

# Bonner County, Idaho

## County Wildfire Protection Plan



**Revised 2010**

**Bonner County Wildfire Protection Plan  
(CWPP)  
Certification and Agreement**

The County Wildfire Protection Plan developed and amended for/by Bonner County:

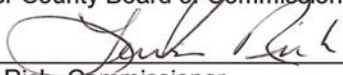
- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, fire departments and state and federal land management agencies with jurisdictions in Bonner County have been consulted.
- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel treatment and recommends types and methods of treatment that will protect Bonner County.
- This plan addresses public awareness and education regarding the reduction of the ignitibility of structures throughout the County.
- This plan developed in accordance with Public Law 106-390, Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 contains all the required elements, and serves the same purpose as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. (As described under Public Law 1087-148, Healthy Forest Restoration Act.)

The following entities attest that the standards listed above have been met and mutually agree with the contents of this County Wildfire Protection Plan.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Young, Chair  
Bonner County Board of Commissioners

4-27-10

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lewis Rich, Commissioner

4-27-2010

Date


\_\_\_\_\_  
Cornel Rasor, Commissioner

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Howard, Dept. of Emergency Management/LEPC

4-27-2010

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Robison  
Idaho Department of Lands

4/22/10

Date

## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

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This is the latest of many anticipated revisions to this living document. After five years of operation, the plan is being revised to incorporate changes derived from the mitigation work that has been accomplished and to reflect the actual focus of the work on the ground. Many people have contributed to the revision of this Plan and their participation is gratefully acknowledged.

### **Bonner County CWPP Steering Committee**

Bob Howard, Chairman, Bonner County DEM  
Bill Love, Idaho Department of Lands  
Angelic Koch, Forest Service  
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management  
Dale Reed, Insurance Industry Representative  
Dan Brown, IDL Priest Lake  
Matt Butler, Forest Service, Priest Lake  
Robert McArthur, Bonner County Fire Chiefs Association  
Anna Reed, Administrative Assistant to Committee  
Nelle Coler, Panhandle Area Council, Grant Administrator

### **Project Manager**

Larry Isenberg, Synergistic Solutions, Inc.

**Fire Chiefs**

John De Bernardi, Spirit Lake Fire District  
Les Kokanos, West Pend Oreille Fire District  
Robert Moore, Hope/East Hope Fire  
Brad Mitton, Northside Fire District  
Spencer Newton, Schweitzer Fire District  
Rob Goodyear, Sagle Fire District  
Mike Nielsen, Coolin-Cavanaugh Bay FPD  
George Cordingly, Clark Fork Fire District  
Mike Tucker, Westside Fire District  
Robert Tyler, Sandpoint Fire Department  
Tim Ventress, West Priest Lake Fire District  
Bob Wathen, Sam Owen Fire District  
Dean Fiedler, North of the Narrows Fire District

**Idaho Department of Lands**

Chris Remsen, Sandpoint  
Dan Brown, Priest Lake  
Bill Love, Sandpoint

**Forest Service**

Dave Lux, Sandpoint RD  
Matt Butler, Priest Lake RD  
Angelic Koch, Sandpoint RD  
Glen Palfrey, Priest Lake RD

**Bureau of Land Management**

Kurt Pavlat

Kurt Pindell

# INTRODUCTION

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This annual update references the original plan completed in 2004 which was authored by Inland Forest Management, Inc. **BONFIRE** has become a viable wildfire mitigation program in Bonner County, Idaho, as evidenced by 5 years of successful hazardous fuels treatment projects which have increased the safety of area residents through completion of 734 projects that treated 898 acres and provided protection to 1534 structures throughout the county.

This past year **BONFIRE** has given increased emphasis to the creation of shaded fuel breaks as a means of protecting large tracts of developed areas. The primary tool of our hazardous fuels treatments remains the creation of a defensible space around homes and other structures..

A prime example of the shaded fuel break projects is the ongoing work along the access road to Schweitzer Mountain which is about two thirds completed. This is a single access road that serves many millions of dollars in residential and commercial development associated with Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort. Participants in the project included **BONFIRE**, Schweitzer Mountain Development, Schweitzer Fire Department, the City of Sandpoint, BLM, IDL, and US Forest Service. The project runs along both sides of the access road and treats fuels in a band 100 feet below the road and 50 feet above the road. In addition to the shaded fuel break work, we have either contracted with or finished almost all the individual defensible space work at the bottom of the hill between the potentially dangerous rail road and the Granite Ridge homes. Funding is expected to continue the project this year (2009).

In addition to the Schweitzer work **BONFIRE** has concentrated on other areas in the county which are described as follows:

- Valuable work was completed this year on the Baldy Ridge and Janish Road subdivision area. This was one of the original areas identified in the beginning mitigation plan. All the individual homeowners who applied have been treated, and the neighboring landowner has signed his contract to allow us to build a fuel break to the south and west of the homes.
- **BONFIRE** also accomplished a significant amount of work around homes in the Hwy 57-Nordman corridor.
- We made great progress in the Clark Fork / Hope area by treating both individual homes and communities.
- Other group projects were completed in Sagle, Vay, Sandpoint, West Oden Bay, and Spirit Lake. This ranged from a couple of homes up to as

many as ten. Individual defensible space was provided in many other areas of the county as time and money allowed.

**BONFIRE** continues to work with the US Forest Service to develop projects in the Priest Lake area. These include Lakeview-Reeder Fuels Reduction Project, Outlet to High Bridge FRP, and Hwy 57 Safety Project. **BONFIRE** is also involved with the US Forest Service on a project at South Grouse which included collaborative attendance at the initial public meeting in Sagle. The program is participating on projects in the vicinity of Elmira in northern Bonner County with the Bureau of Land Management.

The **BONFIRE** Steering Committee has determined that continued funding of the program at the highest possible levels is vital to provide protection for the lives of residents and fire fighters, and to preserve property, natural resources and economic viability in the County. The development and monitoring of proper maintenance practices for defensible space and shaded fuel breaks, and the implementation of an aggressive public awareness/education program are key elements in continuing the success **BONFIRE** has achieved. The future of the **BONFIRE** program looks bright and full of challenges. We have a strong, diverse working group which will continue to address the issues of protecting life, increasing fire fighter safety and preserving the resources that make Bonner County and north Idaho special.

# PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

Forest fires are a part of nature-past, present, and future in Bonner County. Their occurrence is not a matter of if but when. Therefore, homeowners living in the interface between the forest and urban areas must expect to be impacted by wildfire. These homeowners can choose to be proactive before the arrival of the fire or passively accept whatever the fire does to their families and cherished possessions. **BONFIRE** is dedicated to communicating and accomplishing these proactive actions and programs for the homeowners. We are all in this together and in the case of wildfire, every chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

**BONFIRE** has had great success in Hazardous Fuel Treatment (HFT) projects throughout the county over the last three years. The number of acres treated and buildings protected, along with the average cost/acre for these treatments are all noteworthy. The following table is a brief recap of the total accomplished:

BONFire recap of last three years					
Year	# of projects	\$'s spent in field	Acres treated	Cost/A	Structures protected (1)
2007	108	\$179,162	238	\$752	440
2008	112	\$164,450	228	\$721	299
2009	206	\$343,125	435	\$789	458
<b>Totals</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>\$686,737</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>\$762</b>	<b>1197</b>

(1) **Structures protected**-does not include protection or value gained from watershed protection and road access improvement.

Our educational efforts are also very successful and of equal importance to actual HFT. They encompass a multitude of different approaches which the following list, while not being all inclusive, shows some of the main focus:

- Contractors-they are seen as our ambassadors to the public and their knowledge and wisdom are used in a network based on the most valuable tool in advertising-word of mouth. Much effort has been and continues to be put into helping them with such items as communication skills and plant species identification. As a result our contractors are highly skilled, and we have no misunderstandings or complaints from the public.
- Much of the project manager's in the field duties involve a similar approach to education, along with dispersing information on further avenues the homeowners can use to be proactive in their defense against wildfire.
- Public meetings are used to target specific audiences. One of our more successful ones was with the insurance industry-the group who can reinforce our efforts by their work with their clients. This can involve actions up to requiring the homeowner to practice wildfire

safety by building defensible space, before a home insurance policy is written. This is an important link and at this time much more practical than trying to pass and enforce new ordinances.

- Keep our website updated. This is a valuable resource and many people prefer it to other forms of communication.
- Answer and act on all verbal questions which come in on either the project manager's personal phone or our dedicated **BONFIRE** phone line.

The following pictures show before and after conditions/results on two of the 112 HFT projects accomplished by **BONFIRE** in 2008.

The first two are of the Schweitzer Fuel Break, a collaborative effort between **BONFIRE**, the City of Sandpoint, Schweitzer Corporation, Northern Lights utility, the BLM, and the USFS. It is a six mile long project which greatly improves access for hundreds of residents in the single access Schweitzer Village, along with protecting the City of Sandpoint's watershed.



The next two are of single home defensible space protection on the dry and south facing Don Gerber property.







We have made great progress in Bonner County, but there is much left to do. With the rapid influx of new people who love to live in the Wildland Urban Interface area the “left to do list” is undoubtedly greater than our “done list”. This common sense program depends on HFT work, educating the public, and continuing funding. It is with great pleasure that Synergistic Solutions, Inc. is associated with **BONFIRE**.

Future goals of the Project Manager are as follow:

- Focus on both wildfire safety and creation of individual jobs in the workforce.
- Provide as much assistance as funding allows for the creation of fuel breaks and defensible space throughout the county.
- Continue and strengthen our education efforts throughout the county. Our focus will be to show the public they both have the ability and are far better off, if they take proactive steps long before wild fire occurs.
- Explore and adopt greater efficiencies for both of the above items.



The devastating and traumatic loss of a home to wildfire, which **BONFire** seeks to prevent.



## ***POPULATION UPDATE***

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Table 1, on page 2 in the original Plan lists the population of Bonner County since 1960. The table is to be updated by listing the population for 2007 (the most recent year available) at 41,050. This new data is from the US Census Bureau 2007 Population Estimates. This is a decline from the estimated population for 2006 of 41,275.

## ***FIRE HISTORY UPDATE***

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The most significant fire in Bonner County since the Original Plan was the Plowboy Fire (2006) that burned 1234 acres. That fire combined with the Hughes Fire (in Boundary County) burned the most acreage in the Priest Lake Ranger District since 1939. Nationally we see more fires and larger fires each year as the fuel load increases in areas that have not burned. This gives emphasis to the fact that fires are getting larger and more complex. Additional fires burn each year and those totals have been updated as follows:

**Table 3**

Cumulative Number of Wildfires by Cause and Acreage for Bonner County

	Human Caused	Lightning Caused	Total
Number of Fires	1249	1171	2420
Number of Acres	6764	7275	14039

Information was contributed by IDL and USFS.

## ***WILDLAND FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT***

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A number of changes are underway for fire risk assessment in Bonner County. The **BONFIRE** Steering Committee is currently working with the Forest Service office in Missoula, MT to assist us in developing a new risk assessment based on the Idaho State Risk Assessment. With new data and new tools available, we expect to have the most up-to-date assessment available.

We plan to use the latest LANDFIRE fuels data which is currently being “refreshed” to reflect recent disturbances. This data is expected to become available this summer and fall.

**BONFIRE** will be challenged to define “Risk Assessment” in terms of risk to what and from what. We also have to help identify the appropriate metrics used to identify “risk”. This presents new challenges to our committee and we look forward to working on them. Funding for this important work is expected in 2009 from grant commitments made by IDL.

For this year we have continued to rely on the risk assessment done in the original plan (2004) and the input from the local fire chiefs and the resources of the **BONFIRE** Steering Committee. We have assigned priorities for this year as follows:

Priority 1: Schweitzer / Baldy complex involving the City of Sandpoint municipal watershed, the areas of Westside Fire District, Sandpoint City Fire, Northside Fire District, Schweitzer Fire District and the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Schweitzer, Inc., and private landowners. We will continue the shaded fuel break started in 2007 which should be completed this year.

Priority 2: Hoodoo Valley involving Spirit Lake Fire District and West Pend Oreille Fire District. This is an area of dense small diameter timber with lots of light flashy fuels. Many homes and developments are occurring in this area of limited water supply, minimal access and a dry windy area of the county. Multiple fuel breaks will be required to address the fire safety in this area.

