

Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners

Open Meeting Checklist

Meeting Date: June 17, 2025

Regular Meetings

Date	Action
6/5/2025	Meeting Notice posted in Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Boise Director's office five (5) or more calendar days before meeting.
6/5/2025	Meeting Notice posted in IDL Coeur d'Alene staff office five (5) or more calendar days before meeting.
6/5/2025	Meeting Notice posted at meeting location five (5) or more calendar days before meeting.
6/5/2025	Meeting Notice posted electronically on IDL website (https://www.idl.idaho.gov) five (5) or more calendar days before meeting.
6/5/2025	Meeting Notice published on Townhall Idaho website (https://townhall.idaho.gov) five (5) or more calendar days before meeting.
6/11/2025	Agenda posted in IDL Boise Director's office forty-eight (48) hours before meeting.
6/11/2025	Agenda posted in IDL Coeur d'Alene staff office forty-eight (48) hours before meeting.
6/11/2025	Agenda posted at meeting location forty-eight (48) hours before meeting.
6/11/2025	Agenda posted electronically on IDL website (https://www.idl.idaho.gov) forty-eight (48) hours before meeting.
6/11/2025	Agenda published on Townhall Idaho website (https://townhall.idaho.gov) forty-eight (48) hours before meeting.
2/27/2025	Revised Land Board annual meeting schedule posted—Boise Director's office, Coeur d'Alene staff office, and IDL website (https://www.idl.idaho.gov).

Certification

/s/ Renée Jacobsen
Recording Secretary

June 11, 2025
Date



Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners

Brad Little, Governor and President of the Board

Phil McGrane, Secretary of State

Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General

Brandon D Woolf, State Controller

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dustin T. Miller, Secretary to the Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING JUNE 2025

The Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners will hold a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 in the **State Capitol, Lincoln Auditorium (WW02)**, Lower Level, West Wing, 700 W. Jefferson St., Boise. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM (MT).

Please note meeting location.

The State Board of Land Commissioners will conduct this meeting in person and by virtual means. This meeting is open to the public. No public comment will be taken.

[Live streaming via IPTV:](https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ww02) <https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ww02>

[Register to attend the Zoom webinar:](#)

https://idl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AtmoZybgQpKXsy9LAFIWFQ

Notice Posted: 6/5/2025 Boise; 6/5/2025 Coeur d'Alene

This notice is published pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204. For additional information regarding Idaho's Open Meeting Law, please see Idaho Code §§ 74-201 through 74-208.

Idaho Department of Lands, 300 N 6th Street, Suite 103, Boise ID 83702, 208.334.0200



Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners

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Final Agenda

State Board of Land Commissioners Regular Meeting

June 17, 2025–9:00 AM (MT)

State Capitol, Lincoln Auditorium (WW02), Lower Level, West Wing,
700 W. Jefferson St., Boise, Idaho

Please note meeting location.

The State Board of Land Commissioners will conduct this meeting in person and by virtual means. This meeting is open to the public. No public comment will be taken.

Meeting will be streamed live via IPTV: <https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/>

Register to attend the Zoom webinar:

https://idl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AtmoZybgQpKXsy9LAfIWFQ

Reports

1. Department Reports—presented by Dustin Miller, Director
 - A. Timber Sales Revenue—May 2025
 - B. Leases/Permits Transactions and Revenue—May 2025
2. Endowment Fund Investment Board—presented by Chris Anton, EFIB Manager of Investments
 - A. Manager's Report
 - B. Investment Report

Consent—Action Item(s)

3. Strategic Plan FY2026-FY2029—presented by Dustin Miller, Director
4. State Membership in Timber Protective Associations—presented by Dustin Miller, Director
5. Deficiency Warrant Authority for FY2026 Fire Suppression—presented by Dustin Miller, Director
6. Approval of Draft Minutes—May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting

Information

7. Proposed Rule IDAPA 20.03.08, Easements on State-Owned Lands—presented by Roger Hall, Bureau Chief-Real Estate
8. Pre-Season Fire Forecast and Update—introduction by Julia Lauch, State Forester/Division Administrator-Forestry and Fire
 - A. Predictive Services Forecast—Jim Wallmann, Meteorologist, BLM
 - B. Resource Readiness—Josh Harvey, Bureau Chief-Fire Management
 - C. Rangeland Fire Protection Associations—Josh Harvey, Bureau Chief-Fire Management
9. Fire Strategic Plan—presented by Dustin Miller, Director

Regular—Action Item(s)

10. Legal Representation Policy—presented by Dustin Miller, Director

Executive Session (Room WW17)

- A. Performance Evaluation—Director, Department of Lands
Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b)—To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student.

Regular—Action Item(s)

11. Personnel Matter—*No Board Materials*

This agenda is published pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204. The agenda is subject to change by the Land Board. To arrange auxiliary aides or services for persons with disabilities, please contact Idaho Department of Lands at (208) 334-0200. Accommodation requests for auxiliary aides or services must be made no less than five working days in advance of the meeting. Agenda materials are available on [IDL's website](https://www.idl.idaho.gov/land-board/) at <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/land-board/>.



Idaho Statutes

Idaho Statutes are updated to the website July 1 following the legislative session.

TITLE 74
TRANSPARENT AND ETHICAL GOVERNMENT
CHAPTER 2
OPEN MEETINGS LAW

74-206. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS — WHEN AUTHORIZED. (1) An executive session at which members of the public are excluded may be held, but only for the purposes and only in the manner set forth in this section. The motion to go into executive session shall identify the specific subsections of this section that authorize the executive session. There shall be a roll call vote on the motion and the vote shall be recorded in the minutes. An executive session shall be authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the governing body. An executive session may be held:

(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general;

(b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student;

(c) To acquire an interest in real property not owned by a public agency;

(d) To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code;

(e) To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations;

(f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement;

(g) By the commission of pardons and parole, as provided by law;

(h) By the custody review board of the Idaho department of juvenile corrections, as provided by law;

(i) To engage in communications with a representative of the public agency's risk manager or insurance provider to discuss the adjustment of a pending claim or prevention of a claim imminently likely to be filed. The mere presence of a representative of the public agency's risk manager or insurance provider at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement; or

(j) To consider labor contract matters authorized under section 74-206A (1) (a) and (b), Idaho Code.

(2) The exceptions to the general policy in favor of open meetings stated in this section shall be narrowly construed. It shall be a violation of this chapter to change the subject within the executive session to one not identified within the motion to enter the executive session or to any topic for which an executive session is not provided.

(3) No executive session may be held for the purpose of taking any final action or making any final decision.

(4) If the governing board of a public school district, charter district, or public charter school has vacancies such that fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of board members have been seated, then the board may enter into executive session on a simple roll call majority vote.

History:

[74-206, added 2015, ch. 140, sec. 5, p. 371; am. 2015, ch. 271, sec. 1, p. 1125; am. 2018, ch. 169, sec. 25, p. 377; am. 2019, ch. 114, sec. 1, p. 439.]

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025
Trust Land Revenue

Timber Sales

During May 2025, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) sold six endowment timber sales at auction. Five of the endowment sales had competitive bidding. The net sale value represents a 23% increase over the appraised price. Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sold one sale at auction at the appraised value.

TIMBER SALE AUCTIONS								
Sale Name	Area	Sawlog MBF	Cedar Prod MBF	Pulp MBF	Appraised Net Value	Sale Net Value	Net \$/MBF	Purchaser
Forgotten Fox Cedar	POL	5,355			\$1,905,773.50	\$2,469,544.00	\$461.16	Stimson Lumber Co.
Purdue High Cedar	PON	7,765			\$1,899,319.50	\$2,373,164.00	\$305.66	IFG Timber LLC
Moose Stew	PON	4,835			\$ 641,622.00	\$1,167,383.00	\$241.44	IFG Timber LLC
Peakabou Pulp	PRL	2,775			\$ 300,148.50	\$ 300,148.50	\$108.16	Mike Kesler Enterprises
NOSR Delivered Products	PRL	1,735			\$1,289,450.00	\$1,377,625.00	\$744.66	Various
Big Creek OSR	CLW	9,380			\$1,177,466.00	\$1,206,856.00	\$128.66	Big Creek OSR
Endowment		31,845	0	0	\$7,213,779.50	\$8,894,720.50	\$279.31	
Flat Fire GNA Salvage Ton	BNF	2,415			\$ 108,520.95	\$ 108,520.95	\$44.94	IFG Timber LLC
Non-Endowment		2,415	0	0	\$ 108,520.95	\$ 108,520.95	\$44.94	

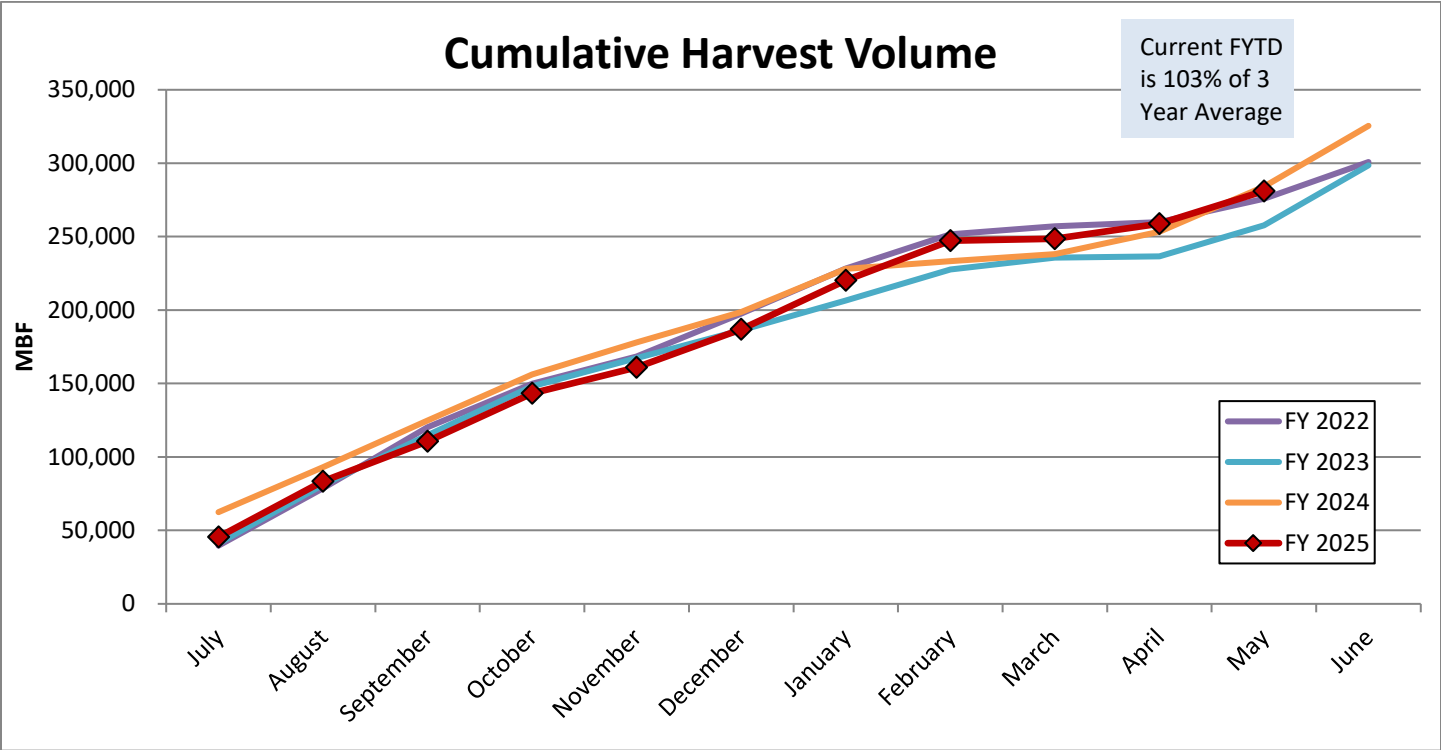
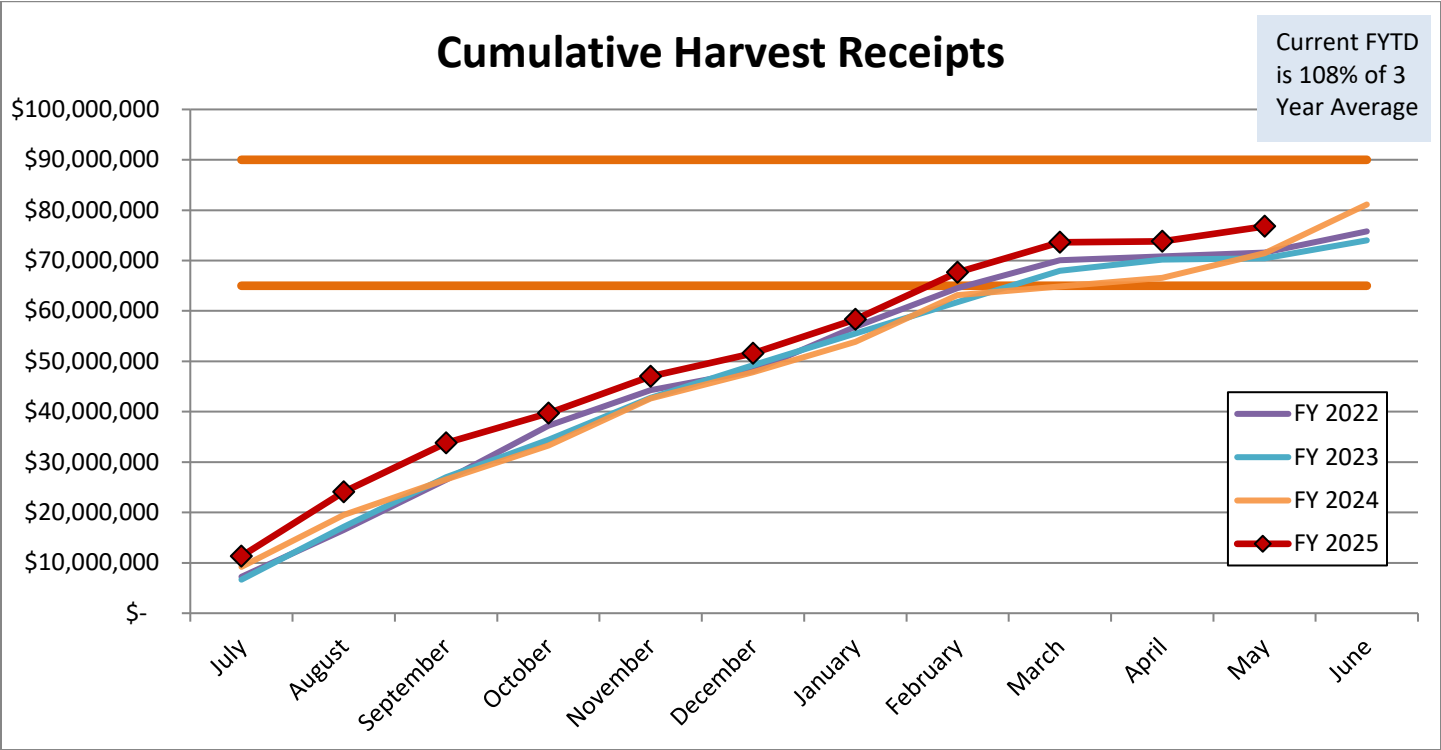
PROPOSED TIMBER SALES FOR AUCTION				
Sale Name	Volume MBF	Advertised Net Value	Area	Scheduled Auction Date
North Operations				
Bodie Lookout Cedar	1,410	\$ 490,206.00	POL	6/3/2025
Black Pine GNA	3,870	\$ 351,580.72	POL	6/10/2025
Leberite 40	11,650	\$ 1,327,255.00	SJ	6/12/2025
Spiked Out	10,440	\$ 1,514,412.00	SJ	6/12/2025
Rogue One Cedar	2,865	\$ 674,301.50	SJ	6/24/2025
Mid Pierce Cedar	5,455	\$ 1,456,212.00	SJ	6/24/2025
Boyds Bugle Cedar	3,250	\$ 598,738.00	PL	6/26/2025
Total	38,940	\$ 6,412,705.22		
South Operations				
North Skern Ton	3,515	\$ 427,584.85	PAY	6/5/2025
Bannock Pine Ton	7,010	\$ 495,825.52	SWI	6/11/2025
Caldwell Cedar	1,220	\$ 412,042.50	CLWR	6/16/2025
Thompson Creek Ton	8,570	\$ 276,016.80	EI	6/17/2025
Total	20,315	\$ 1,611,469.67		

VOLUME UNDER CONTRACT as of May 31, 2025				
	Public School	Pooled	Total	3 Year Avg.
Active Contracts			168	165
Total Residual MBF Equivalent	322,502	168,781	491,283	543,249
Estimated residual value	\$88,764,044	\$51,565,715	\$140,329,759	\$152,121,695
Residual Value (\$/MBF)	\$275.24	\$305.52	\$285.64	\$280.02

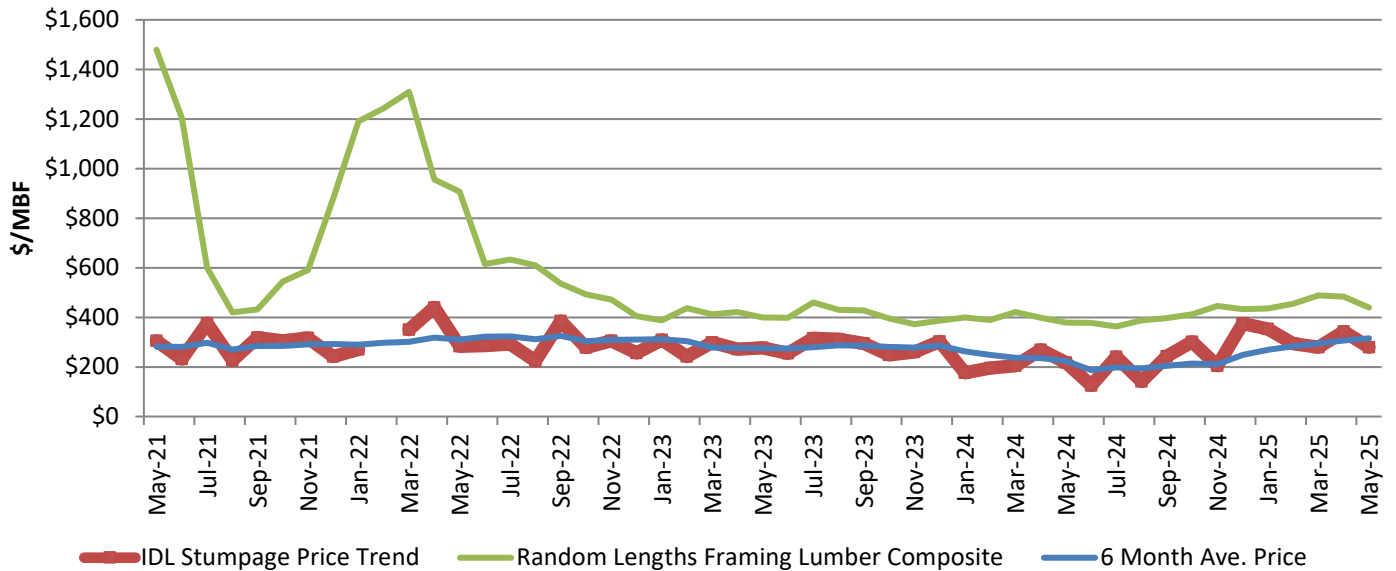
	TIMBER HARVEST RECEIPTS				
	May		FY to date	June Projected	
	Stumpage	Interest	Harvest Receipts	Stumpage	Interest
Public School	\$ 1,861,631.77	\$ 186,890.44	\$ 48,540,398.81	\$ 3,127,973.91	\$ 358,668.60
Pooled	\$ 819,696.04	\$ 64,984.52	\$ 28,490,656.98	\$ 2,469,342.90	\$ 259,556.22
General Fund	\$ 0.57	\$ -	\$ 4,164.13	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$2,681,328.38	\$ 251,874.96	\$ 77,035,219.92	\$5,597,316.81	\$ 618,224.82

	Status of FY2025 Timber Sale Program					
	MBF Sawlog			Number Poles		
	Public School	Pooled	All Endowments	Public School	Pooled	All Endowments
Sold as of May 31, 2025	104,906	110,438	215,344	14,202	11,338	25,540
Currently Advertised	52,562	11,563	64,125	1,615	1,000	2,615
In Review	24,813	15,437	40,250	618	2,883	3,500
Did Not Sell*	4,775	0	4,775	0	0	0
TOTALS	187,056	137,438	324,494	16,434	15,221	31,655
FY2025 Sales Plan			328,000			20,000
Percent to Date			99%			158%

* After three attempts at auction.



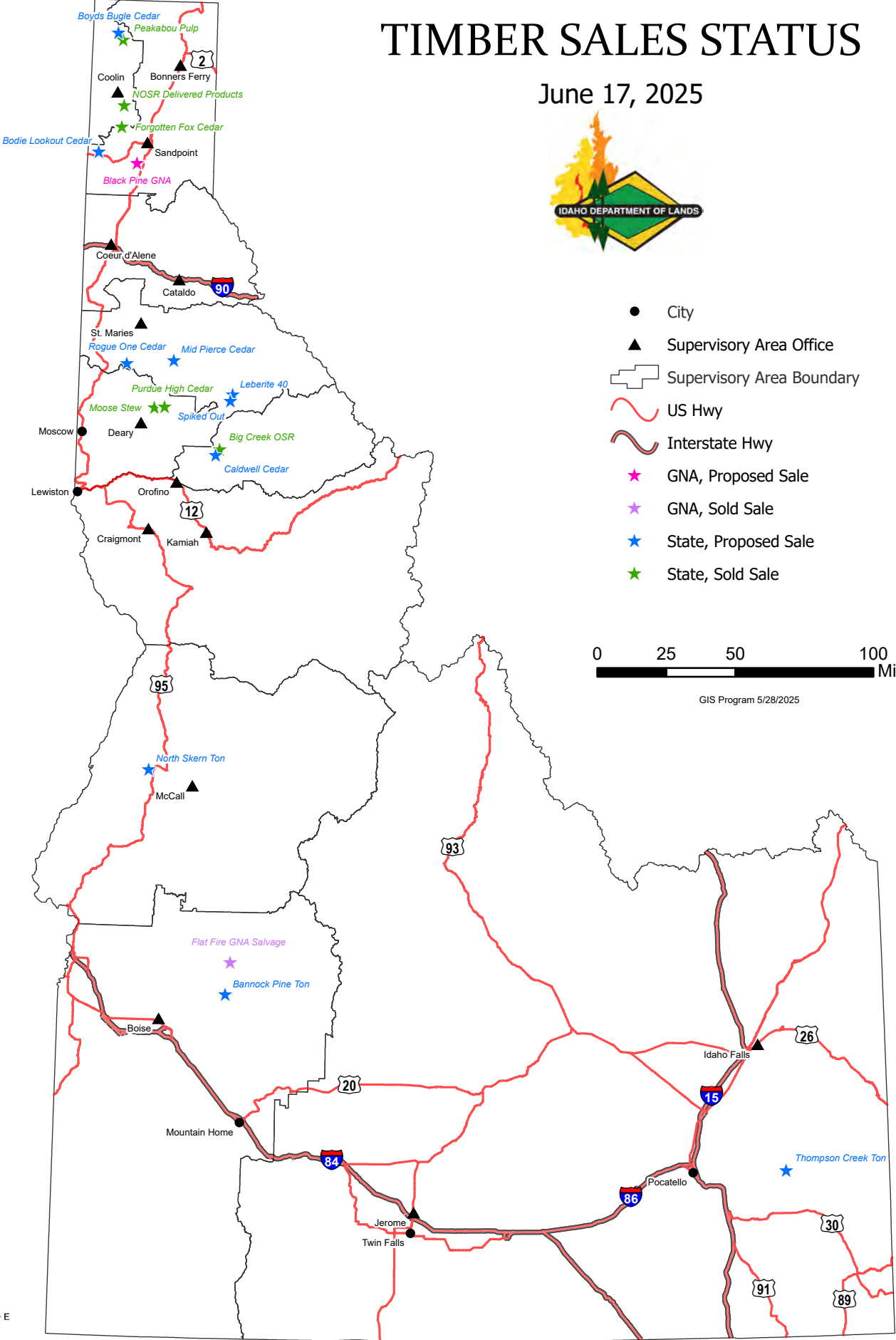
Monthly Lumber and Stumpage Prices and Six-Month Average Price Trends



May 2025 6-month average price is \$315.71.
 May 2024 6-month average price was \$223.30.

TIMBER SALES STATUS

June 17, 2025



STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025

Endowment Transactions

Leases and Permits

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – LEASING & PERMITTING TRANSACTIONS BY MONTH through May 31, 2025													
ACTIVITY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	FYTD
SURFACE													
Agriculture		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<i>Assignments</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Communication Sites	1		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
<i>Assignments</i>	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Grazing	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	7
<i>Assignments</i>	4	2	11	2	3	-	1	1	2	11	-	-	37
Residential	-	9	1	8	3	6	4	1	-	2	-	-	34
<i>Assignments</i>		2	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
COMMERCIAL													
Alternative Energy	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	3
Industrial		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<i>Assignments</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Office/Retail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Recreation	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Assignments</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
OTHER													
Conservation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Geothermal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Minerals	2		-	2	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	8
<i>Assignments</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Non-Comm Recreation		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Oil & Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
PERMITS													
Land Use Permits	9	11	10	7	2	7	11	11	4	3	-	-	75
TOTAL INSTRUMENTS	17	31	24	23	8	15	24	14	10	18	3	0	187

Real Estate

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS BY MONTH through May 31, 2025													
ACTIVITY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	FYTD
Deeds Acquired	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	4
Deeds Granted	-	-	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	13
Deeds Granted-Surplus	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Easements Acquired		-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Easements Granted	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	4
Notes : -Easement for Overhead Transmission line granted to Avista Corporation for consideration fee of \$165,000.00. -Easement for Road Use granted to Syringa Networks for consideration fee of \$5,000.00. -State of Idaho, State Board of Land Commissioners has acquired the warranty deeds: AD539 and AD540 that are associated with the Lewiston Seed Orchard acquisition. The transaction closed on May 28, 2025 for the total sales price of \$700,000.													

TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FY2025 GROSS REVENUE (non-timber) - ACTUAL AND FORECASTED
through May 31, 2025

	REVENUE YTD AS OF 05.31.2025	REVENUE EXPECTED BY 05.31.2025*	REVENUE EXPECTED BY 06.30.2025
SURFACE			
AGRICULTURE	\$ 482,832	\$ 678,710	\$ 678,710
COMMUNICATION SITES	\$ 1,062,935	\$ 1,090,000	\$ 1,100,000
GRAZING	\$ 2,151,159	\$ 1,854,000	\$ 2,089,000
RESIDENTIAL LEASES	\$ 1,484,610	\$ 1,322,000	\$ 1,557,115
COMMERCIAL			
COMMERCIAL ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 87,670	\$ 117,340	\$ 117,340
COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL	\$ 290,886	\$ 125,000	\$ 130,000
COMMERCIAL MILITARY FACILITIES	\$ 111,775	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
COMMERCIAL OFFICE/RETAIL LEASES	\$ 828,916	\$ 890,000	\$ 950,000
COMMERCIAL RECREATION	\$ 1,323,730	\$ 933,000	\$ 1,120,000
OTHER			
CONSERVATION LEASES	\$ 100,161	\$ 73,295	\$ 73,595
GEOTHERMAL	\$ -	\$ 5,006	\$ 5,006
MINERAL LEASES	\$ 283,258	\$ 110,494	\$ 110,494
OIL AND GAS LEASES	\$ 6,228	\$ 2,989	\$ 3,029
Sub Total	\$ 8,214,160	\$ 7,351,835	\$ 8,084,289
REAL ESTATE SERVICES (ER)	\$ -	**	
Grand Total - Earnings Reserve	\$ 8,214,160		

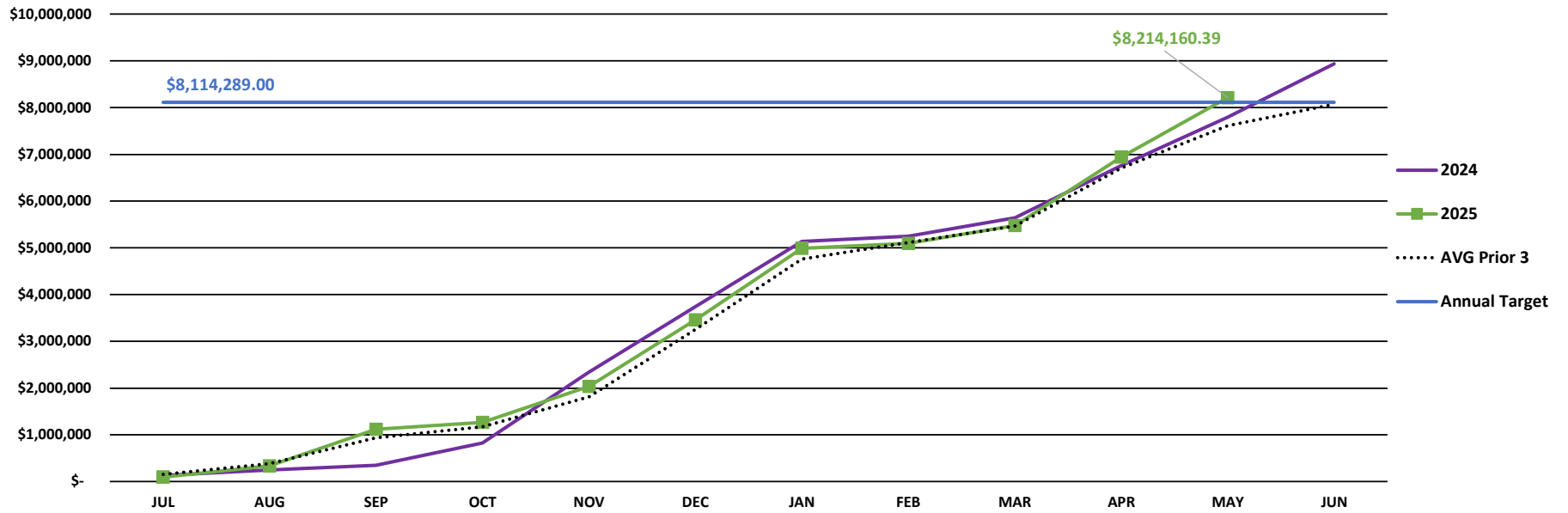
PERMANENT FUND REVENUE	
MINERALS (PF)	\$ 2,534,807 ***

*These figures are based on historic timing of revenue/billing as well as estimates of upcoming lease and permit revenue.

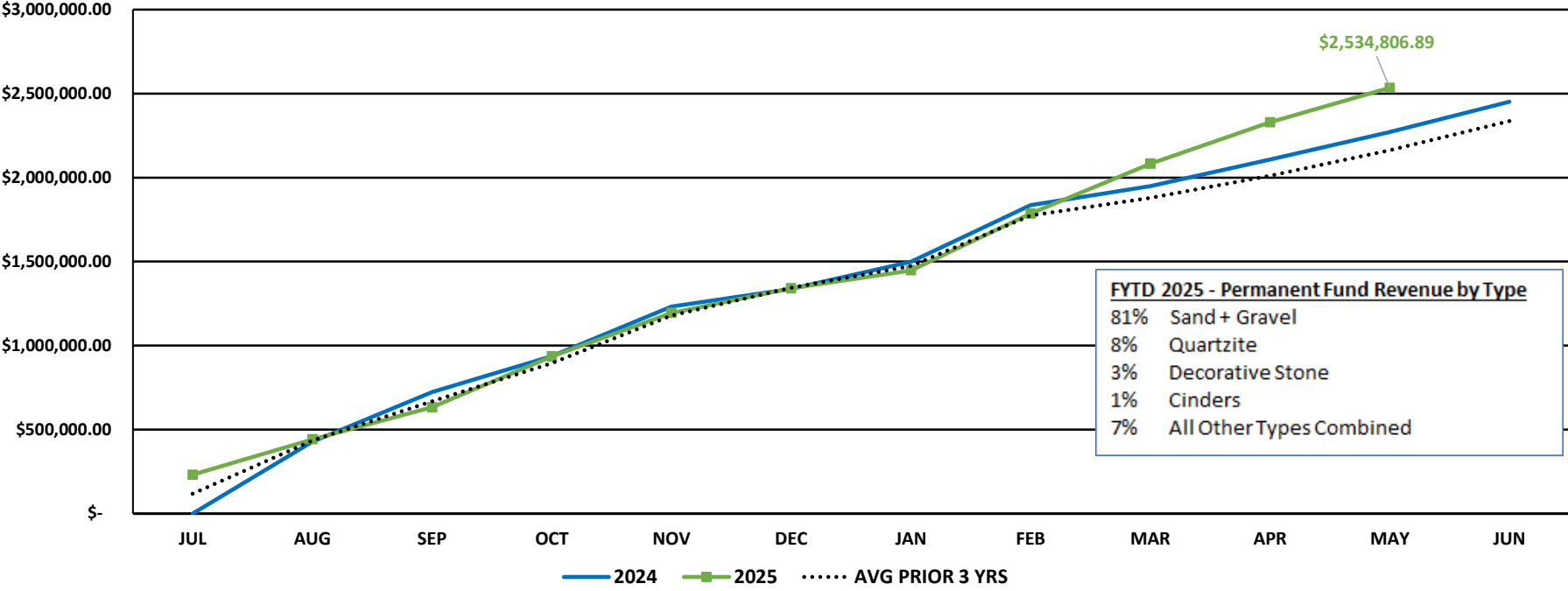
** This category is not included in the annual forecast.

***This category is not included in the annual forecast and represents minerals revenue to the permanent fund.

Cumulative Trust Land Program Receipts
Earnings Reserve - All Programs Excluding Timber
FYTD 2025



Trust Land Permanent Fund Revenue & Royalties
(Excluding Land Bank and Timber Program)
FYTD 2025





Thomas J. Wilford :: Chairman
Jerry F. Aldape Mary Pat Thompson
Robert M. Donaldson Chuck Winder
Joseph Forney Kenny Wroten
Irving Littman Brian Yeargain
Chris J. Anton :: Manager of Investments

Monthly Report to the Board of Land Commissioners

Investment performance through May 31, 2025

Month: 4.0% Fiscal year: 8.1%

Financial markets rebounded in May as the U.S. and China agreed to temporarily reduce massive tariffs and trade negotiations with the European Union showed signs of progress. Easing trade tensions resulted in a sharp rebound in consumer confidence. President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill," was passed by the House of Representatives and is now in the Senate. The bill seeks to make permanent tax cuts established in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, increase limits for SALT deductions and increase spending on border security and military expansion.

Status of endowment fund reserves

Distributions for FY2025 and FY2026 are well secured.

Significant actions of the Endowment Fund Investment Board

None.

Compliance/legal issues, areas of concern

Material deviations from Investment Policy: None.

Material legal issues: None.

Changes in board membership or agency staffing:

None.

Upcoming issues/events

Board Meeting – August 18, 2025

Preliminary Report (Land Grant Fund)

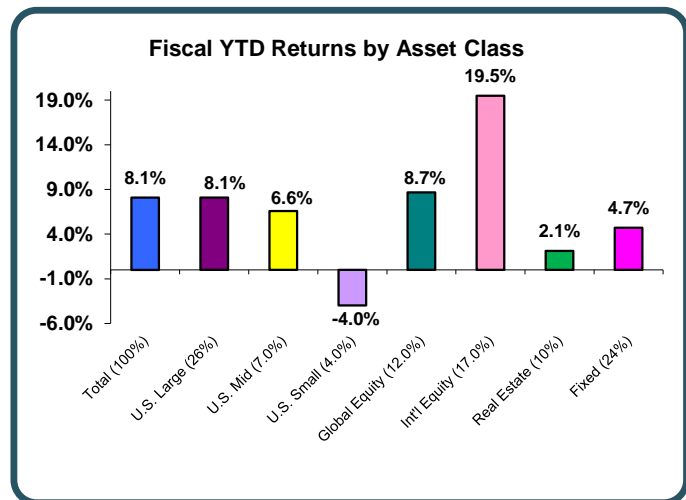
May 31, 2025

	<u>Month</u>	<u>FYTD</u>
Beginning Value of Fund	3,349,147,319	\$ 3,254,002,699
Distributions to Beneficiaries	(8,601,800)	(94,869,800)
Land Revenue net of IDL Expenses	5,099,683	64,023,708
Change in Market Value net of Investment Mgt. Expenses	136,128,351	258,616,946
Current Value of Fund	\$ 3,481,773,553	\$ 3,481,773,553

<u>Gross Returns</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Calendar Y-T-D</u>	<u>Fiscal Y-T-D</u>	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Year</u>	<u>Five Year</u>	<u>Ten Year</u>
Total Fund	4.0%	4.7%	8.1%	9.3%	7.9%	9.2%	7.6%
Total Fund Benchmark*	3.6%	4.0%	8.5%	10.0%	8.3%	9.0%	7.4%
Total Fixed	-0.6%	2.5%	4.7%	5.8%	1.8%	0.0%	1.7%
BBG U.S. Agg. (Ag)	-0.7%	2.4%	4.5%	5.5%	1.5%	-0.5%	1.6%
Total Equity	6.3%	6.0%	10.2%	11.7%	12.1%	13.8%	10.3%
56% R3 25.8% Ax 18.2% AC	5.8%	4.9%	11.2%	13.5%	12.4%	13.7%	10.0%
Domestic Equity	6.3%	-0.2%	6.4%	8.7%	11.8%	14.3%	11.5%
Russell 3000 (R3)	6.3%	0.6%	9.7%	13.1%	13.8%	15.3%	12.2%
Global Equity	5.0%	5.9%	8.7%	9.9%	12.0%	12.6%	9.1%
MSCI ACWI (AC)	5.7%	5.3%	11.2%	13.7%	12.3%	13.4%	9.3%
Int'l. Equity	7.3%	20.4%	19.5%	19.0%	12.7%	13.4%	8.2%
MSCI ACWI ex-US (Ax)	4.6%	14.0%	13.9%	13.8%	9.4%	10.4%	5.5%
Real Estate	0.0%	1.6%	2.1%	2.1%	-4.5%	1.9%	
NCREIF ODCE Index		0.9%	0.3%	-2.3%	-3.1%	1.9%	

* Benchmark: 37% Russell 3000 17% ACWI ex-US 12% AC 24% BB Agg. 10% OD

	<u>Mkt Value</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Domestic Equity	\$ 1,240.3	35.6%
Large Cap	877.1	25.2%
Mid Cap	238.3	6.8%
Small Cap	125.0	3.6%
Global Equity	431.4	12.4%
Int'l Equity	607.4	17.4%
Fixed Income	832.3	23.9%
Real Estate	353.7	10.2%
Cash	15.8	0.5%
Total Fund	\$ 3,481.8	100.0%



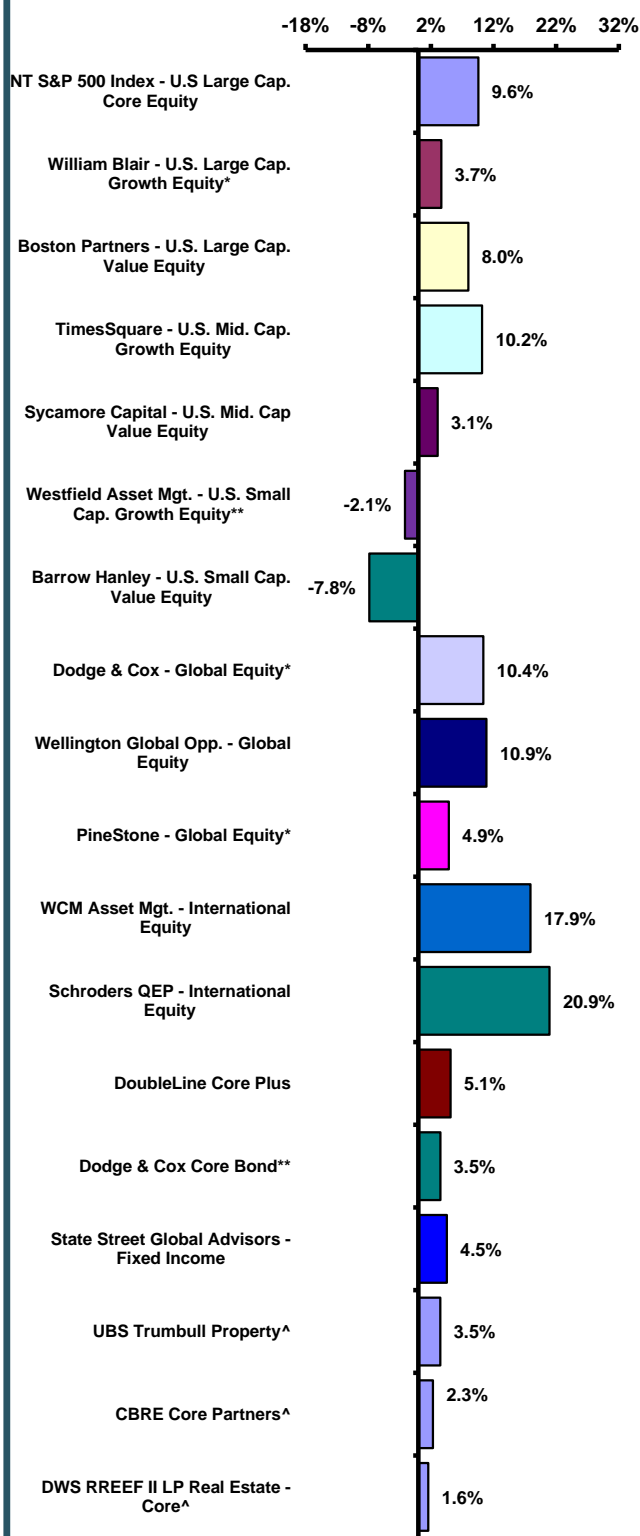
Endowment Fund Staff Comments:

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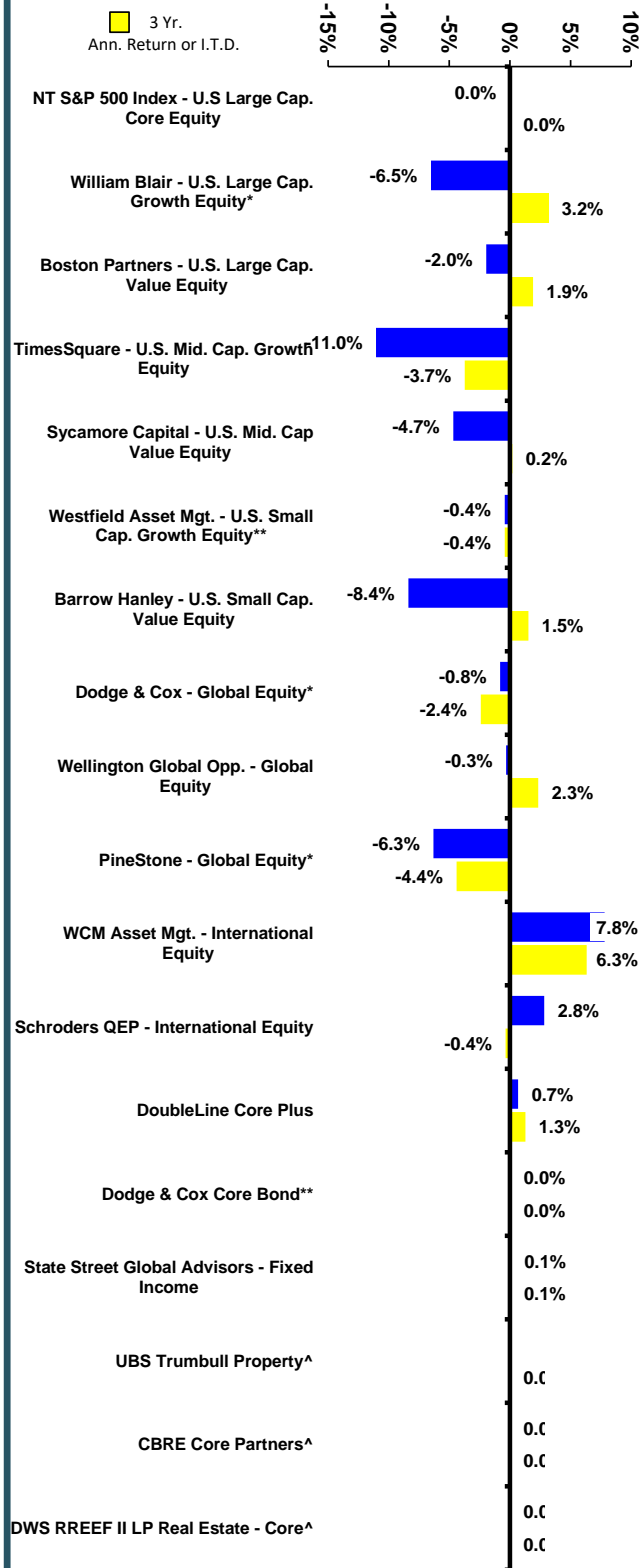
May 31, 2025

INVESTMENT REPORT

FYTD Manager Returns*



Manager Relative Returns Fiscal YTD and 3-Yr Ave*



** Westfield Started 7/19/24, Dodge & Cox 2/1/25

^ Most recent valuation. * I-T-D if no FYTD or 3-yr. history

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025
Consent Agenda

Subject

Strategic Plan FY2026–FY2029

Question Presented

Shall the Land Board direct the Department to submit the FY2026–FY2029 Strategic Plan to the Division of Financial Management by July 1, 2025?

Background

Each year the Division of Financial Management (DFM) collects agency strategic plans in accordance with Idaho Code §§ 67-1901–1904. The deadline for submittal is July 1, 2025.

Discussion

In 2016, leaders in the Idaho Department of Lands (Department) defined the four foundational goals that are at the heart of the Department's strategic plan.

These four goals continue to represent the Department's core responsibilities and guide staff's daily activities.

The four foundational goals are:

1. **Financial Stewardship:** Fulfill the State Board of Land Commissioners' (Land Board) fiduciary duties by maximizing long-term financial returns from the endowment lands and through prudent management of state funds and resources.
2. **Customer Focused:** Deliver programs with professionalism and integrity, providing exemplary service to external and internal customers.
3. **People:** Develop a well-trained, high-performing workforce focused on carrying out the Department's mission.
4. **Process:** Implement policies and procedures using integrated systems that support effective and informed decision-making.

In addition to the important foundational goals, the Department's leadership team developed a set of six future-proofing goals aimed at preparing the Department for challenges yet to come. Leadership and staff evaluate the goals annually to ensure the goals provide sound direction for the Department's mission.

The Department will continue to incorporate tasks and objectives that align with strategic plan goals into employee performance plans. Specific tasks have been identified for each of the goals to help provide staff with clear direction. This alignment between employee performance measurement and the strategic plan

ensures that effort is focused on the most important goals and that each employee can more clearly see how his or her role directly links to the goals of the Department.

The proposed strategic plan structure, which includes the Department's mission, vision, goals, and strategies is provided as Attachment 1, and a redlined version is included as Attachment 2 for ease in referencing revisions from the prior plan.

The Department's final strategic plan submission on or before July 1, 2025 will meet all the required elements as outlined by DFM.

Recommendation

Direct the Department to submit its FY2026-FY2029 Strategic Plan to the Division of Financial Management by July 1, 2025.

Board Action

Attachments

1. Strategic Plan FY2026-FY2029
2. Strategic Plan FY2026-FY2029 Redlined

Idaho Department of Lands

Strategic Plan FY2026–FY2029

Vision

Prepared for tomorrow's natural resource challenges.

Mission

To professionally and prudently manage Idaho's endowment assets to maximize long-term financial returns to the public schools and other trust beneficiaries and to provide professional assistance to the citizens of Idaho to use, protect, and sustain their natural resources.

Guiding Tenets

By focusing on our staff, customers, processes, and finances, IDL will remain a healthy, proactive and effective organization. To that end, departmental decisions should consider the following:

- **Fiduciary Duty** – Does this decision maximize long term financial returns from endowment lands and provide for prudent management of state funds and resources?
- **IDL Staff** – Is this decision consistent with the development and retention of a high performing workforce that is cohesive and accountable?
- **Customers** – With this decision, are we providing exemplary service to our customers?
- **Processes** – Is the decision informed by data and consistent with our policies and procedures?
- **Forward-looking** – Is this decision preparing us for success in the future?

IDL Programs Make Idaho Better!

We are committed to meeting our mission by executing our core programs and delivering results with professionalism and appreciation of Idaho's natural resources.

In the **Timber** program we manage over 1 million acres of productive timberland to produce sustainable revenue for the endowment beneficiaries. Timberland is managed intensively while focusing on long term health and productivity. The Timberland asset class currently provides about 25-30% of timber utilized by Idaho's vibrant \$2.5 billion forest products industry while producing impressive returns on endowment lands. The department uses high quality data and modeling to develop our sustainable timber harvest plans.

The **Fire** program is responsible for fire suppression on over 9 million acres of endowment, private, and federal lands in Idaho and provides cooperative fire suppression throughout the state. Our fire suppression operations are conducted safely and aggressively with the goal of suppressing at least 95% of fires at 10 acres or less.

The **Real Estate and Endowment Leasing** programs lease land assets including rangeland, farmland, and residential and commercial real estate and lease mineral assets. These asset classes make up approximately 1.4 million acres of land in Idaho. As the department has implemented Land Board direction to divest of large portions of the residential and commercial real estate asset classes over time, the Real Estate Services Bureau continues to explore new ways to generate revenue for the beneficiaries

such as commercial and energy leasing. Real Estate Services also manages land acquisitions, land disposals, exchanges and easements which are used to block up and improve access to endowment lands, add desirable land to the portfolio, and address underperforming assets.

The **Minerals, Navigable Waterways, and Oil & Gas** programs provide statewide regulatory oversight of active and legacy extraction operations while protecting the public's use of navigable lakes and rivers. We regularly partner with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure Idaho's land and resources are utilized, protected and restored.

The **Forestry Assistance, Shared Stewardship** and **Good Neighbor (GNA)** programs work with federal, state, county, and private partners to help manage and protect forests and rangelands throughout the state. Since wildfire, insects and disease do not recognize ownership boundaries, it is vital that all owners of Idaho lands collaborate to actively manage their forests and implement fuel reduction treatments. Healthy and actively managed forests are more resistant to negative impacts from fire, insect, and disease threats.

External Factors Affecting Future Performance

We believe by focusing on our core competencies while simultaneously preparing for what a changing and growing Idaho may hold, we will continue to successfully meet expectations. Some external factors that we will need to monitor, acknowledge, and respond to are:

- Population Growth
 - An increase in residents building homes in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) creating greater risk of property and lives lost in wildland fires
 - Changing customer expectations for the work we do and services we provide
 - More residents, more landowners, and more neighbors creates an increased need for education and information sharing regarding management requirements on endowment and public lands
- Competition for Skilled Labor
 - Private sector and other public employers compete with IDL for employees
 - Increased cost of living and housing costs make talent recruitment and retention difficult
 - Natural resource careers may be less appealing to today's evolving workforce
 - Additional shortages of contractors including those that work for our timber purchasers such as log truck drivers
- New initiatives, programs or mandates that increase our workload and create gaps in our expertise
- Changing public priorities that can lead to significant policy shifts in a short time
- World events that create economic challenges such as continuing inflation, economic stagnation, or periods of recession

Our Foundational Goals: 2026–2029

Under the direction of the Land Board, IDL is primarily focused on meeting the Land Board's constitutional mandate to manage state endowment trust lands "in such a manner as will secure the maximum long-term financial return" to the beneficiary institutions. Further, IDL (1) administers Idaho's public trust lands – the lands beneath the beds of Idaho's navigable lakes and rivers for the benefit of all

Idahoans, (2) contributes to protection of water quality and other resources by overseeing forest and mining practices, (3) remediates abandoned mine lands, and (4) provides service and assistance to Idahoans through forestry and fire management programs. The following foundational goals place these obligations front and center:

Foundational Goal 1 – Financial Stewardship

Maximize long term financial returns from the endowment lands and prudently manage state funds and resources.

- Task 1 – Proactively monitor and take actions to improve our return on investment (ROI) on state endowment land in line with Land Board direction.
- Task 2 – Meet our sustainable timber sales objectives as directed by the Land Board.
- Task 3 – Manage our spending through a conservative approach and regular communications, reporting and analysis.
- Task 4 – Explore, analyze and (where appropriate) introduce new income streams to the leasing programs.
- Task 5 – Establish Key Performance Indicators for endowment programs to track and improve financial performance.
- Task 6 – Ensure all financial audits are passed successfully.
- Task 7 – Contain 95% of wildfires to 10 acres or less.

Foundational Goal 2 – Customer Focus: Act with professionalism and integrity, providing exemplary service to external and internal customers.

- Task 1 – Using the variety of tools available today, produce educational and informational materials to help Idaho citizens legally and safely utilize the lands we manage and protect.
- Task 2 – Proudly reaffirm the endowment mission and continue to support the beneficiaries.
- Task 3 – Where appropriate, engage with the potentially affected customers to ensure quality and transparency of our actions.

Foundational Goal 3 – People: Develop a well-trained, high performing workforce focused on carrying out the Department’s mission.

- Task 1 – Prioritize and support staff development from employee onboarding to growth of professional expertise.
- Task 2 – Develop leaders and reinforce our culture of career long learning and advancement.
- Task 3 – Encourage and expect leadership from staff at all levels of the organization.
- Task 4 – Ensure that the executive leadership team continues to grow professionally, thereby improving the ability to develop other Department staff.

Foundational Goal 4 – Process: Implement policies and procedures using integrated systems that support effective and informed decision making.

- Task 1 – Integrate and improve business processes with secure technology systems and infrastructure.
- Task 2 – Provide staff with tools and systems that are simple, functional and efficient.
- Task 3 – Establish and maintain governance, policies, and procedures to direct agency operations.
- Task 4 – During policy and procedure development and review, focus on empowering decision-making at the lowest level possible.

Our Stretch Goals: 2026–2029

Idaho remains a rapidly growing state, and we anticipate that the state will continue to evolve in both predictable and unpredictable ways. More people, more parcels, and more homes lead to growth in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), changing expectations around land management and regulatory programs and a general increase in the demand for our services. The same issues pose a threat to endowment land management and our ability to stay true to the endowment mandate. The Department recognizes that it must remain diligent and true to our strengths but ready to pivot and evolve as needs change.

In addition to our core foundational goals, IDL leadership will continue to focus on several ongoing goals during the next 4 years that we believe will help prepare us for success in the future. The goals may evolve over time but will remain focused on preparing for the future. The goals are:

Future-Proofing Goal 1 – Classification & Compensation: Intentionally monitor our pay and benefits structure to ensure we are utilizing our personnel cost (PC) appropriation to hire, develop and retain the right people in the right positions most effectively.

