The Oregon Trail fire of 2008 drove home the need to become more proactive in efforts to identify and mitigate wildfire threats. In 2009 Boise City began work on a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Code and partnered with BLM to conduct our first wildfire assessment of both vacant properties and developed subdivisions (the F.I.R.E.-Up RedZone Survey) in the area. We also began an effort to develop a demonstration fuels reduction program, which unfortunately stalled out over uncertainty about City-wide hazard priorities and other issues.

The City has a tremendous investment in foothills open space that remains vulnerable to wildfires that originate along the densely developed WUI boundary. The homes along that boundary also continue to exist at great risk of devastating fire.

The BLM is committed to developing a partnership with Boise to promote wildfire hazard identification and mitigation. BLM has funded additional work by the F.I.R.E.-Up program for the Boise area this summer. They have also continued to consolidate their efforts and resources into a cohesive wildfire mitigation program for the Boise area. As the recent visit by Department of Interior Secretary Salazar has borne out, they have funds to spend in the Boise area, a strong desire to move forward with programs that will benefit Boise, and are actively seeking our partnership.

BLM staff, in consultation with a team of City staff, has put together a packet of information for the Mayor and Council to review in consideration of their request to establish a formal partnership. Included in the packet attached to this memo are 1) a cover letter from the BLM Boise District, Four Rivers Field Manager Terry Humphries describing the purpose of the proposed partnership; 2) a map showing the history of fire starts along the Boise Front, 3) an outline of a three-pronged approach to a Wildfire Mitigation program involving Education, Planning and Mitigation; summaries of 4) past wildland planning and 5) education efforts in the Boise Area, 6) a Frequently Asked Questions Response memo, and 7) a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the City’s consideration.

The BLM staff intends to give a brief presentation to the City Council at the work session followed by sufficient time for questions and discussion. We will be looking for direction to continue forward with an MOU that outlines roles, responsibilities and a general work program for wildfire hazard planning and mitigation around Boise. We will also be looking for authorization to proceed with some immediate efforts including this summer’s F.I.R.E.-Up survey and a possible demonstration fuels reduction program. City staff team participation will include representatives from the Fire Department, Parks Department and Planning & Development Services.

**Attachments**
1. Letter from Terry Humphries, BLM Four Rivers Field Manager
2. Map of Fire Ignitions in Boise Front Since 1959
4. Summary of Wildland Fire Education Efforts in the Boise Area
5. Summary of Wildland Fire Planning Efforts in the Boise Area
6. Frequently asked Questions and Responses
7. Draft MOU Example
May 17, 2011

Mayor David H. Bieter
PO Box 500
Boise, ID 83701-0500

The citizens of Ada County and the City of Boise have an incredible resource in the wildland spaces that surround their communities. They have invested considerable time and effort to acquire lands adjacent to urban areas to protect open space for recreation, wildlife, and other uses. Community members have largely taken for granted that these treasured areas will be there for their enjoyment without much thought to long-term management.

Each summer the community learns how vulnerable open spaces are to wildfire. Annually, an average of 23 fire starts occurs in the wildland urban interface of the Boise metropolitan area. Approximately 83% of those are human caused. While many fires are controlled quickly, some cause considerable damage. For example, approximately 75% of the foothills between Highway 55 and Highway 21 have burned at least once between 1959 and 2010. Fires in 1959 and 1996 burned 25,000 and 16,000 acres respectively resulting in subsequent flood damage to residential areas, persistent scars from rehabilitation efforts, and the long term loss of critical big game winter habitat. More recently, the Oregon Trail and Highway 16 fires resulted in one fatality and the loss of 14 homes. Each fire puts the lives of emergency responders and citizens at risk.

To date, interagency efforts in the wildland-urban interface have focused on fire suppression and prevention and planning. Priorities for suppression efforts are: 1) life, 2) property, and 3) natural resources. With each fire season, BLM fire personnel and local emergency responders learn to work more effectively to suppress fires. Recently, representatives from City Boise, Ada County, Boise District BLM, and other entities participated in a Fire on the Front simulation to better understand how agencies might coordinate our suppression efforts. This exercise will help improve interagency cooperation and coordination.

