



Idaho Department of Lands
Agency Guidance Document
Fire Program
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Land Board Policies: Fire Program

This agency guidance document is not a new law. This document is an interpretation of existing law, except as authorized by Idaho Code or incorporated into a contract.

Agency Contact

Bureau Chief, Fire Management

Contents

1. Deficiency Warrant Authorization for Fire Suppression Costs

Summary:

The Department seeks deficiency warrant spending authority from the Board every June and then provides fire season updates every month and a final season end update in October. These monthly updates reference approximate fire suppression spending to date.

Attached:

September 23, 1987 final minutes

2. Landowner Fire Assessment Rate

Summary:

The Board set the landowner fire assessment rate authorized by Idaho Code § 38-111 at \$0.60 per acre and \$40 as the surcharge for each improved lot or parcel.

Attached:

December 16, 2008 approved memo

June 16, 2009 approved memo

September 23, 1987

Governor Andrus said that we need not to be looking at legal reasons for inaction, but should be looking for legal reasons to make a progressive change in those rules. He said that in the Supreme Court decision in the Alaska case, the judges were very correct in saying that they recognized that there was a valid reason to attempt the development of those resources with the state. They refer to "marketplace participation." If they had been selling sawlogs instead of standing timber they would not have been in violation. He would hope that this Board would serve notice to the world that it is looking after the Idaho's interest the best it can, within the law. He doesn't see where that added language would be at all offensive.

Jim Jones stated his disagreements, and said that if language is added, there must be particular reasons; in order to place restrictions on export of state logs, you have to have federal legislation.

Jerry Evans has seen advertisings where it is up to a Board to deem when an award of a contract is not in the best interest of the state, they have the right to reject that. He thinks there is some middle ground. While the Board works on the issue at the federal level where it really must be resolved, it seems the state could still advertise the right to reject any or all bids. The "best interest" of the state is hard to pin down, but it does give a criteria. On the question of whether logs should be processed in Idaho, he would like to have a great deal of discretion on that issue, because a lot of the north Idaho timber moves just across the state line, so perhaps we're part of a regional interest as well, and that has to at least be examined.

Jim Jones thinks there would be trouble finding a legally sufficient criteria to reject the highest bid obtained at the sale. The sale process is structured to sell to the highest bidder. He would like to get the legislation on the books to authorize that kind of rejection, and then see.

Jim Jones suggested that if the intention of the Board is to go beyond the language that says the Board can reject any and all bids that do not comply with state law or IDL timber sale policies and practices, then it should try to work up sufficient language that can be looked at in advance.

Pete Cenarrusa suggested that the Board direct staff to come up with some language. Governor Andrus suggested further that the Attorney General's office take a look at some language to help at least serve notice to the world the direction the Board is headed in and then the Board can work to bring legislation forward to provide state law that would allow the state to be a "market participant" by some criteria. By holding this over to the next meeting, he would ask that everyone understand this is not up for another lengthy debate --the Board should either pass it or not. The Board members all agreed.

Deficiency Warrant Authorization for Fire Suppression Costs

Mr. Hamilton reported that all monies available to the department for fighting forest fires has been expended at this point, and as provided by law, the department will provide the Board with a status report and seek deficiency warrant authority.

John Crumb briefed the Board. All the West went through a drought condition last winter and it continued this summer. Idaho is fortunate that it has not had a large amount of fires on the land that it protects. Because of weather conditions, there are 5-6 fires a day at the present, and the weather pattern is expected to hold for awhile. The department has paid suppression costs of \$156,000 and are obligated in the vicinity of \$118,120 additional costs which are due, including an emergency suppression bill to pay the associations. Some additional costs are anticipated. He also reported that the inmate fire crews have been used.

Jim Jones said that the Board should be notified on a monthly basis what the amount is.

Jerry Evans moved to authorize the issuance of deficiency warrants necessary to the fire suppression costs which are in excess of the appropriation for that purpose. Joe Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Fish and Game Land Sale -- Supplemental Agenda Item

Mr. Hamilton explained that some time ago the Fish and Game Commission came to the department with a proposal to declare surplus and sell property in Boise County known as the Lowman Patrol Cabin. It did go through the process and no other agency was interested; it was offered at auction and it did not sell. Subsequently, the Fish and Game Commission had it reappraised and simply re-offered it again at auction without coming back to this Board. It did sell for \$55,000 which had been dropped from the original \$65,500 appraisal. The department is asking this Board's approval to proceed with the sale with the understanding that Fish and Game did miss it.

