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Box 15, Folder 3: Fire management/wildfires - Burgdorf Junction, ID fire, August 2000. 2000

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FIRE BEHAVIOR FORECAST

FORECAST NO. 21

NAME OF FIRE: Burgdorf Junction PREDICTION FOR: DAY SHIFT

UNIT: Payette National Forest SHIFT DATE: 8/5/00

TIME AND DATE:

SIGNED: Larry Hood

FORECAST ISSUED: 2100 8/4/00 FIRE BEHAVIOR ANALYST

WEATHER SUMMARY: Change in the weather pattern. Drier and more stable with West to Northwest flow aloft. See Fire Weather Forecast for details.

FIRE BEHAVIOR

GENERAL:

Potential for very active fire behavior today. Expect torching and fire activity to pick up when the inversion lifts between 1000 and 1100. The peak burning period will occur between 1500 – 1800. Fire will continue to spread by torching, spotting, and short crown fire runs upslope and downslope. Fire will be most active in the crowns of Fir and Spruce stringers and less active in the Lodgepole Pine. Rolling material on steeper slopes will also accelerate fire spread.

Spotting Distances: up to 500 feet on the flanks and ¼ to ½ mile on the head and up to ¾ mile from ridgetops.

Probability of Ignition: 70% for shaded fuels to 90% for unshaded fuels.

SPECIFIC:

Division Y, X, W, V, and U:

Minimal fire behavior due to the excellent suppression effort. Unburned interior islands will continue to torch although the potential decreases daily. As mop-up extends further in the threat of spotting across control lines will be reduced. Areas that have not shown heat or smoke for days should not be considered out.

Division T: Fire will continue to spread down Thomas and Schissler Creeks and ridgetops from 1/10 to 1/4 mile during the burning period. Increased fire spread in the afternoon with predicted W to NW winds.

Division S: Areas of discontinuous fuels will see minimal spread mostly in the downed logs. Heads up for spot fires that have been smoldering undetected. Expect torching and spotting in fir and spruce stringers.

Uncontrolled Fire Edge:

Rapid fire spread rates from 1-3 miles for the burning period. Active fire behavior in numerous areas including California Creek, Cottontail Creek, and Beartrap Saddle. Flashy, faster spreading fuels as fire burns toward the Salmon River.

SAFETY: Unfamiliar with weather and local factors influencing local fire behavior.

NIFC

Use of Military # Battalions

5,600 miles of hose

2 million flashlight batteries

38,000 fire retardant parts

36,000 canteens

33,000 gloves

200,000 - miles delivering

Can deploy 10,000 fire fighters in 24 hrs.

1988 - 8

89 6

90 6

94 7

96 8

8/6 64 large fires

941,771 acres.

In last 6 days - contained over 60 large fires.

Ten year X to date

54,138 fires

2.1 million acres.

This year

63,242 fires

4.0 million acres.

Recent Events:

Darby } Montana
Sula }

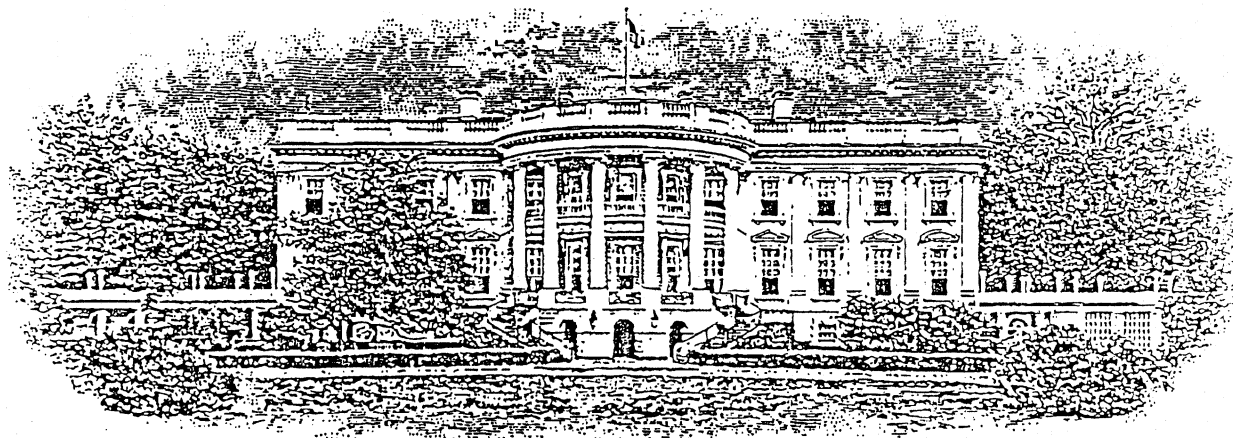
Conn. & Del

Firefighter & Public Safety

Initial attack

Protection of communities & fish

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

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DATE: _____

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COMMENTS: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

Contact: 202-456-7150

August 7, 2000

PRESIDENT CLINTON TO TRAVEL TO IDAHO

Washington D.C. - President Clinton will visit Boise and McCall, Idaho on Tuesday, August 8, 2000. The President will be briefed on and survey the efforts to combat wildfires in the state and visit with firefighters at the Burgdorf Junction Fire Incident Command Post.

Media wishing to cover the President's aircraft arrivals or departures need not request credentials in advance but must show valid federal or state-issued photo identification and press identification at the designated entrance to gain access.

Due to space limitations, some portions of the President's visit will be covered by a press pool. Designated pool organizations will provide information to other news organizations upon request and should be contacted directly.

Times are tentative and subject to change.

IDAHO POOL MEMBERS

Print/Still Photo: TBD
Television: TBD
Radio: TBD

Tuesday, August 8, 2000

(All times are MDT)

8:35 a.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives Boise Airport via Air Force One and departs via Air Force One en route McCall Airport

OPEN PRESS

<u>Press Entrance:</u>	Idaho Air National Guard Base Main Gate
<u>Pre-Set:</u>	5:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.
<u>Final Access:</u>	7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
<u>Truck Parking:</u>	Bldg. 1530/ISO Hangar near chain link fence
<u>General Parking:</u>	Parking lot in front of Bldg. 1530
<u>Cable Run:</u>	350 - 400 feet
<u>Throw:</u>	150 feet

- 9:40 a.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives McCall Airport via Air Force One and departs via Marine One en route Burgdorf Junction Fire Incident Command Post Landing Zone
OPEN PRESS
Press Entrance: Main Entrance, 104 S. 3rd Street, City of McCall Hangar
Pre-Set: 7:10 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Final Access: 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Truck Parking: Next to City of McCall Airport Hangar
General Parking: Outside of airport gate
Cable Run: 400 feet
Throw: 150 feet
- 10:40 a.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives Burgdorf Junction Fire Incident Command Post Landing Zone via Marine One and departs via motorcade en route Burgdorf Junction Fire Incident Command Post
OPEN PRESS
Press Entrance: Directed on site, Burgdorf Drive, Burgdorf Landing Zone (Large open field, same as Medivac landing zone)
Pre-Set: 7:40 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Final Access: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Truck Parking: Directed on site
General Parking: Directed on site
Cable Run: 500 feet
Throw: 150 feet
- 11:00 a.m. PRESIDENT CLINTON joins firefighters for lunch
Mess Tent, Burgdorf Junction Fire Incident Command Post
Burgdorf Junction, Idaho
POOL STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY
- 11:40 a.m. PRESIDENT CLINTON makes remarks to firefighters
Briefing Area, Burgdorf Junction Fire Incident Command Post
Burgdorf Junction, Idaho
POOL PRESS
- 12:35 p.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives Burgdorf Junction Fire Incident Command Post Landing Zone via motorcade and departs via Marine One en route McCall Airport
OPEN PRESS
Press Entrance: Same as arrival
Pre-Set: Same as arrival
Final Access: Same as arrival
- 1:00 p.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives McCall Airport via Marine One and departs via Air Force One (C-20) en route Boise Airport
OPEN PRESS
Press Entrance: Same as arrival

Pre-Set: Same as arrival
Final Access: Same as arrival

2:00 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT arrives Boise Airport via Air Force One and departs via Air Force One en route Dulles International Airport, Chantilly, Virginia

OPEN PRESS

Press Entrance: Same as arrival
Pre-Set: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Final Access: 1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

###

Burgdorf Junction Fire

Payette National Forest

Summary: 8/07/00 7:30 a.m.



