



SESSION ONE: FIRE AND LAND MANAGEMENT



JOHN FOLTZ

MODERATOR

**INTERIM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
FARM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND POLICY
INSTITUTE, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**





GRANT BEEBE

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FIRE AND AVIATION,
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM Fire

Presentation for the Farm Foundation



Wildfire activity is increasing

10 million

In the last 10 years, more than 10 million acres have burned throughout the country three times: in 2020, 2017 and 2015. Between 1983-1992, wildfires burned an average of 2.7 million acres.

2020 10,122,336

2017 10,026,086

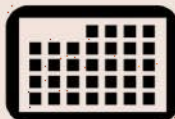
2015 10,125,149

6.8 million

Currently, the 10-year average number of acres burned is about 6.8 million acres per year and increasing.



75 Days



Across the West, the first wildfires of the year are starting earlier and lasting into the fall, making typical fire years 75 days longer now than they were 40 years ago.

Rising Costs

Fire suppression costs are also increasing, for example, suppression costs stayed below \$1 billion before the year 2000. Since 2010, fire suppression costs have risen beyond the \$1 billion mark consistently every year, with a record of more than \$3 billion in costs set in 2018. While the number of wildfires and acres burned can vary, fire years are, on average, becoming longer, costlier, and more complicated.



Structures Lost

Wildfires have destroyed more homes and communities in recent years: from 2018-2021 49,082 structures were lost in wildfires, of those, 30,713 were primary residences.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Unique fire management challenges

56%

of wildfire acres burned in the continental U.S. occur on shrublands and grasslands

2,123

wildfires on BLM-managed public lands burned 400,280 acres under BLM protection in 2021, which are abnormally low numbers, particularly given large fire activity over the last ten years

↑ 70%

of all DOI-managed lands burned by wildfires are shrublands or grasslands

72%

BLM manages 72% of all DOI public lands that have high or very high fire risk



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

The fire-invasives cycle

36 million

acres of BLM-managed public lands are at high or very high fire risk - much of this is due to invasive weeds

100,000 – 400,000

acre wildfires are now commonplace across the West

25 miles

of rangelands with invasive grasses can burn in just one day

150-500 square miles

of grass/shrub lands with invasive grasses present can burn in just a couple days



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Wildfire smoke effects

- Firefighter health
- Community health
- Agricultural production



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

What are we doing about it?

Wildfire risk reduction:

- Fuel breaks
- Mitigation and community risk reduction work
- Building the right workforce (suppression and fuels reduction)
- Limitations: capacity, smoke, escaped Rx fires



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Managed wildfires

Accomplish fuels reduction goals with “managed” wildfire:

- Only when it makes sense
- Response driven: safety concerns, etc.
- Resource availability
- General policy



Questions?



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management





RYAN BERLIN

**MITIGATION AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST,
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

