



# BALDY Incident Decision

Published  
08/13/15 23:13

## Table of Contents

1. Decision .....	2
1.1. Decision Summary.....	2
1.2. Incident Information.....	3
1.3. Weather.....	5
1.4. Modeling.....	7
1.5. Risk .....	8
1.6. Objectives .....	12
1.7. Course of Action .....	16
1.8. Cost .....	17
1.9. Rationale .....	18

# 1. Decision

## 1.1. Decision Summary

### Decision Information

NAME	VALUE
Published	08/13/2015 23:13CDT
Estimated Cost	\$7,917,931
Incident Owner(s)	Mark Johnson, Kent Contreras, Ben Curtis, Tim Sampson
Editor(s)	Brian Gales, Gayne Sears, Rodney Smoldon
Reviewer(s)	
Approver(s)	Gayne Sears
Natl Preparedness Level	5

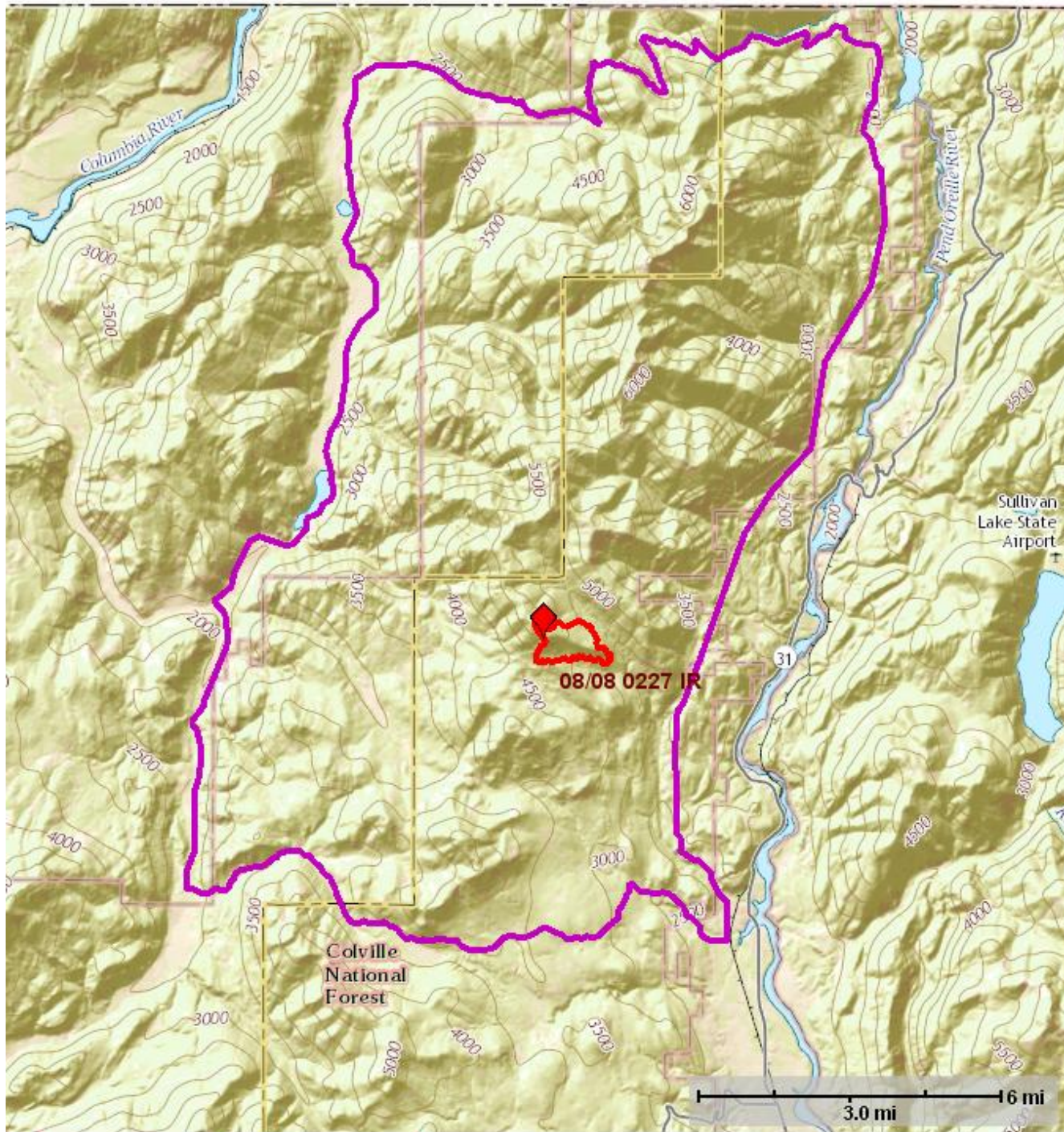
### Decision History

Editor Name	Action	Date (CDT)	Comment
Sears, Gayne	Published	08/13/2015 23:13	
Sears, Gayne	Approved	08/13/2015 23:13	
Curtis, Ben	Review Requested	08/13/2015 11:57	
Curtis, Ben	Review Requested	08/13/2015 11:56	
Curtis, Ben	Created	08/13/2015 11:41	

## 1.2. Incident Information

### Incident Information

NAME	VALUE
Incident Name	BALDY
Unique Fire Identifier	2015-WACOF-001003
Responsible Unit Name	Colville National Forest
FireCode	J0NJ
P-Code	P6J0NJ
Point of Origin	48.8186N / 117.5074 W
Incident Size	535acres
Latest Perimeter Size	532acres
Incident Cause	Undetermined
Incident Type	Wildfire
Incident Discovery	08/01/2015 15:19
Contained	
Controlled	
Out	
Jurisdictional Unit	WACOF - Colville National Forest
Jurisdictional Agency(s)	BLM, USFS
Geographic Area (prep level)	Northwest (5)
Owner Name(s)	Mark Johnson, Kent Contreras, Ben Curtis, Tim Sampson