Jim Jones said that Fish and Game has traditionally taken the position that they don't have to have Land Board approval to go ahead and make their sales; they had that same position when the Board was discussing a proposed land exchange with Burlington-Northern. The Board took the position around four years ago that the Department of Fish and Game may not sell property or exchange property without Board approval. He thinks a signal should be sent to them, perhaps not by turning down the sale, perhaps by sending a letter, that the Board doesn't expect to have future sales presented in this fashion.

Jim Jones made a motion to approve with the proviso that a "churlish-as-possible" letter be written indicating that the Board feels it has that authority that was voted on unanimously four years ago, and that the Board expects sales to be handled in that manner. Pete Cenarrusa seconded. The motion pass 4-1. Joe Williams opposed to approving the sale.

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR AGENDA
December 16, 2008

SUBJECT

Authorization to raise the forest fire protection assessment to the maximum allowed by Idaho Code

AUTHORITY

Title 38, Chapter 1, Idaho Code

DISCUSSION

Section 38-111 of Idaho Code states, "*For private owners of forest lands whose total acres of forest lands are twenty-six (26) acres or more, the state board of land commissioners shall establish this cost not to exceed sixty cents (\$.60) an acre per year. For private owners of forest lands whose total acres of forest lands are twenty-five (25) acres or fewer, the minimum assessment per year shall be equal to the per acre cost multiplied by twenty-five (25).*

In addition to any other assessment prescribed in this chapter, the state board of land commissioners shall establish a surcharge to be levied and assessed in an amount not to exceed twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each improved lot or parcel, to defray the cost of fire suppression on forest land caused by the existence of the improvements."

The current annual rate of fifty-five cents (\$0.55) per acre and twenty dollars (\$20.00) per improved lot are not sufficient to support the fire protection program. Fund projections indicate that the fire protection dedicated fund will be bankrupt in Fiscal Year 2010. Raising the per-acre rate to \$0.60/acre/yr will only maintain fund solvency into Fiscal Year 2011.

In addition to raising the per-acre assessment, the Intermountain Forest Association (IFA), Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA), and the Associated Logging Contractors (ALC) support a bill by the Department to:

- Raise the current per acre cap from \$0.60/ac to \$0.65/ac;
- Raise the current improved parcel (structure) surcharge from \$20 to \$40; and
- Create a dedicated Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund.

This legislation would secure funding for the fire protection dedicated fund for a reasonable time into the future at current levels of operations and provide a reliable source of funding to replace fire equipment.

RECOMMENDATION

Raise the forest protection assessment to the maximum authorized by Idaho Code § 38-111 (\$0.60/acre) and grant permission to the Department to seek a legislative sponsor to carry a bill for the above-recommended statute changes.

Note: If the legislature approves these statutory changes, IDL will seek Land Board approval to increase the improved parcel surcharge.

BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Attorney General Wasden to move adoption of the Department recommendation to raise the forest protection assessment to the maximum currently allowed and authorized by Idaho Code § 38-111, that is sixty cents an acre, and also grant permission to the Department to seek a legislative sponsor to carry a bill for the recommended statute changes. Secretary of State Ysursa seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Suggested changes to IC 38-111
2. Fire Assessment FAQs



