



Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center 2011 Annual Report



Salmon-Challis National Forest
Salmon and Challis Field Offices – Idaho Falls District BLM



OVERVIEW

Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center (CIFC) provides services to the Salmon and Challis Field Offices of the Idaho Falls District Bureau of Land Management, the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, and Butte, Custer, and Lemhi Counties. Our work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game consists primarily of assisting with flight following. The Salmon-Challis National Forest is comprised of six ranger districts and 4.4 million acres. About 1.3 million acres of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness are contained within the SCNF boundaries. The Salmon and Challis Field Offices account for a little less than 1 million acres of land.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The Saddle Complex was comprised of the Saddle and Stud Fires on August 18th. On August 22nd, the two fires burned together, resulting in a fire run of approximately 17,000 acres and burning onto the Bitterroot National Forest. The Salmon-Challis and Bitterroot National Forests then managed the fire cooperatively but separately.

On August 29th, the Salt Fire made a 1.5 mile run to the southeast in a little over an hour, overrunning a staging area and pushing firefighters to a safety zone. A dozer operator and transport driver deployed a fire shelter. The tractor of one dozer transport was destroyed and a lowboy trailer on a second transport was damaged. No one was injured during the operations. A Facilitated Learning Analysis was conducted and can be read at http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Salt_Fire_FLA.pdf; a narrative of the FLA can be viewed at <http://www.myfirevideos.net/Default.aspx?VideoID=529>. Also, a video of the fire itself is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKpBqdf16rE>.

Over Labor Day Weekend, an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness affected numerous firefighters assigned to the Black Canyon Fire. Forty-one personnel became ill, 36 of whom were unable to return to work immediately. Nine individuals were treated by area medical facilities; only one was held overnight, while the rest were treated and released. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare responded to Howe, Idaho, to assist with the incident. Testing later determined it was an outbreak of norovirus.

Throughout the season, but particularly during the busy weeks of August and September, CIFC received help in expanded dispatch and initial attack from numerous units, including all of our neighbors: East Idaho, South Central Idaho, Boise, Payette, and Bitterroot Dispatch Centers.

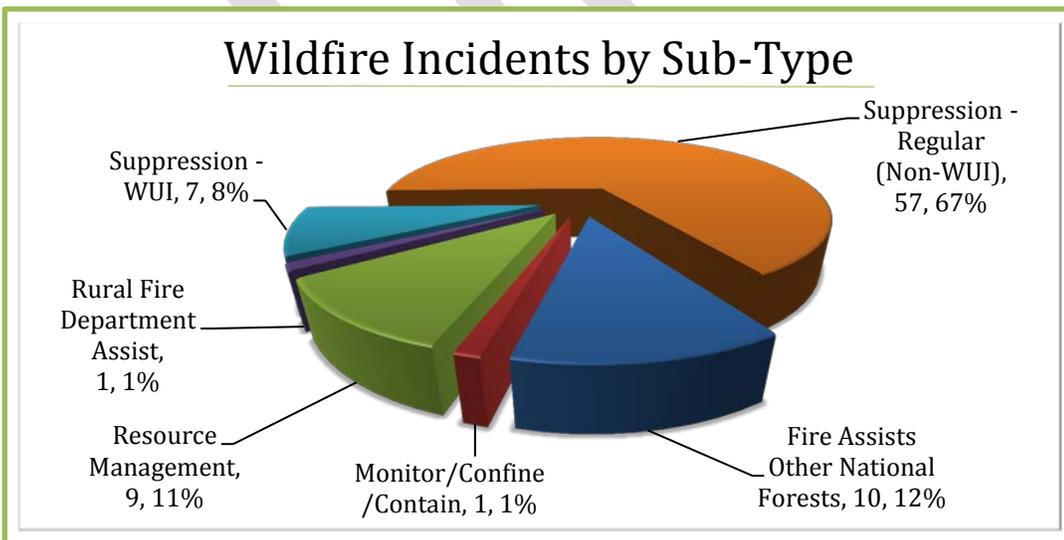
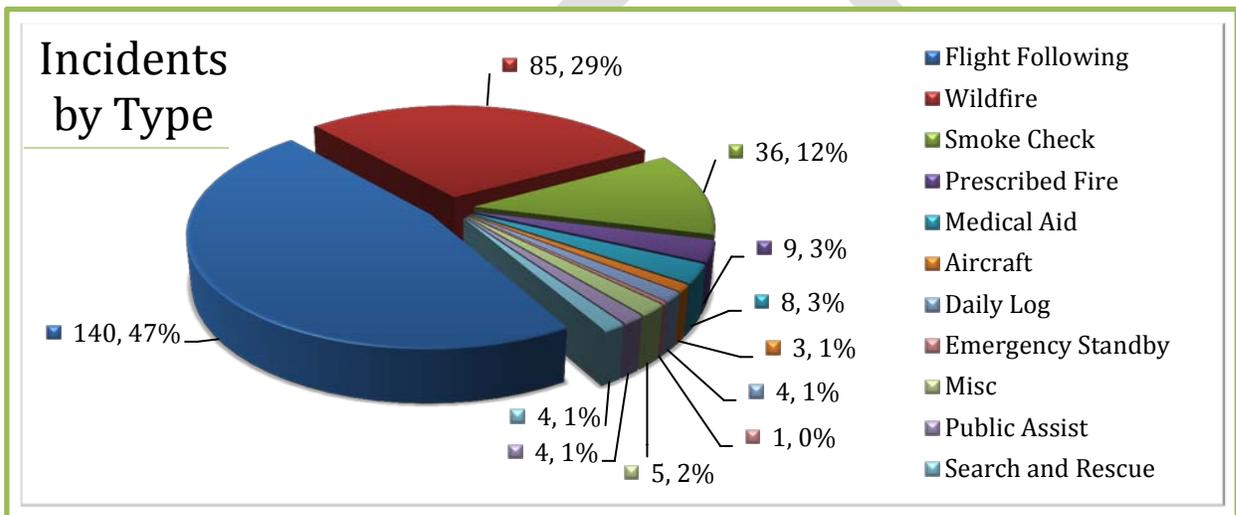


