

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

July 18, 2023
Department Report

Subject

Fire Season Update

Background

As of July 13, Emergency Fire Suppression expenditures are estimated to be \$4,590,000. The Suppression Account will recover an estimated \$145,000 of reimbursable costs, for a net obligation of \$4,445,000. The total obligation includes the 2023 contracted aircraft costs and prepositioned contract engines to assist with resource scarcity. These engines will be assigned across the state to boost initial attack resources.

Discussion

Currently there are no IDL fires being managed with an Incident Management Team.

Fire Season Comparison to Date

Number and Size of Fires (Year to Date)				
Year	Human	Lightning	Total	Acres
2020	44	11	55	280
2021	137	53	190	61,996
2022	26	10	36	42
2023*	91	26	117	503
20 Yr. Average (2002-2022)			80	9,724

*2023 fires are calculated using the protection boundaries of the new Idaho Master Agreement which has increased the area in which IDL is the protecting agency. Therefore, there is a known inconsistency between 2023 numbers and 20-year averages.

May and June have put northern Idaho on a rapid drying trend with above average temperatures and below normal precipitation. Southern Idaho has been cooler and wetter than average with a generally slow start to the fire season. The long-term weather forecast indicates a warmer than normal fire season with near normal precipitation. The National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook shows most of north and southwest Idaho having elevated fire risk through September.

There are no fire restrictions in place.

Significant Fires Outside of IDL Protection

There are no significant fires in Idaho outside of IDL protection.

Total Acres Burned by Ownership	
7/13/2023	
Surface Owner	Acres
Bureau of Land Management	5,905
Other Federal	0
Private	714
State Endowment	224
Tribal	24
U.S. Forest Service	316
Total Acres	7,185

Only fires with perimeters in the Fire Enterprise Geospatial Portal have been included in the analysis.

Fire Deficiency Warrant Spending - 2023 Fire Season YTD		
Category	Estimated Costs	Notes
Aviation Resources	\$2,750,000	4 SEATS, 2 Fire Bosses, 2 Type 2 Helicopters
Prepositioned Engines	\$885,500	10 Contract engines statewide to boost IA, between 8/1/2023 – 9/15/2023
IDL Non-Team Fires	\$234,500	IDL/Assn fires including pre-positioning
Other Suppression Non-reimbursable	\$575,000	Coeur d'Alene Cache, Dispatch and emergency equipment expenses
Other Suppression Reimbursable	\$145,000	Reimbursable (IDL and Fire Department resources supporting non-IDL fires)
Total Estimate YTD	\$4,590,000	Does not include Cost Share Fires which will be reported in October