 days. The voter must also be a resident of the proposed fire protection district and be registered with the County Clerk.

The Board of County Commissioners creates as many election precincts within the proposed district as it deems necessary, and appoints three election judges for each precinct. The election judges forward the official election results to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. Within ten days of receiving the returns, the Board of County Commissioners must canvas the votes. Where more than one county is involved, the boards of commissioners of the affected counties are to coordinate the canvassing and the announcement of the results.

The Board of County Commissioners in each county approving a newly formed district must provide a copy of the legal description and map, prepared in draftsman-like manner, to the County Assessor and Clerk and Recorder of the county or counties within thirty days of the effective date of district's formation. The fire protection district is responsible for filing the map and legal description with the State Tax Commission.

Initially, any newly created fire district must consist of three commissioners. At the time of establishment of a new fire protection district, the Board of County Commissioners shall divide the district into three subdivisions, as nearly equal in population and territory as possible.

II. Expanding an Existing Fire District

Annexation of territory within the same county. Both contiguous and noncontiguous territory may be annexed by an existing fire protection district; however, any noncontiguous territory to be included must, itself, consist of not less than forty -acre parcels of contiguous territory in order to qualify for annexation. There are two methods for annexing territory in the same county:

- At least 75 percent of the owners or contract purchasers of the land sought to be annexed may petition the fire protection board of commissioners for annexation. After receiving the petition, the fire protection district board must hold a public hearing within ten to thirty days. The fire protection district board must publish notice of the place of the hearing in at least one issue of a newspaper of general circulation within the district. Any person attending the hearing who wishes to express support or opposition must be allowed to speak at the hearing. After the hearing, the fire protection district board either approves or rejects the petition. If the board approves the petition, it makes an order to that effect and sends to the Board of County Commissioners a certified copy of the petition and a legal description of the annexed territory. The Board of County Commissioner enters and records an order of annexation, ensuring that the annexed property will be properly included in the tax rolls for the fire protection district.
- If at least 75 percent of the owners or contract purchasers of the land sought for annexation fail to sign the petition for annexation, or if the petition is denied, the territory may still be annexed by securing an affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified voters residing in the additional territory. The vote may be taken at either a general or special election. Before the annexation election, the inclusion must be approved by resolution of the board of the existing fire protection district and entered in the board minutes. The same procedures described above to create and organize a fire protection district, including petition, hearing, election notice, and an election, are to be followed for the annexation election.
- The Board of County Commissioners must provide a copy of the legal description and map, prepared in draftsman-like manner of the new boundaries to the County Assessor and Clerk and Recorder within 30 days of the effective date of the annexation of the district. The district is responsible for filing the map and legal description with the State Tax Commission.

Annexation of territory in an adjoining county. Contiguous or noncontiguous territory located in an adjoining county may be annexed to an existing fire protection district; however, any such noncontiguous territory proposed to be annexed must consist of at least forty contiguous acres. The procedures are similar to those required for the creation of a fire protection district with the following modifications:

