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Fall Workshops

September:
- Multi-Agency Fire Recovery Resource Event:
  September 15, 2015; 9am—11:30am
  Legionnaire Hall—Kamiah, ID
- Additional Multi-Agency Fire Recovery Resource Events:
  Additional events are planned for other fire-affected Communities during the last two weeks of September.
  Look for dates, times, and locations in local media outlets or call the Clearwater County Extension Office.
- FSA Public Information Meeting:
  September 16, 2015; 8am
  USDA Service Center, Orofino, ID
  Livestock Recovery Only
- Clearwater Basin Ecology & Policy:
  Date & Time: TBA; Orofino, Idaho
  October:
  - Weeds vs Herbicides:
    Date & Time: TBA; Orofino, Idaho
  December:
  - Current Topics in Farm & Forest Health:
    December 10 (tentative) 2015; Time: TBA; Orofino, Idaho
  - Post Fire Event Workshop:
    Date & Time: TBA; Kamiah, ID

We probably won't know the total extent of this year’s fire season and how it compares with other years until after it is over. But already this season ranks as one of the worst (if not the worst) in most people’s memory. As of September 2nd, the Clearwater Municipal Complex of fires was reported to have covered 83,243 acres with much of that acreage near the communities of Kamiah, Orofino, Reubens, Gifford, Craigmont.

The Interagency Fire Center still predicts that the month of September will have above normal wildfire activity in our area. Currently, our area is classified by the National Weather Service as experiencing “Extreme Drought” (the second highest drought classification by the Weather Service), and this drought is predicted to intensify at least through the month of November with the winter of 2015-16 predicted to be dry and warm, setting our region up for another low snow-pack year, and if so, the increased probability of another bad wildfire year in 2016.

University of Idaho Extension and cooperating agencies are engaged in efforts to assist local rural land owners recover from the effects of this year’s fires. Several events and initiatives are being planned, and agencies are working on efforts to provide programs to assist rural land owners.

Please see inside for details on these upcoming programs and outreach efforts and where you can go to get additional information on what resources might be available to those who have been adversely affected by this fire season.

As we are all learning as we go, on how to respond to the magnitude of this year’s fires, new programs and initiatives that may be made available are not yet known at the time of this writing, so stay tuned to local media and news outlets to learn of additional programs and call the Extension office in Orofino if you want to stay updated and learn of additional programs.

The University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational organization. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
Hay and Pasture Clearinghouse—Contact 208-983-2667

WEB SITES: Post Fire Publications
- idahofirewise.org
- www.extension.org/surviving_wildfire
- wildfire.nrcs.usda.gov/prepare/disaster/wildfire
- lsi.edu/Topics/Hazards/Fire/ Pages/default.aspx
- incweb.nwcg.gov/
- cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/catalog.asp

Information Packets may be obtained at the following locations:
- Clearwater County Extension Office—Orofino, ID
- Idaho County Courthouse—Grangeville, ID
- Idaho Department of Lands—Orofino, ID
- Idaho Department of Lands—Kamiah, ID
- City Hall—Kamiah, ID
- Wepele Library—Weippe, ID
- Idaho Department of Lands—Craigmont, ID
- NRCS—Orofino, ID

Ponderosa Supervisory Area 208-877-1121
Maggie Creek Supervisory Area 208-935-2141
Craig Mtn. Forest Protective District 208-924-5571

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Regional Office 7600 Mineral Drive, Suite 100
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815 208-762-2800

Idaho Fish & Game
Clearwater Region 3316 16th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501 208-799-5010

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 208-476-4434
12730 Highway 12, Ste C
Orofino, ID 83544

Idaho Department of Agriculture—Field Office 1118 “F” Street
Lewiston, ID 83501 208-743-0415

Idaho Department of Lands—Orofino Office 10230 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544 208-476-4587

Idaho Department of Water Resources—Regional Office 7600 Mineral Drive, Suite 100
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815 208-762-2800

Idaho Fish & Game—Clearwater Region 3316 16th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501 208-799-5010