— Fire Perimeters    — Planning Areas    ◆ Point of Origin

# 1.3. Weather

## Fire Weather Zone Forecast

---

000  
FNUS56 KOTX 131228  
FWFOTX  
FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST FOR EASTERN WASHINGTON AND NORTH IDAHO  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SPOKANE WA  
528 AM PDT THU AUG 13 2015  
RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM PDT THIS EVENING FOR  
EASTERN WASHINGTON AND NORTH IDAHO FOR UNSTABLE CONDITIONS.  
.DISCUSSION...  
...HOT AND UNSTABLE THROUGH TODAY WITH ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS...  
...STRONG COLD FRONT THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY EXPECTED TO  
PRODUCE STRONG THUNDERSTORMS AND WINDY CONDITIONS...  
TODAY WILL BE HOT AND UNSTABLE...WITH LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY.  
WINDS WILL BE RELATIVELY LIGHT...BUT THE COMBINATION OF  
TEMPERATURES NEAR 100 DEGREES AND UNSTABLE CONDITIONS MAY LEAD TO  
RAPID FIRE GROWTH. THE THREAT OF ISOLATED TO SCATTERED  
THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE FOUND OVER NORTH IDAHO THIS MORNING AND  
ENTERING AGAIN LATE THIS AFTERNOON INTO TONIGHT FROM THE SOUTH.  
A STRONG COLD FRONT WILL MOVE THROUGH THE REGION VERY LATE TONIGHT  
AND FRIDAY. EXPECT A BETTER CHANCE OF STRONGER THUNDERSTORMS  
LIKELY START OUT DRY BUT SHOULD QUICKLY TURN WET AND POSSIBLY VERY  
WET BY FRIDAY. FLASH FLOODING AND DEBRIS FLOWS FOR THE NORTH  
CASCADE BURN SCARS HAS POTENTIAL. THE INCOMING COLD FRONT WILL BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY WINDY/GUSTY CONDITIONS FRIDAY. HUMIDITY VALUES  
SHOULD ALSO BE ON THE RISE BUT FIRE WEATHER CONCERNS WILL REMAIN  
HIGH BOTH FOR LIGHTNING AND WINDS/RH ON FRIDAY. SHOWER CHANCES  
LINGER ACROSS THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS INTO THE WEEKEND...BUT  
OVERALL AFTER FRIDAY THE BROADER THREAT OF PRECIPITATION WANES.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
FORECASTS FOR 20 FOOT WIND SPEEDS (VALLEYS AND RIDGE TOPS) ARE  
10 MINUTE AVERAGES REFLECTING RAW5 WIND.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
IDZ101-WAZ686-140115-  
NORTHERN AND CENTRAL IDAHO PANHANDLE (ZONE 101)-  
EAST WASHINGTON NORTHEAST (ZONE 686)-  
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ST. MARIES...RATHDRUM PRAIRIE...  
SILVER VALLEY...BONNERS FERRY...PRIEST LAKE...DEER PARK...  
COLVILLE...NEWPORT  
528 AM PDT THU AUG 13 2015  
...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM PDT THIS EVENING...  
.TODAY...  
\* SKY/WEATHER...MOSTLY SUNNY. ISOLATED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN  
THE MORNING.  
\* LAL...2.  
\* MAX TEMPERATURE...95-100 VALLEYS AND 87-97 MOUNTAINS.  
\* 24 HR TREND...UNCHANGED.  
\* MIN HUMIDITY...13-18 PERCENT.  
\* 24 HR TREND...1 PERCENT DRIER.  
\* 20-FOOT WIND...  
\* VALLEYS/LWR SLOPES...UPSLOPE/UPVALLEY 2 TO 5 MPH.  
\* RIDGES/UPR SLOPES...VARIABLE 2 TO 5 MPH.  
\* HAINES INDEX...5 MODERATE.  
\* MIXING HEIGHT...10000 FT AGL.  
\* TRANSPORT WINDS...SOUTH 5 TO 10 MPH.  
\* CWR (> 0.10 IN)...0 PERCENT.  
.TONIGHT...  
\* SKY/WEATHER...MOSTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND  
THUNDERSTORMS.  
\* LAL...2.  
\* MIN TEMPERATURE...57-67.  
\* 24 HR TREND...UNCHANGED.  
\* MAX HUMIDITY...61-80 PERCENT VALLEYS AND 55-70 PERCENT MOUNTAINS.  
\* 24 HR TREND...5 PERCENT WETTER.  
\* HUMIDITY RECOVERY...FAIR.  
\* 20-FOOT WIND...  
\* VALLEYS/LWR SLOPES...DOWNSLOPE/DOWNVALLEY 2 TO 5 MPH.  
\* RIDGES/UPR SLOPES...VARIABLE 2 TO 5 MPH IN THE EVENING BECOMING  
SOUTHEAST 3 TO 7 MPH OVERNIGHT.  
\* HAINES INDEX...4 LOW.  
\* MIXING HEIGHT...1000 FT AGL.  
\* TRANSPORT WINDS...SOUTH 8 TO 12 MPH IN THE EVENING SHIFTING TO  
THE EAST OVERNIGHT.  
\* CWR (> 0.10 IN)...10 PERCENT.  
.FRIDAY...  
\* SKY/WEATHER...PARTLY SUNNY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS IN THE  
MORNING. CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS THROUGH THE DAY. CHANCE OF  
THUNDERSTORMS WITH LARGE HAIL IN THE AFTERNOON.  
\* LAL...3.  
\* MAX TEMPERATURE...85-90 VALLEYS AND 78-88 MOUNTAINS.  
\* MIN HUMIDITY...25-35 PERCENT.  
\* 20-FOOT WIND...

