



BINGHAM COUNTY

Office of Emergency Management



501 N. MAPLE #208
BLACKFOOT, IDAHO 83221-1700

PHONE: (208) 782-3191

July 28, 2003

Dear Homeowner:

Hot weather and the resulting fire season are upon us. After three years of drought conditions, and abundant fuel loads in the wild lands, fire danger is very high. And in fact, fires have already consumed thousands of acres and several structures in the state.

We have had a relatively wet, prolonged spring that has resulted in a high fuel load in our wild lands. The fuel has matured early creating potentially one of the worst conditions for wild land fires in recent years. This condition presents serious concerns to homeowners whose property borders these wild land areas.

Bingham County is participating in a National Wild Land/Urban Interface plan designed to protect life, property and community values through community-based planning. Part of the planning is to identify high-risk areas subject to wild land fires. Analysis of those areas will be performed to determine if mitigating actions can be taken to reduce the likelihood of fire, or, to reduce the loss of life or property.

Your participation in this plan is being solicited by taking actions around your home to make it more "fire safe". Bingham County is disseminating fire safety literature to assist homeowners analyze their property for fire hazards, and then take action to reduce or eliminate them. In some cases, the county, or other agencies may partner with homeowners to mitigate hazards.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this joint venture. If you have any questions, or other concerns you would like to discuss with us, please call the office of Emergency Management at 782-3190, or 782-3191.

Sincerely,

Errol Covington, Coordinator
Bingham County Emergency Management

BINGHAM COUNTY
WILD LAND MITIGATION FIRE PLAN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Wild Land Fire/Urban Interface plan for Bingham County is the result of the efforts of numerous people who assisted in its development. It includes analysis of wild land fire risks for those areas considered at risk where development in the county meets, or interfaces with wild lands. Those areas include the Argonne National Laboratory, Atomic City, Greenfield Acres subdivision, Four Seasons subdivision, Sheep Mountain summer home area, Snake River bottoms areas, the Western fringe areas, and the Wolverine Summer home area. There are many other, solitary situations that have not been identified, but proposed mitigation actions are intended to address them as well. Hazards relative to each of the areas have been identified and are presented herein.

Included in this plan is an all-hazards analysis for the county and jurisdictions within the county. These have been ranked using a rating system. Twenty-four hazards have been identified and quantified. However, only wild land fires are discussed in this plan.

The Bingham County Plan will include these required elements:

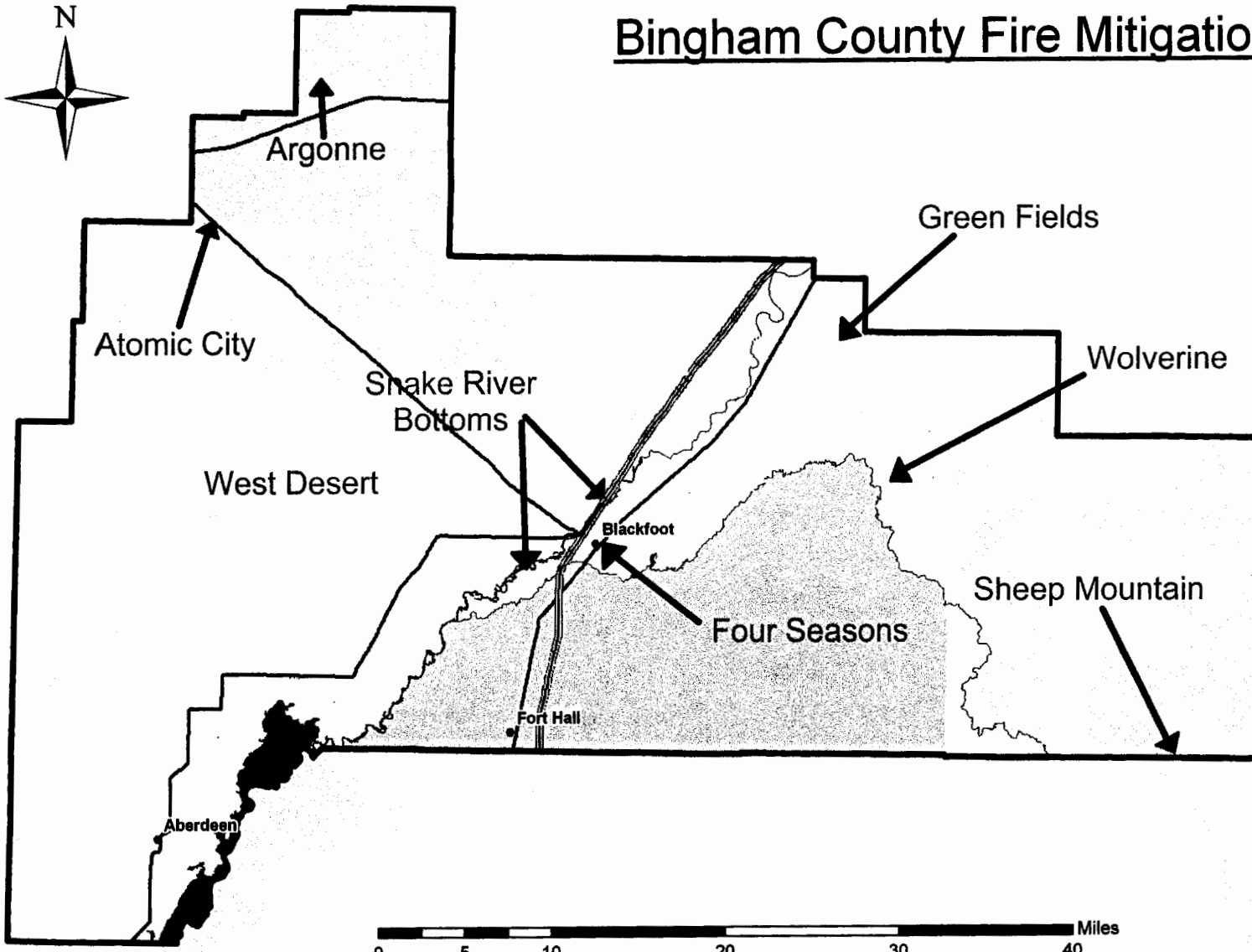
- Documentation of the mitigation planning process.
- A risk assessment to identify vulnerabilities to wildfire.
- A prioritized mitigation strategy that addresses each of the risks.
- A process for maintenance of the plan.
- Documentation that the plan has been formally adopted.

As a result of preparing this plan, it is clear that wild land fires have been responded to as well as budgetary limits have allowed. Several mitigation actions have been identified, however, that with adequate funding could help Bingham County better prevent, and respond to fires in the future.

This initial Plan is not considered as complete, or as detailed as desired, in part because records of prior fire suppression actions are missing. Future events will be better documented and added to this plan, so that this plan will become more complete over time. Additional information on mitigation initiatives, including maps, photos, and other relevant details will be contained in files located in the Office of Emergence Management in the Bingham County Courthouse.

It is intended that, as this plan is used, updated, and improved, it will serve as a management tool in the decision-making relative to the prioritization of the expenditure of funds. It is expected that a full update of this plan will be completed every five years, but it is structured so that it can be readily updated at any time. Full public participation and review of updates shall be required for future modifications.

Bingham County Fire Mitigation



Legend

Areas at Risk

● Cities (Pop. 1000+)

▭ Bingham County

— Rivers

Roads

— Interstates

— Highways

Land Status

▨ IR

BLM

DOE

PRIVATE

STATE

■ WATER



MITIGATION PLAN MAINTENANCE


The Bingham County Wild Land Fire Review Committee will be responsible to conduct an annual review of the plan. This annual review should include progress on the action plan from the previous year or years.

The Wild Land Fire Review Committee consists of: Bingham County Weed Control Supervisor, Bingham County Emergency Management Coordinator, County Commissioner, Blackfoot Fire District Chief, Shelley Fire District Chief, Aberdeen Fire District Chief, Firth Fire District Chief, and the Atomic City Fire Department.

The Committee will review the action plan and determine if items should be removed or additions made. Each year following the review process, all jurisdiction involved in the plan will receive a copy of the updated plan.

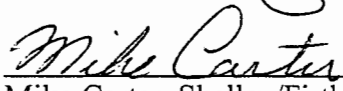
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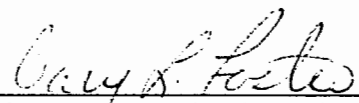
The below signed officials hereby promulgate and establish the Bingham County Wild Land Fire Assessment Plan.

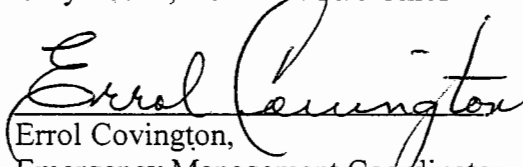
Approved by:  Date: 9-27-04
Paul Muirbrook, Chairman

Approved by:  Date: 9/29/2004
Wayne T. Brower, Commissioner

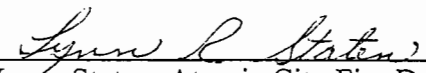
Approved by:  Date: 9.28.04
Kevin Gray, Blackfoot Fire Chief


Approved by:  Date: 9-28-04
Mike Carter, Shelley/Firth Fire Chief

Approved by:  Date: 9/28/04
Gary Foster, Aberdeen Fire Chief

Approved by:  Date: 9/29/04
Errol Covington,
Emergency Management Coordinator

Approved by:  Date: 9-28-04
Bruce Anthony, Firth Fire Chief

Approved by:  Date: 9-28-04
Lynn Staten, Atomic City Fire Dept.