Location: 23 miles north of McCall, Idaho County, Idaho

Fire Reported: 7/14/00

Cause: Lightning

Fuels: Timber, brush, grass

Acreage: 23,149
(8/07/00 at 0730 hrs)

Containment: 40%

Resources threatened: Threatened and endangered wildlife (Grey Wolf, Bulltrout, Steelhead Trout, Summer Chinook Salmon) and respective habitats. Communities of Sechesh and Warren, the War Eagle Lookout, Salmon fisheries, Burgdorf Hot Springs and watershed values. Potential threats to homes and ranches along the Salmon River.

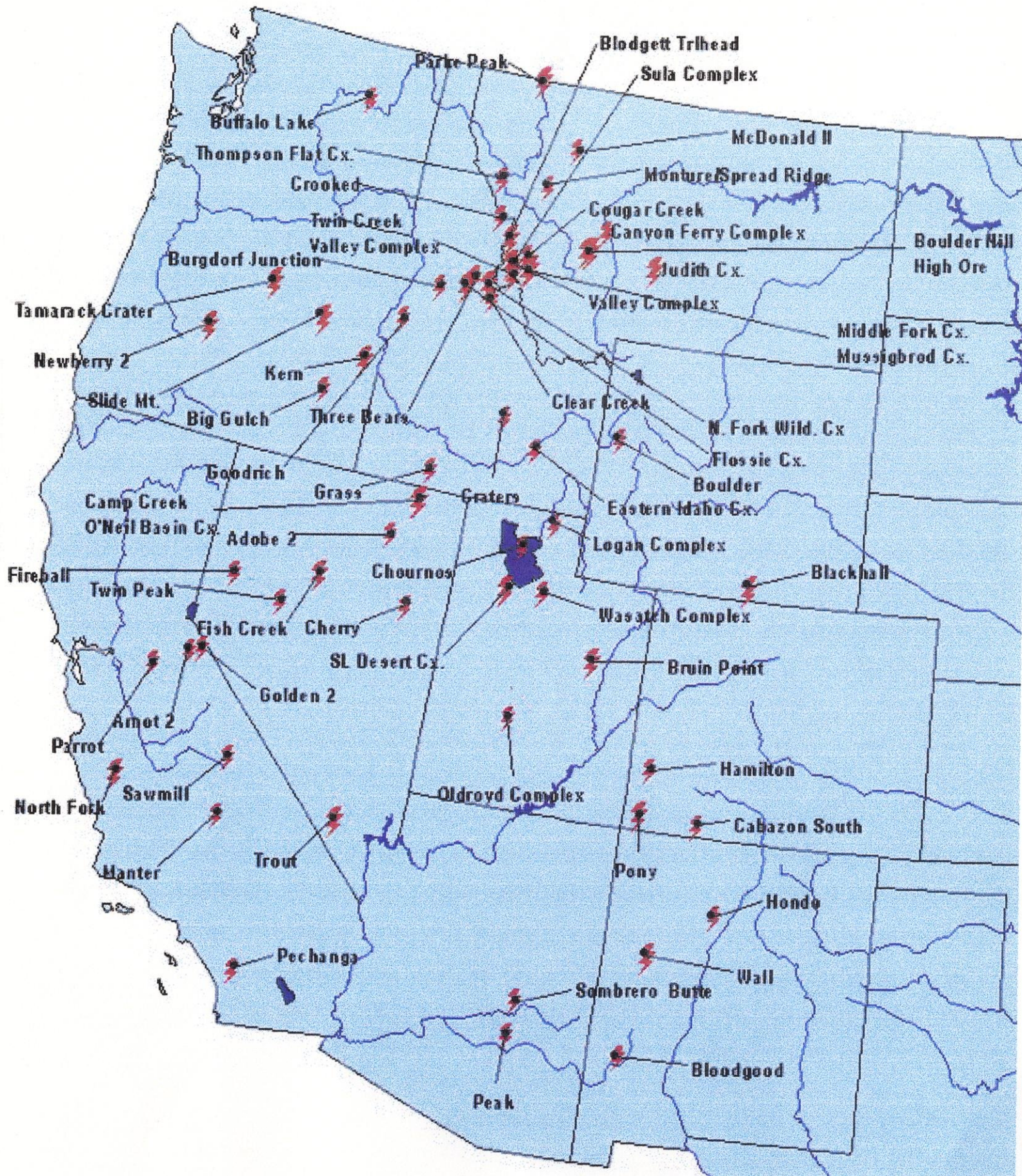
Containment problems and concerns: Very steep, rocky terrain; deep canyons; hot, dry conditions and spotting. The Marshall Mine area evacuation is still in effect. Public access between Warren and Burgdorf, north of the Salmon River is closed. The active fire front is 29 miles long.

Significant events: Fire has had several major advances but remains within objectives. Military personnel on line after three days of training.

Projected movement/spread during next 24 hours: The fire is predicted to move northeast towards the Salmon River with the threat of running crown fires. Spotting up to 500 feet is occurring on the flanks and $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on the head and up to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from ridge tops.

Actions planned for Monday: Secure the road between Rye Patch and Cottonwood Point. Prepare for structure protection along the Salmon River and Warren. Continue patrol and mop-up of hot spots.

Large Wildland Fires 8/7/2000



8/8/00 0530

FIRE INFORMATION UPDATE

*Notes for briefing of
President Clinton
John Podesta*

Tuesday, August 8th

66 large fires nationally (primarily in 11 western states) – **866,400 acres**

10 large fires contained yesterday. More than 70 large fires contained in past 7 days, 100's of smaller fires contained during initial attack

Fires to date: **63,916 fires** (10 year average 54,657 fires)

Acres to date: **4,115, 937 acres** (2,236,951 acres)

Initial attack activity was moderate nationwide yesterday.

10 new large fires reported yesterday – mostly in Eastern and Western Great Basin Areas

Weather – today – dry lightning forecast in Oregon which may increase
Increase fire activity in northwest. No major changes in the weather pattern are forecast in the near future – all 11 western states, plus Texas, are reporting very high to extreme fire danger indices.

A number of structures burned recently (Montana) – 88

Monture ((Lolo NF) - 4

Sula Complex (Bitterroot NF) – 4 residences

Valley Complex (Bitterroot NF) – 25 residences, 5 outbuildings

Canyon Ferry Complex (Helena NF) – 50 structures

Area Command Teams are set up to manage large fires on Bitterroot NF, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF and Lolo NF

Fires threatening a number of areas today – evacuations ordered or already

In place: Montana – Pinesdale, Ryan Gulch Fire area (human-caused Fire southeast of Clinton, MT – structures threatened); Boulder Hill Fire – 35 structures; High Ore Road Fire; Clear Cr Fire;

Slopover fire on Canyon Complex (Helena NF) – fire behavior so extreme, firefighters were pulled off. Some areas of other fires – winds too strong to Use airtankers.