Since 2000, cooperating agencies have completed numerous plans that address open space and fire management including:

- Public Lands Open Space Management Plan (2000)
- Ada County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, Wildfire Chapter (2006)
- Boise District BLM Fire Mitigation Plan (updated annually)
- Boise District BLM Fuels Program of Work (updated annually)

Many items related to fire suppression and prevention identified in the plans have been implemented; however, relatively few activities related to long-term vegetation management have been implemented.
Fire requires three basic elements: an ignition source, appropriate weather conditions, and fuel (vegetation). Although control of natural ignitions (e.g., lightning) or weather conditions is not possible, reduction of human caused ignitions and fuel levels can be addressed. Extensive public outreach efforts related to wildland fire awareness have been undertaken, however, the inherent threat of fuels in the wildland urban interface and the restoration of desirable vegetation have not been effectively addressed. These activities will require a coordinated effort between government entities and citizens.

In coordination with representatives from the City of Boise Parks and Recreation and Fire departments, BLM recommends that the following actions be undertaken to reduce the threat of fire in the wildland urban interface, make our community a national model for managing hazardous fuels (those within 0-300 feet of residences), and enhancing habitat for wildlife:

- Complete a Memorandum of Understanding between cooperating entities to address fuels and fire management in the wildland urban interface.
- Continue public outreach programs to educate homeowners about the importance, roles, and responsibilities of Firewise landscaping and construction practices in the wildland urban interface.
- Initiate a publicity campaign to educate the community about vegetation management efforts to improve community safety, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore desirable vegetation in open spaces.
- Conduct pilot hazardous fuels reduction projects in the Warm Springs Mesa neighborhood, Military Reserve, and other locations in Ada County in cooperation with other agencies.
- Complete F.I.R.E.-Up surveys of all wildland urban interfaces surrounding Boise.
- Prioritize and treat areas for hazardous fuels reduction based on the F.I.R.E.-Up survey and willingness of neighborhoods, homeowners and landowners to participate.
- Enhance enforcement of existing ordinances and implement new ordinances to address hazardous fuels management and Firewise landscaping and construction practices in the wildland urban interface.
- Actively pursue funding opportunities to implement projects in the remaining wildland urban interface.
- Restore desirable wildland grasses, forbs, and shrubs by reducing and eliminating exotic annual and noxious species.

I encourage Ada County, the City of Boise, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game to join BLM in working together to realize the vision of a healthy, safe, and functioning wildland urban interface.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Terry A Humphrey
Four Rivers Field Manager
Boise District, Bureau of Land Management

cc:
Ada County Commissioners, 200 West Front Street, 3rd Floor, Boise, ID 83702-5960
Boise City Council Members, PO Box 500, Boise, ID 83701-0500
Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 3101 South Powerline Road, Nampa, ID 83686
Wildland Urban Interface Educational Initiatives, Planning Efforts, and Hazardous Fuels Treatments in the Boise Area

Education and Community Awareness Projects:
- Firewise presentations at homeowner/neighborhood associations
- Installation of Firewise Garden at Idaho Botanical Garden (Idaho State Office BLM)
- Signs and Firewise landscaping at the Foothills Learning Center
- Installation of fire danger rating signs
- Creation of “Living with Fire Southwest Idaho Edition”
- Central Foothills Neighborhood Association national Firewise recognition and landscaping demonstration project (implementation 2011 spring/summer)
- National Firewise recognition for Warm Springs Mesa Neighborhood Association

Planning and Prioritization Projects:
- Foothills East Environmental Assessment (2,900-39,200 possible treatment acres over 10 year period 2009-2019)
- 2009 F.I.R.E.-Up survey of homes in Boise Heights Neighborhood and wildland urban interface occluded spaces
- Possible evaluation of edge sectors (Continuation of 2009 occluded spaces) F.I.R.E.-Up
- Updating plans (Ada County Wildfire Response Plan and Ada County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, Wildland Fire chapter)

Hazardous Fuels Treatments and Long-term Management (Maintenance and Fire Rehabilitation):
- Proposed Military Reserve fuel break (mowing 40 acres with limited brush thinning and 20 acres drill seeding)
- Proposed Warm Springs Mesa fuel break (Plateau spray 94 acres, annual mowing at entryways and planting 4 acres)
- Hidden Springs Firewise Landscaping Demonstration Project
- Healthy Hills Initiative (Plateau spray 20 acres) Eagle Foothills Skate Park Fire Rehabilitation, education, and hazardous fuels/restoration treatments
- Future Cooperative Landscape Planning and Treatment Activities?
Executive Summary of Wildland Fire Education Efforts in the Boise Area

The open space surrounding Boise is a valuable resource for the citizens of the area. Over the years many education and outreach events and initiatives have occurred to inform citizens about what they can do to prevent wildland fires and mitigate fire’s effects. The following is a partial list of those education efforts.

