

AFTER A WILDFIRE: COLLABORATING TO REDUCE FLOOD AND DEBRIS FLOW RISKS

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of Engineers®





Idaho Silver Jackets

2013 Pony/Elk and Beaver
Creek Fires

Idaho Silver Jackets Post-
wildfire Collaboration

Lessons Learned





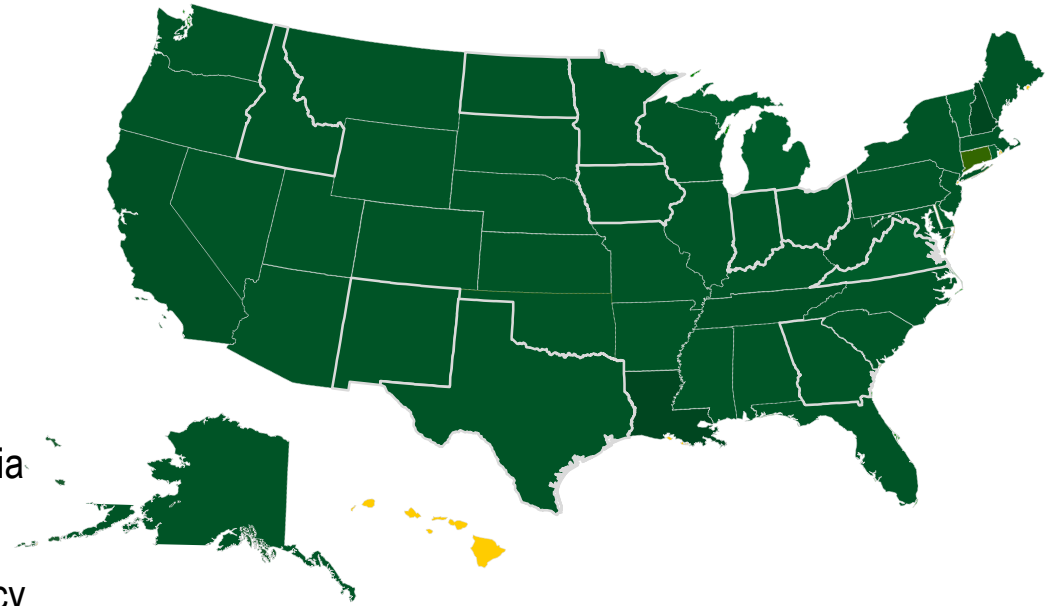
SILVER JACKETS OVERVIEW



- State-led teams - Primarily flood hazard focused
- Multi-agency coordination & collaboration - Technical expertise, data, funding
- Strategic life-cycle risk management
- Shared responsibility
- Supports watershed perspective

50 Active teams (SJ) includes District of Columbia

1 Ongoing effort to develop interagency FRM teams





ID SJ TEAM MEMBERS (in 2013)



Core Team Members – Charter Signatories

Originally signed March 2009

State

- ID Office of Emergency Management (SHMO)
- ID Department of Water Resources (NFIP Administrator / CTP)
- ID Department of Environmental Quality (Drinking water, Haz Mat issues)
- ID Department of Transportation (Environmental Permitting)

Federal

- FEMA Region X
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Weather Service – Boise, Pocatello & Spokane Forecast Offices
- U.S. Geological Survey – Idaho Water Science Center
- USACE – Walla Walla (lead), Seattle, and Sacramento Districts

Other Participating Agencies

- ID Dept. of Lands
- ID Dept. of Transportation
- ID Dept. of Agriculture
- U.S. Bureau of Land Mgt
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

