

Eastern Idaho Interagency

Fire Danger Operating Plan



JUNE 2026

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Eastern Idaho Interagency

Fire Danger Operating Plan

Approved By: Fire Program Managers



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Department of Interior, United States Wildland Fire Service

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FIRE DANGER OPERATING PLAN TECHNICAL GROUP

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The public, industry, and our own agency personnel expect the interagency wildland fire management agencies to implement appropriate and timely decisions which ultimately result in safe, efficient, and effective wildland fire management actions. This plan is intended to document a decision-making process for agency administrators, fire program managers, fire operations specialists, dispatchers, agency cooperators, and firefighters by establishing interagency planning and response levels using the best available scientific methods and historical weather/fire data. An appropriate level of preparedness to meet wildland fire management objectives is based upon an assessment of vegetation, climate, and topography utilizing the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). This plan provides a science-based “tool” for interagency fire managers to incorporate a measure of risk associated with decisions which have the potential to significantly compromise safety and control of wildland fires.

1. Fire Danger Operating Plan

Interagency policy and guidance requires numerous unit plans and guides in order to meet preparedness objectives. Some of these plans and guides are inter-related; some plans and guides provide the basis for other plans/guides as shown in this schematic.

This Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) guides the application of information from decision support tools (such as NFDRS) at the local level. This FDOP is supplemental to the Fire Management Plan; it documents the establishment and management of a fire weather station network and describes how fire danger ratings will be applied to local unit fire management decisions. The actual implementation of the fire business thresholds is described in the following supplemental action plans.



Figure 1: Preparedness Plan Relationship

The decision points are identified and documented in the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan.

a. Staffing Plan/Step up/Drawdown

The Staffing Plan describes escalating responses that are usually noted in the FMP. Mitigating actions are designed to enhance the unit's fire management capability during short periods (one burning period, Fourth of July or other pre-identified events) where normal staffing cannot meet initial attack, prevention, or detection needs. The decision points are identified and documented in the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan; the associated decisions and planned actions (Step up/Drawdown) are located in *Appendix B*.

b. Preparedness Plan

Preparedness plans provide management direction given identified levels of burning conditions, fire activity, and resource commitment, and are required at national, state/regional, and local levels. Preparedness Levels (1-5) are determined by incremental measures of burning conditions, fire activity, and resource commitment. Fire danger rating is a critical measure of burning conditions. The Preparedness Levels are identified and documented in the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan; the associated decisions and planned actions are located in *Appendix C*.

c. Prevention Plan

Prevention plans document the wildland fire problems identified by a prevention analysis. This analysis will not only examine human-caused fires, but also the risks, hazards, and values for the planning unit. Components of the plan include mitigation (actions initiated to reduce impacts of wildland fire to communities), prevention (of unwanted human-caused fires), education (facilitating and promoting awareness and understanding of wildland fire), enforcement (actions necessary to establish and carry out regulations, restrictions, and closures), and administration of the prevention program. The analysis of fire problems and associated target groups in the Eastern Idaho Interagency are documented in this Fire Danger Operating Plan; the associated decisions and planned actions are located in *Appendix D*.

d. Restriction Plan

A Restriction Plan is an interagency document that outlines interagency coordination efforts regarding fire restrictions and closures. An interagency approach for initiating restrictions or closures helps provide consistency among the land management partners, while defining the restriction

boundaries so they are easily distinguishable to the public. Based on the fire danger, managers may impose fire restrictions or emergency closures to public lands. Decision points when restrictions and/or closures should be considered are identified and documented in the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan; the associated decisions and planned actions are located in *Appendix E*.

2. **Wildfire Response**

a. Initial Response Plan

Initial response plans, also referred to as run cards or pre-planned response plans, specify the fire management response (e.g. number and type of suppression assets to dispatch) within a defined geographic area to an unplanned ignition, based on fire weather, fuel conditions, fire management objectives, and resource availability. Response levels are identified and documented in the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan. The number and type of suppression resources dispatched to a reported fire is documented in the associated initial Dispatch / Response Plan (*Appendix A*).

b. Local Mobilization Plan

The Eastern Idaho Interagency Mobilization Plan identifies standard procedures, which guide the operations of multi-agency logistical support activity throughout the coordination system. The Mobilization Plan is intended to facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, ensuring the timeliest and most cost effective incident support services available are provided. Communication between Units, GACCs, State, Regional Offices and other cooperative agencies are addressed.

B. POLICY AND GUIDANCE

Interagency policy and guidance regarding the development of Fire Danger Operating Plans can be found in the [Interagency Standards for Fire & Aviation Operations](#) (Red Book). Agency-specific direction can be found in:

- U.S. Forest Service – [Manual 5120 - Fire Management - Preparedness](#)
- Bureau of Land Management – [Manual 9211 - 1 - Fire Planning Handbook](#)
- [National Park Service – Manual 18, Chapter 5 – Preparedness](#)
- Fish and Wildlife Service – [Fire Management Handbook, Chapter 10 - Preparedness](#)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – [Wildland Fire and Aviation Program Management Operations Guide](#)

C. OPERATING PLAN OBJECTIVES

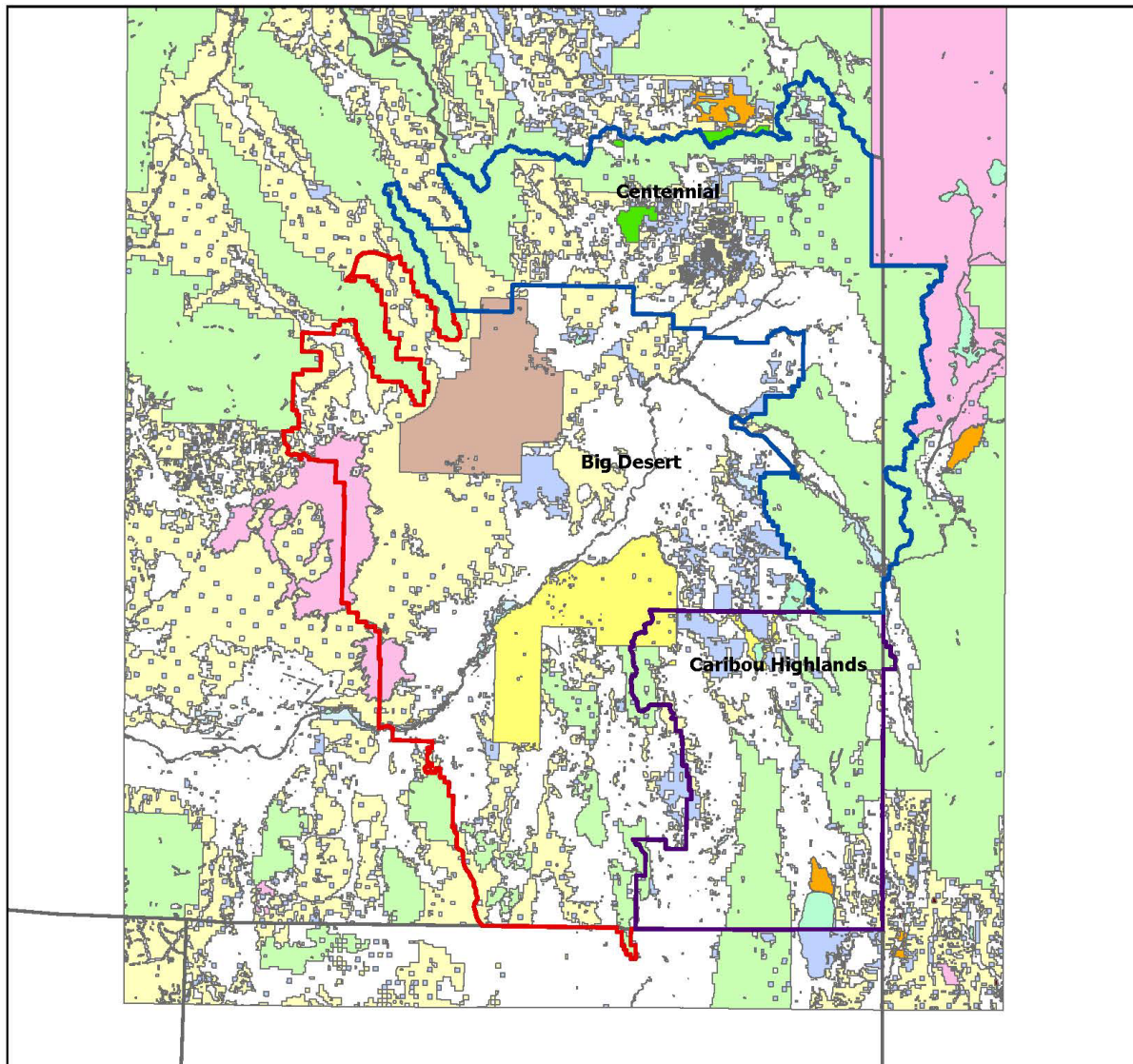
1. Provide a tool for agency administrators, fire managers, dispatchers, agency cooperators, and firefighters to correlate fire danger ratings with appropriate fire business decisions in fire danger planning area.
2. Delineate fire danger rating areas (FDRAs) in fire danger planning area with similar climate, vegetation, and topography.
3. Establish an interagency fire weather-monitoring network consisting of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) which comply with NFDRS Weather Station Standards (PMS 426-3).
4. Determine climatological breakpoints and fire business thresholds using the FEMS, National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), ROC analysis and FireFamilyPlus software to analyse and summarize an integrated database of historical fire weather and fire occurrence data.
5. Define roles and responsibilities to make fire preparedness decisions, manage weather information, and brief fire suppression personnel regarding current and potential fire danger.
6. Determine the most effective communication methods for fire managers to communicate potential fire danger to cooperating agencies, industry, and the public.
7. Provide guidance to interagency personnel outlining specific daily actions and considerations at each preparedness level.
8. Identify seasonal risk analysis criteria and establish general fire severity thresholds.
9. Identify the development and distribution of fire danger pocket cards to all personnel involved with fire suppression within the fire danger planning area.
10. Identify program needs and suggest improvements for implementation of the Fire Danger Operating Plan.

II. FIRE DANGER PLANNING AREA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. FIRE DANGER RATING AREAS

A Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) is defined as a large geographic area relatively homogenous with respect to *climate*, *vegetation* and *topography*. Because of these similarities, it can be assumed that the fire danger within a FDRA is relatively uniform. Fire Danger Rating Areas were delineated based upon an analysis of these three factors: climate (Appendix H:), vegetation (Appendix G:), and topography (Appendix F:). After these environmental factors were considered, the draft FDRAs were *edge-matched* to existing administrative boundaries using Response Areas (Appendix A:). It is important that existing Response Areas are not split by FDRAs; a Response Area must not have two FDRAs to avoid additional workload and confusion for operational personnel.

1. FDRA Map



Caribou Highlands

Caribou Highlands

Big Desert

Big Desert

Centennial

Centennial

States - National

Extent

States - National Extent

Ownership

ADMIN_AGEN

BIA

BLM

DOD

DOE

FAA

FWS

LG

NPS

PVT

ST

UND

USACE

USBR

USDA

USFS

<all other values>

0 12.5 25 50 Miles

N



Map 1: Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs)

2. FDRA Table

Fire Danger Rating Area	Acreage	% of Total
Centennial FDRA	3,624,526	29%
Big Desert FDRA	6,632,044	53%
Caribou FDRA	2,257,497	18%

3. Detailed FDRA Descriptions

a. Centennial FDRA

- General Location:

The Centennial FDRA is defined as the area within the Eastern Idaho Interagency Dispatch area that falls within the Fire Restriction area of Centennial. Also included in this FDRA are those portions of Montana that fall outside of the Restriction Zone.

- Vegetation:

Fuels within the FDRA are highly variable and complex. They range from shrub-steppe communities at the lowest elevation to alpine communities at the highest. Lower elevation and south aspect shrub-steppe includes several subspecies of sagebrush including Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) Threetip Sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*) Silver Sagebrush, (*Artemisia cana*), Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*), Little Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) along with perennial and non-native annual grasses such as Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum* (L.) Gaertn. subsp. *Pectinatum*). These areas are bordered by Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Spruce/Fir forest communities with Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), which represent the warm, dry extreme of the forested zone. Douglas-fir becomes more prominent as elevation increases and can occur as a co-dominant species with lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta latifolia*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and Sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). On ridges at higher elevations the forested areas are interspersed with Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis*), and on the Targhee, Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*). The lower elevation Douglas-fir communities were historically fire dependent and frequently exposed to low intensity non-lethal fire events. Aspen occurs as small inclusions in the forested zone but was likely more obvious on the landscape under the historical fire regimes. Fires were historically a mixed fire regime at mid to higher elevations in dry Douglas-fir and warm subalpine

fir-Engelman spruce communities. The mixed and lethal complexes were historically visited by fire more infrequently with the affected area being a mix of lethal and non-lethal events which maintained a mosaic of uneven-aged stands across the landscape.

- **Climate:**

Climate patterns are typically warm to hot and dry during the summer and fall. In the late spring and summer, moisture from the Gulf of Mexico may move north and combine with warm seasonal temperatures and topography to create high-intensity, short duration thunderstorms. Late spring events generally have more precipitation, and 24-hour totals can be greater than 0.5 inches. Dry lightning is more common during summer and fall and have potential to create multi-fire events. Maximum summer daytime temperatures can reach over 100 degrees at lower elevations, with higher elevations in the 80s to 90s. Growing seasons vary greatly from 30 days in the alpine areas to over 150 days in the lower valleys.

- **Topography:**

The FDRAs in Eastern Idaho vary greatly in topography with elevations of 4,198 feet in the Snake River near American Falls to 10,033 feet atop Table Mountain. Key features include the Henry's Fork Caldera, Snake River Plain and Basin and Range Mountain ranges to the north and south of the Snake River Plain which are characterized by forested slopes on the northern aspects, grass and brush on southern exposures and many creek drainages. Three major landforms dominate these FDRA:

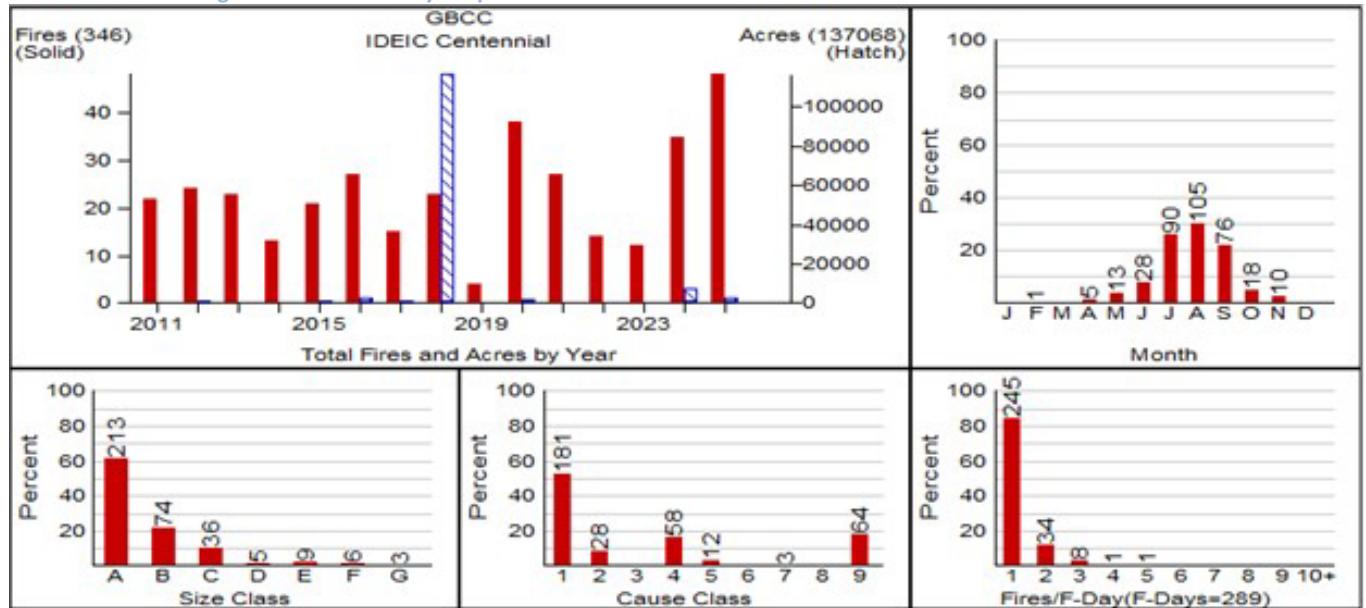
- a. Snake River Plain formed by the Yellowstone Caldera and dotted with Ryolite domes and coalesced shield volcanoes, and various types of volcanic flows.
- b. Distinctive Northeast-Southwest mountain ranges formed from Basin and Range extension, uplifting mountains along normal faults, creating wide valley floors between ranges.
- c. Lands with sharply defined drainage patterns formed by stream cutting action.