FORESTRY, FOREST PRODUCTS AND
STUMPAGE DISTRICTS
CHAPTER 1

IDAHO FORESTRY ACT

38-111. PROTECTION BY OWNER -- ASSESSMENTS -- BUDGET OF PROTECTIVE DISTRICTS. Every owner of forest lands in the state shall furnish or provide therefor, throughout the closed season, protection against the starting, existence or spread of fires thereon, or therefrom, in conformity with reasonable rules and standards for adequate protection, to be established by the state board of land commissioners. An owner of forest lands who maintains a membership in good standing in a forest protective association operating under agreement with the state board of land commissioners, which association maintains a standard of protection approved by said board and who pays the assessments to the association in the amounts required in this section, shall be deemed to have fully complied herewith. In the event the owner of any forest land shall neglect or fail to furnish the protection required in this section, the director of the department of lands shall provide such patrol and protection therefor at actual cost to the owner of forest lands. For private owners of forest lands whose total acres of forest lands are twenty-six (26) acres or more, the state board of land commissioners shall establish this cost not to exceed sixty-five cents (\$0.65) ~~sixty cents (60¢)~~ an acre per year. For private owners of forest lands whose total acres of forest lands are twenty-five (25) acres or fewer, the minimum assessment per year shall be equal to the per acre cost multiplied by twenty-five (25).

In addition to any other assessment prescribed in this chapter, the state board of land commissioners shall establish a surcharge to be levied and assessed in an amount not to exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) ~~twenty dollars (\$20.00)~~ for each improved lot or parcel to offset costs associated with wildfire preparedness. ~~to defray the cost of fire suppression on forest land caused by the existence of the improvements.~~

A dedicated fund, known as the "Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund", shall be established for the replacement of capital wildfire equipment. The department of lands will determine reimbursement rates for all capital fire equipment used for activities other than fire preparedness. Reimbursement revenues will be deposited in the Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund. Additional funds may be transferred into the Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund from any other source.

In the event an assessment is made in an amount less than the maximum hereinbefore provided, and an actual loss occurs which exceeds the amount budgeted and for which assessments have been made, the director of the department of lands, with the approval of the board, may require an additional assessment to be made and paid, which together with the original assessment shall not exceed the maximum assessment set forth in this section. Such additional assessment shall be levied and collected in the same manner as herein provided for the collection of such original assessments.

The liability provided in this section shall be calculated for each forest protection district or association separately, and shall be calculated solely upon the charges assignable to fire control or presuppression of fires within each district or association.

Each forest protective association actively engaged in forest protection under agreement with the state board of land commissioners shall each year prepare in detail, a budget of all estimated operating costs for the next calendar year and shall submit this budget to the board for approval before June 30 of the current year.

Except for the provisions of section 38-122, Idaho Code, and cases of proven negligence by the landowner or his agent, no other charges or assessments for fire protection shall be made or assessed or collected from those forest landowners participating as provided herein.

FAQs about Idaho's Forest Fire Protection Assessment (IC 38-111) *Helping Fund Idaho's Wildfire Protection Program*

Who pays the Forest Fire Protection Assessment?

All state and private forest landowners pay the forest fire protection assessment.

How is this assessment money used?

The Fire Management Bureau within the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) oversees the State's Forest Fire Protection Program. IDL's forest fire protection program is segregated into two categories – preparedness and suppression.

Assessment money partially funds IDL's preparedness activities which include hiring firefighters, replacing and maintaining equipment, sponsoring required fire training, and developing educational materials for public outreach. A combination of general tax revenues, federal funds, and assessments on forested landowners pays for preparedness activities.

Suppression activities start when personnel or equipment are dispatched to a fire. Suppression costs are not paid with assessment money, but from the general fund through deficiency warrants as authorized by the State Board of Land Commissioners.

How much do private and state forest landowners currently pay?

The current per-acre assessment is \$0.55/acre for all forested parcels over 25 acres. Forested parcels 25 acres and smaller pay a minimum charge of \$13.75. In addition to the per-acre charge, parcels with structures on them also pay an improved parcel surcharge of \$20.

Is the assessment scheduled to increase? Why?

Yes. The per-acre assessment is proposed to increase from \$0.55/ac to \$0.60/ac. In addition, the improved parcel surcharge is also proposed to increase from \$20 to \$40.

Fire preparedness expenses are projected to exceed revenues sometime in late 2009. Therefore, these rate increases are necessary to cover the additional wildfire preparedness costs associated with the growing number of structures in the forest and the inflationary increases in fuel, personnel, and equipment.

Does paying the improved parcel surcharge mean that my house and other buildings are protected from fire?

No. The Idaho Department of Lands does not provide structure protection. The improved parcel surcharge is to help defray the added cost of wildfire protection associated with structures in the forest.

Protecting houses and other structures is the primary job of municipal and rural fire departments. Homeowners pay a separate assessment for their municipal or rural fire department which is identified on their property tax bill.