Burgdorf Junction Fire: **24,951 acres**

40% contained

1,253 firefighters (including military)

36 crews, 13 engines, 11 helicopters
3rd Battalion 16th Field Artillery – Fort Hood, TX

LTC Daryl Williams

Task Force in place to provide structure protection along Salmon
River at Polly Bemis Ranch, James Cabin and Shep Ranch

Mesa Verde National Park – closed, all employees evacuated

Weather – high temps in the 80's and 90's; 110 in deserts of Utah, Arizona and
southern Nevada:
temps between 110 and 115 across deserts of southern California and SW
Arizona

- red flag warning (an eminent happening) for SW Wyoming for low
humidity, gusty winds
- fire weather watch (we think it's going to happen) posted for most of
Oregon

Large Fires by state

20 – Montana – 223,900
11 – Idaho – 392,200
6 – Utah – 60,000
9 – Nevada – 63,000
6 – California – 92,000
4 – Oregon – 9,700
2 – Washington – 2,700
3 – New Mexico – 10,400
3 – Colorado – 6,800
2 – Washington – 2,700
1 – Arizona – 1,400
1 – Wyoming – 3,300

Two advisors from Australia and New Zealand arrived Sunday.

Nearly 400 profession, trained firefighters are here or arriving from shortly from Canada.

Snapshot of High Priority Fires by State for August 8, 2000

Across the Nation - 66 large fires (9 new—mostly in the Eastern and Western Great Basin areas) are burning 866,312 acres across 11 western states. Eight large fires were contained.

Dry lightning is forecast in Oregon today, which may increase fire activity in the Northwest area. All eleven states are reporting very high to extreme fire danger indices.

President Clinton will visit the Burgdorf fire near McCall, Idaho, today. He will visit and eat a meal with firefighters.

Utah - 6 large fires are burning 60,391 acres across the state.

- **Cow Hollow** (Salt Lake District-BLM): 1,600 acres at 15 percent containment. This lightning-caused fire is burning in pinyon pine and juniper west of Rush Valley. It's threatening structures at St. Johns.
- **Wasatch Complex** (Wasatch-Cache NF): 3,246 acres at 80 percent contained. Hot spots are keeping firefighters busy. A portion of Highway 92 has been re-opened.
- **Bruin Point** (Moab FO-BLM): 2,125 acres at 70 percent contained. This fire is burning in timber 30 miles east of Price. Firefighters are working spots across the fireline.

Idaho - 11 large fires (2 new) are burning 392,241 acres across the state.

- **Clear Creek** (Salmon-Challis NF): 106,870 acres at 40 percent containment. Located 12 miles west of Salmon. The fire made a major run yesterday burning 3,000 acres. Firefighters retreated to safety zones on the south side of the fire. Fire is threatening 200 homes, outbuildings, historic sites and commercial ventures. The Marine Battalion is on-site, but will train before heading to the fireline.
- **Burgdorf Junction** (Payette NF): 24,951 acres at 42 percent contained. Located 23 miles north of McCall. Fire activity lessened yesterday. A task force is providing structure protection along the Salmon River at Polly Bemis Ranch, James Cabin and Shep Ranch. The 3rd battalion, 16th Field Artillery unit from Fort Hood, Texas is assigned and performing mop-up.

Montana - 20 large fires (1 new) are burning 223,997 across the state.

- **Valley Complex** (Bitterroot NF): 67,200 acres at 0% contained. Fire is located seven miles south of Darby. This fire is spotting long distances and winds and low humidities have caused rapid and extensive fire growth. Twenty residences and five outbuildings have been destroyed.
- **Blodgett Trailhead** (Bitterroot NF): 4,500 acres, 20 percent contained. Located 3 miles northwest of Hamilton. This fire is making a major run northeast toward the town of Pinesdale.
- **Sula Complex** (Bitterroot NF): 30,000 acres at 0 percent contained. This complex of five fires is located near Sula. Fire is spreading quickly northeast. Two more structures have been destroyed.

Wyoming - 1 large fire are burning 3,660 across the state.

- **Boulder** (Bridger-Teton NF): 3,660 acres at 5 percent contained. This fire is 15 miles east of Jackson in the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Structure protection continues to be the major focus on the east flank. Fire activity increased in the Granite Creek area.

California - 6 large fires are burning 92,099 across the state.

- **Pechanga** (Calif. Dept. of Forestry): 12,476 acres at 85 percent contained. Located five miles east of Temecula. Mop-up and demob underway.
- **King** (Kern Co. FD): 2,856 acres at 50 percent contained. Fire's located two miles southeast of Havilah and active. The northeastern section of the fire continues to burn actively. It's threatening structures in the Valley View area, endangered species habitat and numerous archaeological sites.
- **Manter** (Sequoia NF): 73,727 acres at 80 percent contained. Located in Sequoia NF. Fire is active within the interior, but crews have been successful in containing spot fires and slopovers.

Nevada - 9 large fires (4 new) are burning 63,543 across the state.

- **Trout** (Humboldt/Toiyabe NF): 878 acres at 50 percent contained. This fire, burning in pinyon pine and juniper about 30 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Observed fire behavior includes creeping, torching and spotting. Several flare-ups near the fireline were caught and crews are reinforcing retardant lines.
- **O'Neil Basin Complex** (Elko FO-BLM): 37,115 acres at 45 percent contained. Complex of six fires is located 40 miles southeast of Jackpot. Occasional flare-ups occurred in the sagebrush, and helicopters are being used on the hot areas in the Camp Creek fire.
- **Twin Peak** (Carson City FO-BLM): 7,500 acres at 20 percent contained. This complex of nine fires is burning 60 miles east of Fallon.

Colorado - 3 large fires are burning 6,800 acres.

- **Pony** (Ute Mountain Agency-BIA): 5,000 acres at 5 percent contained. Fire is burning in an isolated area 10 miles south of Cortez and in the Mesa Verde National Park. Firefighters are concentrating on protecting Mesa Verde NP residences. The park is closed and employees evacuated.
- **Hamilton** (Montrose District-BLM): 1,200 acres at 0 percent contained. This is a lightning-caused fire is active 25 miles northeast of Cortez.

Arizona - 1 large fire burning 1,450 acres.

- **Peak** (Tonto NF): 1,450 acres at 35 percent contained. Located six miles south of Globe. High humidities are helping.

New Mexico - 3 large fires (1 new) are burning 10,411 across the state.

- **Hondo** - (Santa Fe NF): 445 acres at 75 percent contained. Fire is burning 10 miles south of Jemes Springs. Fire is active on north and northeast flanks, and burned across hand and dozer lines.
- **Wall** (Albuquerque FO-BLM): 2,125 acres at 95 percent contained. Located in a remote area of El Malpais Wilderness 20 miles south of Grants, and being monitored by BLM.

Washington - 2 large fires are burning 2,740 acres.

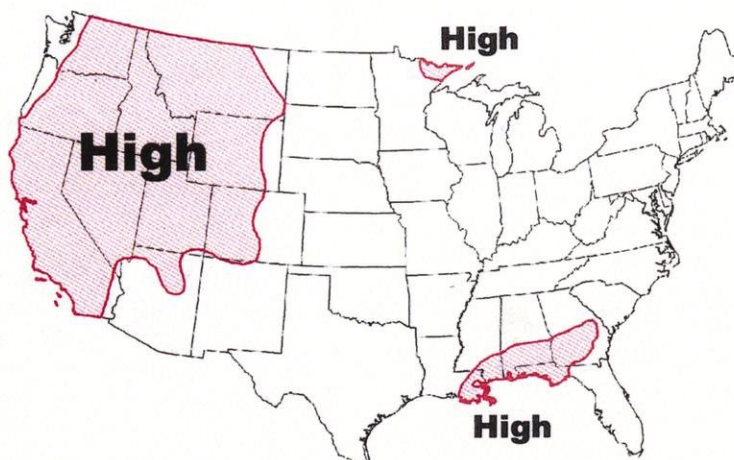
- **Buffalo Lake** (Colville Agency-BIA): 2,500 acres at 0 percent contained. This fire is burning in grass, sagebrush, timber and slash four miles northeast of Coulee Dam. Fire is moving northeast and threatening scattered residences, orchards, hay fields, haystacks and rangeland. Steep terrain, unburned islands and drought conditions are deterring efforts.
- **Flat Creek** (Wenatchee NF): 240 acres at 0 percent contained. It is burning in steep terrain in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Inaccessibility and lack of safety zones inhibit suppression.

