



Idaho Ranchers Fighting Fire

Highly trained professionals today utilize advanced technology, equipment, and resources in wildfire suppression.

But no amount of technology or state-of-the-art equipment can replace a rancher who knows the land best and can get to a fire more quickly than anyone else.

Idaho ranchers have been fighting wildfire for generations, and legislation this session will enable the creation of more **rangeland fire protection associations (RFPAs) - groups of ranchers professionally trained and legally allowed to utilize interagency fire suppression resources.**

More RFPAs coming to southern Idaho

In 2012 a group of Mountain Home-area ranchers received approval to form Idaho's first RFPA.

You can watch a [6-minute video of their story](#) from "Life on the Range," a Web site that features a lot of other cool videos about ranching in Idaho.

Governor Otter recognized the importance of ranchers in fighting range fires by including a request in his budget this legislative session for \$400,000 to facilitate the creation of more RFPAs.

Alongside the Governor's budget request, the Idaho Department of Lands is bringing [legislation to strengthen Idaho law pertaining to RFPAs](#).



The Mountain Home RFPA wildland fire engine

More ranchers helping fight fires means quicker response times, less money spent fighting fire, and saved resources.

Three more groups of cattlemen in southern Idaho are in the process of starting their own RFPAs. If approved by the Legislature, the additional funds and statutory changes will mean more RFPAs in southern Idaho soon!

What role does Idaho Department of Lands play in the creation of RFPAs?

Most of the lands in southern Idaho receive fire protection from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), but 2.2 million acres in southern Idaho lack any formal fire protection. The RFPAs will help fill part of the gap since ranchers are often first on scene and can help until the BLM arrives to form a coordinated effort (BLM report, 2012).

As a State wildland firefighting agency, the Idaho Department of Lands provided Mountain Home RFPA members with necessary equipment to fight fires.

Additionally, Craig Glazier, Idaho's National Fire Plan Coordinator and U.S. Forest Service employee attached to the Idaho Department of Lands Fire Management Bureau in Coeur d'Alene, was instrumental in creating Idaho's first RFPA in 2012.

Idaho Department of Lands

Trusted Stewards of Idaho's Resources, From Main Street to Mountaintop

<http://www.idl.idaho.gov>

(208) 334-0200 Phone

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)