- Task 1 – Continue to address classification and compensation issues such as hiring rates, pay inequities, employee classification, salary compression, and change in employee compensation (CEC) implementation.
- Task 2 – At the Division level, analyze staffing for each area/bureau/program to identify opportunities to right size to meet specific needs.
- Task 3 – Implement reasonable telework and flexible scheduling where appropriate, effective, and consistent with IDL and state policies.
- Task 4 – Use micro-learning webinars or other means to communicate with staff regarding compensation issues and the value of the generous employee benefit package to improve employee retention.

Future-Proofing Goal 2 – Office Facilities: Proactively plan for maintenance, improvements, and replacement of our offices throughout the state.

- Task 1 – Through the executive team and facilities and fleet manager, plan and implement office facility upgrades and replacements including structure replacements, major expansion/remodel projects, safety/security upgrades, and office relocations.
- Task 2 – Define the space needs and aesthetic expectations for future structures to provide uniformity and to be financially responsible.
- Task 3 – Investigate alternative means of funding necessary facility upgrades (dedicated funds/Idaho Building Authority/etc.)
- Task 4 – Present facilities needs and potential solutions to the Land Board for information/consideration.

Future-Proofing Goal 3 – Seasonal Housing Facilities: Address the housing needs of temporary staff who are critical to achieving our mission and must have available and affordable housing options.

- Task 1 – Through the executive team and facilities and fleet manager, plan for seasonal housing including a prioritized list of needs from most to least urgent and document the best potential solution for each area.

- Task 2 – Continue working with other agencies with similar needs to identify solutions, increase efficiency, and share expense and effort.
- Task 3 – Explore options for new structure types and acquisition of existing structures while considering feasibility for each site including cost, benefits, lifespan, build time, etc.
- Task 4 – Present the seasonal housing issues and potential solutions to the Land Board for information/consideration.

Future-Proofing Goal 4 – Fire: Monitor, understand and respond to changes that are happening in wildland fire organizations across the country due to longer & hotter seasons, fewer firefighters entering the career field, lagging wages and more citizens residing in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

- Task 1 – Continue implementation and monitoring of the new master agreement and identify potential future adjustments.
- Task 2 – Continue progress on a comprehensive strategic plan within the IDL fire program to include a vision, mission, goals, factual current status data and future-state scenarios that must be met to ensure capacity to protect Idaho’s natural resources.
- Task 3 – Continue to expand the Department’s ability to compete for and employ professional firefighters through pay, benefits, housing, and developmental opportunities.
- Task 4 – Cooperate with efforts outside of IDL aimed at increasing the pool of available firefighters over time.
- Task 5 – Develop and execute the Leader’s Intent for each fire season.

Future-Proofing Goals 5 – Fund Integrity: Ensure that dedicated funds are utilized by the programs for which they are intended and that overhead activities are funded proportionately with the correct programmatic mix.

- Task 1 – Continue data analysis and identify specific changes needed to ensure funds are used appropriately and in the proper proportions (fund integrity) to meet Department needs.
- Task 2 – Analyze and modify employee funding sources to align work with funding as closely as possible.
- Task 3 – Identify and execute specific changes that will result in measurable progress towards improved fund integrity.

Future-Proofing Goal 6 – Policy & Procedure: Update and organize the many policies and procedures that inform our daily work while ensuring governance is clearly established and authority is delegated where appropriate.

- Task 1 – Ensure that IDL policy and procedure aligns with statutes, rules, and Land Board policies.
- Task 2 – Continue to revise or move existing directives, currently in multiple formats (e.g., Land Board memos, minutes, governance delineations), into an existing or new policy.
- Task 3 – Follow the schedule for policy review and hold staff accountable to update policy as needed.
- Task 4 – Develop IDL Style Guide policy that includes standardized formatting, design elements, and accessibility criteria for all Department policies and procedures.

Appendix A – Benchmarks and Performance Measures

Note: The performance measures are typically longstanding measures that the Department believes are reasonable measures of performance. They are reported annually and tied to the strategic plan, as shown, but may not exactly align with the tasks within the foundational and stretch goals. A strategic plan may evolve from year to year while performance measures typically remain consistent over time.

Goal (Type)	Objective	Benchmark	Performance Measure
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Manage endowment timberland consistent with our fiduciary duty	Timber sale volume offered is consistent with Land Board direction	Offer 331 million board feet (mmbf) of timber for sale for future harvest
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Management endowment timberland consistent with our fiduciary duty	Achieve appropriate return on investment	Net return on timberland of at least 3.5%
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Protect endowment land consistent with our fiduciary duty	Initial attack effectiveness	At least 95% of wildfires contained at less than 10 acres
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Protect endowment lands consistent with our fiduciary duty	Fire suppression resource preparation	Fire readiness reviews completed on at least half of fire districts
Customer Focus (Foundational)	Provide exemplary service to forest landowners and operators	Forest practice compliances inspected	Inspect at least 50% of forest practice compliances issued
Customer Focus (Foundational)	Provide exemplary service to endowment lessees	Percentage of lease instruments fully executed by the expiration date	At least 90% fully executed
Customer Focus (Foundational)	Provide exemplary service to landowners and the forest products industry	Check scales conducted by the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices	At least 150 check scales conducted
Office Facilities (Future Proofing)	Replace facilities as needed	Develop a plan for replacement of office facilities as needed	Plan is developed for potential presentation to the Land Board
Classification and Compensation (Future Proofing)	Maintain appropriate staffing levels	Analyze the use of temporary and permanent staff across programs	Analysis is completed and guidelines are developed and implemented
Seasonal Housing Facilities (Future Proofing)	Address the need for seasonal housing	Develop a plan to meet seasonal housing needs	Plan is developed for potential presentation to the Land Board
Fire (Future Proofing)	Safe and effective fire suppression	Master agreement implementation	Monitor successes and shortcomings for future adjustments to the agreement
Fund Integrity (Future Proofing)	Ensure programs are funded from appropriate funding sources	Data collection and analysis	Collect data and develop an understanding of the situation
Policy & Procedure (Future Proofing)	Review, update, and organize policies and procedures	Schedule ongoing policy review	Recurring schedule is established and staff are accountable
Fire (Future Proofing)	Safe and effective fire suppression/employee qualifications	Percentage of engines staffed with fully qualified crew	At least 75%
Fire (Future Proofing)	Safe and effective fire suppression/employee retention	Percentage of seasonal firefighters returning to IDL	At least 50%

Idaho Department of Lands

Strategic Plan ~~FY2025—FY2028~~FY2026–FY2029

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continues to explore new ways to generate revenue for the beneficiaries such as commercial and energy leasing. Real Estate Services also manages land acquisitions, land disposals, exchanges and easements which are used to block up and improve access to endowment lands, add desirable land to the portfolio, and address underperforming assets.

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Our Foundational Goals: ~~2025—2028~~ 2026–2029

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public trust lands – the lands beneath the beds of Idaho’s navigable lakes and rivers for the benefit of all Idahoans, (2) contributes to protection of water quality and other resources by overseeing forest and mining practices, (3) remediates abandoned mine lands, and (4) provides service and assistance to Idahoans through forestry and fire management programs. The following foundational goals place these obligations front and center:

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- Task 1 – Prioritize and support staff development from employee onboarding to growth of professional expertise.
- Task 2 – Develop leaders and reinforce our culture of career long learning and advancement.
- Task 3 – ~~Evaluate options to re-establish the Leadership Development Program or a similar program.~~ Encourage and expect leadership from staff at all levels of the organization.
- Task 4 – Ensure that the executive leadership team continues to grow professionally, thereby improving the ability to develop other Department staff.

Foundational Goal 4 – Process: Implement policies and procedures using integrated systems that support effective and informed decision making.

- Task 1 – Integrate and improve business processes with secure technology systems and infrastructure.
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- Task 3 – Establish and ~~update~~ maintain governance, policies, and procedures to direct agency operations.
- Task 4 – During policy and procedure development and review, focus on empowering decision-making at the lowest level possible.

Our Stretch Goals: ~~2025–2028~~ 2026–2029

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- Task 1 – ~~Through the compensation committee, evaluate and~~ Continue to address classification and compensation issues such as hiring rates, pay inequities, employee classification, salary compression, and change in employee compensation (CEC) implementation.-
- Task 2 – At the Division level, analyze staffing for each area/bureau/program to identify opportunities to right size to meet specific needs.
- Task 3 – Implement reasonable telework and flexible scheduling where appropriate, effective, and consistent with IDL and state policies.
- Task 4 – Use micro-learning webinars or other means, ~~such as state benefits/retirement experts~~ to communicate with staff regarding compensation issues and the value of the generous employee benefit package to improve employee retention.

Future-Proofing Goal 2 – Office Facilities: Proactively plan for maintenance, improvements, and replacement of our offices throughout the state.

- Task 1 – Through the executive team and facilities and fleet manager, ~~develop a plan and~~ implement ~~for~~ office facility upgrades and replacements including ~~a prioritized list of potential~~ structure replacements, major expansion/remodel projects, safety/security upgrades, and office relocations.
- Task 2 – ~~Within the plan above, define~~ Define the space needs and aesthetic expectations for future structures to provide uniformity and to be financially responsible.
- Task 3 – Investigate alternative means of funding necessary facility upgrades (dedicated funds/Idaho Building Authority/etc.)
- Task 4 – Present ~~the facilities plan~~ facilities needs and potential solutions to the Land Board for information/consideration.
- ~~Task 5 – Implement the prioritized plan and continue planning for future needs.~~

Future-Proofing Goal 3 – Seasonal Housing Facilities: Address the housing needs of temporary staff who are critical to achieving our mission and must have available and affordable housing options.

- Task 1 – ~~Similar to office facilities, through~~Through the executive team and facilities and fleet manager, ~~develop a~~ plan for seasonal housing including a prioritized list of needs from most to least urgent and document the best potential solution for each area.
- Task 2 – Continue working with other agencies with similar needs to identify solutions, increase efficiency, and share expense and effort.
- Task 3 – Explore options for new structure types ~~that could potentially serve the workforce (e.g., mobile homes, prefab bunkhouse, existing homes/apartments, etc.)~~and acquisition of existing structures while considering feasibility for each site including cost, benefits, lifespan, build time, etc.
- ~~Task 4 – Analyze whether land bank funds could be used for acquisition of seasonal housing.~~
- ~~Task 5 – Utilize external information sources and expertise as we move forward at each location.~~
- Task 56 – Present the seasonal housing ~~plan~~issues and potential solutions to the Land Board for information/consideration.

Future-Proofing Goal 4 – Fire: Monitor, understand and respond to changes that are happening in wildland fire organizations across the country due to longer & hotter seasons, fewer firefighters entering the career field, lagging wages and more citizens residing in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

- Task 1 – Continue implementation and monitoring of the new master agreement and identify potential future adjustments.
- Task 2 – Continue progress on a comprehensive strategic plan within the IDL fire program to include a vision, mission, goals, factual current status data and future-state scenarios that must be met to ensure capacity to protect Idaho’s natural resources.
- Task 3 – Continue to expand the Department’s ability to compete for and employ professional firefighters through pay, benefits, housing, and developmental opportunities.
- Task 4 – Cooperate with efforts outside of IDL aimed at increasing the pool of available firefighters over time.
- Task 5 – Develop and execute the Leader’s Intent for each fire season.

Future-Proofing Goals 5 – Fund Integrity: Ensure that dedicated funds are utilized by the programs for which they are intended and that overhead activities are funded proportionately with the correct programmatic mix.

- Task 1 – ~~Continue data analysis~~Analyze data and identify specific changes needed to ensure funds are used appropriately and in the proper proportions (fund integrity) to meet Department needs.
- Task 2 – Analyze and modify employee funding sources to align work with funding as closely as possible.
- Task 3 – Identify ~~and execute~~ specific changes that will result in measurable progress towards improved fund integrity.

Future-Proofing Goal 6 – Policy & Procedure: Update and organize the many policies and procedures that inform our daily work while ensuring governance is clearly established and authority is delegated where appropriate.

- Task 1 – Ensure that IDL policy and procedure aligns with statutes, rules, and Land Board policies.
- Task 2 – Continue to revise or move existing directives, currently in multiple formats (e.g., Land Board memos, minutes, governance delineations), into an existing or new policy.
- Task 3 – ~~Establish a schedule to review policy on a recurring basis~~Follow the schedule for policy review and hold staff accountable to update policy as needed.
- Task 4 – Develop IDL Style Guide policy that includes with standardized formatting, design elements, and accessibility criteria for all Department policies and procedures.

Appendix A – Benchmarks and Performance Measures

Note: The performance measures are typically longstanding measures that the Department believes are reasonable measures of performance. They are reported annually and tied to the strategic plan, as shown, but may not exactly align with the tasks within the foundational and stretch goals. A strategic plan may evolve from year to year while performance measures ~~often~~ typically remain consistent over time.

Goal (Type)	Objective	Benchmark	Performance Measure
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Manage endowment timberland consistent with our fiduciary duty	Timber sale volume offered is consistent with Land Board direction	Offer 328 <u>331</u> million board feet (mmbf) of timber for sale for future harvest
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Management endowment timberland consistent with our fiduciary duty	Achieve appropriate return on investment	Net return on timberland of at least 3.5%
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Protect endowment land consistent with our fiduciary duty	Initial attack effectiveness	At least 95% of wildfires contained at less than 10 acres
Financial Stewardship (Foundational)	Protect endowment lands consistent with our fiduciary duty	Fire suppression resource preparation	Fire readiness reviews completed on at least half of fire districts
Customer Focus (Foundational)	Provide exemplary service to forest landowners and operators	Forest practice compliances inspected	Inspect at least 50% of forest practice compliances issued
Customer Focus (Foundational)	Provide exemplary service to endowment lessees	Percentage of lease instruments fully executed by the expiration date	At least 90% fully executed
Customer Focus (Foundational)	Provide exemplary service to landowners and the forest products industry	Check scales conducted by the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices	At least 150 check scales conducted
Office Facilities (Future Proofing)	Replace facilities as needed	Develop a plan for replacement of office facilities as needed	Plan is developed for potential presentation to the Land Board
Classification and Compensation (Future Proofing)	Maintain appropriate staffing levels	Analyze the use of temporary and permanent staff across programs	Analysis is completed and guidelines are developed and implemented
Seasonal Housing Facilities (Future Proofing)	Address the need for seasonal housing	Develop a plan to meet seasonal housing needs	Plan is developed for potential presentation to the Land Board
Fire (Future Proofing)	Safe and effective fire suppression	Master agreement implementation	Monitor successes and shortcomings for future adjustments to the agreement
Fund Integrity (Future Proofing)	Ensure programs are funded from appropriate funding sources	Data collection and analysis	Collect data and develop an understanding of the situation

Policy & Procedure (Future Proofing)	Review, update, and organize policies and procedures	Schedule ongoing policy review	Recurring schedule is established and staff are accountable
Fire (Future Proofing)	Safe and effective fire suppression/employee qualifications	Percentage of engines staffed with fully qualified crew	At least 75%
Fire (Future Proofing)	Safe and effective fire suppression/employee retention	Percentage of seasonal firefighters returning to IDL	At least 50%

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025
Consent Agenda

Subject

State Participation as a Member of Timber Protective Associations

Question Presented

Shall the Land Board authorize state participation as a member of the Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association (CPTPA) and Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA)?

Background

Title 38, Chapter 1, Idaho Code–Idaho Forestry Act

Discussion

Idaho Code § 38-104 requires that prior to continued state participation as a member, the Director of the Idaho Department of Lands (Department) shall annually review each timber protective association for the following:

- a. The governing and managing structure;
- b. The condition of equipment and its proposed use;
- c. The adequacy of liability insurance; and
- d. The training of personnel.

Readiness reviews of the above items were conducted at CPTPA on May 20, 2025 and SITPA on May 22, 2025. No significant deficiencies were found during the readiness reviews, and the Department has determined that both timber protective associations are able to perform their duties in a manner that justifies continued state participation.

Recommendation

Authorize state participation as a member of the Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association and Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association.

Board Action

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025
Consent Agenda

Subject

Deficiency Warrant Authority for Fire Suppression Costs in Fiscal Year 2026.

Question Presented

Shall the Land Board authorize issuance of deficiency warrants to pay fire suppression costs in FY2026?

Background

Title 38, Chapter 1, Idaho Code–Idaho Forestry Act.

Discussion

Idaho Code § 38-131 states: *"In the event the actual cost for control or suppression of forest fires in any forest protective district exceeds in any one (1) year the maximum moneys available for forest protection in that district from the general fund provided for that purpose, the State Board of Land Commissioners may authorize the issuance of deficiency warrants for the purpose of defraying such excess costs and when so authorized the state controller shall, after notice to the state treasurer, draw deficiency warrants against the general fund."*

Annual fire suppression costs for the State of Idaho are impossible to predict; as a budgetary placeholder, the legislature includes a minimal suppression appropriation each year in the Idaho Department of Lands' (Department) budget. Actual costs will exceed the appropriation before the fire season is over. A graph representing the state of Idaho's wildland fire annual costs over the last 20 years, adjusted for inflation to represent 2025 dollars, is shown in Attachment 1. The Department will provide monthly fire suppression expense updates to the Land Board throughout the 2025 fire season.

Recommendation

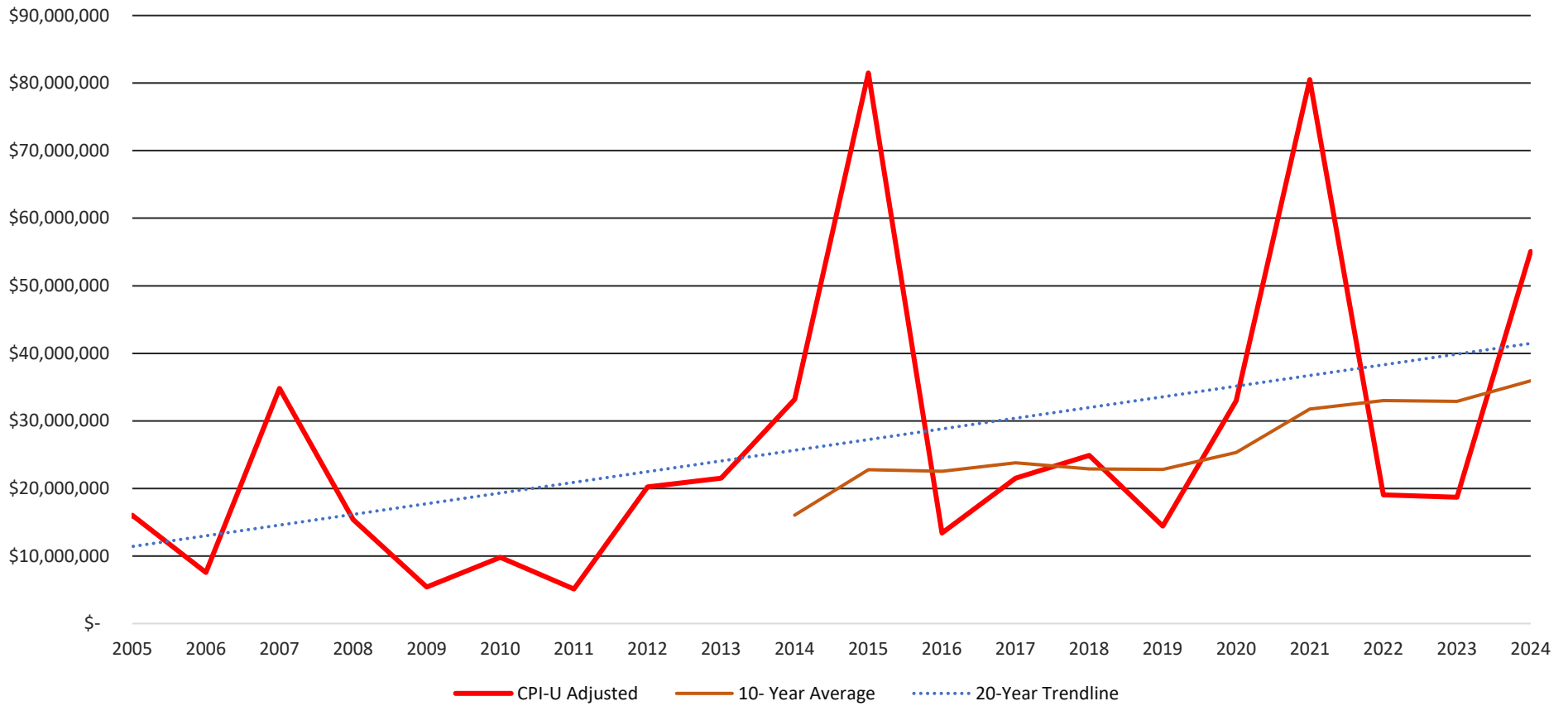
Authorize issuance of deficiency warrants to pay the fire suppression costs in FY2026.

Board Action

Attachments

1. 20-year Wildland Fire Annual Cost Graph

Idaho Wildland Fire Annual Cost (CPI-U Adjusted)





Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners

Brad Little, Governor and President of the Board

Phil McGrane, Secretary of State

Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General

Brandon D Woolf, State Controller

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dustin T. Miller, Secretary to the Board

Be it remembered that the following proceedings were had and done by the State Board of Land Commissioners of the State of Idaho, created by Section Seven (7) of Article Nine (IX) of the Constitution.

Draft Minutes

State Board of Land Commissioners Regular Meeting
May 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at the State Capitol, Lincoln Auditorium (WW02), Lower Level, West Wing, 700 W. Jefferson St., Boise, Idaho, and via webinar. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. The Honorable Governor Brad Little presided. The following members were in attendance:

Honorable Governor Brad Little
Honorable Secretary of State Phil McGrane
Honorable Attorney General Raúl Labrador
Honorable State Controller Brandon Woolf
Honorable Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield

All Land Board members were present at the physical location.

Director Miller introduced Jake Strohmeyer who was hired as the Division Administrator for Operations. Mr. Strohmeyer was most recently on the Sawtooth National Forest as the Forest Supervisor; he has worked on almost every national forest in Idaho. Director Miller shared his enthusiasm that Mr. Strohmeyer is bringing his knowledge and experience to the Department's executive leadership team.

Reports

1. Department Reports—presented by Dustin Miller, Director
 - A. Timber Sales Revenue—April 2025
 - B. Leases/Permits Transactions and Revenue—April 2025

Discussion: None.

C. Pre-Season Fire Brief

Discussion: Governor Little asked what the Department is hearing from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) about their level of staffing given some turmoil they have had. Director Miller replied that even though there has been turmoil, and various options for early retirement, that focused more on the non-fire staff although some fire staff did take those options. Federal partners are advising that from an initial attack capacity standpoint, the same response can be expected, and they have similar staffing levels. What is likely to be a critical gap for the Forest Service and BLM to deal with this year is the support positions, those who participate on Incident Management teams for example, many of those folks have left the agency. In terms of initial attack capacity, the Department expects the same level of response, and that response is going to be critical as staff engage heavily with federal partners during fire season. The Department will get a comprehensive briefing from the federal agencies in the first week of June and more information will be shared.

Superintendent Critchfield commented that she was a little struck by the 43 fires as of May 13th listed in the report; 40 acres is not a high volume, but it still means deploying resources. Superintendent Critchfield asked if that is normal, high, low? Director Miller indicated it is what the Department expects this time of year early in the fire season. Folks are taking care of yard work, debris burning, and some of those fires escape. The Department pushes fire education and prevention and ensuring folks are smart when burning, but it is normal to see some fires occurring because of debris burning as the weather warms up and things start drying out. Director Miller mentioned it is interesting that the Department is deploying resources to other states already. The Forest Service and BLM talk in terms of fire year now, with all kinds of fire activity throughout the year and the Director is grateful to have resources to send and help those other states, because the Department relies on other states helping in return when needed.

Controller Woolf noted the Department has 50 engines positioned throughout the state but only 40-60% will be staffed. Controller Woolf asked how then are they staffed, those full ones versus the partials. Does the Department move those around and have full ones in more critical areas. Director Miller responded that the Department is very mindful of times of high fire severity where resources are staged. The strategic engine modules are critical; they are easily deployed around the state to help with initial attack. With the shortfall in engine captains the Department relies heavily on non-fire staff, those that have engine boss qualifications to help staff engines, especially as things ramp up in the latter part of July. The Department has the annual challenge, just like the federal agencies do, of the 3-month seasonals going back to school in mid-August. The Department is a big fire organization; foresters, range staff, and others within the agency help out. Those with fire qualifications that can staff engines participate; oftentimes Assistant Wardens are staffing engines, too. Recruitment is a challenge, as it has been for the federal agencies. The Department's strategic fire plan will target those critical needs and focus more effort into recruitment: selling the culture, getting more people involved in fire. The interest in participating in fire is not what it was 20 years ago. Director Miller expressed appreciation for the legislature's support of the Governor's recommendation to provide wildland firefighter bonuses again this year which will be doled out at the start of the fiscal year.

2. Endowment Fund Investment Board—presented by Tom Wilford, EFIB Chairman; Chris Anton, EFIB Manager of Investments
 - A. Manager's Report
 - B. Investment Report

Discussion: Chairman Wilford introduced members of the Investment Board in attendance at the meeting, including newest member Dave Dean, Bob Donaldson, Joe Forney (Compensation Committee Chair), Irv Littman (attended via Zoom), and Mary Pat Thompson. Chairman Wilford also recognized EFIB staff who were present: Chris Anton, Chris Halvorson, Kathy Van Vactor. Chairman Wilford described some interesting swings for the fund in the last two years, times when a month would be down \$40 million and now some comfort that it is up \$140 million year-to-date.

Mr. Anton echoed Chairman Wilford's statement; it has been a period of significant volatility; however, as the report shows, the fund was up 0.7% for the month of April and up 4% fiscal year-to-date. Those numbers seem to indicate a boring month, but there was significant volatility, much of that was surrounding trying to understand tariff policy. On April 2nd, President Trump announced his tariff plans, and the tariffs initially rolled out were significantly higher than the market anticipated. Almost immediately, equity markets were down by over 20%, bond markets were down with fixed income yields rising, and the dollar weakened. Late in the month, President Trump announced a 90-day suspension on reciprocal tariffs, which are those above the 10% base level, with the exception of China which was kept at 145%. That provided a great deal of relief in the market; equity markets were up about 10% on the day of the announcement. EFIB was trying to rebalance the portfolio that same day; it was a little crazy. Markets bounced back and by the end of the month the fund was in positive territory. Tariff negotiations continued into early May where President Trump announced an agreement was reached with China to reduce their rate to 30%. With that, the markets moved even higher, and as of yesterday the portfolio was up 8.2%. The last two weeks have been very positive in terms of performance. As mentioned earlier, Brian Yeargain's term on the Investment Board expired in April, and Dave Dean was appointed. The Investment Board is excited to have Mr. Dean; this will be his first meeting.

Secretary of State McGrane recalled the Land Board approved the \$8 million transfer in April and wondered, given the volatility, if EFIB was able to put that money to work in a useful way during that time. Mr. Anton replied yes; it was not right at the bottom because the market moved quickly, but it was shortly after that April 15th Land Board meeting, around the third week of April.

Governor Little observed EFIB has one significantly underperforming manager and inquired if the Investment Board would discuss that at its meeting today. Mr. Anton recalled that last month Governor Little asked about Barrow Hanley, a small cap value manager. Mr. Anton acknowledged they have been underperforming, however their performance in the first two weeks of May is pretty impressive. Month-to-date in May Barrow Hanley was up 12.6% compared to their benchmark of 6.4%; in two weeks they outperformed by 6%. They are still off from the benchmark by about 6%; they are making good progress in improving their performance.

