

Cascade Complex Burn-By

Near Cascade, Idaho



Paul Broyles, IC

August 13, 2007

Incident Objectives

1. Ensure safety of the public and assigned personnel by use of the Incident Safety Analysis Process (ICS 215A), and by continually applying the Risk Management Process (IRPG, page 1). Ensure appropriate fatigue management.
2. Provide protection emphasis in the communities of Warm Lake, Stolle Meadows cabin, and structures along Deadwood Road.
3. Keep communities, cooperators, local forests and tribes informed with timely and accurate information.
4. Provide protection for bull trout, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout habitat by utilizing forest suppression guidelines.

Location of the ICP

- Provided the most ready access for suppression and logistical forces to fires in the area.
- Provided a more than adequate safety zone for all Incident personnel. The meadow in which ICP was located measures approximately 675 meters long and is 135 meters wide at its narrowest point
- Was a very defensible area with an established road network, extensive fuel treatments in the area, and numerous wet meadows and riparian areas on the north and south flanks.
- Fine fuel and grasses in the area were sparse and discontinuous after several weeks of ICP activities.
- Relocation would have delayed suppression activities for 1 or more critical operational periods.

**Aerial view
of the
Cascade
Complex
ICP
after the
burn-by**



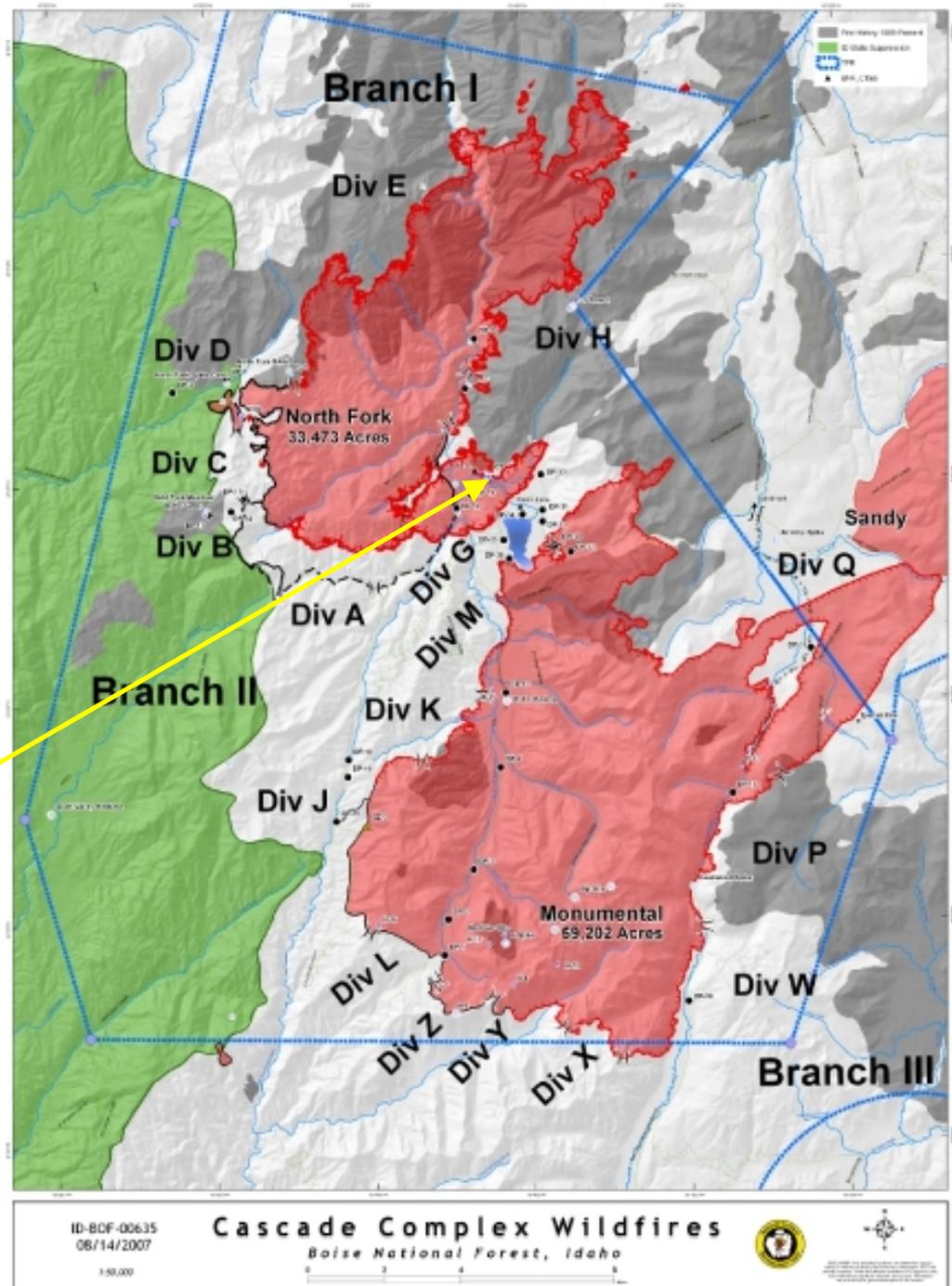
ICP Safety Plan

- Given the ICP's proximity to the fires within the complex, the safety plan included an option for the team to stay-in-place if fire approached the camp and cut-off egress



On August 13, 2007
from 1545 –1930, the
Cascade Complex
ICP Burn-By occurred

Location of ICP – map
day after burn-by



When a morning-long inversion lifted, spot fires rapidly exceeded suppression capabilities, and headed towards camp, cutting off the only egress, Warm Lake Road.



This required the team to implement the Camp Safety Stay-in-Place Plan



The IC gathered camp personnel for safety instructions



The first fire pulse



Air support responded



Multiple
resources were
deployed to
defend the ICP



The fire flanked around the camp



Air support responded again



Embers started numerous spot fires in
and around camp



Non-line qualified personnel waited out the event in the center of camp





Trees torching near the camp entrance

Visibility was very limited



So much for the
cardboard
recycle bin



Flanking fire on south side of camp







Sadly, the historic cabin was lost



The next morning – the
road leading to camp



And in camp...the IMET reported a
1000 foot layer of smoke





Resources lost included 5 personal tents, 1 yurt, 7 damaged porta-potties, and some personal gear

The safety plan worked

- The team stayed-in-place, with no injuries
- Smoke inhalation and eye irritation was common
- Everyone remained calm and pitched in to clean up
- The kitchen crew fed dinner that night
- Scheduled team and section meetings were held
- Everyone got the camp up and running again
- Line operations continued uninterrupted
- After the event, no personnel accepted the IC's offer to be demobed because of this event

Thanks to the firefighters, team members, and assigned personnel who provided leadership throughout this event, and to those who provided these photographs



Great Basin Type 1 Incident Management Team, Paul Broyles, IC.
Photographs by David Eaker, Jim Marett, Bill Paxton, Mary Rasmussen, and Shannon Theall.