**Firewise presentations at homeowner/neighborhood associations:**
Several agencies and organizations have done or will do upon request Firewise presentations for any requesting group. The agencies and organizations that do these presentations include local fire departments, Boise District BLM, and Idaho Firewise. The presentations are often interagency in nature so expertise from the local and federal fire agencies is combined.

**The Firewise Garden at Idaho Botanical Garden:**
The BLM Firewise Garden is located at the Idaho Botanical Garden. It is a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and College of Western Idaho Horticulture Program. The Firewise Garden displays Firewise plants that can be used for landscaping in southwestern Idaho.

**Creation and airing of Firewise landscaping and construction public service announcements (PSA):**
In 2009 The Boise District BLM, the Boise National Forest, and the Boise City Fire Department produced two PSA’s about Firewise landscaping and construction. These were run at various media outlets in 2010, and are available for future use.

**Signs and Firewise landscaping at the Foothills Learning Center:**
The Boise City Parks and Recreation Department and the Boise District BLM completed a cooperative agreement to install Firewise landscaping and place interpretive signs on the Learning Center site.

**Creation of “Living with Fire Southwest Idaho Edition”:**
In 2009 the Boise District BLM created a “Living with Fire” brochure for southwest Idaho that specifically addresses local wildland fire issues. This brochure is available to other agencies and organizations from the Boise District BLM.

**Healthy Hills Initiative interpretive signs:**
The Healthy Hills Initiatives (HHI) partners have created and placed interpretive signs about the HHI project and wildland fire issues in the Foothills.
Executive Summary of Wildland Fire Planning Efforts in the Boise Area

The open space surrounding Boise is a valuable resource for the citizens of the area. Over the years many planning efforts to protect and enhance this resource have been undertaken. The following is a partial list of the plans addressing the protection and enhancement of the open space resource that Boise citizens enjoy.

Public Lands Open Space Management Plan (November, 2000):
The overriding goal of this plan, as identified by the agencies in their 1999 MOU, reads as follows: “Local, State, and Federal agencies will cooperate to preserve, protect, enhance, perpetuate, and manage the resources of the Boise Front working together with private landowners.” (p.1-1)

Some of the critical actions for the overriding goal to be implemented are:
- Conserve wildlife and beneficial vegetation.
- Provide for maintenance and conservation of public open space values.
- Work cooperatively with private property owners

Ada County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, Wildfire Chapter (2006):
This Wildland-Urban Interface Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan for Ada County, Idaho, is the result of analyses, professional cooperation and collaboration, assessments of wildfire risks and other factors considered with the intent to reduce the potential for wildfires to threaten people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems in Ada County. (p.1)

BLM Foothills East Environmental Assessment (2008):
1.1 Purpose and Need for Action: The change in vegetation in the Foothills increases the potential for accelerated soil erosion, decreases the quality of mule deer winter habitat, increases the potential for adverse impacts in the wildland–urban interface (WUI), and threatens remaining desirable vegetation. These changes clearly emphasize the need to return these areas to deep-rooted perennial vegetation that would provide for habitat improvement and protection, and increased soil stabilization and resilience to wildfire. (p.5)

Boise District BLM Fire Mitigation Plan (updated annually):
This plan identifies the fire prevention, community assistance, fire investigation, fire trespass, fire information, and rural fire assistance.

Boise District BLM Fuels Program of Work (updated annually):
This planning identifies the current and future year’s hazardous fuels reduction projects for the Boise District BLM.

F.I.R.E.-Up Occluded Spaces Wildland Fire Hazard Survey (2009) and Planned 2011 Survey of City Limit Open Space Boundary:
Used survey tool developed by Boise City Fire Dept., Boise City Planning Dept., Boise City Parks and Recreation Dept., and the Boise District BLM to determine relative wildland fire hazard on 57 occluded urban interface sites in Boise. In 2011 will use same tool along city limit and open space boundary to determine wildland fire hazard on sectors.