Priority 3: Gold Hill – Garfield Bay. This is a part of the Granite Hill to Sandpoint Corridor. This area is characterized by steep slopes with south and west aspects. There is very limited water supply and plenty of fuels. The Forest Service and BLM are both looking at fuel reduction projects in this area. The area serves as a recreational asset for Sandpoint and as a consequence there are many people using official and unofficial trails throughout the year. Poor access to the area does not discourage the recreational use but will deter fire response. Homeowners in the area are requesting projects to improve fuel

conditions and access as well. A number of projects are developing here to address these issues.

Priority 4: Highway 57 Corridor and Priest Lake. Several projects are complete in this area but more are planned. Another series of projects are planned to open up the Highway 57 right of way. Forest Service projects are also planned to address the concerns of the West Priest Lake Fire District and the communities of Priest Lake to Nordman.

Priority 5: Highway 200 to Montana Corridor: This area takes in Sunnyside, Oden Bay, Clark Fork, Trestle Creek, Trout Creek, Hope, East Hope and the Sam Owen Peninsula. This area is characterized by steep slopes with South and West aspects. The highway and railroad also add to the infrastructure that is present in the area. Major power lines and communication lines cross here as well. Several projects have been completed here but more is needed to address critical areas of hillside development. This is an area where Firewise Communities, USA will play an important role.

Priorities 2 and 5 are being addressed through the use of stimulus funding in 2009 and 2010.

# ***FIRE DISTRICT RESOURCES AND NEEDS***

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There are 13 Fire Departments in Bonner County with varying degrees of capability. Most of the rural fire districts are primarily structure protection oriented and will fight wildfires when homes are threatened. The majority of the fire fighters in the fire districts are volunteers. Following is a list of equipment, personnel, and facilities for each of the fire districts/departments in Bonner County. The size of each district is also included. The fire districts/departments in Bonner County were asked to identify equipment and facility needs to help mitigate the risks associated with wildland fire. Each district has updated this information for 2009.

## **Clark Fork Volunteer Fire Department**

The Clark Fork Fire Department has two fire stations in Clark Fork. The district provides services to 77 square miles extending from the Montana border to the eastern shore of Lake Pend Oreille, plus class 8 protection to the City of Clark Fork. Automatic aid is provided to the cities of Hope/East Hope and Sam Owen Fire Protection District. Mutual aid is available to the Heron, Montana Fire District, IDL and the USFS. There are no plans to expand the fire district.

### ***Fire Apparatus includes:***

One Type 1 Engine  
One Type 2 Engine  
One Type 7 Engine  
One Type 4 Tender

### ***Personnel:***

The Department has twelve volunteer fire fighters.

### ***Needs:***

- One 2,100 gallon Tanker/Pumper
- One Interface Type 2/3 Engine
- Twelve new style fire shelters

### **Coolin-Cavanaugh Bay Fire District**

The district covers 6,187 acres and has one fire station located in Coolin. Plans for the future include the construction of a new fire station in Cavanaugh Bay.

**Fire apparatus includes:**

Two Type 2 Engines (1@1000 gal, 1@1500 gal.)

One Type 6 Engine (CAFS)(350 gal.)

One Fire Boat (600 ftl 1 ½” hose, 300 ft. 2 ½” hose)

10,000 gallon underground water storage tank

**Personnel:**

The district has eight volunteer fire fighters

**Needs:**

- New Fire Station in Cavanaugh Bay area
- Community Water System in Coolin
- Structural PPE
- SCBA's, extra masks
- Hose; 5”, 2 ½”, 1 ¾”, nozzles and fittings
- Fire tools, (axes, pike poles, etc)
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- One AED

### **Hope/East Hope Volunteer City Fire Department**

The fire district has one fire station located in East Hope and provides structure protection, rescue/extrication within both city limits. The fire department also provides the same services west to milepost 41 on Highway 200. Structure protection is provided through a fire contract basis. The fire department has an automatic aid agreement with Sam Owen Fire District and Clark Fork Fire. The department is currently expanding its communications with the addition of a narrow band BHF repeater based at the fire station. The department has plans to add a Type 1 structure engine to the fleet.

**Fire Apparatus includes:**

One Type 4 Engine

One Type 3 Tender

One Brush Truck

One Rescue/Extrication vehicle

**Personnel:**

The department has eight volunteer fire fighters.

**Needs:**

- Type 1 Structure Engine
- Small boat for water rescue and access to Warren Island
- Additional Wildland Engine
- Volunteers

## **North of the Narrows Fire District**

The district covers 2,270 acres and has one fire station. Plans for the future include the expansion of the existing fire station or the addition of a second station in a more central location

### ***Fire apparatus includes:***

One Type 2 engine

One Type 5 engine

One Fire Boat (350 gpm, 100 ft. 2½" hose, and 700 ft. 1½" hose)

### ***Personnel:***

The district has 10 year round and 16 seasonal volunteers..

### ***Needs:***

- Hose, 2 ½", 1 ½", 1", nozzles and fittings
- Dry hydrants at Bear Creek and Sandpiper Shores
- PPE and SCBA's
- Chainsaws, wildfire packs and new age shelters, wildfire tools
- Communication Equipment
- Addition to current fire station with an additional bay.
- Type 2 Engine 1500 gallon water tank restoration or replacement

## **Northside Fire District**

The district covers 71,313 acres and has four fire stations. The stations are located in Ponderay, north of Ponderay on state highway 95, on Lightning Creek Road and on Samuels Road. There are no plans to expand facilities or district boundaries at this time

### ***Fire apparatus includes:***

Five Type 2 Engines

Three Type 6 engines

One 1700 gallon Water Tender

One 1800 gallon Water Tender

One 1000 gallon Water Tender

### ***Personnel:***

Two paid and twenty-five volunteer fire fighters..

### ***Needs:***

- 9 dry hydrants
- Structural PPE for volunteers
- 1 – Type 2 Engine
- SCBA's
- Wildland hose, nozzles & fittings

## **Sagle Fire District**

The district has five fire stations (one staffed, four volunteer). The stations are located in Sagle (Main Station), Cocollala, Careywood, Seneacquoten and Bottle Bay. There are no plans for future expansion although relocation of several stations may be necessary if the Highway 95 widening project occurs. The district covers 104,400 acres.