C. Semi-Annual Report

Discussion: Mr. Anton went through the semi-annual report presentation. Regarding the School Bond Credit Enhancement program, Governor Little remarked it is about \$500 per million in savings. The limit per school district is \$40 million; this program is saving them \$20,000. Mr. Anton gave an example: if the school district's normal rate was 4%, this would reduce it to 3.95%, sometimes 3.90%. Mr. Anton agreed it was small, but it is every year. EFIB does not charge much for it, so it is beneficial.

Consent—Action Item(s)

3. Approval of Draft Minutes—April 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

Consent Agenda Board Action: A motion was made by Controller Woolf that the Land Board approve and adopt the Consent Agenda. Secretary of State McGrane seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Regular—Action Item(s)

[Editor's note: the Discussion portion of the following agenda item is written in first-person format. This is not a verbatim transcript.]

4. Timber Reclass: Benewah Parcels—Presented by Jim Elbin, Division Administrator-Trust Lands

Recommendation: Approve reclassification of Pierce Creek and Wilson Mountain and disposition of these parcels via public auction.

Discussion:

Attorney General Labrador: This appears to be contrary to § 58-133(1) and that presents a problem for the Board.

John Richards: Good morning, Governor, members of the Land Board, for the record my name is John Richards, General Counsel for the Idaho Department of Lands. The Department asked me to look into whether the combination of language in Idaho Code §§ 58-132 and 58-133(1) limits the Land Board's authority to reclassify lands that had originally been classified as chiefly valuable for forestry and other classifications. My conclusion is that there is some vagueness to that statute. The purpose of the statute is to make certain that state lands are classified to ensure their best use, and reading the statute in conjunction with the constitutional obligations of the Land Board, an interpretation that allows for reclassification would be proper. An interpretation that would allow for a one-time classification and prohibit in perpetuity reclassification of lands chiefly identified as valuable for forestry, would run into constitutional issues with the Land Board's authority to assure that endowment lands are maximized for financial return for the beneficiaries. The original classifications were not limited to endowment land, it included all state lands, and the original classification was made pursuant to § 58-132 based on the general welfare and not specifically based on the interests of the beneficiaries to the endowment. The more reasonable interpretation of that vague statute would be to allow for reclassification of at least endowment land.

Attorney General Labrador: Everything you just said is based on whether the statute is ambiguous or not. The statute [§ 58-133(1)] reads that "... all state-owned lands classified as chiefly valuable for forestry, reforestation, recreation and watershed protection are hereby reserved from sale and set aside as state forests." There is nothing ambiguous about that. Part of your argument is based on the constitution that as a Land Board we have a constitutional mandate that we must follow, but the constitution [Article IX, Section 8] also explicitly says that "It shall be the duty of the state board of land commissioners to provide for the location, protection, sale or rental of all the lands heretofore, or which may hereafter be granted to or acquired by the state ... under such regulations as may be prescribed by law" The constitution contemplates that this legislature will have prescriptions upon the Land Board. If we do not like what the prescriptions say, our duty is not to ignore what they say, it is to go to the legislature and ask them to change the statute.

Mr. Richards: Addressing a couple of points there, the first one being the disagreement in ambiguity. The basis for mine is the language in § 58-132 that broadly delegates authority to the Land Board. The language specifically saying the Land Board "... is hereby authorized and directed to classify state owned lands with respect to their value for forestry, reforestation, watershed protection and recreational purposes." The ambiguity arises as in a broad delegation of authority for the classification, arguably that includes the authority to reclassify as well. That is subject to different interpretations. Also in play is case law saying that the Land Board's constitutional duties are self-executing, meaning that if the legislature does not prescribe procedural statutes to govern how the endowment is managed that essentially the Land Board has the inherent constitutional authority to carry that out. Here, where it is silent on reclassification specifically to endowment land, arguably that self-executing constitutional authority grants the Land Board the authority to reclass as it relates to endowment land. Moving into your second point, the constitution does contemplate the legislature putting limitations in statute to govern how the Land Board manages endowment authority. We do have case law that there are limitations to that legislative authority. Most relevant here is the Watershed 2 case from 1999 which expressly held unconstitutional legislation that directed the Land Board to consider interests outside those of the beneficiaries: interests of industry and the general welfare of the state of Idaho. The Idaho Supreme Court said, no, the State Land Board as trust managers can only consider the interests of the beneficiaries. To that point, there is authority for the legislature to pass legislation that governs management of endowment, but there is limitation to that as well, and that is what drove my finding that the more reasonable interpretation would be to allow for reclassification, at least of endowment lands.

Attorney General Labrador: That case is totally distinguishable from this situation. In that case, the Supreme Court found, correctly, that we only have one constitutional duty, which is to look at the interests of the beneficiaries, not outside of those interests. That is not what we are doing here. There are other reclassifications that we can do to this land that would not put it up for sale. We can allow timber, mining, all these different things that would actually give money to the State and give money to the beneficiaries. That is very distinguishable from the example that you are citing. I am not going to ask more questions; I am going to be opposing this because it is outside of the statute and also contrary to the constitutional mandate that we have. It would be inappropriate for the Land Board to do this at this time.

Secretary of State McGrane: Based on the discussion, it is significant the provision in the constitution where it describes "... provided by law" It happens elsewhere in the constitution; that is meant to be procedural, not substantive, because if the legislature can restrain the Land Board's ability to act on behalf of the beneficiaries it would be contrary to the constitution. We are trustees, and I do not think the legislature can restrict our ability to serve as trustees.

Superintendent Critchfield: A little historical perspective, I am assuming this is not the first time this has happened or been requested.

Governor Little: The whole issue of reclassification.

Mr. Richards: I believe Jim could speak more intelligently as to the historical practice of reclassification, but in my research, I came across at least one opinion from 1990, not specifically addressing reclassification of these assets for disposition, but whether § 58-132 allowed for reclassification. At least one other opinion concluded that it did allow for reclassification, but I will let Jim speak as to the historical practice.

Mr. Elbin: Historically, reclassification from timberland is rare. There is no real evidence that the cottage sites were reclassified, but they were originally timberland and part of state forests. Those have been, of course, disposed of over time. From a historical standpoint, in 1935 and 1937 the department looked a lot different. We were managing parks, we were managing other state-owned lands, and we were still owed part of our corpus that was granted from the federal government. What I have read from a historical perspective was that the intent behind this law was to identify these types of parcels, the forestry, reforestation, watershed, recreation, so that the state would get the most bang for its buck when the federal government finally paid up on what they owed us, which they did not complete until the late 1990s.

Controller Woolf: I have a question different from the legal perspective but more from operations. We have had historical ones like Tamarack, but does this change the philosophy of the Department to then look at others that you may have in the pipeline for possible reclassification down the road.

Mr. Elbin: Yes, it does, but on rough napkin math this morning, anticipating this question, we are talking about 0.4% of our land base, and that is all classifications that we would potentially look at a reclassification for disposition.

Controller Woolf: I would imagine some of the foresters would not want to change too much, but where it makes sense and it is the highest and best use, I think that is something to evaluate, too, from our fiduciary duty.

Mr. Elbin: A hundred percent, and the intent behind this is it is money to the Land Bank; we are still actively pursuing whatever timberland will come available. We are not looking to dispose of our ownership and slowly dwindle it away; it is to expand and improve upon our timber base.

Governor Little: Further questions.

Director Miller: With a changing Idaho and some of our inholdings being difficult for us to manage in the ways that we have traditionally managed those timberlands, it is not agreeable by everyone, but we are doing the right thing for the endowments to take a look at these opportunities where we can reclass and sell timberland and just as Jim said, look for other opportunities to increase our inholdings and produce that income for the endowments. The Tamarack Resort example was brought up and, if I understand correctly, we received those lands in an exchange; they were timberlands, then the Land Board reclassified those to a recreational category, and then we advertised the lease.

Mr. Elbin: That is correct. For clarity's sake, disposition is the last resort. We would prefer to lease and if that is a higher and better use than the current baseline management, and the new use dictates moving forward, that is what we want to use, because we do not want to falsely advertise a lease for rangeland and then charge exorbitant commercial type rates. We want to make sure it is a transparent process and the classification matches what is on the land. It would be managed for traditional use if that is the best use, look for an improved use if there is a better use on the leasing side, and if we are not able to get there on certain valued parcels then we would dispose of them.

Attorney General Labrador: We are mixing apples and oranges here. I do not think anything in the statute prevents us from reclassifying it to recreational or anything like that, it is just the sale. The only limitation is that we cannot sell the land. You can reclassify it to anything you want, as long as it is not put up for sale. These examples that are being given are not pertinent to the situation before us right now. Yes, we can reclassify it if we want, we can make this land now recreational, we can allow timber harvesting, we can allow anything we want that will bring us money to the endowment, but what we cannot do under the statute is sell it.

Board Action: A motion was made by Controller Woolf that the Land Board approve the reclassification of Pierce Creek and Wilson Mountain and disposition of these parcels via public auction. Superintendent Critchfield seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-1, with Attorney General Labrador voting in opposition.

Information

None

Executive Session

None

Resolution in Memoriam: Senator Carl G. Crabtree

Governor Little remembered Senator Crabtree as a good friend and lifelong public servant, from his term in the Idaho legislature to his support of youth programs and education to his work as a county extension agent. In memory today, a hat was placed at Senator Crabtree's usual seat. Governor Little remarked it was appropriate that the Land Board officially commemorate Senator Crabtree's service to the state of Idaho, the Department of Lands, and the Land Board.

Superintendent Critchfield read aloud the resolution honoring Senator Crabtree and requested that it be signed by Land Board members, entered into the meeting record, and conveyed to the family of Carl Crabtree. Governor Little so ordered.

There being no further business before the Land Board, at 9:48 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Controller Woolf. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025
Information Agenda

Subject

Proposed rule for IDAPA 20.03.08 *Easements on State-Owned Lands*

Background

The Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners ("Land Board") is vested with constitutional and statutory authority to manage state-owned lands in trust for the public school system and other endowment beneficiaries. This includes the power to grant and manage easements across state-owned lands. The framework governing this authority is primarily found in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 6, Idaho Code, as well as administrative rule IDAPA 20.03.08.

Following Executive Order 2020-01, Zero-Based Regulation, this rule chapter is scheduled to be repealed and replaced in 2025 for review during the 2026 legislative session. Zero-Based Regulation negotiated rulemaking for Easements on State-Owned Lands was approved by the Land Board on December 17, 2024 (Attachment 1).

Discussion

The Idaho Department of Lands' (Department) outreach for negotiated rulemaking included the following:

- Published the Notice of Negotiated Rulemaking in the Idaho Administrative Bulletin
- Created a [rulemaking webpage](https://www.idl.idaho.gov/rulemaking/docket-20-0308-2501) to post documents, scheduling information, and comments (<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/rulemaking/docket-20-0308-2501>)
- Cooperative Road Use Agreement members, and Cost Share ROW partners
- Posted meeting notices to Townhall Idaho

The Department held three public negotiated rulemaking meetings in 2025 with options for in-person or virtual participation. These meetings were held on March 20 (Coeur D'Alene), March 25 (Idaho Falls), and April 10 (Boise). There was some discussion and oral public comments provided during the meetings. The initial written comment period ended April 16. Two written comments were received from The Idaho Conservation League and PotlatchDeltic. A summary of negotiated rulemaking is included in Attachment 2.

Attachment 3 is the draft text that will be submitted for publication in the Administrative Bulletin as a proposed rule; Attachment 4 is the draft Notice of Proposed Rule. The proposed rule will be open for public comment upon publication on August 6, 2025.

After the proposed rulemaking public comment period, the Department will present the rule to the Land Board for adoption as a pending rule for review by the 2026 Idaho Legislature.

Attachments

1. December 17, 2024 Approved Memo
2. Negotiated Rulemaking Summary
3. Proposed Rule Text
4. Draft Notice of Proposed Rule

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

December 17, 2024

Regular Agenda

Subject

Negotiated rulemaking for IDAPA 20.03.08 *Easements on State-Owned Lands*.

Question Presented

Shall the Land Board authorize the Department to initiate negotiated rulemaking for IDAPA 20.03.08 Easements on State-Owned Lands?

Background

The Idaho Department of Lands (Department) administers Right of Way programs on behalf of the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) for state endowment trust lands. This program is responsible for granting and acquiring easements on state-owned endowment lands. These activities are authorized by Idaho Code Title 58, Chapter 6—Rights of Way Over State Lands. The adoption of related rules is authorized by Idaho Code § 58-104.

Following Executive Order 2020-01, Zero-Based Regulation, this rule chapter is scheduled to be repealed and replaced in 2025 for review during the 2026 legislative session.

Discussion

The Department will begin the negotiated rulemaking process, including, but not limited to, legal and internal review of the rule, as well as review with stakeholders to ensure the rules provide appropriate guidance for lessees, interested parties, and the Department.

A proposed timeline for the rulemaking process is provided in Attachment 1.

Recommendation

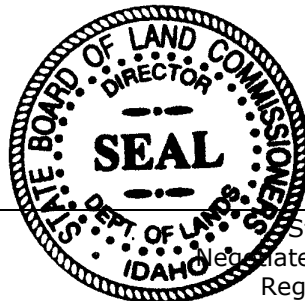
Authorize the Department to initiate negotiated rulemaking for IDAPA 20.03.08 *Easements on State-Owned Lands*.

Board Action

A motion was made by Controller Woolf that the Land Board authorize the Department to initiate negotiated rulemaking for IDAPA 20.03.08 *Easements on State-Owned Lands*. Secretary of State McGrane seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Attachments

1. Draft Rulemaking Timeline



State Board of Land Commissioners
Negotiated Rulemaking for IDAPA 20.03.08
Regular Meeting—December 17, 2024
Page 1 of 1

Negotiated Rulemaking Summary

IDAPA 20.03.08, Rules Governing Easements on State-Owned Lands

Docket No. 20-0308-2501

Following Executive Order 2020-01: Zero-Based Regulation, this rule chapter is scheduled for review during the 2026 legislative session.

IDAPA 20.03.08, under authority of Idaho Code § 58-603, provides guidance for rights of way for public utility lines, highway, and other purposes. The state board of land commissioners is empowered to grant, over and upon any land owned or controlled by the state of Idaho, rights of way for railroad, telegraph, telephone and electric lines, pipelines for natural and manufactured gas, rights of way for highway purposes, and rights of way for any other public or private purpose or beneficial use.

Negotiated rulemaking for these rules was approved by the Land Board on December 17, 2024. The Notice of Intent to Promulgate Rules – Zero-Based Regulation Negotiated Rulemaking was published in the Idaho Administrative Bulletin on March 5, 2025.

Stakeholder Outreach

The Idaho Department of Lands' (IDL) outreach for negotiated rulemaking included the following:

- Published the Notice of Negotiated Rulemaking in the Idaho Administrative Bulletin
- Created a rulemaking webpage to post documents, scheduling information, and comments (<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/rulemaking/docket-20-0308-2501>)
- Cooperative Road Use Agreement members, and Cost Share ROW partners
- Posted meeting notices to Townhall Idaho

Negotiated Rulemaking Public Meetings

Negotiated rulemaking meetings were held on March 20, March 25, and April 10, 2025. A total of 11 non-Department affiliated people attended these meetings.

The Idaho Conservation League (ICL) initiated discussion during the negotiated rulemaking meeting held on March 20, 2025, regarding the proposed amendment to the definition of Endowment Lands. ICL recommended keeping the current expanded definition of Endowment Lands. After consideration of the comment, IDL has decided to retain the current expanded definition of Endowment Lands. During the same meeting, ICL recommended referencing "vandalism" in the Emergency Work section. IDL agrees and has added reference to vandalism to further clarify the intentions of the Emergency Work section.

In the meeting held on April 10, 2025: Ben Ballard, Potlatch-Deltic commented that the minimum compensation going from \$500 to \$10,000 is a substantial increase. IDL provided clarity the change is for easements and not permits, and that appraisal or negotiated easement project determines the consideration charged for an easement. Further, IDL provided clarity there are no proposed changes to the Rules section on Co-op Agreements in which all the sections on appraisal, applications and fees do not apply. IDL recommends the following language: "the minimum compensation for any easement is at the discretion of the Land Board, not including appraisal and survey costs." Applicant shall bear the cost of appraisal and survey.

Additionally, Ben Ballard, Potlatch Deltic commented easements (035.040) need to be transferable to be an easement and proposed Assignments are the only transferable instrument. IDL does not propose any changes within Rule regarding Assignments yet has decided to provide brief clarification within a definition stating "Assignment is the complete transfer of rights and obligations of an easement in good standing from holder to succeeding right holder (assignor), acknowledged by IDL (servient estate)."

Next, Brant Steigers, Potlatch Deltic, had questions about new paragraph 021.02. He understands receiving compensation for the increase in property value generated by the easement is common practice. Brant asked what the percentage would be tied to and if it would be codified? Zane Lathim, IDL, commented it would probably be tied to an appraisal. Brant Steigers asked if it could be negotiated. Zane Lathim replied, "Yes." IDL recommends the following language "A commensurate portion of the value created by the right of way, as determined by the Director and supported by specific data such as an appraisal."

Written Comments

Two written comments were received during the open comment period.

1. The Idaho Conservation League submitted a written comment supporting the current definition of Endowment Lands in IDAPA 20.03.08 "Land grants made to the state of Idaho by the Congress of the United States, or real property subsequently acquired through land exchange or purchase, for the sole use and benefit of the public schools and certain other institutions of the state, comprising nine (9) grants all together" instead of the proposed definition of "Lands held in trust by the State of Idaho and managed for the benefit of specific endowment beneficiaries."
2. Brant Steigers, Potlatch Deltic, expressed concern about new paragraph 021.02. stating he "understand[s] that receiving compensation for the increase in property value generated by the easement is common practice, but not codifying what that percentage would be in advance will make this process risky and unpredictable for the grantee. Is it 5% or 50%? For a large development, it could equate to a substantial sum of money."

These comments were posted for public review.

Concluding Negotiated Rulemaking

IDL concluded the negotiated rulemaking process and submitted the rule changes for publication as a proposed rule in the August 6, 2025, edition of the Idaho Administrative Bulletin. Key documents from the rulemaking record are available at <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/rulemaking/docket-20-0308-2501/>, including research materials, and the proposed rule text in track changes format to allow the reader to easily identify changes.

Response to Comments on Negotiated Rule
IDAPA 20.03.08, Rules Governing Easements on State Lands

THESE ARE THE RESOLVED ITEMS

Commenter	Comment	Rule Section	Response
Idaho Conservation League	<p>In Section 010. Definitions, the most significant proposed change is to the definition of "Endowment Lands," and the majority of the text that is redlined for removal refers to the history and background of endowment lands. As a member of United Payette, a coalition of individuals and organizations working to conserve the endowment lands that surround Payette and Little Payette Lakes, I know firsthand that despite our numerous efforts to help educate the public on the differences between endowment lands, state-owned lands, and public lands, many people still do not understand the intrinsic differences regarding land ownership and management in Idaho. While the proposed definition, "Lands held in trust by the State of Idaho and managed for the benefit of specific endowment beneficiaries," is wholly accurate, it does not provide the full context for the endowment lands, leaving many to believe that endowment lands are indistinguishable from state-owned lands, or even federally owned public lands. We recommend that IDL reincorporate a portion of the existing definition, with the updated version reading, "Lands granted to the State of Idaho by the United States Congress on statehood that are held in trust by the State of Idaho and managed for the benefit of specific endowment beneficiaries." We believe that reincorporating these few words can have an impact on land ownership and management comprehension for citizens or organizations considering an easement application.</p>	010.06.	<p>IDL agreed. The comments were meaningful and directly related to the Rules. The details provided were considered. The proposed Rules should retain the existing definition and include further clarity on Endowment Lands.</p> <p>The definition should be thorough for the benefit of public, customers, and endowment trust beneficiaries. Retain and supplement the definition, including historical context and constitutional purpose. Attempt to add further distinction between public lands and endowment trust lands.</p>

Commenter	Comment	Rule Section	Response
Idaho Conservation League	We also recommend that IDL add a definition for "Assignments", which is covered in Section 040. While many familiar with real estate terminology may possess a working knowledge of the term, many do not, and we did not find an associated definition	040.	Assignment definition: Assignment of a valid easement in good standing is the administrative transfer of the instrument, its rights and obligations.
	In Section 021. Fees and Compensation, in subsection 07, we note that the textual reference to "five hundred" remains in place, while the numerical reference (\$500) is redlined for removal. We recommend removing the textual reference for consistency and clarity.	021.07.	IDL agreed, incorporated.
	Regarding Section 030. Emergency Work, we recommend adding vandalism as an emergency situation that could require an easement grantee to access adjoining grantor-controlled lands. Examples could be damage to a trail or direction sign when repair/replacement is best accomplished by working from outside the easement (the emergency being public health and safety) or if a water/gas line within an easement develops a leak and repairs are best accomplished by working from outside the easement. Natural disasters such as wildfire and flood are certainly cause for providing emergency access.	030.	IDL agreed, incorporated vandalism as an emergency situation.
Potlatch-Deltic	Ben Ballard, Potlatch-Deltic, in-meeting comment regarding minimum compensation going from \$500 to \$10,000 as a substantial increase. IDL provided clarity the change is for easements and not permits, and that appraisal or negotiated easement project determines the consideration charged for an easement. Further, IDL provided clarity there are no proposed changes to the Rules section on Co-op Agreements in which all the sections on appraisal, applications and fees do not apply.	021.07.	IDL recommends the following language "the minimum compensation for any easement is at the discretion of the Land Board, not including appraisal and survey costs." Applicant shall bear the cost of appraisal and survey.

Commenter	Comment	Rule Section	Response
Potlatch-Deltic	Brant Steigers had concerns about the new paragraph 021.02. "I understand that receiving compensation for the increase in property value generated by the easement is common practice, but not codifying what that percentage would be in advance will make this process risky and unpredictable for the grantee. Is it 5% or 50%? For a large development, it could equate to a substantial sum of money."	021.02.	IDL recommends the following language: "A commensurate portion of the value created by the right of way, as determined by the Director or supported by specific data such as an appraisal."
	Deleting the \$50 assignment fee. Deleting the \$100 Easement Application Fee		Assignment can be processed without a collected fee. A \$50 fee creates delays and requires customer and staff resources to process. Removing the fee is better business. Applications can be processed without a collected fee. A \$100 fee is nominal and creates delays and requires customer and staff resources to process. Removing the fee is better business.

Conclusion:

IDL concluded the negotiated rulemaking process and will submit the rule changes for publication as a proposed rule in the August 6, 2025, edition of the Idaho Administrative Bulletin. Key documents from the rulemaking record are available at <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/rulemaking/docke20-0308-2501/>, including research materials, and the proposed rule text in legislative format to allow the reader to easily identify changes.

20.03.08 – EASEMENTS ON STATE-OWNED LANDS

000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.

These rules are promulgated pursuant to and are to be construed in a manner consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners as set forth in Idaho Code Title 58, Chapters 1 and 6, and Article IX, Sections 7 and 8 of the Idaho Constitution. (3-18-22)

001. ~~TITLE AND SCOPE.~~

~~01. Title. These rules are titled IDAPA 20.03.08, "Easements on State-Owned Lands." (3-18-22)~~

~~02. Scope. These rules set forth procedures concerning the issuance of easements on all lands within the jurisdiction of the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners except for state-owned navigable waterways, submerged lands and formerly submerged lands navigable waterways. Further, these~~ These rules do not apply to easements for hydroelectric projects. (3-18-22)()

~~03. Valid Existing Rights. These rules are not to be construed as affecting any valid existing rights. (3-18-22)()~~

002. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.

An applicant aggrieved by a decision of the Director under these rules may request a hearing before the Board, but must do so within thirty (30) days after receipt ~~of written notice~~ of the Director's decision. (3-18-22)()

003. -- 009. (RESERVED)

010. DEFINITIONS.

01. Board. The Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners or such representative as may be designated by the Board. (3-18-22)

02. Damage or Impairment of Rights to the Remainder of the Property. The diminution of the market value of the remainder area, in the case of a partial taking. (3-18-22)

03. Department. The Idaho Department of Lands. (3-18-22)

04. Director. The Director of the Idaho Department of Lands or ~~such representative as may be designated by the Director~~ their designee. (3-18-22)()

05. Easement. A non-possessory interest in land for a specific purpose. Such interest may be limited to a specified term. (3-18-22)

06. Endowment Lands. Land grants made to the state of Idaho by the Congress of the United States, or real property subsequently acquired through land exchange or purchase, for the sole use and benefit of the public schools and certain other institutions of the state, comprising nine (9) grants altogether. Land grants made to the state of Idaho by the Congress of the United States, or real property subsequently acquired through land exchange or purchase, for the sole use and benefit of the public schools and certain other institutions of the state, comprising nine (9) grants altogether. Lands held in trust by the State of Idaho and managed for the benefit of specific endowment beneficiaries.