INCIDENT SUMMARY

On average, CIFIC creates 459 total incidents annually, not including Daily Logs. CIFIC began using the Daily Log feature in WildCAD this year, rather than creating a new Daily Log incident number each day. Naturally, this led to a dramatic decrease in the total number of WildCAD incidents created.

In 2011, Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center created 299 total WildCAD incidents. Nearly half of them – 140 – were Flight Following incidents. The second greatest occurrence was Wildfires, at 86, ten of which were assists to neighboring units.

CIFIC assisted with four Search and Rescue incidents. One was an assist to Lemhi County, who requested the use of a helicopter for a search near Middle Fork Peak. One was a backcountry assist to Custer County. And the remaining two were missed check-ins by USFS employees who were quickly located before extensive searches were initiated.



FIRE ACTIVITY

The first fire of the year, an abandoned campfire at Williams Lake, was reported on the 5th of July and the last new fire was reported on October 2nd. Fifty-four wildfires were reported in the month of August. The single busiest day for initial attack was August 25th when 11 new fires – including the Salt and Ship Island Fires – were reported. The greatest concentration of new starts occurred over a ten-day stretch from August 5th to 15th when 27 new fires were detected.

USFS	YEARS	AVERAGE ANNUAL FIRES	MEDIAN ANNUAL ACRES	AVERAGE ANNUAL ACRES
<u>5 year</u>	2007 - 2011	56	5,664	44,022
<u>10 year</u>	2002 - 2011	76	22,387	42,094
<u>20 year</u>	1992 - 2011	103	12,923	45,528
<u>30 year</u>	1982 - 2011	105	7,756	36,990
<u>40 year</u>	1972 - 2011	104	5,327	30,783

The Salmon and Challis Field Offices experienced a near average number of fires but they only added up to a single acre.