- FDRA Parameter Summary Table:

FDRA	Slope Class	Climate Class	Herb Type
Centennial FDRA	1	1	Perennial

- Centennial FDRA – Fire Summary Graph

Figure 2: Fire Summary Graph



Size Class:

A = 0 — .25 acres
 B = .30 — 9 acres
 C = 10 — 99 acres
 D = 100 — 299 acres
 E = 300 — 999 acres
 F = 1000 — 4999 acres
 G = 5000 + acres

Cause Class:

1 = Lightning
 2 = Equipment
 3 = Smoking
 4 = Campfire
 5 = Debris Burning
 6 = Railroad
 7 = Arson
 8 = Children
 9 = Misc

b. Big Desert FDRA

- General Location

The Big Desert FDRA is defined as the area within the Eastern Idaho Interagency Dispatch area that falls within the Fire Restriction Zone, Big Desert.

- Vegetation:

Fuels within the FDRA are highly variable and complex. They range from shrub-steppe communities at the lowest elevation to alpine communities at the highest. Lower elevation and south aspect shrub-steppe includes several subspecies of sagebrush including Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) Threetip Sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*) Silver Sagebrush, (*Artemisia cana*), Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) in Blaine, Cassia, Caribou, Jefferson counties, Little Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) along with perennial and non-native annual grasses such as Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum* (L.) Gaertn. subsp. *Pectinatum*). These areas are bordered by Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Spruce/fir forest communities with Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), which represent the warm, dry extreme of the forested zone. Douglas-fir becomes more prominent as elevation increases and can occur as a co-dominant species with lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta latifolia*), Engelman spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and Sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). On ridges at higher elevations the forested areas are interspersed with Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis*), and on the Targhee, Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*). The lower elevation Douglas-fir communities were historically fire dependent and frequently exposed to low intensity non-lethal fire events. Aspen occurs as small inclusions in the forested zone but was likely more obvious on the landscape under the historical fire regimes. Fires were historically a mixed fire regime at mid to higher elevations in dry Douglas-fir and warm subalpine fir-Engelman spruce communities. The mixed and lethal complexes were historically visited by fire more infrequently with the affected area being a mix of lethal and non-lethal events which maintained a mosaic of uneven-aged stands across the landscape.

- Climate:

Climate patterns are typically warm to hot and dry during the summer and fall. In the late spring and summer, moisture from the Gulf of Mexico may move north and combine with warm seasonal temperatures and topography to create high-intensity, short duration thunderstorms. Late spring events generally have more precipitation and 24-hour totals can be greater than 0.5 inches. Dry lightning is more common during summer and fall and have potential to create multi-fire events in the Lowlands and less frequently in the Highlands. Maximum summer daytime temperatures can reach over 100 degrees at lower

elevations, with higher elevations in the 80s to 90s. Growing seasons vary greatly from 30 days in the alpine areas to over 150 days in the lower valleys.

- Topography:

The FDRAs in Eastern Idaho vary greatly in topography with elevations of 4,198 feet in the Snake River near American Falls to 10,033 feet atop Table Mountain. Key features include the Henry's Fork Caldera, Snake River Plain and Basin and Range Mountain ranges to the north and south of the Snake River Plain which are characterized by forested slopes on the northern aspects, grass and brush on southern exposures and many creek drainages. Three major landforms dominate this FDRA:

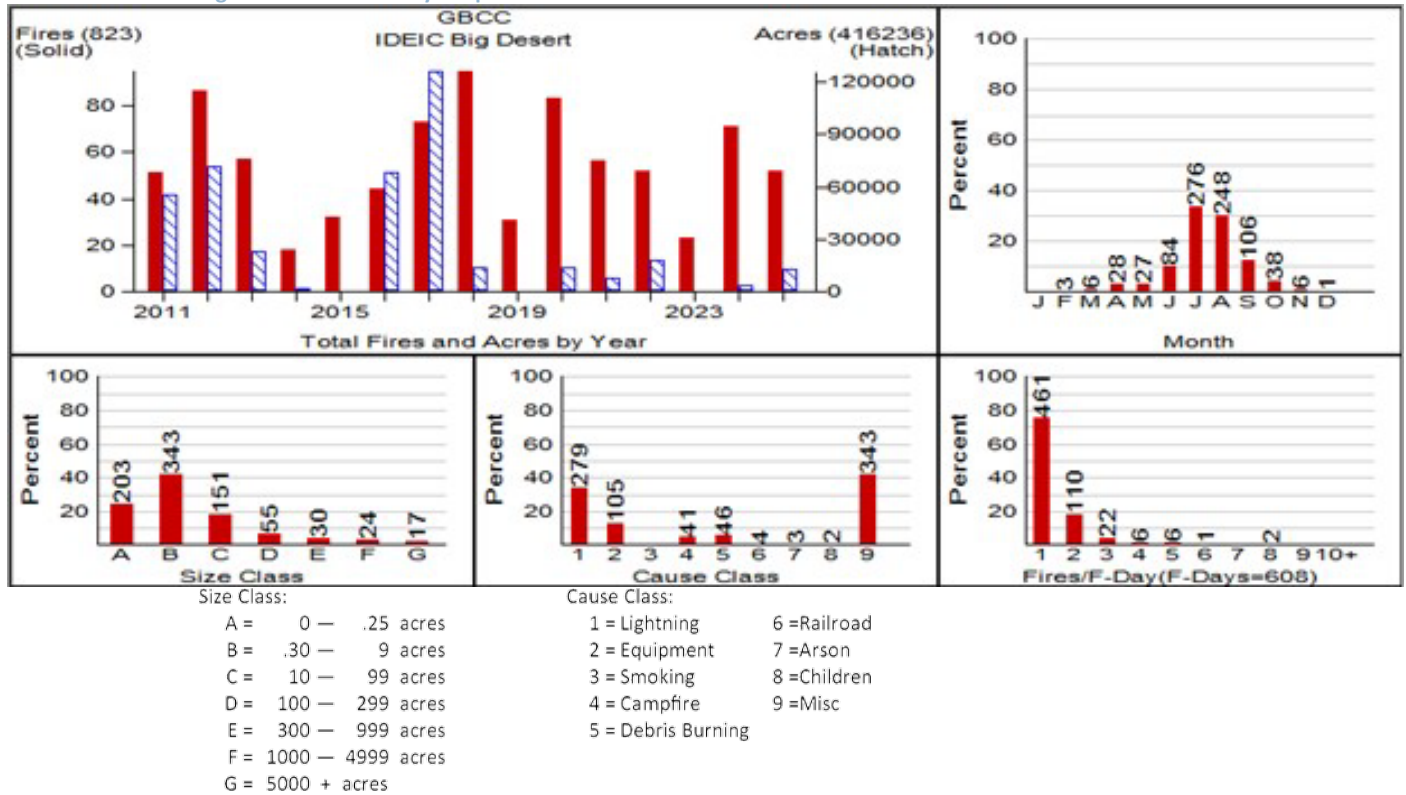
- a. Snake River Plain formed by the Yellowstone Caldera and dotted with Rhyolite domes and coalesced shield volcanoes, and various types of volcanic flows.
- b. Distinctive Northeast-Southwest mountain ranges formed from Basin and Range extension, uplifting mountains along normal faults, creating wide valley floors between ranges.
- c. Lands with sharply defined drainage patterns formed by stream cutting action.

- FDRA Parameter Summary Table:

FDRA	Slope Class	Climate Class	Herb Type
Big Desert FDRA	1	1	Perennial

- **Big Desert FDRA – Fire Summary Graph**

Figure 3: Fire Summary Graph



c. **Caribou FDRA**

- **General Location:**

The Caribou FDRA is defined as the area within the Eastern Idaho Interagency Dispatch area that falls within the Fire Restriction Zone, Caribou Highlands. Also included in this FDRA are those portions of Utah.

- **Vegetation:**

Fuels within the FDRA consist of a variety of brush and grass communities: Low elevation shrub-steppe includes several subspecies of sagebrush including Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Threetip Sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*), Silver Sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*) and Owyhee Sage (*Artemisia papposa*) in the westernmost area of the Snake River Plain. Another main fuel component is Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum* (L.) Gaertn. subsp. *Pectinatum*), Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) and Little Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*).

- **Climate:**

Climate patterns are typically warm to hot and dry during the summer and fall. In the late spring and summer, moisture from the Gulf of Mexico may move north and combine with warm seasonal temperatures and topography to create high-intensity, short duration thunderstorms. Late spring events generally have more precipitation, and 24-hour totals can be greater than 0.5 inches. Dry lightning is more common during summer and fall and have potential to create multi-fire events. Maximum summer daytime temperatures can reach over 100 degrees at lower elevations, with higher elevations in the 80s to 90s. Growing seasons vary greatly from 30 days in the alpine areas to over 150 days in the lower valleys.

- Topography:

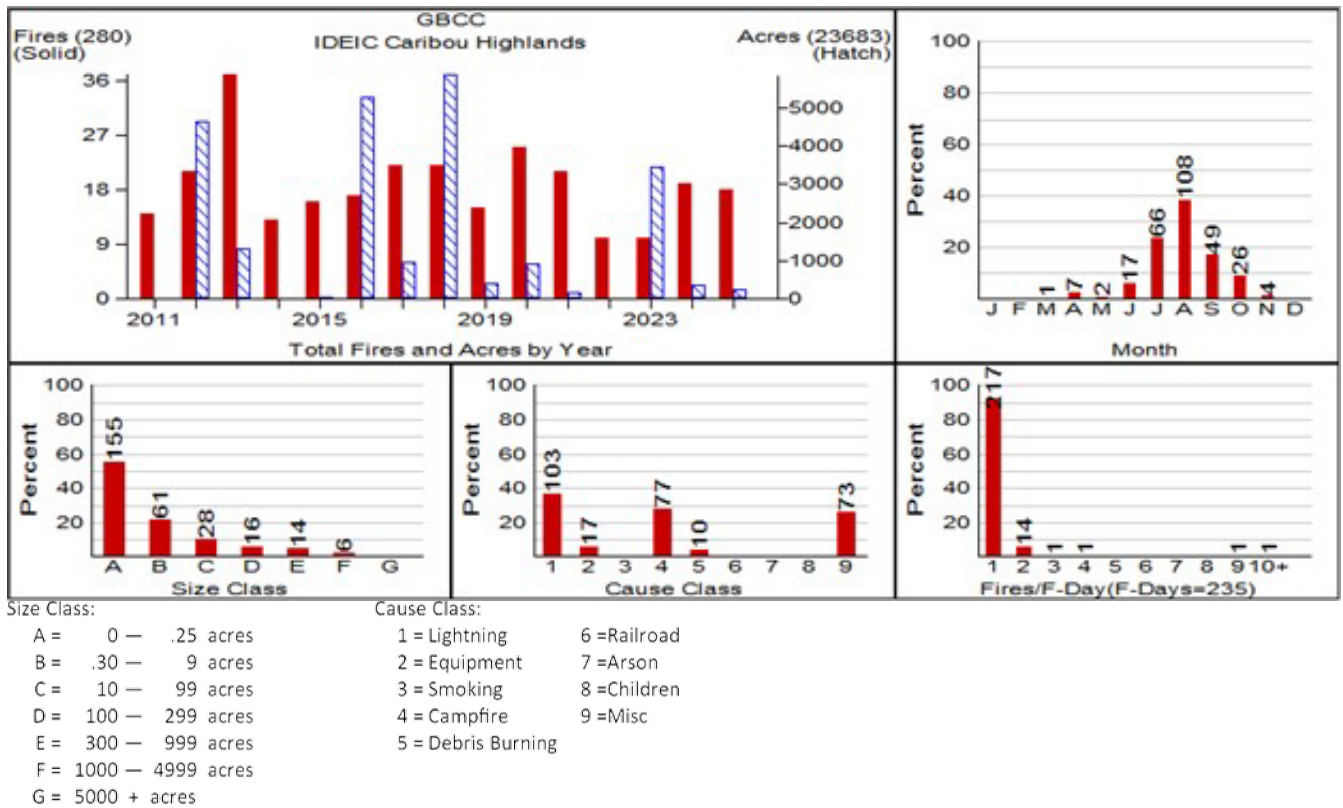
The FDRAs in Eastern Idaho vary greatly in topography with elevations of 4,198 feet in the Snake River near American Falls to 10,033 feet atop Table Mountain. Key features include the Henry's Fork Caldera, Snake River Plain and Basin and Range Mountain ranges to the north and south of the Snake River Plain which are characterized by forested slopes on the northern aspects, grass and brush on southern exposures and many creek drainages. Three major landforms dominate this FDRA:

- a. Snake River Plain formed by the Yellowstone Caldera and dotted with Ryolite domes and coalesced shield volcanoes, and various types of volcanic flows.
- b. Distinctive Northeast-Southwest mountain ranges formed from Basin and Range extension, uplifting mountains along normal faults, creating wide valley floors between ranges.
- c. Lands with sharply defined drainage patterns formed by stream cutting action.

- FDRA Parameter Summary Table:

FDRA	Slope Class	Climate Class	Herb Type
Big Desert FDRA	1	1	Perennial

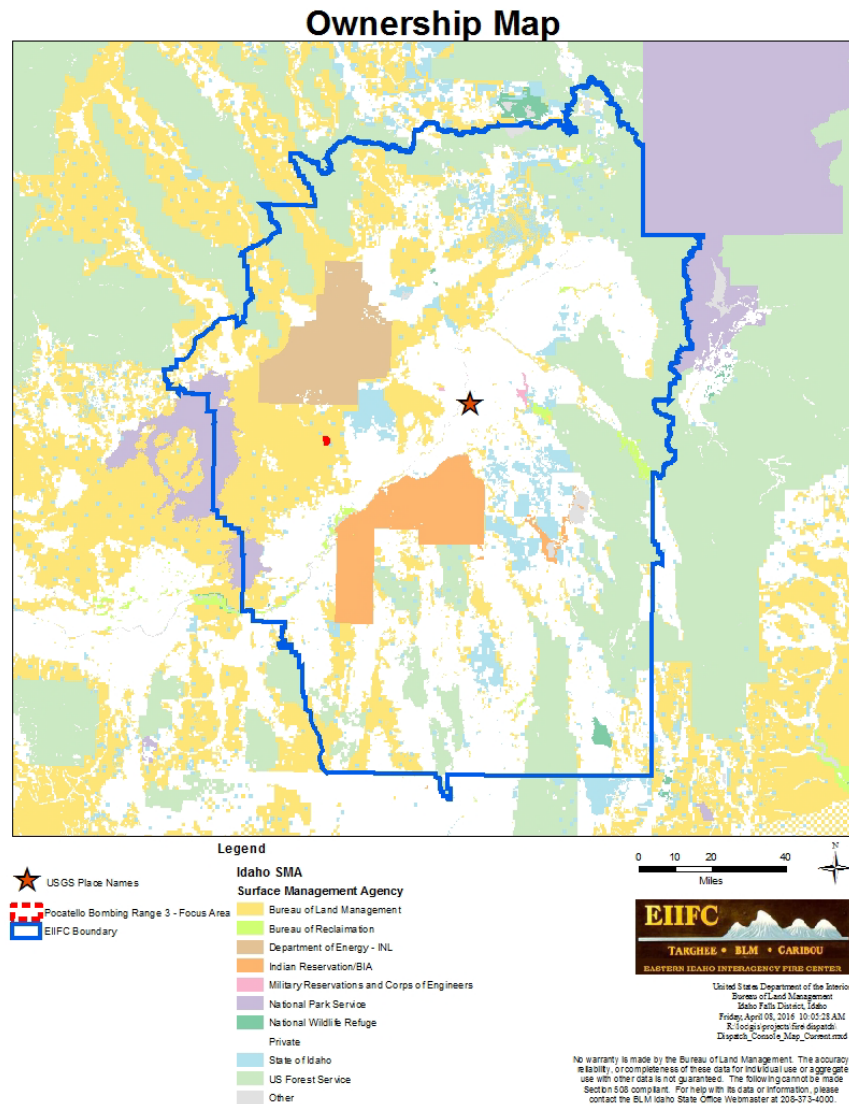
- Caribou FDRA – Fire Summary Graph



B. ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

This document serves as an *interagency* example of consistent and effective application of fire danger decisions is applied across multiple jurisdictional boundaries. Wildland fire management and suppression responsibilities are shared among Federal, State, and local co-operators.