Ada County Wildfire Response Plan:
This plan, “defines who does what, when, where, and how they will do it” in response to a wildland fire.
Boise City Wildland Fire Mitigation, Education, and Vegetation Management

1. Why are we here today?

To gain support and further the efforts of wildland fire mitigation, education, and vegetation management activities within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) of Boise City.

2. Why is this joint BLM/Ada County/City of Boise effort so important to our citizens?

Wildland fire in Ada County is common through the summer months and the threat to lives and property is real. This has become apparent in the last few years with the Oregon Trail and Highway 16 fires causing one death and the loss of 14 homes. A unified effort by all three entities and private citizens will be required to reduce this threat.

3. What has been done to date?

Several open space and wildland fire planning efforts have been completed in the last several years (see attached Executive Summary). Every summer the BLM conducts a wildland fire public education and awareness campaign in the Treasure Valley and across the state including radio and television spots, brochures, signs, and special event appearances by Smokey Bear. Three pilot hazardous fuels reduction and vegetation restoration projects in the foothills have been proposed.

4. Will this effort affect private property owners?

Yes, private property owners would benefit from a proactive approach to reduce wildland fire risk and improve vegetation across the foothills and in occluded spaces. Private property owners would have the choice to include their lands in hazardous fuels reduction and restoration projects. Homeowners would be encouraged to create defensible space around their homes.

5. How will the City of Boise reserves be incorporated into these efforts?

The reserves would be analyzed along with homes and land along the WUI. Once the property risk ratings are assigned and priorities are determined, the reserves would receive treatments to improve vegetation and reduce hazardous fuels as funding becomes available.

6. How will this program be funded?

BLM hazardous fuels and community assistance funds, several grant opportunities including Idaho Department of Lands Western States WUI grants and Partnership funds, FEMA grants, Homeland Security grants, etc.
7. How will the public be involved?

Those that own homes and land along the WUI would be invited to participate through property firewise assessments and the general public would be invited to provide input once pilot project sites are selected.

8. Will there be scheduled updates?

The Ada County All Hazard Mitigation Plan is on a schedule to be updated annually. BLM wildland fire education, mitigation, and hazardous fuels reduction program work plans are updated annually. A foothills action plan or work plan could be updated as the Boise City mayor and city council sees fit.

9. Will there be a public awareness campaign?

Yes, a communication plan would be drafted and would include public service announcements, media releases, brochures, interpretive signs, etc.

10. What is the history of fire in the foothills?

See attached Boise foothills fire history map.

11. What does the Foothills Open Space Management Plan recommend on addressing?

Public Safety goal – Ensure that public safety and resource conservation needs continue to be addressed through existing, cost-effective, coordinated, mutual-aid agreements and by an enhanced, public-agency presence in the Foothills.

12. Will there be a Memorandum of Understanding between the various agencies? Who are the agencies?

Yes, an MOU has been drafted and includes the City of Boise, Ada County, Bureau of Land Management, and Idaho Fish and Game Department.

13. What are the consequences of fire?

The consequences could include catastrophic loss of life and property, a degraded vegetation community due to increased fire frequencies coupled with exotic annual grass and noxious weed invasion, an increase in erosion and flooding, loss of wildlife habitat, loss of recreational opportunities, increased rehabilitation costs, etc.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ADA COUNTY  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT, BOISE DISTRICT  
CITY of BOISE  
CITY OF ??  
IDAHO DEPARTMENT of FISH and GAME

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby entered into by Ada County, hereinafter referred to as County, the Bureau of Land Management, Boise District, hereinafter referred to as BLM, the City of Boise, hereinafter referred to as City, and the State of Idaho, Department of Fish and Game, hereinafter referred to as IDFG.