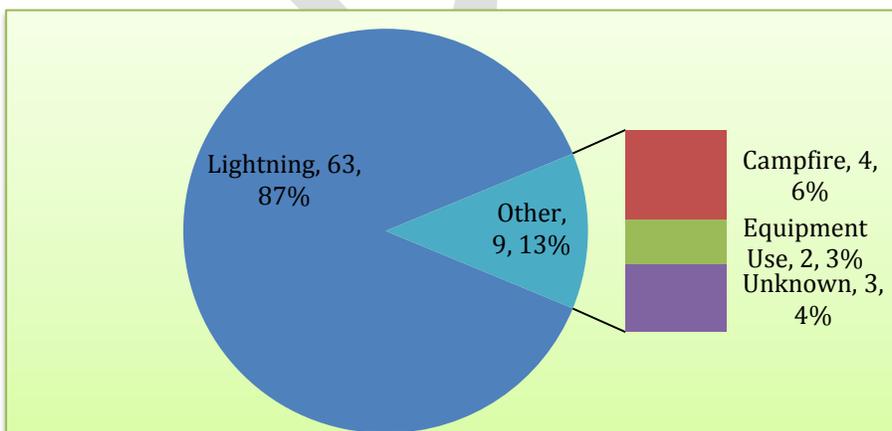
NOTE: The Median Annual Acres is a more accurate representation of the BLM fire activity, as the fire season of 2003, which was particularly significant, greatly affects the numbers.

BLM	YEARS	AVERAGE ANNUAL FIRES	MEDIAN ANNUAL ACRES	AVERAGE ANNUAL ACRES
<u>5 year</u>	2007 - 2011	7	3	15
<u>10 year</u>	2002 - 2011	10	8	696
<u>20 year</u>	1992 - 2011	10	14	415
<u>30 year</u>	1982 - 2011	11	24	420

2011		FIRES	ACRES
USFS	Lightning	60	51,130
	Human	4	2
BLM	Lightning	2	0
	Human	5	1
Rural Assist	Human	1	1
TOTAL		72	51,134

The figures for the 2011 fire season on the Salmon-Challis National Forest are slightly above the average following three years that were well below it.

FIRES BY STATISTICAL CAUSE



Of the nine human-caused fires in the Central Idaho Fire Zone this season, abandoned campfires were the most common source.



LARGE FIRES

Four Type 2 Teams were assigned to the Forest over the course of the summer. They assisted in managing the Indian, Black Canyon, and Salt Fires.

LARGE FIRES	ACRES	START DATE	CAUSE
Indian	1,694	17 July	Lightning
Saddle Complex*	32,769†	18 August	Lightning
Velvet*	2,850	12 August	Lightning
Salt	24,501	25 August	Lightning
Ship Island*	2,820	25 August	Lightning
Black Canyon	2,297	31 August	Lightning

Additionally, one NIMO Team was requested to support fire managers and to participate in long-term planning. The NIMO was eventually transitioned to the Salt Fire.

Type 3 IC's or the local Type 3 Team managed seven fires, many of which were managed by multiple IC's over the duration of the fire.

*Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

†16,384 acres burned in Idaho



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Salmon-Challis National Forest conducted five* prescribed burns for a total of 1,795 acres. The Salmon and Challis Field Offices conducted two burns* for 597 acres.

*Note: For reporting purposes, pile burning was considered one incident even though it covered several units over numerous days.