- Two or more property owners of contiguous lands totaling at least 100 acres, or having an assessed value of at least $125,000 may initiate proceedings.
- A petition describing the territory to be annexed, naming, and describing the fire protection district to which annexation is sought must be filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the new territory is situated. The petition must be accompanied by a map showing the boundaries of the original district, the territory proposed to be annexed, the location of the intervening county line, and a certified copy of a resolution of the fire district board consenting to the annexation.
- Notice of the hearing on the petition before the Board of County Commissioners must identify the territory proposed to be annexed, the time and place of the hearing, and state that any taxpayer in the territory may appear and present objections.
- After the hearing, if the petition is granted, the Board of County Commissioners enters an order fixing the boundaries of the annexed territory, directing the Clerk of the Board to have a map prepared. Certified copies of the order and the map are then sent to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the original fire protection district is situated.
- An election must then be held in the territory desiring annexation. Notice of the election must describe the boundaries of the territory for which annexation is sought. The notice must describe the form of the ballot to be used at the election.
- The territory proposed to be annexed constitutes one election precinct. If a voter is challenged, he/she must swear in addition to the usual elector's oath, "I am a resident within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to ___ Fire Protection District."
- The Board of County Commissioners canvasses returns of the election. If more than half of the voters support annexation, the Board of County Commissioners by order declares the territory to be annexed to the existing fire protection district. A certified copy of the order is sent to the board of the original fire protection district, to the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the original district is situated, and to the County Clerk and Recorder of the county in which the newly annexed territory is situated.
- The Board of County Commissioners of the original fire district must provide a copy of the legal description and map showing the new boundaries of the district to the County Assessor and Clerk and Recorder within 30 days of the effective date of its formation. The fire protection district is responsible for filing the map and legal description with the State Tax Commission.
- At the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners following the annexation, the Board must re-divide the expanded fire protection district into three subdivisions as equal as possible in terms of land area and population. No more than one fire protection district commissioner may reside in each subdistrict. If redistricting results in two commissioners residing in the same subdistricts, they must draw lots to determine who will remain in position. County Commissioners appoint individuals to fill any vacancies resulting from the annexation and the appointed commissioners serve for the reminder of the term to which they are appointed. Certified copies of appointments of the secretary and treasure of the fire district board must be filed with the clerks of the boards of county commissioners of the affected counties and the County Treasurers in which the district is located.

Any area within the boundaries of an incorporated city may, by resolution or ordinance of the governing board, be annexed to a fire protection district.

III. Consolidation of Fire Districts

One or more fire protection districts may consolidate with each other. Consolidation requires consent of all affected fire protection district boards, and under certain circumstances, the voters of the affected districts.

If two or more fire protection district boards determine it would be advantageous to consolidate into one fire protection district, the boards must prepare a consolidation agreement, which agreement must provide:

- The name of the proposed consolidated district;
- That all debts and property of the separate districts will be transferred to the consolidated district;
- The number of commissioners, either 3 or 5, on the new board;
- That all existing commissioners will be commissioners of the consolidated district until the next scheduled election when new commissioners will be elected;
- Employees of the consolidated district shall be chosen from employees of the existing districts, who shall also retain seniority rights under existing employment contracts or agreements.

Each of the fire district boards must approve the agreement. Between 10 and 30 days after approval of the consolidation agreement, each board must also hold a public haring. Notice of the time and place of hearing must be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the proposed consolidated district at least 5 days before the hearing. Any persons attending the hearing must be given the opportunity to support or oppose the agreement. After the hearing, each board votes to approve or reject the proposed consolidation agreement. If each board approves, the agreement becomes effective and the consolidation is effective in 30 days unless a petition of objection is filed.

Consolidation may be initiated by the fire protection district commissioners in the districts affected. An alternative is a signed petition by 10 percent of the electors residing within the districts who voted in the last general election.

Appendix VI

Forming a Not For Profit Fire Service Organization

A non-profit organization is a group organized for purposes other than generating profit and in which no part of the organizations income is distributed to its members, directors, or officers. Some volunteer fire departments are organized as non-profit organizations.

Many -- but not all -- non-profit corporations, depending upon their purposes, can qualify for exemption from federal corporate income taxes. The U.S. Internal Revenue Code contains more than 25 different classifications of tax-exempt groups, including professional associations, charitable organizations, civic leagues, labor unions, fraternal organizations, and social clubs, to name just a few. Depending on the category of the exemption, such groups are entitled to certain privileges and subject to certain reporting and disclosure requirements and limitations on their activities. There are also a number of reporting requirements that must be adhered to after your organization is up and running.

Incorporation as a non-profit organization:

- Incorporation is a good idea if the group plans on being in existence for several years and has the need to raise money through grants and donations that require tax-exempt status.
- Incorporation and the process of seeking tax-exempt status can be costly and time-consuming.
- Liability of leaders and members of the corporation is limited (in other words, the individuals who control the corporation are not responsible, except in unusual situations, for the legal and financial obligations of the organization).
- There is a tax advantage for the financial donor if money is given to a tax-exempt corporation. (Tax-exempt status is defined in section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Tax Code.) Money can, however, be legally given to any group or individual without tax-exempt status.
- Some foundations will simply not fund groups that do not have final approval from IRS of its tax-exempt application.
- Incorporation requires careful minutes of official organizational meetings and good financial record keeping.
- If the group's budget is more than $25,000 per year, a tax return needs to be filed.
- Incorporation takes between 6 and 18 months to complete.