### ***Fire apparatus includes:***

Six Type 2 Engines

One Type 3 Engine

Two Type 6 Engines

Two Type 1 Water Tender

One Type 2 Water Tender

### ***Personnel:***

Nine full time, 36 volunteers and one chief

### ***Needs:***

- 1 Type 6 Engine
- 2 Type 1 or 2 water tenders
- Wildland PPE
- Structure PPE for volunteers
- Structure and Wildland hose, nozzles and fittings
- Communications equipment specifically portable radios, P-25 capable



## **SamOwen Fire District**

The district covers the Riser Creek area and the Hope Peninsula. (Approximately 4.5 square miles.) A new station has been constructed at the intersection of Hwy 200 and Peninsula Road. The district has automatic aid agreements with Hope/East Hope and Clark Fork fire districts. Our Fire/Rescue engine responds from Mile marker 41 to the Idaho/Montana State Line, carrying rope rescue equipment, ice/water rescue equipment, AMKUS extrication equipment, ResQJack stabilization system, air bag stabilization system and miscellaneous hand tools.

### ***Fire Apparatus includes:***

Three Type 1 Engines  
One Fire/Rescue engine  
One Type 6 Engine  
Two Type 3 Tenders  
One command vehicle

***Personnel:*** Eighteen volunteer fire fighters.

Future plans for facilities include a satellite station on Upper Spring Creek Rd. The Fire Chief expects the district to expand in the near future. Future plans call for the ability to provide fire protection to Warren Island.

### ***Needs:***

- Satellite fire station
- 4 dry hydrants on the peninsula
- Newer and more reliable Type 6 engine
- Fire boat

## **Sandpoint Fire Department**

The district includes the City of Sandpoint. The City has one fire station located at 1123 Lake Street in Sandpoint. There are no plans to expand the district or facilities at this time.

### ***Fire Apparatus includes:***

One Type 1 Engine

Two type 2 Engines

One 65' Ladder Truck

One 27' Boston Whaler Fire Boat with a 750 gpm midship pump

One Light Rescue Vehicle

### ***Personnel:***

Ten paid and seven volunteer fire fighters.

## **Schweitzer Fire District**

The district taxing district covers 640 acres and has one fire station located outside of its own district at 7094 Schweitzer Mountain Road. Since the district has no adjoining boundaries with other fire agencies, they regularly (and are somewhat expected to) cover an additional 12 square miles that includes most of the main road and much of the surrounding ski resort terrain. Additional subdivisions are in the works or have recently been annexed into the district. Due to the current fire station location, lack of suitable water and a need for volunteer housing to provide a "minimally" adequate response, an additional fire substation or a relocated main station will be necessary to provide adequate fire protection for the subdivisions.

### ***Fire apparatus includes:***

Two Type 1 Engines

One 100 ft Platform Aerial w/ 1500 gpm pump

One Type 6 Engine

Two Ambulances

One Command/Medical QRU

One Large Tow Truck

### ***Personnel:***

Two paid and eight to twelve volunteer fire fighters.

### ***Needs:***

- Expansion of community water system to Fire Station
- Continued wildland fire breaks to protect sole access, egress and community as a whole
- Housing for volunteer personnel
- Substation or relocated main station
- 1200 ft of LDH

## **Spirit Lake Fire District**

Although located in Kootenai County, Spirit Lake provides fire protection for a large area in southwest Bonner County. The total area covered by the Spirit Lake Fire District is 24,204 acres. The district has three fire stations, one at Spirit Lake, at Blanchard, and one at Spirit Lake Cut-off. There are no plans to expand facilities or the district at this time.

***Fire apparatus includes:***

Three Type 1 Engines

One Type 2 Engine

Two Type 5 Engines

Two Type 6 Engines

Four Type 2 Water Tenders

***Personnel:***

Seven paid and twenty volunteer fire fighters.

## **West Bonner Fire District**

This district contracts with the City of Newport, Washington for fire protection.

West Bonner provides three volunteers for Newport.

There are no plans to build facilities or expand the district in Bonner County.

## **West Pend Oreille Fire District**

This district covers 64,000 acres and includes the cities of Priest River and Oldtown.

There is one fire station located on Hwy 57 near the airport in Priest River and a second station downtown in Priest River. Plans are currently being prepared for a new station on Old Priest River Road and county permits are being prepared.

### ***Fire apparatus includes:***

Four Type 1 Engines

Two Type 2 Engines

One Type 5 Engine

Four Type 6 Engines

One Type 7 Engine

Two Type 2 Water Tender

One Type 3 Water Tender

### ***Personnel:***

Fifty-one volunteer fire fighters.

### ***Needs:***

- Site acquisition and new fire station in the northern part of the district
- Dry hydrants at river locations (6)
- Hose, 1 ½", 1 ¾", 2 ½", nozzles and fittings
- Tender 2500 or 3000 gallon
- Additional fire hydrants in Priest River (8)
- Replace fire hydrants in Priest River (9)
- PPE, Structural (25)
- SCBA's
- 20 Handheld radios, narrowband (P25)
- Radio Repeater Station
- 12 Mobile Radios, narrowband (P25)
- AEDs
- New style Wildland shelters.

## **West Priest Lake Fire District**

The district has two fire stations. One station is located at Nordman and the other is located at Kalispell Bay. The district covers 10 square miles. A third fire station is planned for the Lamb Creek area. There are no plans to expand the district at this time.

### ***Fire apparatus includes:***

Two Type 1 Engines

One Type 3 Tender

One 3000 Gal. Tender

One type 4 Fire Boat

***Personnel:*** The District has twenty-five volunteer fire fighters

### ***Needs:***

- New Fire Station in the Lamb Creek area
- Two new trucks Triple Combination, Class 1 Engines
- Two Type 2 water tenders (3000 gallon, 250 gpm pump)
- New Fire Boat (750 gpm pump)
- Wildland PPE
- Structural PPE
- SCBA's
- Hose; 5", 2 ½", 1 ¾", nozzles and fittings
- Portable injection fans
- Fire tools, (axes, pike poles, etc)
- Radios, mobile and handheld, P-25 compatible
- Ladders
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Gas detector
- Two AED's
- CAFS system, slide in
- Air Compressor and cascade system for filling air bottles for SCBA's

## **Westside Fire District**

The district covers 13,458 acres and recently annexed to the center of the river, Baldy Mt. area and mm 13 on Highway 2 to WPOFD Boundary that includes additional acres. The district has two fire stations. One station is located in Dover and the other is located at Laclede. A new station in Dover has been completed. Construction may begin this spring on a new station for Wrenco. Plans also include completion of a training facility/office for the Laclede Station.

### ***Fire apparatus includes:***

Three Type 1 engines  
Three Type 2 engines  
One type 3 engine  
One type 6 engine  
One 102' aerial platform/2,000 gpm pump  
One 2500 gal. tender  
One 2000 gal. tender  
One 1800 gal. tender  
One 1200 gal. tender  
One 1000 gal. tender  
Two Ambulances

Equipment expected soon includes 6-wheel Gator with fire fighting and EMS capabilities and Fire boat with 3000 gpm pump

### ***Personnel:***

Two paid and fifteen volunteer fire fighters.

### ***Needs:***

3 dry hydrants  
Replace 2 military 6x6 tenders  
Slip in unit to complete 4x4 f350 brush truck  
P-25 portable radios

## **Idaho Department of Lands Resources**

In general, Idaho Department of Lands is responsible for fire suppression on private and public lands within their response area. In Bonner County, the Department of Lands has two Protection Districts, one for the Priest Lake area and the other for the remaining portions of the county.

### **Priest Lake Forest Protective District**

The Priest Lake District includes the east side of Priest Lake north to the Bonner Co./Boundary Co. line. The District has one fire station located at Coolin, Idaho near Priest Lake.

***Fire apparatus includes:***

- One Type 4 Engine
- One Type 5 Engine
- One Type 6 Engine
- One Type 7 Engine
- One Medium Dozer (Cat D-5)

***Personnel:***

Three permanent and eleven seasonal paid employees.  
There are no plans to expand facilities at this time

### **Pend Oreille Forest Protective District**

The Pend Oreille District includes all of Bonner County except for the area covered by the Priest Lake District and the areas covered by the U.S. Forest Service. The District has one fire station located in Sandpoint and covers approximately 570,000 acres of wildland.

***Fire apparatus includes:***

- One Type 5 Engine
- One Type 6 Engine
- One Type 7 Engines
- One Type 3 Water Tender
- One Type 3 Dozer

There are no plans to expand facilities at this time.

### **United States Forest Service resources**

The Forest Service is responsible for suppression of fires on federal lands and private lands within their response area

### **Priest Lake Ranger District**

The Priest Lake Ranger District covers the west side of Priest Lake from Cuban Hill north to the Bonner County line and is responsible for wildland fires within this area.

***Fire apparatus includes:***

One Type 4 Engine  
Two Type 6 Engines

### **Sandpoint Ranger District**

This district covers the east side of Bonner County and Lake Pend Oreille to the Montana border, south to Farragut State park and north to Elmira Peak.

***Fire apparatus includes:***

Two Type 4 Engines  
One Type 6 Engine  
There are no plans for expansion.



## *County-wide Concerns*

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The issues of life safety, including fire fighter safety, water supply, communications, training and public education remain at the forefront as described in the original Plan. Development continues in remote areas of the county without regard to water supply for fire fighting purposes. The development of dry hydrants of a standardized design will assist in times of mutual aid. Better still would be a requirement for developers to address the issue of water supply.

Interoperable communications is a theme at all levels from Homeland Security to county emergency planning. Some advances are being made at the state and local levels in the development of communications plans. For years first responders have encountered difficulties when attempting to communicate between agencies: the most common problem being that each discipline uses a separate frequency. The communications plans, and other protocols instituted by Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, such as requiring all radios purchased with federal grant funds to be P25 compliant are meant to address these gaps in the ability of agencies to communicate with each other. Implementation, particularly the costs associated with replacing and purchasing new equipment and the availability of the hardware are among the largest hurdles at this time. Changing the frequencies and radios does not address the other problems of “dead spots” and voids where signals don’t penetrate due to extreme terrain or areas without adequate repeater coverage. Working toward a resolution of the communications problems is identified in the Preparedness Action Plan section of this document.

Training is being conducted by the Bonner County LEPC during table-top exercises. These sessions help work out some of the logistics of a local large scale emergency. Needs still exist in the identification of personnel to fill the Command and General staff positions in the event a local disaster occurs. Once identified, training for the specific positions needs to take place.

It is recommended that the County adopt the International Fire Code in its entirety and that it be applicable for all new construction across the county, not just subdivisions.

Educating the public to be aware of wildfires, and the threat they pose to life and property must be a constant and consistent process. The ever changing and increasing population demands an education program that addresses the differing knowledge and experience levels of residents, and requires frequent repetition to reach the maximum audience. The development of new brochures,

programs for schools, fairs and other public gatherings is a primary function of the BONFIRE Program. These brochures are about 33% complete at this time.

The development of a new BONFIRE web site is needed to aid in the Public Awareness campaign. It will strengthen communication with the public and the local fire districts.

The original Plan, page 27, stated the need for a Fire Safe Ordinance very clearly. The chances a structure will survive a wildfire are increased when a defensible space is created around the home or business. Bonner County Fire Chiefs continue to work with the county to develop ordinances that enhance the work of BONFIRE and to adopt standards and codes that support the Fire Safe environment.

## ***MITIGATION AND ACTION PLAN***

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The Bureau of Land Management has designated all of the communities in Bonner County as Communities at Risk to wildfire. Consequently all of Bonner County is designated as a high priority area. The terrain and fuel conditions that exist across the county dictate that all areas are at equal risk to wildfire. The risk to individual homes and businesses can be assessed at the time of participation in BONFIRE.

The BONFIRE Steering Committee has purposely not been rigid when setting priorities for HFT projects. Funds provided through the National Fire Plan vary by agency and program; some carry restrictions with significant limitations where and how they may be used. When unrestricted, consolidated funds are available they allow the program the flexibility to meet the needs of the greatest number of residents.

## ***MITIGATION OF WILDFIRE HAZARDS***

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*Goals and Objectives:* Reduce the risk to life and property, increase fire fighter and public safety and reduce fire suppression costs.

*Who is Responsible:* Bonner County through the BONFIRE program in cooperation with private property owners, Federal, state, and local government agencies, and fire departments and protection districts.

*Funding Sources:* National Fire Plan, State Fire Assistance Hazard Mitigation Program, Idaho Dept. of Lands: Forest Stewardship Program, Idaho Dept. of Lands: Communities at Risk, Bureau of Land Management.

