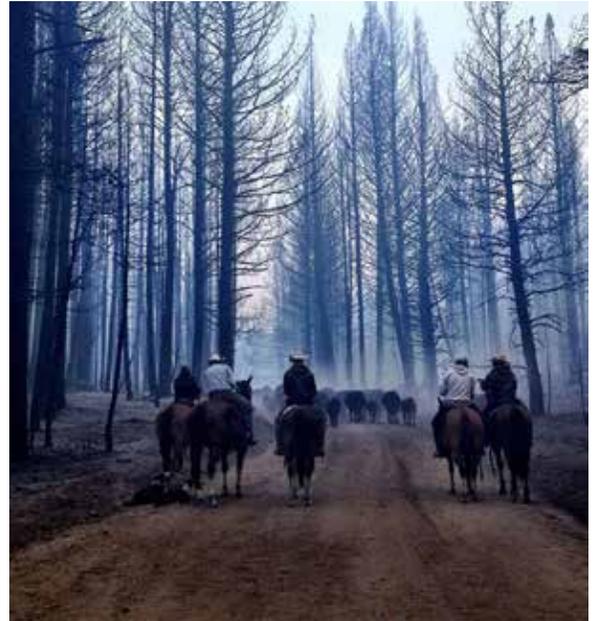


IDAHO DEPT. OF AG, NRCS ANNOUNCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR RANCHERS BURNED OUT BY WILDFIRE



Ranchers in the Mountain Home, Prairie, and Fairfield areas have suffered serious losses of livestock and public range as a result of wildfires in southwest and south-central Idaho. This morning, the Idaho Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service announced some resources available to help.

We're told the most pressing needs are available pasture, as some ranchers have lost 90% or more of their summer range and need a place to feed livestock.

The BLM and USFS are not expected to offer up much in the way of unallocated range allotments, so private land pasture, crop stubble, or even cover crop areas could be places ranchers could utilize in the long and short term.

ID Dept. of Agriculture John Biar, livestock specialist with the Idaho Dept. of Agriculture has set up a web page listing some resources available:

www.agri.state.id.us

John would like to receive calls or emails from private landowners, farmers and ranchers, conservation districts, commission staff, and

anyone else that may be able to help or refer ranchers to other resources.

John can be contacted at 208-332-8566 or john.biar@agri.idaho.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The USDA's NRCS is offering special funding to help agricultural producers rehabilitate private land burned in recent wildfires. The sign-up period is short and applications must be in by August 30, 2013.

Idaho NRCS received extra funds for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program specifically for private land wildfire recovery efforts. These funds can be used to help restore privately owned rangelands and forest lands, reduce soil erosion and re-establish critical wildlife habitat.

"NRCS can help ranchers and agricultural producers that were significantly impacted by this year's devastating wildfires," said Jeff Burwell, Idaho NRCS State Conservationist.

These funds can be used for work such as fencing, seeding, livestock water development, herbaceous weed control, and various erosion control practices on rangeland, pastureland and non-industrial private forest land.

Applications must be received by August 30, 2013 to be considered for this special funding.

For more information, contact your local NRCS office, call our state office at (208)378-5700 or visit our Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/id/home/>. □

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650 West State Street, Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83702 • P: 208-332-1790
F: 208-332-1799 • info@swc.idaho.gov • swc.idaho.gov

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