Incorporation Process:

- Develop clear and detailed By-laws and Articles of Incorporation
- Incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation within the state (filing with the state includes names and addresses of the first board of directors, etc.)
- File for recognition as tax-exempt with IRS

Estimated Costs for Incorporation . $2,600

Attorney fees	$1,000
Accountant fees	$1,000
Incorporation fees (state)	$ 50
Nonprofit application (IRS)	$ 550

Appendix VII

State and Federal Fire Related Codes

This section reviews the state and federal laws, policies, and organizations, which shape the responses to wildland fires that occur in Idaho.

State of Idaho

Federal law grants authority to the federal government and are not allowed to encroach on the constitutional rights afforded to states. Likewise, the state may not make laws that encroach on the powers constitutionally delegated to the federal government.

The State Board of Land Commissioners, all the state-wide elected officials, makes the rules regarding state lands while staying within the bounds of legislated law. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is an extension of the State Board of Land Commissioners (58-101, 58-119 Idaho Code) and, as such, is required to execute the functions of the State Board.

The Idaho Code discusses the responsibility and powers of the State Fire Marshal, an agency of the State Department of Insurance. The Fire Marshal is mandated to carry out the International Fire Code, to prevent fires, to protect life, and to oversee that buildings meet the standards set forth in the International Fire Code (41-253, 41-254, 41-255 Idaho Code). The Fire Marshal is also charged with keeping statistics of all the fires in the state. The agency is authorized by legislation to "Purchase necessary equipment and supplies, and incur any other reasonable and necessary expense in connection with or required for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act." (41-255 Idaho Code)

The State Fire Marshal's power extends to the chief (or his deputy) of each fire department or fire protective district organized under state law. In areas where there is no organized fire department, the county sheriff assumes the role of a deputy fire marshal in carrying out the provisions of the International Fire Code, and any additional regulations set forth by the State Fire Marshal. The International Fire Code prescribes regulations consistent with "recognized good practice for the safeguarding of life and property from hazards of fire and explosion . . . in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises." (41-253 Idaho Code)

Title 38 of the Idaho State Statutes is devoted to Forestry, Forest Products, and Stumpage Districts. Idaho code allows for agreement between the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and federal agencies for the joint exercise of powers pursuant to certain conditions (58-104 Idaho Code). Those conditions (expressed in 67-2328 Idaho Code) overlap with what the federal agencies expect as far as reaching an agreement.

The Idaho Department of Lands is an extension of the State Board of Land Commissioners and has extensive authority in its approach towards wildland fire. The department has created an extensive wildland fire attack organization through out the state. It has the ability and authority to work with other wildfire fighting resources, in the event a fire exceeds the ability of the initial attach crew,[2] including wildland fire resources under mutual agreements.

The department cooperates with federal and local governments in developing plans for and directing actions relating to the prevention and suppression of wildland fire in the rural areas of the state. The IDL State Forester has the authority to cooperate with private and public landowners,

2 More information regarding state code at the following URL: http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules/rules/idapa20/20index.htm

political subdivisions, private associations, and other agencies to protect forest resources on a statewide basis. At the local level, IDL Area Supervisors and Fire Wardens are empowered to make agreements with federal, city, county and rural fire department resources regarding fire management.