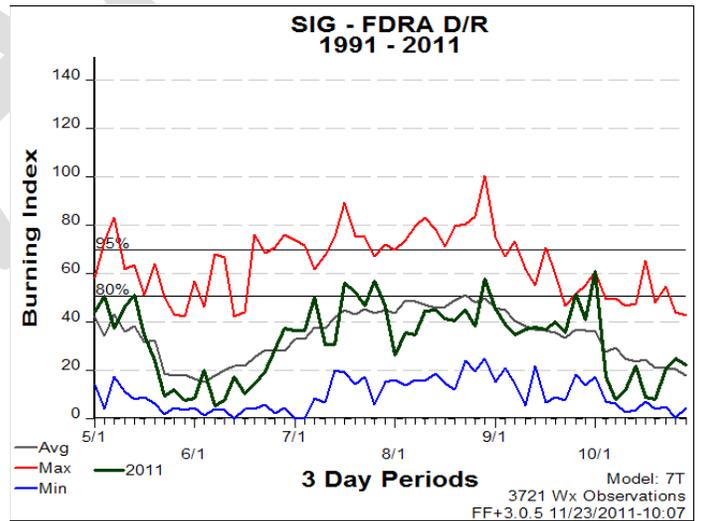
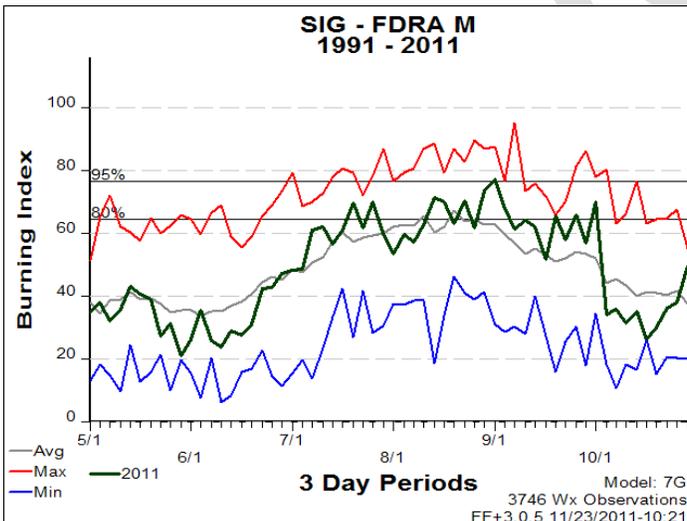
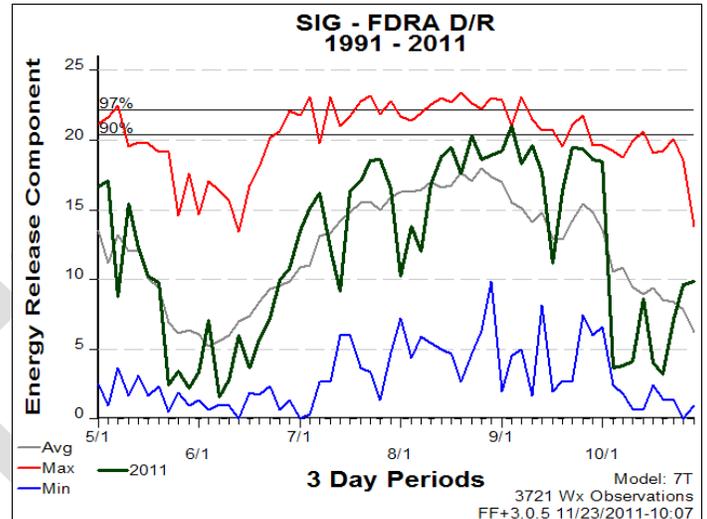
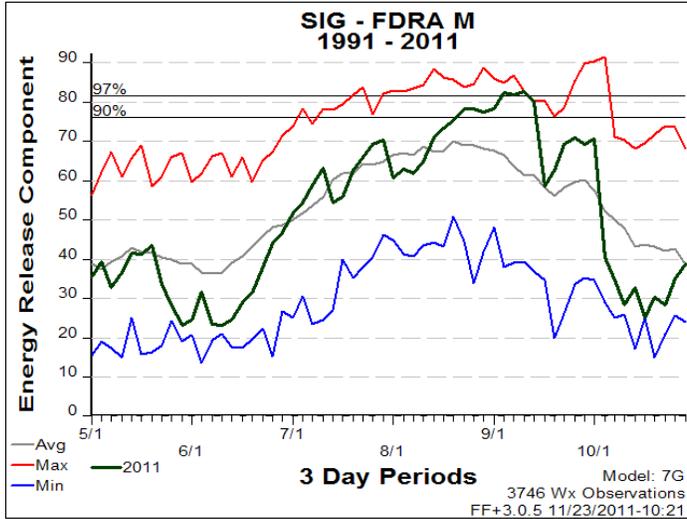
	BURN TYPE	ACRES		DISTRICT
		USFS	BLM	
Kilpatrick	Broadcast		5	Salmon Field Office
Hughes Creek	Broadcast and Piles	480		North Fork Ranger District
Basin Creek	Broadcast	250		Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District
White Creek				Salmon Field Office
Morgan Creek	Broadcast	50		Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District
White Knob	Broadcast	350		Lost River Ranger District
Salmon BLM Piles	Piles		592	Various
SCNF Piles	Piles	665		Various

For complete lists of all wildland and prescribed fires that occurred in the Central Idaho Fire Zone during 2011, including start dates and acreages, visit the Intelligence page of the Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center website at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/id-cic/Intelligence.htm>.