Reviewed by:  Date: 9/30/04
Kevin Conrad,
Fire Mitigation/Education Officer
BLM East Idaho District

FIRE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

This Wild Land/Urban Interface Plan has been developed by a large number of persons and agencies. It includes a hazard analysis and risk assessment of the major risks confronting the county. Specifically, the risks associated with wild land fires were analyzed and possible mitigation actions were solicited.

Bingham County is a very large county of approximately 1.3 million (1.3) acres. Bingham County is comprised of the following acreage: 350,000 is private land, 300,000 is Federal, 150,000 is State of Idaho, 80,000 is the INEEL, and other cities and municipalities comprise 20,000. The county has six incorporated cities and a population of approximately 44,000. Farming and ranching, with some commercial enterprises, comprise the bulk of economic development. With the large amount of government-owned lands in the county, recreation is an important activity. The construction of summer homes in the mountains and remote areas of the county has become a concern with respect to the danger of wild land fires. Many of these homes have been, and are being built adjacent to or in hazardous areas containing high fuel loads.

The Bingham County/Interagency Fire Group involved the following:

- Bingham County Commissioner Wayne Brower
- Bingham County Commissioner DeVaughn Shipley
- Bingham County Commissioner Cleone Jolley
- Bingham County Emergency Management Coordinator
- Bingham County Weed Control Officer
- Bingham County LEPC
- Bureau of Land Management Fire Mitigation Officers
- Bureau of Disaster Services
- IDEAS-Idaho Education Alliance For Solutions
- Atomic City Mayor
- Atomic City Council
- Atomic City Fire Chief
- Aberdeen/Springfield Fire District Board
- Blackfoot Fire Chief
- Blackfoot Fire District Board
- Firth Fire Department
- Greenfield Subdivision Homeowners Association
- Shelley/Firth Fire District Board
- Shelley Fire Chief
- Various citizens

Public meetings were held throughout the county with the above groups. The need for a county wild land interface fire plan was presented and input was solicited from those attending. Areas at risk were identified and quantified as to degree of risk. Maps were presented and used to identify the areas of risk. Specific details of the areas were obtained from various sources to better evaluate potential mitigation initiatives.

As each area was evaluated and risks determined, a list of mitigation actions was prepared. These actions are located in section VI of this plan and summarized in Section VII.

HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

BINGHAM COUNTY

Hazards considered in Bingham County were judged as only those, which could possibly occur. While the list is rather inclusive, future circumstances may dictate that other hazards be considered. If this proves to be the case, they will be added at the appropriate time during Plan reviews and updates.

Each of these hazards has some possibility of occurrence within the county boundaries. A brief discussion about each of the hazards and its relevance to Bingham County is as follows:

High Winds are an ever-present possibility within the county. At various times of the year, high winds are experienced in every part of the county. On an annual basis, there will generally be winds in some locations that exceed 50 mph, even though the average wind speed is much lower. As a result, high winds must be considered and, overall ranks highest of all the hazards – in large part due to the frequency of occurrence. At the same time, high winds generally do not do a large amount of damage because the structures are generally built for such winds.

Loss of Electrical Service occurs many times per year in various localities. Loss of electrical power is disruptive to all affected business, farms and residences and extended outages, though rare, can cause severe economic problems. Loss of electrical service should be considered as often related to other hazards such as winds, winter storms, lightning, fire, etc. Generally, if loss of electrical service is related to or triggered by other hazards, then the power outage is lengthier than if some transmission line component has failed.

Severe Winter Storm is a hazard that can and has happened, and which generally will cause blockage of the roads. Power outages can be related to such storms, but severe ice storms are not known in the area and power outages are generally the result of excessive wind during a winter storm. Long power outages during winter storms have not been a problem, but road blockage has been in a number of locations. Cold is a problem if loss of power is long-term.

Crime is an ever-present hazard. No area is immune to crime and a large percentage of local budgets are dedicated to paying for services needed to deal with crime. In considering the relationship of crime, the fact is that crime has a frequent occurrence relative to other hazards, but the affected are is generally very small.

Lightning is a hazard in the county, but not as great as some areas. Damage is mostly to tree, power lines, and structures. On rare occasions it may cause injury or death.

Major Fire – Urban occurs on occasion, however, there has generally been no fire that involved more than one or two structures. Thus this hazard is rated accordingly.

Flooding is a hazard that affects parts of Bingham County and can be expensive and disruptive. The breaking of the Teton Dam, though an extremely rare occurrence, reminds us that such things can happen. Most of the areas in Bingham County are on high ground areas, but even these can be subject to spring run-off flooding. In general, the worst, repetitive areas are along the Snake River, and to a lesser extent, the Blackfoot River. Not considered in this plan is the possibility of the breach of the Blackfoot Reservoir Dam, Ririe Reservoir Dam, or the Palisades Dam. Loss of any of those dams would be result in major flooding and property loss and probably loss of life.

Hazardous Materials exist almost everywhere. They flow up and down the highways, streets, roads, and railroads, and can be found in numerous agriculture chemical stores, on farms, in factories and businesses. The evaluations in this plan are based on experience and potential. Please note that once illegal meth labs are identified, the clean up is considered under the heading of hazardous materials. The identification of the labs is considered under “crime”.

Drought is a somewhat frequent occurrence when lack of rain/snowfall is considered. However, the area of Bingham County is underlain by a very large aquifer. In severe drought conditions, the aquifer level could drop,so that wells must be drilled deeper, but this is not thought to be a problem, so far as human health is concerned. It would likely be a problem for farmers who depend on the water for raising crops.

Hail occurs within the county every year, but normally does little damage, although it generally does some damage somewhere. The major damage is generally in the form of damaged crops.

Loss of Water Service is a hazard that can and does occur, but within the urban areas, most have redundant water systems and supplies. All water supplies come from the aquifer and so a loss of source is highly unlikely. Loss of individual water supplies on farms and in urban areas does occur from equipment breakage and the like, but is not judged as a large hazard. Loss of water service can cause a loss of fire protection and increase the fire hazard risk.

Economic Crisis can cause a great deal of disruption as evidenced by the Great Depression. The area employers and businesses are varied, and with the large agriculture base, the area would be as robust as most anywhere.

Infestation/Disease fits in a category of something that is possible, happens to some extent, but due to the low population density, the effect is generally less than in more densely populated areas.

Telecommunications is a likely problem, but is much less likely than in the past. Most of the telecommunications lines are underground, which reduces the frequency of problems.

Major Fire – Wild Land is a problem for some of the outlying areas in the county. The interface between wild lands and farms, or some communities can be problematic in a dry year. Some farms have experience fire problems in the past.

Key Employer Crisis can be a problem, however, the working population is spread over many employers. The largest single employer for the entire county area is at the Idaho National Laboratory, but even there, there are different contracts and activities, and so while economic slumps tend to happen, the overall effect is somewhat less than other areas.

Civil Disturbance is a hazard that has not really surfaced in Bingham County, but is considered as possible.

Earthquake is likely in Bingham County, but while they have been felt, the normal earthquake pattern is such that most occur in the surrounding mountains and the effect of the quake is much less in the county.

Terrorism is considered as a possibility although not too likely. Nevertheless, it is best to acknowledge the reality of today's hazards. Schools may be of greatest vulnerability.

Loss of Gas Service is highly unlikely for any length of time. Wintertime would pose the greatest hardship and challenge. A good part of the county is sparsely settled and so natural gas lines are not available for heating in any case.

Loss of Sewer Service is considered as possible, but not likely of any long-term significance. Most of the county rural areas have individual sewer systems for each home.