*Timeframe for Completion:* Ongoing

Protecting lives, property, natural resources and the economy in Bonner County is the number one priority of the BONFIRE program. BONFIRE has determined that hazardous fuels treatment around homes provides an effective means to meet that goal. Over 700 structures have been protected to date in Bonner County. Additionally the landowner can improve safety by cleaning the roof and gutters, screening a deck or porch and utilizing fire resistive building and landscaping materials. These items are identified when an assessment of the home is made during the initial contact with the Project Manager.

### **Hazardous Fuels Treatment Beyond Defensible Space**

Hazardous fuels treatment as part of the implementation strategy for the National Fire Plan focuses on a collaborative effort among local, state, and federal governments in setting priorities that emphasize protection for communities and high-priority watersheds at risk. The creation of defensible space around individual homes is only a part of a strategy necessary to ensure adequate protection from wildfire. It is beneficial to perform hazardous fuels treatment (HFT) beyond and in addition to defensible space within the Wildland Urban Interface in order to more completely address the threat from wildfire. For purposes of this plan, **the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) includes any area within two miles of dwellings used for human habitation and/or infrastructure that serves these points of habitation** (see Appendix A for a complete definition of Wildland Urban Interface).

Projects proposed on state and federal land within/or adjacent to the WUI can greatly reduce the threat to life and property from wildfire. A list of proposed USDA Forest Service and BLM HFT projects that would provide added protection to the WUI can be found in Appendix H. Where possible, BONFIRE HFT work associated with the mitigation strategy of this plan has been coordinated and, if practicable, co-located near or adjacent to USDA Forest Service and BLM HFT projects.

## ***PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN***

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The Preparedness Action Plan presented in the Original Plan remains in effect. It should be noted that the Timeframe for Completion for the individual actions is “Ongoing”. This plan will be reviewed annually, and updated as appropriate.

### **Public Education**

Funding through the National Fire Plan has a lot to say about how we go about making our county safer for fire fighters and the public with respect to wildfire. The emphasis is shifting from hazardous fuels treatment work on the ground using grant money to a program of education of the public to be more self reliant and responsible for one’s own situation. BONFIRE expects to take a more aggressive education role by providing literature, workshops and programs aimed at the individual homeowner to assist in developing defensible space. On the ground projects will consist of fuel breaks and community projects aimed at protecting larger groups of homes and communities at large.

## ***SUCCESS STORIES***

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BONFIRE enjoyed many successes in 2008. Some of them were noteworthy and have been developed into Success Stories about our program. We have tried to feature a diverse cross-section of the activities of the BONFIRE program. We take pride in presenting the 2008 Success Stories.

## Sagle Fire Exercise – A Community Success

On July 11, 2008 Bonner County Dispatch received a report of a wildfire in a grassy field east of Sagle. The incident quickly blossomed into a county-wide coordinated response involving Fire Districts, Department of Emergency Management, Bonner County Sheriff's Office, Idaho State Police, American Red Cross, BONFIRE, et. al.

Although the wildfire was eventually revealed to be a simulation, the response was very real. The exercise tested communications, traffic management, resource distribution and sheltering; BONFIRE Committee members were employed to triage the defensibility of individual home ignition zones.

The exercise effectively demonstrated the ripple effect of an emergency incident. Preparedness activities must anticipate and include planning for all elements of, and the agencies involved in a response. During a wildfire incident for example, suppression



may be the obvious focus, but it is only part of a measured, effective response.

As is frequently the case during exercises and emergency responses, some communications difficulties were noted. The participating agencies and organizations are reviewing the after action report to identify ways to overcome those problems during future responses. When wildfire again threatens Bonner County, the men and women who protect the residents will be ready, and better trained to take action.

## **Grouse Mountain and Gold Hill Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects USFS Sandpoint Ranger District**

Grouse Mountain and Gold Hill were identified in the Bonner County Fire Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan (2004) as priority areas in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for hazardous fuel reduction treatments.

Both of these fuel reduction projects were developed collaboratively with the Bonner County Fire Mitigation Planning Group (**BONFIRE**), adjacent home owners, Sagle Fire Department Fire Chief, community groups, members of the general public and other federal and state agencies.

Public meetings and field trips were held to provide information on the current conditions, the need for treatments and to collaborate with stakeholders on potential treatment areas and methods.

While the main objective of these projects is to reduce hazardous fuels and wildfire risk to improvements and resource values on both private and National Forest System lands, their implementation will provide benefits beyond fuel reduction objectives:

- Forest health and resilience to disturbance will be improved
- Wildlife habitat will enhanced and restored
- Biological diversity will improve
- Collaborative relationships have been established that will aid in the development of future hazardous fuels reduction projects

Both Projects currently have on the ground activities occurring in order to meet the objectives developed through the collaborative process.



*Figure 1. South Grouse Pre-treatment*



*Figure 2. Gold Crown Pre-treatment*



*Figure 3. South Grouse Following Treatment*

## Insurance Industry Seminar

The first **BONFIRE** Insurance Industry Wildfire Seminar was held on September 30, 2008. In attendance were 12 insurance agents, 1 county commissioner, 2 fire chiefs, 1 representative from Bonner County Planning and Zoning and 5 members of the **BONFIRE** Steering Committee. This cross-section of the



community made for a lively discussion of wildfire issues. The presentation was an educational program for the insurance agents about how wildfire progresses across a landscape and how home ignitions occur. The presentation was well received and there was a good discussion of topics relative to wildfire and the insurance industry. Members of the insurance industry were presented

with certificates recognizing them as Community Partners. Another meeting is planned for 2009

## Schweitzer Fuel Break

Schweitzer Mountain is more than a Resort and popular ski destination. The mountain is home to hundreds of year-round and seasonal residents, an economic bulwark for Bonner County and it shelters the watershed that supplies the municipal water for the City of Sandpoint.



**BONFIRE** has worked collaboratively with the City of Sandpoint, Schweitzer Corporation, the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to design and implement a shaded fuel

break project which protects structures on the mountain, projects economic security and preserves the integrity of the watershed.



The fuel break has created a clean corridor with an average width of 150 feet to facilitate safer access for first responders and an evacuation route for residents and recreators.



# ASSESSMENT: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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The “COMMUNITY GUIDE to Preparing and Implementing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, August 2008” contains guidelines for assessing the state of a CWPP by looking at the accomplishments and shortcomings of a program. The Steering Committee undertook an assessment of the BONFIRE program to see where our strengths and weaknesses lie.