BACKGROUND: As the population of the Boise Metropolitan area grows, the wildland urban interface (WUI) has become more important as a place of recreation and relaxation for local residents. The area continues to be important for a variety of wildlife and special status plant species and the associated vegetation communities that support them. However, the area remains vulnerable to wildfire. Annually, an average of 23 fire starts occur in the WUI in Ada County. Approximately 83% of those are human caused. While many fires are controlled quickly, some result in significant losses of life, property, and natural resources. Agencies responsible for wildland fire suppression and education effectively coordinate activities to carry out these efforts. However, the agencies have only begun to take steps to reduce the fire hazard potential by managing fuels (vegetation) and restoring desirable plant communities.

Management coordination has long been a guiding principle by which public agencies in the WUI operate. The Ridge to Rivers Pathway Plan, the Boise River Wildlife Management Area Plan, and the 1999 MOU creating the Public Lands Open Space Management Plan are examples of the progressive coordination for planning and management between the agencies.

This instrument is a continuation of the vision of past cooperative efforts and is intended to improve management efforts to meet increased public demand for vegetation management to reduce the threat of fire and improve habitat for wildlife.

Title: Wildland Urban Interface Management in Ada County

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for cooperation to establish a structure by which local and federal agencies with land management responsibilities in the WUI of Ada County would cooperatively oversee and efficiently manage vegetation and other resources. In order to meet growing community expectations for land management, the County, BLM, the City, and IDFG will form an Agency Coordinating Committee and strive to achieve the following objectives:

A. Coordinate public agency actions in the WUI through selection and appointment of a Lead Agency to take a lead role in WUI stewardship.
B. Establish clear lines of communication between the public and the agencies.
C. Reduce fire risks in the WUI by reducing fire starts, reducing hazardous fuel loads, and restoring desirable vegetation.
D. Facilitate the participation of citizens and private landowners in providing recommendations to the Lead Agency regarding WUI management decisions and priorities.
E. Assist agencies, nonprofits, private landowners, and citizens interested in vegetation management in the WUI.
F. Educate the public about the importance of managing vegetation in the WUI.
G. Minimize administrative costs to taxpayers.
H. Optimize public resources available for foothills stewardship.
I. Comply with all legal requirements.
J. Commit to measuring management and stewardship performance.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS: The public agencies with land management responsibilities of the WUI in Ada County share this memorandum of agreement to formalize their pursuit of a collective approach to managing vegetation in this area. This cooperation serves the mutual interest of the parties and the public. The agencies recognize:

Whereas, wildland fires know no boundaries.
Whereas, wildland fires have historically occurred in the WUI.
Whereas, the frequency of wildland fires in the WUI has been altered and increased in recent decades.
Whereas, the native vegetation communities and sensitive species found in the WUI have been disturbed over the years by grazing, recreation, mining, and other human-related forces increasing the wildland fire risk.
Whereas, the WUI deserves protection and preservation of its ecological integrity.
Whereas, the WUI, with its expanding urban interface of homes and businesses, is subject to increased wildland fire risk and fire suppression demands.
Whereas, various public and private landowners and stakeholders have interests, responsibilities, and concerns regarding their investments along the WUI.
Whereas, the agencies have limited resources to address the challenges of vegetation management and wildland fire mitigation and seek to pool their resources.
Whereas, sustaining the ecosystems, resources, and human populations in the WUI will require strong collaborative partnerships among research and land management organizations.
Whereas, each agency has its unique mission and finite resources that it will attempt to leverage in the best interest of achieving the mission of this MOU.

In consideration of the above premises, the agencies agree to the responsibilities outlined in Section III.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. The parties of this MOU agree to appoint members to serve on the Agency Coordinating Committee, which will organize management efforts in a manner consistent with the Statement of Purpose. The Agency Coordinating Committee shall meet once per calendar quarter and shall have the responsibility of directing the activities of the Lead Agency in order to better foster:

1. **Communication, Education, and Public Outreach**: Recognizing that public input, participation, and support is vital to successful vegetation management outcomes, a coordinated public involvement strategy must be developed for all facets of vegetation management in the WUI.
2. **Development of Partnerships**: The development of public and private partnerships serves to leverage the capacity of the agencies in achieving vegetation management goals.
3. **Funding Strategies for Projects**: The reduction of hazardous fuels, restoration of wildlife habitat, public outreach, and other projects necessitates collaborative funding efforts in order to maximize capital dollars of each individual agency.
4. **Implementation of Fire and Open Space Management Plans**: Considerable planning efforts have been completed related to vegetation management and fire suppression and prevention. The agencies, public, and private landowners should work cooperatively to implement the recommendations of these plans.
5. **Response to Private Property Owner Concerns over Agency Management in the WUI**: Private landowners in the WUI are partners in resource management. Concerns over how lands are managed in relation to adjacent private property are of concern to all agencies and effective and timely communication is vital for private property owners.