1. Ownership Map



Map 2: Ownership Map

2. **Ownership Table (Federal Fire Protection)**

Agency	Acreage
BLM	2,221,222
USFS	2,878,502
IDL	670,890
FWS	50,531
BOR	41,639
DOD	1,075
BIA	347,898
Private/Forested	345,026
USDA Sheep Experiment Station	46,881
Total	6,603,665

Table 1: Ownership Table

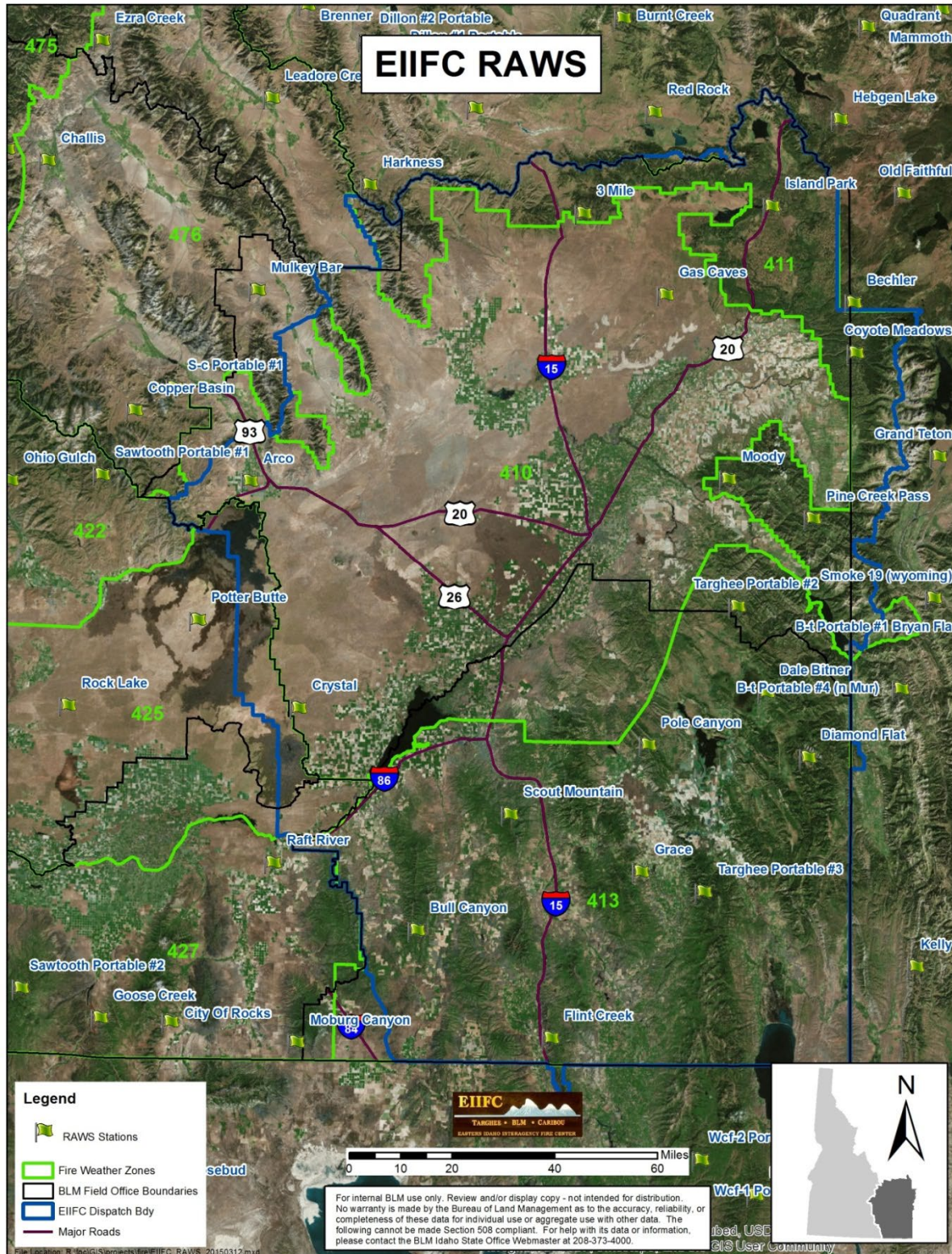
C. WEATHER STATIONS

All Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) comply with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) weather station standards.

<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/PMS426-3.pdf> .

Each RAWS receives, at a minimum, one annual on-site maintenance visit by either the local user or contracted personnel to ensure sensors are within calibration standards, and verify site and station conditions.

1. RAWS Map



2. RAWS Catalogue Table (Active Stations Only)

Table 2: RAWS Catalogue

Station ID	Station Name	Status	Agency/Owner	Elevation	WIMS Data Years
101905	Arco	Active	BLM-ID-IFD	5380	1998-Present
102004	3Mile	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	6625	2001-Present
102105	Island Park	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	6284	1999-Present
102106	Gas Caves	Active	BLM-ID-IFD	5740	1996-Present
102301	Moody	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	7040	1982-Present
102401	Pine Creek Pass	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	7240	2003-Present
103102	Dale Bitner	Active	FWS-ID-GLR	6391	2003-Present
103103	Scout Mountain	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	6515	2004-Present
103703	Crystal	Active	BLM-ID-IFD	5064	1995-Present
103704	Bull Canyon	Active	BLM-ID-IFD	6400	1998-Present
103902	Grace	Active	BLM-ID-IFD	6210	1998-Present
103903	Pole Canyon	Active	BLM-ID-IFD	6700	1998-Present
103904	Diamond Flat	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	7500	2000-Present
104203	Flint Creek	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	5200	1998-Present
480709	Coyote Meadows	Active	USFS-ID-CTF	6572	2004-Present

RAWS Stations are maintained by local RAWS technicians and the BLM RAWS Depot out of Boise Idaho.

FS Zone RAWS Technicians:

- North Zone – Josh Storrer**
- South Fork – Nick Miller**
- Bear River – Adam James**
- Portneuf – Arik Jorgensen**

3. Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

<i>Special Interest Group (SIG):</i> Centennial FDRA	
<i>Station / WIMS Number</i>	<i>Station Name</i>
480709	Coyote Meadows
102004	3 Mile
102301	Moody

<i>Special Interest Group (SIG):</i> Big Desert FDRA	
<i>Station / WIMS Number</i>	<i>Station Name</i>
103704	Bull Canyon
103703	Crystal
104203	Flint Creek

<i>Special Interest Group (SIG):</i> Caribou FDRA	
<i>Station / WIMS Number</i>	<i>Station Name</i>
104203	Flint Creek
103102	Dale Bitner
103904	Diamond Flat

III. FIRE DANGER PROBLEM ANALYSIS

The ability to regulate, educate, or control a user group will be based upon the interface method and how quickly they can react to the action taken. Consequently, the most appropriate decision tool would depend upon the sensitivity of the target group to the implementation of the action. In addition, each action will result in positive and/or negative impacts to a user group. In selecting a component and/or index, several factors must be considered:

- **Affected Target Group:** The group of people commonly associated with the problem (e.g., agency, industry, or public).
 - *Agency:* Employees of the federal, state, and local governments involved in the cooperative effort to suppress wildland fires. This includes federal, state, and county land management employees, along with volunteer fire departments who share a similar protection mission to manage wildland fires.
 - *Industry:* Employees affiliated with organizations which utilize natural resources and/or obtain permits or leases to conduct commercial activities on federal, state, or private lands. These entities or activities could include ranchers, wilderness camps, railroads, mines, timber harvesting, filming, building construction, oil and gas, electric generation, guiding services, etc.
 - *Public:* Individuals who use public lands for non-commercial purposes such as off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing, firewood gathering, agriculture, mountain biking, general travel and recreation. This group also includes those living within the wildland/urban interface (WUI).
- **Problem Definition:** This is the problem specific to the area of concern and includes ignition causes. The problem is “framed” to focus on the wildland fire management issue associated with a specific target group.
- **Degree of Control:** This is a general description of how much control the fire management agencies have over the target group (High to Low). This is a measure of how quickly the affected target group can respond to changing fire danger levels.
- **Communication:** Various methods of communication are utilized to influence an affected target group to change their behavior. Depending upon the specific target group, communication with the target group may include face-to-face verbal conversations, radio, telephone, email, newspaper, television, signing/posting, text-messaging, etc.
- **Potential Impacts:** The potential impacts on the target group and the likely consequences of a bad or unfortunate decision.
- **Component/Index:** Sensitivity of the NFDRS outputs should be commensurate with the ability to react (or communicate) to the target group. Memory and variability of the selected component or index must be understood to appropriately match the task and user group. If a situation where control and ability to communicate with the target group is high, the component and/or index which would be most appropriate should also be highly reactive to changing conditions (i.e., Ignition Component, Spread Component). If the situation was reversed where the control and ability to communicate with the target group is low, the appropriate component and/or index should not vary significantly over time (i.e., Energy Release Component).
- **Management Action (Application):** The action or application is a set of pre-defined decision points based upon an analysis of fire danger indices and fire occurrence. Collectively, the decision points represent levels of fire danger applied as a communication mechanism to specific target groups. The intent is to minimize the risk of a fire ignition problem by controlling or influencing a specific target group (Agency, Public, and Industry). Nationally, the following fire danger management applications and their associated levels are recognized: Staffing Level, Dispatch Level, Preparedness Level, and Adjective Fire Danger Rating Level.

The following table demonstrates the differences between the target groups (agency, industry, and public).

Table 3: Planning Area Fire Problems

Problem / Issue	Affected Target Group			Degree Of Control	Anticipated Communication with Target Group	Potential Impacts	Index / Component	Management Action
	Agency	Public	Industrial					
1 - Lightning	X			High	Communicate chance of thunder via morning briefings. Communicate information to agency personnel to increase awareness for potential lightning-caused ignitions.	Multiple lightning-caused ignitions which can quickly exceed the capability of the local unit's initial attack capabilities.	NWS Weather Briefings	Consider increased/extended staffing levels for ground-based and aviation suppression resources. Utilize resources to increase patrolling activity. Consider extending staffing for dispatch. Consider utilizing aerial reconnaissance following lightning occurrence.
2 - Equipment		X		Low	Communicate via various media outlets, publications, and approved websites to publicize fire danger awareness to the public. Post appropriate fire danger signage.	Fires along roadways or rights of way resulting from recreationists, hunting, and agricultural activities.	ERC and/or Adjective Fire Danger Rating	Units within the Zones are experiencing a significant number of starts from sources along travel routes and/or from unknown persons or groups traveling across public lands. These ignitions are occurring when fuels are critically dry and the potential for high wind events are forecasted. Workload may be impacted by a need for increased patrol activities, utilizing severity resources from outside the EIIFC, and coordination with law enforcement.
4 - Campfire		X		Moderate	Communicate via various media outlets, publications, and approved websites to publicize fire danger awareness to the public. Post appropriate fire danger signage.	Escaped campfires in either developed or undeveloped campsites are being left unattended.	ERC and/or Adjective Fire Danger Rating	Units within the Zones are experiencing a significant number of reports of escaped campfires. These ignitions are occurring when fuels are critically dry and the potential for high wind events are forecasted. Follow Fire restrictions/closure plan. Workload may be impacted by a need for increased patrol activities and utilizing severity resources

Problem / Issue	Affected Target Group			Degree Of Control	Anticipated Communication with Target Group	Potential Impacts	Index / Component	Management Action
	Agency	Public	Industrial					
								from outside the EIIFC and coordination with law enforcement.
9 – Other Causes		X		Low	Communicate via various media outlets, publications, and approved websites to publicize fire danger awareness to the public. Post appropriate fire danger signage.	Miscellaneous fires along various travel routes, or from activities within military aviation training routes, or from activities from unknown persons or groups on public lands resulting in unknown ignition sources (i.e. fireworks, cigarettes, sparks, catalytic converters on vehicles, etc.).	ERC and/or Adjective Fire Danger Rating	Units within the Zones are experiencing a significant number of starts from unknown ignition sources along travel routes, within military aviation training routes, and/or from unknown persons or groups traveling across public lands. These ignitions are occurring when fuels are critically dry and the potential for high wind events are forecasted. Workload may be impacted by a need for increased patrol activities, utilizing severity resources from outside the EIIFC, and coordination with law enforcement.

IV. FIRE DANGER DECISION ANALYSIS

Decision points can be based upon either:

- Climatological Breakpoints, or
- Fire Business Thresholds.

The following table provides a summary of the planning area's fire danger problems and concerns. In addition, each problem is associated with a specific target group whose activities can be influenced through effective communication and implementation of specific control measures.

This Fire Danger Operating Plan will be used to support preparedness, staffing and response decisions which are made at specific decision points. A "decision point" is a point along the range of possible output values where a decision shifts from one choice to another. When the combination of events and conditions signal that it is time to do something different, a "decision point" has been identified for each Fire Danger Rating Level within each Fire Danger Rating Area.

A. CLIMATOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Climatological breakpoints represent specific points on the cumulative distribution curve of a fire weather or danger index. These values are derived strictly from historical weather data (climatology) without correlating for fire occurrence or operational outcomes. For example, a 90th percentile Energy Release Component (ERC) indicates a threshold where only 10 percent of historical values are higher. Historically, federal agencies established these percentiles primarily for budgetary and planning directives, as standardized below:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): 80th and 95th percentiles

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): 90th and 97th percentiles

U.S. Forest Service (USFS): 90th and 97th percentiles

The period of analysis significantly impacts these values; percentiles calculated for a full calendar year (January–December) differ substantially from those calculated for the peak fire season (June–September). Consequently, each agency may provide specific—and potentially differing—directives regarding the application of these percentiles.

Application of Thresholds

While this FDOP recognizes agency-directed percentiles, the decision thresholds identified herein are derived from the statistical correlation of historical fire occurrence and weather data. Consequently, this plan utilizes Fire Business Thresholds rather than climatological breakpoints for operational decision points. This approach ensures that management actions are triggered by verified fire risk rather than arbitrary weather percentiles.

B. FIRE BUSINESS ANALYSIS

To implement a fire danger system that effectively supports management decisions, ignition patterns must be identified, quantified, and categorized. This framework allows managers to select the most appropriate fire danger-based decision tools to mitigate specific operational risks.

Analysis Period and Seasonal Filtering:

The analysis utilized weather and fire occurrence data from 2005 through 2024. This period provides an optimal balance between the availability of NFDRS2016 (v4) compliant weather data and a statistically significant sample of fire history.

A uniform annual filter (January 1–December 31) was applied to all FDRAs. Establishing a robust fire danger system requires a defensible tool that identifies both periods of high activity and periods of dormancy. Furthermore, because "fire season" is a fluctuating window, applying fire danger metrics year-round supports both wildfire suppression and year-round fuels management objectives.

National Fire Danger Rating System Decision Point Determination Using the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve Optimal Threshold:

"A receiver operating characteristic curve, or ROC curve, is a graphical plot that illustrates the performance of a binary classifier model [fire or no fire] at varying threshold values [ex. ERC values]. The ROC curve is the plot of the true positive rate [predicted fire and fire occurrence] against the false positive rate [predicted fire and no fire occurrence] at each threshold setting [ex. ERC 40, 41, 42]. The best possible prediction method would yield a point in the upper left corner or coordinate (0,1) of the ROC space, representing 100% sensitivity, no false negatives [predicted no fire and fire occurrence], and 100% specificity, no false positives. The (0,1) point is also called a perfect classification (Wikipedia)."

ROC generated decision points used in this plan are the index (ex. ERC or BI) value on the ROC curve that is closest to being a perfect classification, referred to in this document as the optimum value, and are the index values with the highest sensitivity and specificity to predicting target (fire) occurrence.

ROC curves and optimum value thresholds using fire occurrence were generated for each FDRA and possible station combination using the chosen index. Fire occurrences were limited to the FDRA, and station combinations limited to three or fewer for weather stations in the FDRA plus those within 5 miles of the boundary. FDRA fire size percentiles were used for target values in thresholding; thus, the analysis was conducted as a multiclass problem with each target (fire size) having its own ROC curve and optimal value. Decision points based on optimal values represent conditions during which fires of a certain size can be expected based on historical data.

Several machine learning techniques were utilized to improve results including stratified k-fold cross validation and isolation forest outlier removal, both sklearn modules. The former was used on all analysis and generally had the effect of raising threshold values and increasing decision space while the latter was used when there were no good options using all the data and would sometimes produce acceptable results where none were previously available.

Final station and threshold selection were determined based on the spread between thresholds (decision space) and ROC metric Area Under the Curve (AUC) or the corresponding sorting of fire business across thresholds.