(3-18-22)()

07. Grantee. The person or entity receiving the property right or permission. ()

08. Grantor. The person or entity transferring, selling, or giving the property right or permission.
Herein the Department or Board granting a right-of-way, easement or permit. ()

079. Market Value. The most probable price at a specified date, in cash, or on terms reasonably equivalent to cash, ~~for which that~~ the property should bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to ~~a fair sale~~ an arm's length sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently and knowledgeably, and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus. (3-18-22)()

10. Right-of-Way. ~~A strip of land over which a~~ The area on, below, or above a road, highway, street, waterway, or utility easement over which a legal right of passage exists ~~over another parcel of land, for the benefit of a specific purpose. Such passage and use rights may be limited as defined and limited to a specified term.~~ ()

0811. State-Owned Lands. All lands within the jurisdiction of the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners except for state-owned ~~navigable waterways, submerged lands or formerly submerged lands.~~ navigable waterways. (3-18-22)()

0912. Temporary Permit. An instrument authorizing a specific use on state land usually issued for five (5) years or less, but that may be issued for up to ~~ten~~ twenty (~~40~~ 20) years. (3-18-22)()

13. Assignment. The complete transfer of rights and obligations of an easement in good standing from holder to succeeding right holder (assignor), acknowledged by IDL (servient estate). ()

011. -- 019. (RESERVED)

020. POLICY.

01. Easements Required. Easements are required for all rights-of-way of a permanent nature over state-owned land. Easements will not be granted when temporary permits ~~will~~ serve the ~~required~~ intended purpose or when a lease is appropriate. (3-18-22)()

02. Prior Grants. The Director will recognize easements on state endowment lands by grant of the federal government, or subsequent landowners, prior to title vesting with the State or by eminent domain. (3-18-22)()

03. Existing Easements. These rules do not apply to any use, facility or structure described in an existing easement. For amendment of an existing easement, see Section 025. (3-18-22)

04. Director's Discretion. The Director may grant a temporary permit or an ~~an~~ easement over state-owned land for any legitimate public or private purpose upon payment of appropriate compensation. (3-18-22)()

05. Reciprocal Easements. The Director may seek reciprocal easements for access to state-owned lands from applicants for easements over state-owned lands. The value of the easement acquired by the state may be applied towards the cost of the easement acquired from the state. (3-18-22)

06. Interest Granted. An easement grants only such interest ~~to the grantee~~ as is specified in the instrument, including the right to use the property for the specified purpose ~~without interference by the grantor~~. The right to use the property for all other purposes ~~not inconsistent with~~ aside from the grantee's limited interest remains with the grantor. (3-18-22)()

07. Limit of Director's Discretion. The Director may grant and renew all easements ~~in all cases~~ except when the compensation will exceed ~~twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)~~ the limits as delegated by the Board exclusive of the value of timber and payment for any damage or impairment of rights to the remainder of the property. (3-18-22)()

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08. Width of Easement. The width of any easement granted may not be less than eight (8) feet. (3-18-22)

09. Recordation. The Department will record the easement, or easement release, with the appropriate county recorder's office. (3-18-22)

10. Term Easement. The Director may grant an easement ~~that is issued~~ for a specific time period of ten (10) to fifty-five (55) years. (3-18-22)()

021. FEES AND COMPENSATION.

01. Easement Fee. The compensation for easements over state-owned lands: Up to 100% of market value, plus payment for any damage or impairment of rights to the remainder of the property, and proportional payment for any existing improvements within the right-of-way, such as a road, road surfacing, culverts, and bridges, as determined by the Director and supported by specific data such as an appraisal. ()

02. A commensurate portion of the value created by the right of way, as determined by the Director and supported by specific data such as an appraisal. -A NOTE: TYPICALLY, THIS IS APPLICABLE TO AN EASEMENT APPURTENANT FOR A DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY WHERE SUBSTANTIAL VALUE IS CREATED BY AN ALL LAWFUL PURPOSE EASEMENT- (3-18-22)()

~~**01. Application Fee.** The application fee for new, renewed, or amended easements is one hundred dollars (\$100) and is collected from all applicants. This application fee is in addition to the easement compensation and appraisal costs, and is non-refundable unless the Director determines that the land applied for is not under the jurisdiction of the Board. (3-18-22)~~

~~**02. Easement Fee.** The compensation for permanent easements over state-owned lands covered by these rules is as follows:~~

	COMPENSATION
Highways, roads, railroads, reservoirs, trails, canals, ditches, or any other improvements that require long term, exclusive or near exclusive use and occupation of the right of way	Up to 100% of land value plus payment for any damage or impairment of rights to the remainder of the property as determined by the Director and supported by specific data such as an appraisal
Overhead transmission and power lines	Up to 100% of land value depending on the exclusivity of use as determined by the Director and supported by specific data such as an appraisal plus payment for any damage or impairment of rights to the remainder of the property as determined by the Director and supported by data such as an appraisal
Buried installations—cables, pipelines, sewer lines, waterlines	Up to 100% of land value, depending on the exclusivity use as determined by the Director and supported by specific data such as an appraisal plus payment for any damage or impairment of rights to the remainder of the property, as determined by the Director and supported by specific data such as an appraisal

(3-18-22)

~~**03. Appraisal Required.** An appraisal of an easement may be required where, in the opinion of the Director, the easement value will exceed the minimum compensation fee of five hundred dollars (\$500). (3-18-22)~~

04. Performance of Appraisal. The appraisal of the easement ~~will normally be~~ may be performed by qualified Department staff ~~or as determined by the Director. If so desired by the applicant, and agreed to by the Director, the applicant may provide the appraisal that is acceptable to and meets the specifications set by the Director.~~ (3-18-22)()

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05. Appraisal Costs. An Applicant shall bear the costs of an appraisal. Where the appraisal is performed by ~~the Department staff, the appraisal is two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a market analysis, five hundred dollars (\$500) for a short form appraisal, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for appraisals of easements requiring Board approval. The appraisal cost is in addition to those costs outlined in Subsections 021.01 and 021.02. In no case will,~~ an applicant **will not** be charged more than one thousand dollars (\$1000) for an appraisal ~~of an easement conducted by departmental staff.~~ (3-18-22)()

06. Term Easements. Compensation for term easements will be established by appraisal or as determined by the Director. (3-18-22)()

07. Minimum Compensation. The minimum compensation for any easement is at the discretion of the Land Board, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) five hundred ten thousand dollars (\$10,500,000), not including the application fee and appraisal and survey costs. (3-18-22)()

022. -- 024. (RESERVED)

025. EASEMENT AMENDMENT.

Amendment of an existing easement must be processed in the same manner as a new application. Amendment includes change of use, widening the easement area, or changing the location of the easement area. Amendment does not include ordinary maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing structures such as poles, wires, cables, and culverts. (3-18-22)

026. -- 029. (RESERVED)

030. EMERGENCY WORK.

The grantee is authorized to enter ~~upon~~ endowment lands and other state-owned lands ~~managed by the Department for the purpose of~~ performing emergency repairs ~~on an easement~~ for damage due to vandalism, floods, fire, high winds and other acts of God, provided that the grantee provides written notice to the ~~Director~~ Department within forty-eight (48) hours of the time work commences. ~~Thereupon,~~ The Director is authorized to assess any damages to the state lands and seek reimbursement. (3-18-22)()

031. -- 034. (RESERVED)

035. COOPERATIVE USE AND RECIPROCAL USE AGREEMENTS.

01. Joint Agreements. The Director may, subject to the approval of the Board, enter into joint ownership and use agreements with persons, entities, or other state federal, or tribal agencies for ~~agencies for~~ roads providing access to ~~state~~ endowment lands and other state-owned lands managed by the Department. Such agreements must provide that all landowners share proportionately in the cost of building and maintaining the shared road. The proportionate shares are calculated on timber volume, acreage or other unit of value. (3-18-22)()

02. Reciprocal Use Agreements. The Director may enter into reciprocal use agreements with persons, entities, or other state agencies for existing roads where such agreements will enhance the management of ~~state~~ endowment lands or other state-owned lands ~~managed by the Department.~~ (3-18-22)()

03. Applicability. Where the Director has entered into such agreements mentioned in Subsections 035.01 and 035.02 above, Sections 021, 040, and 046 do not apply. (3-18-22)

036. -- 039. (RESERVED)

040. ASSIGNMENTS.

01. Fee Form. Easements issued by the Director or by the Board are assignable provided that the assignor and assignee complete the Department's standard assignment form and forward it and the non-refundable assignment fee of fifty dollars (\$50) to any department office. (3-18-22)()

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02. Prior Written Consent. An assignment is not valid without the prior written consent of the Director. Such consent will not be unreasonably withheld. (3-18-22)

03. Multiple Assignments. ~~If A all state easements held by a grantee ~~are~~ may be assigned at one time; only one (1) assignment fee is required.~~ (3-18-22)()

041. ABANDONMENT, RELINQUISHMENT, AND TERMINATION.

01. Section 58-603, Idaho Code. The provisions of Idaho Code Section 58-603 apply to all easements over state-owned lands. (3-18-22)

02. Non-Use. An easement not used for the purpose for which it was granted, for five (5) consecutive years, is presumed abandoned and automatically terminates. The Director will notify the grantee in writing of the termination. The grantee has thirty (30) days from the date of notification to reply in writing to the Director to show cause why the easement should be reinstated. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of the statement to show cause, the Director will notify the grantee in writing as to the Director's decision concerning reinstatement. The grantee has thirty (30) days of receipt of the Director's decision to appeal an adverse decision to the Board. (3-18-22)

03. Removal of Improvements. Upon termination, the grantee has twelve (12) months from the date of final notice to remove any facilities and improvements. (3-18-22)

04. Voluntary Relinquishment. The grantee may voluntarily relinquish the easement at any time by completing an easement relinquishment form provided by the Department. ~~The Department will pay the grantee one dollar (\$1) for the relinquishment.~~ (3-18-22)()

042. -- 045. (RESERVED)

046. PROCEDURE.

01. Contents of Application. A ~~right-of-way~~ n-easement application contains. (3-18-22)()

a. A ~~letter of request~~ narrative description stating necessity and the purpose of the right-of-way ~~easement~~; (3-18-22)()

b. A map of the requested right-of-way ~~in triplicate~~; and (3-18-22)()

c. ~~One (1) copy of A~~ an accurate ~~ceptable~~ legal written description based on a centerline survey or a metes and bounds survey of the perimeter of the easement tract. The applicant may also describe the area occupied by existing uses, facilities or structures by platting the state-owned land affected by and occupied by the proposed use and showing surveyed or scaled ties (to a legal corner) at the points where the use enters, occupies and leaves the parcel. (3-18-22)()

02. Engineer Certification. ~~As required in Section 58-601, Idaho Code, for any~~ Any application for a ditch, canal or reservoir, the plats and field notes must be certified by the engineer under whose direction such surveys or plans were made and four (4) copies filed with the Department and one (1) copy with the Director, Department of Water Resources as required in Section 58-601, Idaho Code. (3-18-22)()

03. Where to Submit Application. A ~~n-easement~~ application may be submitted to any office of the Department. (3-18-22)()

04. Notification of Approval. If approved, the applicant will be notified of the amount due to the Department. (3-18-22)

05. Notification of Denial. If the application is denied, the applicant will be notified in writing of such decision. (3-18-22)

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047. ~~EASEMENTS ON STATE LAND UNDER LAND SALE CONTRACT.~~

~~**01. Approval of Contract Purchaser.** The Director will not approve an easement on lands under contract of sale (land sale certificate) without the approval of the contract sale purchaser or without reviewing the consideration received to insure that the state's interests are protected. (3-18-22)~~

~~**02. Compensation.** The compensation for easements on lands under land sale contract will be as set out in Section 021 except that "land value" may be the sale value. These moneys will be applied to the principal balance on the land sale contract. Additionally, the Department will collect the one hundred dollar (\$100) application fee. (3-18-22)~~

~~**03. Co-Signature of Contract Purchaser.** The contract sale purchaser must co-sign the easement to validate the document. (3-18-22)~~

0478. -- 999. (RESERVED)

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking With No Public Hearings

IDAPA 20.03.08 – Idaho Department of Lands 20.03.08 - RULES GOVERNING EASEMENTS ON STATE-OWNED LANDS DOCKET NO. 20-0308-2501

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING - PROPOSED RULE

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has initiated proposed rulemaking procedures. The action is authorized pursuant to Section(s) 58-104 and 58-105, Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: Public hearing(s) concerning this rulemaking will be scheduled if requested in writing by twenty-five (25) persons, a political subdivision, or an agency, not later than August 20, 2025.

The hearing site(s) will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodation must be made not later than five (5) days prior to the hearing, to the agency address below.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a nontechnical explanation of the substance and purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

The Idaho Department of Lands initiated this rulemaking in compliance with [Executive Order 2020-01: Zero-Based Regulation](#). This rule chapter is scheduled for a comprehensive review in 2025 and legislative review in 2026 with the goal of simplifying and streamlining the rules for increased clarity and ease of use.

The regulatory burden has been reduced by decreasing both the total word count 14.3% and the number of restrictive words 26.7% in the proposed rule. No changes were made that changed the context of the previous rule.

FEE SUMMARY: The following is a specific description of the fee or charge imposed or increased: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) during the fiscal year resulting from this rulemaking: N/A

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: Pursuant to Section 67-5220(1), Idaho Code, negotiated rulemaking was conducted. The Notice of Intent to Promulgate Rules - Negotiated Rulemaking was published in the March 5, 2025 Idaho Administrative Bulletin, [Vol. 25-3, pages 19-21](#).

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE: Pursuant to Section 67-5229(2)(a), Idaho Code, the following is a brief synopsis of why the materials cited are being incorporated by reference into this rule: N/A

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning the proposed rule, contact Lawson Tate at (208) 263-5104 or ltate@idl.idaho.gov.

Anyone may submit written comments regarding this proposed rulemaking. All written comments must be directed to the undersigned and must be delivered on or before August 27, 2025.

DATED this 3rd day of July 2025.

Lawson Tate, Right-of-Way Program Manager
2550 Highway 2 West
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
Phone: (208) 263-5104
ltate@idl.idaho.gov

Summer Wildfire Outlook

Jim Wallmann

Predictive Services

National Interagency Fire/Coordination Centers

Boise, Idaho

Monthly/Seasonal Outlooks: How the sausage is made

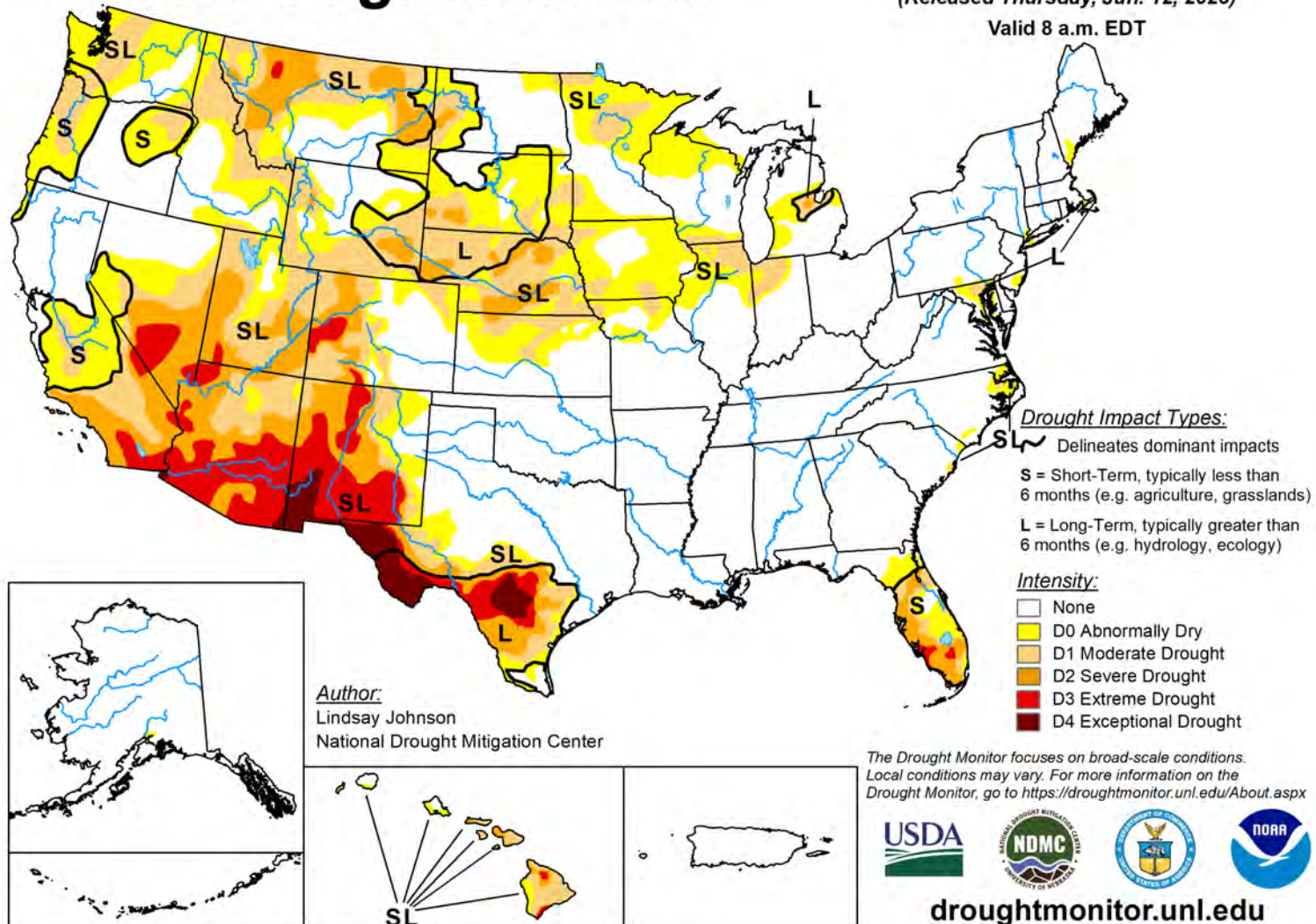
- Current conditions
 - Snowpack & recent precipitation
 - Drought & soil moisture
 - Fuel loading, phenology (cured, greening, leaf on/off, etc), & moisture content
- Weather and Climate Outlooks
 - Work with Climate Prediction Center and in-house expertise
 - Global circulations (e.g., ENSO)
 - Fire Season analogs (similar years)
- Fire season timing/climatology
- Blend together to anticipate above/below normal significant fire potential

U.S. Drought Monitor

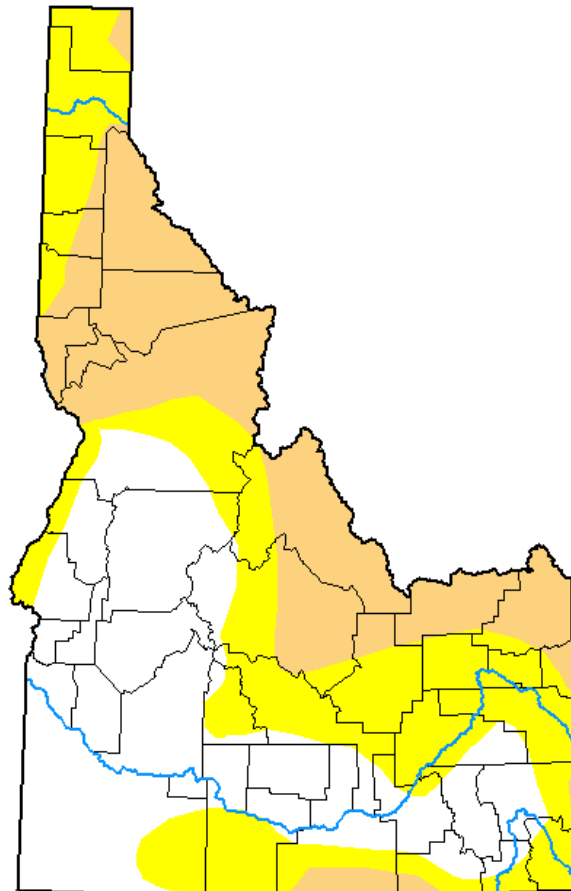
June 10, 2025

(Released Thursday, Jun. 12, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



U.S. Drought Monitor Idaho



June 10, 2025

(Released Thursday, Jun. 12, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	38.32	61.68	28.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-03-2025	38.32	61.68	23.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-11-2025	57.05	42.95	10.99	0.30	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	19.76	80.24	29.84	4.48	0.12	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	11.37	88.63	61.74	13.44	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 06-11-2024	70.22	29.78	19.72	5.75	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

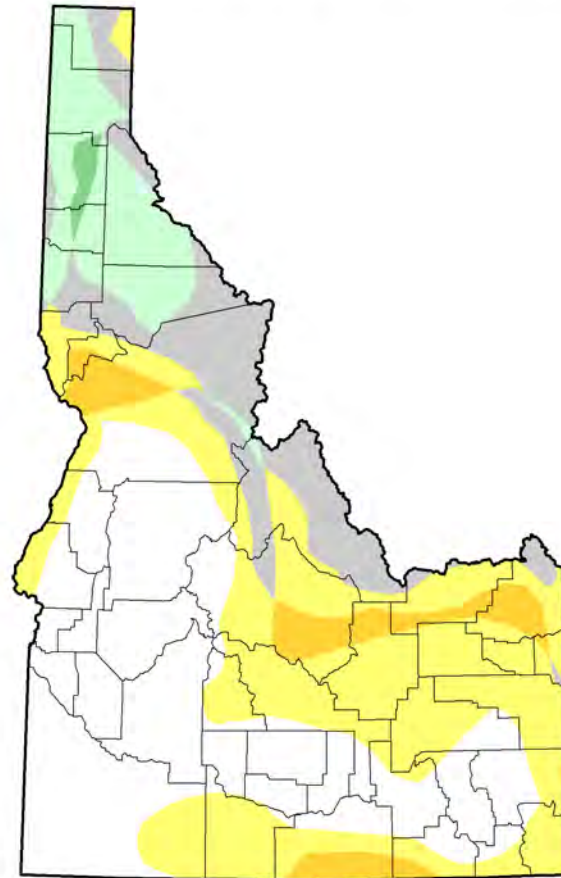
Author:

Lindsay Johnson
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Idaho 52 Week



June 10, 2025
compared to
June 11, 2024

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

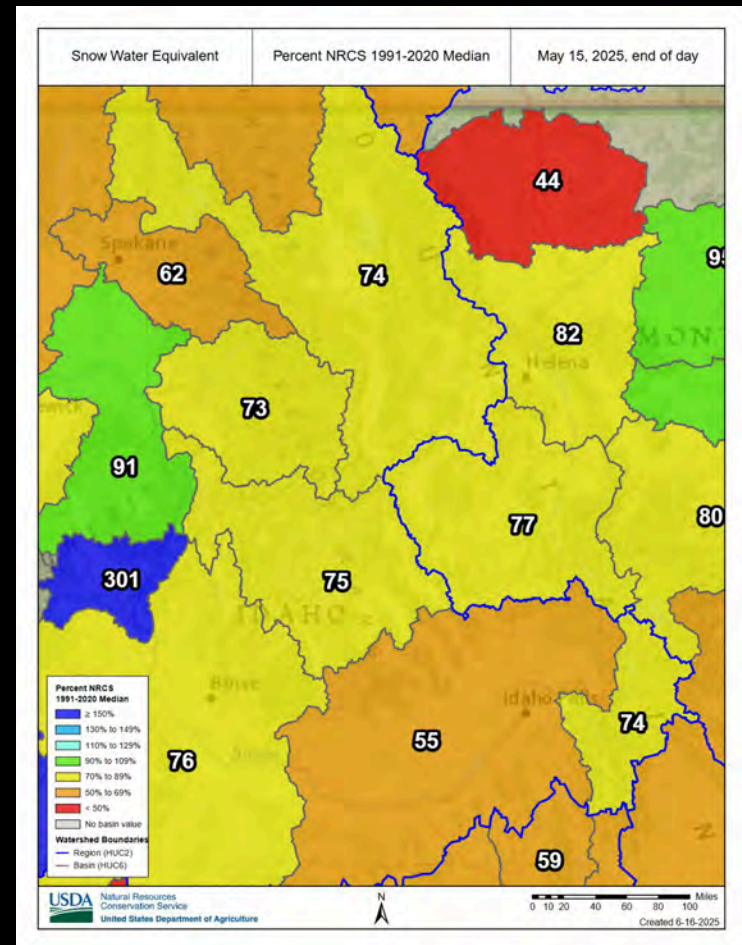
- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

Fuel Loading in Idaho Rangelands

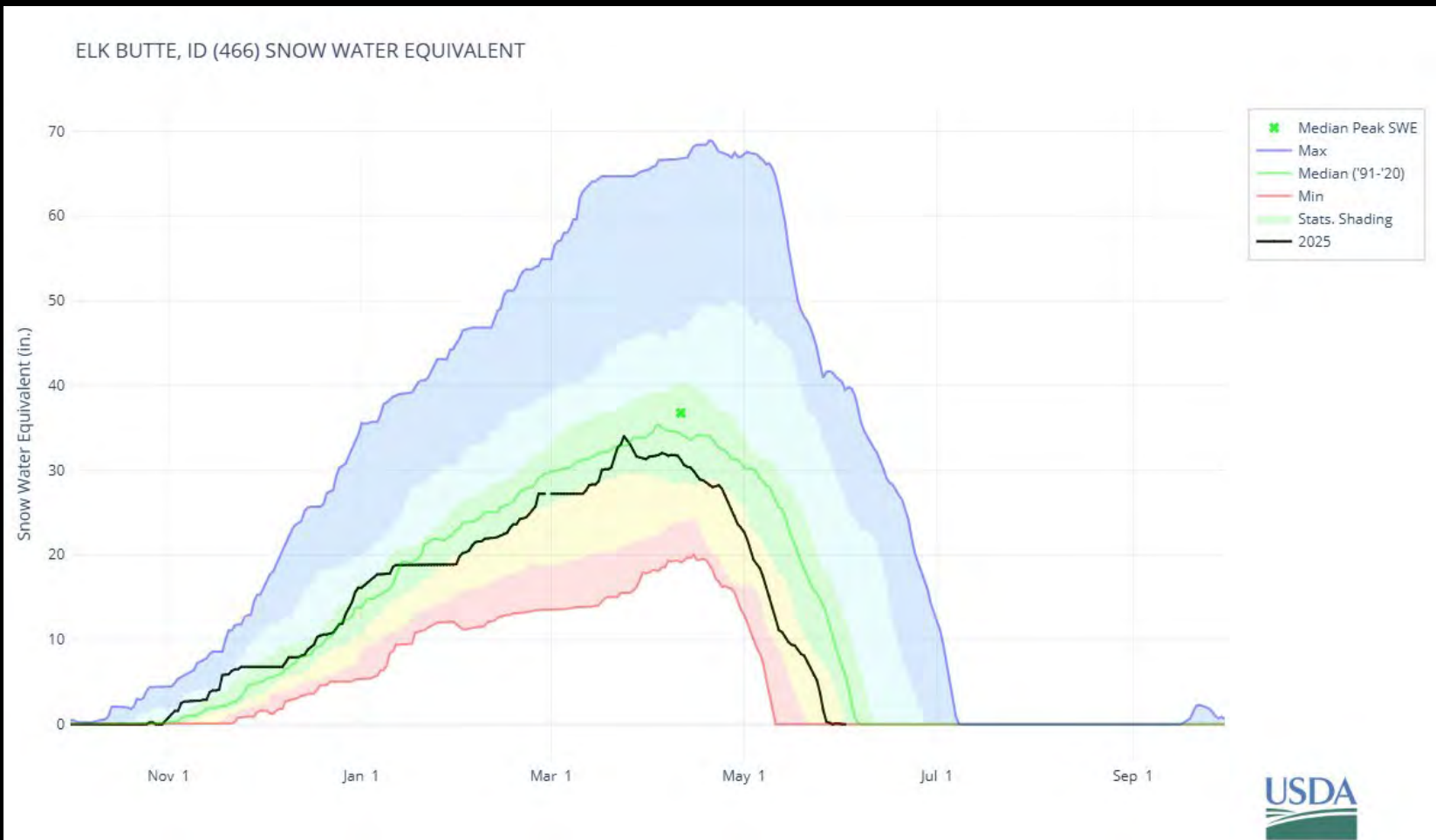
- Well above normal fine fuel loading for southern Idaho
- Grasses are rapidly curing, but perennials will need another couple weeks
 - Already have had several 1,000+ acre fires in southern Idaho
- Fire potential/activity to increase in July – August due to the fuel loading and likely curing of these fuels, likely lasting into September

Rapid Melt of Winter Snowpack

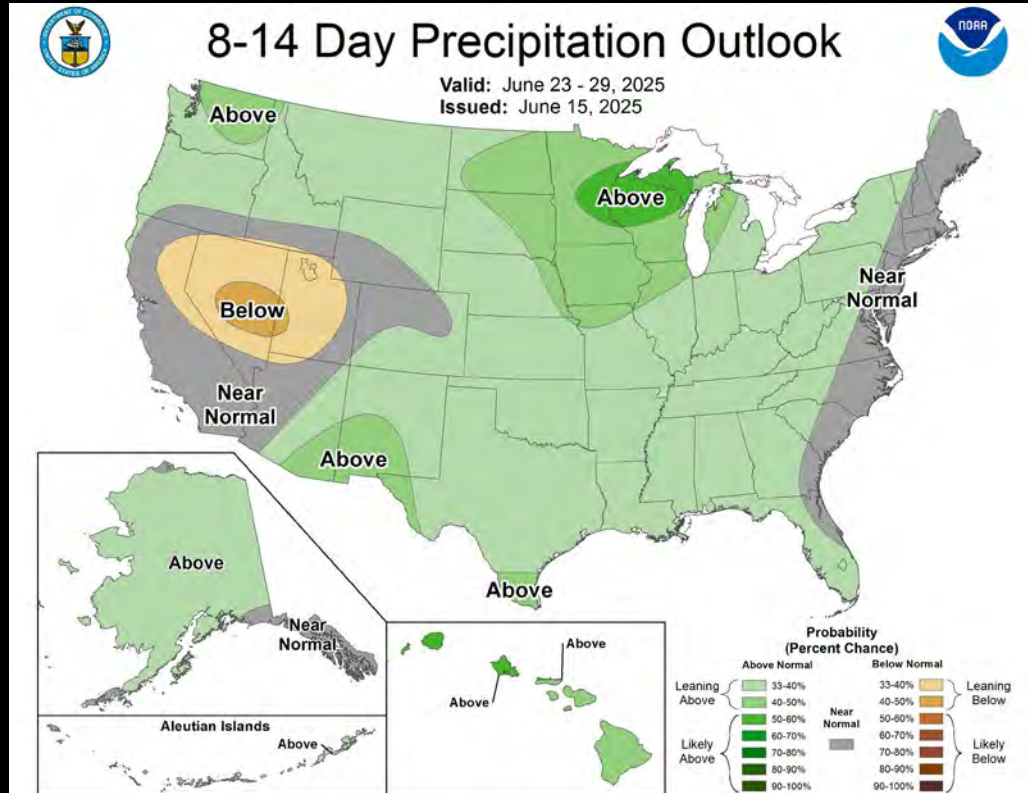
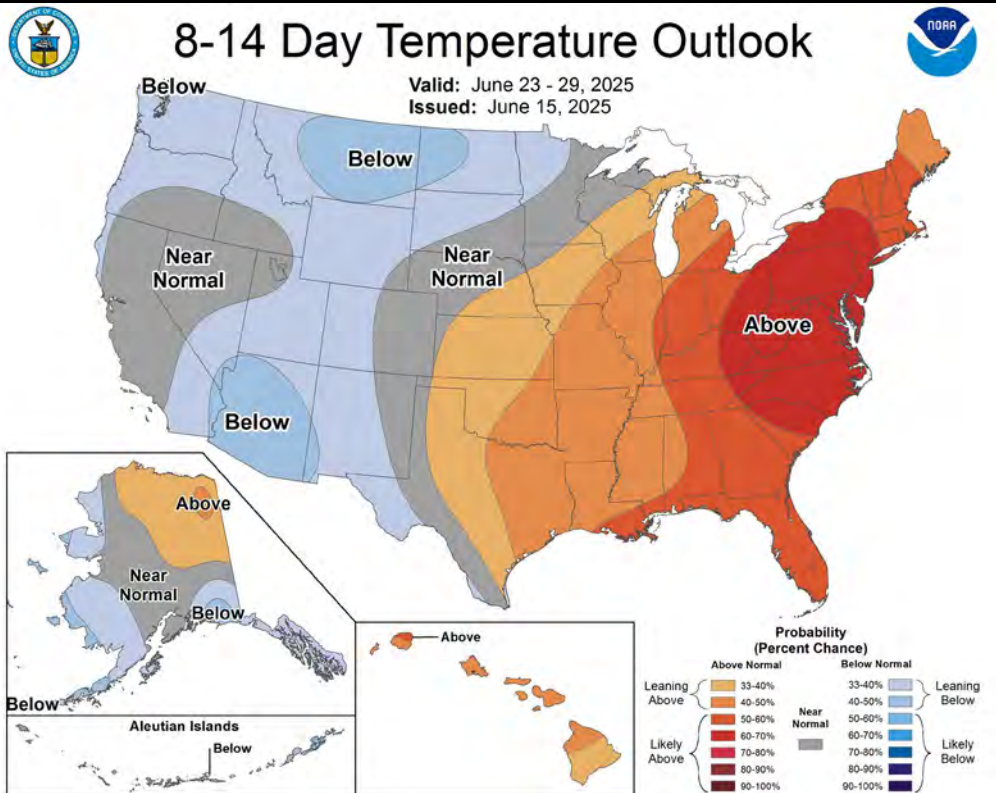
- Snow was 75-100% of normal in northern Idaho, and 100-125% of normal in central and southern Idaho
- However, snowpack has melted very fast
 - 2-3 weeks early for northern Idaho
 - Near normal melt-off for central/southern Idaho



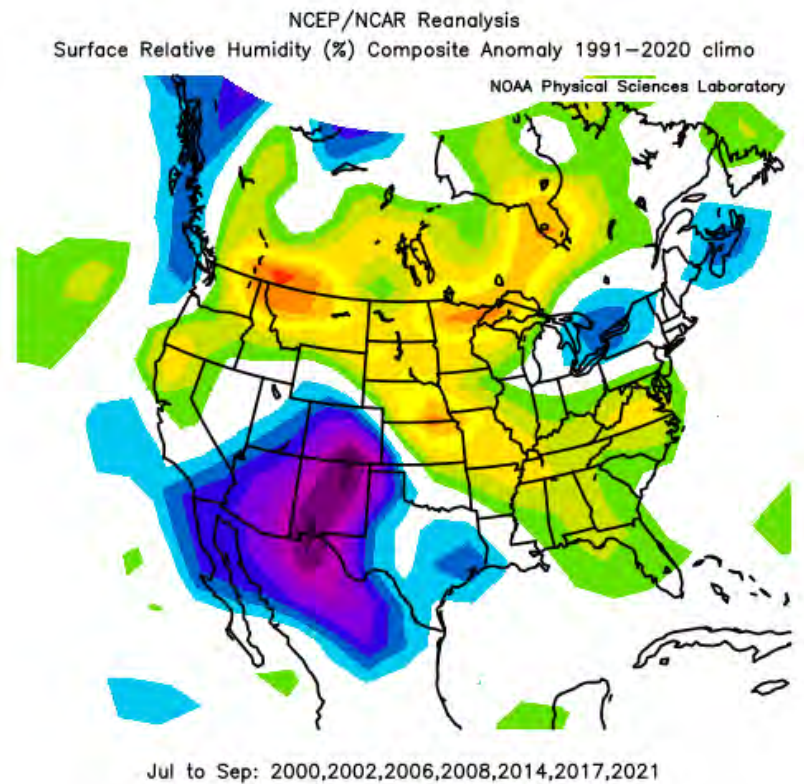
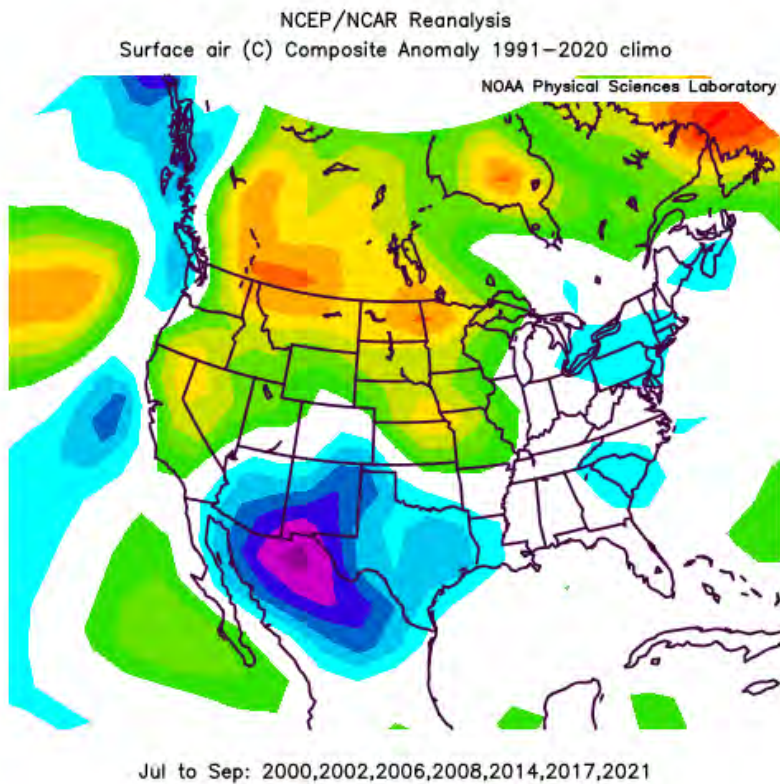
Rapid Snowmelt – Part 2



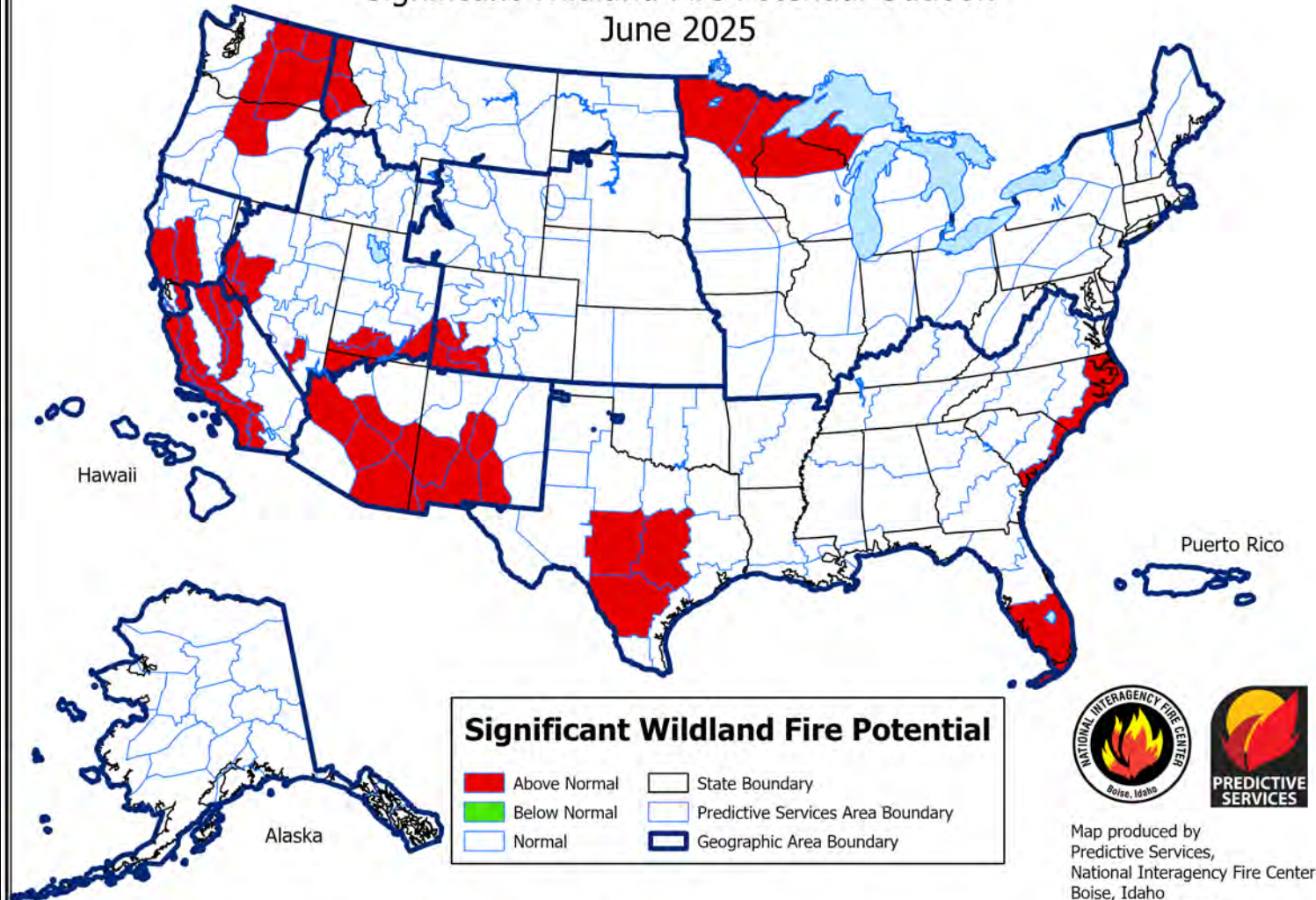
Climate Prediction Center (CPC) June Outlook



Previous Year Analogs



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June 2025



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur.
Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.
Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

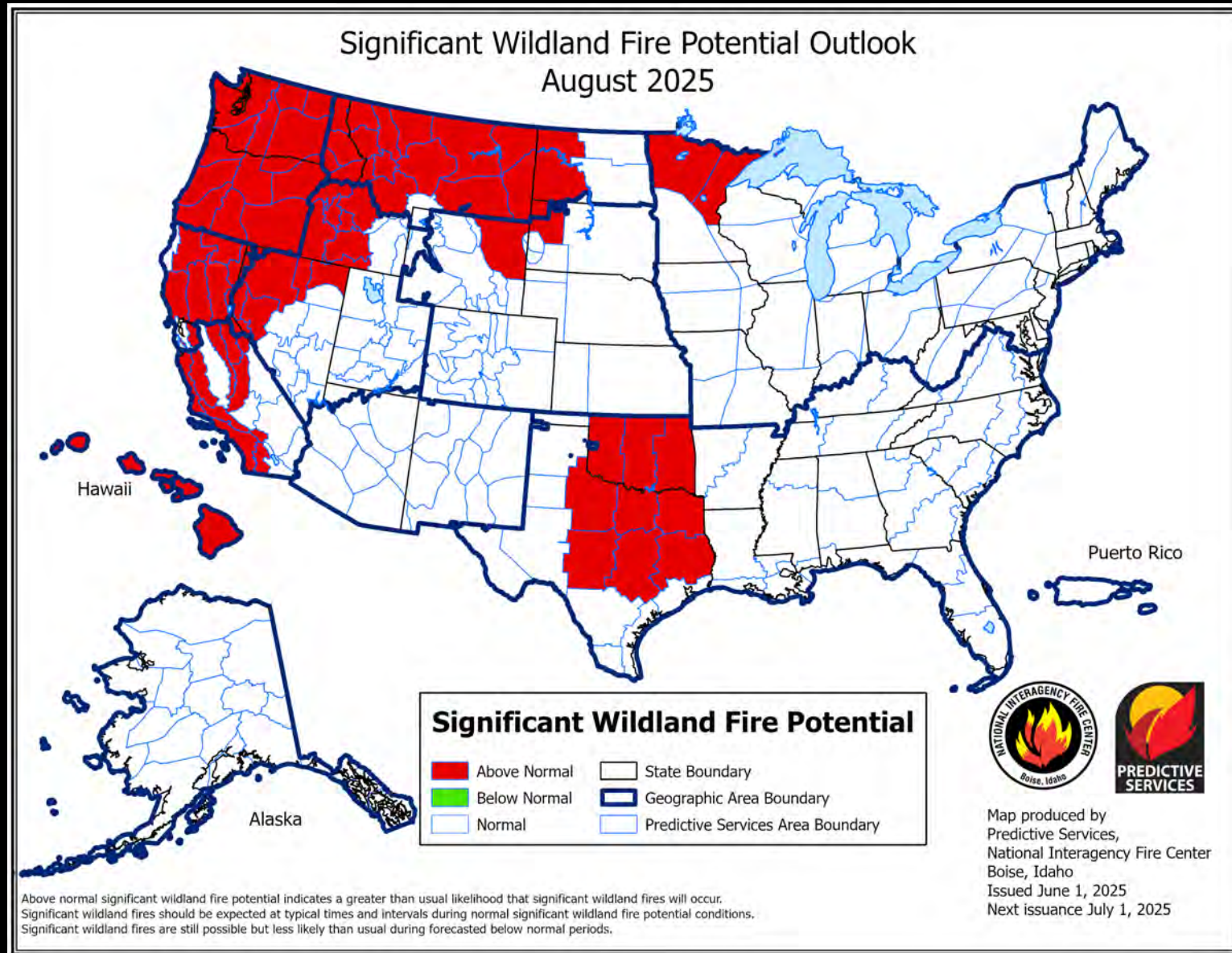


Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued June 1, 2025
Next issuance July 1, 2025

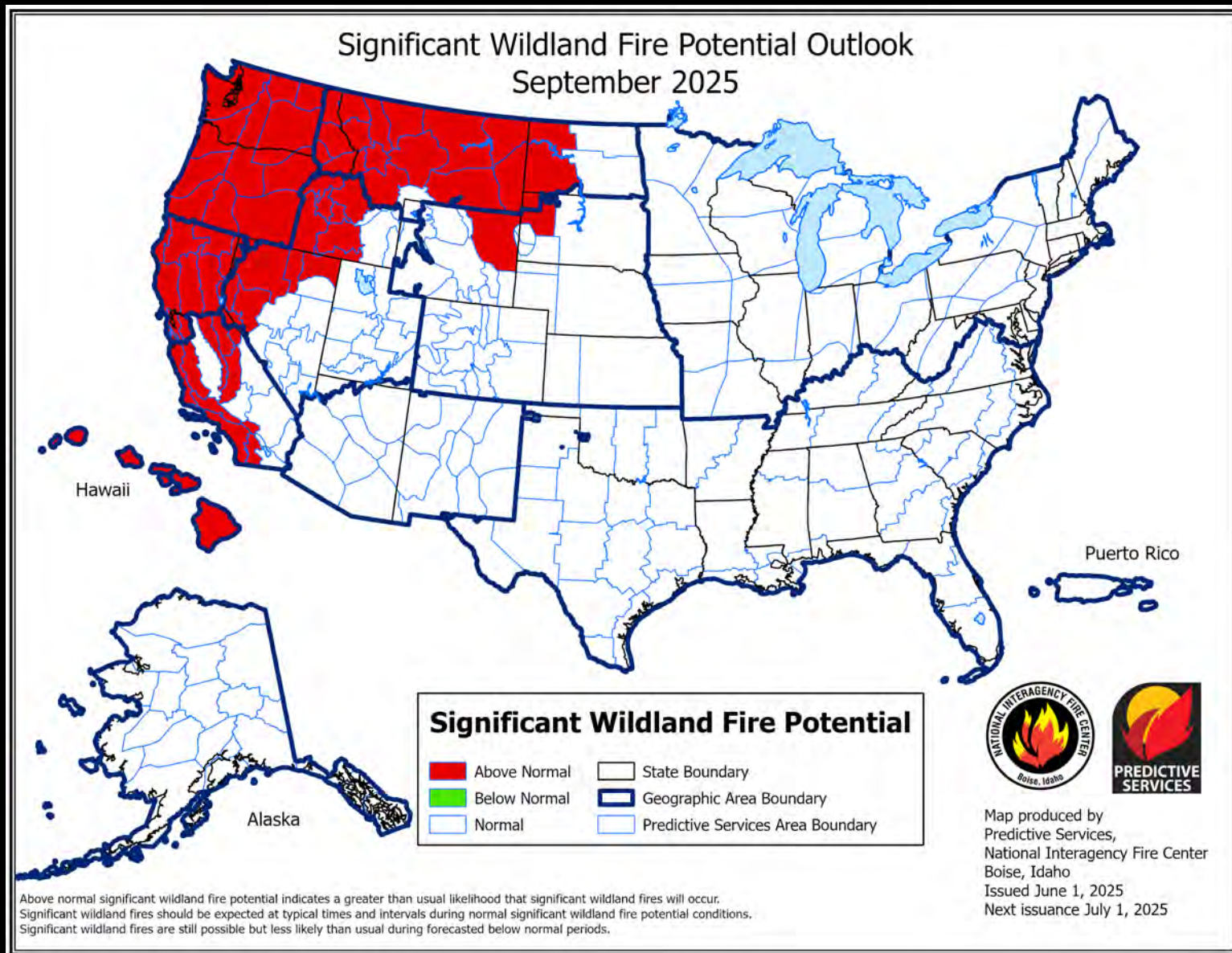
June



July



August



Summary

- Much of the state will have above normal significant fire potential through September
 - Rangelands in southwest Idaho have above normal fine fuel loading again this year
 - North Idaho has above normal potential starting this month (fire season running 4-6 weeks ahead of normal)
 - Fast spring snowmelt due to a mild/dry spring and a hot/dry summer forecast are the main reasons for this outlook
- Near normal fire potential means large fires can/will happen

2025 IDL AVIATION RESOURCES

All Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) aviation resources are available statewide to aid in wildland fire suppression. Though based as indicated in the information below, they will be relocated as dictated by fire activity.

Exclusive-Use Contracted Resources

Coeur d'Alene:

- One **Type 1 Heavy helicopter** with Helicopter Managers. Will be capable of delivering water via tanked and bucket operations. Solicitation was for a UH-60 helicopter requiring the same capabilities as the Blackhawk that IDL had on contract for the 2024 fire season. This resource will be assigned to the Coeur d'Alene airport.
 - VENDOR: TBD – CONTRACT PENDING. INTENT TO AWARD STAGE. ANTICIPATED AWARD DATE OF MID/LATE JUNE.
- Four **Single Engine Water Scooper (SEWS) Type 5 (aka Fire Boss)**. Capable of delivering 800 gallons of water or BlazeTamer380© enhanced water. SEWS can provide subsequent drops of 800 gallons of water scooped from an adequate lake or river, or BlazeTamer380© enhanced water (onboard injected) following scoop from lakes or rivers. Two of IDL's contracted SEWS are capable of on-board mixing BlazeTamer380© gel while enroute to a fire after scooping from a water source. Two of the four SEWS will not have on-board mixing capabilities and will be capable of water delivery only.
 - VENDOR: Dauntless Air, Appleton, MN

Grangeville:

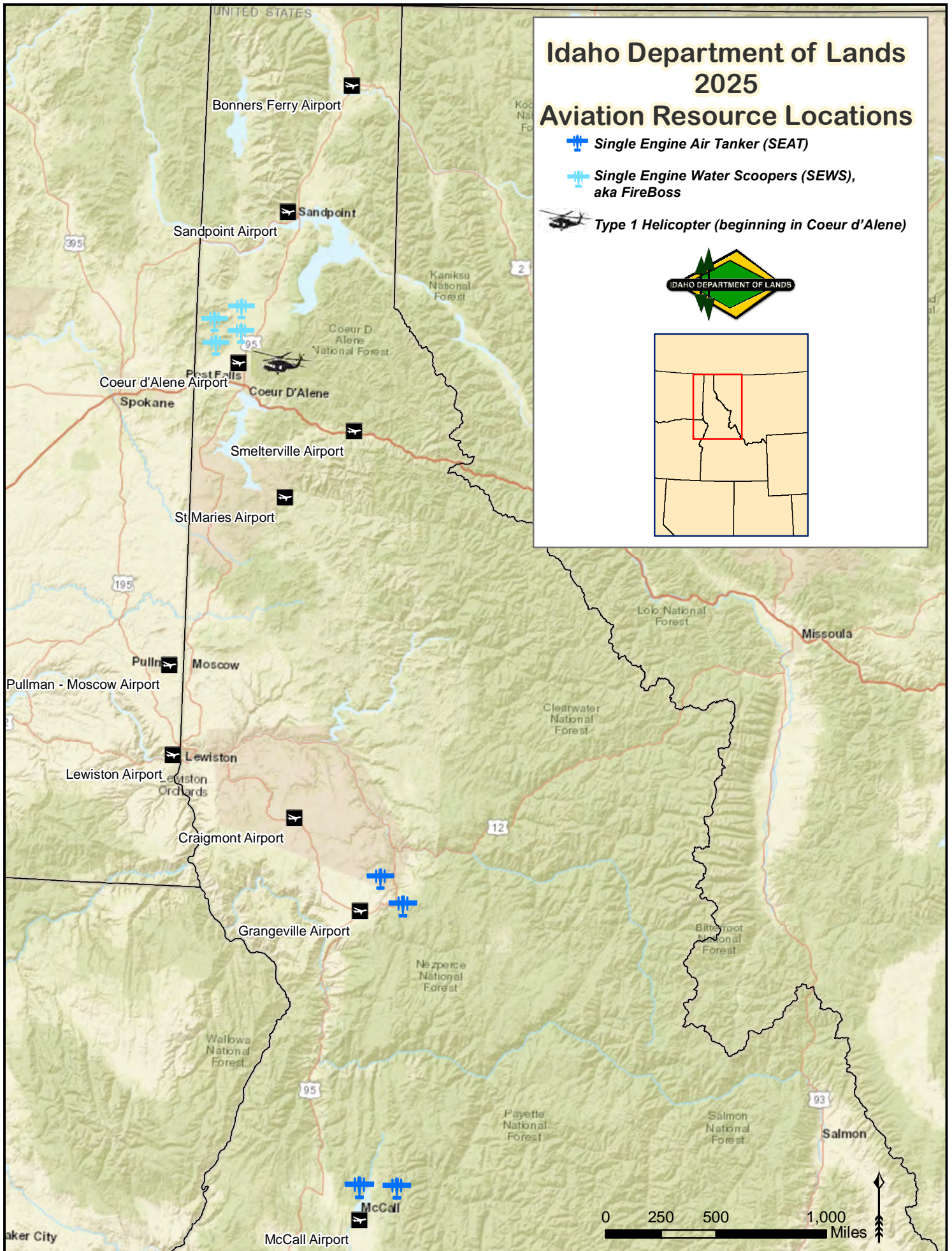
- Two **SEATs (Single Engine Air Tanker)**. Air Tractor 802 capable of delivering 800 gallons of water or retardant per drop. Returns to Air Tanker Base after each drop for refilling with retardant and, if necessary, fuel.
 - VENDOR: Aero Tech, Inc., Clovis, NM

McCall:

- Two **SEATs (Single Engine Air Tanker)**. Air Tractor 802 capable of delivering 800 gallons of water or retardant per drop. Returns to Air Tanker Base after each drop for refilling with retardant and, if necessary, fuel.
 - VENDOR: Aero Tech, Inc., Clovis, NM

IDL Owned Resources

Three **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) / Drones** dedicated to the Fire Program. Provide for cost-effective reconnaissance in support of wildland fire suppression operations. Strict adherence to the Federal Aviation Administration regulations regarding operations within the National Air-Space System is required. IDL maintains a strategically located pool of FAA certified UAS pilots.



Idaho Department of Lands

2025

Resource Locations

KEY

State totals in parentheses



Engine (39)



Engine Crew
Total persons (149)



Northern Suppression Module
6 person (1)



Teakean Hand Crew
20 person (1)



Engine Foremen
Total persons (16)



Contract Engines (6)

Legend



Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA's)



Forest Protection Districts



Bureau of Land Management



Other Federal



Indian Reservation



National Parks Service



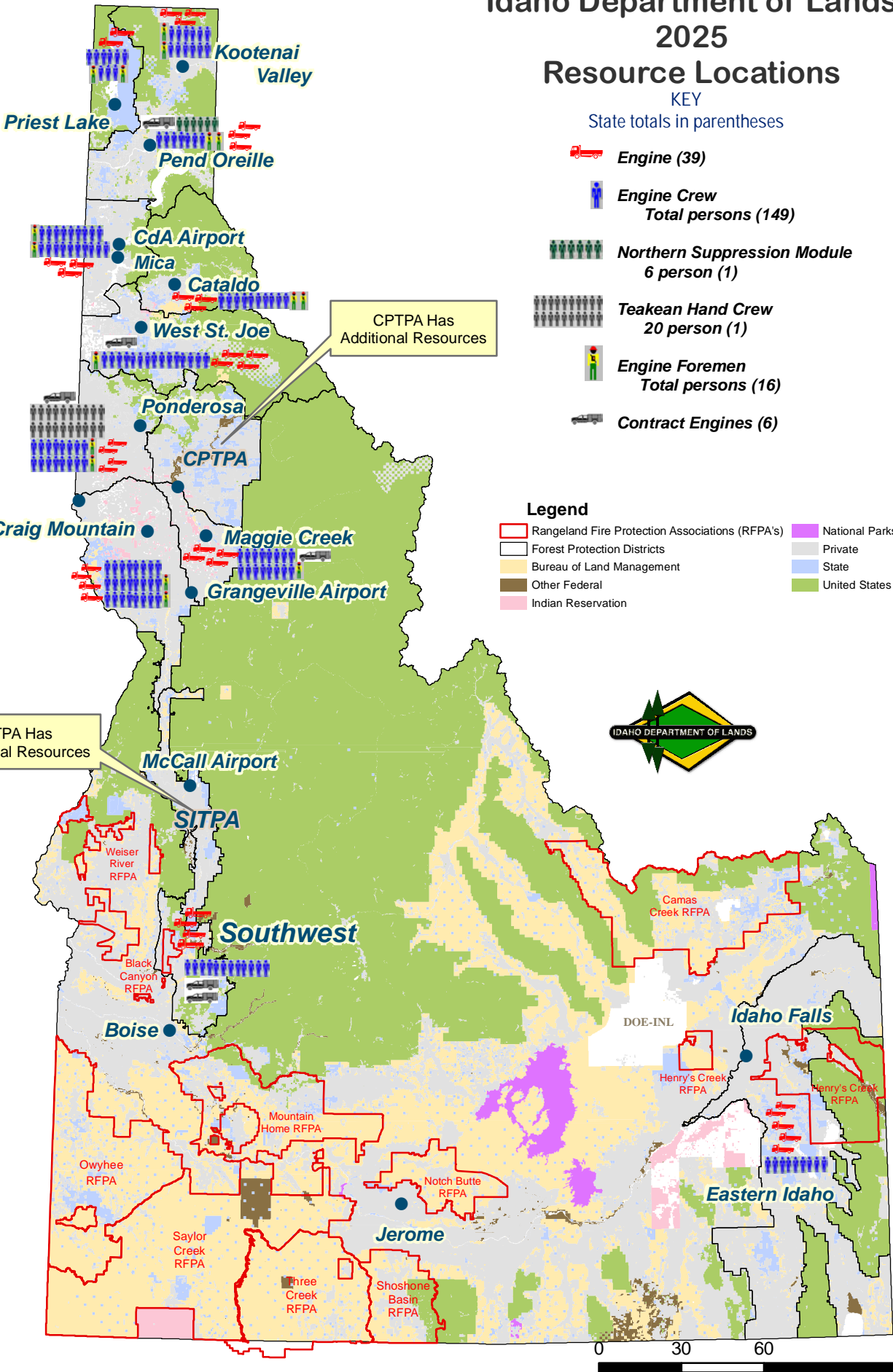
Private



State



United States Forest Service



Idaho Rangeland Fire Protection Associations 2025

As of 2025, over 700 volunteer wildland firefighters have been trained by agency fire managers. These volunteers provide an important resource not only for their own land and assets, but also assist wildland fire managers protecting public lands.

The ten RFPAs combined protect 1.9 million acres of private rangeland that was previously unprotected, as well as providing secondary protection on 7.4 million acres of federal and state land.

Discussions have continued with interested parties in the Fort Hall area for a new RFPA. The current expectation would be for a start date in 2026 or 2027.

2024 Fire Season Review

2024 was a very busy fire season for the RFPAs. Eighty (80) total fire responses with an estimated 1,297 member hours were reported. This was almost three times the total from the previous season.

2025 Fire Season Preparedness

Almost 400 RFPA members attended in-person Fireline Refresher Training including 96 new members that attended Basic Wildland Fire classes.

This year, the Governor's Office of Species Conservation purchased Personal Protective Equipment for 47 of the new members. The Camas Creek RFPA also acquired a Type 6 engine that was donated by a local volunteer fire department. This engine will allow the RFPA to provide more strategic coverage in their protection area.

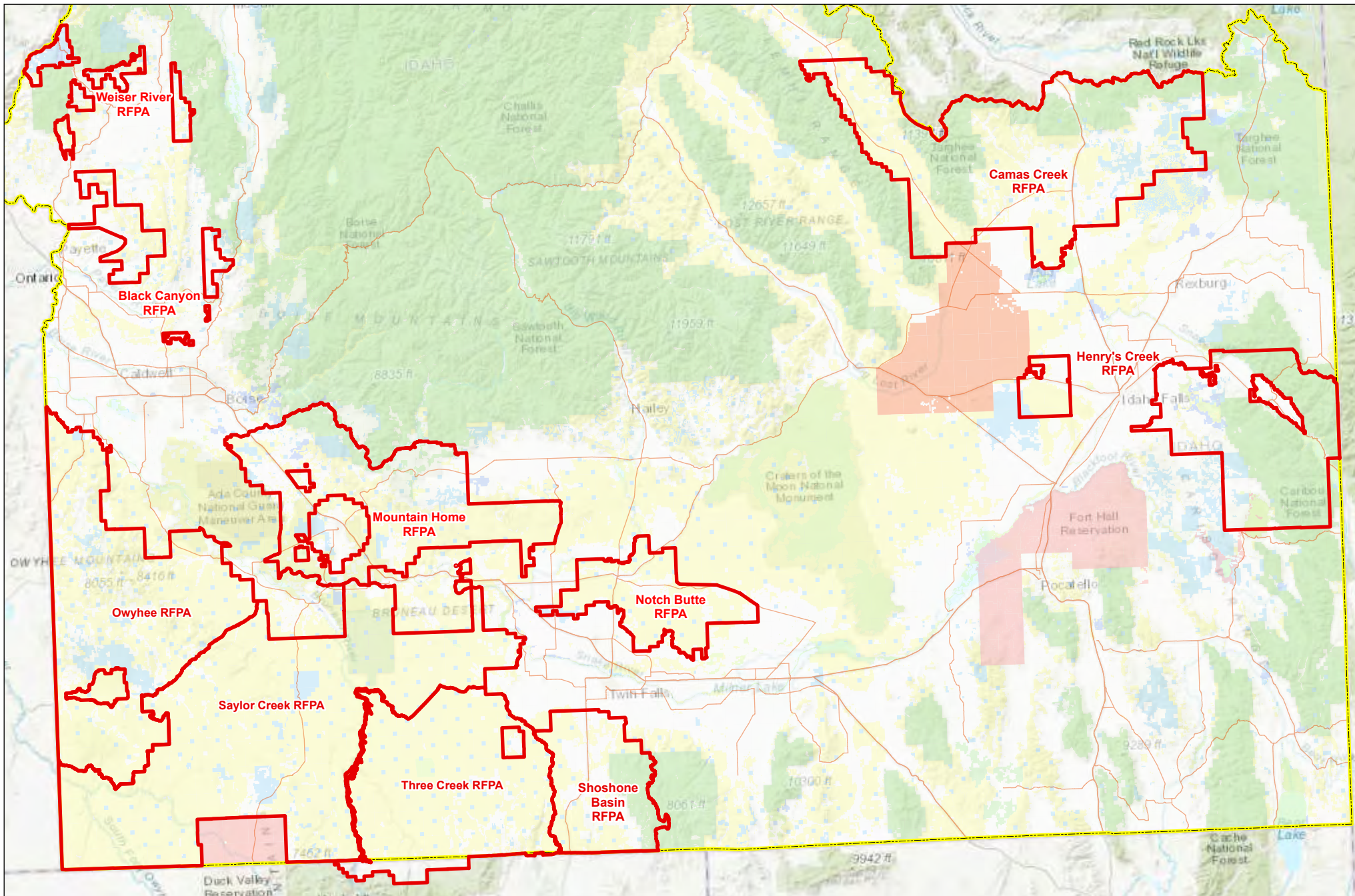
Idaho RFPAs Stats

RFPA	Founded	Members ¹	Acres	Private	Federal ²	State ³	2024 Fires
Black Canyon	2013	35	185,384	108,555	61,111	15,719	5
Camas Creek	2016	36	1,494,608	363,005	1,019,277	112,327	3
Henry's Creek	2017	20	914,696	286,775	571,374	56,547	5
Mountain Home	2012	29	964,131	300,091	564,138	98,174	17
Notch Butte	2016	12	341,170	74,535	247,745	18,890	1
Owyhee	2013	36	1,370,873	254,175	972,268	144,430	11
Saylor Creek	2013	84	2,222,204	131,128	1,964,913	126,162	15
Shoshone Basin	2015	17	488,054	174,940	302,144	10,969	7
Three Creek	2013	64	1,120,203	114,599	951,243	54,362	11
Weiser River	2021	63	135,212	60,246	38,252	27,208	5
TOTALS		396	9,381,444	1,868,049	6,692,465	664,788	80

¹ Received Red Card for the 2025 fire season as of 05/28/2025. The Red Card identifies current annual training.

² Federal includes Military, NPS, BOR, BIA, DOE, BLM and USFS ownership.

³ State includes Endowment, State F&G, State Parks, and State other.

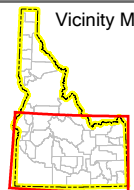


C.2

Legend

- Highways
- Existing RFPAs
- Bureau of Land Management
- DOE-INL
- Tribal Private
- State Endowment
- Other State Land
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal Ownership
- Idaho Boundary

Vicinity Map



Rangeland Fire Protection Associations

5/29/2025

0 10 20 40 60 Miles



Map Notes and Data Sources
Ownership current as of map date

Disclaimer:
This map has been compiled using the best information available to the Idaho Department of Lands at the time and may be updated and/or revised without notice. In situations where known accuracy and completeness is required, the user has the responsibility to verify the accuracy of the map and the underlying data sources.

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025
Information Agenda

Subject

Strategic Plan for Managing Wildland Fire

Background

Wildfire is a persistent and escalating threat to Idaho's communities, landscapes, and economy, and the Idaho Department of Lands (Department) plays a critical role in protecting the state's forests and rangelands. Developing a robust and adaptive fire management structure within the Department is crucial to safeguarding Idaho's communities, natural resources, and economic assets in the face of escalating fire threats.

The State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) requested a strategic plan to adapt the Department's wildland fire program to a changing fire regime that focuses on changes to the fire organization structure, training, staffing, and equipment to respond effectively to predicted increases in wildfire size, intensity, duration, and complexity.

Discussion

The draft Strategic Plan for Managing Wildland Fire is included as Attachment 1. It outlines a comprehensive approach to strengthening the Department's fire program to meet current and future challenges.

At its April 15, 2025 meeting, the Land Board reviewed the first draft and requested more information about specific goals, costs and timelines.

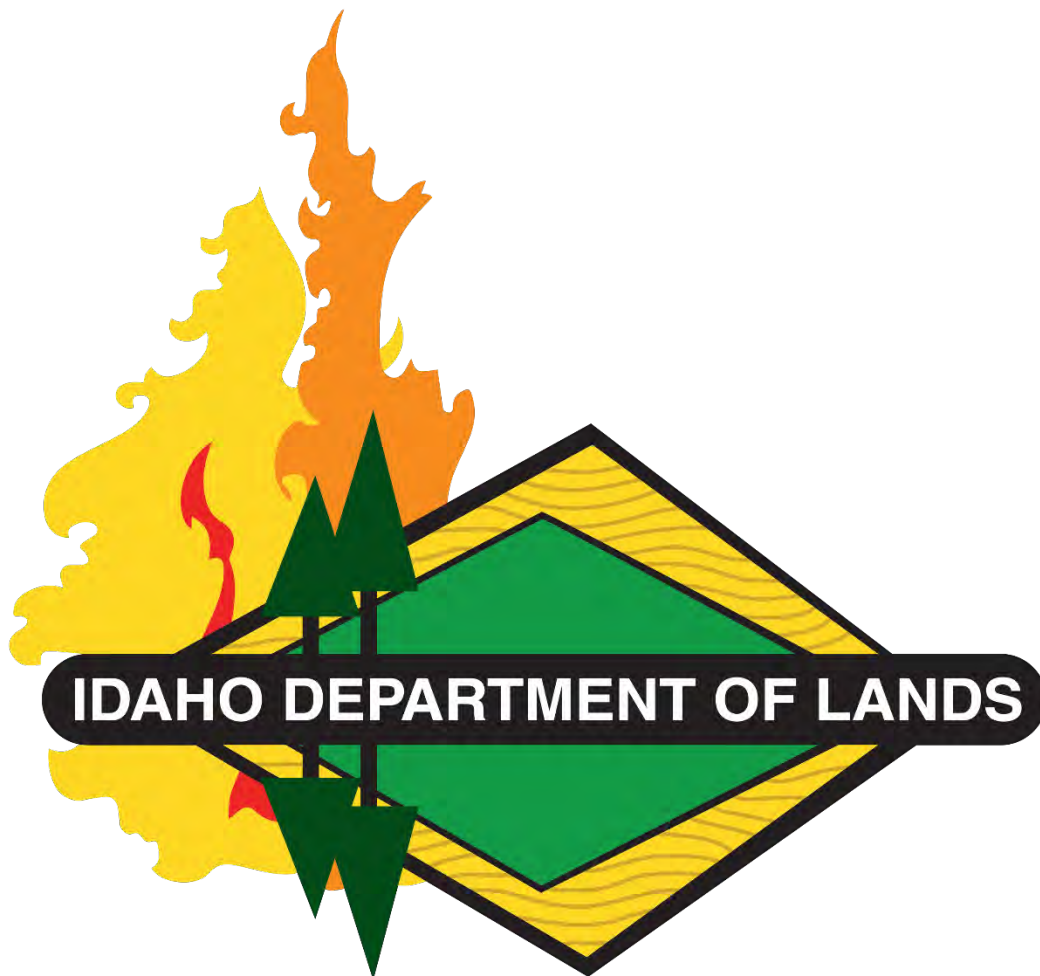
The Department is submitting Appendix A for review, which includes tables of ongoing and planned actions, along with tentative timelines and costs (when available) for wildland fire program needs in FY27 and FY28.

The plan and task tables remain in draft form. This will be an iterative process as the Department refines needs and goals over time.

Attachments

1. Strategic Plan for Managing Wildland Fire

Idaho Department of Lands **Strategic Plan for Managing Wildland Fire**



May 30, 2025

DRAFT

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Abbreviations

GPIFC	Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact
FSO	Fire Service Organization
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IOEM	Idaho Office of Emergency Management
NWCG	National Wildfire Coordinating Group
TPA	Timber Protective Association
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

Executive Summary

Wildfire is a persistent and escalating threat to Idaho's communities, landscapes, and economy. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) plays a critical role in protecting the state's forest and range lands, and this Strategic Plan for Managing Wildland Fire outlines a comprehensive approach to strengthening IDL's fire program to meet current and future challenges.

This forward-looking plan is built around five strategic themes that help guide our mission for the next 10 years:

1. Strengthen organizational capacity for evolving wildland fire challenges.
2. Enhance fire prevention and mitigation efforts.
3. Build adaptive infrastructure to address increasing fire occurrence and severity.
4. Foster interagency collaboration and resilience.
5. Expand existing funding streams.

As wildfire seasons grow longer and more intense—driven by population growth, increasing wildland urban interface, and a reduction in federal firefighting resources—IDL is being called upon to do more. This plan addresses this reality with strategies to modernize fire operations, improve workforce recruitment and retention, invest in early detection and response technologies, expand prevention efforts, and ensure sustainable funding mechanisms.

The plan is designed to be a flexible, working document—able to evolve with emerging issues, policy changes, and resource demands. With a continued focus on protecting property and natural resources, and a commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, this strategy positions IDL to lead the state in effective, accountable, and resilient wildfire management. It's the Idaho way.

Idaho Department of Lands Statutory Responsibility

Statutory responsibility for the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) fire program is described in Idaho Code Title 38, Chapters 1 and 4, also known as the Idaho Forestry Act and Fire Hazard Reduction Law.

Under current Idaho law: Every owner of forest lands in the state shall furnish or provide therefore, throughout the closed season, protection against the starting, existence or spread of fires thereon... (Idaho Code 38-111). Under Idaho Code 38-111, each forest landowner has the option to provide adequate fire protection individually or join other landowners to provide protection as a member of a Timber Protective Association (TPA). For landowners that choose neither option, state law directs IDL to provide fire protection and assess the landowner for the service. State law also requires the Director of IDL to: "...divide the state into districts to be known and designated as forest protective districts, having due regard in establishing the boundaries thereof, to the adequate, effective and economical protection of forest and range lands therein." (Idaho Code 38-110). These statutes form the basis of the current IDL Forest Fire Protection Districts and the two TPAs: Clearwater-Potlatch TPA (CPTPA) and Southern Idaho TPA (SITPA). In recent history no forest landowners, other than the federal government, have met the legal requirements for providing their own fire protection other than by joining a TPA.

For state lands, the law states: "The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable to the forest and range lands belonging to the state with the same force and effect as they apply to privately owned forest and range lands within the state; except that for the protection of state-owned range lands, the state board of land commissioners may enter into agreements or otherwise provide for a reasonable arrangement assuring the timely suppression of fires on or threatening state-owned range lands whether or not said lands are adjacent to or intermingled with forest lands." (Idaho Code 38-105). Funding for the suppression of fires on state range lands is provided for in law: "The state board of land commissioners may authorize the issuance of deficiency warrants for the purpose of paying the costs of fire suppression on state-owned range lands whether or not said lands are adjacent to or intermingled with forest lands. When so authorized, the state controller shall draw deficiency warrants against the general fund." (Idaho Code 38-131A). IDL has protection responsibility on all state-owned land and all private forest lands that are not part of a TPA. IDL also has protection responsibility for some federal land through the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Master Agreement).

Introduction

Wildfire remains the primary recurring threat and hazard to Idaho communities and landscapes.

The dynamics of the wildland fire and wildfire environments continue to evolve and grow. In response, IDL is implementing new approaches to address these challenges and bridge existing gaps in the wildland fire program, ensuring continued success in protecting property and natural resources by containing fires to 10 acres or less.

As Idaho has seen an increase in population, wildland urban interface, and human-caused fires, there has been a decrease in federal wildland fire participation throughout the country. IDL staff expect further decreases in federal resource availability in Idaho. It is critical that IDL has the appropriate level of staffing in the right locations to be as effective as possible in minimizing the impact of fire on property and lives.

Within IDL protection, wildfire season has increased 32.4 days over the past 15 years, based on average days between first and last fires from 2010-2014 (210.6 days) and 2020-2024 (243 days). Nationally, that trend is similar. The Master Agreement with the federal cooperators expires in 2027, and IDL is expecting further change in our statewide fire responsibility as a result.

This plan will provide a forward-looking analysis that evaluates the future organizational changes required to successfully address population growth and the growing challenge of wildland urban interface fires.

The plan addresses the following problem statement:

Problem Statement: The Department's fire program is operating on the edge of its capabilities during periods with multiple ignitions, extended attack and long duration fire seasons. Fire seasons are increasingly severe and prolonged, federal fire programs are reducing their capacities and transferring more responsibility for wildfire suppression to state agencies, and the amount of coordination needed to acquire resources during a busy season has dramatically increased. Additionally, the fire environment is growing more complex and is further impacted by rapid population growth, highlighting the need for an effective and modernized fire management program.

The Department believes that this vision statement describes the desired future state of the fire program:

Vision Statement: Meeting future wildland fire challenges through effective initial attack and robust incident management capabilities.

Strategic Plan

The plan to strengthen IDL's fire program to meet current and future challenges is built around five organizational themes:

1. Strengthen organizational capacity for evolving wildland fire challenges.
2. Enhance fire prevention and mitigation efforts.
3. Build adaptive infrastructure to address increasing fire occurrence and severity.
4. Foster interagency collaboration and resilience.
5. Expand existing funding streams.

Under each theme's section, this plan describes why each theme is important, the key strategies to make the theme a success, and a description of actions already taken. The Appendix includes a table template which describes the tasks that will be necessary to implement the key strategies. The tables in the Appendix will be populated for the next iteration of the document. The Appendix is included in this draft to provide the reader an example of future additions to the plan.

Theme 1. Strengthen organizational capacity for evolving wildland fire challenges

There is less alignment between what IDL expects/needs and what the workforce requires in order to pursue the career field. This includes tools to address the physical and mental stresses of the work, work-life balance, and scope of work/responsibilities. Hurdles related to workforce readiness include approval for additional full-time equivalent positions (FTEs); funding personnel at a competitive pay rate; and recruiting, training, and retaining personnel with the ability to learn and use desired skill sets.

Beyond the firefighter workforce, Fire Bureau employees have historically been tasked with supporting multiple programs, such as one person overseeing aviation and fire investigation. As each program has become more complex, expansion of critical program management is necessary for success and staff retention.

Under Idaho Code 38-107, Fire Wardens are to abate the nuisance of fire. With significant population growth throughout the state and consequently an increase in unwanted human-caused fire ignitions, IDL has experienced an increase in nuisance fire responses. IDL policy and procedures require the investigation of all abated fires. This added workload has resulted in more investigations than the program can handle.

Aviation support personnel are not provided by IDL and are solely funded and provided by our federal counterparts at federally operated air centers across Idaho. These support personnel are required under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and the industry standards for the safe oversight and management of aviation operations.

The fire business program is responsible for auditing and authorizing wildfire billings from vendors and cooperators. The program supports incident business training, tracks wildfire billings (including negligent wildfire cases), oversees wildfire audits, coordinates federal grant applications, and provides oversight for wildfire-related financial and operational processes to ensure accuracy and compliance.

In the 2024 season alone, the program processed 1,110 vendor payment packages totaling \$33,364,114.89, which is a sharp increase compared to 687 packages and \$12,161,350.27 in 2023. The financial scale of these operations is also evident in the five-year average for suppression spending, which stands at \$48,370,800.

The fire logistics program is integral to firefighting and assists with wildland fire suppression nationwide. The demand for cache resources and support has grown considerably, yet infrastructure and staffing have not kept pace. The Coeur d'Alene National Fire Cache provides annual support to 300 wildfires at the national, state, and local levels, warehouses \$15 million of supplies, provides critical repair and refurbishment services of vehicles and equipment, and manages and maintains IDL's response and distribution fleet. Additionally, it provides support for local fire departments through the Firefighter Property and Federal Excess Property Program to supply them with surplus military equipment that is converted for use by the departments.

Key Strategy – Increase workforce readiness and compensation

- Provide competitive pay on par with Western states through an increase of entry-level engine captain rate that is in alignment with state policies, while addressing pay compression and equity between job classifications.
- Improve recruitment and retention strategies focused on entry-level and seasonal personnel through targeted mentorship programs.
- Establish appropriate staffing of initial attack, aviation, engine modules, and crew resources.
- Establish additional dedicated fire suppression modules.
- Conduct job classification analysis and review to determine if primary and support fire job classifications align with IDL policy and industry standards.
- Continue to recruit and promote collateral duty firefighting and support duties across IDL non-primary fire positions.
- Develop IDL Differential Pay Policy to incentivize collateral duty firefighters and firefighter support roles. Implement differential pay for fire suppression personnel time.
- Analyze and adjust the IDL Hazard Pay Policy to align with industry standards (federal and other states).
- Develop a self-reliant training program that supplements, instead of being dependent upon, federal training offerings.
- Assess need for IDL specific NWCG training compatible courses across the Department.
- Develop fire qualification training curriculum and 5-year schedule for recurring required courses (e.g., guard school, engine academy, basic faller).

Key Strategy – Expand Fire Bureau leadership and program management

- Enhance aviation program expertise and capacity to continue to support fire aviation resource needs and to navigate state/regional/national aviation strategies and complexities across the industry including development of Idaho aviation operating plans, policies, procedures, and guidance with consideration to NWCG standards.
- Evaluate and ensure competitive pay structures and classifications for aviation-specific positions.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of aviation contracting support to understand the distinctions between state procurement and fire procurement processes, along with a statutory and policy analysis to optimize operational efficiency and effectiveness.
- Gap/needs analysis for IDL programs that are currently reliant on federal resources, specifically prevention, fire business, and incident support (fire cache and logistics).
- Support, evaluate, and implement early detection technologies such as satellite detection, lightning detection, and fire detection cameras. Seek funding for implementation.
- Coordinate with partner agencies and other interested parties to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency with detection capability and interoperability.
- Keep pace with the rapid evolution of radio technology.
- Analyze IDL's organizational structure, with efficiency and effectiveness of the wildland fire program in mind.
- Evaluate the role of the TPAs in Idaho's suppression responsibilities.

Key Strategy – Expand program delivery

- Strengthen aviation program air support operations to ensure continued management of contracted aviation assets. Develop a transition plan for a self-reliant aviation program, consistent with the Governor’s 2024 Wildfire Report Recommendation #10.
- Develop dedicated program capacity for grant, agreement, procurement management and oversight.
- Increase investigation program capacity. Add dedicated qualified investigators across the state for rapid response.
- Continue to implement automated financial systems, standardize billing procedures, and invest in workforce expansion and training.
- Increase cache logistics staff support.

Theme 1 Actions Already Taken

- FY26 Budget Enhancements: Fire Aviation Section Manager, firefighter bonuses.

Theme 2. Enhance fire prevention and mitigation efforts

Fire prevention and mitigation are critical aspects of reducing starts, or if ignition occurs, keeping fires small therefore reducing the impact of incidents while increasing responder safety.

Fire prevention is a crucial component of hazard mitigation by recognizing the risk of wildfire and then communicating that risk to the public. By raising awareness, promoting safe behaviors, and providing clear guidance on reducing ignition sources, prevention efforts address the hazard at its source—ultimately decreasing the likelihood of wildfire starts and improving overall mitigation outcomes.

Through outreach, education, and public engagement, fire prevention protects Idaho’s landscapes, communities, and resources while reducing wildfire costs. ***Research from the USDA Forest Service shows that every \$1 invested in prevention can save up to \$35 in suppression and post-fire rehabilitation expenses, underscoring the value of proactive efforts.***

The fire mitigation program provides pass-through awards to cooperators throughout Idaho to reduce the threat and impact of wildfire on communities and landscapes. Mitigation improves the probability of effective suppression efforts, while also decreasing community and natural resource damage through reduced intensity and severity of wildfire.

In Idaho, for every \$1 spent on mitigation, between \$15 and \$32 dollars is saved in suppression expenses (Estimating Suppression Productivity of Reducing Wildfire; T. Holfeltz, 2004).

IDL has long managed administrative code related to forest practices to include slash management as an enforcement obligation. Many of these codes have not changed in decades and have not been updated to address changes in fire occurrence or advancements in scientific understanding.

Key Strategy – Strengthen prevention programs

- Implement systemic statewide scale-up of state and federal funded prevention efforts by reclassifying current staff to a full-time program manager and adding regional prevention support staff.
- Expand advertising/messaging, reader boards, billboards, and gas station television (GSTV); modernize the Idaho Burn Permit system; and migrate funding streams from federal funds to state funds.

Key Strategy – Strengthen mitigation programs

- Assess the optimal organizational structure and location of the fire mitigation program, expand cooperative program delivery through contracting and shared positions, enhance area and district implementation with education and private land projects, increase the use of prescribed fire, and transition funding sources from federal to state funds.
- Review administrative codes and policies to identify areas for updates or new additions to ensure wildfire reduction efforts can be expanded across all lands, not just state lands.

Key Strategy – Analyze and update IDL’s fire hazard management program

- Review and identify alternatives for enhancing IDL’s fire hazard program implementation guidance.

Theme 3. Build adaptive infrastructure to address increasing fire occurrence and severity

Adaptive infrastructure, such as response-ready facilities, robust communication systems, and advanced firefighting technology, can help IDL respond more efficiently to changing fire dynamics, protect communities, and safeguard vital resources.

A substantial gap exists between current resources and the necessary facilities, modern technology, and equipment required for optimal operations. Fire operations facilities are inadequate in square footage and function (e.g., fire cache was built in 1974), while detection infrastructure has not kept pace with increased wildfire occurrence. In both cases, this has led to increased maintenance costs, operational inefficiencies, safety concerns, and a reduction in the effectiveness of our fire response capabilities.

Historically, IDL based contracted aviation assets at federally controlled interagency fire aviation facilities and did not contribute appropriately with funding or personnel to the facility operations. Coupled with unequal contribution, federal agencies have less flexibility with purchasing and leasing facilities, and changes are on the immediate horizon for federal aviation facilities across the state. More responsibility must be taken for the facilities supporting IDL’s fire aviation program.

IDL needs modern tools and systems to keep pace with the evolving nature of wildfires and improve the efficiency of response efforts. Outdated equipment and manual processes hinder the Department’s ability to respond quickly and effectively. By integrating advanced technologies such as real-time data analytics, satellite imaging, and automated firefighting systems, the agency can enhance situational awareness, improve decision making, and streamline operations.

Modernized tools also facilitate better coordination among agencies, quicker resource allocation, and faster communication, ultimately minimizing damage and saving lives.

Without addressing infrastructure needs, other tasks and their associated resources will be difficult to implement as the Department simply runs out of space to do the work.

Key Strategy – Develop and implement a comprehensive fire facilities plan

- Build fire facilities across forest protective districts, aviation sites, and for the Fire Bureau to accommodate current and future program expansion, thus improving readiness.
- Analyze response times associated with area of responsibility and identify total need across all state forest protective districts and timber protection association districts, Coeur d’Alene Interagency Fire Cache, aviation, and regional dispatch centers.
- Upon completion of analysis, consider leveraging interagency relationships, co-location possibilities, and establishing satellite remote guard stations to improve response times where appropriate (e.g., Avery).
- Evaluate if the one centralized fire cache still makes sense or if a more distributed regional model or a combination would add value.

Key Strategy – Modernize tools, equipment, and systems

- Increase early fire detection capabilities. Early wildfire detection aids in quick response and rapid wildfire suppression, minimizing suppression cost and damages. There are numerous technologies today that require coordinated deployment and use. These technologies include AI-enabled wildfire detection cameras, advanced lightning detection, and satellite detection. IDL will need funding for hardware, software, maintenance, and other programmatic costs such as training. This buildout will be a multi-year approach, increasing capabilities after discussion with utility companies, federal fire agencies, local entities, and other state agencies.
- Consistent with the Governor’s 2024 Wildfire Report Recommendation #4, create an Interoperability Committee with the intention of coordinating wildland fire detection cameras.
- Acquire an advanced integrated, centralized software platform to enable the aggregation of geographic, environmental, and predictive wildfire data to aid in decision making, resource allocation, and firefighting strategies. A single source of information is critical to real-time decision making and shared situational awareness. Technology is more refined and is a needed tool for wildfire suppression and planning in an increasingly complex environment. These software solutions allow for inclusion of resource tracking, detection data, active wildfire mapping, wildfire modeling, etc.
- Additional strategies include modernizing our radio communications infrastructure to include interoperability with all fire departments in the state and being prepared for advancement in technology. This will include increasing our radio coverage to accommodate new protection areas, decrease system redundancy, and work with consolidated dispatch centers. Periodic gap analysis will be needed to determine the best value solutions due to rapidly evolving technology.
- Complete the implementation of the electronic Fire Business System by developing integration with statewide Luma system.

Theme 3 Actions Already Taken

- FY26 Budget Enhancements: Fire Burn Permit System replacement, fire detection cameras, satellite fire detection and mapping.

Theme 4. Foster interagency collaboration and resilience

Interagency collaboration is essential for successful wildfire suppression operations. No single agency has all the required resources and capabilities to deal with large-scale wildfires or multiple ignition days and must rely on collaboration from other agencies to address these challenges.

Wildfires frequently span large and complex areas that require a coordinated effort from multiple organizations to effectively manage. Different agencies bring unique expertise, resources, and capabilities to the table, such as local resources, state resources, federal resources, and emergency management organizations.

By working together, these agencies can share critical information, pool resources, and align strategies, ensuring a more efficient and unified response. Effective collaboration also ensures quicker mobilization of resources, better communication during the incident, and the ability to address both immediate firefighting needs and long-term recovery efforts.

Local Fire Service Organizations (FSOs) represent a significant resource in Idaho's wildland fire response. The Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) also plays a critical role in emergency response of all types within the state of Idaho. Leveraging IOEM and FSOs' resources for wildfire suppression in return for supporting emergency response embodies the Idaho way.

The impacts of wildfires on Idahoans are particularly felt through smoke. Every citizen has been exposed to unhealthy particulate levels associated with smoke, both from out of state sources and incidents in Idaho. Additionally, as the use of prescribed fire continues to grow, the impacts of these planned, short duration events still have significant localized impacts to communities.

While IDL has staff members across the state who unofficially track the smoke during the wildfire season, there is no smoke management program at IDL to monitor and manage the effects of smoke or to interface with other supporting regulating agencies such as Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Key Strategy – Expand coordination with Fire Service Organizations, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management

- Cultivate, enhance, and maintain interagency relationships. Leverage these relationships as a force multiplier for IDL's suppression mission by assisting partners in executing their respective missions.
- Increase programmatic capacity and leadership to support Emergency Support Function #4 (ESF#4) responsibilities and coordination with IOEM and the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association for the strategic movement of fire resources to increase response and support capacity statewide.
- Consistent with the Governor's 2024 Wildfire Report Recommendation #8, develop a statewide memorandum of understanding between firefighting entities at the local, state, and federal level to ensure capacity, coordination, and mutual aid response during wildfire events.

Key Strategy – Expand coordination with regulatory agencies for smoke management

- The establishment of a smoke management program supported by a full-time program manager will ensure the efficient coordination of this increasingly impactful effect of wildfires for Idahoans. This position could be shared between Idaho Department of

Environmental Quality and IDL to further increase the regulatory coordination associated with smoke management in Idaho.

Key Strategy – Increase ability to exchange resources with other states

- Current federal law does not allow for reciprocal billing between the eight existing regional forest fire compacts. IDL must execute multiple compact agreements and enter into state-to-state agreements with numerous other states. Support and promote the National Association of State Foresters Wildland Fire Committee efforts towards allowing reciprocal billing between forest fire compacts to streamline IDL's ability to leverage resources from all 50 states.
- Join the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact (GPIFC). In the absence of reciprocal billing between compacts, joining the GPIFC would allow IDL access to wildland fire resources from neighboring states directly to the south and east as well as from North Dakota to Texas.
- Secure state-to-state agreements to augment fire suppression resources and to clarify billing procedures with other states to increase the overall resiliency of the fire program.

Theme 4 Actions Already Taken

- FY26 Budget Enhancement: Fire Emergency Support Program Manager.

Theme 5. Expand existing funding streams

Funding for IDL's wildland fire preparedness or pre-suppression is used for training and equipping firefighters. This includes everything from engine oil changes to utility bills to personnel time in classroom training. This budget also supports prevention at the forest protective districts as well.

Funding for preparedness currently comes from three sources: dedicated funding from assessments (38%), general fund (48%), and federal grants (14%). The funding from assessments has generally remained the same throughout the years due to the assessment rate being unchanged since 2009. While the general fund portion has increased over the past four years, federal funds have steadily decreased due to national program cuts and changes in allocation methodologies.

Funding from assessments is intended for supporting pre-suppression and preparedness functions. Idaho Code specifies that forest landowners will pay up to \$0.65 per acre of forestland and up to \$40 per improved parcel. These assessments are managed by the Fire Wardens and audited routinely.

The software system, Private Fire, is antiquated and using older technology that has not kept up with the scope and scale of today's landscape. Private Fire is unable to be updated and could have security concerns. The software is at the end of its life and work arounds are required for continued operation.

Due to changes in protection responsibility in the 2023 Master Agreement, IDL has experienced an increase in rangeland fire protection. Under Idaho statute, this ground is not assessed but contributes to significant resource consumption for pre-suppression, suppression, and resource consumption.

There are several challenges to funding Idaho fire preparedness. One of these items is uncertainty and availability of federal grant funds. In FY25, \$2.2 million out of the total \$10.8 million preparedness allocation was federal grant funds. Recent changes have indicated there may be significant shortfalls in federal grant funding in years to come.

IDL has increased protection responsibility by approximately 3 million acres over the past 3 years, including adding the East Idaho Forest Protective District in Idaho Falls. This has strained IDL resources. IDL still has approximately 350,000 acres in offset protection. These acres could go back to state protection under a future Master Agreement and IDL must be ready to take on the additional workload.

The assessments are currently insufficient for rapid program growth. IDL needs to develop a forest assessment program that will better address these resource shortages and increased resource commitments, in addition to exploring other options for expanding preparedness funding streams. This will require stakeholder engagement and change to Idaho Code.

Key Strategy – Assessments audit and modernization: Modernize software, conduct a financial and forest assessment audit, and reform assessment rate

- Hire a program manager to oversee and serve as a subject matter expert for assessments.
- Conduct a systematic statewide review of all assessed parcels, beyond the annual audits conducted by the forest protective districts. Use audit results to drive statewide consistency calibration and identify necessary process/procedure changes.
- Deploy a spatially enabled centralized software system for analyzing and capturing data related to assessed parcels capable of interfacing with county tax roll records. Evaluate ability to record payments received by parcel. Using the new Fire Assessment Management System, evaluate assessed fees vs. suppression expenses vs. fire starts in the wildland urban interface.
- Conduct assessments rate audit to ensure that the rate is appropriate for today's wildland fire challenges and expectations. Evaluate if the correct acres and fuel types are being assessed and if a single rate for all acres makes sense.

Key Strategy – Explore other options for expanding preparedness funding streams

Theme 5 Actions Already Taken

- FY26 Budget Enhancement: Statewide Forest Assessment Program Manager.

Conclusion

Given the trends of increasing acres burned and rising costs for fire suppression, IDL needs to make changes in the fire program to meet current and future challenges and provide the fire program Idahoans expect.

By implementing this strategic plan, IDL will build a more resilient, self-sufficient wildland fire suppression program capable of addressing the evolving challenges posed by climate change and increased wildfire activity. Through investments in personnel, infrastructure, technology, and collaboration, IDL will protect Idaho's communities, landscapes, and natural resources from the growing threat of wildfires.

Measures of Success

Success for IDL's wildland fire program means a resilient and responsive organization capable of meeting the state's evolving fire challenges with efficiency, agility, and foresight.

It will be reflected in reduced fire size and severity through timely and effective initial attack, improved firefighter safety, and robust interagency coordination.

Investments in prevention, mitigation, infrastructure, and workforce development will lead to more fires being kept under 10 acres, lower suppression costs, and fewer impacts to communities and natural resources.

A modernized assessment and funding system will ensure financial sustainability and readiness.

Ultimately, success means Idahoans are safer, landscapes are healthier, and the Department continues to be a national leader in state-led wildfire response. To that end, we will measure success by:

- A continued measure of initial attack success. Keep 95% of fires at or below 10 acres.
- The ability to manage multiple ignitions on one or more forest protective districts during a lightning event without exceeding IDL's fireline leadership capability.
- The Department and its cooperators are able to manage multiple type 3 incidents simultaneously without drawing on the national coordination system for Incident Management Teams.
- The Department's engines are fully staffed with qualified engine bosses and firefighters.
- Trained temporary fire staff are likely to return to IDL for multiple seasons.
- Facilities provide adequate and efficient space for personnel and equipment and improved response time.
- Increased retention and recruitment of skilled firefighters.
- Enhanced ability to sustain operations without federal dependency.
- Reduced human-caused fire ignitions through targeted prevention efforts.
- Improved community resilience against wildfire threats.
- More effective mitigation efforts through stable funding streams.
- Improved safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of fire suppression resources.
- Improved regulatory coordination for smoke management.
- Increased access to funding and firefighting personnel.
- More predictable and sustainable fire suppression funding.
- Greater financial independence for Idaho's wildland fire program.
- Enhanced capacity for long-term wildfire risk reduction initiatives.

Idaho Department of Lands

Strategic Plan for Managing Wildland Fire

Appendix

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Current and FY26 Planned Actions

Key Strategy	Tasks	Resources Needed	Implementation FY(s)	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
1.2 – Expand Fire Bureau leadership and program management	Reclassify Cache PM and Business PM to Section Manager	FM Bureau and HR	FY26	
4.1 – Expand coordination with Fire Service Organizations, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management	Completed all tasks assigned by the Governor’s Roundtable Recommendations.	Staff	Ongoing	N/A
4.1 – Expand coordination with Fire Service Organizations, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management	Fire Emergency Support Program Manager		FY26	OG
4.1 – Expand coordination with Fire Service Organizations, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management	Idaho Code Title 38 legislation change to include all hazard response, reimbursable fuels reduction project work, and post-fire recovery work; and deficiency warrant authority.		FY26	

FY27 and FY28 Priorities

Key Strategy	Tasks	Resources Needed	Implementation FY(s)	Enhancement Request; OT or OG	FY27	FY28
1.1 – Increase workforce readiness and compensation	Current wildfire suppression resource needs (9 Assistant Wardens, 20 Resource Foremen - Results in (3) 0.83 Res Foreman and 2 full time assistant wardens at each district, and additional staff for helitack)	29 FTP, PC/OE	FY27 thru FY29+	OT & OG	1 Lands Resource Specialist (PDS), 1 Lands Resource Specialist Helitack (CMS), 1 Lands Resource Foreman Helitack (CMS)	1 Lands Resource Specialist (POS), 1 Lands Resource Foreman (POS)
1.1 – Increase workforce readiness and compensation	Standardized dedicated fire suppression modules with foreman per zone (south zone is without)	1 FTP, PC/OE/CO	FY28	OT & OG		1 Resource Foreman
1.2 – Expand Fire Bureau leadership and program management	Aviation program staffing (Aviation Section Manager, Rotor Wing Program Manager, Aviation Safety Program Manager, Aerial Supervision, Air Intelligence Lead UAS)	5 FTP, PC/OE/CO, Contract(s) for multi-mission aircraft	Section Manager FY26, Rotor wing PM in FY28,	OT & OG		Rotor Wing PM
1.3 – Expand program delivery	Investigation Program Specialist	1 FTP, PC/OE/CO	FY27	OT & OG	1 Program Specialist	

Key Strategy	Tasks	Resources Needed	Implementation FY(s)	Enhancement Request; OT or OG	FY27	FY28
1.3 – Expand program delivery	Statewide fire business support	2 FTP, PC/OE (1 program manager, 1 program specialist)	FY 27 & FY28	OT & OG	Business Program Manager	
1.3 Expand program delivery	Statewide fire logistics support	1 FTP, PC/OE (1 program manager)	FY27	OG	Logistics Program Manager	
1.3 – Expand program delivery	Increase (1) shop staff from 0.67 to 1.0; (1) prevention specialist from 0.83 to 1.0; (1) Management Asst from 0.83 to 1.0.	0.67 FTP, PC/OE	FY27	OG	(3) partial FTPs to 1.0: 0.67 FTP total	
1.3 – Expand program delivery	Increase current (2) 0.67 CDC/GVC Dispatch Coordinators to 1.0 FTPs to align with N. ID Consolidated Dispatch org chart.	0.67 FTP, PC/OE	FY27	OT & OG	(2) 0.67 dispatcher conversions to 1.0: 0.66 FTP total	
1.3 – Expand program delivery	Create 2 (0.83) dispatch positions (specify positions) to finalize the interagency org chart within N ID zone dispatch center.	1.67 FTP, PC/OE	FY28	OT & OG		(2) 0.83 dispatchers
2.2 - Strengthen mitigation programs	Shift Mitigation Program Manager to state funds for stabilization of program	PC	FY27	OG	1 Program Manager (funding, not FTP)	
3.1 – Develop and implement a comprehensive fire facilities plan	Phase 1 Fire Facilities Implementation	\$45,000,000	FY2024-FY2031	OT	Pursue Permanent Building Funds capital project to acquire Grangeville building (\$8M - \$12M)	

Key Strategy	Tasks	Resources Needed	Implementation FY(s)	Enhancement Request; OT or OG	FY27	FY28
3.2	Conduct cost analysis of IDL “share” within ID dispatch centers and GACC’s.	Staff	FY27			
3.2 – Modernize tools, equipment, and systems	Deploy 15 Fire Cameras each, FY27 & FY28	\$300,000 CO \$180k OE (OG)	FY27 thru FY28	OT & OG	\$480k	\$480k
3.2 – Modernize tools, equipment, and systems	Improve radio comms infrastructure	1.25 million	FY27	OT	\$1.25 million	
2.3 – Analyze and update IDL’s fire hazard management program	Review and identify alternatives for enhancing IDL’s fire hazard program implementation guidance.	Fire Bureau, Ops, Wardens, potential code change/requirements	FY27			

Future Actions

Theme 1. Strengthen organizational capacity for evolving wildland fire challenges

Key Strategy 1.1 – Increase workforce readiness and compensation

Key Strategy	Tasks	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
1.1	Continue to maintain entry level % of policy benchmarks identified in FY25 starting pay rates in future FYs as DHR adjusts pay structures.	PC	High	OG
1.1	Eliminate LRS underfill job classification and recruit exclusively for LRSS	Hiring practice changes, PC	Low	

Key Strategy	Tasks	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
1.1	Public Safety Pay Series inclusion for IDL staff included in PERSI Rule of 80	DHR market analysis	High	
1.1	Ongoing needs analysis of Idaho's suppression obligation, abilities, and needs	Analysis	High	
1.1	Differential pay for personnel conducting fire suppression	IDL Differential Pay Policy, New LUMA time code	High	
1.1	Analyze Wildland Firefighter Differential Pay policy and propose changes for process/procedure efficiency.	Possible Statute Change	Medium	
1.1	Continue to promote collateral duty firefighting/support roles for non-primary fire staff.	Ensure all new hires have fire qualification expectations included in development plans	High	
1.1	Develop IDL led fire qualification training curriculum (including engine academy) and 5-year recurring course schedule. Include crosswalk for IOEM/IFCA participation in IDL IMT3 and for IDL participation in All-Hazard.	Staff		

Key Strategy 1.2 – Expand Fire Bureau leadership and program management

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
1.2	Update IDL aviation FMH/Policies and Addendum to NWCG, analyzing alignment, necessary deviations, and FAA regulation & guidance.	Analysis, policy & guidance updates.	High	
1.2	Evaluate need to move/develop UAS policy for entire Department given use of UAS by fire, tech services, endowments, and GNA	Analysis, policy & guidance update.		
1.2	Evaluate aviation contracting complexities, SME roles, and procurement responsibilities. Identify gaps/needs.	Analysis & recommendations.	High	
1.2	Radio/Detection Program Manager	1 FTP, PC/OE	Medium	OT & OG

Key Strategy 1.3 – Expand program delivery

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
1.3	8 Aircraft Managers (AWSM and SEAT)	Needs analysis	Medium	
1.3	Analyze SME needs and responsibilities for fire grants, procurement, and authorities per statute, Idaho Code, and IDL policies.	Analysis	Medium	
1.3	Dedicated qualified fire investigators	6 FTP, PC/OE	Medium	OT & OG
1.3	Program Specialist-dedicated legal admin support for fire investigations.	Needs analysis	High	

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
1.3	Assess opportunities and cost/benefit of contracting engine builds vs. Adding Shop Foreman & 4 mechanics (3 shop & 1 SEM Grade K and Grade H)	Needs analysis of IDL engine build program vs. vendor engines builds	High	
1.3	Evaluate the current job positions, classifications, and span of control for Cache to determine if appropriate. Identify gaps/needs in organizational structure by FTP and job class.	Analysis	Medium	
1.3	Radio Network Operations Manager (Grade J)	1 FTP, PC/OE	Medium	OT & OG
1.3	Increase emergency purchasing authority to 2 million at point of sale	Policy changes from State Treasury	High	

Theme 2. Enhance fire prevention and mitigation efforts

Key Strategy 2.1 – Strengthen prevention programs

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
2.1	Convert Prevention PS to PM	PC	FY28	OG
2.1	Messaging/advertising reader boards, billboards, and GSTV	\$320,000 OE	Medium	OG
2.1	Replace State Burn Permit system	\$120,000 OE	Medium	OT
2.1	2 regional (N/S) Prevention Program Specialists	2 FTP, PC/OE/CO	Medium	OT & OG

Key Strategy 2.2 – Strengthen mitigation programs

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
2.2	Evaluate Division of Forestry and Fire organization structure and mitigation capacity needs	Committee-Executive Leadership, Fire Bureau, Forestry Assistance Bureau, Share Stewardship, Operations, & Fire Wardens	Medium	
2.2	Evaluate Western States programs for recommendations for program expansion in Idaho	Cooperative committee to independently evaluate Western Programs	Medium	
2.2	Analysis of area capacity to implement additional program activities (this is tied to the FTE ask, asst wardens, resource foreman)	Staff from Forestry Assistance, Fire Wardens, Operations	Medium	
2.2	Develop prescribed fire and mitigation SOPs for all land ownerships to expand wildfire reducing activities across all lands.	Staff from Forestry Assistance, Fire Wardens, IDL Legal.	High	

Key Strategy 2.3 – Analyze and update IDL's fire hazard management program

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
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Theme 3. Build adaptive infrastructure to address increasing fire occurrence and severity

Key Strategy 3.1 – Develop and implement a comprehensive fire facilities plan

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
3.1	Phase 1 Facilities Situation Analysis			
3.1	Phase 1 Facilities Plan			
3.1	Phase 2 Response Time & Situation Analysis			
3.1	Phase 2 Facilities Plan			
3.1	Phase 2 Facilities Implementation	TBD	Med	OT
3.1	Fire aviation facilities needs analysis and aircraft location/response time evaluation.	Staff	High	

Key Strategy 3.2 – Modernize tools, equipment, and systems

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
3.2	Procure Wildfire Management Information System	OE	Medium	OT
3.2	Deploy 50 Advanced early lightning detection sensors	\$1,000,000	Medium	OT
3.2	Satellite fire detection	\$500,000	Medium	OG
3.2	Increase command vehicle fleet (includes investigation vehicles)	\$380,000	Medium	OT
3.2	Explore contracting IDL exclusive use Multi-Mission Platform. Potential to use as IDL detection / air attack platform if done correctly.	TBD, multiple examples within states nearby to look to.	Medium	

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
3.2	Analyze current and forecast need for additional aviation assets throughout state responsibility areas.	Analysis	High	
3.2	Evaluate standard engine platform for IDL districts for 2030+, does type 5 still make sense?	Analysis		

Theme 4. Foster Interagency collaboration and resilience

Key Strategy 4.1 – Expand coordination with Fire Service Organizations, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
4.1	Identify additional needs regarding capacity and process delineation, to include but not limited to, administration, coordination, and mobilization (following Title 38 legislative change, FSO participation increase, and type 3 IMT creation)	Needs analysis	High	
4.1	Finalize IDL/ICMA/IOEM MOU addressing resource sharing, cooperative training and creation of all-hazard type 3 teams. (Reference Roundtable Report)	Staff	High	

Key Strategy 4.2 – Expand coordination with regulatory agencies for smoke management

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
4.2	Smoke Program Manager	1 FTP, PC/OE/CO	Low	OT & OG

Key Strategy 4.3 – Increase ability to exchange resources with other states

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
4.3	Federal legislation change for Forest Fire Compact reciprocal billing.	Proposed legislative verbiage change. Support NASF. Consider ID delegation sponsorship.		
4.3	Join GPIFC	Staff & analysis	High	
4.3	Secure state-state agreements with MN and TX		High	

Theme 5. Expand existing funding streams**Key Strategy 5.1 – Assessment audit and modernization: Modernize software, conduct a financial and forest assessment audit, and reform assessment rate**

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
5.1	Statewide assessed parcel audit and review.	Assessment Program Mgr. GIS staff	High	
5.1	Implement process improvements based on assessment audit results.	Assessment Program Mgr.	High	
5.1	Conduct WUI assessment audit of revenues & expenses. Utilize outcomes for WUI rate validation.	Assessment Program Mgr. GIS staff	Medium	
5.1	Forest protection rate assessment audit	Staff	Medium	
5.1	Implementation of forest protection rate assessment changes based on audit findings	Legislative update	Medium	

Key Strategy	Task	Resources Needed	Priority: High, Med, Low	Enhancement Request; OT or OG
5.1	Explore options and discuss options for “statewide” assessment.	Staff	Medium	
5.1	Private Fire Assessment Management System	Assessment Program Mgr. Contracted IT Development	Medium	OG

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STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 17, 2025
Regular Agenda

Subject

Legal Representation Policy

Question Presented

Shall the Land Board adopt the legal representation policy?

Background

Senate Bill 1292 of the Sixty-Seventh Legislature Second Regular Session 2024, in part, repealed and replaced Idaho Code § 58-120. Idaho Code § 58-120 states that counsel to the Department of Lands (Department) shall be provided by an attorney hired by the Director with the approval of the Land Board and that the attorney shall be designated as the General Counsel for the Department.

Pursuant to this statute, the Department's counsel is independent of the Office of the Attorney General but may consult with the Office of the Attorney General as determined by the counsel. The statute further provides that the General Counsel may hire additional attorneys or contract with the Office of the Attorney General as necessary. The Department may also hire counsel separate from the General Counsel.

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 58-101, the Department exists as the instrumentality of the Land Board for the purpose of exercising the Land Board's constitutional functions. To that end, Idaho Code § 58-119 states that "the department of lands shall have power...to exercise, under the general control and supervision of the state board of land commissioners all the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the state board of land commissioners, except the supervision of public investments, the administration of the Carey Act and the administration of chapter 26 of title 42, Idaho Code."

Discussion

Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 1292, the Department and the Land Board generally had unified legal representation. Since the passage of SB 1292, no Land Board policy has been adopted regarding the roles and use of the Department attorneys. This policy (Attachment 1) clarifies the roles of the Department attorneys in relation to the Land Board, clarifies the legal representation of the Land Board, and expressly delegates certain decision-making authority to the Director related to legal matters of the Land Board. All aspects of the policy remain subject to ongoing supervision of the Land Board, and it does not affect or otherwise limit the authority of the Land Board or its members.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Land Board adopt the Legal Representation Policy.

Board Action**Attachments**

1. Legal Representation Policy



Legal Representation Policy

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

1. Agency Contact

General Counsel

2. Purpose

This policy addresses legal representation of the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) and delegates certain decision-making to the Director of the Idaho Department of Lands (Department) related to legal matters of the Land Board.

3. Applicability

This policy applies to legal matters of the Land Board.

4. Associated Policies

None.

5. Definitions

None

6. Policy

A. Legal Representation of the State Board of Land Commissioners

1. The Land Board shall receive its general legal counsel through attorneys employed by the Department (Legal Counsel).
2. The Land Board shall be represented by its Legal Counsel in all courts and before all administrative tribunals or bodies of any nature.
3. Legal Counsel shall provide regular updates to the Land Board on pending and potential litigation.

B. General Claims and Litigation

The Department, as the instrumentality of the Land Board, shall have general authority to act on behalf of the Land Board with respect to claims and

litigation of the Land Board. This authority shall be exercised at the discretion of the Director and shall remain subject to the general supervision and control of the Land Board.

C. Use of Office of the Attorney General

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 58-120, Legal Counsel for the Land Board and the Department shall consult with or retain the Office of the Attorney General when in the best interest of the state, as determined by the Director in consultation with Legal Counsel and, as needed, the Land Board.

D. Authorities Unaffected

1. Except as described herein, this policy shall not affect any authority previously delegated to the Department by the Land Board.
2. All authorities described herein pertaining to the Department and the Legal Counsel for the Department and the Land Board shall remain subject to the general supervision and control of the Land Board, and nothing herein shall be interpreted as any limitation on the powers and authorities of the Land Board.
3. The Land Board retains the right and authority to modify, revoke, or supersede any authority described herein or any decision of the Department or Legal Counsel in the exercise thereof.
4. Nothing herein shall affect the authority of the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of State, Attorney General, or State Controller as co-equal members of the Land Board as outlined in the Idaho Constitution.

7. Procedures

None.

8. Revision History (Board Action)

DATE	First approved iteration of this policy. The approved memo is attached.
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State Board of Land Commissioners
Regular Meeting—June 17, 2025

Agenda Item 11
Personnel Matter

Board Materials
not provided for this item