Fire Weather Zone Forecast

---

\* VALLEYS/LWR SLOPES...SOUTHEAST 3 TO 7 MPH IN THE MORNING SHIFTING TO THE SOUTH WITH GUSTS TO AROUND 25 MPH IN THE AFTERNOON.  
\* RIDGES/UPR SLOPES...SOUTHEAST 4 TO 8 MPH IN THE MORNING SHIFTING TO THE SOUTHWEST 8 TO 12 MPH IN THE AFTERNOON.  
\* HAINES INDEX...4 LOW.  
\* MIXING HEIGHT...8000 FT AGL.  
\* TRANSPORT WINDS...EAST 3 TO 7 MPH IN THE MORNING INCREASING TO SOUTH 13 TO 17 MPH IN THE AFTERNOON.  
\* CWR (> 0.10 IN)...10 PERCENT.  
.FORECAST DAYS 3 THROUGH 7.....  
.SATURDAY...NOT AS WARM. MOSTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS 48 TO 56. HIGHS 72 TO 79 VALLEYS...64 TO 74 MOUNTAINS. SOUTHWEST WIND 3 TO 7 MPH.  
.SUNDAY THROUGH MONDAY...MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 47 TO 55. HIGHS 79 TO 88 VALLEYS...73 TO 83 MOUNTAINS. SOUTHEAST WIND 3 TO 7 MPH.  
.TUESDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS 50 TO 57. HIGHS 76 TO 84 VALLEYS...66 TO 76 MOUNTAINS.  
.WEDNESDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 49 TO 57. HIGHS 77 TO 86 VALLEYS...69 TO 79 MOUNTAINS.  
.8 TO 14 DAY OUTLOOK FOR AUG 20 - 26 2015  
ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES AND BELOW NORMAL PRECIPITATION.  
\$\$

# 1.4. Modeling

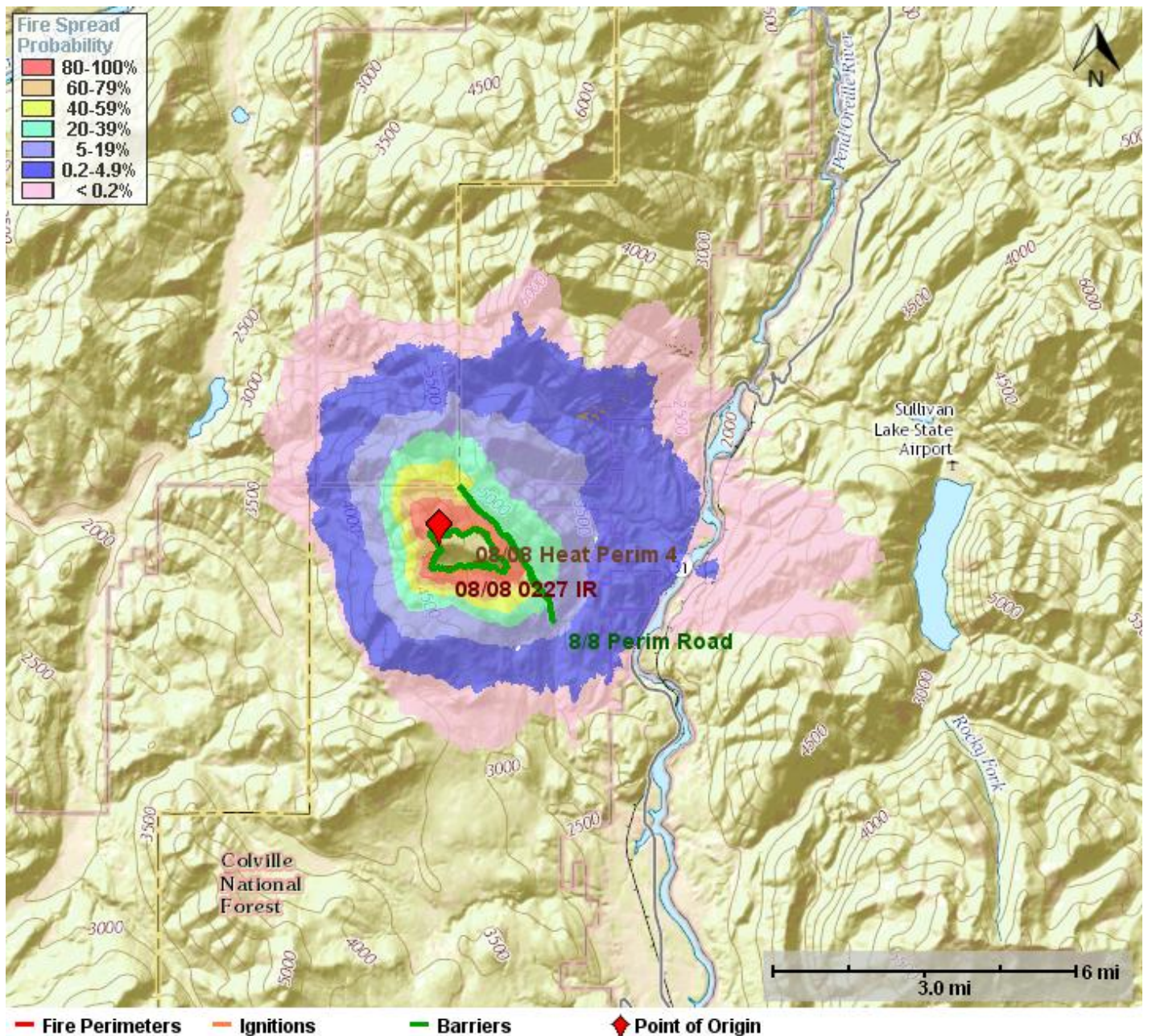
FSPro (8/8 FSPro 14dy 2000 Fires - Started on 08-09-2015)