If neither fire business metric was acceptable, due to a lack of fire and/or weather data, climatological percentiles were utilized

Large fire thresholds were established using the 92nd percentile for the Big Desert, 93rd percentile for Centennial, and the 94th percentile for the Caribou FDRAs for the ROC analysis:

- **Centennial:** 466 acres
- **Big Desert:** 4,019.5 acres
- **Caribou:** 858.2 acres

Different large fire thresholds were used for the Fire Family Plus analysis:

- **Centennial:** 50 acres (response and preparedness level)
- **Big Desert:** 500 acres (response and preparedness level)
- **Caribou:** 50 acres (response level), 100 acres (preparedness level)

Variable Correlation and Probability Analysis:

Statistical modeling indicated that "Multi-fire Days" generally resulted in a poor correlation. This is largely attributed to the high frequency of human-caused ignitions, which often occur independently of ambient fire danger levels. Conversely, "Fire Day" and "Large Fire Day" variables demonstrated a stronger statistical fit, though optimal correlation varied between specific fuel models and indices. Two distinct probability analyses were utilized to ensure the FDOP's accuracy:

Conditional Probability Analysis:

Applied to Response Level determinations. This method calculates the probability of a specific outcome given that an ignition has occurred, providing a more accurate reflection of fire behavior potential during a fire event.

Unconditional Probability Analysis:

Applied to the Energy Release Component (ERC) for determining Adjective Ratings, Response Levels and Preparedness Levels. This approach evaluates the general fire environment regardless of whether an ignition occurs.

Statistically, conditional probability typically yields a higher correlation than unconditional probability, a critical distinction when evaluating the effectiveness of specific fuel model and index combinations.

Adjective Ratings, Response Levels and Preparedness Levels:

The Energy Release Component (ERC) was selected as the primary output for establishing Adjective Ratings and as a foundational input for Preparedness Levels across all FDRAs. The inherent stability of the ERC—driven by fuel moisture in larger-diameter fuels rather than wind—makes it an optimal tool for monitoring seasonal trends and cumulative drying.

C. WEATHER STATION ANALYSIS

A Special Interest Group (SIG) consists of a cluster of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) whose data is averaged to produce mean National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) outputs. This collective data provides a representative fire danger profile for a specific Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA).

The SIGs utilized within the East Idaho planning area are detailed in the following tables. Note that specific RAWS may serve as representative stations for an FDRA despite being physically located outside its geographic boundaries.

Centennial FDRA SIG

<u>WIMS Number</u>	<u>Station Name</u>
102301	Moody
480709	Coyote Meadows
102004	3 Mile

Big Desert FDRA SIG

<u>WIMS Number</u>	<u>Station Name</u>
103703	Crystal
104203	Flint Creek
103704	Bull Canyon

Caribou FDRA SIG

<u>WIMS Number</u>	<u>Station Name</u>
104203	Flint Creek
103904	Diamond Flat
103102	Dale Bitner

D. PARAMETERS USED TO CALCULATE FIRE DANGER

Table 4: FireFamilyPlus Parameters

Large Fire Size (acres)	500	SIG: Big Desert FDRA		
Multiple Fire Day (fires/day)	2			
Weather Station Number →	103703	103704	104203	
Weather Station Name	Crystal	Bull Canyon	Flint Creek	
NFDRS Fuel Model	Y	Y	Y	
Data Years Used in Analysis	20	20	20	
Slope Class	1	1	1	
Climate Class	1	1	2	
Herbaceous Type	Perennial	Perennial	Perennial	

Large Fire Size (acres)	50
Multiple Fire Day (fires/day)	2

SIG: *Centennial FDRA*

Weather Station Number →	102004	480709	102301
Weather Station Name	3 Mile	Coyote Meadows	Moody
NFDRS Fuel Model	Y	Y	Y
Data Years Used in Analysis	20	20	20
Slope Class	1	1	1
Climate Class	1	1	1
Herbaceous Type	Perennial	Perennial	Perennial

Large Fire Size (acres)	100
Multiple Fire Day (fires/day)	2

SIG: *Caribou FDRA*

Weather Station Number →	104203	103102	103904
Weather Station Name	Flint Creek	Dale Bitner	Diamond Flat
NFDRS Fuel Model	Y	Y	Y
Data Years Used in Analysis	20	20	20
Slope Class	1	1	1
Climate Class	1	1	1
Herbaceous Type	Perennial	Perennial	Perennial

V. FIRE DANGER RATING LEVELS

The National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) utilizes the Fire Environment Mapping System (FEMS) processor to manipulate weather and forecasted data. This data is managed through automated data warehouses, rather than the legacy NIFMID database, to produce fire danger ratings for corresponding Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). NFDRS outputs from the FEMS processor determine various levels of fire danger to address fire problems identified in the Fire Problem Analysis Chart. The system is designed to model worst-case fire danger scenarios, and along with other decision support tools, establishes levels (thresholds) of fire business for public, industrial, and agency groups.

The NFDRS provides outputs to assist fire management with five primary sets of decisions:

- Dispatch Levels: A tool for dispatchers to assign initial attack resources to a fire reported in a specific dispatch zone.
- Staffing Levels: Used for determining appropriate day-to-day suppression resource staffing.
- Preparedness Levels: Assisting fire managers with long-term or seasonal decisions regarding fire danger.
- Fire Danger Adjective Ratings: Communicating fire danger to the public (e.g., Low, Moderate, High, Very High, Extreme) through signage and public alerts.
- Large Fire Thresholds: Determined through statistical ROC analysis using the 50th, 90th, and 97th percentiles to mark significant increases in fire potential.

A. Response (or Dispatch) Level

Response (or Dispatch) Levels are pre-planned actions which identify the number and type of resources (engines, crews, aircraft, etc.) initially dispatched to a reported wildland fire based upon Energy Release Component for Fuel Model Y. in all FDRAs. The Big Desert FDRA also includes a wind component. If there is a forecasted Red Flag warning for winds and low RH then the dispatch response level increases by one.

B. Staffing Level (step up/drawdown)

Staffing Levels will be used to make daily internal fire preparedness and operational decision. At the protection unit level, the staffing level can form a basis for decisions regarding the “degree of readiness” for initial attack resources and support resources. Specific preparedness actions are defined at each staffing level. The use of climatological percentiles for daily staffing decisions is optional. The preferred method to delineate a Staffing Level threshold is based on statistical correlation of weather AND fire occurrence. In this instance Step Up/Drawdown levels are based on the unit’s preparedness level.

C. Preparedness Level

The Preparedness Level is a five-tier (1-5) fire danger rating decision tool that is based on NFDRS output(s) and other indicators of fire business (such as projected levels of resource commitment). Preparedness Levels will assist fire managers with more long-term (seasonal) decisions with respect to fire danger. Every Wednesday during the fire season the preparedness level Plinko chart will be utilized.

D. Fire Danger Adjective Rating Level

In 1974, the USFS, BLM, and state forestry organizations established five standard Adjective Fire Danger Rating Levels for public information and signage. For this purpose, fire danger is expressed using the national adjective descriptions and corresponding color codes (Low, Moderate, High, Very High, and Extreme).

As with Staffing Levels, the Adjective Fire Danger Rating Level can be obtained as a direct output in FEMS. However, the FEMS output is strictly based on weather and climatological percentiles (e.g., 80th and 95th) without regard to historical fire occurrence. The use of these standard climatological percentiles is not mandatory. The preferred method for determining Adjective Fire Danger Rating thresholds is through the statistical correlation of weather observations and historical fire occurrence via the ROC Curve methodology.

Accordingly, this Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) implements Adjective Fire Danger Ratings based on fire business thresholds rather than arbitrary climatological percentiles. This process is included with and is the same as the preparedness calculation done every Wednesday.

VI. FIRE DANGER OPERATING PROCEDURES

A. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Agency Administrators

Updates to this plan will be made at least every two years and approved by the line officers (or delegates) from each agency.

2. Fire Program Managers

The FMO/AFMO from each agency will determine the need to request/release off unit resources or support personnel throughout the fire season. Each agency's fire management staff along with the East Idaho Dispatch Center Manager will be responsible for establishing and reviewing the preparedness, dispatch and adjective level guidelines on an annual basis.

3. Fire Danger Technical Group

Write, review and update yearly. The Fire Danger Technical Group should meet in the fall to discuss how well the plan worked during the fire season and in the spring to assign sections and update with newest data.

4. Fire Weather Station Owners/Managers

The Remote Sensing Fire Weather Support Unit (RSFWU) located at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) maintains and calibrates the Idaho Falls BLM RAWS stations on an annual basis. They also provide the first responder services for malfunctions of the these stations

All of the Caribou-Targhee NF RAWS stations are responsible for annual maintenance and first responder services. They are all on a Depot Maintenance Agreement which means the RSFWU provides the telephone support and component exchange. Two engine captains are responsible for the annual maintenance and first responder malfunctions. These stations are split into North and South responder areas. The North Stations are 3Mile, Island Park, Moody, Pine Creek Pass and Coyote Meadows. The South Stations are Scout Mountain, Diamond Flat and Flint Creek.

5. Dispatch/Communication Center

The East Idaho Fire Center, Assistant Center Manager/Intel is listed as the station owner for all Idaho Falls District BLM and Caribou/Targhee National Forest RAWS. The owner maintains the WIMS Access Control List (ACL). The station owner will also ensure appropriate editing of the RAWS catalogues and observations. Each agency's fire management staff along with the East Idaho Dispatch Center Manager will be responsible for establishing and reviewing the preparedness, dispatch and adjective level guidelines on an annual basis. Daily fire weather forecasts will be developed by the National Weather Service, Pocatello Fire Weather Forecast Office, and posted on the Internet and in WIMS for the East Idaho Interagency Fire Center to retrieve. The East Idaho Dispatch Manager will ensure that the daily fire weather forecast (including NFDRS indices) is

retrieved and that the daily preparedness, dispatch, and adjective levels are calculated and distributed. The East Idaho Dispatch Center Manager will ensure that necessary amendments or updates to this plan are complete. Updates to this plan will be made at least every two years and approved by the line officers (or delegates) from each agency. Revised copies will be distributed to the individuals on the primary distribution list.

6. Duty Officers

For the purposes of this plan, a Duty Officer from each agency will be identified to the East Idaho Interagency Fire Center. The Duty Officer is a designated agency employee, who provides input and guidance regarding preparedness and dispatch levels. It is the Duty Officer's role to interpret and modify the daily preparedness and dispatch levels as required by factors not addressed by this plan. Modifications of the preparedness and/or dispatch levels must be coordinated through the Dispatch Center Manager. The Duty Officer will keep their respective agency's fire and management staff updated (as needed).

7. GIS Specialists

Work with the technical group to produce GIS products.

8. National Weather Service

Provide forecasts and input to this plan when requested.

9. Education / Mitigation / Prevention Specialists

Education and mitigation programs will be implemented by agency Public Information Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, FMO's, AFMO's, Fire Wardens, Fire Prevention Technicians and Fire Education/Mitigation Specialists based on Preparedness Level Guidelines and direction provided by the agency's FMO and Duty Officer.

VII. FIRE DANGER PROGRAM NEEDS

A. WEATHER STATIONS

- **UPGRADE PORTABLE RAWS TO FTS.**

B. COMPUTER / EQUIPMENT

- **CAMERAS – REMOVED LOOKOUTS FROM SERVICE REMOTE CAMERAS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR FIRE DETECTION.**

C. TRAINING

- **ADD FDOP TRAINING TO OPERATIONS MEETINGS**
- **KEEP QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN REGARDS TO RAWS MAINTENANCE AND S491/S492**
- **ADD 209 REFRESHER FOR INCIDENT COMMANDERS.**

APPENDICES

Appendix A: ***RESPONSE / DISPATCH PLAN***

Heavy Response RUN CARD (Red Flag Warning for winds and low RH +1 level in Big Desert FDRA)

Resource	Light	Medium	Full
Engines/Squad/IA Mod	2	4	6
Dozers	0	1	2
Water Tenders (FSO)	0	0	1
Type 3 Helo	0	1	1
Air Attack (on order)	0	1	1
Overhead ICT5/ICT4/ICT3	1 (ICT5)	1 (ICT4)	1 (ICT4+)

Light Response RUN CARD (Red Flag Warning for winds and low RH +1 level in Big Desert FDRA)

Resource	Light	Medium	Full
Engines/Squad/IA Mod	1	2	4
Overhead ICT5/ICT4/ICT3	1 (ICT5)	1 (ICT5 or ICT4)	1 (ICT4+)
Helicopter	0	1	1
Crew/Any			1

Appendix A-1: Response Criteria

Introduction

Purpose

Local-level Initial Pre-planned Response Plans, also referred to as “Run Cards”, specify the fire management response (e.g., number and type of suppression assets to dispatch) within a defined geographic area to an unplanned ignition, based on fire weather, fuel conditions, fire management objectives, and resource availability.

Terminology

Response Level

Response levels (e.g. “Light”, “Medium”, “Full”) are established to assist fire managers with decisions regarding the most appropriate response to an initial fire report until a qualified Incident Commander arrives at the incident. FireFamily Plus software is used to establish the Response Level thresholds. A statistical analysis of fire occurrence and historical weather has been completed for each FDRA. Each agency will utilize the same Response Levels calculated for each FDRA in response to wildland fires in the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center (EIIFC).

Response Zone

Response zones may be based on various criteria such as common management objectives, land use, fire load, dispatch locations, estimated response times, WUI locations, topographical features, vegetation communities, etc.

Dispatch Center

Each geographic area has established dispatch centers that mobilize and demobilize resources directly with the geographic area coordination center. The dispatch center is the focal point for mobilizing firefighting resources between units within the dispatch area responsibility, coordinating incoming resources into the dispatch area, dispatching resources mobilized out of the dispatch area, and collecting and disseminating fire intelligence information within dispatch area and with the geographic area coordination center.

Pre-Planned Response Plan

Each dispatch center with the responsibility for initial response to wildland fires shall have a pre-planned response plan that allocates resources to new wildland fires in accordance with fire management direction, initial attack agreements, and established ordering procedures. The pre-planned response plan will be reviewed and updated annually prior to fire season.

Policy and Guidance

Policy and guidance regarding the development of Pre-Planned Response Plans can be found in chapter 19 of the Interagency Standards for Fire & Aviation Operations (Red Book). Fire Management Officers will ensure that Pre-planned Response Plans are in place, utilized, and provide for initial response commensurate with guidance provided in the FMP and/or LRMP. Initial

Pre-planned Response Plans will reflect agreements and annual operating plans and will be reviewed annually prior to fire season. These plans may be modified as needed during fire season to reflect the availability of national, prepositioned, and/or severity resources. Specific agency directives and interagency guidance require numerous unit plans and guides to meet fire preparedness and wildfire response objectives. Some of these plans and guides are inter-related; one or more plans/guides provide the basis for other plans/guides.

Response Levels

Response Level for each FDRA is determined using formulas on a spreadsheet located on the East Idaho Dispatch BLM “R” drive.

Response Plan

Overview

The Interagency Run Cards (found in Appendix A) are developed by a group of interagency representatives to provide guidance to EIIFC for initial attack dispatching of wildland fire suppression resources within pre-identified geographic areas (response zones).

The run cards will be used when a wildfire is reported and doesn’t meet the discretionary smoke report criteria listed below. When an NWCG qualified Incident Commander is on scene of the fire, they may adjust the pre-established initial attack response as identified on the run card by cancelling resources currently en-route (or about to be dispatched) or by ordering additional resources as needed. Until such time as an IC is on scene, the Duty Officer is responsible for the fire response and can modify the run card as necessary.

During periods of large/multiple fire activity, when there are not enough resources to fill the run cards, EIIFC will send resources at the discretion of duty officers and the local MAC group if activated. See also multiple response plan further down.

Effective Dates

Once all fire personnel are in 7-day coverage (typically mid-June through the end of September). Beyond these dates, notification of smoke reports will be made directly to the appropriate jurisdictional Duty Officer.

Procedures:

- During working hours, EIIFC will dispatch the closest available resource according to the appropriate Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) Dispatch Level.
- After resource duty hours, dispatchers will contact the jurisdictional Duty Officer, who will determine the level of response.
- Volunteer fire departments (or any other resource not dispatched by SIIDC) will not be considered as meeting the run card requirements for numbers of resources during the initial attack dispatch.

Discretionary Smoke Reports:

When any of the following smoke reports are received, the run card will not be sent, and the jurisdictional Duty Officer will be contacted to determine the response.

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Report
- Abandoned Campfires, when clearly stated that it is still within the ring
- Incidents that local volunteer fire departments have responded to, or are on scene, and are requesting no additional resources or specify a certain amount of resources they need to extinguish the fire (Assists).

Multiple Response Plan:

Periodically EIIFC's dispatch zone gets widespread lightning activity resulting in numerous starts. It is not possible to dispatch the number and type of resources called for in the run card plan to each of these fires. This plan is designed to provide guidance to EIIFC staff in order to coordinate an initial response under these multiple start conditions (generally considered 3 or more starts).