Why the improved parcel surcharge?

Increased structures in the forest increase preparedness costs due to additional training for wildland firefighters; additional coordination and educational efforts with municipal and rural fire departments; and additional initial attack resources and equipment. The improved parcel surcharge helps to defray these additional preparedness costs. **(NOTE: See appendix for estimated preparedness costs associated with homes in the forest.)**

In addition to increased preparedness costs, structures in the forest also complicate and increase wildfire suppression efforts and costs. The area where human habitation adjoins or is intermixed in the forest is known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Over the past 10 years, the number of forested parcels with residences has increased at an average rate of 6% per year which has also resulted in more human-caused fire starts and acres burned in the WUI. Due to the increased values at risk (human life and structures) in the WUI, fires in these areas generally require additional ground and aerial resources which increases firefighting costs and diverts limited resources away from wildland fires.

What code changes are being proposed to the fire assessment statute (38-111)?

Three changes are being proposed. The first two changes involve raising the per-acre assessment cap from \$0.60/acre to \$0.65/acre and the improved parcel surcharge from \$20 to \$40. In addition to these proposed rate changes, the third change involves the creation of a dedicated “Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund”.

Why are these changes needed?

These changes are needed to ensure adequate funding into the future for IDL’s Fire Protection Program. In addition, the “Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund” would be used to replace old and worn-out wildland fire equipment such as fire engines, dozers, and transport trucks. Without these changes, IDL may not be able to meet its fire protection responsibilities which could put human lives and values at risk.

Where can I obtain more information?

Contact IDL’s Fire Management Bureau at (208) 769-1525.

FAQ APPENDIX

What are the Estimated Preparedness Costs Associated with Homes in the Forest?

IDL’s annual preparedness budget totals about \$7.5 million. This money is used to hire firefighters, coordinate with rural and municipal fire departments and other state and federal agencies, replace and maintain wildfire equipment, sponsor required fire training, and develop educational materials for public outreach.

A portion of the total preparedness budget is associated with structures in the forest. In 1993, the number of assessed structures totaled 25,846 compared to 50,110 in 2008 – an increase of 94%. Fire preparedness costs have also increased due to this increase in structures.

Table 1 shows the estimated preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest, also known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). There may be other WUI-related costs that are not reflected below such as a portion of the capital equipment costs.

Table 1 – Estimated preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest.

Description	WUI Cost
Permanent Personnel (FTE) ¹	\$1,013,185
Seasonal Personnel (engine boss, firefighters, etc) ²	\$260,671
Operating Expenses ³	\$146,392
Fire Training (WUI Component - S-215, others) ⁴	\$175,950
Estimated WUI Costs	\$1,596,198
Current Parcel Surcharge Revenue @ \$20	\$1,002,200
Surplus/Deficit @ \$20	-\$593,998

- 1) Permanent Personnel (FTE) – IDL staff spends approximately 15 FTE equivalents on WUI-related fire preparedness issues such as coordination with local fire departments and public outreach and fire prevention efforts,.
- 2) Seasonal Personnel – Due to the growing number of homes in the forest, IDL decided to have at least 3 engines in each fire protective district staffed with 3 people each to ensure 7-day coverage by at least 2 engines each day. These engines help ensure quick and adequate response to fires in the WUI where there are significant values at risk (human and structures).
- 3) Operating Expenses – This includes the operating expenses allocated to the 15 FTE equivalents and the seasonal personnel identified above.
- 4) Fire Training (WUI Component) – This includes course expenses for S-215 WUI Fire Training and a portion of all other fire courses that contain a WUI component.

As shown in Table 1, the current improved parcel surcharge is insufficient to cover preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest. Estimated WUI costs total almost \$1.6 million while current surcharge revenues total just over \$1 million. Therefore, IDL has proposed increasing the improved parcel surcharge from \$20 to \$40.

Increasing the improved parcel surcharge from \$20 to \$40 would cover the current preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest as well as the anticipated increase in structures over the next several years.