## FSPro General Information

NAME	VALUE
Analysis Name	8/8 FSPro 14dy 2000 Fires
Analysis Start	08/09/2015
Duration	14 days
Simulations	2000 fires

Time (CDT)	User	Note
08/09/2015 00:28	Johnson, Mark	7 day run (8/9 - 8/22) of 2,000 Fires. Ignition file based on IR heat from 8/8. Assumes no suppression actions are being taken. Barrier was created on the Cedar Creek Rd. Average fire size is 3,690ac and the largest fire was 25,699ac. This run shows a 20 - 39% chance of spotting across Cedar Creek Rd.

## FSPro Analysis '8/8 FSPro 14dy 2000 Fires'



## 1.5. Risk

### Relative Risk

NAME	VALUE
Relative Risk	High
Duration	High
Saved By	Johnson, Mark
Completed	08/03/2015 16:07CDT

### Relative Risk Notes

Lack of access and concerns for firefighter safety have limited suppression actions to aerial resources. Ground forces are not currently engaged. High probability the non-federal near and adjacent to fire will be impacted. There are critical habitat and sensitive species (fish).

### Values Notes

There are adjacent private and WA DNR Managed Land inholdings near the fire. Values At Risk include: critical habitat for Bull Trout in Cedar Creek, Westslope Cutthroat Trout (Designated Regional Forester Sensitive Species) in Jim and Cedar Creek, BPA Transmission Line, Prop Timber Sales, Social concern for impacts to recreational opportunities.

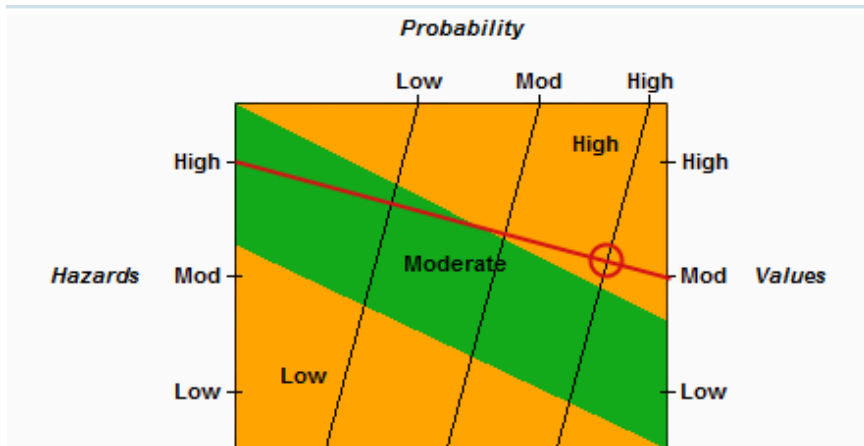
### Hazards Notes

Fuels abnormally dry. Group tree torching with short crown runs have been observed. High potential for fire growth due limited suppression actions. Suppression are limited due to lack of access and adequate safety zones.

### Probability Notes

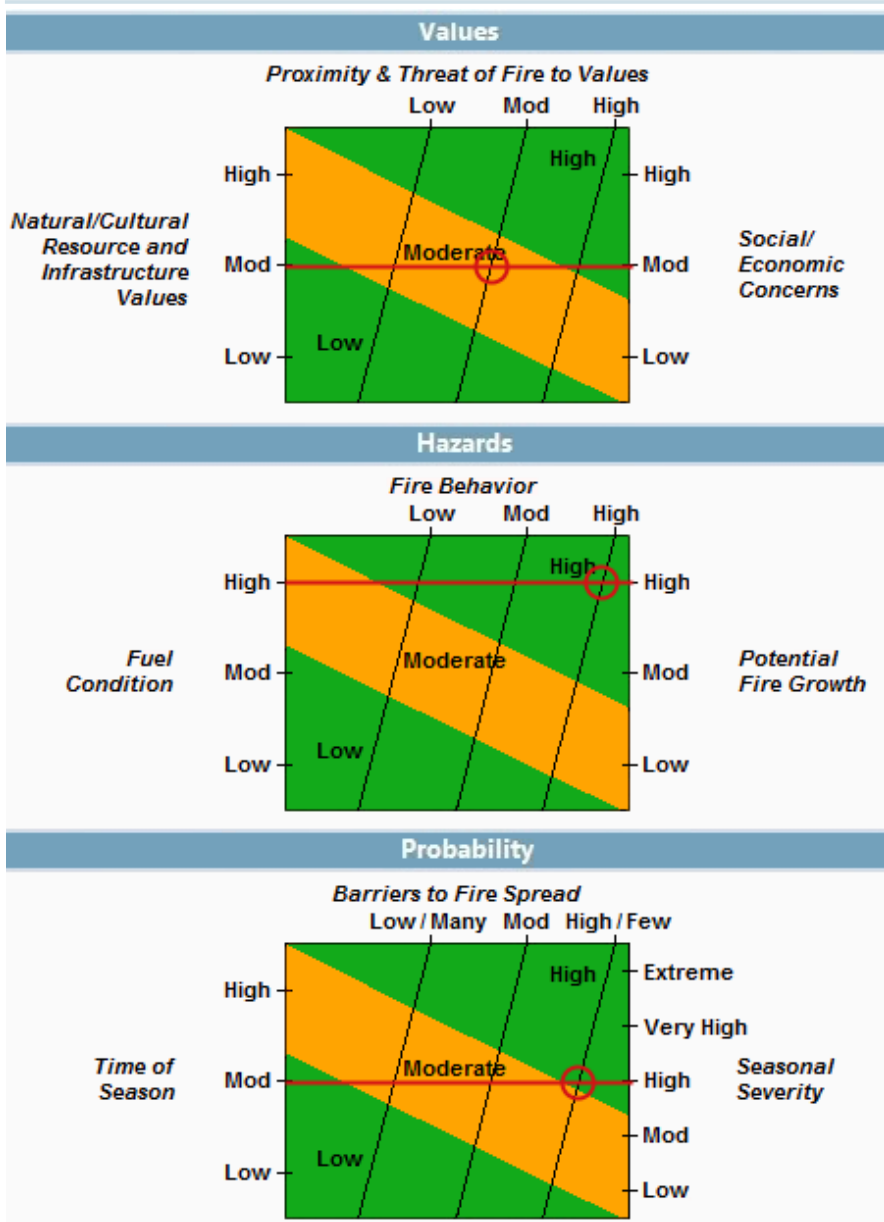
Season ending event is not likely until early to mid-October. ERC at or above 90th percentile, Few natural barriers exist. Continuous stands of timber.