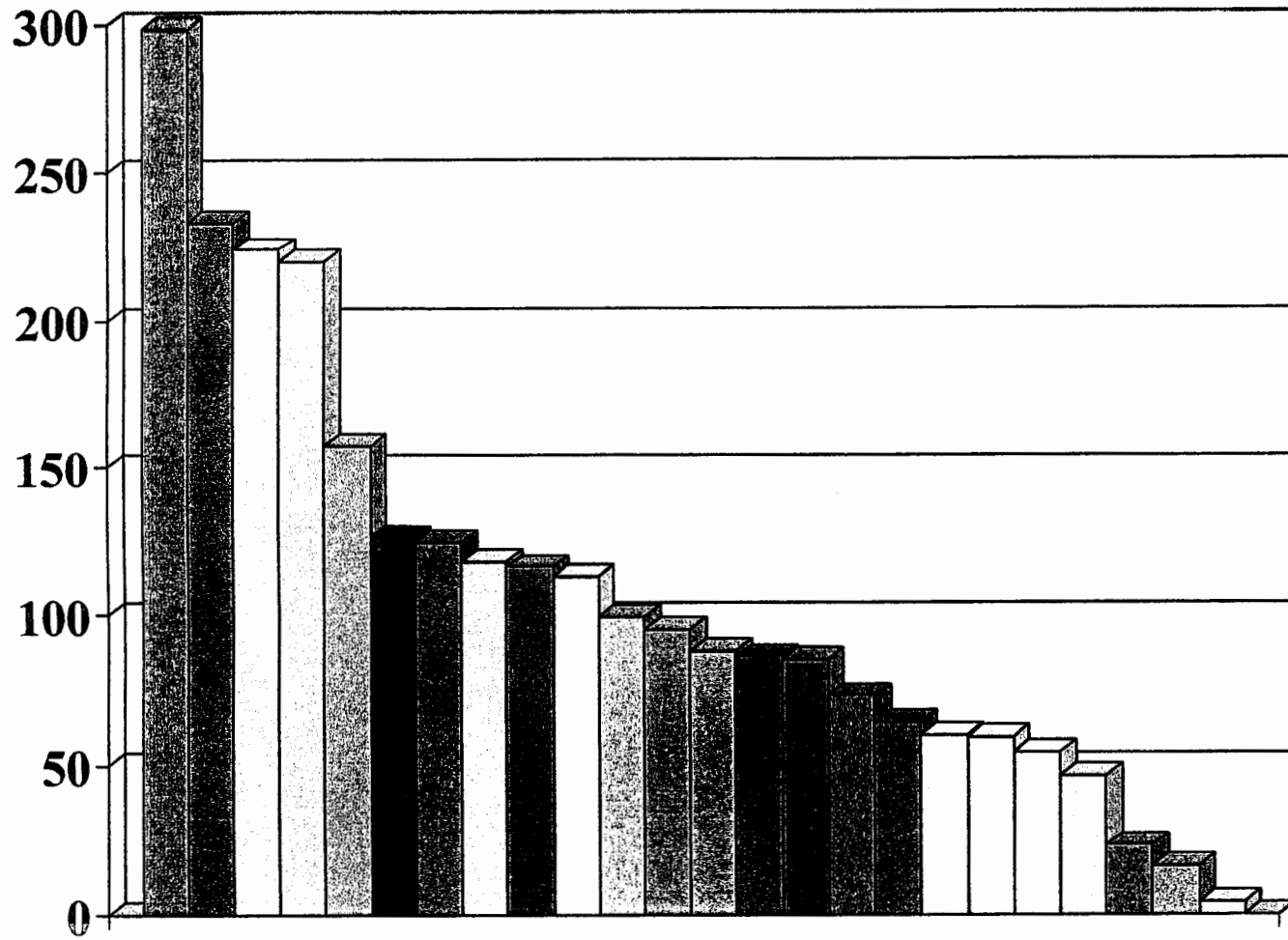
Radiological is a very low probability with low consequences – perhaps the greatest consequence would be psychological.

Landslide, Erosion hazards have minimal probability and likely small consequences in the area. Some mountainous areas have had small landslides in remote areas.

Subsidence/Expansive soils are rare in the area and are considered of very low probability or consequence.

HAZARDS SUMMARY

BINGHAM COUNTY



- High Wind
- ▣ Loss of Electricity
- Severe Winter Storm
- Crime
- ▣ Lightning
- Major Fire - Urban
- ▣ Flooding
- Hazardous Material
- ▣ Drought
- Hail
- Loss of Water Service
- Economic Crisis
- Infestation/Disease
- ▣ Telecommunication
- ▣ Major Fire - Wildland
- ▣ Key Employer Crisis
- ▣ Civil Disturbance
- Earthquake
- Terrorism
- Loss of Gas Service
- Loss of Sewer Service
- ▣ Radiological
- ▣ Landslide, Erosion
- Subsidence/Expansive Soils

Aberdeen/Springfield Fire District

Profile of the District:

The Aberdeen/Springfield Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. The topography of the area includes the Snake River plains with grassy areas that are primarily farming and ranching country. There is very little BLM or Forest Service ground within the protection district, yet the District does respond through fire agreements with the BLM/Forest Service to protect the land that surrounds the District.

Organizational Structure:

The organizational structure consists of the Fire District Commission, a fire chief, two assistant fire chiefs (one for the Aberdeen Station and one for the Springfield Station) and trained firefighters/EMT's that total 30 personnel. All personnel are volunteers.

Facilities:

The Fire District has two stations, one in Aberdeen and one in Springfield. The Aberdeen station has eight bays and the Springfield station has three bays.

Response Area:

Because the Aberdeen-Springfield area is agricultural, the District primarily protects a rural farming community. The Department serves agricultural, rangeland, residential, business, high tech and high-risk areas. The District does cover a 400 square mile area for fire protection. The Fire District is the primary provider to the J.R. Simplot French Fry processing plant and the National Grain repository.

Budget and Funding:

The District's budget comes from taxes and some EMS billings. The District does have a procedure in place for allocating expenses over the approved budget, which is an established savings account that the District contributes to annually.

Grants:

Grant funds have been received in the past five years for State IDS excess property and from the Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service. The Chief indicated that they are not knowledgeable about the National Fire Plan funding opportunities and that he has recently begun researching the plan.

Records Management:

A comprehensive records management system is in place and it is computerized. Firehouse software is used for recording keeping.

Firefighting Program:

There are 30 personnel within the firefighting program that are all volunteer staff. The District does respond to fires related to structural protection, wild land fire suppression, EMS and rescue; it does not have the capability of responding to Haz-Mat or terrorist threat related fires. It was reported that the risk for wild land urban interface fires is nonexistent but that there is a high risk for terrorism primarily because of the hydroelectric dam located on the American Falls Reservoir. All firefighters are trained for wild land urban interface response. The District responds to approximately 190 calls including both fire-related and EMS calls annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response in the areas of size-up, search and rescue, and initial attack. The water source is adequate and reliable with the use of water mains, hydrants, and area bodies of water.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Stations – Aberdeen/Springfield• 8 Bays in Aberdeen/3 Bays in Springfield• Volunteer Personnel• Grid Access Address System• Computerized Record Keeping System• Capable of Fire Response for Structural, EMS, Wild Lands and High Risk• 3 Structural Protection Vehicles/4 Wild Land Protection Vehicles• 3,100 Structural and 800 Wild Land GPM Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved Communication Between Departments• Grants are Needed• Local Courses in the Grant Application Process• Courses on Computers and Software for the Entire Department• Improved Records System and Maintenance Program (needs to be updated)

Hazardous Materials Program:

At this time the District does not have a Haz-Mat team. Because of its close proximity to Fort Hall, Pocatello and Blackfoot, all of whom have Haz-Mat teams, the District does not see a need for its own HazMat team.

EMS Program:

The District does provide EMS care. Some of the volunteer firefighters are trained in EMT-Basic and the District averages approximately 120 calls annually. The current EMS system in place is sufficient. However, if call volume increased dramatically, the District may have to modify the replacement program for vehicles and equipment.

EMS Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to EMS calls • Some Firefighters Trained in EMS • District Licensed for Patient Transports • 3 Ambulances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Personnel EMT-Basic Level Trained • Replace more Expensive EMS Equipment— Defibrillators, Suction Units and Splints • Grants

Training and Certifications:

The District has several minimal standards that all personnel must go through after they are recruited. All personnel are trained in structural protection procedures. It was reported that the District did not use NFPA standards or the IFSTA training program.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural Protection Training • Some NFPA, NWCG Trained Personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Training Program at the Local Level • Purchase Training Aids • Distance Learning System • Videos • Assistance with the Grant Funding Process • Offer a Grant Course (City or County Wide) • Grant Writer • Establish a Grant Resource Library

Communications:

Radio communications are adequate for the District's needs. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held radios. At this time, the District does not retain radio or dispatch information, although they are looking into developing a program to track this information.

Communications Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Vehicles Radio Equipped • Have Sufficient Portable Radios (Multi-frequency Adequate) • Responds to Remote Calls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade Communication System to Reduce Failure Rate

Prevention and Inspection:

The District utilizes the State Fire Marshal's Office for its code enforcement. All records are maintained through the State Fire Marshal with copies maintained locally. The District does do fire cause and origin investigations.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperates with State Fire Marshal's Office • Investigates fire causes and origins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More involvement of firefighters in code and code enforcement • Offer classes on code enforcement

Public Education:

The District does not conduct public education programs on a regular basis. By request, they do participate in public outreach with schools, public events, fire station open houses and fire station tours.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in public outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get more involved in public education • Purchase prepared presentation handouts

Atomic City Fire Department

Profile of the Department:

The Atomic City Fire Department is comprised of a municipal fire protection department. Atomic City is a very small city with little or no population growth. The City is located at the western most boundaries of Bingham County two miles south of Highway 26. The Department has just started to build a program from the ground up. The topography of the area is high mountain desert with agriculture, ranching and the INEEL being the primary industries.

Organizational Structure

The Atomic City Fire Department reports to the City Mayor. The organizational structure consists of a chief, an assistant chief (who is also the Mayor) and three firefighters. All firefighters are volunteers.

Facilities:

The District has no fire station or facilities. The existing Department's PPE, hose and apparatus are housed in the city's pump house.