SEASONAL WEATHER AND SEVERITY

Fire season began late due to a wet spring and cool June. From mid-July through late September, the weather remained very mild, with little precipitation and only moderately high temperatures. A season-ending event came very late this year, extending fire season into the first week of October.





DAILY INTERACTIONS

Fire resources and managers status themselves through CIFIC each morning and evening. These communications include three handcrew modules, five helicopters, seven engines, six lookouts, and about a dozen members of fire overhead.

IA Resources		Agency	Description	Location
Crews	Crew 32	USFS	5-person squad	Yankee Fork Work Center
	Crew 42	USFS	5-person squad	Lost River Ranger Station
	Crew 7	USFS	5-person squad	Hughes Creek Guard Station
Helicopters	H-401	USFS	Type 3	Salmon Airbase
	H-402	USFS	Type 2	Salmon Airbase
	H-404	USFS	Type 2	Salmon Airbase
	H-405	USFS	Type 3	Challis Helibase
	HT-1CH	USFS	Type 2 Limited	Salmon Airbase
Engines	E-621	USFS	Type 6	Challis Ranger Station
	E-631	USFS	Type 6	Yankee Fork Work Center
	E-1341	USFS	Type 6	Lost River Ranger Station
	E-1381	USFS	Type 6	Leadore Ranger Station
	E-3495	BLM	Type 4	Salmon BLM
	E-3643	BLM	Type 6	Salmon BLM
	E-3696	BLM	Type 6 (Hummer)	Salmon BLM

Additionally, several non-fire crews and individuals check in with CIFIC on a daily basis. Many of them are conducting work in very remote areas, often within the wilderness, for extended periods. CIFIC has set aside designated times during the day for recreation check-ins to occur: 0800 – 0830, 1200 – 1230, and 1700 – 1730. At peak times during the summer, CIFIC will receive six to eight separate check-ins during each time period. These employees often serve as an emergency communication link for private persons recreating in the same areas.



RESOURCE ORDERS

CIFIC processed 93 orders to off-unit assignments in 2011. Fire personnel traveled to 15 states in support of ongoing incidents. Both of the Interagency Type 2 Handcrew assignments were to New Mexico. Local agency personnel spent a combined 1,578 workdays on off-unit assignments. AD's spent 511 workdays off-unit.

	Agency				AD	EERA	Total
	Aircraft	Crew	Equipment	Overhead	Overhead	Equipment	
Alaska				1			1
Arizona				5	8		13
Colorado	1			2			3
Georgia	1			1	2		4
Idaho	4		5	9		1	19
Louisiana				1			1
Montana				1	3		1
Nevada				2	2		4
New Mexico	2	2	3	10	5		22
Oregon					1		1
South Dakota					1		1
Texas	1		3	10	3		17
Virginia					1		1
Washington	1						1
Wyoming	1			1	2		4
Total	11	2	11	43	28	1	93

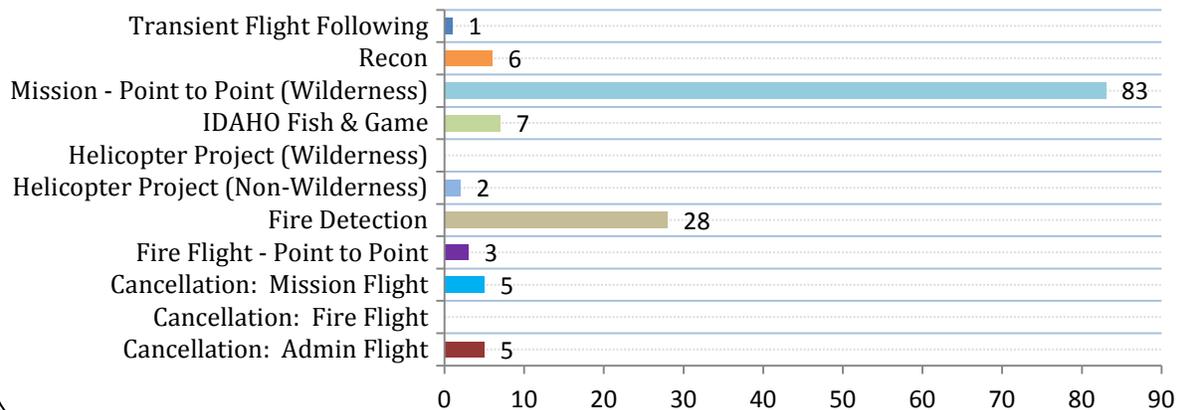


AVIATION

Conducting daily business on the Salmon-Challis National Forest is often challenging due to the vastness of the forest, its steep terrain, and wilderness considerations. Therefore, air traffic is an almost daily activity during the warmer months, particularly to the backcountry airstrips in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. These flights deliver personnel and supplies for a variety of missions, including river patrol, trail maintenance, survey work, and fire support. Approximately 42 reconnaissance flights were provided for fire intelligence, using both fixed and rotor-wing aircraft.