B. Ada County Agrees:

1. to have a County Commissioner serve as the County’s Agency Coordinator;
2. contingent upon the availability of funds and legal authority for their expenditure, to provide technical assistance and financial support for tasks identified by the Agency Coordinators.

C. Bureau Of Land Management, Four Rivers Field Office Agrees:

1. to have the Four Rivers Field Manager serve as the BLM’s Agency Coordinator;
2. contingent upon the availability of funds and legal authority for their expenditure, to provide technical assistance and financial support for tasks identified by the Agency Coordinators.

D. City of Boise Agrees:

1. to have the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department serve as the City’s Agency Coordinator;
2. contingent upon the availability of funds and legal authority for their expenditure, to provide technical assistance and financial support for tasks identified by the Agency Coordinators.

E. City of ?? Agrees:

3. to have the ?? serve as the City’s Agency Coordinator;
4. contingent upon the availability of funds and legal authority for their expenditure, to provide technical assistance and financial support for tasks identified by the Agency Coordinators.

F. Idaho Department of Fish and Game Agrees:

1. to have the Southwest Region Wildlife Habitat Manager serve as the IDFG Agency Coordinator;
2. contingent upon the availability of funds and legal authority for their expenditure, to provide technical assistance and financial support for tasks identified by the Agency Coordinators.

IV. LEAD AGENCY: This MOU recognizes the need to establish a Lead Agency. The responsibilities of the Lead Agency shall be to facilitate the Agency Coordinating Committee in developing priorities and recommendations for:

A. Communication, education, and public outreach;
B. Development of partnerships;
C. Funding strategies for capital projects;
D. Responding to private property owner concerns over vegetation management in the WUI;
E. Funding and staffing for planning, programmatic operations, and maintenance.

The BLM agrees to serve the role of Lead Agency. The BLM shall designate a Project Manager to serve as the point of contact with the Agency Coordinating Committee and whose responsibility it will be to implement responsibilities of the Lead Agency.

XX may establish a citizen’s advisory committee that will provide citizen input into management of the WUI. The advisory committee will represent diverse stakeholder interests in vegetation management in the WUI and their input and feedback on management goals and objectives will be made to the BLM.
V. PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. Strategy – Identify appropriate elements from the following documents to help guide vegetation management and public outreach activities in the WUI:
   - Public Lands Open Space Management Plan (2000)
   - Ada County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, Wildfire Chapter (2006)
   - Boise District BLM Fire Mitigation Plan (updated annually)
   - Boise District BLM Fuels Program of Work (updated annually)

B. Continue public outreach programs to educate homeowners about the importance, roles, and responsibilities of Firewise landscaping and construction practices in the WUI.

C. Initiate a publicity campaign to educate the community about vegetation management efforts to improve community safety, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore desirable vegetation in open spaces.

D. Conduct pilot hazardous fuels reduction projects in the Warm Springs Mesa neighborhood, Military Reserve, and other locations in Ada County in cooperation with other agencies and landowners.

E. Complete F.I.R.E.-Up surveys of all WUI areas surrounding Boise.

F. Prioritize and treat areas for hazardous fuels reduction based on the F.I.R.E.-Up survey and willingness of neighborhoods, homeowners, and landowners to participate.

G. Enhance enforcement of existing ordinances and implement new ordinances to address hazardous fuels management and Firewise landscaping and construction practices in the WUI.

H. Actively pursue funding opportunities to implement projects in the remaining WUI.

I. Restore desirable wildland grasses, forbs, and shrubs by reducing and eliminating exotic annual and noxious species.

VI. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

A. APPLICABILITY. This agreement recognizes that other intra-governmental management agreements exist for public lands in the WUI. Cooperative agreements, such as those for fire suppression, law enforcement, noxious weed management, and the Boise River Wildlife Management Area, are not superseded by this MOU. Similarly, planning and zoning issues are not within the scope of this MOU. The intent of this agreement is to gain efficiencies in areas where additional cooperation is beneficial to the public.