### Relative Risk Chart





Relative Risk Inputs



Organization Assessment

NAME	VALUE
Unit Recommended Org	Type 2
Saved By	Johnson, Mark
Completed	08/03/2015 17:12CDT

Organization Assessment Notes

A Type 2 organization has been selected (ordered on 8/2 0900) based on the low probability of direct containment of the fire in extended attack. Developing and implementing an indirect strategy is likely. Contingency planning and creation of Management Action Points will be needed to meet incident objectives.

Relative Risk Notes

Lack of access and concerns for firefighter safety have limited suppression actions to aerial resources. Ground forces are not currently engaged. High probability the non-federal near and adjacent to fire will be impacted. There are critical habitat and sensitive species (fish).

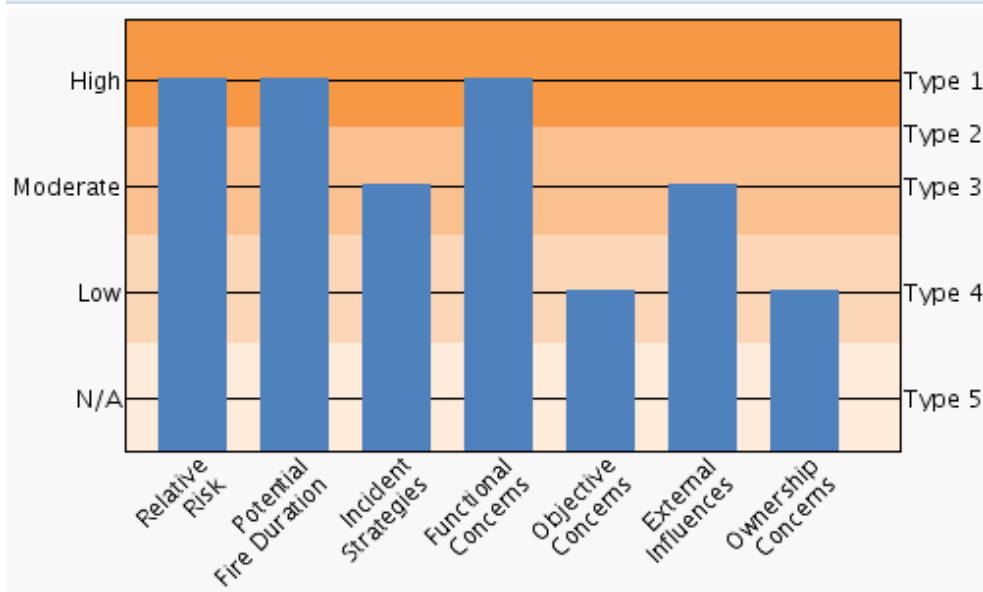
Implementation Difficulty Notes

If direct attack strategies are not possible indirect strategies could have a large footprint. Functional concerns are based on lack of access, limited resource availability, and high reliance on aerial resources for suppression and logistical support.

### Socio/Political Concerns Notes

Objectives are based on protecting Values at Risks. The Planning Area includes an Inventoried Roadless Area. Other than the near to adjacent land owners, concerns are low given the current location of fire.

Organization Assessment Chart



Unit Recommended Org: Type 2

Planning Area Values Inventory

NAME	VALUE
Planning Area Name	08/03/2015 20:03
Incident Name	BALDY
Planning Area Size	105,168 acres

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
BLM Range Allotments	364 acres	BLM State offices (compiled by BLM NOC)	05/08/2015	Western United States
Building Clusters: Pend Oreille, WA	131	US Counties / FGDC Cadastral Subcomm.		Available counties
Building Clusters: Stevens, WA	112	US Counties / FGDC Cadastral Subcomm.		Available counties
Communication Towers	9	FCC	06/14/2012	National
County: Pend Oreille, WA	53,092 acres	HSIP 2011, US Census Bureau TIGER data	07/01/2010	National
County: Stevens, WA	52,076 acres	HSIP 2011, US Census Bureau TIGER data	07/01/2010	National
Electric Sub Stations	2	HSIP Gold 2015	April 2015	National
Electric Transmission Lines	43.0 miles	HSIP Gold 2015	April 2015	National
Est Ground Evac Time: 1-2 Hrs	45,070 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Est Ground Evac Time: 2-4 Hrs	26,549 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Est Ground Evac Time: 4-6 Hrs	9,481 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Est Ground Evac Time: 6+ Hrs	1,494 acres	National Park Service NIFC	11/01/2012	CONUS
Habitat: Bull Trout	9.1 miles	US Fish and Wildlife Service	12/31/2014	National