## **Goal 1: Partnerships and Collaboration:**

The committee felt that the program has done a good job in forming partnerships and bringing outside agencies into the discussion of projects and public involvement. We have participated in booths at the County Fair, Home and Garden Show, public hearings, educational programs for youth groups, elected officials, insurance industry, and building and development interests. We have not been as successful in inviting representatives of the environmental interests in participating in our discussions.

## **Goal 2: Risk Assessment:**

We are well on our way to a new county-wide risk assessment. Funding has been promised from grants approved but not awarded that will allow us to authorize personnel from the Missoula Fire Center to begin work on our new wildfire risk analysis. This project will utilize the latest data from Landfire. Issues of access, new construction and water supply will be incorporated in the new assessment.

## **Goal 3: Reducing Hazardous Fuels:**

Bonfire has made a lot of progress in reducing hazardous fuels in our number 1 risk area and in creating defensible space around homes and communities. Much work remains in a county that is only 39.6% private ownership. With the large percentage of state and federal ownership in Bonner County, most of the fuel reduction work falls to the hands of agencies that are unable to accomplish the work. The burden falls to the public to protect their own property to the best of their ability. Thus Bonfire and the individual landowners are making the best progress possible with the limitations of funding and resources available.

Where possible, Bonfire projects have spanned public and private boundaries. The projects at Schweitzer and the collaborative projects along Highway 57 and the planned Gold Hill projects are all examples of this collaboration.

Bonfire has helped spawn 3 new companies that are the result of the fuels reduction work in the county. These new companies and the others working in the Bonfire program employ over 30 people on a seasonal basis.

#### **Goal 4: Reducing Structural Ignitability:**

**BONFIRE** has been working with the County Commissioners and the Planning and Zoning Department to require/encourage the use of non flammable building components. To date we have not lost any structures to wildfire since Bonfire's inception. The only losses have been to the timber that was involved in the fires. We continue to work to strengthen the codes and regulations for wildfire hazards.

Public awareness is a constant program within the county. We are currently working with the state Firewise Coordinator to get the first Firewise Community in Bonner County. Several more communities are expressing interest in that certification.

Last year, Bonfire participated in the first county-wide wildfire exercise. This was such a success that more training in this regard is being planned. All of the fire departments in the county have improved their training and abilities to fight wildfire.

#### **Goal 5: Education and Outreach:**

We use every completed Bonfire project as a teaching tool and an advertisement to the neighborhood about the advantages of the creation of defensible space. Demonstration projects are planned in conjunction with neighborhood or community cleanup days, or other celebrations.

In a recent survey completed for the Bonner County All Hazard Mitigation Plan, a survey of the public revealed that Wildfire was the number one threat to people and property. Public awareness is improving if only slowly.

#### **Goal 6: Emergency Management:**

The CWPP has been integrated with the County EOP and the All Hazard Mitigation Plan. A contract for the development of evacuation plans across the county has just been awarded and is expected to be complete this year (2009).

Participating agencies were asked to write letters of assessment from an agency standpoint. New Appendix J has been added with those letters included.

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# CONCLUSIONS

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**BONFIRE** is well on its way to providing an effective and proactive program for Bonner County residents to protect themselves from wildfire. The County Wildfire Protection Plan is meant to be a living and adaptable document. The public is encouraged to become involved and provide input because, “we are all in this together.” In the event of wildfire, every chain is only as strong as its weakest link, therefore, it is our goal to make every link as strong as possible.

# APPENDIX H

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## Status of Bonner County Projects on BLM Managed Public Lands

### I. Elmira Stand Density Reduction and Species Restoration

A. Prescribed burning and a reforestation effort on approximately 60 acres of public land. This portion of the project would reduce hazardous fuels and through reforestation efforts, move the site towards a cover type more closely resembling its historic species composition. After broadcast burning of the site, scheduled for spring or fall of 2009, rust-resistant western white pine, western larch and ponderosa pine would be planted in 2010 or 2011. The site is located in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 18, T. 59 N., R. 1 W.

### II. East Harlem Pile Burning

A. Burn piles produced from a slashing and piling contract subsequent to a timber sale late fall/early winter of 2009. The project area is located on Long Mountain approximately four miles southwest of Cocolalla Lake in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 28, T. 55 N., R. 3 W.

### III. Schweitzer Mountain Road Fuel Break

A. The treatment on public lands would primarily entail the removal of brush and smaller diameter trees 100 feet below and 50 feet above the road by hand and by mechanical means (masticator on a small tracked excavator) thus reducing hazardous surface fuels, ladder fuels and opening the forest canopy. The activity and natural fuels would be either hand piled or mechanically piled and subsequently burned or chipped; or masticated on-site. Monitoring will consist, at a minimum, of pre- and post-treatment photos taken at representative sites.

B. The legal description for this treatment on public lands is T. 57 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 4, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and T. 58 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 28, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ . Total public land acreage to be treated would be less than 20 acres. This treatment should be completed early during the 2009 field season.

### IV. Long Mountain #3 Reforestation

A. Approximately 20 acres of a 40 acre timber sale will be planted in the spring of 2009. Species planted will be rust-resistant western white pine and western

larch. The legal description is T. 55 N., R. 3 W. and Sec. 28, NE¼SW¼. This site is located on Long Mountain approximately four miles southwest of Cocolalla Lake.

#### V. Little Sand Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction/Forest Health Project

A. Currently a conceptual project. Inventory would be required to be completed prior to initiation of any proposed treatments. Inventory efforts could be initiated as soon as the 2009 field season. Based on the data collected, future treatments would be proposed in collaboration with adjacent landowners, interested publics, Bonner County, City of Sandpoint, and other federal, state and local agencies. The project area would include those public lands located in Sections 4, 5, and 6, T. 57 N., R. 2 W. and Sections 28, 29, 30 and 34, T. 58 N., R. 2 W.

#### VI. Westmond Forest Health Treatment

A. Currently a conceptual project that could be approved for planning as soon as spring of 2009. The project would entail a timber sale treating approximately 150 acres of a 160 acre public land parcel located one mile east of Westmond. Total volume to be removed would be between 500 – 750 MBF. Once the timber sale is completed, activity fuels would be further treated via either machine piling/burning or Rx underburning. Legal description of the parcel is: T. 55 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 9, NE¼.