Response Area:

Fire protection is provided primarily for land and buildings within the city limits. The Department serves two square miles of city property. It also responds to fires outside the city limits by agreement with the BLM.

Budget and Funding:

The Department does not receive any type of annual funding from any source. In the future the Department could receive a budget through City budgeting procedures should the City grow enough to generate a tax base to support the Fire Department.

Grants:

Grant funds have been received from the BLM, INNEL and from FEMA for City emergencies. The District is not yet familiar with the National Fire Plan but intends to research the plan in the near future. The District hopes to seek more grant funding in the future.

Firefighting Program:

The Department covers the Atomic City limits and some area outside the city limits when called upon by the District. There are five personnel within the firefighting program that are volunteer staff. Fire response includes protection for structural, wild land fire suppression, and terrorist threat because of the close proximity to the INEEL. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time. The Department is waiting for a pump/tank skid unit purchased from the BLM to arrive so they can begin construction of a brush truck. The only source of water the Department has is the city's pump system. There are no hydrants in the city.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer Personnel• 750 Structural/0 Wild Lands GPM Pump Capacity• Fire Response: Structural, Wild Lands, Rangeland, Residential & Business• 2 Structural Vehicles; 1 Wild Land Vehicle• Grid Access Address System• Waiting for Pump/Tank Skid Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Building with Meeting and Training Space• Looped Water System with Hydrants• Local Courses on Grant Application Process• Support for Locating Grants• Grant Writing Cost Assistance• Records Management System• Manuals for Truck Inspection and Maintenance• NFPA Manuals• Courses on Testing, Maintenance & Inspections• Onsite Training for Wild Lands Capabilities

Training and Certification:

The Department does not have any training in place so no minimums have been established. Training and Certification existing needs are: no cost or grants to cover basic training levels, no training materials, and no space for conducting training.

Communications:

The existing radio communication systems are insufficient. Some vehicles are equipped with radios and the Department does have sufficient hand-held units. There are no records for response times and the Department has not responded to an incident since the present Chief was installed.

Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portable Radios• Some Vehicles Radio Equipped	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map Reading Course• Proper Radio Frequencies• Mobile Radios Mounted in Engine and Brush Truck

Blackfoot Fire District

Profile of the District:

The Blackfoot Fire District is a controlled fire department within Bingham County that has municipal, district, EMS, HazMat and rescue responsibilities. The topography of the area varies from flat farm and ranchlands to mountainous areas. The city is located between Pocatello and Idaho Falls on Interstate 15. The Snake River lies just to the west of the city and Blackfoot is home to the annual Eastern Idaho State Fair. During the month of September, the population of the city can grow by 20,000 to 25,000 people per day during the fair. In general, Blackfoot is currently experiencing moderate population growth.

Organizational Structure

The Blackfoot Fire District reports to the Fire District Commission. The organizational structure consists of a chief, a secretary, a fire marshal, three captains, three sergeants, 12 paid firefighters/EMT's and 24 volunteer firefighters/EMT's

Facilities:

The District has three fire stations, two in Blackfoot and one in the Rockford town site. The stations consist of one six bay station and two five bay stations. The District also shares a storage room for apparatus with the City of Blackfoot. Because the railroad tracks divides the City of Blackfoot, resulting in a slowed down response time, the Chief would like to see stations on the north and south ends of the Fire District and a station located on the east side of the railroad tracks.

Response Area:

The Blackfoot Fire District provides fire protection for agricultural, rangelands, forest, wild land urban interface, residential, business, high risk and high tech. The District serves 15,000 square miles.

Budget and Funding:

The District has experienced slight budget increases over the last five years. Approximately 33% of the budget comes from taxes with other sources generated from user fees and EMS services.

Grants:

Grant funds have been received from the State IDS and EMS, from the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, from INEEL and from private foundations. The District is not yet familiar with the National Fire Plan, but hopes to seek more grants funding in the future.

Records Management:

The District does maintain a computerized records management system. Record keeping includes training, personnel wage, apparatus and building maintenance.

Firefighting Program:

The District covers both the City of Blackfoot and the surrounding area. There are 45 personnel within the firefighting program including both volunteer and paid staff. Fire response includes protection for structural protection, wild land suppression, EMS, HazMat, rescue and terrorist threat. The District reports that it responds to approximately 1,780 fire-related incidents annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including command, scene size-up, rescue, ventilation, water supply and extinguishment. The District does not have a high risk for wild land urban interface fires but does have 23 firefighters trained in wild land suppression. The District is unsure if their area is high risk for terrorism. It was reported that the District has some adequate and reliable water sources. The primary water supply sources include water mains, hydrants and water tender operations.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3 Station, 11 Bays● Volunteer & Paid Personnel● 4,250 Structural & 1,000 Wild Land Total GPM Capacity● Meets Minimum ISO Requirements● Computerized Record Keeping System● Fire Response: Structural, Wild Lands, Rangeland, Forest, Agricultural, Residential & Business● 4 Structural Vehicles; 5 Wild Land Vehicles; 2 Structural/Wild Land Vehicles● Rescue Extrication Unit w/Pump and Water● HazMat Trailer● Meets NFPA Standards● Grid Access Addressing System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3 Fire Stations● Mobile Data Terminals for Response Vehicles● Personnel● 1-2 Pumper Trucks● Grants for One-Time Purchases● Grants for Proper Testing Equipment and Training● Wild Land Training for All Staff

Hazardous Materials Program:

The Blackfoot Fire District does have a HazMat response team including a HazMat trailer. All personnel have been trained to the operations level and there are 17 tech level personnel in the District. The District carries informal agreements with the Firth and Shelley Fire Departments. It also works with the INEEL when needed.

Hazardous Materials Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Personnel Operations Level Trained• 17 Personnel Tech Level Trained• HazMat Trailer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved Rescue Truck

EMS Program:

The District does provide EMS services. It has personnel trained as First Responders, EMT Basic and EMT Advanced-Intermediate. The District responds to approximately 1,358 EMS calls annually and the District is licensed to transport patients. There are five ambulances and a rescue/extrication vehicle.

EMS Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Responders• Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Trained Personnel• 5 Ambulances• 1 Rescue/Extrication Vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selected Personnel Receive Paramedic Training• Replacement Rescue/Extrication Vehicle• Upgrade Defibrillators

Training and Certification:

The District does not have a set number of minimum requirements for training and certification. It has an ongoing training program it maintains. The District's training programs meet some of the NFPA, NWCG standards; and it does utilize the IFSA training program.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Training Requirements • Utilizes IFSTA Training Program • Written Standard Operating Procedures • IFSTA Manuals and Videos • Model town for tabletop training and preplanning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside Instructors

Communications:

The District does have sufficient radio communication capacity. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held units. All radios are multi-frequency capable but some radio communications are inadequate with other entities. Dispatch is handled through the Bingham County 911 service.

Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to Remote Alarm Calls • Portable Radios • All Vehicles Radio Equipped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Data Terminals • Improve Communication with Other Entities

Prevention and Inspection:

The District does administer and enforce Fire Code regulations. Fire cause and origin investigations are conducted as well.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Code Enforcement • Fire Cause and Origin Investigations Conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Learn Not to Burn" Demonstration Trailer

Public Education:

The District does conduct public education programs for home safety. It also regularly participates in public outreach at schools, public events, the fire station open house, and fire station tours.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Education Programs• Outreach Education and Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Learn Not to Burn” Demonstration Trailer

Firth/Shelley Fire District (Firth)

Profile of the District:

The Firth Fire District is a controlled fire district within Bingham County that has municipal and district responsibilities. It shares fire district responsibilities with the City of Shelley. The topography of the area varies from flat farm and ranchlands to mountainous areas that include agricultural and ranching operations. The District is experiencing higher population growth.

Organizational Structure

The Firth Fire District reports to the Fire District Commission. The organizational structure consists of one chief and 18 firefighters, all volunteer.

Facilities:

The District has one fire station with six bays. The Chief indicated a need to build an addition on to the existing station to add three bays.

Response Area:

Fire protection areas include agricultural, rangelands, forest, wild land urban interface, residential, and business. The District serves approximately 400 square miles.

Budget and Funding:

The District has experienced slight budget increases over the last five years. Approximately 85% of the budget comes from taxes with other funds coming from grants and miscellaneous sources.

Grants:

The District has received grant funds from the State IDS, the BLM, and U.S. Forest Service and from other sources. It is not yet familiar with the National Fire Plan and is striving to improve its grant seeking capabilities.

Records Management:

A manual records management system is in place. Records are maintained for apparatus, personnel, building, training, hose, hydrant, pump tests and responses. NIFIRS is used at this time and the District is building its own record tracking system.

