

# STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

October 17, 2023  
Department Report

## Subject

Fire Season Update

## Background

As of October 10, Emergency Fire Suppression expenditures are estimated to be \$22,060,500. The Suppression Account will recover an estimated \$4,683,000 of reimbursable costs, for a net obligation of \$17,377,500. The total obligation includes the 2023 contracted aircraft costs and prepositioned contract engines to assist with resource scarcity. These engines were assigned across the state to boost initial attack resources.

## Discussion

As shown by the table below, fire occurrence to date for 2023 is 99 percent of the 20-year average, while the acres burned is 10 percent of the 20-year average.

**Fire Season Comparison to Date**

Number and Size of Fires (Year to Date)				
Year	Human	Lightning	Total	Acres
2020	190	50	240	6,879
2021	237	154	391	141,981
2022	127	153	280	4,614
2023*	206	78	284	2,582
20 Yr. Average (2002-2022)			288	24,784

\*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.

Temperatures and precipitation are returning to seasonal norms and no significant fire danger and activity is expected.

## Significant Fires Outside of IDL Protection

<b>Total Acres Burned by Ownership</b>	
10/10/2023	
<b>Surface Owner</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Bureau of Land Management	12,353
Other Federal	372
Private	8,003
State Endowment	1,396
Tribal	29
U.S. Forest Service	64,789
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>86,942</b>

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

<b>Fire Deficiency Warrant Spending - 2023 Fire Season through Oct. 10</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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	\$6,617,000	IDL/Assn fires including pre-positioning
IDL Team Fires	\$6,550,000	IDL Team Fire, 3 Type 3
Other Suppression Non-reimbursable	\$575,000	Coeur d’Alene Cache, Dispatch and emergency equipment expenses
Other Suppression Reimbursable	\$4,683,000	Reimbursable (IDL and Fire Department resources supporting non-IDL fires)
<b>Total Estimate YTD</b>	<b>\$22,060,500</b>	

## Suppression Spending History

Fire Season Estimated Costs from Annual Reports			
	Idaho Fire Suppression Costs	Reimbursable	Idaho Obligation
2020	\$ 28,500,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 25,400,000
2021	\$ 74,600,000	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 67,400,000
2022	\$ 25,700,000	\$ 8,560,000	\$ 17,140,000
2023	\$ 22,060,500	\$ 4,683,000	\$ 17,377,500

Numbers for 2023 are YTD.

## Master Agreement

This fire season was the first year for the new master agreement. It created savings to IDL of 2 fires and 3,343 acres burned in comparison to the 2016 Master Agreement. This is only one year. Results can vary significantly from year to year.

## Attachments

1. Map–Significant Fires Throughout Idaho

# 2023 Wildland Fires in Idaho

10/6/2023

## Fire Perimeter Categories

- Current Month
- Last Month
- Two Months Ago
- Three Months and Older

## Surface Management

- Idaho Endowment Lands
- Other State Private
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Tribal Lands
- Other Federal



Perimeters obtained from: NIFC InFORM system.  
Only fires greater than 100 acres are displayed on the map unless otherwise requested.

"This map has been compiled using the best information available to the Idaho Department of Lands at the time and may be updated and/or revised without notice. In situations where known accuracy and completeness is required, the user has the responsibility to verify the accuracy of the map and the underlying data sources."

Map Created 10/6/2023 by IDL GIS

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