Each agency to this MOU agrees to designate a member of that agency to serve on an Agency Coordinating Committee. The Agency Coordinating Committee shall approve the tasks to be completed by the Lead Agency or other members consistent with the area of responsibilities described above and subject to review and approval by the appropriate jurisdictional agency. Each agency shall retain its respective legislative mandates and legal authorities.
B. **Principal Contacts.** Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this instrument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Ada County</th>
<th>BLM</th>
<th>City of Boise</th>
<th>IDFG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead Agency</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Terry Humphrey</td>
<td>Jim Hall</td>
<td>Ed Bottum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Four Rivers Field Manager</td>
<td>Director, Boise Parks and Recreation Department</td>
<td>Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705</td>
<td>1104 Royal Blvd, Boise, ID 83706</td>
<td>13000 E. SH21, Boise, ID 83716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>208-384-3430</td>
<td>208-608-7609</td>
<td>208-334-2115</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAX</td>
<td>208-384-3326</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Terry_Humphrey@blm.gov">Terry_Humphrey@blm.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhall@cityofboise.org">jhall@cityofboise.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebottum@idfg.id.gov">ebottum@idfg.id.gov</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

C. **Notices.** Any communications affecting the operations covered by this MOU given by the Agencies is sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:

To the agency's principal contacts, at the address specified in the MOU.

Notices are effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

D. **Non-Liability.** The Agencies do not assume liability for any third party claims for damages arising out of this MOU.

E. **Establishment of Responsibility.** This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

F. **Nonbinding Agreement.** This MOU creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity. The Agencies shall manage their respective resources and activities in a separate, coordinated, and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purposes(s) of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU authorizes any of the Agencies to obligate or transfer funds. Specific projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the Agencies require execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. These activities must be independently authorized by statute. This MOU does not provide that authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of these agreements must comply with all applicable law. Each agency operates under its own laws, regulations, and policies, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the agencies' statutory and regulatory authority.

G. **Responsibilities of Parties.** The Agencies will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing
these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

H. **PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.** This MOU in no way restricts the Agencies from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

I. **MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS.** Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no United States member of, or United States delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this MOU, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.

J. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA).** Public access to this MOU, associated agreement records, or any information furnished to the Bureau of Land Management under this instrument must not be limited except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been excepted from disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information regulations (5 U.S.C. 552).

K. **DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION.** The Agencies to this MOU shall immediately inform the Forest Service if they or any of their principals are presently excluded, debarred, or suspended from entering into covered transactions with the federal government according to the terms of 2 CFR Part 180. Additionally, should the Agencies or any of their principals receive a transmittal letter or other official Federal notice of debarment or suspension, then they shall notify the Forest Service without undue delay. This applies whether the exclusion, debarment, or suspension is voluntary or involuntary.

L. **MODIFICATIONS.** Modifications within the scope of this MOU must be made by mutual consent of the Agencies, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to implementation of the requested change.

M. **COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE.** This MOU is executed as of the date the last agency executes this MOU and is effective through December 31, 2016, at which time it will expire, unless extended by an executed modification, signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials.

N. **TERMINATION.** Any of the Agencies cooperating under this instrument may terminate this MOU in whole, or in part, with a 60-day written notice to all of the other cooperators at any time before the date of expiration.

**VI. AUTHORITIES**

Ada County is authorized by Section 67-2332, Idaho Code, to enter into agreement with one or more public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity, or undertaking, which each public agency entering into the agreement is authorized to perform.

City of Boise is authorized by Sections 67-2328 and 67-2332, Idaho Code, to enter into agreement with one or more public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity, or undertaking, which each public agency entering into the agreement is authorized to perform.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game is authorized by Idaho Code Section 36-104(b)(8) to enter into cooperative agreements with local, state, and federal agencies to promote wildlife conservation.

VII. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.

By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual Agencies are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this MOU. In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below.

RICK YZAGUIRRE, CHAIRMAN ADA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADEN SEIDLITZ, DISTRICT MANAGER BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BOISE DISTRICT

DAVID H. BIETER, MAYOR CITY OF BOISE

SCOTT REINECKER, SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SUPERVISOR IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME