

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

August 18, 2026
Director's Update

Subject

Fire Season Update

Background

As of August 11, Emergency Fire Suppression expenditures are estimated to be \$25,550,000. The suppression account will recover an estimated \$7,760,000 of reimbursable costs, for a net obligation of \$17,790,000. The total obligation includes the 2026 contracted aircraft costs.

Discussion

Fire Season Comparison to Date

Number and Size of Fires (Year to Date)				
Year	Human	Lightning	Total	Acres
2023	152	46	198	1,969
2024	149	94	243	23,572
2025	196	82	278	1,382
2026	132	29	161	9,464
3 Yr. Average (2023-2025)			166	18,434

There has been a notable increase in drying trends across Idaho over the past several weeks. The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook shows above average fire potential for the entire state during August and September. The August outlook calls for above-average temperatures statewide, with northern Idaho showing equal chances for precipitation and southern Idaho seeing a potential increase in moisture, though this often brings higher lightning ignition risk. Any rain will assist with ongoing fires, but, with fine fuels being cured, long duration benefit will be limited. Drought conditions persist across most of the state, with some improvement in north-central Idaho following July rains. Fuels remain receptive, and any new ignitions have the potential for rapid growth under the current hot and dry pattern.

Fire restrictions are in place for most of Idaho. The attached map shows the location and type of restrictions in place at this time.

The Idaho National Guard has been activated. There are two Type 1 water-dropping helicopters and one Type 1 medivac helicopter.

Significant Idaho Fires Outside of IDL Protection

Big Grass Fire

Agency/Management: US Wildland Fire Service (USWFS)
General Location: 25 miles southwest of Jordan Valley, OR
Acres burned: 553,972 acres, 35 percent containment

Big Rock Fire

Agency/Management: US Wildland Fire Service (USWFS)
General Location: 20 miles east of Idaho Falls, ID
Acres burned: 2,142 acres, 85 percent containment

Tartar Fire

Agency/Management: US Wildland Fire Service (USWFS)
General Location: 21 miles northwest of Weiser, ID
Acres burned: 158,027 acres, 89 percent containment

Upper Smith Fire

Agency/Management: Idaho Panhandle (USFS)
General Location: 20 miles northwest of Bonners Ferry, ID
Acres burned: 3,417 acres, 32 percent containment

Total Acres Burned by Ownership	
8/11/2026	
Surface Owner	Acres
US Wildland Fire Service	428,768
Other Federal	11,563
Other State	1,041
Private	158,651
State Endowment	40,886
Tribal	27
U.S. Forest Service	20,063
Undetermined	28
Total Acres	661,027