Oregon - 4 large fires (1 new) are burning 9,780 across the state.

- **Tamarack Creek** (Oregon Dept. of Forestry): 8,880 acres at 80 percent contained. Fire is located 50 miles west of John Day. Spot fires, torching in unburned patches inside the fireline and up to 80-foot flame lengths are causing containment problems.
- **Slide Mountain** (Malheur NF): 400 acres at 40 percent contained. Fire is burning 10 miles south of Prairie City in the Strawberry Wilderness. Crews are making significant progress toward containment with the support of helicopters from the Oregon National Guard.

FIRE POTENTIAL ASSESSMENT

August 10 to September 7, 2000

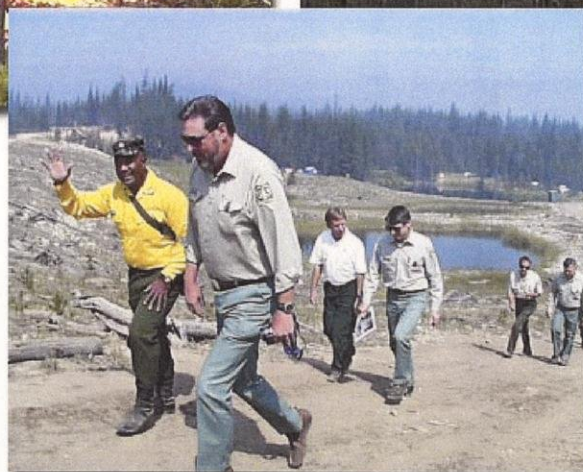


GREAT BASIN - Potential: Above normal. Temperatures have been above normal during the past month while precipitation has been below normal through the area. Live fuel moisture are around 100% in the north and 65 to 100% in the south which is below the average values for the area. 1000 fuel moisture is being measured at 10% in the West Great Basin and 5 to 20% in the East Great Basin, which is below normal and normal. The Palmer Drought Index indicates moderate and severe drought for most of the area. Long-range forecasts call for above normal temperatures and normal precipitation for Nevada. Overall, weather conditions are being reported as two to three weeks ahead of normal. Lightning activity in the past two weeks indicates that the northern edge of the monsoonal flow pattern has arrived.

IDAHO - Burning conditions are currently worse than in 1994, and are expected to move northward into the Panhandle, most likely to record levels. Much of the mountainous region received less than 70% of normal snow pack, and that melted early in the year. No significant relief in the next 30 to 90 days is indicated by long-range weather predictions. The fire season will move up in elevation and latitude. Historically, southern Idaho has a 50% probability of a season-ending event occurring by October 5, and 80% probability by October 20.

BURGDORF JUNCTION FIRE - Payette National Forest, 23 miles north of McCall, Idaho. Conditions reported 8/07/00, 7:30 a.m. MDT: 23,149 acres; 40% contained; no estimated containment date. Winds will generally be light with the humidity dropping into the upper teens most afternoons. A slight chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms and upslope afternoon winds likely through the week. Low fuel moisture levels and predicted low RH values continue. Temperatures expected in the lower 80's. The potential for serious or critical fire problems is above normal. Drought conditions are extreme with many fuels cured. Long-term weather projections continue to show a drying trend with above normal temperatures. The probability for ignition is 90% for fuels in the open and 70% for those in shaded areas. Fire predicted to move northeast towards the Salmon River with the threat of running crown fires.

Wildland Fire Season 2000 Press Kit



National Interagency Fire Center
Fire Information: 208-387-5050 or www.nifc.gov

Idaho			United States		
Total Fires	10	1 New Large Fire, 1 Contained	Total Fires	65	13 New Large Fire, 7 Contained
Total Acres	357,668		Total Acres	826,802	

Idaho			
Fire Name/Location	Size in Acres	Estimated Containment	Comments
NEW North Forks Wilderness - Salmon/Challis National Forest, 40 miles northwest of Salmon	1,377	Unknown	There are ten fires in this complex, including the Butts and Filly fires that were reported separately yesterday.
Clear Creek - Salmon- Challis National Forest, 20 miles northwest of Salmon Fire Information: Call 208-756-5283 or 208-756-5145	102,382	Unknown 40%	The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines from Camp Pendleton, California, arrived on the fire Saturday and will be completing training today. Plans are being made to protect the town of Salmon's watershed. The fire destroyed the two longest wood pole power line crossings in the country.
Burgdorf Junction - Payette National Forest, 23 miles north of McCall Fire Information: Call 208-634-0700 or 208-634-0400	23,149	Unknown 40%	The 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery from Ft. Hood, Texas, is assisting with suppression efforts. Fire activity moderated for the second day.
Eastern Idaho Complex - BLM Upper Snake River District, south of Pocatello Fire Information: Call 208-524-7615	192,450	Unknown 90%	This complex includes 14 fires. Three of these fires remain uncontained.
Grass - BLM Lower Snake River District, 16 miles north of Three Creek Town	14,000	Unknown 205	The fire was ignited on August 5, and has increased in size dramatically. Structures, outbuildings, cattle corrals and grazing land are currently threatened.
Goodrich - Payette National Forest, 2 miles from Goodrich	3,710	8/7 75%	Firefighters completed a dozer line and containment is expected today.
Flossie Complex - Payette National Forest, 50 miles northeast of McCall	5,000	Unknown 0%	The fire burned over the Chamberlain Guard Station, yet the structure was not destroyed. Two ranches remain threatened.
Craters - BLM Upper Snake River District, on the south end of Craters of the Moon National Park Fire Information: Call 208-527-3257	700	Unknown 80%	This fire burned actively yesterday.
Crooked - Clearwater National Forest, 7 miles northeast of Powell Ranger Station Fire Information: Call 208-942-3113	2,900	Unknown 30%	Smoke and air operations along Highway 12 has necessitated the use of pilot cars to lead traffic through the fire area.
Three Bears - Nez Perce National Forest, 29 miles from Elk City	12,000	10/1 0%	The fire is burning actively along both sides of the Salmon River. The Allison Ranch site is being protected and other structures will also be protected.
Macdonald Creek - BLM Lower Snake River District, 3 miles north of Rowland, NV	8,000	100%	This fire was 100% contained yesterday.

NIFC

National Interagency Fire Center

Boise, Idaho

www. nifc.gov



AFTER THE FIRES: LET THE HEALING BEGIN

- When the last flames of a fire are finally put out, perhaps the biggest challenge remains: healing the land.
- Healing of forests and rangelands actually begins before most of the major fires are controlled. Teams of specialists often are on site to assess the damage done by the fire and what can be done to prevent one natural disaster being followed by another. Teams may include specialists in hydrology, geologist, soils, range management, botanists, engineers, archaeologists and foresters.
- Water erosion is the main culprit. A burned mountainside almost void of vegetation cannot hold back or absorb water. Torched hillsides can turn hydrophobic, or water repellant. What often happens next can be more catastrophic than the fire itself: whole hillsides virtually turning to liquid and gushing downslope, wiping out anything in its path, threatening communities, and changing the ecological balance of the area for decades.
- On public rangelands, especially those in the Great Basin, another enemy lurks. Cheatgrass, an annual weed native to Eurasia, already has taken over more than 25 million acres. Cheatgrass, as well as other annual weeds, have little value as forage for wildlife or livestock. These weeds are highly flammable and carry fire well. Once they invade, the weeds-and-wildfire cycle quickly takes over. The more weeds, the more fire. The more fire, the more weeds.
- Many techniques are used to promote rehabilitation and restoration of the land. They can be as simple as breaking up the hydrophobic soils with rakes or mulching charcoal into the earth to help soak up water. Other methods include seeding, planting trees, trenching to slow down and divert water, constructing temporary dams or placing straw bales in gullies.
- Restoration and rehabilitation may take years to complete, and for results to be seen. It's critical that local communities become involved and help direct restoration work. Without the support, help and advice from the people who live closest to the land, restoration and rehabilitation work will not be totally successful.
- The destruction caused by wildland fires is only part of the story. Nature may eventually restore burned areas, but when communities, local agencies and the federal agencies team up, it virtually assures the natural legacy of the land will continue.
- For more information, call the Forest Service at the National Interagency Fire Center, 208-387-5895.

