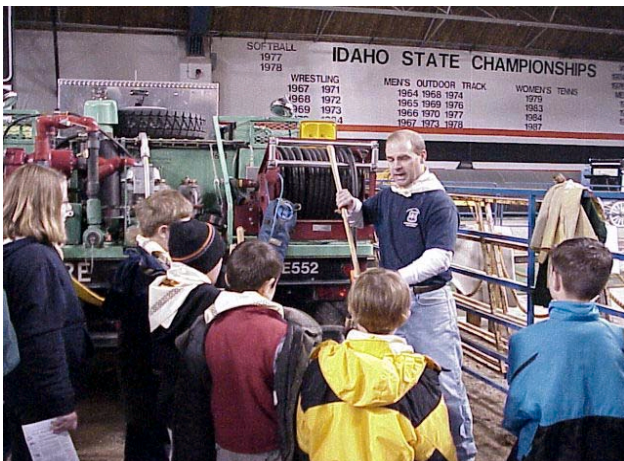


National Fire Plan Cooperative Fire Preparedness in Eastern Idaho 2002



A joint planning effort is underway to provide wildland fire training to city, county, and volunteer fire departments in and around Eastern Idaho. Planning is being coordinated by the BLM, USFS, and the Eastern Idaho Technical College. The BLM has dedicated approximately \$100,000 towards purchasing training materials, paying instructors, and administration costs incurred by the technical college. Fire departments are being canvassed for interest in over 20 different wildland fire training courses both at the technical college and offsite. Most courses will be offered on weekends and/or in the evening hours to accommodate the volunteer fire departments, and will be offered at no charge to eligible fire cooperators. Instructors would be provided by the federal agencies and paid by the technical college. The USFS is working with the Eastern Idaho Technical College to get the information out to the fire departments and city and county government officials. Course curriculum is expected to be identified and developed this winter and instruction will begin winter in preparation for the 2003 fire season.

The Caribou-Targhee NF has purchased training materials for all 42 non-federal fire departments covered under mutual aid agreements in Eastern Idaho. The trainings include Wildland Fire Hand Tool Use, Operations Water (assessment and development of water supplies and hydrant systems), and Wildfire Control: An Introduction for Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments. Additionally, the USFS has instructed sessions for several of these departments along with several Standards for Survival refreshers. Completion of this training by the volunteer fire departments is being counted as part of “in kind” matches to the BLM Rural Fire Assistance Grants.



Forest Service engine crew taking part in fire prevention events at the National Dodge Falls Rodeo. 1,500 children attended the event from schools in the area.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest has transferred 127 handheld programmable radios to the Idaho Department of Lands under the authority of the Federal Excess Personal Property program. These radios will be made available to volunteer fire departments on a “permanent loan” basis. This will greatly improve field communications between the volunteer fire departments and federal agencies during mutual response

incidents; improving safety and effectiveness. The Forest Service and BLM currently has mutual aid agreements with 42 county, city, and volunteer fire departments in Eastern Idaho and work in conjunction with these non-federal cooperators on approximately 70% of all fire incidents.

Fort Hall Fire
Department and
Bureau of Land
Management
engineers taking part
in Dodge National
Fuels Rodeo fire
prevention school
programs.



The Caribou-Targhee NF and Upper Snake River BLM (Idaho Falls) continue to participate with several city and volunteer fire departments in the Gateway Interagency Fire Front (GIFF) organization in the vicinity of Pocatello. This organization, which consists of BLM, USFS, Pocatello City, Chubbuck, Fort Hall, Pocatello Valley, and Inkom fire departments, Bannock County Sheriffs Dept, Red Cross, and National Weather Service, has been in place since the mid 1980's. GIFF is dedicated to rapid, coordinated, and decisive emergency incident management around the community of Pocatello without distinction of administrative boundaries or jurisdiction. USFS, BLM, and City of Pocatello engines are co-located at one of the city fire departments fire stations and are often dispatched together to wildland fire incidents. All participating agencies respond jointly to fires within the area defined under the agreement. This has been and continues to be very effective especially in the urban interface areas around the city. The GIFF committee meets monthly throughout the year to share information, train, and coordinate fire operations and fire prevention efforts.