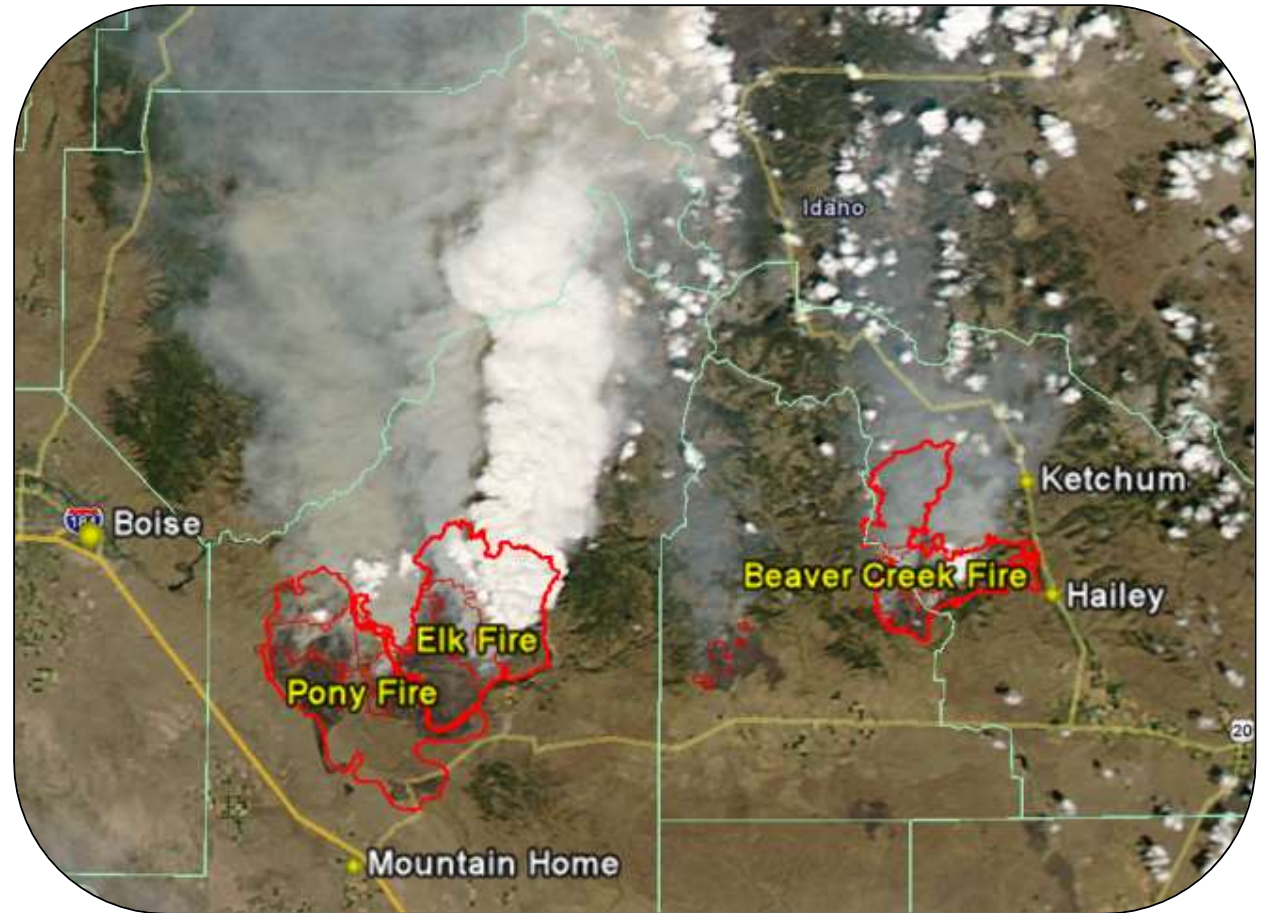


2013 PONY-ELK AND BEAVER CREEK FIRES

Collaboration Goals / Guidelines



- Coordinated and collaborative post-wildfire risk assessment and recovery.
- Ensure concerns of all ownerships in watershed are considered and downstream values-at-risk protected.
- Develop a watershed level strategy.
- Work with non-Federal governments to improve flood preparedness, based on the threat, potential, and their capabilities.