NIFC

National Interagency Fire Center

Boise, Idaho

www. nifc.gov



Wildland Firefighting Partnerships

- When widespread wildland fires exhaust civilian firefighting resources, the National Interagency Fire Center can rely on several partners, both from within the United States and from other countries.
- Within the United States, federal wildland firefighting organizations work with states, counties and local partners, including rural fire departments, to manage fires on public land.
- Under a decade-long agreement NIFC has with the Continental United States Army, through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defense and Department of Agriculture, the Military can assist with firefighting efforts. This usually happens when several of the 11 geographic areas are experiencing major fires which have the potential to exhaust all agency fire resources.
- Federal wildland firefighting agencies have a long history of exchanging wildland firefighting assistance and information with other countries such as Canada and Russia.
- The National Interagency Fire Center has a cooperative agreement with Canada for wildland firefighting assistance, whether it's firefighting crews, overhead personnel, airtankers or other equipment and supplies. This year to date, 20 Type 1 and 8 Type 2 crews, plus overhead personnel have been requested from Canada. Canadian help began arriving in Montana the week of July 30.
- Several United States' southern border towns have mutual assistance agreements with Mexico to provide firefighters and equipment when wildland fires threaten border communities. For example, a crew from Mexico has been assigned to the Peak Fire in Arizona. The crew was brought on through an agreement between Mexico and the Big Bend National Park in Texas. Personnel at Big Bend National Park trained the crew for several days before transferring to the Peak fire on August 5. The crew consists of 16 Mexicans and four Americans.

NIFC

National Interagency Fire Center

Boise, Idaho

www.nifc.gov



NATIONAL MILITARY SUPPORT FOR WILDLAND FIRE SEASON 2000

- Because of the severe fire season and a shortage of firefighters, officials at the National Interagency Fire Center have asked for the military's assistance in fighting wildland fires. The military is called in to assist when all usual firefighter resources are exhausted. The last time the military was asked to help was in 1996.
- The military will help bolster the nearly 20,000 wildland firefighters who have been working diligently for several months to contain fires.
- The Army's 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery from Ft. Hood, Texas, will be assigned to the Burgdorf Junction fire north of McCall, Idaho. The troops will be on a 30-day assignment to assist wildland firefighters. One battalion consists of about 500 people.
- Classroom training, conducted by federal fire-fighting instructors, took place at Ft. Hood on Monday, July 31. Military troops should be on the fireline today. Two days of hands-on training at the incident will begin Wednesday, August 2.
- **The training is in basic firefighting**, emphasizing fire control techniques, fire weather, tools, and most important, safety. In the beginning, the military will not be assigned to the hottest parts of active fire, but as their experience and skills grow, they may be asked to take on progressively more difficult assignments.
- **The military's assistance is welcomed.** This arrangement is a natural fit for several reasons:
 - *They are highly structured and used to a chain-of-command system.*
 - *They are mission-oriented.*
 - *They work hard and are in excellent physical condition.*
 - *They understand the importance of maintaining their equipment.*
- A Marine battalion from Camp Pendleton, California, is being requested for the second military deployment. Training should begin later this week.

NIFC

National Interagency Fire Center

Boise, Idaho

www. nifc.gov



MILITARY SUPPORT IN WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION 1988 - 1996

1996

Eight C-130 aircraft were converted to airtankers to assist firefighting efforts in northern California.

- An Army battalion from Fort Carson, Colorado, and a Marine battalion from Camp Pendleton, California, also assisted with firefighting efforts.

1994

- Seven military battalions were activated to assist during the season for a total of nearly 5,000 military personnel to help bolster the civilian forces. The battalions included:
 - Two Marine battalions from Camp Pendleton, California
 - Five Army battalions; two from Ft. Hood, Texas, two from Ft. Lewis, Washington, and one from Ft. Riley, Kansas
- Eight C-130 aircraft were converted to airtankers to assist firefighting efforts in Idaho, Washington and Montana.

1990

- Four Army battalions, two from Ft. Lewis, Washington, and two from Ft. Carson, Colorado, assisted wildland firefighting efforts in Oregon and California, along with,
- Eight C-130 aircraft were converted to airtankers to assist firefighting efforts in southern California.

1989

- Four Army battalions, two from Ft. Lewis, Washington, one from Ft. Carson, Colorado, and one from Ft. Riley, Kansas, worked on wildland fires in Idaho and Oregon, along with,
- 19 Helicopters from Ft. Campbell, and
- Eight C-130 aircraft converted to airtankers to assist firefighting efforts in Arizona and California.

1988

- Six Army battalions and two Marine battalions assisted with firefighting efforts during the notorious Yellowstone fires, along with:
- 57 helicopters, including two OV-10 Mohawks used with infrared scanners, and
- Eight C-130 aircraft converted to airtankers.

NIFC

National Interagency Fire Center

Boise, Idaho

[www. nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)



WHAT'S WITH THIS WEATHER?

- A pool of cool water in the Pacific Ocean determined much of the country's weather in the last two years. La Nina changed normal weather patterns when it formed, and it's still dominating the weather as it wanes.
- *La Nina usually brings dry weather to the southern states and that is a big part of why Florida and the Southwest have had such a severe fire season. La Nina has spread dry weather to the West this spring and summer, and even though it is waning, the weather pattern is already set for the rest of the summer and fall. Hotter and drier than normal weather is on tap through September.*
- Fire indices for drought, greenness, plant moisture and other indicators are at or above all-time highs, and confirm what everyone already knows: It's hot and dry out West.
- *The Southwestern monsoon, which usually ends the fire season in Arizona and New Mexico in early July, has been sporadic this year. It's into August, and the Southwest is still having an active fire season.*
- So, here's the summary: hot temperatures, low relative humidities, little or no precipitation, plenty of wind, and the consequence is easy to predict: the potential for a nasty fire season. All that's left is a source of ignition, and Nature stepped right into that breach by sending a series of mostly dry thunderstorms rumbling across the West. Although the number of thunderstorms is about the same or a little above what would occur in a typical year, because of the dry weather, a higher percentage of lightning strikes is igniting new fires.
- *None of this was unexpected by the federal firefighting agencies. They expected a tough season and planned accordingly. The length of the season and its breadth (literally, fires are burning from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean) has taxed their capabilities to the limit.*
- The fire season started early. By March, fires of 40,000+ acres had burned in the Southwest. Burning conditions generally ran 4 to 6 weeks ahead of schedule. In other words, by July 1st, the burning conditions more closely resembled those of mid-August.
- *The season promises to stretch well into the fall. Long-range weather forecasts all pretty much read the same for the West. Higher than normal temperature and lower than normal precipitation.*
- To summarize: the 2000 fire season has the potential to be one of the worst ever. As of August 6th, more than 63,000 fires burned more than 4 million acres. It has already been a long, challenging season. Whether it ranks among the very worst largely will be determined over the next six weeks.

