2026 Fire Season Snapshot

IDL Fire Protection, Suppression Costs and Preparedness Funding

National: The 2026 wildfire season was very active, with more than 9 million acres burned nationwide as of early October. Dry conditions and major fires across the Northwest contributed to a challenging season, but national preparedness levels have since declined as activity continues to moderate this fall.

Idaho: Idaho experienced a difficult 2026 fire season, with approximately 850,000 acres burned statewide, including major fires affecting rangelands, ranching operations, and rural communities. The Big Grass and Tartar fires were among the season's most significant incidents.

IDL protects more than 9 million acres of state, private and federal lands across the state. As of the end of September, 227 fires had burned 10,463 acres on lands protected by IDL, with estimated total suppression costs of $47.3 million.

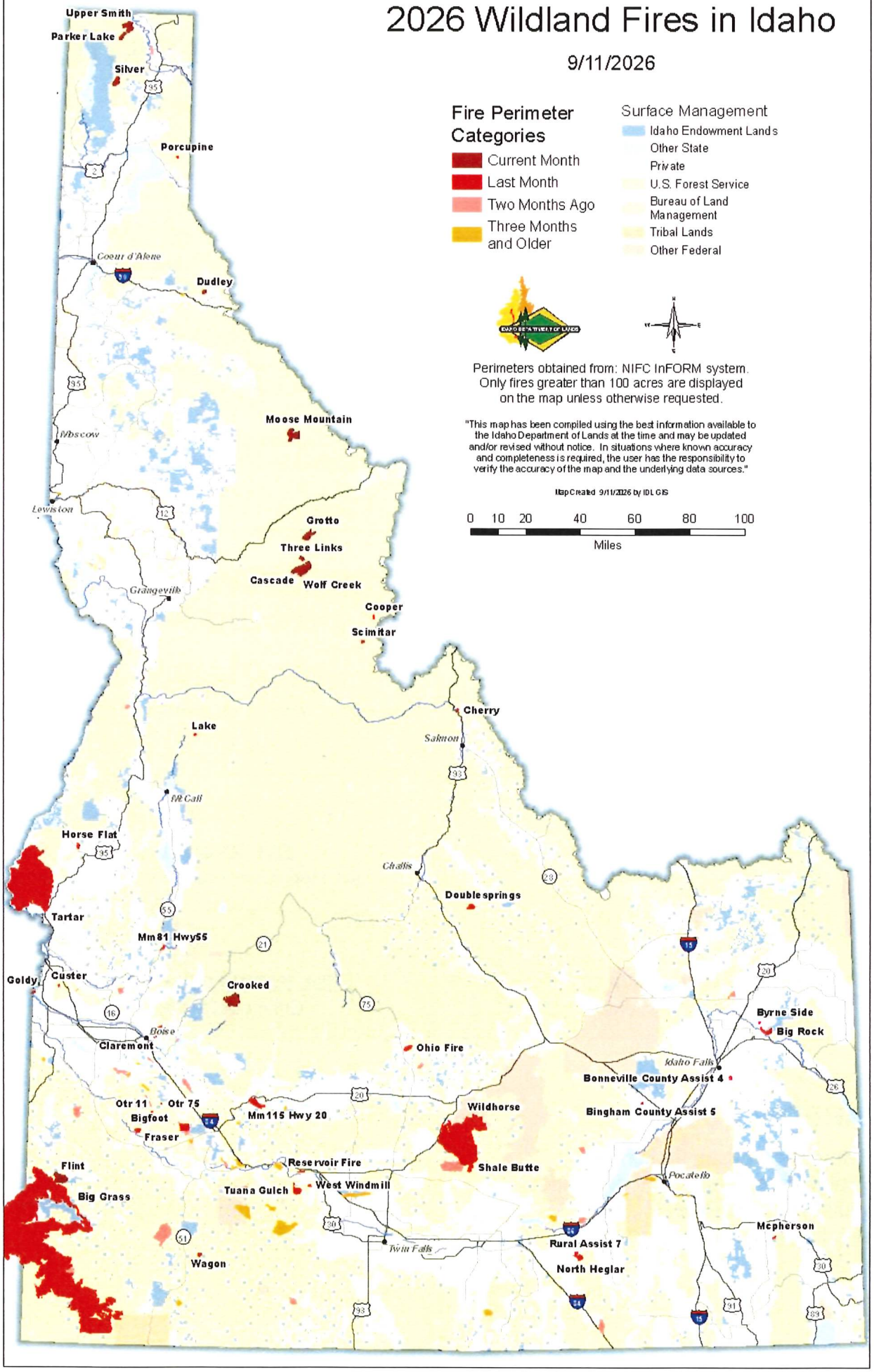
2026 FIRE SEASON	SUPPRESSION COSTS & FUNDING
227 **FIRES** On lands protected by IDL	**$47.3 MILLION** **EST. TOTAL SUPPRESSION COSTS** 2026 season estimate
10,463 **ACRES BURNED** Across IDL-protected lands	**$19.8 MILLION** **EST. REIMBURSABLE** Estimated costs eligible for reimbursement
183 **HUMAN-CAUSED FIRES** Over 80% of ignitions)	**$27.5 MILLION** **IDL ESTIMATED OBLIGATION** Estimated state obligation

PREPAREDNESS FUNDING

- Hiring and training firefighters
- Replacing and maintaining engines, equipment and PPE
- Maintaining readiness and IA capability

2026 FUNDING UPDATE

House Bill 511 expanded assessment authority for qualifying improved forest parcels from $40 up to $100. In August, the Land Board set the annual rate at $90.

2026 Wildland Fires in Idaho

9/11/2026