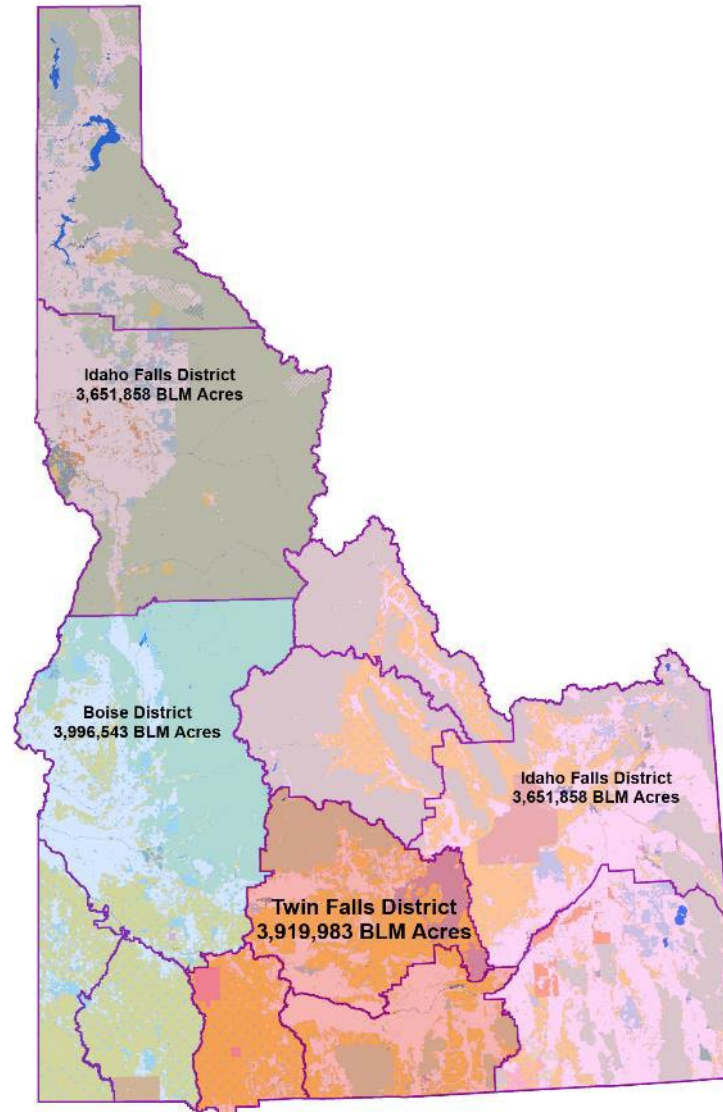
Ryan Berlin

Twin Falls District

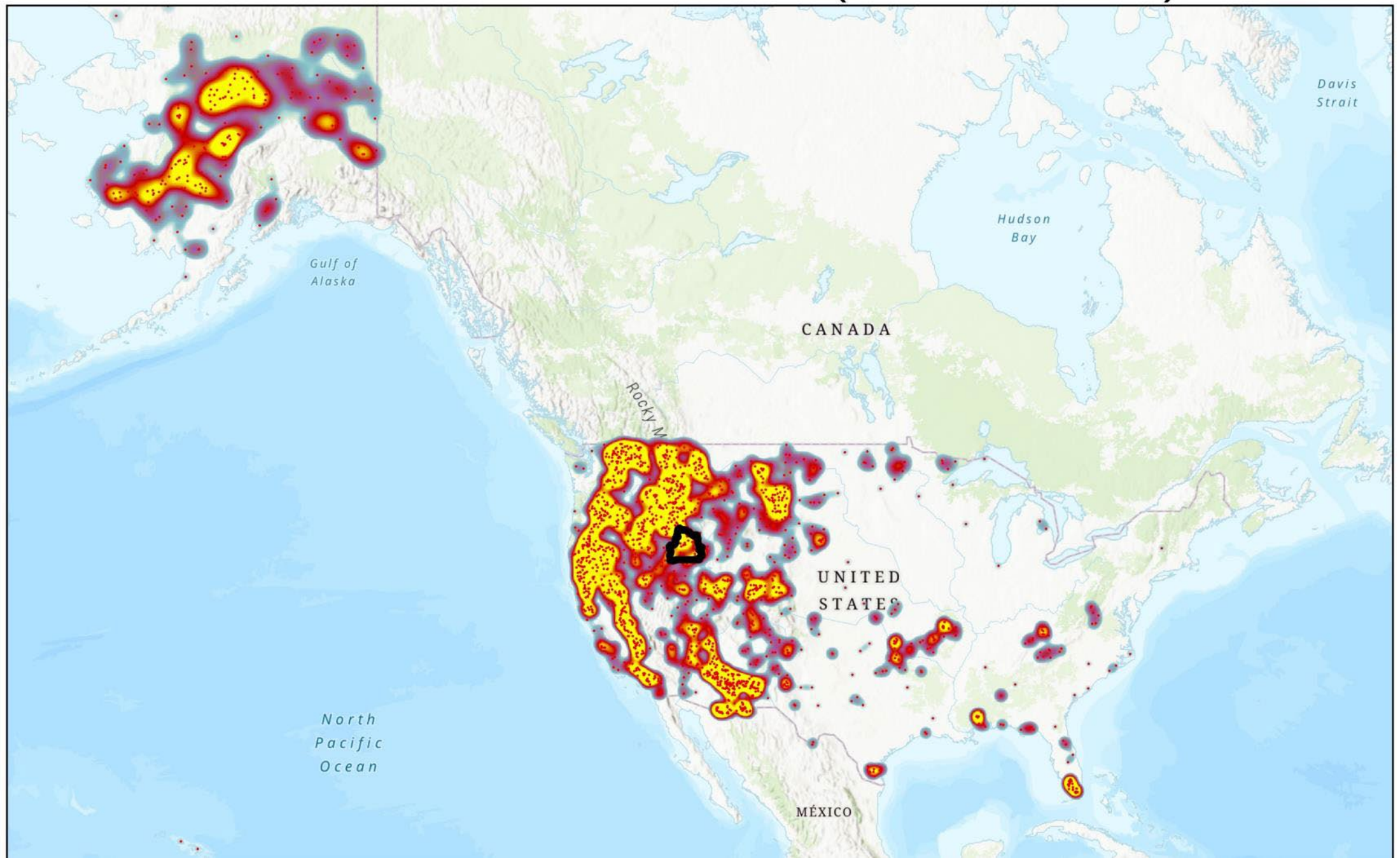
Mitigation/Education Specialist



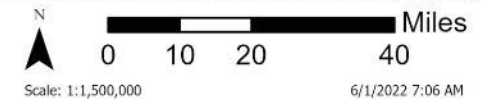
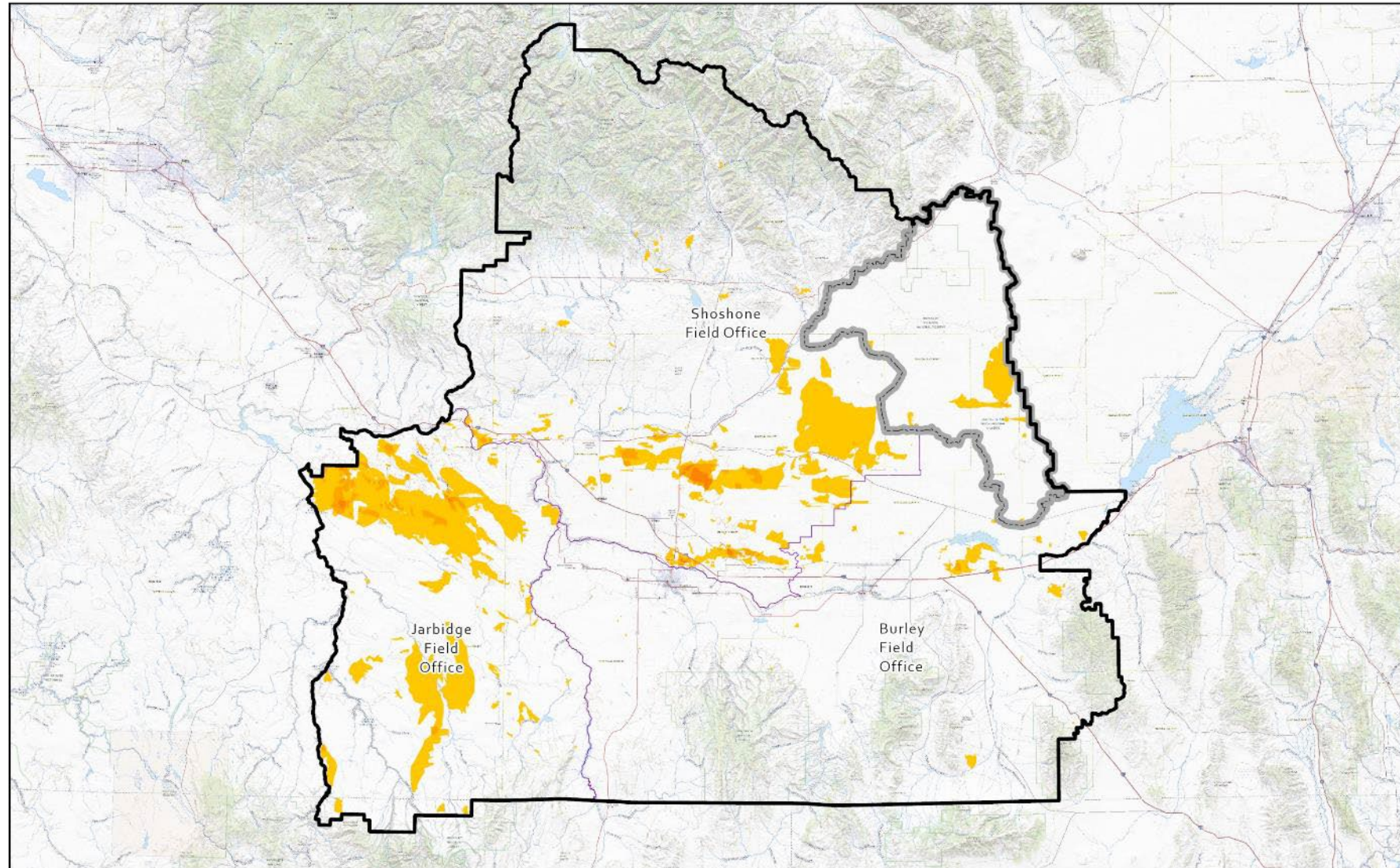
Idaho Surface Management



Historical Fire Locations (2014 - 2022)



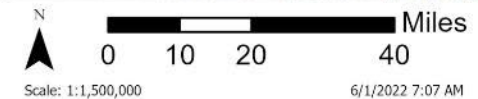
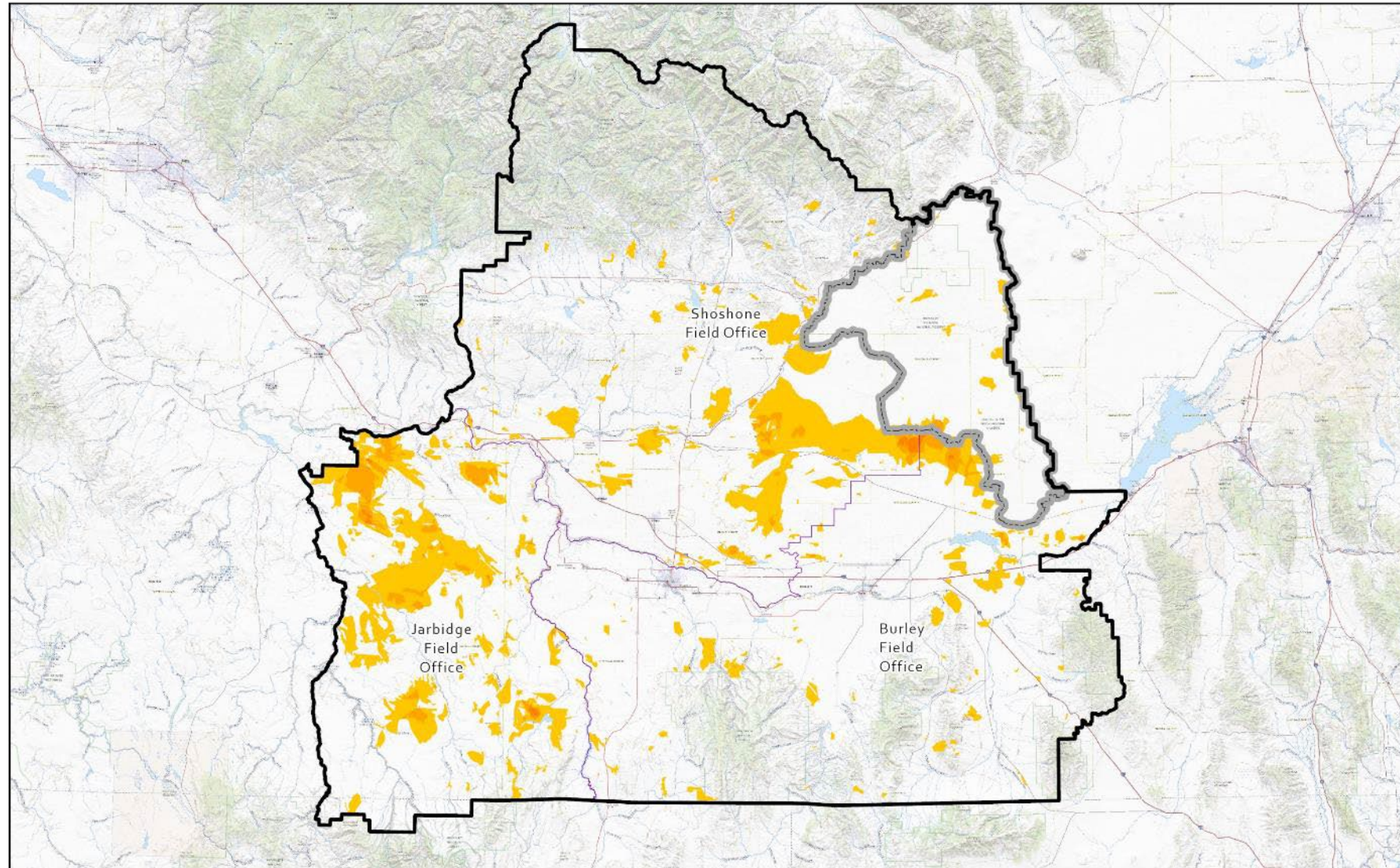
Fire Occurrences 1970s



These data are provided by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "as is" and might contain errors or omissions. The User assumes the entire risk associated with its use of these data and bears all responsibility in determining whether these data are fit for the User's intended use.