Planning Area Values Inventory

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
IRA: Abercrombie-Hooknose IRA	35,405 acres	Various		National
Jurisdictional Agency: BLM	406 acres	Various	05/29/2015	National
Jurisdictional Agency: USFS	80,845 acres	Various	05/29/2015	National
Natl Scenic Byways	1.5 miles	Various	varies by data source	National
Roads	28.2 miles	NAVTEQ	11/2012	National
WACOF - Value / Area To Protect 1	21 acres	WACOF		Unit
WACOF - Value / Area to Protect 2	803 acres	WACOF		Unit
WACOF - Value / WUI	46,058 acres	WACOF		Unit

Coverage of Values Queried that Produced No Results

BLM Buildings (BLM Lands), BLM Horse and Burro (OR, ID, MT, CA, NV, UT, WY, CO, AZ, NM), BLM Oil / Gas Leases (Western United States), Campgrounds (National (BLM and USFS only)), Class 1 Airsheds (National), Electric Power Plants (National), Mines (National), NPS Buildings (National), NRA (National), Natl Historic Trails (National), Natl Recreation Trails (National), Natl Scenic Trails (National), Oil and Gas Pipelines (National), Other Areas (National), Ozone Non-Attainment (National), Particulates Non-Attainment (National), Responsible Agency (AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN), Sage Grouse Habitat (Western United States), TNC Lands (National), USFS Buildings (National), USFWS Trails (National), WSA (National), Wilderness (National)

## 1.6. Objectives

### Incident FMU/Strategic Objective Code List

Unit	FMU/Strat Obj Code	Acres
WACOF	MA-1 - Old Growth Dependent Species	962
WACOF	MA-11 - Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized Recreation	30,314
WACOF	MA-3A - Recreation	580
WACOF	MA-5 - Scenic/Timber	8,993
WACOF	MA-6 - Scenic/Winter Range	4,211
WACOF	MA-7 - Wood/Forage	29,466
WACOF	MA-8 - Winter Range	6,284
WACOF	PVT - Private	9,619
WASPD	60 - Northeast Washington	406

### Spatial Fire Planning Inventory

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Aqua Retardant Avoidance	10,601 acres	USFS Enterprise Data Warehouse	4/17/2014	National (USFS Units only)
Mgmt Req: IRA	33,856 acres	WACOF	Current	Unit Level
Retardant Avoidance	372 acres	USFS Enterprise Data Warehouse	4/17/2014	National (USFS Units only)

### Incident Objective List

Activated	Incident Objective
08/03/2015	Incorporate sound risk management principals during the decision process to provide for firefighter and public safety. Identify and execute strategies and tactics that balance safety with the highest probability of success.
08/03/2015	Prevent or minimize impacts from the fire and fire suppression related actions to natural or cultural resources specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize degradation of water quality for human use</li> <li>Minimize impacts from fire serverity and fire suppression actions to Threatened and Endangered Species habitat (Bull Trout) and Regional Forester Designated Sensitive Species (Westslope Cutthroat Trout) in Cedar Creek and its tributaries.</li> <li>Identified and discovered cultural resouces</li> <li>Minimize damage from suppression actions to Forest lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Preservaton System</li> <li>Old growth cedar stand in the headwaters of Cedar Creek</li> </ul>
08/03/2015	Maintain and enhance relationships with agency partners, stakeholders, and community leaders by providing timely and accurate information. Engage cooperators for this incident - Washington Department of Natural Resources, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties in the decision making process
08/03/2015	Prevent or minimize impacts from the fire and fire suppression related actions to private land and land managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR). Values of Risk of high concern include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BPA Transmission Line</li> <li>Private and WA DNR managed land within and adjacent to the Forest boundary</li> <li>Communication site a Red Top Mountian (north end of Planning Area)</li> </ul>
08/03/2015	Prevent or minimize impacts from the fire and fire suppression related actions to Forest Service infrastructure and priority areas specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest recreation infrastrucutre - Trail Heads at Flume Creek, Abercrombie, Silver Creek and Sherlock</li> <li>Vegetation management project areas (planned and proposed) - Mill Creek A to Z, lone, Limestone, and Renshaw</li> <li>Permitted cattle</li> </ul>

