

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2024
Consent Agenda

Subject

Deficiency Warrant Authority for Fire Suppression Costs in Fiscal Year 2025.

Question Presented

Shall the Land Board authorize issuance of deficiency warrants to pay fire suppression costs in FY2025?

Background

Title 38, Chapter 1, Idaho Code – Idaho Forestry Act.

Discussion

Idaho Code § 38-131 states: *"In the event the actual cost for control or suppression of forest fires in any forest protective district exceeds in any one (1) year the maximum moneys available for forest protection in that district from the general fund provided for that purpose, the State Board of Land Commissioners may authorize the issuance of deficiency warrants for the purpose of defraying such excess costs and when so authorized the state controller shall, after notice to the state treasurer, draw deficiency warrants against the general fund."*

Annual fire suppression costs for the State of Idaho are impossible to predict; as a budgetary placeholder, the legislature includes a minimal suppression appropriation each year in the Idaho Department of Lands' (Department) budget. Actual costs will exceed the appropriation before the fire season is over. A graph representing the state of Idaho's wildland fire annual costs over the last 20 years, adjusted for inflation to represent 2024 dollars, is shown in Attachment 1. The Department will provide monthly fire suppression expense updates to the Land Board throughout the 2024 fire season.

Recommendation

Authorize issuance of deficiency warrants to pay the fire suppression costs in FY2025.

Board Action

Attachments

1. 20-year Wildland Fire Annual Cost Graph

Idaho Wildland Fire Annual Cost (CPI-U Adjusted)