Firefighting Program:

The District covers both the Cities of Firth and Shelley, and the surrounding area; however, this report covers only the Firth program. There are 18 personnel within the firefighting program, all volunteer personnel. Fire response includes protection for structural protection, wild land suppression, EMS, HazMat and rescue. The area does have a high risk for wild land urban interface fires but has no risk for terrorism. There are 15 firefighters trained in wild land suppression. The District reports that it has responded to approximately 65 fire-related incidents annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including scene size-up, attack handlines, water supply, ventilation, search and rescue, and Institute ICS. Some adequate and reliable water sources are available including water mains, hydrants and area bodies of water.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 Station, 6 Bays ● Volunteer Personnel ● Grid Access Address System ● 3,500 Structural & 1,000 Wild Land Total GPM Capacity ● Manual Record Keeping System ● Fire Response: Structural, Wild Lands, Rangeland, Forest, Agricultural, Residential & Business ● 3 Structural Vehicles; 4 Structural/Utility Wild Land Vehicles ● Meets ISO Water Flow Requirements ● Meets NFPA Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update County Grid Maps ● Updated BLM/Forest Service Maps ● Addition to Existing Building to Add 3 Bays ● 1-2 Heavy Brush Trucks ● Road Maintenance Improvements ● Improved River Access for Water Source ● East Side Water System Improvements (Loop System) ● Larger Water Mains ● Update and Add Hydrants ● Grants and Grant Writing Process ● Easy, Accessible Location for Researching Grants ● Computer/Software Training ● Pump Testing Apparatus Closer to Station; Practice Pump Operations More Frequently ● Pump/Operations Training from Certified Trainers ● Wild Lands Refresher Courses ● Schedule Planning Meetings Prior to Fire Season

Hazardous Materials Program:

A HazMat response team is not in place. The district will respond to HazMat calls and secure the scene for safety. Written mutual aid agreements are in place with the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, INEEL, the Idaho Department of Lands and the Blackfoot Fire Department.

Hazardous Materials Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Equipment • PPE • Separate Breathing Apparatus

EMS Program:

The District does not have a separated EMS system or budget; it is part of the Fire District. Personnel are trained in First Responder and EMT Basic. Approximately 56 EMS calls are made annually. The program has no licensed patient transport vehicles.

EMS Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Responders • Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Trained Personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Personnel Trained to the EMT-Basic Level • Upgrade Equipment (e.g., Defibrillators) • Additional Vehicle for EMS Rescue

Training and Certification:

Minimum requirements for training and certification include structural protection (essentials), wild land suppression (essential), EMS (first responder) and HazMat awareness. It has an ongoing training program it maintains. The District's training programs meet some of the NFPA, NWCG standards. It does utilize the IFSA training program.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Training Requirements • Utilizes IFSTA Training Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Training Areas • Proper Training Equipment • Low Cost Training for Personnel • Established Training Program • Distance Learning System • Training Aids, Table Top Simulators, Videos, Slides

Communications:

The District does have radio communication capacity. All vehicles are equipped with radios but the District does not have sufficient hand-held units. All radios are multi-frequency capable but some radio communications are inadequate with other entities. Primary dispatch is through the Bingham County 911 system.

Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to Remote Alarm Calls• Portable Radios• All Vehicles Radio Equipped	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More Multi-Frequency Radios• Improve Communication with Other Entities• Repeater

Prevention and Inspection:

The District does administer and enforce Fire Code regulations. Fire cause and origin investigations are also conducted. The State Fire Marshal's Office is utilized for reference and guidance. If there is a question or a cause cannot be determined, the District calls upon the Blackfoot or State Fire Marshal's Offices

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administers & Enforces Fire Codes• Fire Cause and Origin Investigations Conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More Cooperative and Unified Efforts within Area• Educational Programs

Public Education:

The District does conduct public education programs for structural fires and home safety. It also regularly participates in public outreach at fairs, schools, public events and fire station activities.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Education Programs• Outreach Education and Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants/Private Funding for Instructional Materials• Prepackaged Programs

Fort Hall Fire District

Profile of the District:

The Fort Hall Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. Fort Hall is located on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation between Pocatello and Blackfoot. The topography is widely varied with flat dry lands suitable for ranching and farming to rugged mountainous areas in the Arbon Valley and Ross Fork areas. This District is unique in that the Fort Hall Indian Reservation is governed by the tribal government of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes.

Organizational Structure

The Fort Hall Fire District reports to the Tribal Business Council and Executive Director. The organizational structure consists of one fire chief, a wild land fire officer, a secretary, one assistant chief, three captains (EMS, Prevention and Training), and 15 firefighter/EMT's.

Facilities:

The District has one fire station with nine bays. The District is working to build a new station at this time to be able to house all equipment and crews under one roof. Presently, District facilities are made up of several metal buildings and trailers for crew quarters and office space.

Response Area:

The Fort Hall Fire District provides fire protection for agricultural, rangelands, forest, wild land urban interface, residential, business, high risk and high tech. The District serves 600 square miles.

Budget and Funding:

The District has experienced budget increases over the last five years and approximately 95% of the funding comes from taxes. The remaining budget funding comes from a Bureau of Indian Affairs wild land firefighting contract and a small portion from grants.

Grants:

Grant funds have been received from the State IDS and EMS, from the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, from INEEL and from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The District is familiar with the National Fire Plan and hopes to seek more grants funding in the future.

Records Management:

The District does maintain a computerized records management system. All District operations are computerized and it utilizes the Firehouse and NIFIRS software.

Firefighting Program:

The District covers the Fort Hall Indian Reservation adjacent to Bingham, Bannock and Power Counties. There are 21 personnel within the firefighting program that are all paid staff. Fire response includes protection for structures, wild land suppression, EMS, HazMat, rescue and terrorist threat. The District responds to approximately 489 fire-related incidents annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including ICS, water supply, initial attack, rapid entry team and ventilation. The District does have a high risk for wild land urban interface fires and terrorist attack; but it does have 21 firefighters trained in wild land suppression. The District has some adequate and reliable water sources. The primary water supply sources include water mains, hydrants and area bodies of water.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Station, 9 Bays• Paid Personnel• 2,250 Structural/1,750 Wild Land Total GPM Capacity• Computerized Record Keeping System• Fire Response: Structural, Wild Lands, Rangeland, Forest, Agricultural, Residential & Business• 2 Structural; 3 Structural/Wild Land; & 4 Wild Land Vehicles• Grid Access Address System Developed; Not Yet Implemented• Meets NFPA Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shift Staffing to Improve Coverage• New Fire Station• 4x4 Ambulance• Substations in Areas of High Call Volume• Water Supply Improvements; System Infrastructure Improvements• Water Tender• Grants for One-time Purchases• Grant Administrator• Assistance with Grant Writing• Access to Grants – Library• Records Management/Computer Hardware & Software Training• Acquire SCBA Testing System

Hazardous Materials Program:

The Fort Hall Fire District does have a HazMat response team. The District has full Level "A" training and equipment in place. Mutual aid agreements are in place with the BLM, Forest Service, INEEL, the Idaho Department of Lands, the cities of Chubbuck and Blackfoot; and Power County.

EMS Program:

The District does provide EMS services. It has personnel trained in EMT Basic and EMT Advanced-Intermediate.

EMS Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMT Intermediate and Advanced Trained Personnel• 2 Type III QRU Units• Rescue Truck with Extrication Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional Personnel Trained• Heavier Rescue Unit• 4x4 Ambulance

Training and Certification:

The District does not have a set number of minimum requirements for training and certification. It has an ongoing training program it maintains. The District's training programs meet some of the NFPA, NWCG standards; and it does utilize the IFSA training program.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training: Structural Protection, Wildfire Suppression, EMS, HazMat, Rescue, Ropes, High Angle Rescue• Written Standard Operating Procedures• IFSTA Training Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wild Lands 300 Series Training• Training Facility• Power Point Program

Communications:

Communication for Fort Hall is dispatched out of the Fort Hall Police dispatch center. The District does have sufficient radio communication capacity. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held units. All radios are multi-frequency capable but some radio communications are inadequate with other entities.

Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to Remote Alarm Calls• Portable Radios• All Vehicles Radio Equipped	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved Dispatch Center with Added Personnel• Implement Grid Mapping System

Prevention and Inspection:

The District does not administer and enforce Fire Code regulations. Fire cause and origin investigations are conducted, however.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire Cause and Origin Investigations Conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Person Dedicated to Inspections Only• Adoption of International Fire Codes

Public Education:

The District does conduct public education programs for wild land fires, structural fires, home safety and drug labs. It also regularly participates in public outreach at fairs, schools, public events and fire station activities.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Education Programs• Outreach Education and Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated Person to Public Educational Programs

Shelley/Firth Fire District (Shelley)

Profile of the District:

The Shelly Fire District is comprised of a municipal, fire protection district, EMS and first responder services. The geographic area is currently experiencing little population growth. However, the wild land urban interface is experiencing some growth. The topography of the area is high mountain desert and flat lands with agriculture and ranching being the primary industries. The flatlands lead into foothills with a lightly forested area close to the Snake River.

Organizational Structure

The Shelley Fire District reports to the District Fire Commission. It is part of the Shelley/Firth Fire District organization but this report focuses on Shelley. The organizational structure consists of a fire chief, an assistant fire chief and 16 firefighters, all volunteer. The QRU portion of the District is not part of the Fire District. It is only under the District's umbrella. It was reported that the present structure of the District is working adequately.

Facilities:

The District has one fire station with four bays.

Response Area:

The Shelley Fire District provides fire protection for agricultural, rangelands, forest, wild land urban interface, residential, business and high risk related to a fuels bulk plant and fertilizer plant. It serves a 150 square mile area.

Budget and Funding:

The District has experienced no budget increases over the last five years. The budget is funded 100% by tax dollars.