Key Points of Idaho State Policy

- The Fire Warden of each IDL Fire Protection District takes action on all forest and range fires, regardless of land ownership, which jeopardize lands protected by the Department. In doing so, forest and range fires must meet the criteria as set forth in Title 38, Chapter 1, Idaho Code. (IDL, FMH-800: Fire Control Policy; page 2 part b)
- IDL cooperates with federal and local governments in developing plans for, and directing activities relating to, the prevention and control of wildland fires in the rural areas of the state. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 2 par. 2)
- The State Forester, under general supervision of the State Board of Land Commissioners, is responsible for the protection of State forest and rangeland and cooperates with landowners, political subdivisions, private associations, and other agencies in protecting other forest and rangeland resources. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 2, point A)
- Upon the request of the State Forester, the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management provides assistance under terms of cooperative agreements. Area Supervisors and Fire Wardens of IDL are delegated the authority to make local agreements relating to fire control matters involving USFS and BLM and other federal firefighting resources not already covered by cooperative agreements. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 2, point E)
- Area Supervisors and Fire Wardens are delegated the authority to make local agreements relating to fire control matters involving city, county and rural fire department resources. Agreements affecting statewide operations are coordinated through the State Fire Coordinator. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 3, point F)
- General guidelines for fire suppression priorities:
    1. Protection of life and property.
    2. Initial attack.
    3. Emerging fires in need of reinforcement to prevent escape.
    4. Large fires with resource values at risk.
    5. Other large fires.

    (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 4)
- IDL develops and maintains mutual aid and other cooperative agreements (in writing where possible) with local and adjacent fire suppression agencies and county emergency planning committees, such as Local Emergency Planning Committees. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 8, point D)

The Mobilization Guide and other IDL policies and responsibilities are based on state statutory provisions found in Title 38, Chapter 1, of the Idaho Code. A review of that portion of Idaho Code shows that all “forest” and “range” land within the State of Idaho is to be under the protection of either a State Forest Protection District or a Forest Protection Association.

Forest Protection Associations are affiliated or endorsed by IDL. The associations consist of a board of landowners who own forested lands and who agree to protect their own lands using money

from additional property taxes. If a forest landowner does not belong to an association then IDL will assess a tax and assume the responsibility for patrol and suppression of any fires that start on or burn through that owner's property.

Idaho's wildland fire policy has several references to the ability of the state to make agreements with federal and local government fire organizations. The agreements are to be reduced to writing whenever possible. The statutory basis for these agreements makes them legally binding documents. Within these documents, there must be specific roles and duties for each party of involved. The financial arrangements also must be thoroughly documented.

The State's personnel and equipment resources are limited to the nature of their wildland fire training. Lastly, the mobilization guide specifies that the agency provide training to its personnel using the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is a federal system. This allows the state management teams to operate with their federal counterparts.

The responsibility of suppressing wildland fire on state lands ultimately falls to the IDL. The federal lands that intermingle with Idaho's state lands remain the responsibility of the federal government. However, with mutual aid agreements the IDL may support and work with the federal agencies, provided that the State's resource needs are being met.

The approach towards wildland fire on private forestlands in the state of Idaho is also clear. Private owners are given two choices; they can belong either to a State Forest Protective District or to a Forest Protective Association. This means that the lands are protected by the state or by a state assisted association of trained firefighters.

In the context of statutory language, "forest land" is defined as follows: any land which has upon it sufficient brush or flammable forest growth of any kind or size, living or dead, standing or down, including debris or growth following a fire or removal of forest products, to constitute a fire menace to life (including animal) or property (38-101 Idaho Code). Unfortunately, there is no mention of how a homeowner, whose property does not fit into that definition, will be treated.

The federal wildfire agencies have legal obligations only for federal lands. The state government has legal obligations to state lands, and private lands that are classified as forest or rangelands.

Rural and city fire departments act as extensions of the State Fire Marshal's office. The Fire Marshal provides training for structural and automobile fire protection, as well as medical response duties that are part of emergency services. The Fire Marshal's mission is built around preventing and then fighting structural fires only. Some fire stations have crews that are trained to fight wildland fires, but it is provided through agreements with the Idaho State Department of Lands, not the Fire Marshal's office.

Federal Policy

The Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Forest Service are all members of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). This group provides a formalized system of agreement on substantive issues. Any agreed-on policies, standards or procedures are then implemented directly by each agency. In effect, the NWCG is a large umbrella that coordinates wildland fire matters between all members of the group.