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 208-476-4434
12730 Highway 12, Ste C
Orofino, ID 83544 208-476-5313 EXT 107

U of I Extension—Clearwater County 2200 Michigan Ave
Orofino, ID 83544 208-476-4434

U of I Extension—Idaho County 320 West Main, Rm 3
Grangeville, ID 83530 208-983-2667

U of I Extension—Lewis County 510 Oak Street, Rm 6
Nezperce, ID 83543 208-937-2311

Weed Control Clearwater City 208-476-4918
Idaho County 208-983-2667
Lewis County 208-937-2380

Idaho County Invasive Plant Management—Connie Jensen-Blyth, Weed Superintendent 208-983-2667 x 233

Assisting with interagency post fire risk assessment coordination across Idaho County private lands affected by 2015 fires. Post fire seed mix recommendations & weed prevention/treatment technical assistance.

Know someone who would enjoy a copy of our Newsletter? Let us know, we will be happy to send them a copy. Then they can decide for themselves and let us know if they would like to be on our regular mailing list. clearwater@uidaho.edu

Hay and Pasture Clearinghouse Offered at The Idaho County Extension Office
By Jim Church, University of Idaho Extension

The University of Idaho, Idaho County Extension Office is providing a hay and pasture clearinghouse for producers with hay to sell and for those looking for hay. With the fire situation and the loss of pastures and some hay barns here in North Idaho, this clearinghouse will help producers needing hay or pasture, locate people that have pasture and hay available.

If you have hay for sale or pasture to rent, email the Idaho County Extension office at idaho@uidaho.edu, with contact information and how much hay or pasture is available.

Also, if you have lost hay or pasture in the fires and are in need of finding pasture for this fall and hay for the coming winter, email the Idaho County Extension office at idaho@uidaho.edu.

If you have any questions about this effort, please call 208-983-2667.

LISTING OF AVAILABLE HAY FOR SALE AND PASTURE FOR RENT

Provided by Connie Jensen-Blyth, Idaho County Weed Superintendent

Hay for Sale:
- Travis Port – Troy, Idaho 208-790-1001
- Ed Miller – Rock Lake, Washington – 509-995-3217 (Beardless Barley & Oat Hay, also some year old feeder quality alfalfa hay)
- Bruce Watson – 208-486-7561 cell 208-829-1705 (Emergency CRP hay for donation or trade, & some grass hay for sale)
- Mike Frei – (5 foot round bales, 20 tons available, $120-$140 per ton)

Pasture for Rent:
- Cindy Larson 1-208-816-6241
- Bethany Wilks 1-208-843-2348
- Sandy Love 1-208-476-4670
- Lyle Hendricks 1-208-476-7740
- Brenda Lane (old Peck Grade, will take any animal) 1-208-486-0669
- Joyce Wilcox (can take horses and cows) 1-208-476-4978
- Lynn Feldmann -720-568-9938 lynn.feldmann@comcast.net;
  (Has 160 acres located 8 miles SE of Plummer, Idaho. Fenced, with water and corrals.)
- Jim Pishl – 208-871-0691 (Pollock ranch near Orofino. 120 acres, water trough in place, fences need some work. Can contact Mick Pollock at 208-476-7476 also to inquire)

Public Information Meeting:
Disaster Assistance Programs for AG and Timber Producers Affected by Recent Fires & Drought Tuesday, September 15, 2015; 9 to 11:30 am. American Legion Hall, 618 Main Street, Kamiah, ID

Listen for updates and available programs available:
- Livestock losses due to fire; Fence destroyed by fire; Grazing losses; Forestry; Soils/Erosion; Weed abatement; Water development.
Tips on Pasture Management After Fire and Drought
By Sydney Yuncevich
Rangeland Specialist, Natural Resource Conservation Service

This summer has been a particularly long and dry one. On top of that, many have lost their pastures to fire. Your grazing management practices can help buffer the consequences of drought and fire. In order to keep your pastures in good condition and producing the best quality of feed, there are a number of principles to keep in mind.