#### VII. Berry Creek Forest Health Treatment

A. Currently a conceptual project. If approved, this project could treat up to 480 acres of public land located in the Pack River drainage approximately 2½ miles west of Samuels. Treatments would consist of commercial thinning via a timber sale, pre-commercial thinning of previously logged public lands and treatment of activity fuels following the timber sale. Reforestation would be completed where necessary. Planning would commence late in 2009 or in 2010. These public lands are located in T. 59 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 26.

#### VIII. Gold Mountain Fuels Reduction Project

A. Currently a conceptual project. Inventory of forest vegetation and fuels data would be initiated no sooner than the 2009 field season. Based on the data collected, future treatments would be proposed in collaboration with adjacent landowners, interested publics, Bonner County and other federal, state and local agencies. Following analysis via NEPA, treatments would not be initiated until at least 2011. The project area includes those public lands located in Sections 6, 7, and 8, T. 56 N., R. 1 W. and Sec. 12, T. 56 N., R. 2 W.

**USDA Forest Service, Sandpoint ID, 5-year fuels program**

**1: Projects currently in Implementation phase:**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Summary (Purpose and Need)</b>	<b>Benefit to the Community</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Wrenco Loop	Improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatments	National Forest system lands in the Johnson Creek drainage, approximately 8 air miles west of Sandpoint, ID	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety and improve Condition Class/forest health.	680 Acres
Sam Owen	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing forest Condition Class on National Forest System land adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System lands on the Hope Peninsula.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety and improve Condition Class/forest health.	280
Little Blacktail Ecosystem Restoration	Improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Reduce hazardous fuels improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment	National Forest System Lands three air miles form Cocolalla Lake and approximately 12 air miles south of Sandpoint, ID	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	1,231 acres

South Grouse	Reduce hazardous fuels within the project area to lessen wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure, private and National Forest System lands, and resource values.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment	National Forest System Lands fire air miles south of Sandpoint, Idaho and within the Sagle community area.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	965 acres
Gold Crown	To reduce wildland fuels on National Forest Service (NFS) lands and lessen the risk of a landscape fire event in the area between Bottle Bay and Sagle Slough. Improve the health and resilience of the residual forest stands and to enhance the effectiveness of future fire suppression tactics in the area.	. Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment	National Forest Service lands 1 ½ miles south east of Sandpoint, Idaho	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	573 acres  3729 Total acres of implementation

## 2. Projects where planning (NEPA) is complete:

Project	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
West Gold	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System Lands with in the Gold Creek drainage, approximately 2 mile southwest of Lakeview, Idaho.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	1,338 acres

## 3. Projects where planning is currently underway or being worked on:

Project	Completion Priority/ Year	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
Tumbledown	6/2009	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System Lands within Tumbledown Creek drainage. It is located on the east shores of Lake Pend Oreille near the rural residences of Cedar Creek and Lakeview ID	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	671 acres



#### **4: Future projects in concept:**

Future Fuels projects identified for which no formal planning efforts have yet occurred:

Sugar Ant

Talache Pearl

Schweitzer.

**US Forest Service Priest Lake RD WUI treatments being considered in Bonner County, Idaho.**

**Projects currently in Planning phase**

Project	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
Lakeview Reeder HFRA (formerly Kalispell and Granite-Reeder projects)	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the lower reaches of Granite Creek, Kalispell Creek, and Reeder Creek, adjacent to private land within the Nordman area.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Total project area is 30,000 acres. Treat estimated 4000 acres within Bonner County.
Stone Johnny	Improve wildlife habitat and reduce hazardous fuels along Forest boundary, adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire degrading wildlife winter range or forest resources.	National Forest System lands adjacent to private land in the Stone Johnny Mountain area 5 miles north of the community of Oldtown.	Treat National Forest System lands with prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat and reduce hazardous fuels.	Treat approximately 250 acres.
Lower Priest	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the Murray Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Lower Priest River drainages.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Treat approximately 3000 acres.
Chips Ahoy	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the Upper West Branch drainage, approximately 5 miles southwest of Priest Lake.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Treat estimated 1000 acres within Bonner County.

Highway 57 Corridor	Reduce hazardous fuels and increase public safety along highway 57.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire compromising the main egress route from Priest Lake.	National Forest System lands adjacent to Highway 57.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and hand piling, and improve firefighter and public safety.	Treat estimated 250 acres.
North Zone Roadside Salvage	Reduce hazardous fuels and increase public safety along all State, County and Forest Service system roads.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire compromising the egress routes within the Priest Lake Ranger District.	National Forest System lands adjacent to all State, County and Forest Service system roads.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and hand piling, and improve firefighter and public safety.	Treat estimated 20 miles or 950 acres annually.

**Projects currently in Implementation phase**

Project	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
57 Bear Paws	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands adjacent to private property and emergency egress routes in the Lower West Branch drainage, approximately 11 miles north of Priest River.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning, hand piling, and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Treat 700 acres
Gleason Pine	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within the Wildland Urban Interface	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the Moores Creek drainage, approximately 17 miles north of Priest River.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	Treat 62 acres.

High Bridge - Outlet Fuels CE (HBO)  (combined projects formerly named Dubius and Outlet to High Bridge)	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the Dubius and Upper West Branch drainages, adjacent to private land and along emergency egress routes.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning, hand piling, and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Treat approximately 900 acres within the estimated 3800 acre project area
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**Future Fuels projects identified for which no formal planning efforts have yet occurred:**

Kavanaugh Pee Wee	South Falls
West Quartz	Tunnel
Lower West Branch Flats	West Fork Moores
Gleason Meadow	Squaw Valley and Goose Creek
Dickensheet to High Bridge	Lamb Creek
Priest Lake Islands	Hanna Flats
Beaver Creek	Mosquito Bear
Cuban Pine	

**USFS Priest Lake WUI Project Development and Implementation Timeframes**

Project	<i><b>Planning Timeframe</b></i>	<b>Implementation Timeframe</b>
Lakeview Reeder HFRA	Complete FEIS by Summer 2009	Begin implementation in Fall of 2009
Stone Johnny	Currently on hold due to higher priorities	
Chips Ahoy	Complete FEIS Spring 2011	Begin implementation in Fall of 2011
Lower Priest	Complete FEIS by Spring 2010	Begin implementation in Fall of 2010
North Zone Road Salvage	Complete EA by Fall 2009	Begin implementation in Spring of 2010
Highway 57 Corridor	Complete CE by Spring 2009	Begin implementation in Spring of 2009