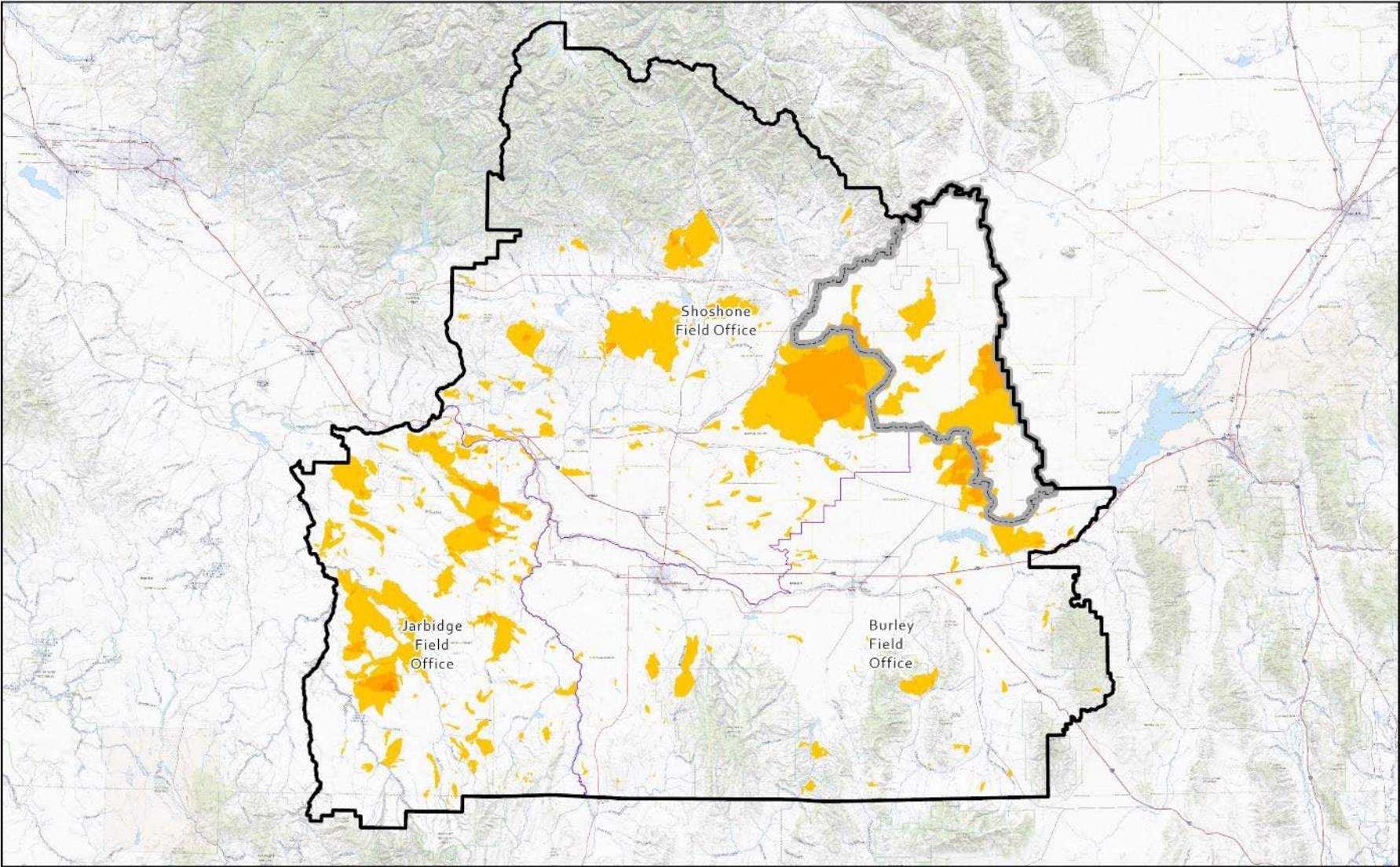
Fire Occurrences 1980s



These data are provided by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "as is" and might contain errors or omissions. The User assumes the entire risk associated with its use of these data and bears all responsibility in determining whether these data are fit for the User's intended use.



Fire Occurrences 1990s



- BLM District Boundary
- National Monument
- BLM Offices

- Number of Times Burned
- 1 Time Burned
 - 2 Times Burned
 - 3 Times Burned



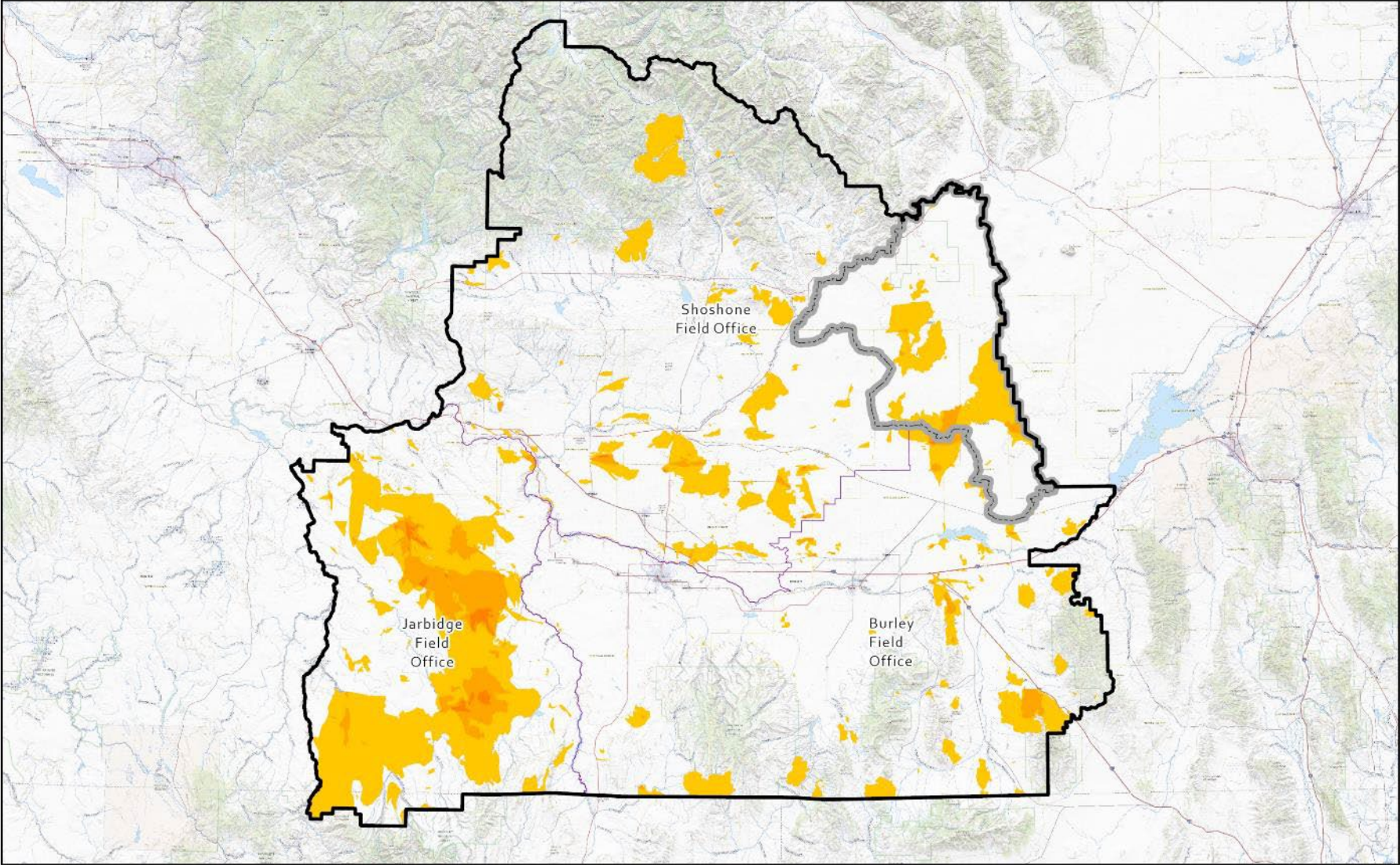
6/1/2022 7:08 AM



These data are provided by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "as is" and might contain errors or omissions. The User assumes the entire risk associated with its use of these data and bears all responsibility in determining whether these data are fit for the User's intended use.



