



Before you hunt, keep these three things in mind

September 13, 2018

For many Idahoans, fall is the best time of year for one reason - hunting! As you head out to hunt this fall, please keep three things in mind:

1. Fire season isn't over yet, and people cause most fires.

Although temperatures are expected to drop and relative humidity to rise in the coming weeks, **we are still very much in fire season** and will be through the end of October. Fires will continue to burn until we experience a "season-ending weather event," meaning enough rain or snow for fire managers to call the fire season to an end.

Most wildfires today are not naturally occurring. On lands protected by the State of Idaho, **people - not lightning - are responsible for more than three-quarters of the fires this year, accounting for 98.4 percent of the acres burned.**

There are still **restrictions on campfires and smoking outdoors right now in parts of southern Idaho.** View current fire restrictions online [here](#). If campfires are allowed where you plan to hunt, make sure your campfire is cool to the touch before leaving it so you do not unintentionally start a wildfire. View other campfire safety tips [here](#).

2. Endowment lands are available for you to enjoy, so please respect them.

Timber sales and leases on state endowment trust lands produced more than \$73 million in payments to Idaho public schools and other State of Idaho institutions this year. Revenue-generating management activities take place largely without interference from hunters and recreationists.

The [Land Board just affirmed its support of public hunting and recreational access](#) to endowment lands. More than 96 percent of endowment lands are accessible for recreation by foot, watercraft, or vehicle. You can view accessible endowment lands on the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Hunt Planner Map Center [here](#).

Help us maintain these lands' potential and your riding privilege by keeping Off-Highway Vehicles on established roads and trails.

3. Free camping is allowed on endowment lands, but only for up to 14 days.

Free camping is allowed on endowment lands for no more than 14 consecutive days. If you plan to camp on endowment lands longer than 14 consecutive days, please contact an [IDL area office](#) to find out if a permit can be obtained.