NIFC

National Interagency Fire Center

Boise, Idaho

www.nifc.gov



Wildland Fire Season Overview

January - August 2000

- A pool of cold water in the Pacific Ocean has been affecting weather across the United States for the past two years. This weather pattern, called “La Nina,” was at its strongest in the late winter/early spring of 2000. The effect was a wet winter in the northwestern United States and dry conditions along the southern tier of the country from California to Florida.
- As a result of La Nina and its influence on weather patterns, a combination of dry fuels and dry, hot weather led to what some are declaring one of the most serious wildland fire seasons in U.S. history. The absence of the seasonal monsoons in the Southwest, the dry vegetation and record-low fuel moistures, and the persistently hot weather across much of the West, culminated in a wildland fire season that began early, became intense, and is expected to last unusually long.
- Fire activity began in mid-February with large grass fires in New Mexico eastward and northward into Virginia. By the end of February, fires were reported in Texas, Louisiana, and Missouri. A month later several fires were burning in Oklahoma; additional large fires were reported in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Missouri, Ohio, Minnesota and Indiana.
- In April, Type 1 incident command teams managed California’s wind-driven Cabbage fire on the Mendocino National Forest, and the Coon Creek fire on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. There were also large fires in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Mississippi, New Mexico, Missouri, Kentucky, Florida, Colorado, North Carolina and North Dakota.
- The season began in earnest, however, with an escaped prescribed fire on the Bandelier National Monument near Los Alamos, New Mexico. By the time the fire was controlled weeks later, 235 homes in the town of Los Alamos had been destroyed and 47,650 acres of land had been scorched.
- At the same time, the western United States from Canada to Mexico continued to experience warm and dry, and then hot and continued dry weather. Fuel moistures in the vegetation dropped to unusually low levels.
- By mid-July, nine of the 11 geographic areas, including 11 western states and Texas, were reporting numerous large fires, and competing for crews of firefighters, aircraft, equipment, supplies, and overhead personnel. The National Interagency Fire Center declared a planning level of 5—the highest possible—and began implementing plans to address the serious situation.

•Meanwhile, more than 20,000 firefighters—all civilian resources—were either working to contain large project fires or extinguish new starts with aggressive initial attack. Federal fire resources were stretched to the limits and firefighters had been on the line for several weeks when military assistance was requested in late July. Within a week of the request, 500 Army troops reinforced civilian firefighters battling a large, stubborn blaze in Idaho. A few days later an additional 500 Marines joined civilian forces on the largest fire in the nation, called the Clear Creek fire, located in the central mountains of Idaho. Fire managers had also requested assistance from their international partners, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico. Canada quickly sent three airtankers which were assigned to fires in Montana. A firefighting crew from Mexico, trained by the Big Bend National Park in Texas, was assigned to the Peak Fire in Arizona on August 4. This the first hand crew from Mexico to work on a fireline in the United States.

•Today, multi-agency coordinating groups in the Great Basin and Northern Rockies are establishing resource priorities for fires in Idaho, Utah, Nevada and Montana. Two area command teams are established in Montana, to manage the state's many large fires, and a third is being considered. Fourteen of the 16 Type 1 incident command teams are managing fires, with two of the teams on mandatory rest periods. All 70 of the Type 1 crews are committed and most of the 409 smokejumpers. Of the 428 Type 2 crews, about 15 become available each day to be reassigned to high priority fires.

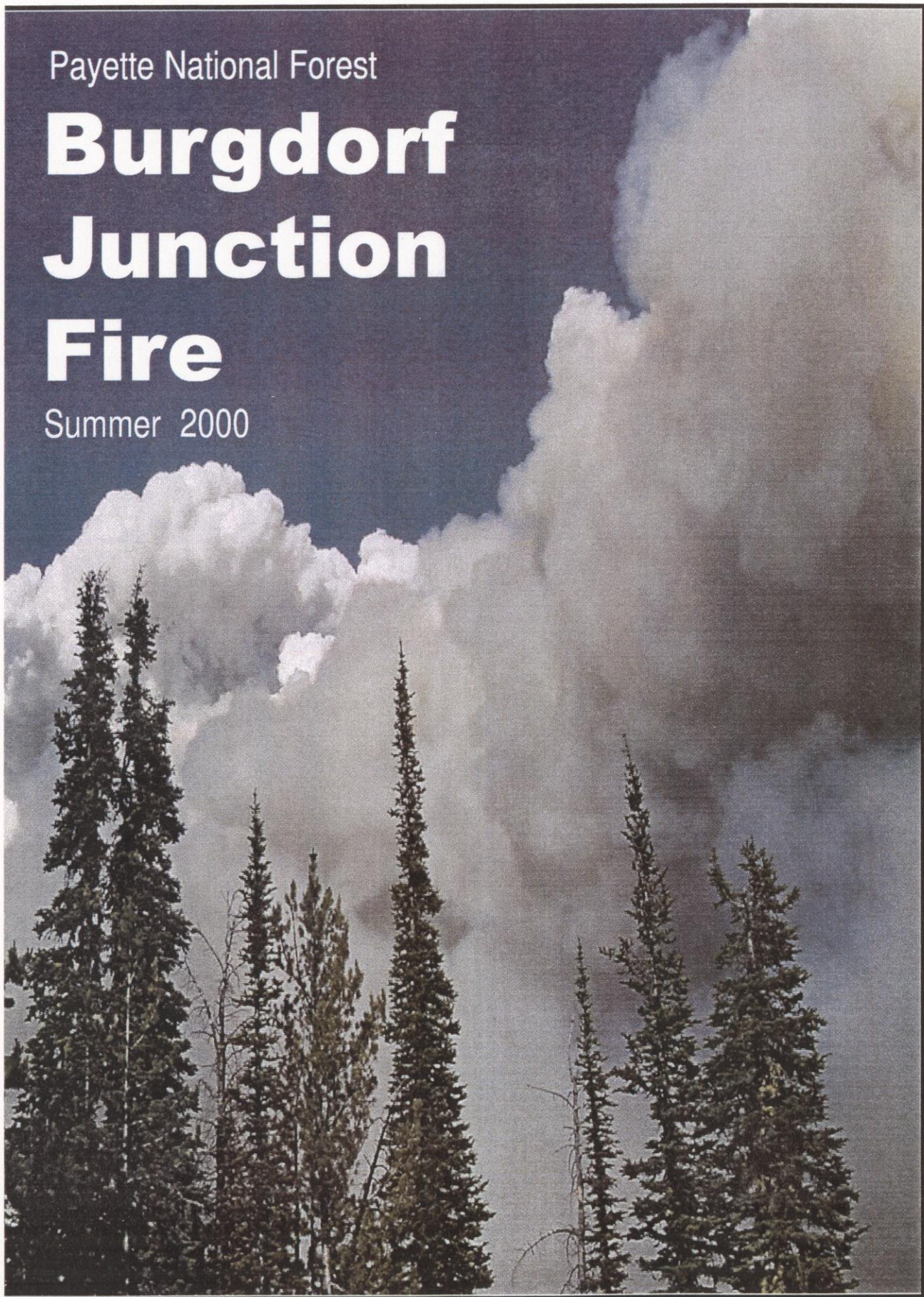
•Still, in order to be prepared for the worst, federal fire managers have requested a third military battalion August 4 to be assigned to fires in Montana. Overhead personnel and firefighting crews from Canada have begun to arrive and an additional 20 Type 1 firefighting crews have been ordered.

•As of August 5, more than 30,000 people, including civilian firefighters, National Guard, Army, Marines, and rural fire department personnel were on firelines or supporting fires in 11 western states. A total of 62,944 wildland fires has burned 3,908,261 acres across the United States since January 2000. The 10-year average is 53,769 fires and 2,079,072 acres burned per year.

Payette National Forest

Burgdorf Junction Fire

Summer 2000



Background



The fire was reported to Payette National Forest dispatch at 3:30 p.m. on July 14, 2000. At this time eight smokejumpers were dispatched to the fire for initial attack. Upon their arrival at 4:05 p.m., it was determined that it was unsafe for them to jump on this fire due to the speed at which the fire was traveling.

Fire officials determined that the fire was a holdover from a lightning storm that had moved through the area on July 9. The hot and dry weather in proceeding days, caused the smolder to grow and begin burning the dry fuels around it. Within three hours, the fire burned over 1500 acres.

On July 15, a Type I incident management team assumed management of the fire. By July 22, there were 668 personnel working on the fire. This includes firefighters and support personnel.