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR AGENDA
June 16, 2009

SUBJECT

Authorization to Raise the Fire Assessment Surcharge for Each Improved Lot or Parcel to the Maximum Allowed by Idaho Code

AUTHORITY

Title 38, Chapter 1, Idaho Code

DISCUSSION

During the December 2008 meeting, the State Board of Land Commissioners authorized raising the per acre rate for forest protection to sixty cents (\$.60) per acre per year as provided by Section 38-111 of Idaho Code.

Furthermore, the Land Board supported the Department's efforts to amend 38-111 to increase the per acre and improved parcel assessment caps. The Department also indicated in the December Land Board memo that if the legislature approved these statutory changes, then IDL would seek Land Board approval to increase the improved parcel surcharge.

During the sixtieth legislative session, Section 38-111 of Idaho Code was modified by way of House Bill No. 31. The new language associated with the improved parcel surcharge in Section 38-111 now states, "*In addition to any other assessment prescribed in this chapter, the state board of land commissioners shall establish a surcharge to be levied and assessed in an amount not to exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) for each improved lot or parcel, to offset costs associated with wildfire preparedness.*"

Intermountain Forest Association (IFA) and Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA) members supported these code changes and rate increases.

Increasing the improved parcel surcharge is needed to more accurately reflect the proportion of preparedness costs associated with structures in the wildland-urban interface (See Attachment A). The current surcharge of \$20 covers less than half of the estimated preparedness costs associated with structures in the WUI.

An increase in the improved parcel surcharge is also needed to ensure fund solvency at existing program levels beyond 2011. Without an increase in the improved parcel surcharge, the fire protection dedicated fund is projected to go broke sometime in 2011. Increasing the structure surcharge from \$20 to \$40 would ensure fund solvency for a reasonable time into the future at current levels of operation.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Department to raise the surcharge for each improved lot or parcel from \$20 to \$40, which is the maximum allowed by Section 38-111, Idaho Code.

BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Secretary of State Ysursa to move the Department's recommendation. Attorney General Wasden seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Attachment

1. Fire Assessment FAQs



FAQs about Idaho's Forest Fire Protection Assessment (IC 38-111) *Helping Fund Idaho's Wildfire Protection Program*

Who pays the Forest Fire Protection Assessment?

All state and private forest landowners pay the forest fire protection assessment.

How is this assessment money used?

The Fire Management Bureau within the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) oversees the State's Forest Fire Protection Program. IDL's forest fire protection program is segregated into two categories – preparedness and suppression.

Assessment money partially funds IDL's preparedness activities which include hiring firefighters, replacing and maintaining equipment, sponsoring required fire training, and developing educational materials for public outreach. A combination of general tax revenues, federal funds, and assessments on forested landowners pays for preparedness activities.

Suppression activities start when personnel or equipment are dispatched to a fire. Suppression costs are not paid with assessment money, but from the general fund through deficiency warrants as authorized by the State Board of Land Commissioners.

How much do private and state forest landowners currently pay?

The current per-acre assessment is \$0.55/acre for all forested parcels over 25 acres. Forested parcels 25 acres and smaller pay a minimum charge of \$13.75. In addition to the per-acre charge, parcels with structures on them also pay an improved parcel surcharge of \$20.

Is the assessment scheduled to increase? Why?

Yes. The per-acre assessment is proposed to increase from \$0.55/ac to \$0.60/ac. In addition, the improved parcel surcharge is also proposed to increase from \$20 to \$40.

Fire preparedness expenses are projected to exceed revenues sometime in late 2009. Therefore, these rate increases are necessary to cover the additional wildfire preparedness costs associated with the growing number of structures in the forest and the inflationary increases in fuel, personnel, and equipment.

Does paying the improved parcel surcharge mean that my house and other buildings are protected from fire?

No. The Idaho Department of Lands does not provide structure protection. The improved parcel surcharge helps defray the added cost of wildfire protection associated with structures in the forest.

Protecting houses and other structures is the primary job of municipal and rural fire departments. Homeowners pay a separate assessment for their municipal or rural fire department which is identified on their property tax bill.

Why the improved parcel surcharge?

Increased structures in the forest increase preparedness costs due to additional training for wildland firefighters; additional coordination and educational efforts with municipal and rural fire departments; and additional initial attack resources and equipment. The improved parcel surcharge helps to defray these additional preparedness costs. (**NOTE:** See appendix for estimated preparedness costs associated with homes in the forest.)

