

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 31, 2024

The Honorable Randy Moore
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Moore:

We are writing to express concern over the recent and ongoing wildfires that have severely affected Valley County, Idaho. As a community heavily reliant on its forests and natural resources, the consequences of these fires have been profound, impacting both the local economy and the safety of its citizens.

The Lava Fire currently encompasses almost 100,000 acres across federal and state-managed land within the Boise and Payette National Forests. The combined acreage of the Middle Fork Complex, Snag and Goat Fires further exacerbates the situation. The scale and severity of these incidents can be attributed to inadequate preventative measures and delayed response times. While we acknowledge the interagency collaboration and concerted efforts from local, state, and tribal entities, it is imperative that our communities receive timely support for recovery and restoration efforts.

Valley County mainly consists of public land managed by USFS. As such, the local economy is heavily reliant on forest management activities, including timber sales, recreational opportunities, and employment related to these initiatives. The ongoing fires post a direct threat to homes and businesses, while also jeopardizing Valley County's financial stability and overall well-being. Fire prevention and management remain pressing concerns; any reduction in forest management activities or delays in forest planning could have detrimental effects on the local economy, as evidenced by this fire season. Additionally, the short- and long- term impacts on air quality present significant health risks for these communities.

It is critical that USFS takes prompt and decisive action to address forest management and post-fire recovery in Valley County. We urge you to devote prompt attention to this matter and look forward to working with your agency to safeguard Idaho's forests.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in black ink.

James E. Risch
U.S. Senator

Handwritten signature of Mike Crapo in blue ink.

Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator

Handwritten signature of Russ Fulcher in black ink.

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress