



Proposed Legislation Revising Wildfire Preparedness Assessments

Current Law and Proposed Revision

Wildfire risk in Idaho has changed significantly since 2009. More homes are located in forested and wildfire-prone areas, and the cost of maintaining trained firefighters, equipment, and readiness has increased substantially.

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) administers a wildfire preparedness program funded in part by assessments on private forest land parcels. Proposed legislation would update one component of that assessment to reflect current conditions.

This legislation revises Section 38-111, Idaho Code to increase the structure surcharge levied on improved private forest land parcels from a maximum of \$40 to a maximum of \$100. This is a dedicated fund to support wildland fire preparedness.

Current Law	Proposed Revision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved parcel surcharge: \$40 per yearApplies to improved private forest land parcels with residential structuresLast updated in 2009Supports wildfire preparedness (not structure fire suppression)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase improved parcel surcharge to up to \$100 per year, with Land Board ApprovalApplies only to improved private forest land parcels with residential structuresRevises Idaho Code § 38-111Continues to support wildfire preparedness.

Why is a Revision Being Proposed?

- The number of assessed residential forest parcels has increased by approximately 36% since 2009



- Firefighting equipment and personnel costs have increased substantially
- More homes rely on this program as their primary wildfire protection, particularly outside fire districts

Without changes, the preparedness fund is projected to face a deficit by 2030

What Does Preparedness Funding Support?

Preparedness funding helps ensure firefighters and equipment are ready before wildfire starts, including:

- Fire engines and specialized equipment
- Firefighter training and staffing
- Readiness and rapid initial response

Preparedness activities are designed to stop fires early, before they become larger and more destructive. IDL endeavors to suppress 95% of wildfires at 10 acres or less.

Wildfire risk, responsibilities, and costs have changed since 2009. The proposed update modernizes an existing assessment to help maintain effective wildfire preparedness where people live.



Learn more!

*Frequently Asked Questions about Idaho's Forest Fire Protection
and Forest Practices Act Assessments.*