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FIRE SEASON UPDATE

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

September 15, 2026

Director's Update

Subject

Fire Season Update

Background

As of August 24, Emergency Fire Suppression expenditures are estimated to be \$39,760,000. The suppression account will recover an estimated \$14,200,000 of reimbursable costs, for a net obligation of \$25,560,000. 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	195	76	271	4,853
2024	180	112	292	48,336
2025	229	114	343	4,699
2026	178	40	218	10,233
3 Yr. Average (2023-2025)			302	19,296

Drought conditions continue to be present in nearly all of Idaho. There are extensive areas of severe and extreme drought in north and south Idaho. Large parts of southwest Idaho are in exceptional drought. This has contributed to the large fire growth seen in southern Idaho. September is forecasted to be above normal temperatures with highest deviation from normal in southern Idaho. There is a slightly above normal chance of precipitation in southern Idaho in September. In areas with fully cured fuels, precipitation will have limited impact on fire danger. The National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook calls for above average fire potential across all of Idaho in September.

Idaho is completely out of restrictions beginning Friday, September 11.

Significant 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: 578,637 acres, 94 percent containment

Upper Smith Fire

Agency/Management: Idaho Panhandle (USFS)
General Location: 20 miles northwest of Bonners Ferry, ID
Acres burned: 4,848 acres, 41 percent containment

Moose Mountain Fire

Agency/Management: Nez-Perce-Clearwater(USFS)
General Location: 27 miles northeast of Pierce, ID
Acres burned: 5,832 acres, 25 percent containment

Total Acres Burned by Ownership	
9/8/2026	
Surface Owner	Acres
US Wildland Fire Service	564,087
Other Federal	14,782
Other State	1,374
Private	162,716
State Endowment	47,119
Tribal	2,363
U.S. Forest Service	53,225
Undetermined	43
Total Acres	845,709

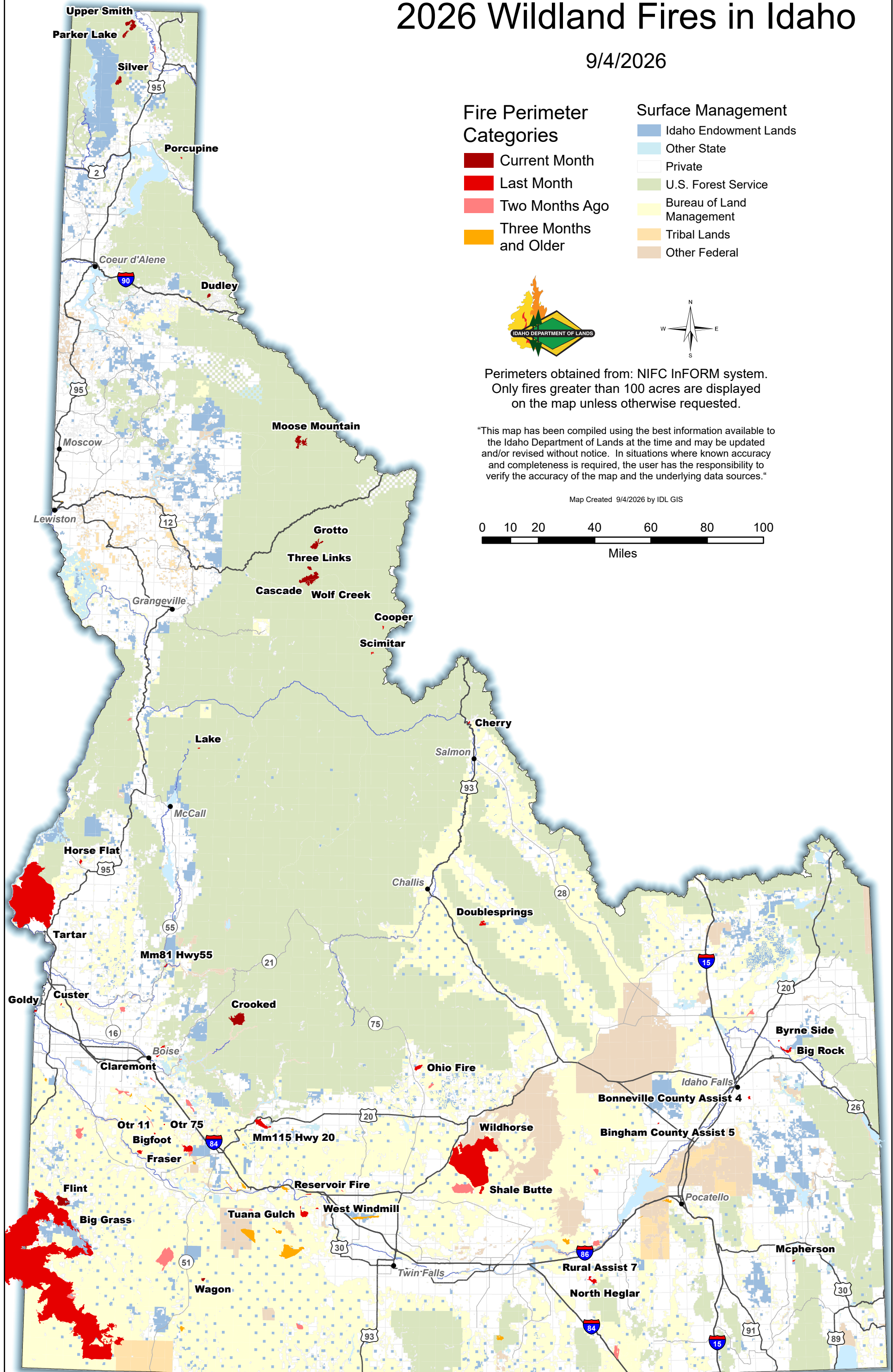
Fire Deficiency Warrant Spending - 2026 Fire Season YTD		
Category	Estimated Costs	Notes
Aviation Resources	\$ 4,900,000	2 SEATS, 4 Scoopers (Fire Boss), 1 Type 1 UH-60 Blackhawk, 1 Air Attack Platform
IDL Non-Team Fires	\$12,340,000	IDL/Assn fires including pre-positioning. Based on estimates and actuals.
IDL Team Fires	\$4,000,000	Gold Run (T3@CAS), Greer (T3@CTS)
Other Suppression/Non-reimbursable	\$4,320,000	Coeur d'Alene Cache: incoming and outgoing supplies not yet billed; Dispatch/Bureau cost when supporting multiple incidents.
Other Suppression/Reimbursable	\$14,200,000	Reimbursable (IDL and Fire Department resources supporting non-IDL fires).
Total Estimate YTD	\$39,760,000	

Attachments

1. Fire Information Map
2. Fire Restriction Map

2026 Wildland Fires in Idaho

9/4/2026



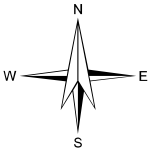
Idaho Fire Restrictions

8/28/2026

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	Stage I	08/15/2026
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 8/28/2026 by IDL GIS

