

Subject: Fire Season Update – Natural Resources Interim Committee

Date: October 15, 2020

Background

As of October 5, 2020, Emergency Fire Suppression expenditures are estimated to be \$28,500,000. The Suppression Account will recover an estimated \$3,100,000 of reimbursable costs, for a net obligation of \$25,400,000. The total obligation above includes the 2020 contracted aircraft costs, a prepositioned hand crew and 11 prepositioned engines to assist with reduced resource availability due to Covid-19. These engines are assigned across the state to boost initial attack resources.

As shown by the table below, fire occurrence to date for 2020 is 84 percent of the 20-year average, while the acres burned is 30 percent of the 20-year average.

Fire Season Comparison to Date – IDL Protection

Number of Fires				
Year	Lightning	Human	Total	Acres
2017	62	139	201	52,783
2018	57	202	259	7,721
2019	95	148	243	1,478
2020	50	196	246	6,882
20 Yr. Average			294	22,634

Numbers in table are YTD for prior years and YTD for the current year.

Fire Season Summary of Expenses – IDL Protection

Suppression Spending Detail

Fire Deficiency Warrant Spending - 2020 Fire Season YTD		
Category	Estimated Costs	Notes
Aviation Resources	\$2,200,000	4 SEATS, 1 Fire Boss, 2 Type 2 Helicopters
Preposition Engines	\$800,000	11 contract engines to boost IA statewide
Preposition Hand Crew	\$200,000	20 -person Hand Crew to boost IA
IDL Team Fires	\$15,200,000	Type 2 and Type 3 Fires
IDL Non-Team Fires	\$4,350,000	IDL/Assn fires including pre-positioning
Reimbursable	\$3,100,000	IDL and Fire Department resources supporting non-IDL fires
Other Suppression	\$700,000	Coeur d'Alene Cache, dispatch, admin support
Total Estimate YTD	\$26,550,000	

Suppression Spending History

Fire Season Estimated Costs from Annual Reports			
	Idaho Fire Suppression Costs	Reimbursable	Idaho Obligation
2015	\$ 78,113,000	\$ 17,902,000	\$ 60,211,000
2016	\$ 14,802,000	\$ 4,781,000	\$ 10,021,000
2017	\$ 22,081,000	\$ 5,632,000	\$ 16,449,000
2018	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 19,500,000
2019	\$ 13,600,000	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 11,500,000
2020	\$ 26,550,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 23,450,000

Statewide Acres Burned – All Ownerships

Total Acres Burned by Ownership 10/1/2020	
Surface Owner	Acres
Idaho Department of Lands	23,074
Other State Lands	2,782
Private	35,657
Bureau of Land Management	47,881
Other Federal	9,694
U.S. Forest Service	181,537
Total Acres	300,625

Only fires with perimeters in the Fire Enterprise Geospatial Portal and the IDL Lands Resource Manager system have been included in the analysis.

Attachments

1. Significant Fires Throughout Idaho