

**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
APRIL – MAY – JUNE 2014**

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: KEITH JONES, MANAGER

Mission

Help protect and enhance the natural resources of Idaho State Parks.

Goals

- Assist parks with forest and/or land management activities that promote resource health and safety, while meeting the objectives of the park.
- Assist parks with weed control efforts.
- Help parks with wildfire hazard mitigation.
- Develop a working network with natural resource professionals, partner agencies, and organizations that will benefit IDPR.

Quarterly Program Report

Timber/Forest Management:

- Putting together three-year forest management action plans for the shared IDL forester positions at McCroskey, Heyburn, Farragut, and Priest Lake.
- Working with IDL fire chief to put together a basic fire response training class for classified Park staff. (not red card certification).
- A 60-acre sale at the entrance of Priest Lake to clean up wind throw and thin an overstocked stand to promote a healthy White Pine, Larch, Douglas Fir forest in a visible way for the public to experience what has been marked and mapped in cooperation with IDL. Work will begin fall/ winter of 2014. Possibly broadcast burn the next fall.
- Working with IDL to set up one direct sale at Farragut to be harvested this winter. This sale will address roadside thinning and ditch-line maintenance that will create a *shaded fuel break* and protect the road base along three miles of Park roads. The sale will also thin approximately 15 acres of overstocked mixed forest to a more healthy pre-fire suppression density that favors a higher percentage of shade intolerant species.
- McCroskey’s “Deep Creek” Timber sale set-up is wrapping up. This sale will continue the goal of Ponderosa Pine habitat restoration in McCroskey. Sale date is tentatively set for winter/ spring of 2014.
- Fish and Game shoreline Ponderosa Pine restoration thinning in Farragut is all set up and marked. Scheduled to be harvested this winter, and broadcast burned fall of 2015.
- Working with a local middle school, IDFG, IDL, USFS, and the Firesmart program to look into setting up a living forest succession classroom on four acres adjacent to the north region office. Also utilize a smaller area as a “firewise” landscape example for patrons to visit and model on their wild land, urban interface properties.

- Several small direct sales have been set up at McCroskey and Heyburn to address pockets of disease and insect damage.
- Planning to set up a 70-acre Ponderosa Pine restoration cut in Ponderosa State Park's "Meadow Marsh II" area. Upon completion, this sale will tie a continuous band of Ponderosa Pine habitat across the peninsula.
- Representing the Department as a committee member on the Idaho Firewise program. This program plans, coordinates, and promotes wildfire prevention and mitigation programs and curriculum statewide, on public and private land.
- Conduct hazard tree assessments in all developed areas in the Parks throughout the year.
- In contact with a contractor to use goats to mimic fire disturbance to brush species in thinned out stands. Test sites will be in Farragut or Heyburn.
- Forest fire fuel reduction project planned for Castle Rocks; work will remove dead and down trees and some minor thinning of live trees.

Noxious Weed Management / Restoration:

- Active weed management plans and herbicide treatment support at Priest, Lucky Peak, Lake Cascade, Winchester, Farragut, Round Lake, Heyburn, and Eagle Island.
- Coordinated spray days with county, federal, and state agencies to treat over 100 acres of noxious weeds at McCroskey, Higgins Point, and Heyburn at no cost to the Department.
- Continue with Tammany Creek restoration efforts at Hells Gate.
- Recommending and planning for Parks to focus on "eradication" of weeds in small, high-visibility areas versus "control" on a larger scale.
- Prioritizing fall spray projects for 2014.
- In coordination with the USFS and the Nez Perce Tribe, released biological controls (bugs) for Canadian Thistle at Heyburn, Farragut, and Winchester, as well as for purple loosestrife and rush skeleton weed at Three Island, Thousand Springs, Lucky Peak, and Eagle Island.
- Represent IDPR as a committee member on the IWCC (Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee). The IWCC plans and coordinates noxious weed awareness and management strategies for Idaho, and helps steer the states cooperative weed management areas.
- Working on a feasible plan to address shoreline erosion control in the worst areas on Park lands on Pend Oreille, Payette, and Cascade lakes.
- Looking into using goats to potentially treat noxious weed plots (rush skeleton weed, knapweed) in Eagle Island.
- Coordinating program support for herbicide purchases in bulk orders from a state vendor with the hope of reducing costs by 40-70%.