Incident Requirement List

Activated	Incident Requirement
08/03/2015	Keep the Agency Administrator informed of public meetings and media contacts. Maintain contact with the Forest Public Affairs Officer to continue building on our existing relationships, contacts, and key messages.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/ FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	Implement risk management practices that provide for the safety of firefighters, other responders, and the public.
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	Establish fire control lines in areas where there is high probability of success and ensure that firefighter exposure is commensurate with expected benefits.
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	Ensure fire suppression operations minimize negative post-fire effects to both natural and cultural resources.
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	Where possible, develop strategies that utilize past fuel reduction treatments.
WACOF	MA-1	03/13/2015	<p><b>OLD GROWTH DEPENDENT SPECIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide essential habitat for wildlife species that require old growth forest components, and contribute to the maintenance of diversity of wildlife habitats and plant communities.</li> <li>• Unplanned ignitions may not be used to meet resource objectives.</li> </ul>
WACOF	MA-11	03/13/2015	<p><b>SEMI PRIMITIVE NON MOTORIZED RECREATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage these areas to protect the existing unroaded character and to provide opportunities for dispersed, non-motorized recreation.</li> <li>• Unplanned ignitions may be used to meet resource objectives.</li> </ul>
WACOF	MA-3A	03/13/2015	<p><b>RECREATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide roaded and unroaded recreation opportunities in a natural appearing setting.</li> <li>• Unplanned ignitions may be used to meet resource objectives.</li> </ul>
WACOF	MA-5	03/13/2015	<p><b>SCENIC/TIMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a natural appearing foreground, middle, and background along major scenic travel routes while providing wood products.</li> <li>• Unplanned ignitions may be used to meet resource objectives.</li> </ul>
WACOF	MA-6	03/13/2015	<p><b>SCENIC/WINTER RANGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a natural appearing foreground, middle, and background along major scenic travel routes while providing for winter range management.</li> <li>• Unplanned ignitions may be used to meet resource objectives.</li> </ul>
WACOF	MA-7	03/13/2015	<p><b>WOOD/FORAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage to achieve optimum production of timber products while protecting basic resources.</li> <li>• Unplanned ignitions may be used to meet resource objectives.</li> </ul>
WACOF	MA-8	03/13/2015	<p><b>WINTER RANGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the habitat needs of deer and elk to sustain carrying capacity at 120 percent of the 1980 level, while managing timber and other resources consistent with fish and wildlife management objectives.</li> <li>• Unplanned ignitions may be used to meet resource objectives.</li> </ul>
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	In sage-grouse habitat, conduct fire management activities to minimize overall size of wildland fires in sagebrush plant communities where sage-grouse objectives will not be met if burned. Take into account the value and rarity of sage-grouse habitats when prioritizing suppression actions. Retain unburned areas or islands unless there is risk of escape or risk to firefighter and public safety, private property, or other higher priority resources when possible.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	If the planning area encompasses general sage-grouse habitat, the objective is to protect intact sagebrush communities and sage-grouse habitat. Reference IM-2011-138 (June 13, 2011), IM-2012-017 (May 14, 2012), and IM-2013-128 (May 29, 2014).
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Provide an appropriate response on all wildfires, with emphasis on minimizing suppression costs, considering fire fighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected consistent with resource objectives.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/ FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Initiate emergency consultation for actions in designated critical habitat for listed species with agency of jurisdiction (USFWS or NMFS).

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
	Aqua Retardant Avoidance	06/18/2013	The aerial application of fire retardant is allowed for fighting fires. Aerially delivered fire retardant should not be applied to any mapped aquatic avoidance area, waterway or buffer. The only exception to using aerially applied fire retardant in avoidance areas is <b>for the protection of human life or public safety</b> . The Incident Commander is the decision maker. Information concerning the Record of Decision for the Aerial Application of Fire Retardant is available at <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html">http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html</a>
	Retardant Avoidance	05/31/2012	The aerial application of fire retardant is allowed for fighting fires. Aerially delivered fire retardant should not be applied to any mapped terrestrial avoidance area, waterway or buffer. The only exception to using aerially applied fire retardant in avoidance areas is <b>for the protection of human life or public safety</b> . The Incident Commander is the decision maker. Information concerning the Record of Decision for the Aerial Application of Fire Retardant is available at <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html">http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html</a>
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	<p>Wildfire Response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All wildfires will receive an appropriate suppression response. This response and the associated fire suppression strategies will be the most cost effective commensurate with land management objectives for the area on which wildfire occurs.</li> <li>2. Apply aggressive suppression action to wildfires that threaten life, private property, public safety, improvements, or investments.</li> <li>3. In most cases, when wildfires do not threaten to exceed acceptable sizes and intensities for the management areas, the lowest cost suppression option is appropriate.</li> <li>4. If a wildfire escapes initial action and threatens to exceed established limits, an escaped fire situation analysis shall be prepared. This analysis weighs the cost of suppression against the resource potential losses. Suppression actions should be appropriate for the values threatened, even on escaped fires.</li> </ol>
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	Provide for public and firefighter safety as the highest priority.
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	When suppression operations are planned to occur within, or fire threatens, Areas to Protect, notify the Agency Representative.
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Water Quality-Perennial streams and water bodies:</b> Machine constructed firelines should not be built in riparian areas during fire suppression activities. Perpendicular crossing, with subsequent rehabilitation are permitted, but discouraged if alternatives exist. Intermittent Streams: No heavy equipment movement up and down stream channels and riparian areas during fire suppression is allowed. Ephemeral Draws: Equipment disturbance of duff and soil will be minimized. Seeps and springs: No equipment except for restoration or improvement.</li> </ul>
WACOF	<Unit>	03/13/2015	To prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, all out of region fire equipment will be drained of water away from natural water sources and will be refilled from either a municipal water source or from a single water source that will be used for the incident. Fire equipment will not be filled from one water source and then dumped into another water source. When filling from multiple water sources in a single operational period, all fire equipment will be thoroughly inspected and cleaned of all mud and plant material.
WACOF	IRA	03/13/2015	<p><b>INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA</b></p> <p>Inventoried Roadless Area(s) have been identified within the planning area.</p> <p><i>As a reminder, on May 31, 2012, the Chief of the Forest Service reserved the authority to review all projects involving road construction or reconstruction and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). The Chief delegated to Regional Foresters the authority to review "Any necessary timber cutting or removal or any road construction or road reconstruction in emergency situations involving wildfire suppression, search and rescue operations, or other imminent threats to public health and safety in inventoried roadless areas."</i></p>