Date	Elk – Pony Complex (Elmore County)	Beaver Creek (Blaine County)
7 Aug		Lightning caused ignition
9 Aug	Lightning caused ignition	
12 Aug	Governor Otter declares state of disaster emergency for wildfires includes Elmore & Blaine counties.	
13 Aug	Fire Management Assistance Declaration	
15 Aug		Fire Management Assistance Declaration
19 Aug	Pony Fire contained at 150K acres	
23 Aug	ID SJ facilitates Interagency Coordination Meeting with Federal and State partners	
31 Aug	Elk Fire contained at 131K acres	
2 Sept		Beaver Fire contained at 111.5K acres
2, 3 & 13 Sept	Severe thunderstorms cause debris flow and flash flooding	
4 Sept	Initial meeting with Elmore County and Interagency Team	
17 Sept		Initial meeting with Blaine County and Interagency Team



September 3, 2013 mud and debris flow in Greenhorn Gulch from the Beaver Creek Fire burn scar near Ketchum and Hailey, Idaho. Photo from Magic Valley Times-News (submitted by Alex Woodard)



Side drainage near Wilson Flat



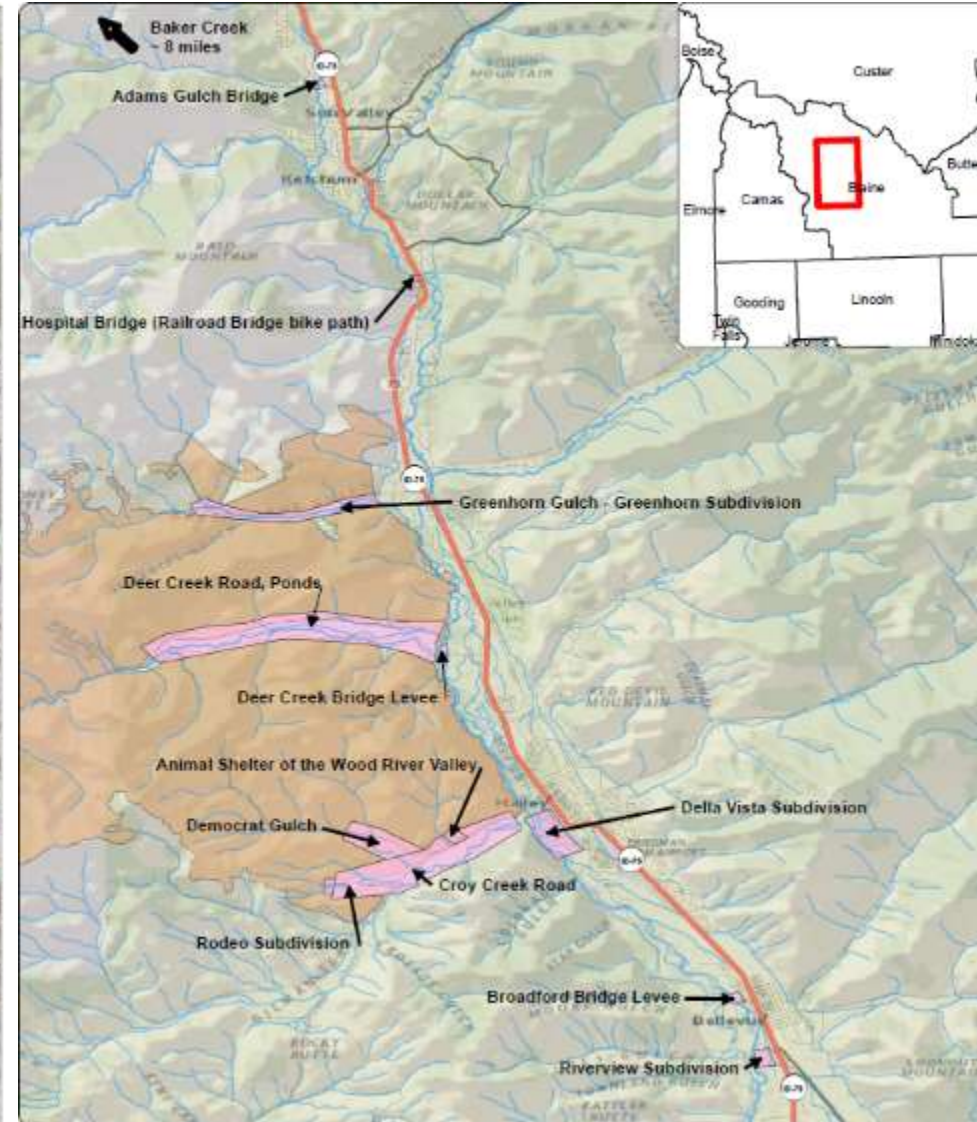
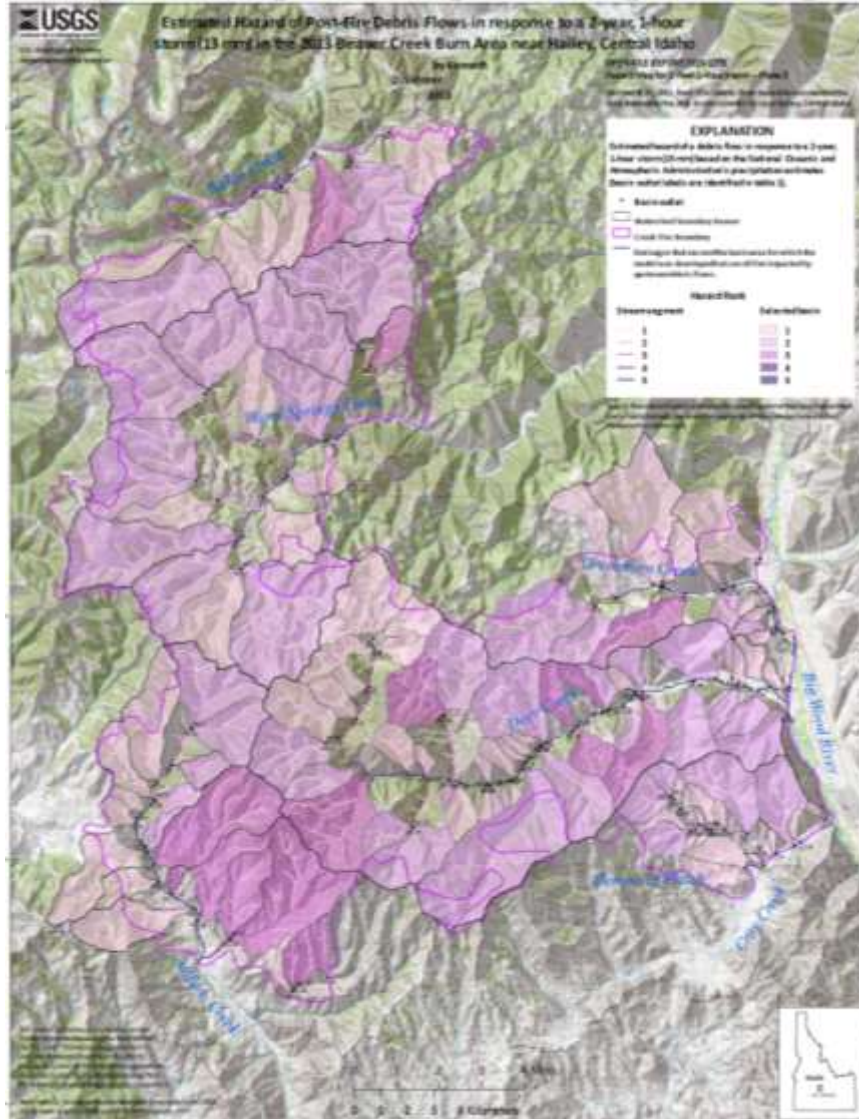
Croy Creek – Democrat Gulch



BEAVER CREEK FIRE



Estimated Post-fire Debris Flow Hazard in Response to 25-year, 1-hour Storm (USGS 2013)