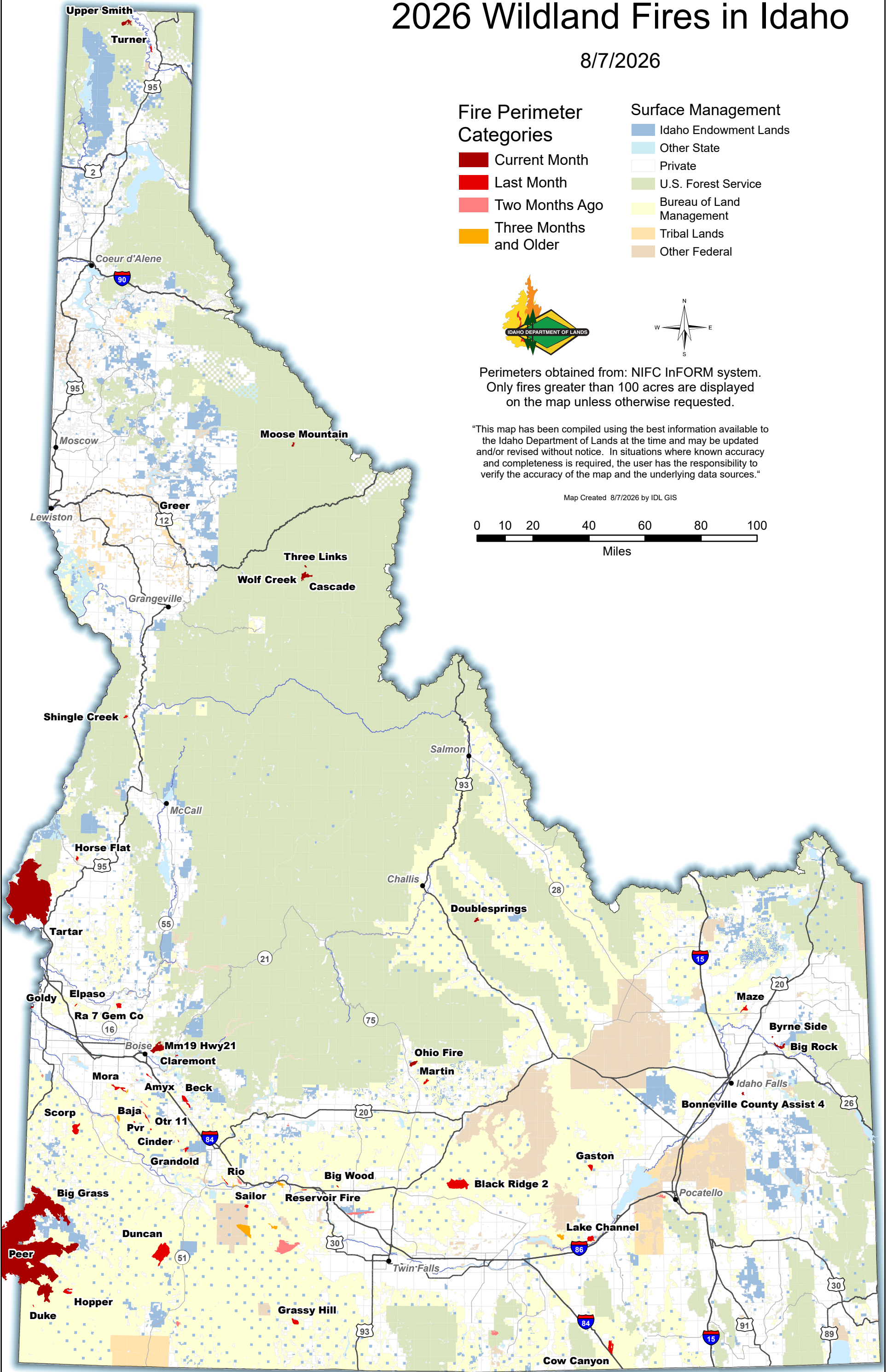
Fire Deficiency Warrant Spending - 2026 Fire Season YTD		
Category	Estimated Costs	Notes
Aviation Resources	\$ 4,900,000	2 SEATS, 4 Scoopers (Fire Boss), 1 Type 1 UH-60 Blackhawk, 1 Air Attack Platform
IDL Non-Team Fires	\$5,760,000	IDL/Assn fires including pre-positioning. Based on estimates and actuals.
IDL Team Fires	\$5,200,000	Gold Run (T3@CAS), Greer (T3@CTS), Ohio (T3@EIS)
Other Suppression/Non-reimbursable	\$1,930,000	Coeur d'Alene Cache: incoming and outgoing supplies not yet billed; Dispatch/Bureau cost when supporting multiple incidents.
Other Suppression/Reimbursable	\$7,760,000	Reimbursable (IDL and Fire Department resources supporting non-IDL fires).
Total Estimate YTD	\$25,550,000	

Attachments

1. Fire Information Map
2. Fire Restriction Map

2026 Wildland Fires in Idaho

8/7/2026



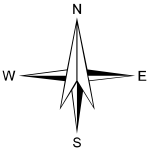
Idaho Fire Restrictions

8/7/2026

Restriction Stage

- Stage II
- Stage I
- No Restriction

Restriction Area	Restriction Zone	Restriction	Date Enacted
Boise	Owyhee, West Central, Treasure Valley	Stage I	08/07/2026
Central Idaho	Central Idaho	Stage I	08/07/2026
Coeur d'Alene	Kaniksu	None	
Coeur d'Alene	North Zone	Stage II	08/07/2026
Coeur d'Alene	South Zone	Stage I	08/07/2026
East Idaho	Centennial, Big Desert, Caribou Highlands	Stage I	08/07/2026
Grangeville	East Zone GVC, West Zone GVC	None	
Payette	Little Salmon Zone, Weiser River Zone, Payette NF West Zone, Payette NF East Zone, Long Valley/Meadows Valley Zone	Stage I	08/07/2026
South Idaho	Cassia Zone (National Forest)	Stage I	07/01/2026
South Idaho	Shoshone Zone, Sawtooth North (National Forest), Three Creek Zone, Cassia Zone, Sawtooth North	Stage I	08/07/2026



"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 8/7/2026 by IDL GIS