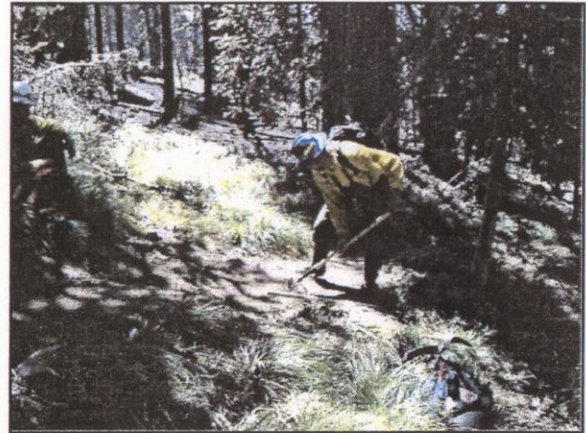
Early on, it became evident that some of the biggest challenges to be faced by the firefighters on this incident includes severe drought conditions, continuing higher temperatures, lower humidity, 10 to 20 mph wind gusts and steep terrain.



Resources

Crews

- Interagency
- Contract
- Military



Structure Protection

- Engines



Air Operations

- Helicopters
- Air Tankers
- Lead Planes

Burgdorf Junction Fire

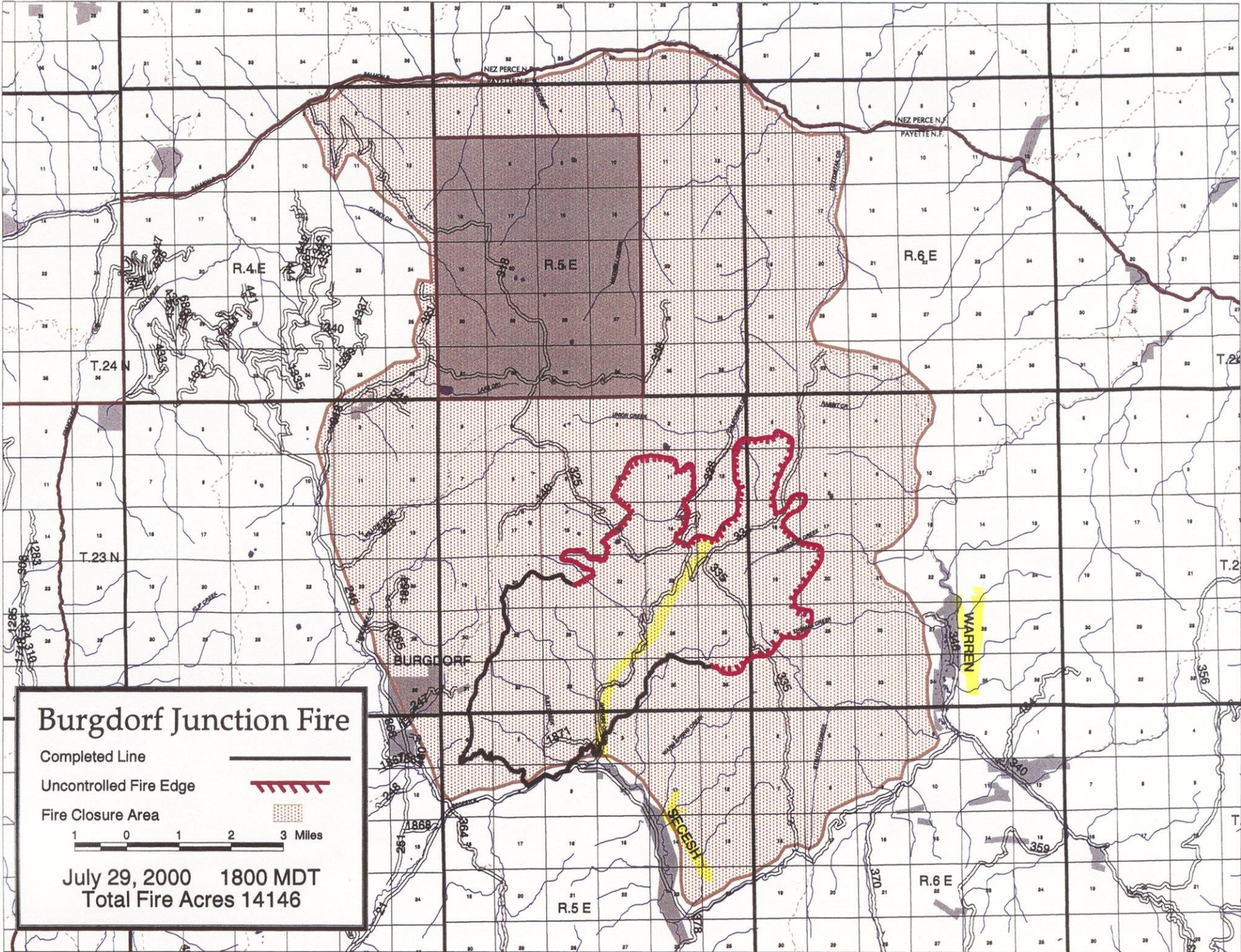
Completed Line

Uncontrolled Fire Edge

Fire Closure Area

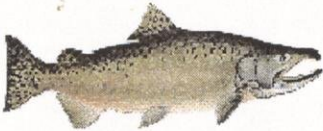
1 0 1 2 3 Miles

July 29, 2000 1800 MDT
Total Fire Acres 14146



Environmental Concerns

Threatened and Endangered Species



The following species are located in or their potential habitat is located in the general area of the Burgdorf Junction Fire:

- Canada Lynx (potential habitat)
- Grey Wolf (present)
- Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon (present)
- Snake River Steelhead Trout (present)
- Columbia River Bulltrout (present)

Mitigation Measures for the Salmon and Steelhead

- Dozers cannot be used for fire line construction (based on Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Service)
- No dipping buckets from Secesh River, Marshall Lake, Lake Creek, Summit Creek and within 300 feet of tributaries on the Salmon River.
- Spill containment is provided for all pumps and refueling vehicles.

These mitigation measures are not hindering the firefighting effort occurring on the Burgdorf Junction Fire for the following reasons:



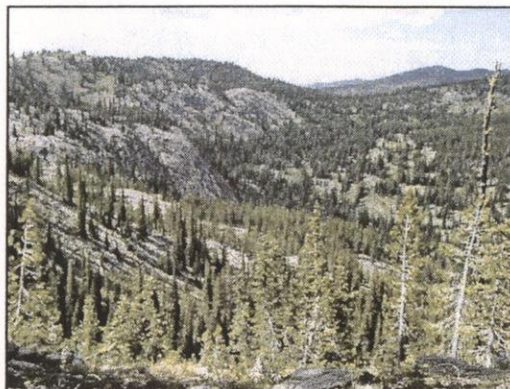
- Because the fire is moving mainly through the crowns of the trees, dozers would not be an effective tactical tool.
- Fire managers can still get water from the restricted streams. They are using pumps that take the water from the streams and transfer it to a holding tank where the helicopter can then dip.

Environmental Concerns

Inventoried Roadless Areas

There are portions of three Inventoried Roadless Areas that are being affected by Burgdorf Junction Fire:

- Crystal Mountain (13,004 acres)
- Chimney Rock (8,534 acres)
- Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak (92,929 acres)



The fire is progressing into the Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. It has burned approximately 33 percent of the Crystal Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area, 13 percent of Chimney Rock and 4 percent of Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak.

The initial designation of these areas occurred in 1977 during the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, RARE II, inventory.

Fire Management on the Payette NF

Background

The Payette National Forest, located in the central Idaho mountains, is ideally located for providing initial attack resources throughout Idaho and neighboring states. In addition, the forest has a very high occurrence of large wildfires due to the large number of ignitions.

Average number of fires per year: 177

Average number of acres, past 10 years: 35,931

Number of fires in 1999: 80

Number of acres burned in 1999: 5,085



Cooperative Protection Agreements

The Payette National Forest provides protection to an additional 290,721 acres through Offset Agreements. The Forest recently acquired an additional 300,000+ acres of Bureau of Land Management land under its protection.

Suppression Resources

P3 Orion 3000 gallon airtanker and Beech Baron lead plane

70 smokejumpers with three aircraft - Turbo DC-3 and two Twin Otters

Bell 407 helicopter with 12 heli-rappelers at Krassel

Bell 205 helicopter with 18 heli-rappelers at Price Valley

7 engines stationed around the forest

Prevention patrols on all five ranger districts

13 staffed lookout, supplemented with aerial detection flights

12 contract and rental aircraft used for fire and other missions





Payette National Forest

There are many ways to appreciate the Payette National Forest. To some, it is the views of vast forests and rugged mountains framing postcard-like panoramas. To others, it is to explore what lies beyond the breathtaking vista.

The Payette National Forest spans over 2.3 million acres across west-central Idaho. This spectacular land is bordered by two of the deepest canyons in North America – the Salmon River Canyon on the north and Hells Canyon of the Snake River on the west. To the east lies the 2.4 million-acre Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, the largest Congressionally designated wilderness in the lower 48 states.

The Payette National Forest is an outdoor mecca with over 2,100 miles of trails, 2,500 miles of system roads, 15,000 miles of streams and rivers and 24 campgrounds. Endless excitement awaits those who enjoy hiking, paddling, rafting, rock climbing, backcountry flying, fishing, hunting, bird watching, wildlife viewing or exploring the history of the land. One can easily hike by trail for an hour, for a day or for several days to fish, photograph or just relax.



For more information, check out our website at: www.fs.fed.us/r4/payette

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Notes

BURGDORF JUNCTION FIRE FOREST FIRE ECOLOGY HISTORY

8/7/00

Introduction: The Burgdorf Junction Fire was ignited by lightning on July 9, with the fire flaring up and reported on July 14. This fire is part of the evolving fire ecology of this portion of the Payette National Forest.

History: In the 1980s, a prolonged drought stressed the trees and increased their susceptibility to an ensuing spruce beetle epidemic. As the spruce beetle epidemic grew, the forest observed a ninety percent mortality of the spruce.

Situation: The Burgdorf Junction Fire is burning in a predominately Englemann spruce and subalpine fir forest, with trees 175-200 years old. Englemann spruce makes up about 60% of the forest. These shade tolerant trees have lower branches growing toward the ground which offers an easily ignited fuel source and makes the forest even more susceptible to fire. Even-aged stands of lodgepole pine are also interspersed in the fire area.

As a fire starts, it moves through the dry lower branches to the crowns of dead trees and the adjacent live trees. After a fire, the dead trees fall to the ground and should begin to decompose. However, at 6500 feet, the climate buries the downfall under ten to fifteen feet of snow for eight months. Decomposition is almost non-existent. As more dead trees fall, the ground fuels increase, creating conditions for another fire in twenty to thirty years. When the downfall burns, heat from the fire penetrates and scorches the soil, severely impacting the productivity of the soils.

Management Actions: Without fuel reduction in the burned areas, the next fire could be more severe. Salvage logging can help reduce the large fuels on the forest floor. A forest type similar to the area of the Burgdorf Fire is located along the Warren Wagon Road. After the Corral Fire burned this area in 1994, the east side of Warren Wagon Road was salvaged logged; the west side was not. Fire history regimes predict that the untreated area will burn again in twenty to thirty years.

Future management will also include a plan that prescribes igniting smaller fires to burn at lower intensities.

FIRE

Nature's Creative Force

United States
Department of
Agriculture



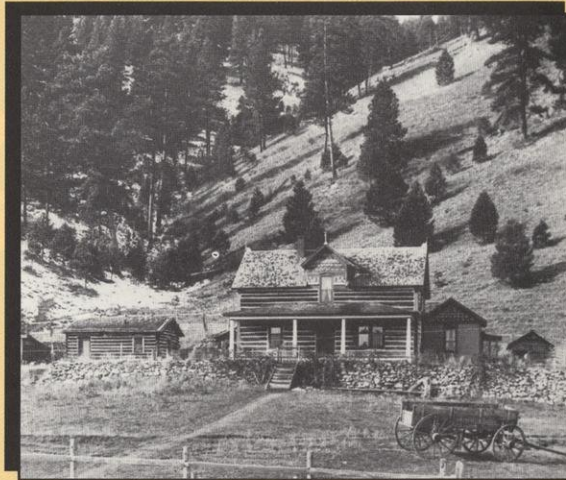
Forest
Service

Northern
Region

The earth, born in fire, baptized by lightning, since before life's beginning has been and is, a fire planet. — E.V. Komarek

We all know,
**Change is a
fact of life.**

For North American forests and rangelands, change comes in the form of fire. After thousands of years of living with this natural disturbance, many plant and wildlife species in the Northern Rocky Mountains have come to depend on its periodic presence in the ecosystem to create the conditions they need to flourish. Without fire, many ecosystems become stagnant and lose their diversity of life.



1895



1980

More than a half century of fire exclusion has caused significant changes and an array of health problems in the long-needle pine ecosystems. Above is a home in 1895 in a fire-maintained open forest. By 1980, the pine is being crowded out by the less fire-resistant Douglas Fir.

So let's face it,

We can't prevent change...

For more than 80 years, land management agencies have tried to eliminate the "evil" of fire from forested lands. In many cases, they've protected the trees, but at the expense of the forest community. Years of study show that the exclusion of fire from the ecosystem is creating unhealthy, overcrowded forests that contain more fuel for larger, more severe fires. And often these larger, more intense fires result in more significant impacts to water, soil and air resources than a managed prescribed fire.

...and yet

we can't make change risk-free.

As the American public understands that fire in the ecosystem is a natural and revitalizing process, it must also accept that fire's return to the landscape is not without consequence. There may be hazy skies, and patches of blackened forest for a time, and there's the risk of a fire becoming too large, but these realities must be accepted if Northern Rocky Mountain ecosystems are to retain their ecological balance.

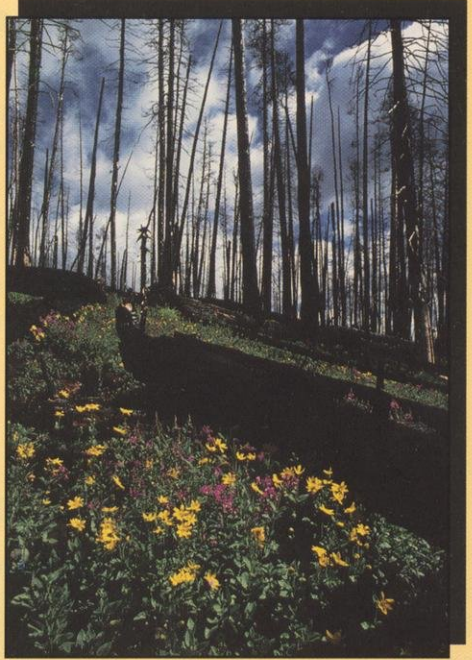


Lightning strikes are a historic and leading cause of wildfire. Thousands of lightning-caused ignitions are reported annually on national forest lands.

We're changing our view of fire. We hope you will too.

For years, the accepted story about fire was that it destroyed forests. The reality is, fire is essential to forest health. In the Northern Rocky Mountains, research shows that many ecosystems depend on fire to renew the landscape by releasing nutrients and stimulating new life. In time, fire creates a healthy diversity of plant and wildlife species, which benefits hiker and hunter alike.

Beautiful scenes (right) and larch (cover) are the result of past fires in the ecosystem.



TODAY OUR CHALLENGE IS TO BLEND
THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC
WITH THE NEEDS OF THE LAND.

As fire continues to be excluded in America's forests and rangelands, fire managers grow concerned. They know that these stressed ecosystems are prone to larger and more damaging wildfires. So even as we work to reintroduce fire on the landscape, we remain committed to protecting lives, property and resources with a strong fire suppression capability. Today our challenge is to blend the needs of the American public with the needs of the land.

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P.O. Box 96090,
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R1-94-37