1) Plant Needs
- Grass plants need to have enough leaves in order to capture sunlight, grow and then store food in the root system. The leaves are basically the food factory. The roots anchor the plants to the soil, take up water and nutrients, and if healthy, enable the plant to survive stress from drought, fire, cold, heat, and grazing. During drought, and fire recovery, healthy root systems are essential to extract the remaining soil moisture.
- Regrowth is delayed when a grass plant is grazed too close to the ground. It uses up root reserves to recuperate. If continually grazed too close the plant becomes weaker and weaker. As the roots become weaker, they can be easily pulled up by the grazing animal. Death for the plant can result. During a drought, the plant is under additional stress of not having enough water to grow. When burned by fire, all the leaves have been removed and the plant has to start over. Heavy grazing plus drought plus fire creates a “triple whammy” on the plant.
- A good rule of thumb in grazing is the “take half, leave half” principal. Graze a pasture so that half of the current year’s growth has been eaten. Take the animals off when they have reached this point. This is generally about 4 inches of stubble in northern Idaho. Turn animals out on a pasture when the perennial leaf height is at least 6-8 inches.
- Animals can safely graze the regrowth on grass plants when the grass has recovered from either grazing or fire. This means the plant has built back up its root reserves and has green leaf to spare. For many of the grass plants in this area, that means when the green leaves grow 6-8 inches. Animals should be removed when the stubble height is no less than 4 inches. This will provide protection to the plant for the winter and have it ready for growing in the spring.
- One of the most effective and fastest ways to achieve a healthy pasture is to allow periodic growing season rest. This means allowing the grass plant to grow until it produces seed. This doesn’t have to happen every year.

2) Animal Needs
- Pastures that are kept in good condition will provide high quality forage for the grazing animal. Those pastures where appropriate use levels have been adhered to, will often have better forage when a drought occurs or will recover faster after a fire. That’s because healthy plants have roots which are able to extract moisture needed for growth.
- Resting one pasture during the growing season and keeping it for the fall, will also act as a “grass bank”, giving the animals a place to come when forage is scarce in other pastures. Animals forced to hunt for forage on very short grasses will not get the nutrition they need.
- The year following drought or fire should be devoted as much as possible to improving plant vigor and restoring protective vegetation and litter. If a pasture has been burned, giving it a rest from grazing fall through midsummer is a recognized and highly recommended grazing practice.

Potential Funding Through EQIP
By Amber Reeves, USDA NRCS

As part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, we are here to assist private agricultural landowners in addressing resource concerns on their property. This year as a result of the catastrophic fires in our area there have been many resource concerns created. NRCS is available to provide technical and potentially financial assistance to those who are interested in rehabilitating their land from the impacts of the fires.

Additional funding has been requested through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist those affected by the fires. To be eligible for the cost-share program, your land must be producing an ag commodity (pasture, Non-Industrial Private forestland, range, etc). We will work with you on identifying your needs (replacing fence, grass seeding, tree planting, etc.) and develop a plan that will address the resource concerns identified as well as your objectives. Cost-share assistance to install practices may be available depending on the level of funding the agency receives.

While cost-share assistance depends on the level of funding we receive, we are always available to provide technical assistance free of charge to private landowners with agricultural land. I encourage anyone who is looking for technical assistance, financial assistance, or both to contact our offices at 208-476-5313 ext. 3 in Clearwater County, 208-937-2291 ext. 3 in Lewis County, or 208-983-1046 in Idaho County to discuss the assistance we have available.