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
			<p><i>In order to comply with the Chief's direction, <b>any forest that is considering timber cutting and/or road construction/reconstruction during emergency situations as described above should contact the Regional Forester's Office as soon as practical.</b> The Regional Forester will review the proposed emergency timber cutting and/or road construction/reconstruction activities with the appropriate line officer in accordance with the Chief's delegation of authority.</i></p> <p>Reminder Issued 07/31/2014</p>
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Educate firefighters about risks associated with abandoned mine lands. Avoid tailings ponds as water sources for fire suppression. Avoid mine stockpiles or waste dumps as material sources.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Restrict surface disturbance in areas of archeological, paleontological, and/or cultural significance throughout all phases of wildland fire suppression actions.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Minimize surface disturbances and avoid the use of heavy earth moving equipment where possible, on fire suppression and rehabilitation activities, including mop up, except where high value resources (including lives and property) are being protected.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Support tribal trust obligations with fire management activities or otherwise address tribal interests.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Maintain interagency cooperation to facilitate coordinated fire management activities across administrative boundaries.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) when appropriate to mitigate potential adverse effects of fire suppression on values at risk. Areas where MIST may be used include riparian habitat conservation areas, WSAs, ACECs (including RNAs and ONAs), cultural sites, areas with soils at high risk for erosion, and suitable wild and scenic river corridors.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Use of aerial retardant will follow the current agency policy.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Install water bars, restore constructed lines and seed all constructed fire lines with native or adapted nonnative species as appropriate.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	In areas where Special Status plant populations exist, heavy equipment use may be restricted to minimize impacts to these sites.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	As appropriate, utilize existing fuel breaks, such as roads or discrete changes in fuel type, as control lines in order to minimize fire spread.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	To the extent possible, locate wildfire suppression facilities (i.e., base camps, spike camps, drop points, staging areas, heli-bases, etc.) in areas where physical disturbance to sage-grouse habitat can be minimized. These include disturbed areas, grasslands, near roads/trails or in other areas where there is existing disturbance or minimal sagebrush cover.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Power-wash all firefighting vehicles, to the extent possible, including engines, water tenders, personnel vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) prior to deploying in or near sage-grouse habitat areas to minimize noxious weed spread.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Document fire operation activities in sage-grouse habitat for potential follow-up coordination activities.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Minimize burnout operations in key sage-grouse habitat areas by constructing direct fireline whenever safe and practical to do so.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Utilize retardant, mechanized equipment, and other available resources to minimize burned acreage during initial attack.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	As safety allows, conduct mop-up where the black adjoins unburned islands, dog legs, or other habitat features to minimize sagebrush loss.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Minimize unnecessary cross-country vehicle travel during fire operations in sage-grouse habitat.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Reduce the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive plants during fire suppression and fire rehabilitation activities by minimizing the conditions that promote invasive plant germination and establishment.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	Utilize local technical specialists, if possible, prior to engagement and in the planning process to identify categories of archaeological sites, and recommend appropriate level of protection in accordance with BLM guidance and clauses of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for emergency undertakings.
WASPD	<Unit>	07/30/2015	If special status plants (threatened, endangered, BLM-sensitive, state-protected, etc.) are known to occur in the fire planning area, efforts should be made when designing suppression strategies to protect known sites from suppression effects.

## 1.7. Course of Action

### Course of Action

Active	Inactive	Action Item
08/03/2015		Determine if opportunities exist to develop direct containment strategies and if found implement direct strategies to minimize fire size and duration. Develop indirect containment strategies and, if needed, Management Action Points to protect VARs. If an indirect strategy is implemented implement point protection strategies to protect VARs within the interior of the fire.



## 1.8. Cost

### Estimated Final Cost

---

NAME	VALUE
Estimated Final Cost	\$7,917,931
Method(s) Used	Other

### Comments

Cost projection is from WA IMT 4, based on costs to date, as well as including a projection for the continued management of the fire with a Type 3 Organization.

## 1.9. Rationale

### Decision Rationale

---

My decision is: Determine if opportunities exist to develop direct containment strategies that have a high probability of success and where safety concerns can be mitigated to acceptable levels. If those conditions can be met, implement direct containment strategies to minimize fire size and duration. Develop indirect containment strategies as a contingency in the event of unanticipated fire growth. Management Action Points may need to be developed to trigger actions to protect Values at Risk (VARs) or actions on contingency line. If those opportunities cannot be found or safety concerns cannot be mitigated to acceptable levels, then develop and implement indirect containment strategies that prevent or minimize impacts from the fire on VARs found on private and WA DNR managed land. Where appropriate consider point protection strategies to protect VARs within the Forest Boundary. After strategies to protect VAR's have been implemented continually reassess for opportunities to engage the fire with the intent on minimizing size and duration. The cooperators for this incident include the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties. The Values of Risk for this incident include: Private land and land managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) BPA Transmission Line Private and WA DNR managed land within and adjacent to the Forest boundary Communication site a Red Top Mountain Water quality for human use Threatened and Endangered Species habitat (Bull Trout) and Regional Forester Designated Sensitive Species (Westslope Cutthroat Trout) Identified and discovered cultural resources Forest lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Preservation System Old growth cedar stand in the headwaters of Cedar Creek Forest Trail Heads at Flume Creek, Abercrombie, Silver Creek and Sherlock Vegetation management project areas (planned and proposed) - Mill Creek A to Z, Lone, Limestone, and Renshaw Permitted cattle The private land and WA DNR land within the Forest Boundary are most likely to be impacted by the fire. The following trigger would indicate revisions to this decision or that a new decision is needed: the fire is likely to expand beyond the current planning area, impacts to VARs become unacceptable, weather conditions moderate or a season ending event occurs