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### **Exploding Target Fires on IDL Fire Protection**

The fires described below were all investigated and confirmed to be associated with exploding targets or tracer bullets. In 2017 and 2018, there were six total firearm-related fires on IDL protection. Two fires were caused by shooting exploding targets, one by shooting tracer rounds, and three were caused by firearms but a specific cause was indeterminate.

#### **2017 Fire**

Strychnine: The Strychnine Fire started in IDL's Ponderosa Forest Protective District on September 2, 2017. This geographic area was under Stage 1 fire restrictions (August 4 - September 19) when the fire started due to prolonged hot, dry conditions and increased fire risk. It was started by an individual shooting tracer rounds at a target on industrial timberland. The fire was contained at 1,010 acres on September 15, 2017, at a cost of \$2,694,139. Resources assigned to the fire included three 20-person fire crews, 10 engines, and 4 dozers as well as multiple air tankers and helicopters. The fire occurred during an extreme shortage of resources both regionally and nationally due to the severe fires burning across the west.

#### **2018 Fires**

Sharps Fire: The Sharps fire started on IDL endowment land within BLM's protection area. The fire started on July 29, 2018, by an individual shooting an exploding target and reached 64,763 acres before being contained on September 6, 2018. IDL entered into a cost-share agreement with BLM for their efforts to suppress the fire. The total cost of the fire was \$9.5 million with the state's portion being \$410,242.

Moose Creek: The Moose Creek Fire started on August 21, 2018, in IDL's Ponderosa Forest Protective District and was controlled the same day. This fire was started by shooting an explosive compound. Two IDL Type 6 engines and IDL staff were assigned to the fire, which was contained at one tenth (.10) of an acre with a final cost of \$2,417. In addition to IDL fire crews, Latah County Sheriffs examined the material and requested assistance from the Spokane Explosives Disposal Unit to detonate the remaining compound found at the fire area.

**NOTE:** Prior to 2017, firearm-caused fires were reported in the "miscellaneous" category with no further breakdown. It would be very time-intensive to manually go through each pre-2017 fire investigation report to determine which firearm-related fires were caused by exploding targets or ammunition types.