Grants:

Grant funds have been received from the State IDS, BLM, U.S. Forest Service and the INEEL. The District indicated it would like to start using grants more frequently for one time purchases to relieve the load on the base budget. Currently, the District has not reviewed the National Fire Plan but they do have intentions of doing so.

Records Management:

There is not a comprehensive records management system at this time. However, the District recently acquired a computer and software, and is preparing to start records maintenance. NIFIRS reporting software and Crossfire software are used.

Firefighting Program:

The District covers both the City of Shelley and the surrounding area. There are 16 personnel within the firefighting program that are volunteer staff. Fire response includes protection for structures, wild land fire suppression, EMS First Responder, Haz-Mat, high angle rescue and extrication. The area is of particular high risk for wild land urban interface fires but the risk for terrorism is low. A total of six firefighters are trained in wild land suppression. The District reports that it has responded to approximately 115 fire-related incidents. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including scene size-up, handlines, safety, water supply and initial attack. There are adequate and reliable sources of water including water mains, hydrants, a water tender and area bodies of water.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1 Station; 4 Bays● Volunteer Personnel● 1,900 Structural/300 Wild Lands Total GPM Capacity● Computerized Record Keeping System● Fire Response: Structural, Wild Lands, Rangeland, Forest, Agricultural, Residential & Business● Grid Access Address System● 3 Structural Vehicles; 3 Wild Land Vehicles; 1 Structural/Wild Land Vehicle● Meets ISO Water Flow Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Light Wild Land Trucks● 1 Heavy Wild Land Truck● Water Tender● Grants● Local Course in the Grant Process● Assistance with Grant Writing/Grant Writer● Upgrade Computer Software● Current NFPA Testing Manuals and Training● Proper Testing Equipment● All Members Trained to Same Level● Onsite Training

Hazardous Materials Program:

The Shelley Fire District does not have a HazMat response team. The District participates in a reciprocal mutual aid agreement countywide.

EMS Program:

The District does provide EMS services. Personnel are trained in First Responder.

EMS Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Responder Trained Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extrication Tools and Equipment

Training and Certification:

The District meets training and certification standards in the several areas including structural protection (IFSTA Essentials Firefighter 1 and 2); wild land fire suppression (basic), EMS First Responder, HazMat awareness, rescue extrication, team work and high angle training. Training and Certification existing needs are: improved training areas, proper training equipment, low cost training for personnel, established training program, distance learning system, and training aids, table-top simulators, videos and slides.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firefighter Safety• Wild Land Suppression• Utilizes IFSTA Training Program• Written Standard Operating Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refreshment Courses as Outlined by NFPA, NWCG & EMS• Computer Training Programs• Grants for On-Site Training Materials

Communications:

Sufficient radio communication capacity is in place. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held units. All radios are multi-frequency capable, but some radio communications are inadequate with other entities. Primary dispatch is through the Bingham County 911 System. Communications existing needs are: more multi-frequency radios, improved communication with other entities, and repeater.

Prevention and Inspection:

The District does administer and enforce Fire Code regulations. Fire cause and origin investigations are conducted by the District and it relies on the building and SFMO findings for its needs and preplanning.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administers & Enforces Fire Codes • Fire Cause and Origin Investigations Conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Public Education:

The District does conduct public education programs for structural fires, wild lands and home safety. It also regularly participates in public outreach at schools, public events and fire station activities.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Education Programs • Outreach Education and Inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants for Public Education Training Materials & Handouts

AREAS AT RISK FROM WILD LAND FIRES MITIGATION PLANS

The following is a listing of residential and commercial areas of Bingham County that are considered potentially at risk from wild land/urban interface fires. The areas are listed in order from North-to-South with no intent to prioritize in any way. Only areas of concern are listed but there is no intention to exclude other areas that also may be of concern. Individual and solitary homes have not been identified, but, rather areas which may contain a number of dwellings.

The areas are selected on the basis of several factors. Any area in which a fire has occurred is included, even if mitigation has taken place to reduce or eliminate a fire hazard. Areas containing significant fuel loads adjacent to residential or commercial structures have been identified. Similarly, urban areas interfacing with public lands are included.

The potential for agricultural fires has not been addressed in this study. We recognize the extreme hazards that exist in dry crop fields, such as lightning strikes in a wheat field. However, because it would involve virtually the entire county, it would be impractical to attempt to propose any mitigating action to prevent it.

I. ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

Argonne National Laboratories, (ANL), is situated 2 miles North off Highway 20 in the Northwestern corner of Bingham County. It is part of the Idaho Nuclear Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, (INEEL), and is located near the Eastern border of the government preserve.

The terrain surrounding the ANL site is covered with a relatively thick growth of sagebrush, bitterbrush, and a variety of prairie grasses. The grasses include cheat grass, or June grass particularly in areas that have been disturbed. The vegetation has been mowed or eliminated away from the facility a distance ranging from 200 yards to a quarter mile, which has largely reduced the risk from range fires. However, there remains a definite hazard that could result from thick smoke and blowing embers should a fire burn up to the edge of the available fuel.

The INEEL fire department have prepared contingency plans to respond to wild land fires in this area and have the capability to effectively deal with them. However, in a worst-case scenario involving extremely high winds driving a prairie fire to the perimeter, this facility definitely could be at risk. The primary risk would likely involve thick, suffocating smoke cover and the possibility of fires starting inside the compound. Billowing embers could ignite anything that is flammable. An evacuation would be mandatory to prevent harm to personnel and save lives.

The Argonne National Laboratory will be assisted by other fire districts, such as Atomic City, Blackfoot Fire District and the County of Bonneville if deemed necessary.

A. MITIGATION ACTIONS

1. Many mitigation actions have already been implemented by both ANL and the INEEL fire department. These actions have included the removal of fuel away from the perimeter of the facility, a concerted effort to identify and mitigate flammable materials, and an evacuation plan.
2. It is recommended that a study be conducted jointly with the pertinent Bingham County Fire District, the BLM District Fire Supervisor (?), the INEEL fire department, and ANL personnel. The desired solution would be to identify additional preventative measures that could be implemented to reduce wild land fire risks.
3. ANL will be encouraged to conduct fire safety training and evacuation drills.
4. ANL will be encouraged to conduct exhaustive examination of the facility to identify and mitigate flammable components, including the roofs of all buildings.

5. Site personnel will be encouraged to further remove and push back vegetation around the perimeter and to consider seeding low-growing grasses that are more fire resistant.
6. It will also be recommended that a secondary evacuation route be developed from the ANL site to Highway 20 in the event that the existing route becomes blocked by smoke or fire.

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II. ATOMIC CITY

Atomic City is located approximately 32 miles from Blackfoot and 7 miles from Central Facilities at the INEEL. The town site is situated 2 miles South off highway 26. The town consists of 32 full-time residents and a varying number of temporary or transitory residents. There is one farm home along with a number of out buildings. There are a number of abandoned structures and weedy lots within the city limits.

The town site is largely surrounded by a combination of sagebrush and prairie grass on the North and West. The sagebrush lines both sides of the road that leads to the town from the highway from the North. Fairly heavy fuels also line the road that passes through the town on a more-or-less East-to-West direction. To the South is farmland that has been grazed or farmed to the point that there is little or no fuel to pose a fire hazard.

Perhaps the most dangerous situation exists on the immediate West of the town. Here, fuels grow unrestricted right up to the edge of the last street. Four (?) homes and various structures lie along this street and are within easy distance of a blowing wild fire.

The area around Atomic City has been involved in a number of wild land fires in recent past years. On at least one occasion, residents were advised to evacuate to avoid smoke inhalation. While fires have not entered the city, a raging fire approaching from the West or the North could possibly ignite several homes.

Atomic City will be serviced by other Fire Districts, such as Blackfoot Fire District and the INEEL if deemed necessary.

A. MITIGATION ACTIONS

A number of mitigation actions have already begun in Atomic City. The City Mayor and the BLM have initiated actions that will greatly assist the town to survive future fires. Among those are: 1) the acquisition of fire trucks and equipment, and the formation of a volunteer fire department; 2) a program of disking and ground work along the entry road into the city; 3) the acquisition of an emergency generator for back-up power in the event of a power outage. A significant development is the announcement by the BLM of their intention to construct a regional fire fighting facility in the town. This facility will house fire-fighting men and equipment, and equally important capability to manage and direct fire-fighting efforts.

- 1: A program of fire-wise education will be conducted to alert homeowners to the risks they face and actions they can take to reduce their own vulnerability.

2. A building needs to be constructed to house their fire trucks and personal equipment. At present, the trucks are parked outside and personal gear is stored at each volunteer's home. This makes it very difficult to mobilize quickly and is detrimental to the equipment.
3. The threatening areas where fuel is a hazard must be addressed. Property owners will be asked for their cooperation, and compensated, to allow mitigation efforts to be taken on their land. Suggested efforts include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Plowing or disking a safety zone;
 - ii. A grazing program to consume the fuels;
 - iii. Seeding low-growing fire-resistant grasses in areas that have already been, or will be, disturbed; and,
 - iv. Periodically mowing fuels to maintain a 3" to 5" height of close-growing fuels.
4. A secondary well is needed as a backup to the single well now existing in the town. If the well should fail during a fire, there is no recourse to obtain water for fire fighting. During past fires, the power lines have burned down causing a power outage in the town.
5. Also needed is a water main running the length of the town with hydrants spaced each block to provide access to water during a fire fight.