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy is in Chapter 3 in a report entitled "Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy." The 2001 Wildland Fire Management Policy and the recommended changes in policy were accepted by the US Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture in 2001, bringing policy changes to the local agency level.

The National Fire Policy sets the policy for support among federal agencies for fire management, and encourages coordination with the individual states, tribes, and municipalities. The National Fire Policy places high priority on several other important topics. This interagency policy highlights and

reiterates firefighter and public safety as the number one priority; the policy calls for an assessment of the consequences on safety, property, and cultural resources in choosing the appropriate response to wildland fire.

The National Fire Policy explains the role of federal wildland firefighters (including equipment) as that of only wildland firefighting, and in the special case of the wildland-urban interface use of federal personnel will be limited to exterior structural fire suppression only. The national policy forbids use of wildland firefighters to enter a house (or other structure).

Key Features of the 2001 Wildland Fire Policy:

The 2001 Wildland Fire Policy is the guiding source for how the federal government deals with wildland fire. The document covers a wide variety of issues: safety, protection priorities, planning for possible ignitions, and the use of fire for land management purposes; and communication and education of public and agency personnel.

The 2001 Wildland Fire Policy provides a loose framework that allows agencies at all levels of government (federal to local) to work together. Below are some listed points from the 2001 Wildland Fire Policy that briefly summarize what the document is about, and summarize what applies to the homeowner.

Point 1 - Safety

"Firefighter and public safety is the first priority. All Fire Management Plans and activities must reflect this commitment."

Point 3 - Response to Wildland Fire

"Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and across agency boundaries. Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire. The circumstances, under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected, dictate the appropriate management response to the fire."

Point 6 - Protection Priorities

"The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected."

Point 7 – Wildland-Urban Interface

"The operational roles of federal agencies as partners in the Wildland-Urban Interface are wildland firefighting, hazardous fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, State, or local governments. Federal agencies may assist with exterior structural protection activities under formal Fire Protection Agreements that specify the mutual responsibilities of the partners, including funding."

Point 14 - Interagency Cooperation

"Fire management planning, preparedness, prevention, suppression, fire use, restoration, and rehabilitation, monitoring, research, and education will be conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of cooperators and partners."

Organization

In terms of a firefighting organization, the federal government has come to terms with the challenges of multiple agencies, multiple land ownerships, and multiple objectives. Although each agency views wildland fire differently, through the interagency approach, the federal agencies have managed to establish a strong fire management organization.

The interagency effort has come about because it is difficult for any one agency to fund enough resources to protect all of its lands. By pooling their resources and carefully coordinating their efforts, the agencies can deal with the many fires that burn every year.

On the operational end of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho. NIFC is a complex that houses all of the agencies in one place. NIFC provides safe, effective, and efficient policies and guidance, as well as technical and logistical support to the wildland fire management community.

All of the resources available on the national level are available for fire wildland fire suppression. Through a system of allocation and prioritizing, crews and resources are frequently moved around the United States to provide fire suppression services on federal lands.

The fire teams and crews ultimately carry out the wildland fire policy. These teams have the responsibility of ordering resources, asking for assistance, and for providing the fire suppression. They also determine whose land a fire is on and if it is a threat to people, to homes, or to other property.

The personnel within that fire management organization are wildland fire trained. The rules, regulations, and legal authority of the federal government are for the preservation of federally administered lands. With the exception of government compounds that have firefighters trained to deal with fires inside of buildings and other structures, federal wildland firefighters are not trained to deal with structural fires.

This plan was developed by Northwest Management, Inc., under contract with the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., with funding provided by the USDI Bureau of Land Management and Nez Perce County.

Citation of this work:

Schlosser, W.E. *Lead Auth.* 2005. Nez Perce County, Idaho, Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Northwest Management, Inc., Moscow, Idaho. March 28, 2005. Pp. 176.

Schlosser, W.E. *Lead Auth.* 2005. Nez Perce County, Idaho, Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan Appendices. Northwest Management, Inc., Moscow, Idaho. March 28, 2005. Pp. 41.

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