Under circumstances where multiple starts are likely to occur or are occurring and each FDRA is at a Dispatch Level of Moderate or High the EIIFC run card plan may be suspended and guidance provided by area Duty Officers for initial response to new starts. It is desired that the Duty Officer's meet at EIIFC to provide coordinated guidance to the floor supervisor whenever possible. A local MAC call may be initiated if meeting in person is not possible.

Duty Officers should consider using the following priorities for dispatching resources*:

1. When there is a direct threat to human life
2. When there is a direct threat to homes or communities
3. When there is a direct threat to other high value infrastructure or improvements
4. When the fire is in an identified sage grouse protection area
5. All others

Other considerations include:

1. Initial attack on lands for which the WFS has suppression responsibility.
2. Other fire suppression/management assignments on federally-managed lands.
3. Other fire suppression/management assignments on other agency lands.
4. All hazard incidents. (ESF 4)

Until such time as the Duty Officers are able to provide coordinated direction to EIIFC, the floor supervisor is authorized to determine the fire priorities based on given direction and make modifications to the established run card response during multiple start events. During circumstances where there are no longer resources available to be dispatched to a new smoke report, EIIFC staff will notify the Duty Officers of each new report and they will, considering the priorities mentioned above, make a determination of needed staffing adjustments and provide guidance to EIIFC staff as to what resources to dispatch to each new smoke report.

****Additionally, if on any given day when all FDRAs are at a Dispatch Level of Moderate or Full and EIIFC recognizes the inability of daily staffed resources to fulfil a dispatch of any run card then the EIIFC Response Plan/run cards may be suspended, and any start would use the prioritization process as identified above.***

Appendix B: ***STAFFING PLAN / DRAW-DOWN LEVELS***

WFS Step Up Plan

Preparedness Level	Adjective Rating	ERC	Fire Activity	Emergency Preparedness Actions Authorized	Emergency Preparedness Fund
1	Low	0-34	Little or no fire activity. Little or no potential	- Normal staffing. - No A.D. personnel authorized.	None
2	Moderate	35-47	Some potential for the occurrence of A/B size class fires but weather and fuels conditions minimize fire potential.	- Applicable conditions from previous Planning Level apply. - Extended staffing will be funded from ongoing fires/accounts.	None
3	High	48-57	Potential exists for multiple fires in A/B/C size classes to occur or multiple fires in these size classes are occurring. Some potential for extended attack fires exists. Weather and fuels conditions will minimize fire potential in short term	- Applicable conditions from previous Planning Level apply. - Extended staffing approved (see FDOP Preparedness Levels) - Resources may be extended to “move up and cover” primary and secondary stations. - Use of A.D personnel can be considered. - Considerations for additional pre-positioning of resources such as smokejumpers, engines or crews. - Extended staffing for Air Tanker Base should be considered. - Consider ordering air attack and retardant aircraft.	Short or Long Term Severity
4	Very High	58-64	Potential exists for multiple A/B/C and larger fires to occur. Extended attack potential is high. Weather, fuels conditions create larger spread potential and resistance to control is high.	- Applicable conditions from previous Planning Level apply. - A.D. personnel are authorized for short or long term use. - Consider ordering air attack and retardant aircraft.	Short or Long Term Severity
5	Extreme	65+	Potential exists for multiple A/B/C and larger fires to occur. Potential for multiple IMT managed incidents is high. Weather, fuels create conditions where fire spread potential and resistance to control may be beyond the capabilities of IA resources available.	Applicable conditions from previous Planning Level apply.	Short or Long Term Severity

CTF Draw Down Levels *This chart shows the minimum draw down levels for the forest and is for guidance only. The Forest Duty Officer retains the right to deviate from this guide. Deviation from this plan can happen based on other factors besides Preparedness Level such as local fire activity and other unforeseen commitments.*

PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5
1 Forest DO 2 Engines	1 Forest DO 4 Engines Prevention: one on north or south of the forest.	1 Forest DO A duty officer each for both north and south. 5 Engines 1 EU Helicopter Prevention: one on north and south of the forest.	1 Forest DO A duty officer each for both north and south. 7 Engines 1 Type 2-IA Crew 1 EU Helicopter Prevention: one per zone. Consider extended Staffing.	1 Forest DO A duty officer for each Zone. 10 Engines 1 Type 2-IA Crew 2 EU Helicopters Prevention: one per zone, consider ordering more. Strongly consider extended staffing. Consider prepositioning key resources

WFS Draw Down Levels *This chart shows the minimum draw down levels for the zone and is for guidance only. The Duty Officer retains the right to deviate from this guide. Deviation from this plan can happen based on other factors besides Preparedness Level such as local fire activity and other unforeseen commitments. *Aircraft resources are no longer under local control so consider ordering.*

PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5
1 Duty Officer*	1 Duty Officer*	1 Duty Officer*	1 Duty Officer	1 Duty Officer
2 Engines	1 Type 3 IC	2 Type 3 ICs	2 Type 3 ICs	3 Type 3 ICs
Duty Officer Qualifications: ENGB or CRWB or HMGB <u>AND</u> ICT4	5 Engines 1 Dozer Duty Officer Qualifications: TFLD or HEBM <u>AND</u> ICT3 or RXB2 or DIVS	7 Engines 2 Dozers 1 Air Attack* Duty Officer Qualifications PL3-5: DIVS <u>AND</u> ICT3 or RXB2	9 Engines 2 Dozers 1 Air Attack* 2 SEATs* Consider extended Staffing. Duty Officer Qualifications PL3-5: DIVS <u>AND</u> ICT3 or RXB2	10 Engines 3 Dozers 1 Air Attack* 2 SEATs* Consider a swing shift or secondary DO. Consider keeping all or most BLM fire-trained personnel on District Strongly consider extended staffing. Consider prepositioning key resources Duty Officer Qualifications PL3-5: DIVS <u>AND</u> ICT3 or RXB2

Appendix C: **PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

East Idaho Interagency Fire Preparedness Plan

Preparedness Levels and Recommended Actions Guide – These Preparedness Level Actions are guidelines, and as such are discretionary in nature, for agency personnel to refer to when preparedness level thresholds are reached. If an agency doesn't have a specific position that is listed within the table, that agency will utilize discretion as to what position will assume those roles. Preparedness level is determined by the Plinko Chart in Appendix I.

Agency Administrators (Forest Supervisor, FS District Rangers, District and Field Office Managers or as designated to Zone Fire Chief)

Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5	Affected Entity
Ensure Resource Advisors (READ) are designated and available for fire assignments.			X	X	X	Agency
Ensure Public Affairs staff are identified and available as needed for coordination of fire program and incident information needs.			X	X	X	Agency
Ensure fire program retains capacity to implement full range of potential management strategies allowed for unit.			X	X	X	Agency
Evaluate work/rest needs of fire staff and crews.				X	X	Agency
Consider need for fire restrictions or area closures.				X	X	Public / Industry
Provide appropriate support to fire staffs regarding the implementation of preparedness level actions.				X	X	Agency
Issue guidance to staff indicating severity of the season and increased need and availability for fire support personnel.				X	X	Agency
Ensure administrative staff is stepped up equivalent with fire activity needs to include fire business support.			X	X	X	Agency

Prevention/Mitigation

Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5	Affected Entity
Contact Public Information Officer, local media to inform of the start of fire season and the potential for local fire danger to increase.	X	X	X	X	X	Agency /Public
Provide public and industry with access to fire danger information, closures, restrictions and warnings.	X	X	X	X	X	Agency /Public / Industry
Contact local industrial entities to inform of hazard and risk.	X	X	X	X	X	Public / Industry
Post signs and warnings in camping and recreation areas.	X	X	X	X	X	Public
Consider need for increased fire prevention patrols ,including ordering additional prevention resources				X	X	Agency

Notify local media if High/Extreme fire danger and the need for increased public caution.				X	X	Public
Consider ordering additional fire investigators (INVF)				X	X	Agency
Consult with FMO regarding need for fire restrictions or closures.				X	X	Agency
Consider ordering a fire prevention team				X	X	Agency

Fire Management Officers or WFS Zone Chief

Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5	Affected Entity
Evaluate season severity data (NFDRS indices for the season, fuel moisture, drought indices, long-term forecasts).	X	X	X	X	X	Agency
Brief agency administrator on burning conditions and fire activity.			X	X	X	Agency
Review geographical and national preparedness levels and evaluate need to suspend local Rx fire activities.			X	X	X	Agency
Consider consulting with or ordering an FBAN or WFDSS Support for ongoing fire activity.			X	X	X	Agency
Consider ordering SOPL or LTAN personnel to ensure local capacity to support long-term fires.			X	X	X	Agency
Ensure Prevention Technicians have initiated media contacts and public education contacts.			X	X	X	Public Industry
Communicate with EIIFC Manager and GBCC Manager on geographical conditions and resource availability.			X	X	X	Agency
Consider fire severity request and pre-positioning of resources including: operational resources, aerial support/supervision, command positions, dispatch, logistical support, information and prevention.			X	X	X	Agency / Public / Industry
Work with AA's to ensure associated AA actions are being addressed.			X	X	X	Agency
Dedicated Interagency Aviation Officer should be in place.				X	X	Agency
Evaluate crew and staff work/rest requirements.				X	X	Agency
Initiate weekly calls with partners/cooperators regarding the need for restrictions and/or closures.			X	X	X	Public / Industry
Request the agency administrator to issue guidance to office staff regarding the need for increased availability from militia for operational and support positions.				X	X	Agency
Contact local fire chiefs and inform of increased fire danger.				X	X	Agency
Consider dedicated expanded dispatch and buying team.			X	X	X	Agency
Ensure there is a dedicated expanded dispatch and buying team in place.					X	Agency
If preparedness level is decreasing, consult with Duty Officers/EIIFC Manager and consider release of pre-positioned or detailed personnel.				X	X	Agency

East Idaho Interagency Dispatch

Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5	Affected Entity
Begin weekly conference calls with EIIFC FMOs and Operations staff.	X	X	X	X	X	Agency
Consider pre-positioning or detail of off-unit IA dispatchers and logistical support personnel.			X	X	X	Agency
Evaluate work/rest needs of center staff.			X	X	X	Agency
Consider dedicated expanded dispatch and buying team.			X	X	X	Agency
Dedicated Floor Manager should be in place.			X	X	X	Agency
Ensure there is a dedicated expanded dispatch and buying team in place.					X	Agency
If preparedness level is decreasing, consider release of pre-positioned or detailed dispatchers and logistical support personnel.			X	X	X	Agency

Duty Officers (Unit and/or Zone)

Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5	Affected Entity
Ensure incoming pre-position or detailed personnel are briefed on local conditions.			X	X	X	Agency
Evaluate work/rest needs of IA crews.			X	X	X	Agency
Coordinate with adjoining agencies on available resources			X	X	X	Agency
Consider patrols and pre-positioning of local IA resources in high risk areas.				X	X	Agency
Consider pre-positioning and/or detailing of additional IA resources from off-unit.				X	X	Agency
Consider bringing in local resources from scheduled days off.				X	X	Agency
Consider suspending Rx fire operations.				X	X	Agency
If preparedness level is decreasing, consider releasing pre-positioned and detailed resources.			X	X	X	Agency

Appendix D: ***PREVENTION PLAN***

The Idaho Falls District BLM Prevention Plan and the Caribou/Targhee National Forest Prevention Plan are stand-alone documents and reside in the dispatch center.

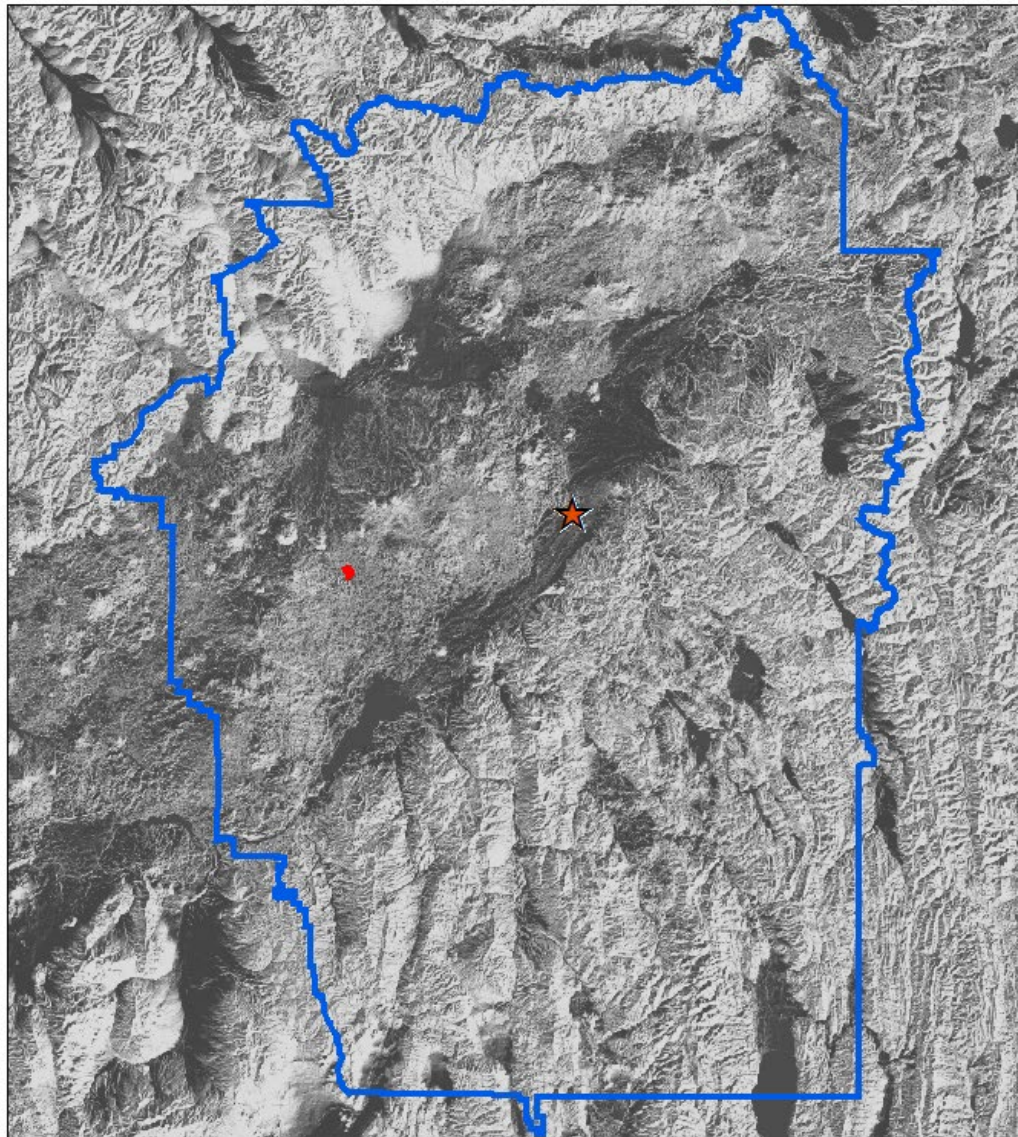
Appendix E: ***RESTRICTION / CLOSURE PLAN***

The Idaho Fire Restriction plan is online at:

<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/fire-restrictions-finder/>