Additionally, CIFIC offers service to Idaho Fish and Game throughout the year by flight following with AFF. The majority of IDFG flights are for game counts or fish surveys. CIFIC followed IDFG on 72 days this year.

Flight Following Incidents by Sub-Type



FIXED-WING

Fixed wing aircraft make up the majority of flights on the SCNF. This summer, CIFIC contracted flights with Middle Fork Aviation out of both Salmon and Challis. Fire managers on the SCNF requested 28 detection flights.

User	Flights	PAX	Cargo (lbs)	Flight Hours	Flight Cost
Fire	31	31	0	63.5	\$24,513.66
Administrative	93	230	50,770	118.5	\$47,603.64
TOTAL	124	261	50,770	182	\$72,117.30



ROTOR-WING

Five helicopters were based on the SCNF this summer: 2 exclusive-use Type III helicopters, 1 exclusive-use Type II helicopter, and two National Type II helicopters, one a standard and one a limited. All helicopters were located at the Salmon Airbase except one Type III, which was stationed in Challis. The crew stationed at Salmon Airbase rappelled this summer from the Type II helicopters only, as was national direction. The Challis crew did not rappel this year. Along with assisting our neighboring units, crews completed assignments in Colorado, New Mexico and Washington.

Helicopters	Passengers Transported	Internal Cargo	External Cargo	Cargo Transported	Water Dropped (gals)	Flight Hours (Fire)	Flight Hours (Total)	Availability Cost	Total Contract Cost
H-401	272	29,954	11,500	41,454	23,965	108.9	115.1	\$295,680.00	\$432,687.97
H-402	549	32,370	25,197	57,567	123,816	147.6	158.7	\$611,725.50	\$915,211.68
H-404	590	70,116	5,250	75,366	177,969	145.2	153.3	\$627,997.50	\$925,892.33
H-405	292	27,215	11,700	38,915	14,219	119.5	119.5	\$361,670.00	\$511,200.65
H-3CH	0	3,600	6,660	10,260	120,900	104.5	104.5	\$575,505.00	\$924,287.15
Total	1,703	163,255	60,307	223,562	460,869	625.70	546.60	\$2,472,578.00	\$3,709,279.78

Personnel Employed on Wildfire Pre Suppression and Suppression Activities	Unit: Salmon -Challis Calendar Year 2011	
	Subtotal	Total
1. Regular appointed personnel	21	
a. Full time fire management (20 pay periods or more)		
B. Part time fire management	33	
C. Others used on pre suppression sometime during the year	0	
D. Others used in suppression (excluding a, b, and c)	45	
E. Total (a + b + c + d)		99
2. Seasonal or short term personnel	53	
A. Regular fire control (crews, patrol, lookouts, etc..)		
B. Others (BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.) Some time on fire work	10	
C. Emergency firefighters (exclude those under a or b)	0	
D. Total (a + b + c)		63
3. Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression (each reemployment counts as an employment)		40
4. Number of casuals (included in item 3) employed for the first time (an Estimate is adequate)	1	
5. Grand Total (1e + 2d + 3)		192

Form FS-5100-9, Land Ownership Protection Report

USDA-FOREST SERVICE							Calendar Year 2011		
LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT (Summary of acres by states)							Region R-4 Salmon Challis NF		
STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE							S&P LAND PROTECTED by STATE and FS	National Forest Land Protected Others
	State and Private Land				Other Federal	N F Land	Total		
	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Reimburse Suppression	Without Reimbursement					
	Salmon/Challis NF						4,398,989	4,398,989	
Idaho Dept. of Lands		124,262					124,262		
Private Lands				40,655			40,655		
Total		124,262		40,655		4,398,989	4,563,906		