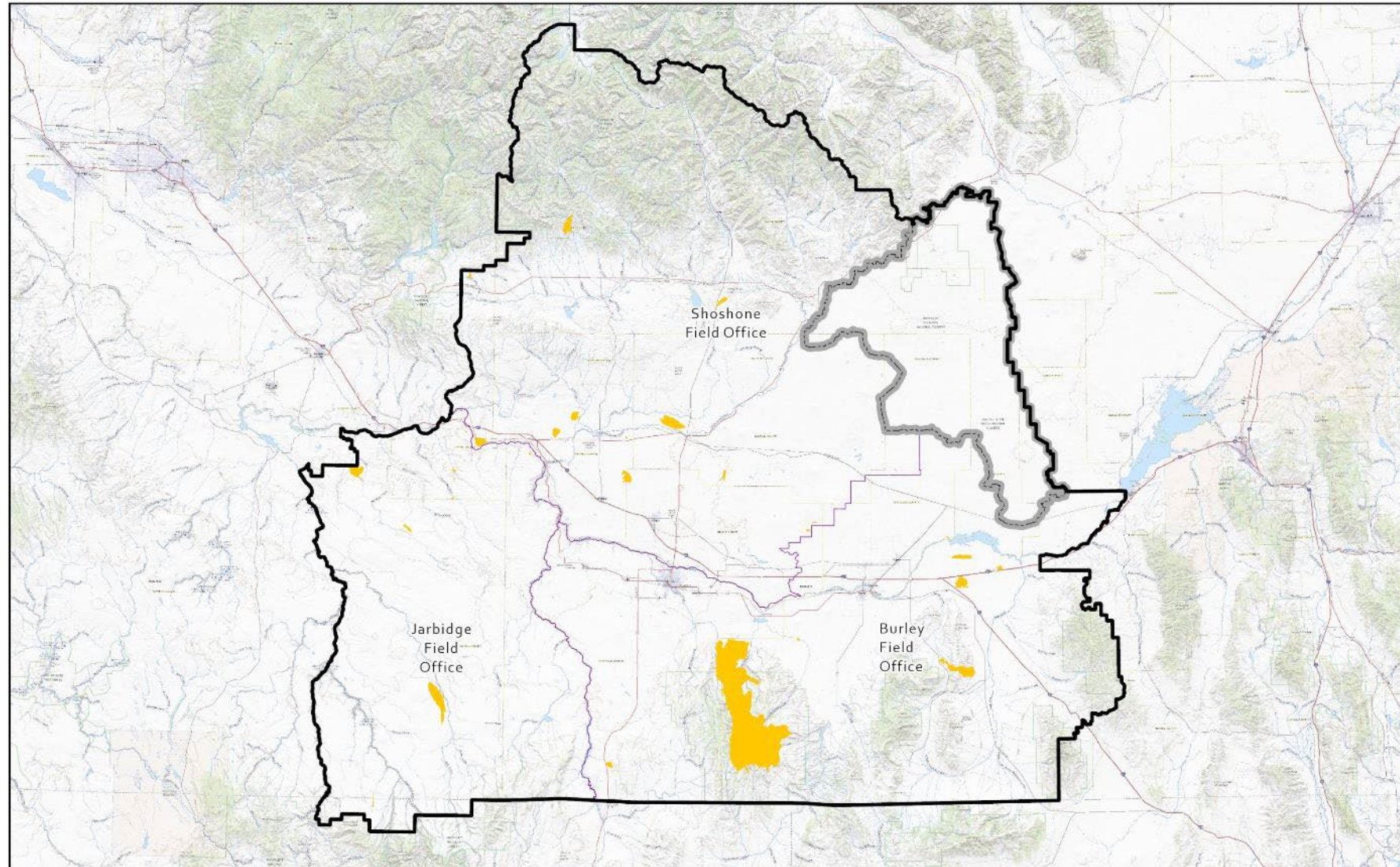
Fire Occurrences 2000s




These data are provided by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "as is" and might contain errors or omissions. The User assumes the entire risk associated with its use of these data and bears all responsibility in determining whether these data are fit for the User's intended use.



Fire Occurrences 2020s



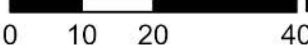
 BLM District Boundary

 National Monument

 BLM Offices

Number of Times Burned

 1 Time Burned

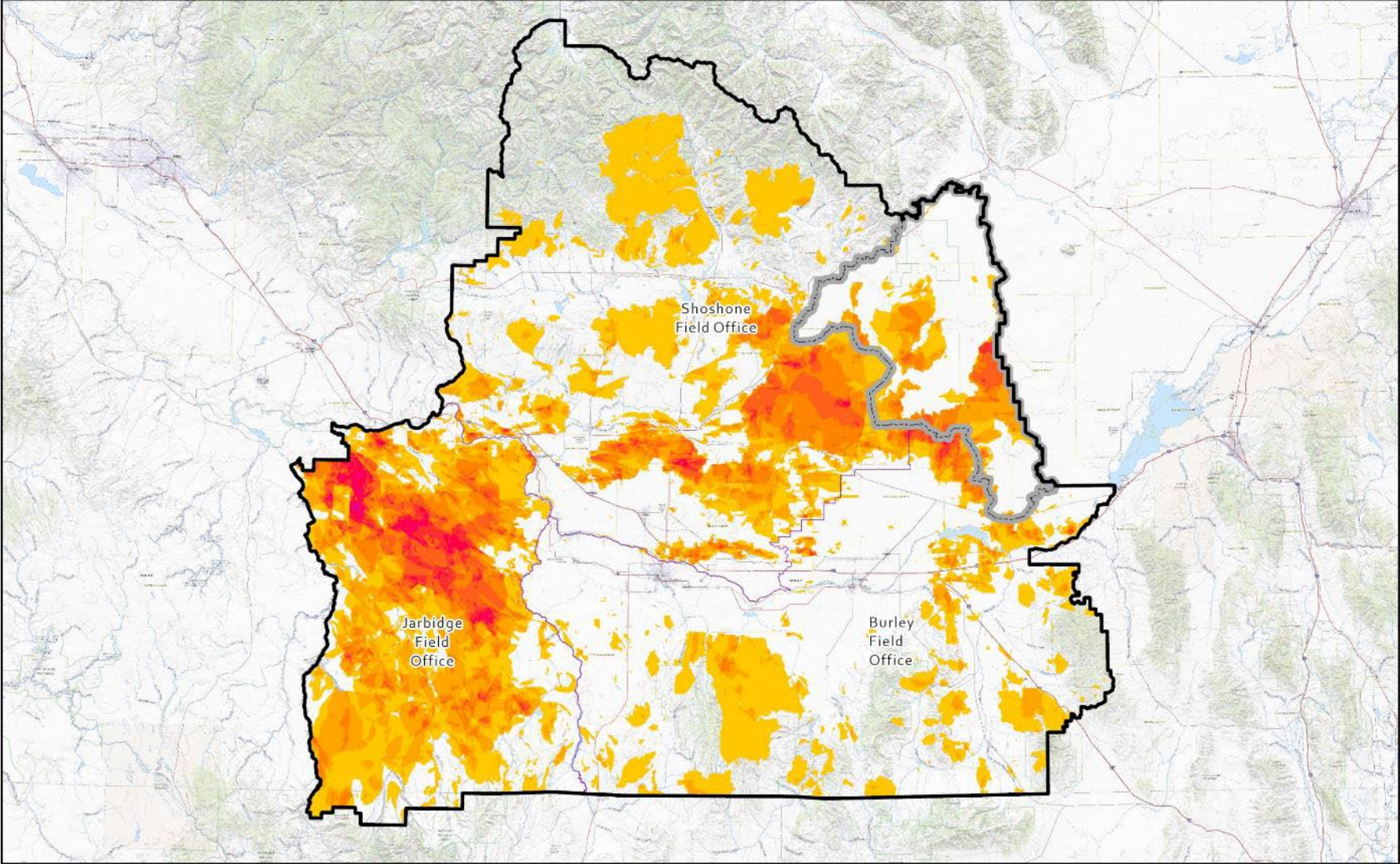
N
 Miles
0 10 20 40
Scale: 1:1,500,000 6/1/2022 7:13 AM



These data are provided by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "as is" and might contain errors or omissions. The User assumes the entire risk associated with its use of these data and bears all responsibility in determining whether these data are fit for the User's intended use.



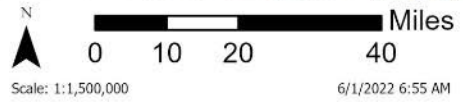
Fire Occurrences Last 50 Years 1971 - 2021



- BLM District Boundary
- National Monument
- BLM Offices

Number of Times Burned

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Time Burned | 2 Times Burned | 7 Times Burned |
| | 3 Times Burned | 8 Times Burned |
| | 4 Times Burned | 9 Times Burned |
| | 5 Times Burned | 10 Times Burned |
| | 6 Times Burned | 11 Times Burned |



6/1/2022 6:55 AM



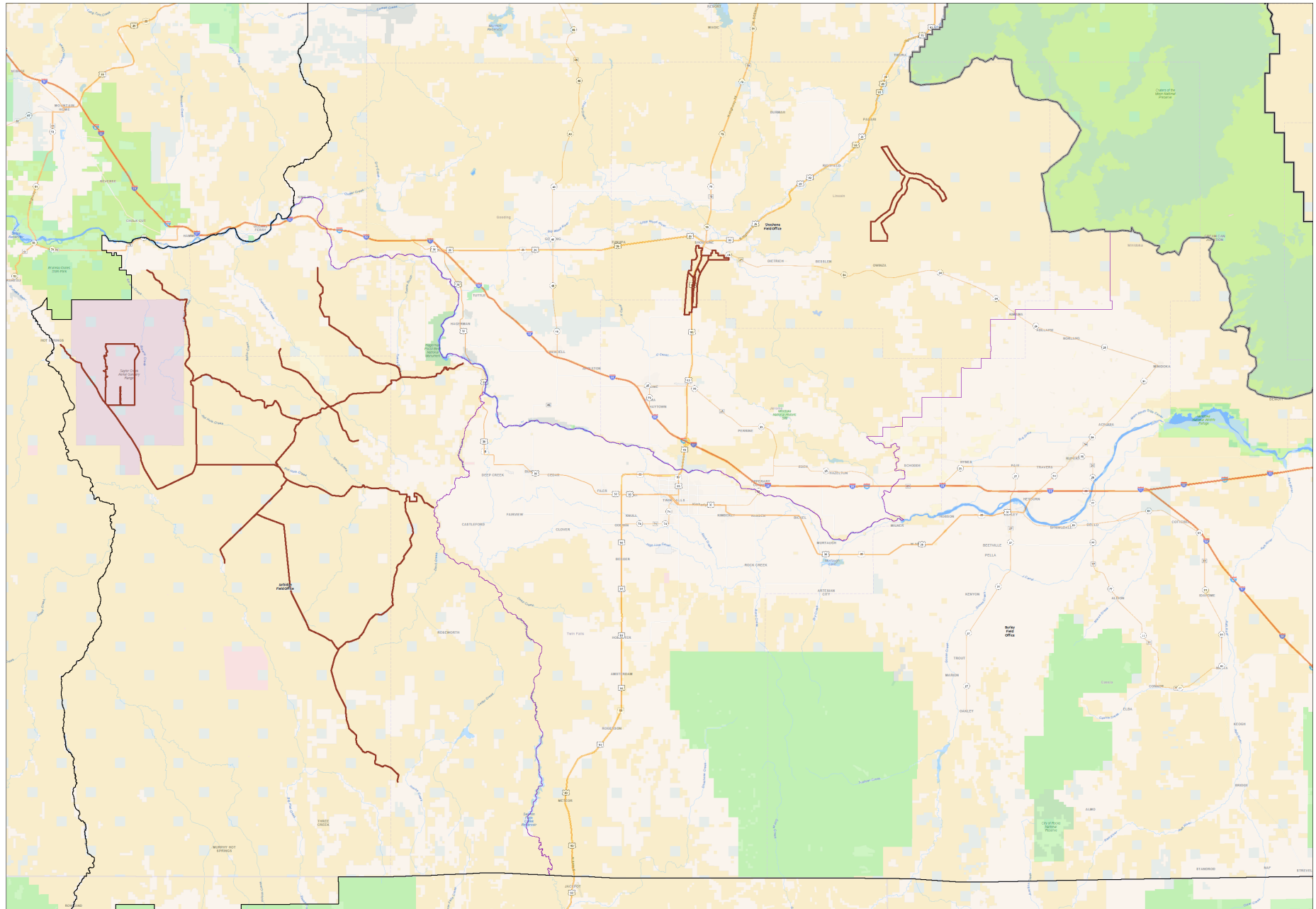
These data are provided by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "as is" and might contain errors or omissions. The User assumes the entire risk associated with its use of these data and bears all responsibility in determining whether these data are fit for the User's intended use.



