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**Legend**

<b>Type</b>	□ Private
■ Existing RFPA	■ Bureau of Land Management
■ Proposed RFPA	■ US Forest Service
■ Idaho Boundary	■ Other Federal Ownership
■ Other State Lands	■ Tribal Lands

Vicinity Map

## Rangeland Fire Protection Association

6/11/2015



Map Notes and Data Sources  
 IDL Ownership current as of map date  
 Ownership current as of 2013  
 Current unprotected private land current as of map date

Disclaimer:  
 This map has been compiled using the best information available to the Idaho Department of Lands at the time and may be updated and/or revised without notice. In situations where known accuracy and completeness is required, the user has the responsibility to verify the accuracy of the map and the underlying data sources.

## **Rangeland Fire Protection Associations in Idaho**

In Idaho there are two options for providing fire protection on private lands that are currently unprotected. One option is through the establishment of a Fire Protection District (FPD), the other is starting a Fire Protection Association (FPA). The primary purpose of an FPD is structure protection; however, wildland protection can be provided. The only purpose of an FPA is to provide wildland fire protection. In southern Idaho at the end of 2010 there were 2.2 million acres of private rangeland without any formalized fire protection.

The concept of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA) in Idaho started in December of 2010 when a group of private ranchers got together and determined that they needed a better way to organize themselves and protect their natural resources. With support from Governor Otter, the Idaho Legislature, and federal and State fire managers, ranchers now have the avenues to form RFPAs.

Creation of the associations is a collaborative effort between local rancher, the U.S. Department of Interior federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). The benefits that the RFPAs provide include:

- Taking advantage of the quick initial attack the ranchers can provide;
- Satisfying the ranchers' interest to be active participants in protecting the forage needed for their livelihood;
- Satisfying fire managers' safety concerns by ensuring all firefighters are trained and have necessary equipment and communication;
- Supporting the IDL effort to provide a complete and coordinated approach to fire suppression in Idaho;
- Enhancing efforts to protect sage grouse habitat to the benefit of all parties

The first RFPA was established prior to the 2012 fire season, and there are now a total six RFPAs that were operational for the 2015 fire season. Currently, the six groups in southern Idaho are located in Ada, Boise, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties. To date, more than 250 RFPA members have been trained. The six RFPAs combined protect 951,000 acres of private rangeland that was previously unprotected, as well as providing secondary protection on 4.8 million acres of federal and state land.

This process starts with landowners determining if the need for rangeland fire protection exists, and is not already covered by an existing fire district. If so, the next step is to establish an association, achieve nonprofit status, and purchase liability insurance. Following this, a cooperative agreement is signed with the IDL.

The ranchers provide initial attack using their own ranch equipment along with equipment acquired through the IDL. The IDL documents and tracks firefighter training records and facilitates equipment acquisition. The BLM provides firefighter training, and the US. Fish & Wildlife Service provides support as well as financial assistance with startup funds and specific projects.

A Rangeland Fire Protection Association is a nonprofit organization established to prevent and suppress range fires. It is governed and directed by the members. It is funded by fees set by the local board and grant dollars. Equipment and training are provided through IDL and BLM. An RFPA is not a taxing district, and it does not provide structure protection. Its purpose is to protect the landowner's investments, assist adjoining cooperators if asked, and keep fires small through safe, aggressive initial attack.

Currently there are four additional areas where landowners have begun to have the conversation of starting an RFPA. One to two of these areas is very likely to form a RFPA that will be operational for the 2016 fire season.