STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

September 20, 2022 Department Report

Subject

Fire Season Update

Background

As of September 13, Emergency Fire Suppression expenditures are estimated to be \$18,740,000. The Suppression Account will recover an estimated \$5,900,000 of reimbursable costs, for a net obligation of \$12,840,000. The total obligation includes the 2022 contracted aircraft costs and prepositioned contract engines to assist with resource scarcity. These engines are assigned across the state to boost initial attack resources.

Discussion

On September 8, the Prospect fire was detected 23 miles NNE of Moscow. It is approximately 286 acres in logging slash and heavy timber. The North Idaho Type 3 Incident Management Team 2 began managing the fire September 5. It is now 100 percent contained and being managed by the local district.

As shown by the table below, fire occurrence to date for 2022 is 90 percent of the 20-year average, while the acres burned is 16 percent of the 20-year average.

Fire Season Comparison to Date

Number of Fires					
Year	Human	Lightning	Total	Acres	
2019	130	92	222	1263	
2020	173	49	222	6020	
2021	227	155	382	141,883	
2022	112	134	246	3887	
20 Yr. Average			272	24,599	

Numbers in table are YTD for prior years and YTD for the current year.

August was much warmer and drier than average. Fire size and frequency has been increasing throughout IDL protection. Nationally resources are stretched thin and resource competition remains high. Idaho is currently in very high to extreme fire danger. Some rain is forecasted throughout the next week. Fires have been burning actively, although the shortening days, cooler nights, and smoke shading are assisting firefighting efforts.

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Significant Fires Outside of IDL Protection

Kootenai River Complex

Agency/Management: Idaho Panhandle National Forest (USFS)

General Location: 7 miles NW of Bonners Ferry, ID Acres burned: 20,742 acres, 79 percent completed

Ross Fork Fire

Agency/Management: Sawtooth National Forest (USFS) General Location: 2 miles West of Smiley Creek, ID Acres burned: 37,731 acres, 26 percent completed

Williams Creek Fire

Agency/Management: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests (USFS)

General Location: 5 miles West of Orogrande, ID Acres burned: 15,773 acres, 31 percent completed

Four Corners Fire

Agency/Management: Payette National Forest (USFS)

General Location: 6 miles West of Cascade, ID Acres burned: 13,725 acres, 96 percent contained

Moose Fire

Agency/Management: Salmon-Challis National Forest (USFS)

General Location: 17 miles North of Salmon, ID Acres burned: 130,077 acres, 47 percent contained

Total Acres Burned by Ownership				
9/14/2022				
Surface Owner	Acres			
Idaho Department of Lands	2414			
Other State Lands	104			
Private	20,541			
Bureau of Land Management	30,124			
Other Federal	6888			
U.S. Forest Service	287,800			
Total Acres	347,871			

Only fires with perimeters in the Fire Enterprise Geospatial Portal and the IDL Lands Resource Manager system have been included in the analysis.

Fire Deficiency Warrant Spending - 2022 Fire Season YTD					
Category	Estimated Costs	Notes			
Aviation Resources	\$3,000,000	4 SEATS, 2 Fire Bosses, 2 Type 2 Helicopters			
Preposition Engines	\$385,000	5 Contract engines to boost IA statewide, 8/1/2022 – 9/15/2022			
IDL Team Fires	\$4,400,000	Lions Roar (PLS), Quinn (CMS), Prospect (PDS)			
IDL Non-Team Fires	\$2,325,000	IDL/Assn fires including pre-positioning			
Other Suppression	\$2,730,000	Coeur d'Alene Cache, Dispatch			
Other Suppression	\$5,900,000	Reimbursable (IDL and Fire Department resources supporting non-IDL fires)			
Total Estimate YTD	\$18,740,000				

Attachments

- 1. Significant Fires Throughout Idaho
- 2. Current Fire Restrictions Map