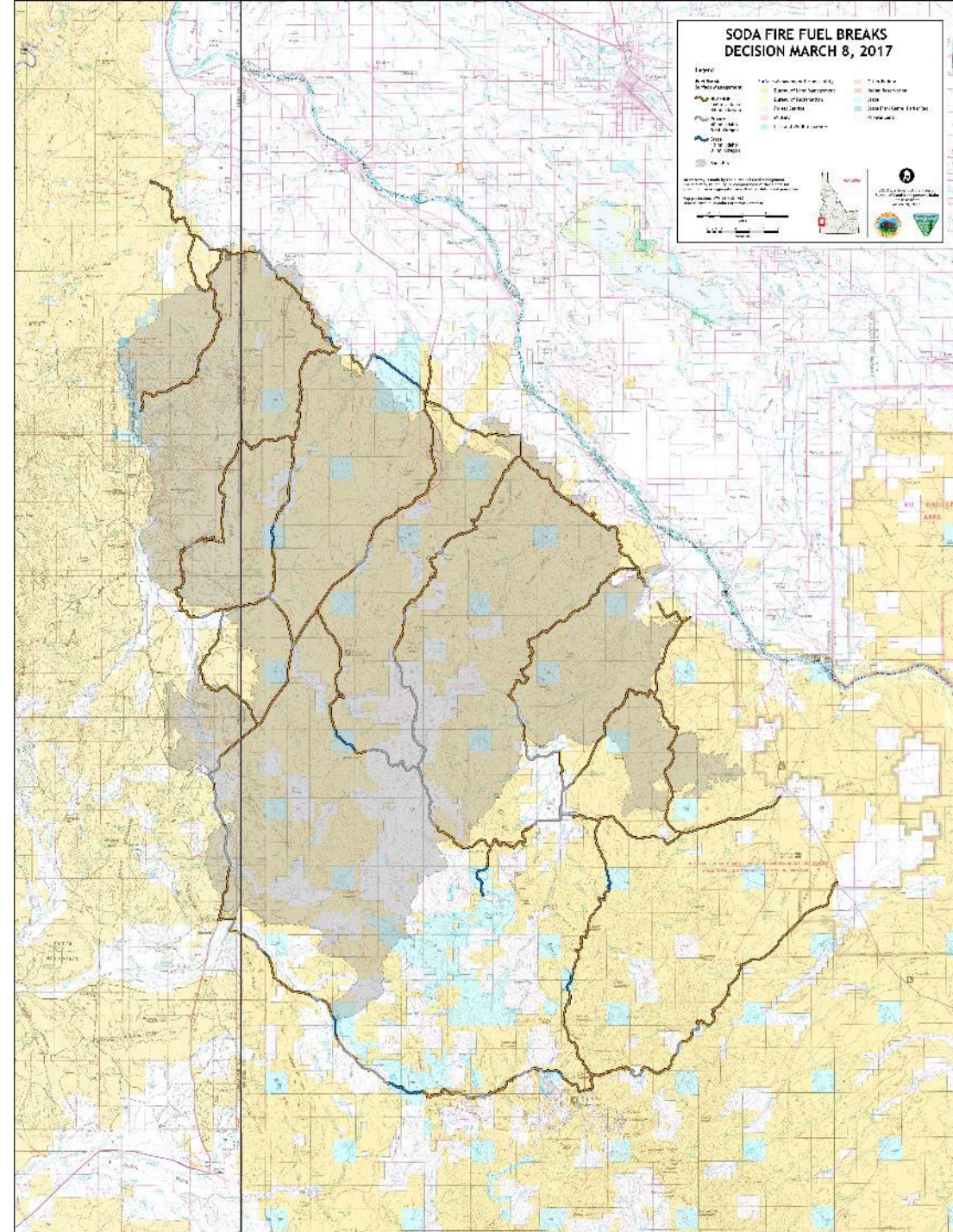
Fuel Breaks

- Mechanical removal of sagebrush and grasses along main access corridors.
- Chemical treatment of cheat grass along main access corridors.
- Re-establishment of native and bunch grasses.
- Maintenance and upgrading existing roadways.
- Think big picture!!!!
- Partners!!! Partners!!! Partners!!!

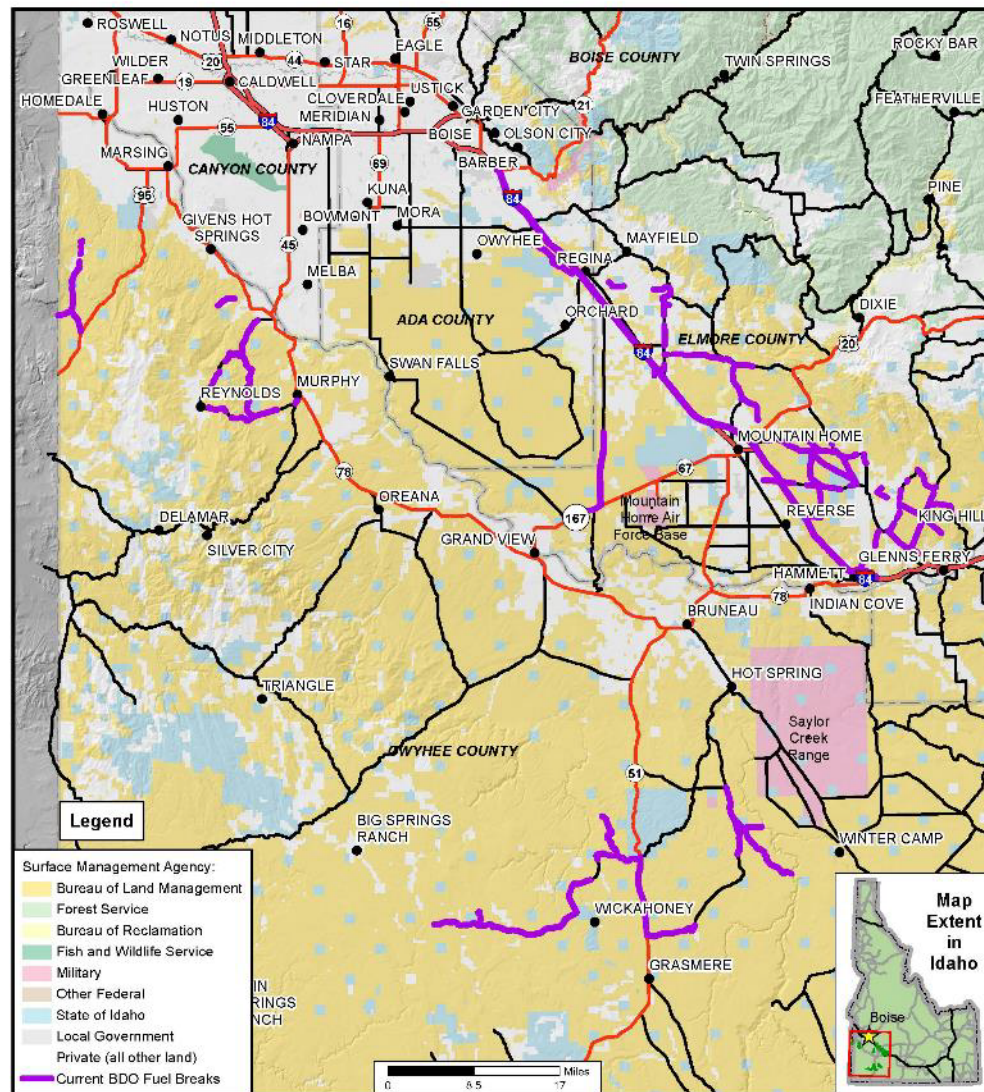
Twin Falls District Fuel Breaks



- Fuel Breaks
- BLM District Boundary
- National Monument
- BLM Offices
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Military, Department of Defense
- Railroad-Sovereign Land Use
- Department of Energy
- National Crosslands
- Forest Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- National American Reservation
- Private
- State
- State Fish and Game
- Historical Open Water