Downstream area of burned watershed (in orange) and private land at risk (in pink). (USACE 2013)



TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE

BAER Teams - Bureau of Land Mgt / US Forest Service	Soil Burn Severity and GIS data Hydrologic assessment (high Level) Erosion control projects in high risk areas on Federal lands
National Weather Service	CHPS Model Scenarios Community Outreach Wildfire webpages Weather / Precipitation Monitoring Training
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Damage Survey and Emergency Watershed Protection Plan- Recovery - Protective measures identified for high risk areas (construction is cost shared)
US Geological Survey	Debris Flow Hazard Assessment Early Warning Precipitation Network Installation (cost shared)
US Army Corps of Engineers	Updated Hydrologic and Hydraulic Models Office & Field Risk Assessments & General Recommendations Flood Response Workshop - on-site flood fight training



TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)



FEMA	Fire recovery/NFIP outreach info HMP update info for future mitigation grant eligibility Risk Map Products – Discovery report, Alluvial Fan Inventory
ID Office of Emergency Mgt	Community Assistance - funding & developing mitigation actions Area Field Officer Support Initial Mission Assignment to facilitate interagency post-fire support for the two counties
ID Dept. of Water Resources	Critical Infrastructure Assessment Community NFIP outreach GIS data mgt & repository
Blaine County	Liaison with local agencies GIS data Cost-share funding (USGS/NRCS) HMP & EAP updates



LESSONS LEARNED – What Worked



- County Commissioner effective as County Liaison - Allowed County Emergency Mgr more time to focus on EMgt activities.
- SJ Coordinator acting as coordinator for ID SJ team agencies.
- SJ team framework
 - One forum for the County to access assistance and resources
 - Helped everyone see the big picture.
 - Promoted looking ahead to plan for future possible impacts (next spring) and not just immediate needs.
- Collaboration among agencies - improved study quality, reduced duplication, addressed information gaps, expedited studies, and unified messages of where risk was greatest
- Building upon previous studies and datasets - Efficiently and cost effectively identified risk areas and completed analyses.



LESSONS LEARNED – Challenges



- Engagement with BAER Teams
 - Need to develop relationships early and coordinate before fire containment
- Funding Streams
 - Especially near the end of a Fiscal Year
- Communication
 - ‘Mitigation’ vs ‘emergency response’ tasks different team members & protocols
- Travel Funding Constraints
 - Limits face-to-face participation in briefing meetings
- Interagency Post-wildfire Coordination Group
 - To help communities address all post-wildfire impacts, not just flood related



SILVER JACKETS AFTER ACTIONS



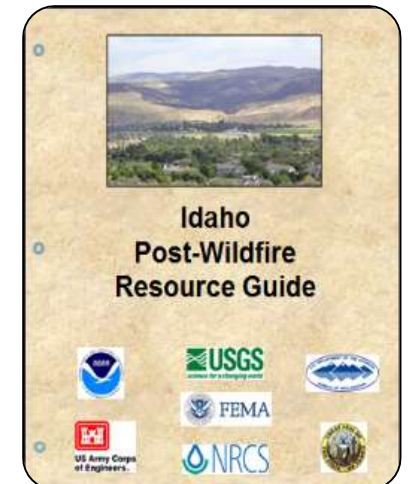
Institutionalizing the process



Improving WebEOC platform for data and information sharing



Producing a Post-wildfire Flood Risk Resource Guide and web page





INFORMATION ON SILVER JACKETS



Silver Jackets Web Site

<http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/>

“None of us is as smart as all of us.”

- Kenneth Blanchard

The screenshot shows the Silver Jackets website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "SILVER JACKETS Many Partners, One Team" and a search box. Below the navigation bar, there are several sections: "Newsroom" with a featured article about California Silver Jackets, "State Teams" with a map of the United States, and a section titled "Silver Jackets teams facilitate collaborative solutions to state flood risk priorities." There are also links to "More Information" and "The BUZZ" newsletters.