



Idaho Forest Practices Act Rule Summaries

IFPA - Prescribed Fire

Rule 030.07. Stream Protection. During and after forest practice operations, stream beds and streamside vegetation shall be protected to leave them in the most natural condition as possible to maintain water quality and aquatic habitat.

f. Direct ignition of prescribed burns will be limited to hand piles within stream protection zones (SPZ), all other direct ignitions shall occur outside of SPZs, so a backing (cooler) fire will more likely occur within the SPZ.

i. Hand piles shall be at least five (5) feet from the ordinary high water-mark of streams.

ii. No mechanical piling of slash or natural forest fuels is allowed in a SPZ (an exception is filter windrows for erosion control which shall not be ignited).

Rule 071. Prescribed Fire. 01. Purpose. Prescribed fire is a tool with application in land management. Smoke from prescribed fires can have adverse impacts on ambient air quality or public health. It is the purpose of these rules to establish a management system for smoke from prescribed fires that will protect air quality.

02. Notification. The use of prescribed fire requires a valid notification in accordance with Subsection 020.05 (see IFPA - Notification of Forest Practice) to maintain air quality and to protect public health. Possession of a valid notification will not preclude meeting the fire safety requirements specified in Section 38-115, Idaho Code.

03. Recommended Practices. To maintain air quality and protect public health the following practices are recommended:

a. Slash and large woody debris piles should be compact and free of stumps, soil, snow, and nonwoody organic material.

b. Piles should be fully cured, dried at least two (2) months, prior to ignition. Piles should be at least partially covered with a water resistant material so they can be ignited after enough precipitation to lower the fire danger.

c. Broadcast burns should be conducted within a prescription that minimizes adverse effects on air quality.

d. Membership in good standing in a recognized Airshed Group is encouraged.