Boise District BLM Fuel Breaks



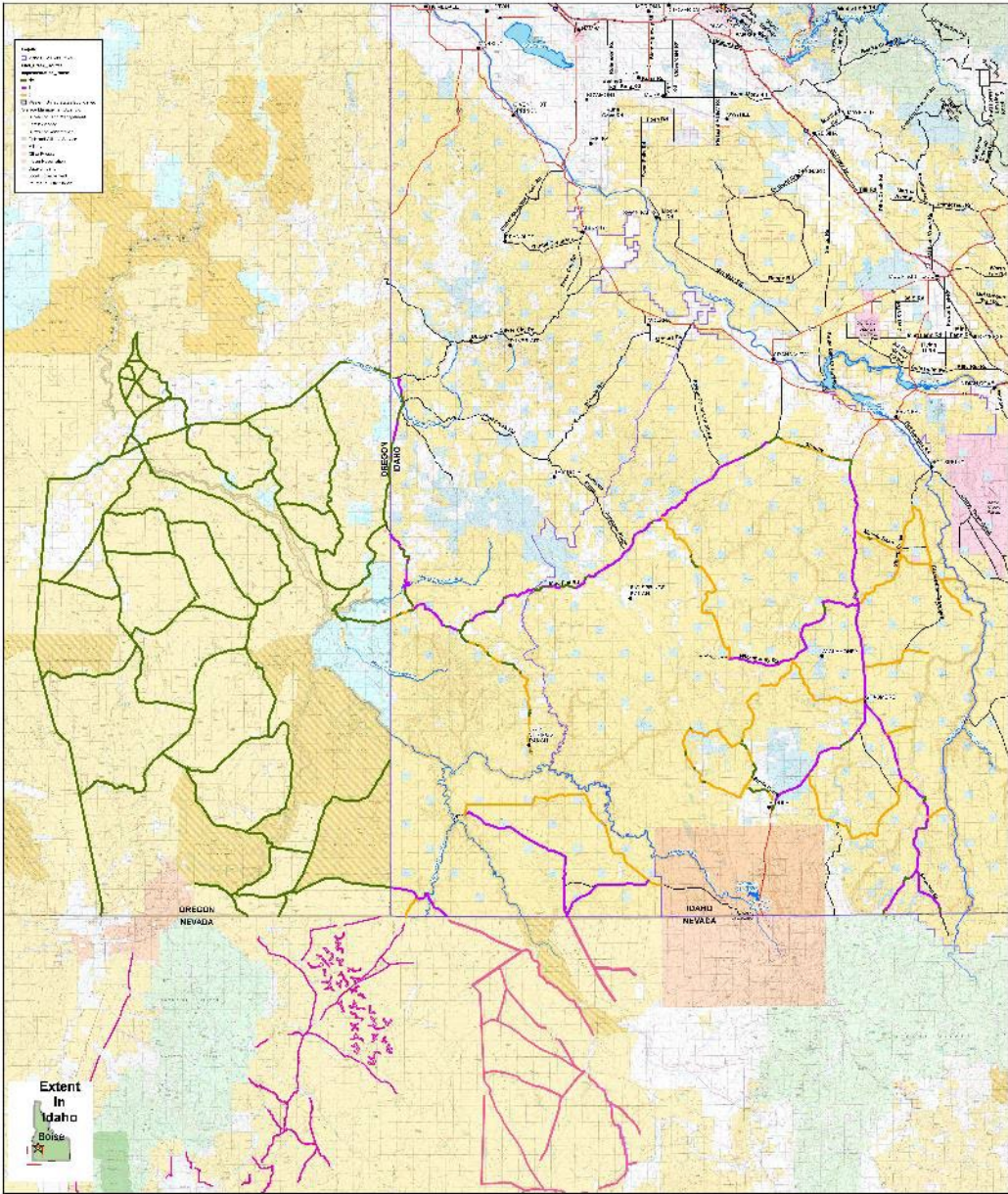
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
Boise District Office
Map date: May 31, 2022



1:821,143

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. This map cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office webmaster at (208) 373-4000.

Tri State Fuel Breaks w/Phases (In Progress / Not Fully Implemented) 2021



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Boise
Boise District Office
Map Date: June 23, 2021



Scale: 0 5 10 15 Miles



This map was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office, for the purpose of providing information to the public. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The map is not a legal document and should not be used for any legal purpose. The map is not a legal document and should not be used for any legal purpose. The map is not a legal document and should not be used for any legal purpose.





HEATHER HEWARD

**SENIOR INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF
FOREST, RANGELAND AND FIRE SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO**

The background of the slide is a grayscale photograph of a forest fire scene. Three firefighters are visible, wearing helmets and carrying tools. The air is thick with smoke, and the trees are silhouetted against the bright light from the fire. The overall tone is somber and professional.

WILDLAND FIRE

A TOOL FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

HEATHER HEWARD

- SENIOR INSTRUCTOR - UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
- FOUNDER AND CHAIR OF THE IDAHO PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

21-10-2011 14:26

CONCLUSION

Fire is a tool in the toolbox
for landscape-scale
management

KNOW more – **DO** more

DO more – **KNOW** more



DEFINITIONS

Wildland fire "Any **non-structure** fire that occurs in **vegetation or natural fuels**. Includes **Wildfires** and **Prescribed Fires**."



DEFINITIONS

Wildfire "A wildland fire originating from an **unplanned ignition**, such as lightning, volcanos, unauthorized and accidental human caused fires, and prescribed fires that are declared wildfires."



DEFINITIONS

Wildfire response strategies "The range of **options** available for response to a wildfire.

Definition Extensions: 1) Common strategies include **Monitor, Confine, Contain, Point/Zone Protection, and Suppression**, but hybrids and novel strategies may also be developed as the situation demands. 2) One or more strategies may be employed on any given wildfire. The strategy or **strategies being employed may vary** temporally or spatially."



DEFINITIONS

Prescribed fire: A wildland fire originating from a **planned ignition** in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and regulations to **meet specific objectives**.”



DEFINITIONS

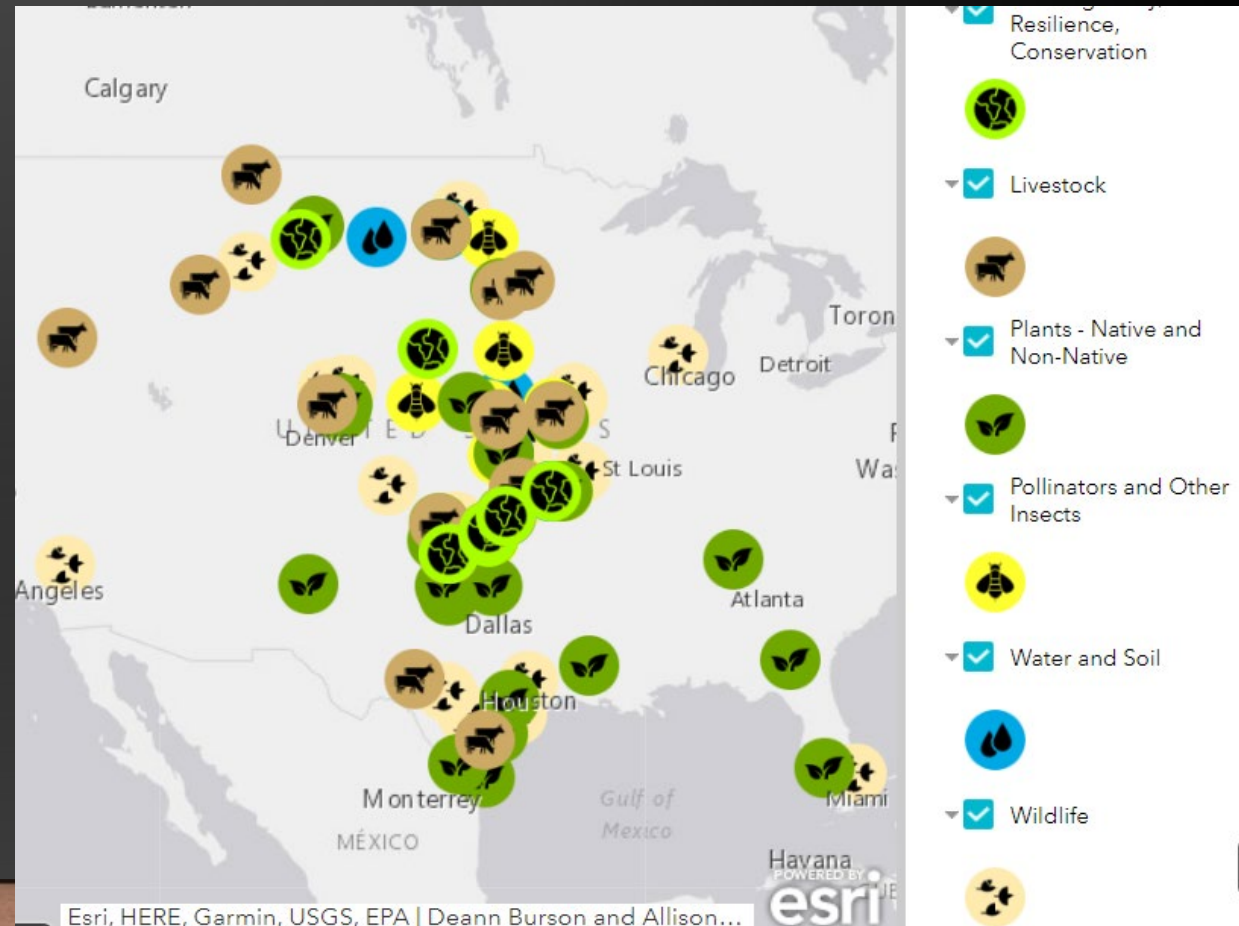
Pyric herbivory: the spatial and temporal **interaction of fire and grazing**.

Patch burn grazing: the application of prescribed fire and livestock grazing used to **create a shifting mosaic** of fire and grazing across a landscape that varies annually to increase the diversity and structure of the vegetation in a way to **benefit wildlife and maintain livestock production**.”



BENEFITS OF PATCH BURN GRAZING ON RANGELANDS

- Decrease wildfire risk and impacts
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve forage quality and grazing distribution
- Decrease invasive species



CONSIDERATIONS FOR PATCH BURN GRAZING ON RANGELANDS

- Frequency
- Season
- Scale
- Pattern of fire
- Burning conditions
- Associated treatments – grazing, herbicide, planting



PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCILS

- Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils
“Promote the appropriate use of prescribed fire for enhancing public **safety**, managing **resources**, and sustaining **environment quality**”
- Idaho Prescribed Fire Council
“Serve as a forum to advance the **safe and effective** use of prescribed fire across Idaho”



PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATIONS

“Groups of landowners and other interested people who **form partnerships** to pool their knowledge, equipment, and other resources to **conduct prescribed fires**”



Source: [Landscape Partnership Site](#)

Source: [Weir et al. 2016](#)

CONCLUSION

Fire is a tool in the toolbox
for landscape-scale
management

KNOW more – **DO** more

DO more – **KNOW** more

KNOW more

- Get involved in fire exchanges
- Support research and extension

DO more

- Get involved councils and associations
- Get to know your neighbor
- Support others to do the work

QUESTIONS?







**MICHAEL
GUERRY**

PRESIDENT, GUERRY, INC.



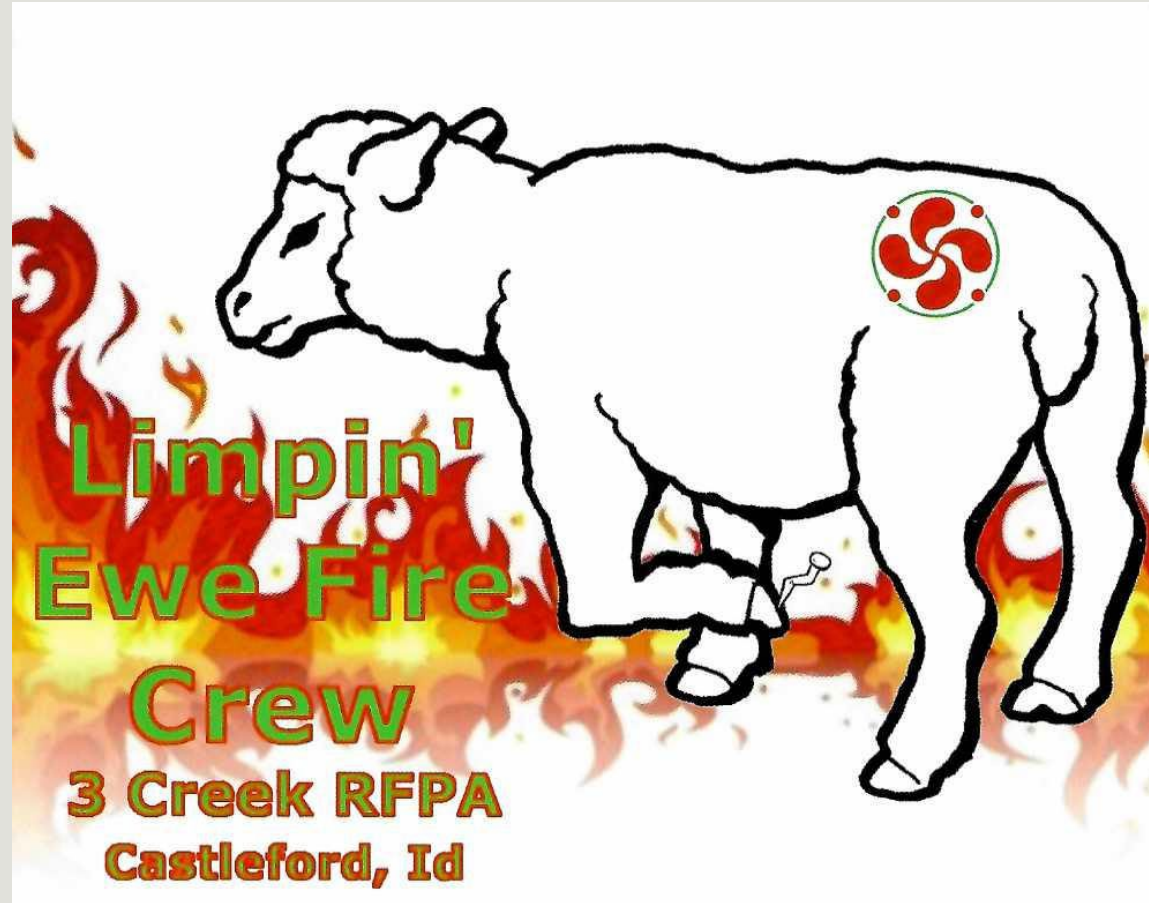
Three Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA)

MICHAEL A. "MIKE" GUERRY, CHAIRMAN



- In partnership with:
- Twin Falls/Boise BLM
 - Idaho Department of Lands
-

A division of Three Creek RFPA



Firefighter Colors



History of Fire on the Jarbidge BLM Resource Area



- Natural fire has been a part of the ecosystem since the beginning of time.
- Native Americans used fire to manage hunting resources for survival.
- Operators and BLM personnel used prescribed fire on the district to manage the resource area.
- Changes in grazing prescriptions (i.e. deferred grazing and rotational grazing management systems) began reducing utilization and increasing fuel loads.
- Fire remains a key resource management tool, as long as the acreages are manageable, and the pattern is mosaic.

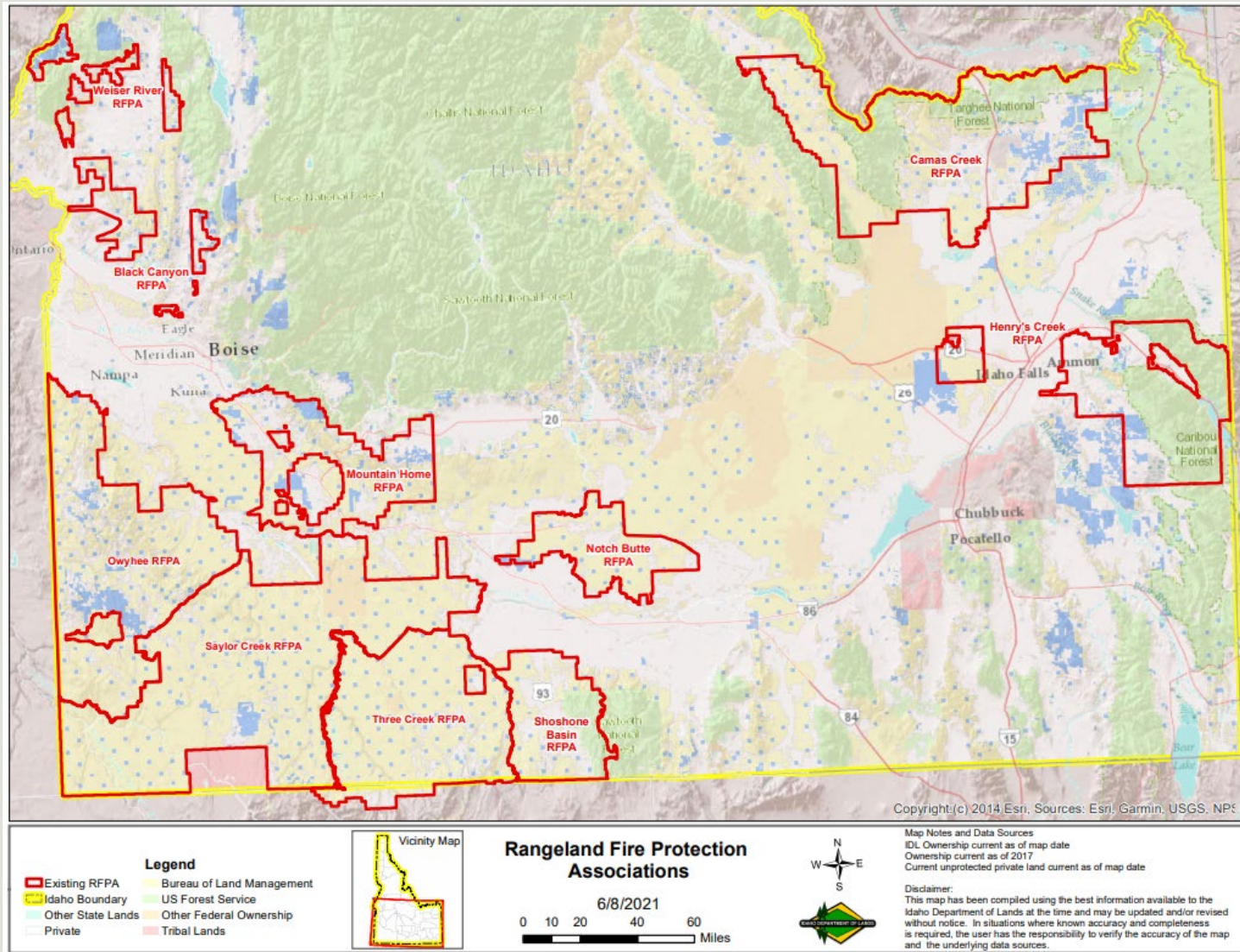


- In the 1960s and early 1970s, a large fire was 3000 to 5000 acres.
 - This size fire is both manageable, and generally mosaic.
- In the 1980s and 1990s, a large fire became 30,000 to 50,000 acres.
 - This type fire also is generally manageable, and mosaic as well, due to the size of the resource area.
- In the early 2000s, fires on the district grew to 150,000 to nearly 700,000 acres.
 - These fires are absolutely not manageable, and definitely not mosaic.
- At this point, due to litigation concerns, ranchers were no longer allowed to assist in fire suppression, and BLM firefighters were restricted in their ability to use certain assets.

The Beginning of RFPAs



- Due to concerns by operators about not being able to assist on fire, and
- Due to concerns of professional firefighters and BLM solicitors over operator's lack of communication, training, and PPEs
- The effort began to establish RFPAs in Idaho with the charge being led by then Governor Butch Otter and Senator Bert Brackets. With establishment of the first RFLPA (Mountain Home) in 2012.
- Three Creek and Saylor Creek RFPAs were established in 2013



- Today there are nine RFPAs in the state of Idaho with the tenth (Weiser River RFPA) in the process of being established.
- The RFPAs in Idaho have over 450 trained wildland firefighters.
- The nine RFPAs combined protect 1.8 million acres of private rangeland, as well as providing secondary protection on 7.2 million acres on federal and state land.

Communications, Training, and PPEs



- In satisfying concerns of both fire managers and operators, today RFPA members train with the BLM firefighters in fire tactics, as well as communications.
- This training has created a strong partnership between BLM and RFPA firefighters, and
- Takes advantage of quick initial attack, ranchers can provide, thus
- Creating a multiplier effect for the BLM firefighters.
- At all times, providing for a safer and more professional initial attack on fire.
- **The bottom line is, it is about the partnership, it is about the partnership, and ultimately, it is about the partnership!**



Fire Assets



Fire Assets Provided by RFPAs



- Type 4 Engines
- Type 6 Engines
- Military Trailers w/slip-in units
- Water Tenders
- Tractor/Disks
- Dozers
- Graders



Fire Modifications Provided by RFPAs



- RFPA Repeater
- Radios
 - Vertex
 - King
 - 50 Watt
- Water Resources
 - Storage Tanks
 - Pipelines
 - Truck Fills



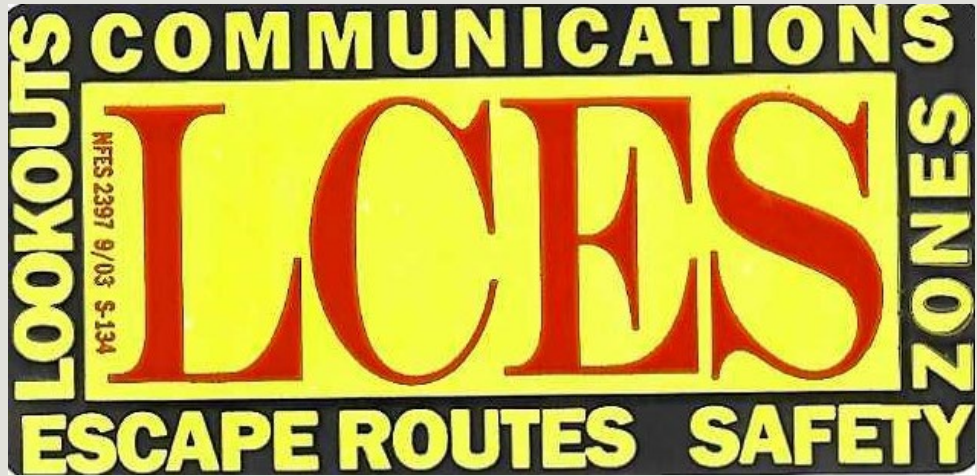
Firefighting Attributes Provided by RFPAs



- Interim Incident Command
- Logistics and Intel
- Routing and Taping
- Suppression
- RFPA Liaison

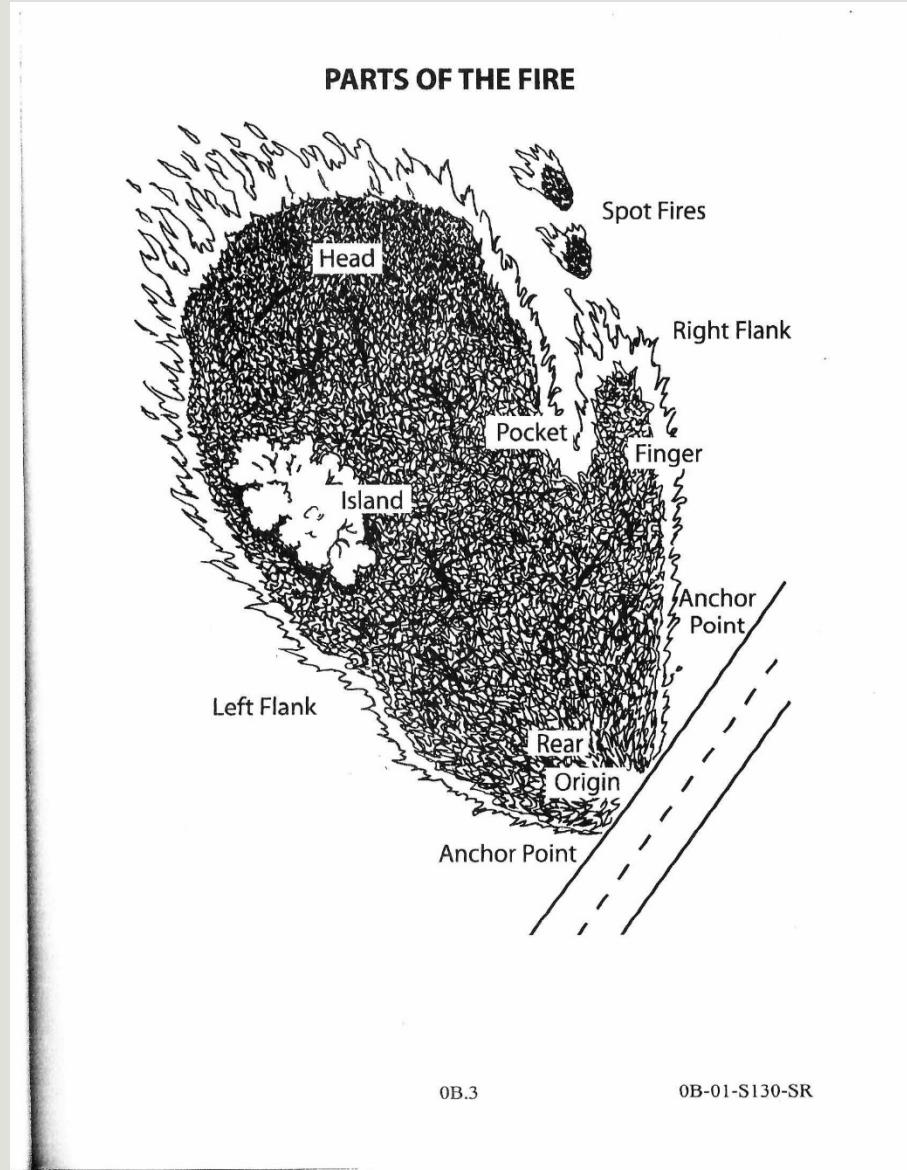


Firefighter Safety



- Lookouts
- Communications
- Escape Routes
- Safety Zones

Firefighter Safety



- Anchor, Flank & Pinch
- 10 Standard Firefighting Orders
- 18 Watch Out Situations

Aviation Safety



- Communication & Coordination
- When they say clear the line, they mean clear the line!!!

After Action Review (AAR)



Discussion:

- What was planned?
- What actually happened?
- Why did it happen?
- What can we do next time to improve our response?
- Correct weaknesses
- Sustain strengths

Success Driven by Leadership



Chris Anthony, FOS (Twin Falls District BLM)

Twin Falls District BLM:

- Brad Sawyer, FMO
- Clay Stephens, AFMO (acting)
- Chris Anthony, FOS (Twin Falls)
- Jeff Bedke, FOS (Burley)
- Mitch Silvester, AFOS (Shoshone)

Boise District BLM:

- Dan Betts, FOS
- Ray Bilbao, Supt. (Hammett)
- James Brummond, Supt. (Bruneau)

Idaho Department of Lands:

- Rick Finis, SIFL

Three Creek RFP:

- Michael A. Guerry, Chairman
- Tracy Vulgamore, Vice-Chairman
- Gus Brackett, Sec./Treas.
- Darcy Helmick, Director
- Brad Visser, Director
- Jared Brackett, Director
- Derek Bates, Director

Thank you for your time!



Contact Information:
Three Creek RFPA
c/o Michael A. Guerry
P.O. Box 687
Castleford, ID 83321
(208)731-6653
basco@filertel.com

QUESTION AND ANSWER

JOHN FOLTZ
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GRANT BEEBE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RYAN BERLIN
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

HEATHER HEWARD
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

MICHAEL GUERRY
GUERRY, INC.