Appendix F: **TOPOGRAPHY**

Topography



0 5 10 20
Miles



Legend

 EIIFC Boundary

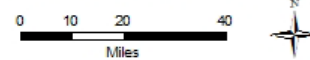
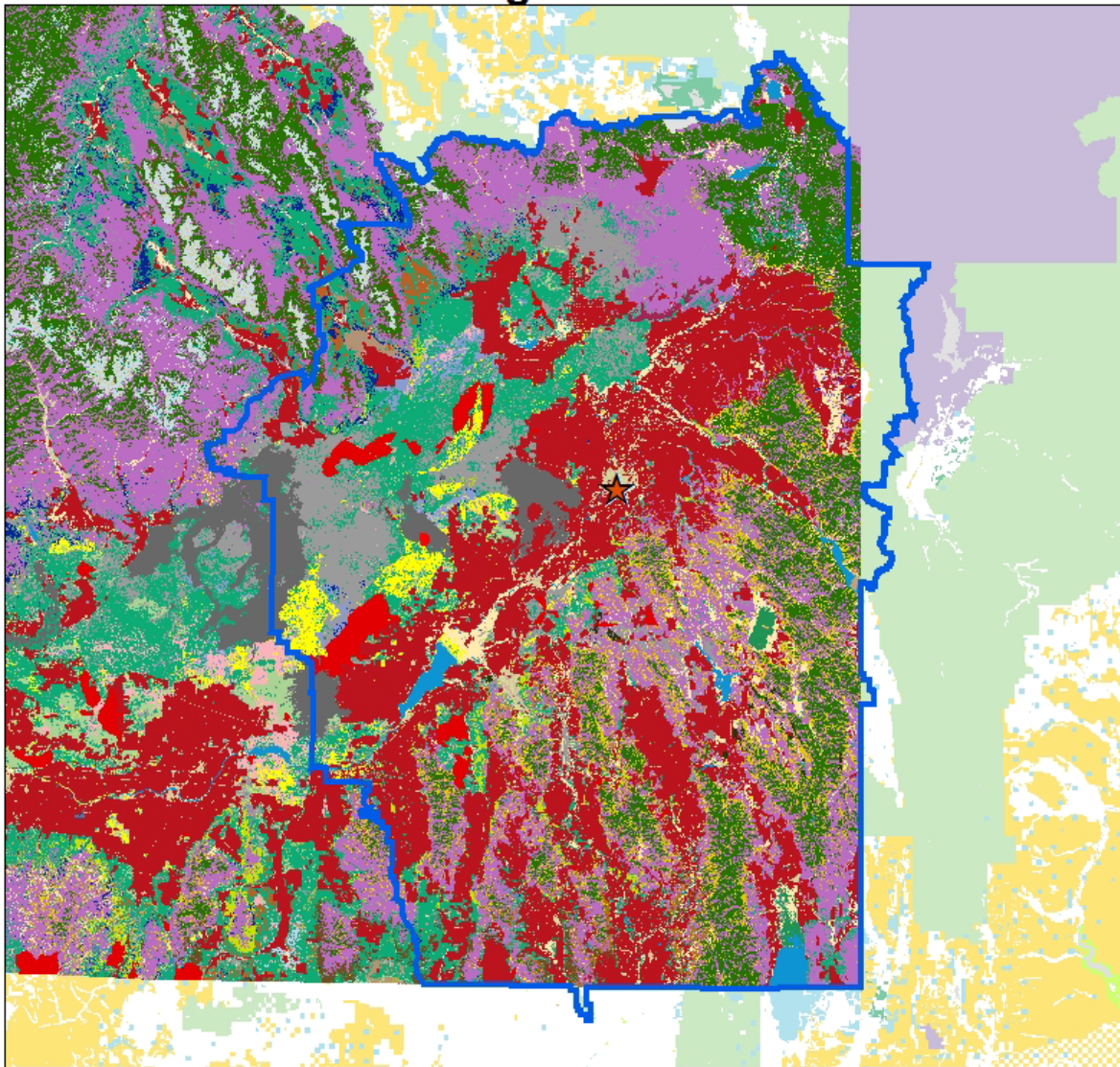


United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District, Idaho
Friday, April 29, 2016 11:07:13 AM
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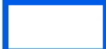
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.

Appendix G: **VEGETATION**

Vegetation



Legend

 EIIFC Boundary

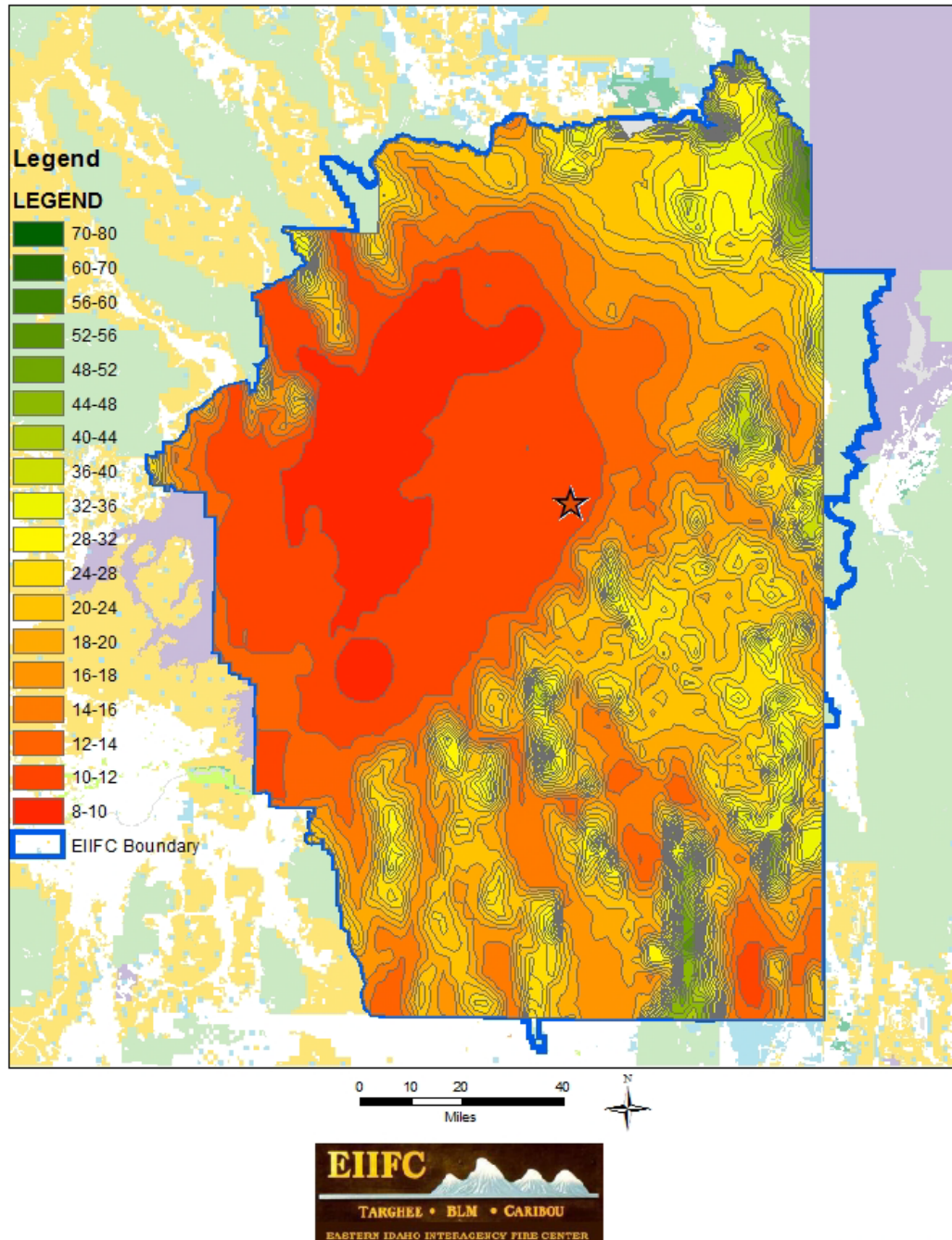


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Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District, Idaho
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No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with this data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.

Appendix H: **CLIMATE**

Precipitation



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District, Idaho
Friday, April 29, 2016 12:11:22 PM
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No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.

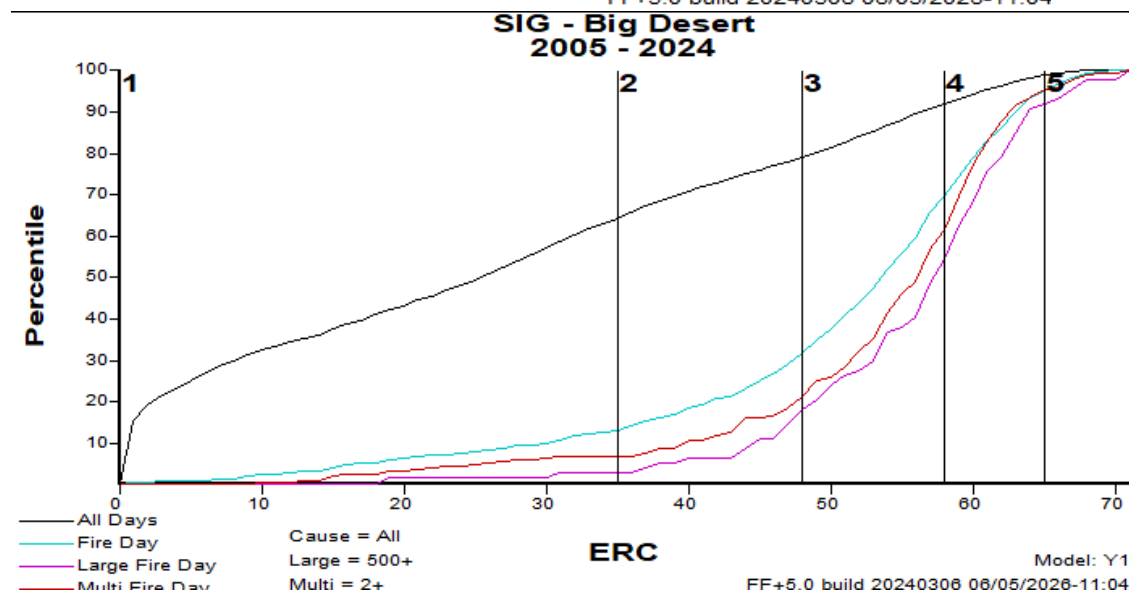
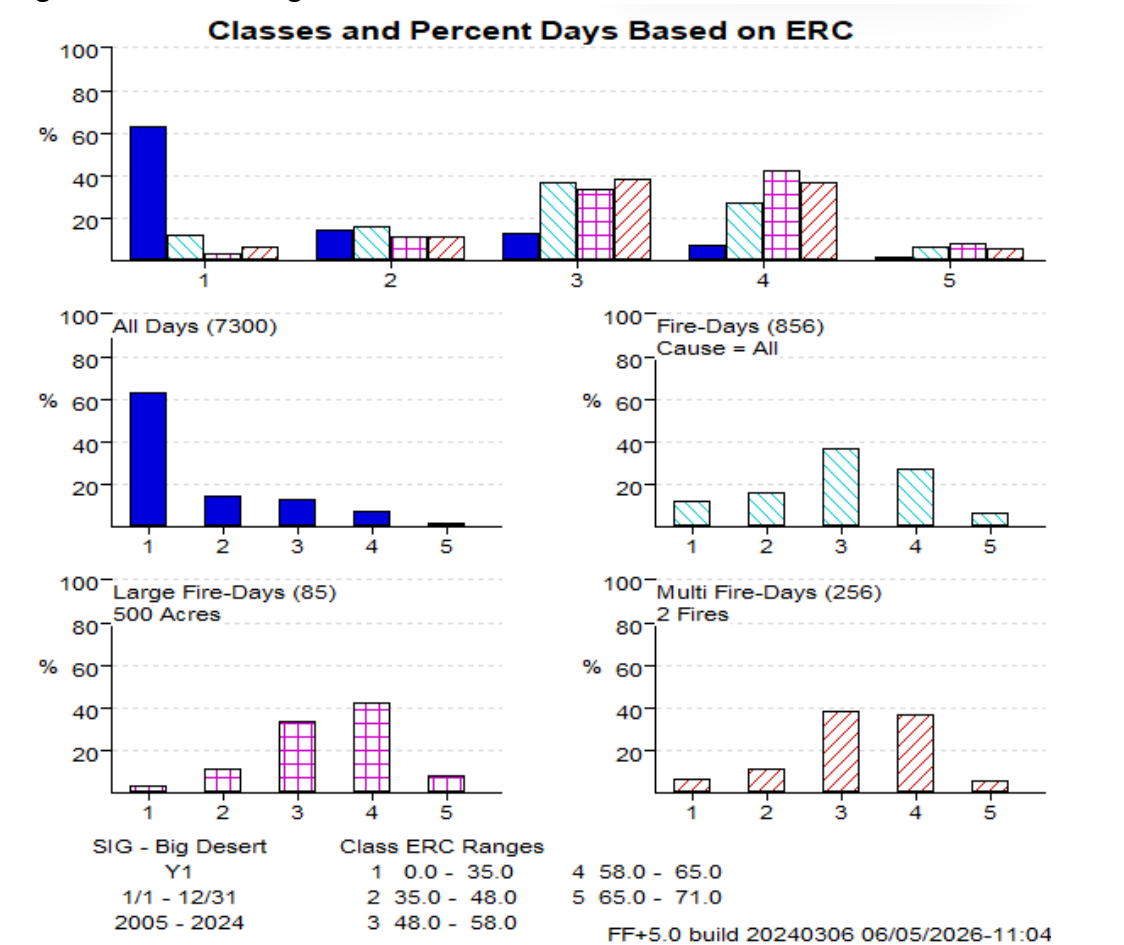
Appendix I: ***Plinko Chart***

LOCAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL WORKSHEET

#1	Energy Release Comp Model Y (Big Desert) Model Y (Centennial) Model Y (Caribou)	☒ ⇒	0-34 0-27 0-28	☐	35-47 28-40 29-35	☐	48-57 41-49 36-49	☐	58-64 50-56 50-56	☐	65+ 57+ 57+	☐		
	Model Y 1000 HR FM (Centennial and Caribou) Live Fuel Moisture (Big Desert)	☒ ⇒	>10% >100%	☐	<10% <100%	☐	>10% >100%	☐	<10% <100%	☐	>10% >100%	☐	<10% <100%	☐
#3	2 or more ICS-209s Duty officer discretion (variables not listed-see narrative)	☒ ⇒	No	☐	Yes	☐	No	☐	Yes	☐	No	☐	Yes	☐
	Preparedness Level	I	II	III	IV	V								

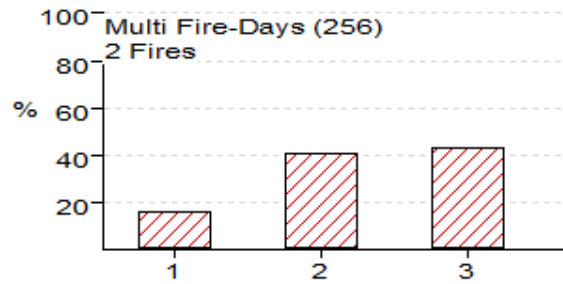
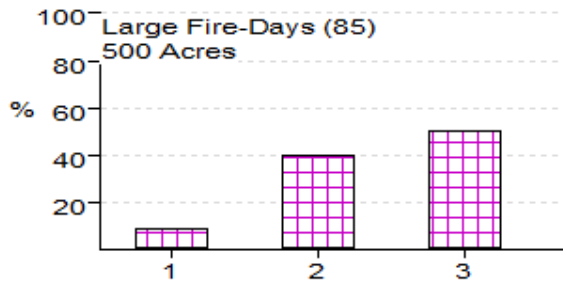
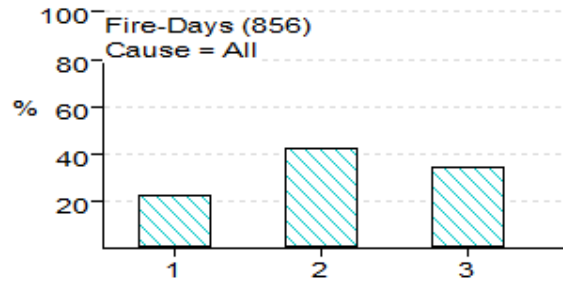
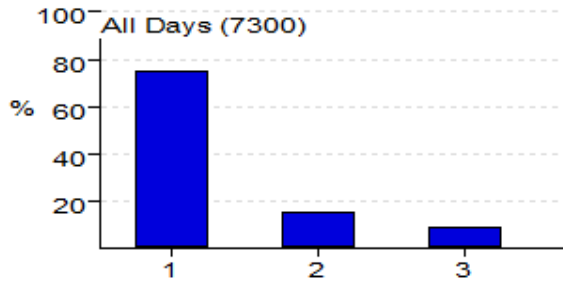
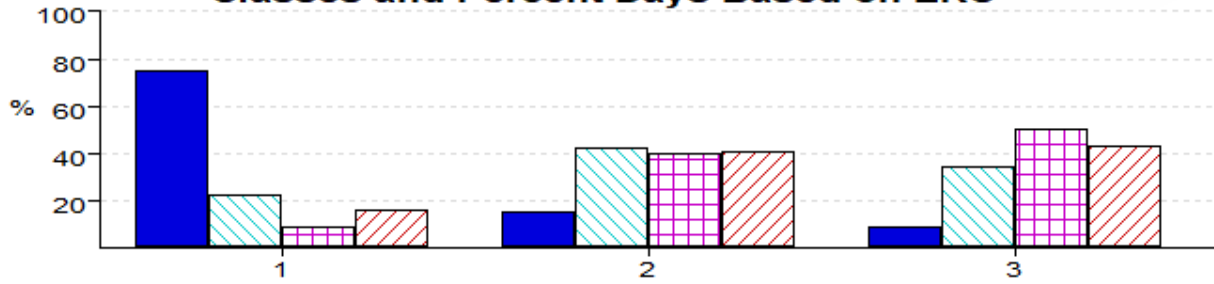
APPENDIX J: FIREFAMILYPLUS ANALYSIS

Big Desert ERC 5 categories



Big Desert ERC 3 categories

Classes and Percent Days Based on ERC

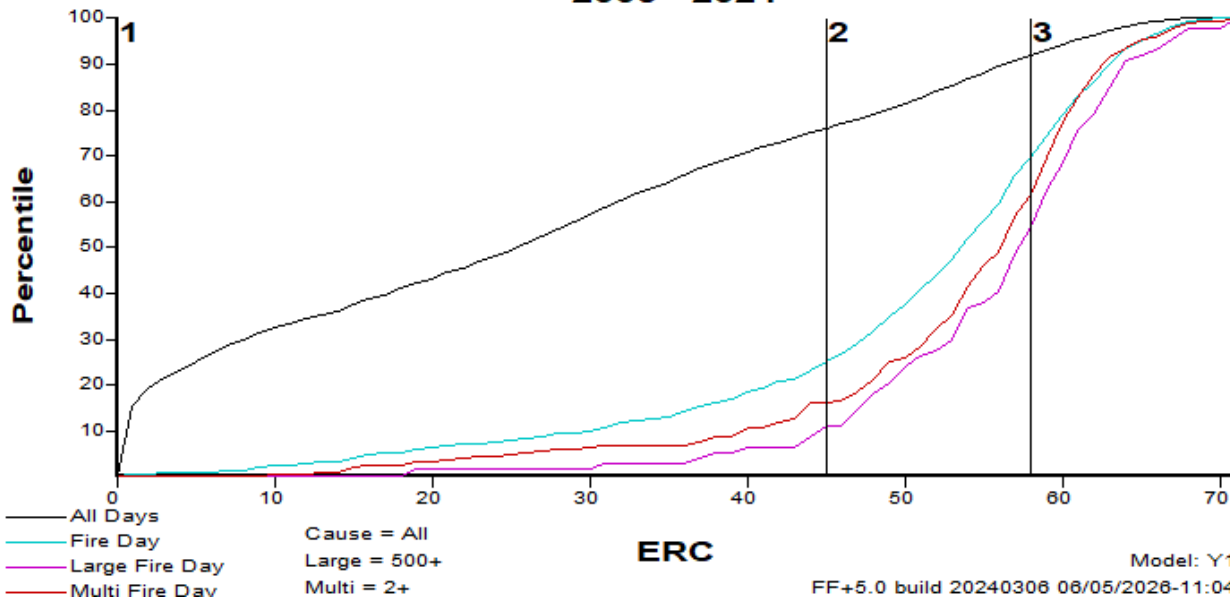


SIG - Big Desert
Y1
1/1 - 12/31
2005 - 2024

Class ERC Ranges
1 0.0 - 45.0
2 45.0 - 58.0
3 58.0 - 71.0

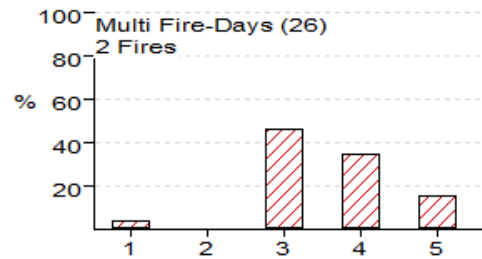
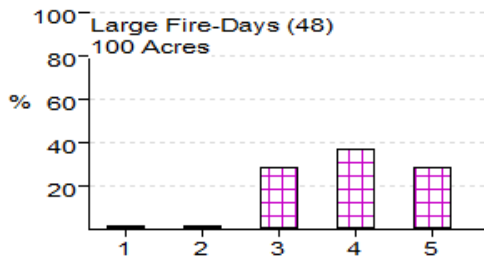
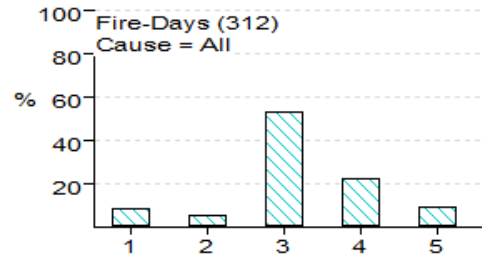
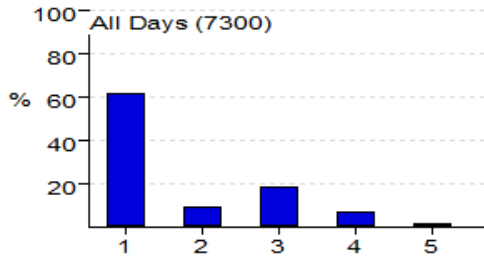
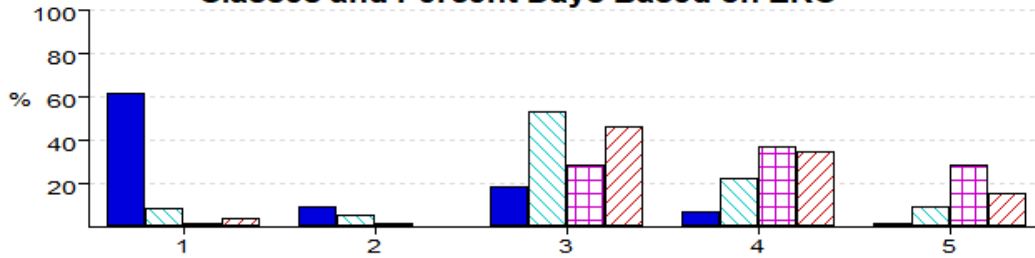
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SIG - Big Desert
2005 - 2024



Caribou ERC 5 categories

Classes and Percent Days Based on ERC



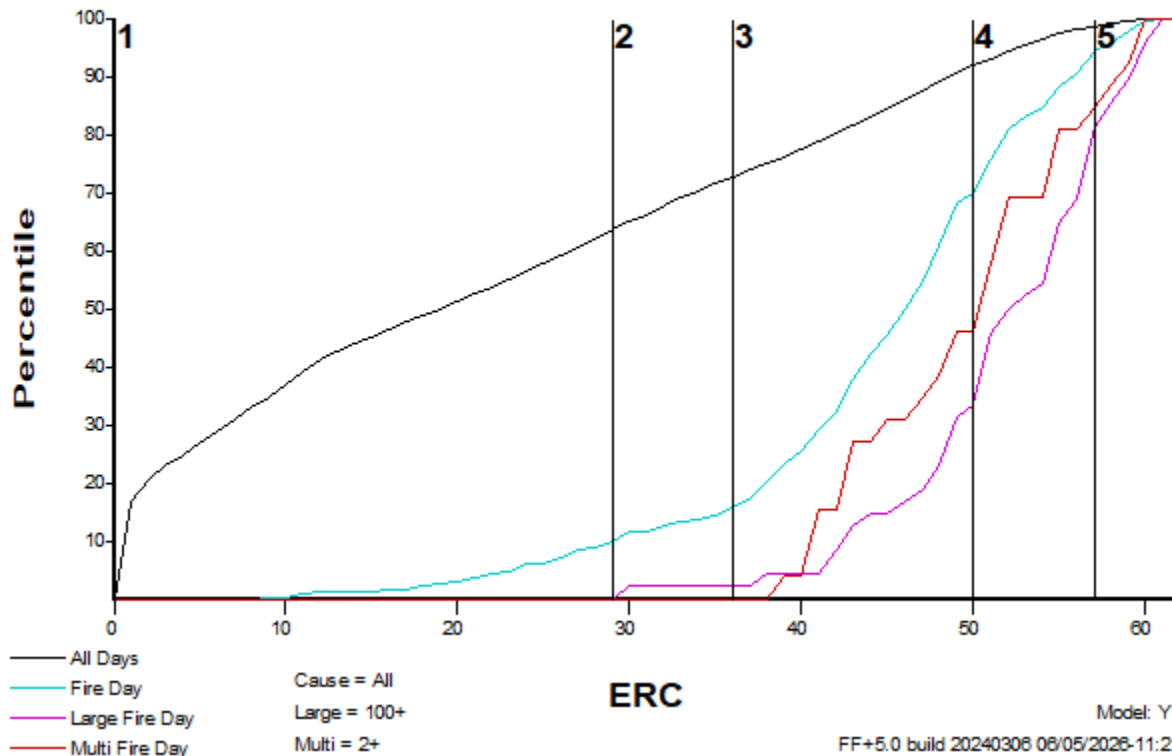
SIG - Caribou
Y1
1/1 - 12/31
2005 - 2024

Class ERC Ranges
1 0.0 - 29.0
2 29.0 - 36.0
3 36.0 - 50.0

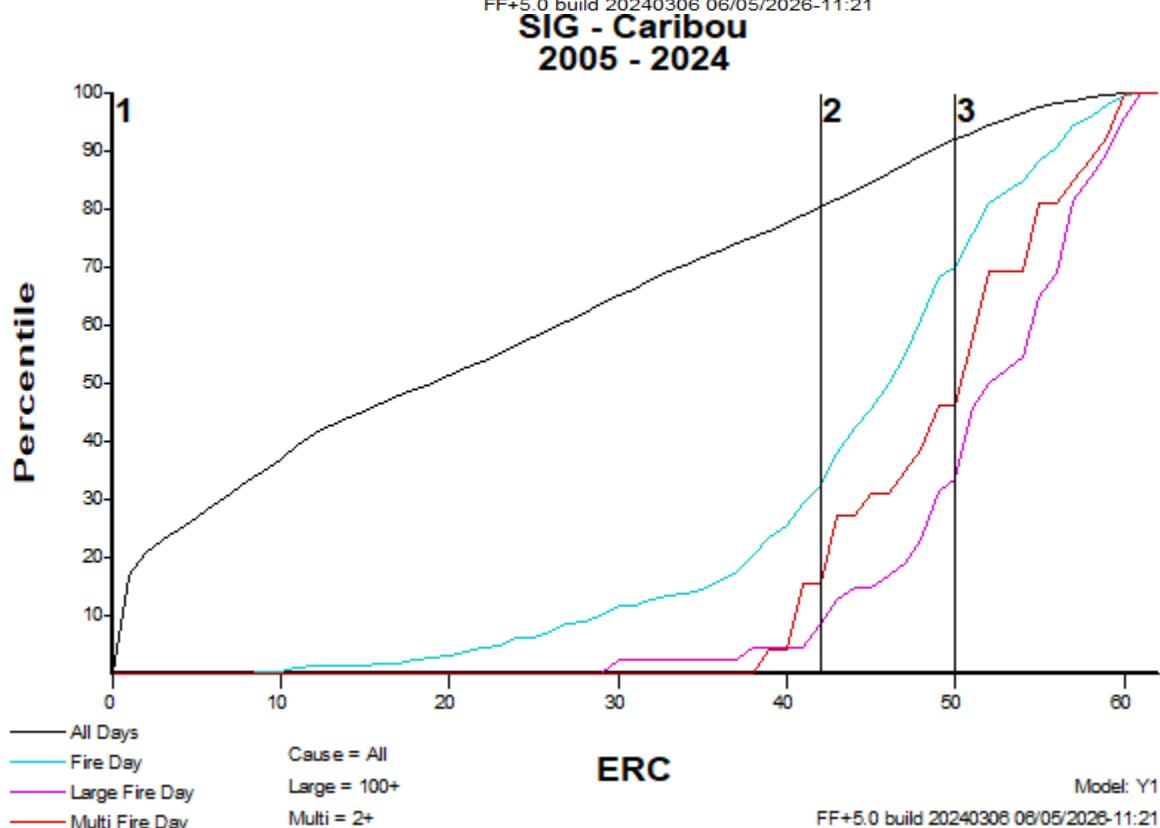
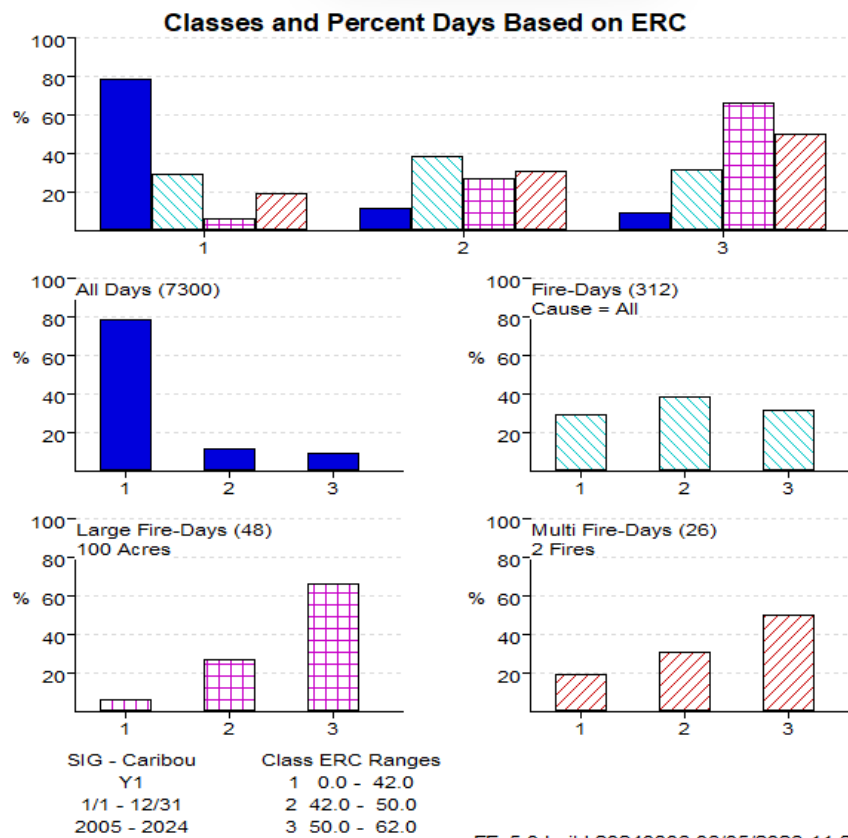
4 50.0 - 57.0
5 57.0 - 62.0

FF+5.0 build 20240306 06/05/2026-11:21

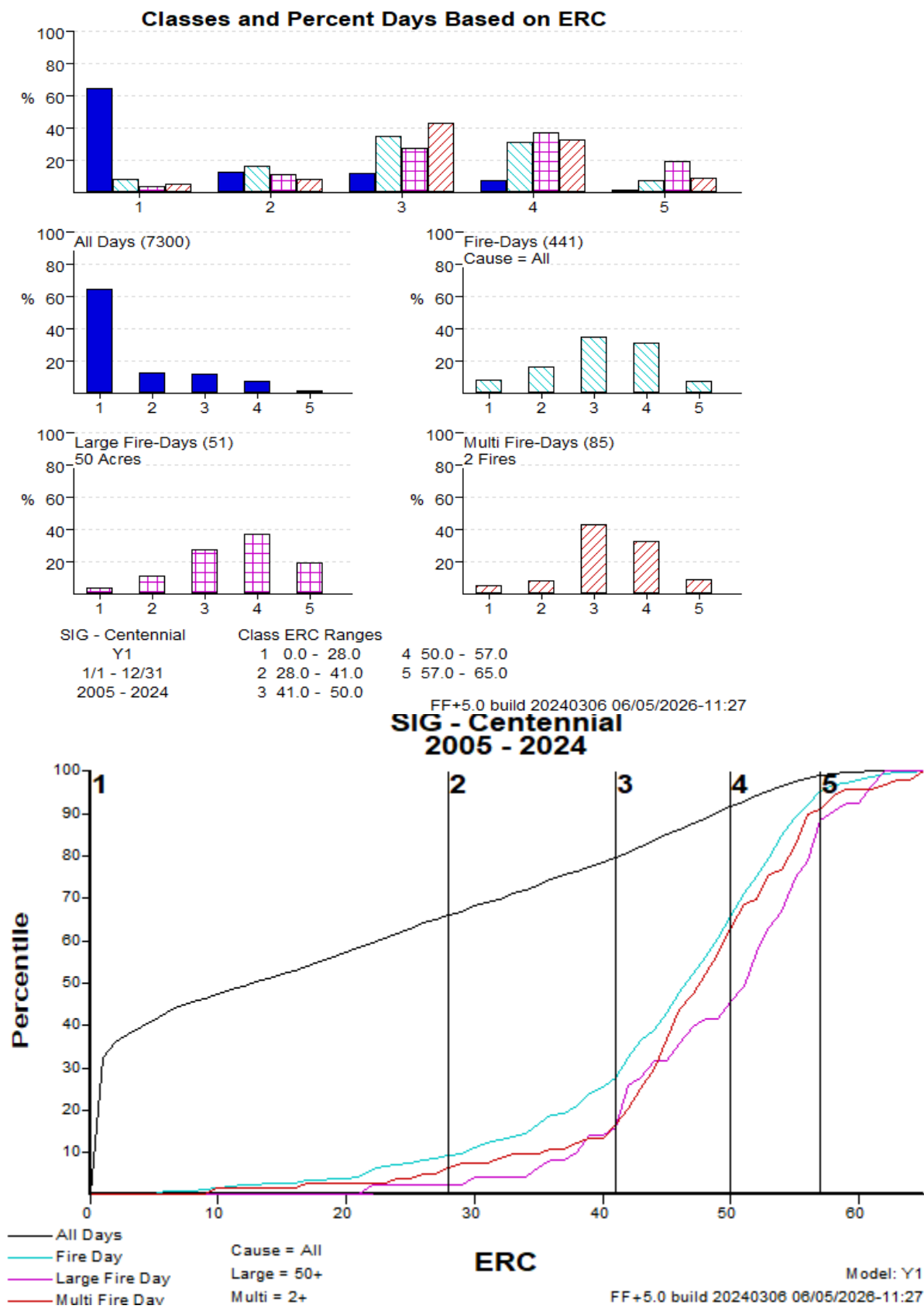
**SIG - Caribou
2005 - 2024**



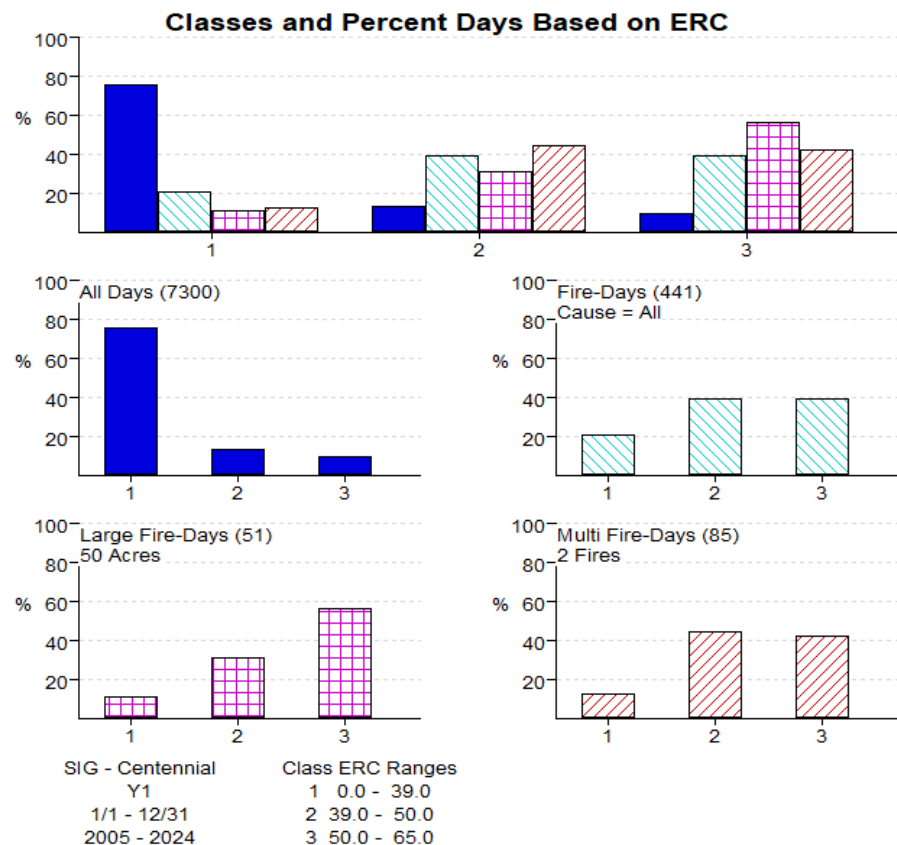
Caribou ERC 3 categories



Centennial ERC 5 categories

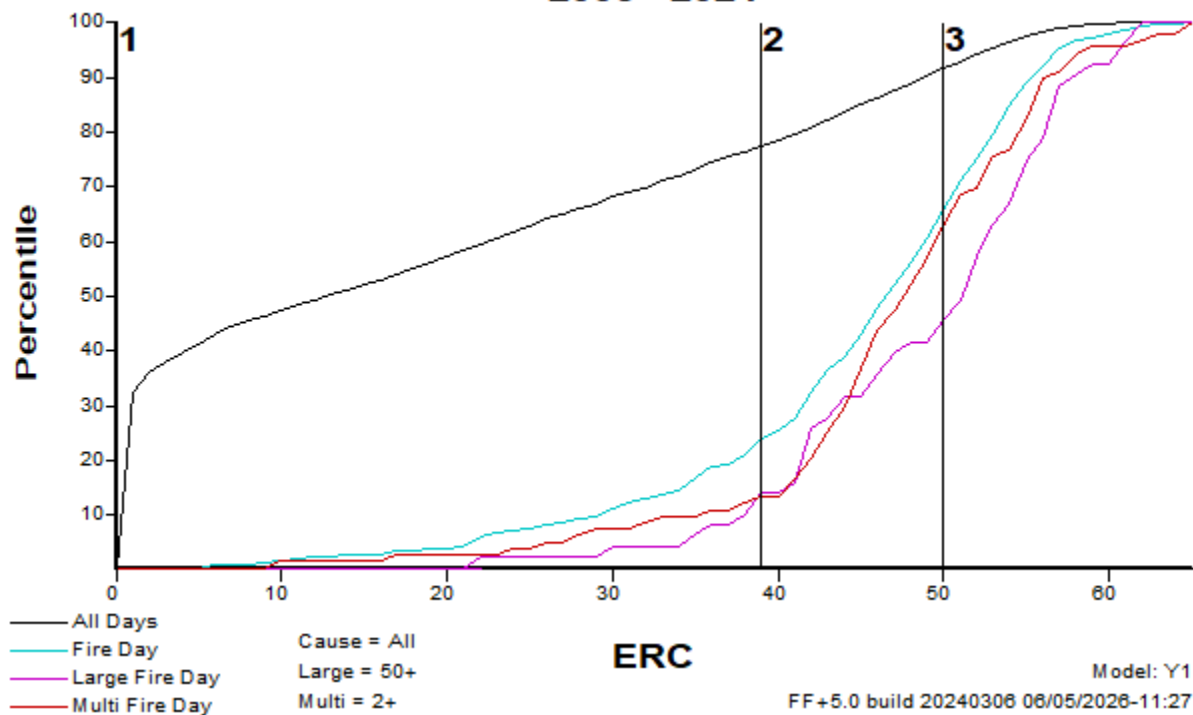


Centennial ERC 3 categories



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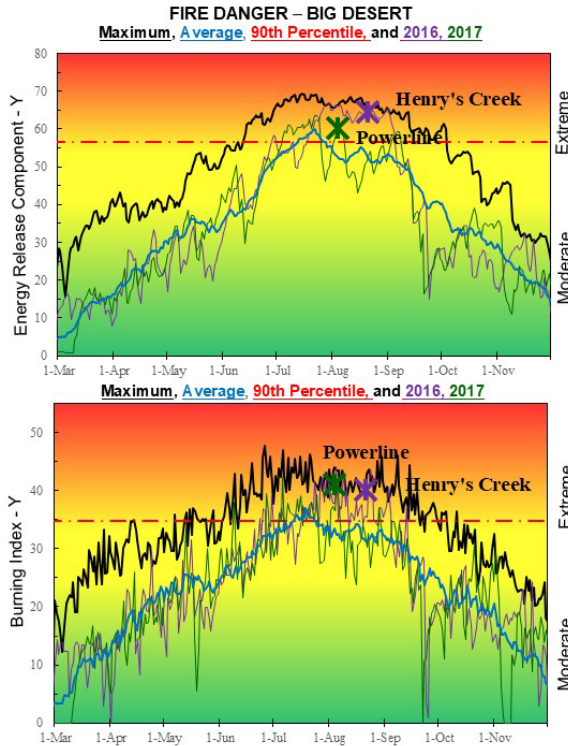
SIG - Centennial 2005 - 2024



APPENDIX K: Prescribed Fire Go/No Go Checklist

The updated NWCG Prescribed Fire Template is online and accessible by:
<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms484-1>

Appendix L: Fire Danger Pocket Cards



Fire Danger Area:

- Big Desert FDRA
- East Idaho Interagency Fire Center
- Fire Weather Zones 410, 413
- SIG – Crystal (103703)* Bull Canyon (103704)* Flint Creek (104203)*
- *Meets NWCG Weather Station Standards



Fire Danger Graph Interpretation:

MAXIMUM – Highest ERC / BI by day for 2005 - 2024
AVERAGE – Average daily ERC / BI value for 2005 - 2024
Year to Remember – 2016, 2017

90th Annual Percentile ERC – 10% of the days from 2005-2024 were over 57

90th Annual Percentile BI – 10% of the days from 2005-2024 were over 35

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

✓ Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends based on temperature, RH, solar radiation, and precipitation.

✓ Burning Index gives day to day fluctuations based on temperature, RH, solar radiation, precipitation, and WIND.

Local Thresholds – Watch Out:

A combination of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
 Wind Speed $\geq$ 15 mph, Relative Humidity $\leq$ 17%, Temperature $\geq$ 87 degrees.

Fire Behavior/Danger Experience:

* WIND is a significant factor in large fire growth in this FDRA, even at more moderate ERCs. Microburst winds from thunderstorms and strong and shifting winds from cold fronts can produce increased and erratic fire behavior.

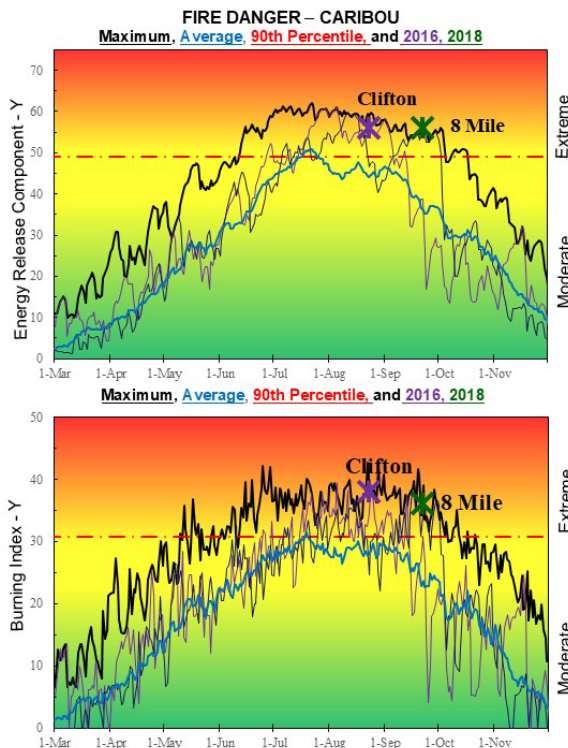
* Years with abundant and continuous GRASS FUELS can create conditions for large, fast-moving fires. Sagebrush LIVE FUEL MOISTURE < 100% facilitates large fire growth.

Past Fires:

August 2016: Henrys Creek – 8/21/2016, east of Idaho Falls, 52,512 ac. After an extended period of low RH. Strong south winds pushed the fire. Near record max BI at closest RAWWS.

August 2017: Powerline, 8/4/2017, Arbon Valley, 55,529 ac. Wild Horse (7/30), Lava Flow (8/2) were also each >20,000 ac. Period of unusually high temps and accompanying low RH.

Responsible Agency : East Idaho Interagency Fire Produced June 24, 2026



Fire Danger Area:

- Caribou FDRA
- East Idaho Interagency Fire Center
- Fire Weather Zones 413
- SIG – Dale Bitner (103102)* Diamond Flat (103904)* Flint Creek (104203)*
- *Meets NWCG Weather Station Standards



Fire Danger Graph Interpretation:

MAXIMUM – Highest ERC / BI by day for 2005 - 2024
AVERAGE – Average daily ERC / BI value for 2005 - 2024
Year to Remember – 2016, 2018

90th Annual Percentile ERC – 10% of the days from 2005-2024 were over 49

90th Annual Percentile BI – 10% of the days from 2005-2024 were over 31

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

✓ Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends based on temperature, RH, solar radiation, and precipitation.

✓ Burning Index gives day to day fluctuations based on temperature, RH, solar radiation, precipitation, and WIND.

Local Thresholds – Watch Out:

A combination of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
 Wind Speed $\geq$ 15 mph, Relative Humidity $\leq$ 20%, Temperature $\geq$ 84 degrees.

Fire Behavior/Danger Experience:

* WIND is a significant factor in large fire growth in this FDRA, even at more moderate ERCs. Microburst winds from thunderstorms and strong and shifting winds from cold fronts can produce increased and erratic fire behavior.

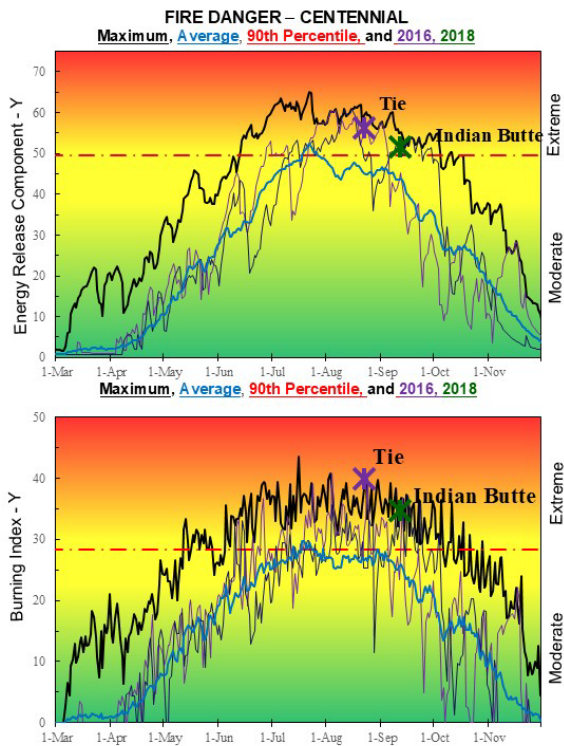
* Low 1000-hr fuel moisture and conifer live fuel moisture can be indicators of elevated fire danger.

Past Fires:

August 2016: Peterson Hollow - 8/21, UT/ID border, 1,242 ac. Clifton - 8/23, Oxford Mt, 2,413 ac. Tincup Mt - 8/29, Caribou Range, 783 ac. Elevated ERC late July - end August. Extended low RH.

September 2018: 8 Mile - 9/22, 1,016 ac. Oneida, 9/19, 911 ac. Bear River Range. Extended low RH led to seasonal record ERCs. Fires grew rapidly with higher winds.

Responsible Agency : East Idaho Interagency Fire Produced June 24, 2026



Fire Danger Area:

- Centennial FDRA
- East Idaho Interagency Fire Center
- Fire Weather Zones 410, 411
- SIG – 3 Mile (102004)* Coyote Meadows (480709)*
- Moody (102301)*
- *Meets NWCG Weather Station Standards



Fire Danger Graph Interpretation:

MAXIMUM – Highest ERC / BI by day for 2005 - 2024

AVERAGE – Average daily ERC / BI value for 2005 – 2024

Year to Remember – 2016, 2018

90th Annual Percentile ERC – 10% of the days from 2005-2024 were over **50**

90th Annual Percentile BI – 10% of the days from 2005-2024 were over **28**

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

- ✓ Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends based on temperature, RH, solar radiation, and precipitation.
- ✓ Burning Index gives day to day fluctuations based on temperature, RH, solar radiation, precipitation, and WIND.

Local Thresholds – Watch Out:

A combination of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:

Wind Speed $\geq$ 15 mph, Relative Humidity $\leq$ 20%, Temperature $\geq$ 81 degrees.

Fire Behavior/Danger Experience:

- * WIND is a significant factor in large fire growth in this FDRA, even at more moderate ERCs. Microburst winds from thunderstorms and strong and shifting winds from cold fronts can produce increased and erratic fire behavior.
- * Low 1000-hr fuel moisture and conifer live fuel moisture can be indicators of elevated fire danger.

Past Fires:

Tie – 8/22/2016, west of Victor, 1,031 ac. High winds and low RH contributed to fire growth. Black fire (8/19, 1,040 ac.) was also burning west of Tie fire. Near record max BI at nearest RAWSS.

Indian Butte – 9/12/2018, west of I-15 near the ID/MT border, 12,572 ac. Wind was the largest contributing factor with gusts to 40+ mph.