Clearwater Basin CWMA Assistance

The Clearwater Basin CWMA is offering a 50% cost share for post fire revegetation to private landowners within the Clearwater CWMA boundaries. (Clearwater, Lewis, & Nez Perce counties)

Anyone interested in the cost share program should contact Chip Haight at: Lewis County Weed Dept. 510 Oak Street Rm 7 Nezperce, Id 83543 208-937-2380

Idaho Hay Report
Idaho Hay and Forage Association

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<th>Average</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>$105.00</td>
<td>Week ending</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Sampling of Current Log Prices from Local Mills—August 2015

- DF $375—400 / GF $350-375 (preferred lengths)—Empire Lumber (208-435-4703)
- DF $325—375 / GF $225 / BP $100—Tri-Pro (Ph. 208-476-4597)
- DF $430—460 / GF $400—430 / BP $125—IFG, Grangeville (208-507-0783)
- DF $430 / GF $430 / BP $150—Blue North, Kamiah (208-451-6072)
- DF—Douglas Fir / GF—Grand Fir / BP—Blue Pine
Postfire Management – What to do this Fall and Winter
by Yvonne Barkley, University of Idaho Extension
You have been evacuated – maybe more than once. Now it’s time to go home. The most important management activities you can do this fall are those that ensure the continued safety of your family and livestock.

Remove hazards
Use extreme caution when entering burnt areas; hazard trees are common and can fall without warning. Areas where root systems have burned often leave ash pits; fill them in or fence them off. Repair fencing so livestock stay out of hazard areas and off of busy roadways.

Mitigate erosion
To be safe, assume that all drainages in steep, hilly areas are capable of carrying debris flows. Burned soils can also develop water repellent layers, which increases runoff. Identify areas that will likely erode and use straw bale check dams or other barriers to control flooding this fall and winter.

Grass seeding is a commonly used rehabilitation method. If you decide to seed grass, know that the success of this treatment is highly dependent on the timeliness of seed application, choice of seed, applicator skill, protection from grazing, and luck. Often times, the most successful grass crops are often where they are needed the least – at the bottom of the hill.

Burn severity
Walk your land and determine burn severity. You will most likely have a mosaic of burn severities across the landscape. Determining burn severities helps to predict tree mortality, soil conditions, erosion potential, and noxious weed establishment.

Management planning
This winter, planning next year’s management activities – it will be time well spent.

- Noxious weeds should be expected. Burnt areas with little to no vegetation will be especially susceptible to weed establishment, as will areas that previously had weeds.
- Salvage logging operations recover the value of damaged trees and remove hazards. Salvage cuts should be done as soon as possible after a burn – by year three, much or all of the value is lost.
- Reforestation is the process establishing new stands of trees on a previously forested sites. Seedlings will be in huge demand for the next few planting seasons – order ASAP to get the numbers and species of trees suitable for your site.

The Idaho Forest Practices Act includes reforestation standards. Contact your local Idaho Department of Lands office for clarification on particular laws.

Additional information:
After the Burn: Assessing and Managing Your Forestland after a Wildfire, available online on the UI Extension Forestry website at http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

![Photo by Yvonne Barkley, University of Idaho Extension](image)

Assessing postfire damage should be done as soon as possible after a wildfire

Photo by Yvonne Barkley, University of Idaho Extension

Contact Us!
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Land Based Economic Development & Land Stewardship
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Marie Armitage
4-H/Youth Development Program Assistant
mariea@uidaho.edu

Meladi Page
Extension Secretary
mpage@uidaho.edu

Community Calendar

September:
7: Labor Day (office closed)
9-12: Lewiston Roundup
17-20: Clearwater County Fair/Lumberjack Days
23: Autumn Begins
24-27: Lewis County Fair–Nezperce
24-27: Nez Perce County Fair–Lewiston
October:
12: Columbus Day (office closed)
13: Orofino Farmers Market–Last Day

November:
3: Election Day
11: Veteran's Day (office closed)
26: Thanksgiving (office closed)
27: Office Closed
December:
25: Christmas Day (office may be closed additional days over the holiday season)

This list is not all inclusive

Firewise Tips Checklist for Homeowners
Wildfire doesn't have to burn everything in its path. In fact, cleaning your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping are important first steps to helping minimize damage and loss.

The work you do today can make a difference. Follow these simple steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire.
- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation from under your deck and within 10 feet of the house.
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks, dry vegetation) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds.
- Only if it is needed, let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. If you have trees on your property, prune so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screen with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.
- Keep trees at least 100 feet away from your home and property.
- Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home's risk for wildfire damage at www.firewise.org.

Contact Us!