III. FOUR SEASONS SUBDIVISION

The Four Seasons Subdivision is located on the Eastern edge of Rich Lane, adjacent to the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. It is encircled in a large bend of the Blackfoot River that borders the East and South sides of the community. The lots consist of one, to five acres and many of them have left the vegetation in its natural state. Many of the lots have become overgrown with weeds, brush or a variety of grasses. The proximity of the subdivision to brushy undergrowth on three sides has created the threat of significant wild land fire danger.

The community does not have a central water system, or any kind of fire fighting capability. A fire starting on the reservation, or on adjacent lands could easily jump the river and sweep into the subdivision. There are two routes of egress from the subdivision, and then three routes leading away from the area.

The Four Seasons Subdivision will be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

There have been no mitigating actions initiated for this area.

1. An aggressive fire-safe training program needs to be conducted with the homeowners to teach defensible space techniques.
2. Some fuel removal actions could be taken to reduce the danger. However, because of the profusion of weeds, brush and grasses, the benefits may be negligible. Much of the source of the danger is on adjacent reservation land and gaining permission to access it is not likely.

IV. GREENFIELD SUBDIVISION

The Greenfield Acres Subdivision is located on the Eastern fringe of the Snake River Plain and is situated on low-lying foothills at the base of the Taylor Mountain range. It averages an elevation of approximately 200 feet above the valley floor. The terrain to the East of the subdivision slopes upward gradually, then steeper up and away from the community. To the North and West, the terrain slopes downward back to the valley floor.

The subdivision consists of 86 homes with a population of approximately 330 people. The lots consist of one to two acres in size creating substantial unused and weedy areas within the subdivision. Around the entire Eastern perimeter, the terrain is covered with tall grasses and has been placed in the CRP set-aside program.

At a relatively short distance from the Eastern lots, possibly 100 to 300 feet, the terrain begins to be covered with a variety of brush, bushes, grasses and other fuels. The supply is abundant and would sustain an uncontrollable wild land fire if ignited. If the prevailing winds were to push a wildfire down the slopes of the mountain toward the housing area, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible to keep it from entering the subdivision.

The Greenfield Subdivision will be serviced by the Firth/Shelley Fire District.

A. MITIGATION ACTIONS

Several mitigating actions have already been taken to address the possible occurrence and severity of fires. The community has formed the Greenfield's Water and Sewer District and is organized with a board of directors.

One action taken was to secure ownership of the land necessary to make needed changes to their water supply and delivery system. With FMHA grant assistance, they have installed a 54,000 gal storage tank, replaced old water lines with 8" main lines, and installed fire hydrants. They have two operational wells, with a 75 hp pump in one, and a 150 hp pump in the other. Both pumps are powered with natural gas. In addition, they have a 25 hp pump in reserve that is electrically operated. The actions they have implemented have resulted in one of the highest insurance ratings in the county.

Proposed mitigation actions

1. Conduct a summer fire-wise education program. Under this program, representatives would meet with individual homeowners and present information and literature about creating defensible space.

2. A renewed effort will need to be conducted to install address numbers at each residential location. At present, very few numbers are visible making it very difficult for emergency vehicles to reach an intended address.
3. Sections of fire hoses with attachments installed could be placed strategically around the community. These could be quickly accessed and connected to hydrants to reach out to the perimeters of the community.
4. A fire lane could be created around the wild land interface side of the community by disking, mowing, or grazing. One problem to be dealt with would be that the owner of the subject property has placed the ground in the CRP set aside program.
5. The land adjacent to the community could be tilled up and fire-resistant grassed and plants could be sowed.
6. A 4-wheel drive brush truck housed at the well house would be a good first-response vehicle. This would give the residents a tool to fight fires until the Shelley/Firth fire departments could respond. The next best solution would be to provide a similar truck to the Shelley/Firth fire department. They have a great need for a vehicle of this type.

V. SNAKE RIVER BOTTOMS

The Snake River winds through the county on a generally northeast to southwest direction for approximately 70 miles. The riparian area, commonly known as river bottoms, consists of variable terrain elevations and density of undergrowth. The band of undergrowth may vary from none to a mile wide in some locations. It has become a very popular trend to locate homes along the river wherever land can be obtained.

Even though Bingham County has subscribed to the National Flood Insurance Program, and has ordinances in place to govern construction of homes in these areas, a large number of homes have been built along the river in these wooded areas. The tendency has been to construct in the most dense parts of the river bottoms, increasing the risk to the homeowner from wild fires. As the homes are scattered all along the river, there will be no opportunity to work with homeowners associations in addressing the risks. Mitigation efforts will have to be performed on an individual basis.

In years of normal precipitation, the river bottom area is not at risk because of the sub-water levels. However, in years of drought, the vegetation becomes very dry and flammable, creating conditions for uncontrollable fires.

The Snake River Bottoms will be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District, which includes the Rockford/Springfield Fire Department.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

1. A program of fire-wise education will need to be conducted on an individual, house-to-house basis. This situation would be a good candidate for the application of the Red Zone program.
2. Educational literature will need to be distributed to each home. In some cases, it will need to be hand delivered to each house and perhaps, left on the door handle.
3. This area-at-risk, as well as others may merit a re-evaluation of the local building code and permitting process. This action could determine if fire-safety construction requirements should be placed on homes being constructed in high-risk areas.

VI. SHEEP MOUNTAIN SUMMER HOME AREA

Sheep Mountain is located on the Eastern fringe of Bingham County. It is in the area also referred to as Long Valley Road, and is near the Grays Lake Waterfowl Preserve. The terrain surrounding this area consists of rolling hills and prairie flatlands. It is utilized by ranchers for cattle grazing, and sportsmen for hunting and fishing.

The terrain is covered with a wide variety of grasses, sage and other brushes, and trees.

Rainfall is sparse and by mid-summer, the vegetation dries out and provides the basis for wild fires. Fire fighting crews and equipment would find it difficult to respond because of the distance and nature of the terrain.

The area where the summer homes are located is thickly wooded and located on single-track mountain roadways. The trees consist mostly of Pine, Quaking Aspen and Scrub Oak. It is currently unknown how many summer homes are in the area. Some have been built without having obtained a building permit. It is estimated that there are from 8 to 12 homes located in the forested slopes of Sheep Mountain.

The Sheep Mountain Summer Home Area would be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District and the Firth/Shelley Fire District.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

No known mitigation actions have been taken in this area. The following are some suggestions that could provide minimal protection.

1. Implement a fire education program with the goal of teaching and Encouraging homeowners to create defensible space around their homes. A program is proposed that would provide for risk evaluation, such as Red Zone.
2. Develop a county map of the roadways that connect with the homes so that Emergency vehicles could respond.
3. Provide for improved communications throughout the area. At present, emergency vehicles cannot transmit or receive in this area. A Repeater would need to be installed to resolve this communications gap. Likewise, cell phone usage is not available.
4. Future county development should take into consideration adopting codes that Would make a home in areas like this more fire resistant. Such codes could involve creating defensible space, fire-retardant building materials, and vegetation management.
5. Ensure that alternate routes of egress are provided for. All homeowners in the

area should be able to exit their area, except for their own driveway, on an alternate route.

VII. WESTERN BOUNDARY OF BINGHAM COUNTY

At intermittent points along the western edge of the county, starting south and west of Aberdeen, and following the developed land north to Taber, are residences vulnerable to prairie, or wild land fires. These fires are usually started as a result of lightning from thunderstorms and can be ignited miles away from dwellings or farm structures. The prevailing wind is primarily from the southwest and will carry fires into these areas. These homes are located in proximity ¼ mile to several miles apart. The distance from each other presents a situation needing to be addressed individually. Many of these farmers have taken steps to protect their property by disking a fire barrier on the land next to the wild land fuel. These have only been partly successful, as a raging fire can leap a wide distance. In addition, the danger from smoke inhalation is severe in these situations.

The Western Boundary of Bingham County will be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

1. Fire lanes could be installed and maintained by a variety of means. Disking and or tilling an area not less than 200 feet wide would stop the majority of fires at the property line. One problem encountered with this approach is the proliferation of weeds after the soil is disturbed, requiring constant maintenance.
2. Another approach would be the seeding of fire-resistant plants or grasses for the same, or more distance. The big benefit here would be a one-time effort of removing fuel, preparing the ground and seeding.
3. Fire-wise education is also needed here. Some farmers have never had a fire problem and may not think a danger exists. This approach would likely call for a house-to-house distribution of literature.

VIII. WOLVERINE SUMMER HOME AREA

Wolverine Canyon, and the subsequent Sellers Creek Canyon, are the most popular summer home areas in the county, and pose the most difficult challenges. The area is mountainous and heavily wooded. There are a several perennial and intermittent creeks throughout. Vehicular traffic is limited to a winding and sometimes steep roadway passing through the canyons from east to west for a distance of approximately 20 miles.