In addition to increased preparedness costs, structures in the forest also complicate and increase wildfire suppression efforts and costs. The area where human habitation adjoins or is intermixed in the forest is known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Over the past 10 years, the number of forested parcels with residences has increased at an average rate of 6% per year which has also resulted in more human-caused fire starts and acres burned in the WUI. Due to the increased values at risk (human life and structures) in the WUI, fires in these areas generally require additional ground and aerial resources which increases firefighting costs and diverts limited resources away from wildland fires.

What code changes are being proposed to the fire assessment statute (38-111)?

Three changes are being proposed. The first two changes involve raising the per-acre assessment cap from \$0.60/acre to \$0.65/acre and the improved parcel surcharge cap from \$20 to \$40. In addition to these proposed rate changes, the third change involves the creation of a dedicated “Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund”.

Why are these changes needed?

These changes are needed to ensure adequate funding into the future for IDL’s Fire Protection Program. In addition, the “Wildfire Equipment Replacement Fund” would be used to replace old and worn-out wildland fire equipment such as fire engines, dozers, and transport trucks. Without these changes, IDL may not be able to meet its fire protection responsibilities which could put human lives and values at risk.

Where can I obtain more information?

Contact IDL’s Fire Management Bureau at (208) 769-1525.

FAQ APPENDIX

What are the Estimated Preparedness Costs Associated with Homes in the Forest?

IDL's annual preparedness budget totals about \$7.5 million. This money is used to hire firefighters, coordinate with rural and municipal fire departments and other state and federal agencies, replace and maintain wildfire equipment, sponsor required fire training, and develop educational materials for public outreach.

A portion of the total preparedness budget is associated with structures in the forest. In 1993, the number of assessed structures totaled 25,846 compared to 50,110 in 2008 – an increase of 94%. In some areas of the state, this increase is mainly due to the construction of secondary/vacation homes. Fire preparedness costs have also increased due to this increase in structures.

Table 1 shows the estimated preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest, also known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). There may be other WUI-related costs that are not reflected below.

Table 1 – Estimated preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest.

Description	WUI Cost
Permanent Personnel (FTE) ¹	\$1,218,052
Seasonal Personnel (engine boss, firefighters, etc) ²	\$426,393
Operating Expenses ³	\$347,964
Capital Outlay ⁴	18,000
Fire Training (WUI Component - S-215, others) ⁵	\$175,950
Estimated WUI Costs	\$2,186,359
Current Parcel Surcharge Revenue @ \$20	\$1,004,200
Surplus/Deficit @ \$20	-\$1,182,159

- 1) Permanent Personnel (FTE) – IDL staff spends approximately 17.5 FTE equivalents on WUI-related fire preparedness issues such as coordination with local fire departments and public outreach and fire prevention efforts. In addition, three Fire Districts are staffed with two Assistant Fire Wardens instead of one.
- 2) Seasonal Personnel – Due to the growing number of homes in the forest, IDL decided to have at least 3 engines in each fire protective district staffed with 3 people each to ensure 7-day coverage by at least 2 engines each day. These engines help ensure quick and adequate response to fires in the WUI where there are significant values at risk (human and structures). Two six-person booster crews provide rapid reinforcement to boost the initial attack when there are significant values at risk.
- 3) Operating Expenses – This includes the operating expenses allocated to the 17.5 FTE equivalents and the seasonal personnel identified above. Also included is the additional cost to maintain three SEAT's (Single Engine Air Tankers), instead of two, to provide air support on WUI fires.
- 4) Capital Outlay – This reflects the annualized cost incurred by the agency to maintain an additional three engines associated with the WUI.
- 5) Fire Training (WUI Component) – This includes course expenses for S-215 WUI Fire Training and a portion of all other fire courses that contain a WUI component.

As shown in Table 1, the current improved parcel surcharge is insufficient to cover preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest. Estimated WUI costs total almost \$2.2 million while current surcharge revenues total just over \$1 million. Therefore, IDL has proposed increasing the improved parcel surcharge from \$20 to \$40 to help cover more of the preparedness costs associated with structures in the forest.