STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
June 18, 2013
Information Agenda

SUBJECT

Update on Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA)

BACKGROUND

Prior to the 2012 fire season, ranchers around Mountain Home formed the first Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA) in the State of Idaho. Three additional RFPA’s (Owyhee, Saylor Creek and Three Creek) formed in early 2013. These four RFPA’s cover over 3.6 million acres with 168 members (Maps 1 & 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RFPA</th>
<th>Acreage Protected</th>
<th>Number of Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Home</td>
<td>454,000</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owyhee</td>
<td>1,342,000</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saylor Creek</td>
<td>696,000</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Creek</td>
<td>1,130,000</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The benefits of forming RFPA’s include:
- recognizing ranchers who desire to assist in suppressing range fires and be eligible to receive Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) equipment;
- improving relationships, coordination, communication and safety between the RFPA members and the federal agencies with primary fire protection responsibilities; and
- increasing the safety and effectiveness of initial attack efforts to help minimize loss of rangelands and core sage grouse habitat (Map 3).

Idaho Code Section 38-104 was amended during the 2013 legislative session to clarify the requirements and process for establishment of a nonprofit rangeland fire protection association. In addition to this clarifying legislation, the Governor also included funds ($300K) in his budget to assist new RFPA’s with one-time startup costs associated with training, purchase of personal protective equipment and radios, refurbishment of FEPP equipment, and other incidental costs. Ongoing funds ($100K) were also included to create a south Idaho fire position to work with these RFPA’s. Interviews for this position will occur in June with an anticipated fill date sometime in July.

An additional 3 or 4 RFPA’s may form prior to the 2014 fire season (Map 4). Areas of interest include Owyhee County, Twin Falls/Cassia County, Lincoln County, Custer/Lemhi County and Washington/Adams County. Sufficient funds remain to help offset the initial start-up costs for these additional RFPA’s.

ATTACHMENTS

- Map 1 – RFPA Boundaries
- Map 2 – Ownership within RFPA Boundaries
- Map 3 – Sage Grouse Habitat within RFPA Boundaries
- Map 4 – Potential Location of Future RFPA’s
Ownership by RFPA

- **BLM**
- **USFS**
- **BOR**
- **HSTRCWTR**
- **MIL**
- **NPS**
- **OTHER**
- **PRIVATE**
- **STATE**
- **STATE_FG**
- **STATE_PR**
- **All_RFPAs**

Map produced by the CDA GIS Staff - Located in \idlcfats01\projects\mis\map_requests\David_G\RFPA\ April 10, 3013