There are many side roads leading off the main road, but all lead to dead ends limiting escape routes to the main road. An unknown number of homes have been constructed along this corridor. Our estimate is approximately 40, with a large number being constructed or having been permitted. A subdivision has been started with 48 lots and another has been proposed.

Nearly all homes have been concealed in thick timber and have driveway security making entry very difficult. During drought years, such as the last three, these mountains become exceedingly dry and volatile. Fires starting in these hills will be extremely difficult to access and to extinguish. Thick underbrush and downed timber contribute to very dangerous fire conditions.

The Wolverine Summer Home Area would be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

1. This area presents the most urgent need for a fire-wise education program. It will also be the most difficult to administer. Because of no-trespassing measures and hidden homes, delivery of materials will be a challenge. However, this will likely be the most effective course of action.
2. A thorough mapping program will need to be conducted. Every home should be located and, by some means, identified for access by emergency vehicles. At present, homes, or cabins, exist that are basically unknown and were not permitted.
3. Egress and access routes must be studied to determine if alternate routes of escape can be developed. It is not feasible at this time to create another main route because of the mountainous terrain. However, subdivisions, and clusters of homes, can and should develop alternate routes.
4. This is an area that definitely should adopt building codes requiring fire-resistant materials. A panel could be convened to determine what types of construction can be permitted in the future.
5. A communications network could be developed that could alert homeowners to a fire outbreak.
6. The Shelley/Firth Fire District responds to fires in this area. The addition of a 6-wheel drive pumper truck to their existing equipment is necessary to help them to respond to fires in this area. Because residency in the area is sporadic, the creation of a fire brigade is not feasible.

BINGHAM COUNTY WILD LAND FIRE/URBAN INTERFACE ACTION PLAN

Goals and Objectives

- Reduce the occurrence and potential damage from wild land/urban interface fires in Bingham County by utilizing a proactive, cooperative approach.
- Promote the study and identification of fuels management programs throughout all county interface areas.
- Prevent and/or reduce the occurrence of wild land fires by evaluating current land management and building codes for possible future modification.
- Promote and achieve a high level of competency within the first responders by providing advanced training.
- Achieve the maximum cooperation and participation possible of homeowners and other interested parties in fire reduction activities by conducting extensive fire-wise education. Promote fire hazard cleanup and defensible space actions in interface areas.
- Achieve a complete addressing and mapping program whereby all, or most county structures are located and identified, facilitating access by emergency vehicles.
- Achieve a high level of preparedness for fire mitigation by identifying and procuring the necessary equipment and supplies currently deficient in the fire districts.

Prioritized Fire Mitigation Initiatives

1. Fire-wise education. Utilizing various funding sources, such as grants, and contract organizations, implement a fire-wise educational program. Involve local and state and federal jurisdictions in prevention programs. \$15,000
2. Utilizing the Bingham County Fire Management Group, identify critical fuels management projects. Seek funding for the top priority areas. Implement fuels reduction actions where practical. \$25,000
3. Procure and utilize the Red Zone program in the appropriate areas, such as the Wolverine summer home area. \$7,500

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|---|-----------|
| 4. Promote the mapping and addressing system for the county, particularly those areas identified as “at risk”. | -0- |
| 5. Develop a vegetation management program to include noxious weed spraying and mowing. | \$10,000 |
| 6. Pursue grants to provide needed equipment and/or resources where deficiencies exist: | |
| A. Fire hoses (approx. 500 ft.) for Greenfield Sub. | \$3,000 |
| B. A water main with fire hydrants for Atomic City | \$24,000 |
| C. A 4x4 brush truck for Shelley to service Wolverine canyon. | \$45,000 |
| D. A building in Atomic City to house their fire trucks and PPE’s. | \$50,000 |
| 7. Seek funding to upgrade and expand the county communications system. | \$100,000 |
| 8. Conduct a study to determine if county land use ordinances and building codes need to be modified to promote fire reduction. | \$5,000 |

**FIRE MITIGATION MEETING
ABERDEEN FIRE STATION
OCTOBER 22, 2003**

Attendees: Errol Covington, Terry Krehbiel, Clay Shackelford and Michelle Corbridge.

Meeting Time & Adjournment: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Errol began by asking the commissioners of “How much Bingham County is at risk for a fire disaster”.

This in turn would make us eligible for grant money from BLM, if we had a fire mitigation plan in place.

Errol then read the Assistance Agreements to the commissioners. He, also, stated that the Commissioners needed to be part of the fire mitigation plan.

Errol showed different places on a map as being as follows:

1. Fuel Present-Low Risk areas
2. Moderate Fuel-Moderate Risk areas
3. High Fuel-High Risk areas

Errol asked the commissioners to mark on the map where they thought the highest risk areas were.

Errol, also, presented a map on Fire Occurrences from 1970-2001 & different brochures on educating the community.

Errol discussed grazing, green stripping and disking around farmers fields & high-risk areas.

Errol said that he wasn't sure if the grant money could be used for fire equipment, but he would check into it. He stated that he, also, wasn't sure how the monies would be distributed; he did say that they might hand it out to the separate fire districts themselves.

At the close of the meeting Errol said that he just wanted to present the plan to us today, and we are to let him know if we have any comments or suggestions.

BLACKFOOT FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2004

Blackfoot Fire Department

Meeting Time—6:30 pm

Attendees: Aaron Moon, Chairman, Austin Moses, Clerk, members Tim Fields, Rick Tew, and Kevin Gray, Fire Chief; visitors David Hall and Toby Keith; and Errol Covington and Paul Muirbrook, consultants.

The meeting was called to order and minutes read for the last meeting. Approved and seconded.

The treasurers report was presented and approved.

Old business was discussed. Various purchase orders were reported. A follow-up was requested by the Chairman on the application of funds to purchase some protective clothing.

New business was called for. The Chairman presented Paul Muirbrook, Bingham County Weed Control Officer, and Errol Covington, Bingham County Emergency Management Coordinator. They came to discuss the Bingham County Wild Land/Interface Fire Plan.

Mr. Covington discussed the Assistance Agreement and explained the requirement for a fire plan to the District Commissioners. He asked the commissioners to become part of the Interagency Fire Planning Group which they readily agreed to. It was explained that this agreement does not, at present, offer any funding for projects, but that when funding does become available, the plan is essential to obtaining funding.

Mr. Muirbrook displayed a county map showing areas of prior wild land burns. He then asked the Board to identify areas within the Fire District that have the potential for interface fires. This was accomplished by circling areas on the map where dwellings interface with grasses, trees and brush.

Each area was discussed and preventative measures were discussed. Some of those include the following:

1. Training—all agreed that additional training for fire fighters and volunteers is essential.
2. Public Education
3. Additional Equipment—the need for at least one additional brush truck was identified. More light turnouts and respirators are also needed.
4. An examination of zoning laws especially pertaining to construction in interface areas. It was suggested that prospective home builders be required to watch a video, or study materials pertaining to “defensible space” and fire-retardant building materials.
5. An educational program needs to be initiated with existing home owners to educate them to the dangers of not taking preventative actions.

MINUTES OF MEETING WITH THE GREEN ACRES WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Location Green Acres Water Control Building

Date Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Attendees Sheila McCormick, Mike McCormick, Linda Brandon, Breck McCormick & Errol Covington; Board members not present are Carla Empey and Ed Bond

The requirement for a Bingham County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Plan, was presented to the Board by Errol Covington, the Emergency Management Coordinator. Those in attendance were in agreement that actions needed to be taken to prevent or reduce the possibility of wildland fires in the neighborhood.

During the meeting, members of the board explained some of the mitigating actions already taken. A 54,000 gallon storage tank has been installed on the hillside above the subdivision which has significantly improved the water pressure. Thousands of feet of 8 inch waterlines have been installed to replace the former lines. Hydrants have been installed every 500 feet throughout the community.

They have two wells, one of which has a 150 hp. pump, and the other is a 75 hp. pump. Both pumps are powered with natural gas. They also have a 25 hp. electrical pump for backup.

There are 82 homes with an estimated population of 330. There are several yards which have been let go into weedy patches. Other yards have a large accumulation of old vehicles and other discarded items, all of which contribute to the fire danger.

Various suggestions were made with the goal of increasing safety to the community from wildfires:

1. Sections of fire hoses with attachments installed, could be placed strategically in the community. These could be quickly accessed and connected to hydrants to reach out to the perimeters of the community.
2. A 150, to 200 foot fire lane could be created by disking, mowing, or grazing. One of the problems to be considered would be that the owner of the subject property currently has placed the ground in the CRP set aside program.
3. The land adjacent to the community could be tilled up and fire-resistant grasses and plants could be sowed.
4. A 4-wheel drive pumper truck housed at the well house could be a good first-response vehicle. This would give the residents a tool to fight fires until the Shelley/Firth fire departments could respond.

5. A fire-safe training program should be conducted to reach out to all residents and educate them to techniques of making their homes and yards more fire resistant
6. The addressing system for the community needs to be reinstated. At present, very few of the residents have their street numbers posted. This makes it very difficult for fire or ambulance drivers to locate a residence.

It was suggested that another meeting on the same subject should be held with as many of the community residents participating as possible. It was agreed that such a meeting would be planned for later in the spring.