



National Interagency Fire Center

MASTER PLAN



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National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho



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**Bureau of Land Management
National Interagency Fire Center**

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MASTER PLAN



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Executive Summary

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Master Plan is a comprehensive planning tool that provides a long-term strategy to address future facility needs. NIFC is a very unique “place” that serves nine federal agencies all located on one site working collaboratively to manage and coordinate wildland fire fighting and other emergency response resources across the United States. NIFC’s emergency response capabilities include response to natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, floods etc. NIFC has also seen an expansion of its mission to include emergency response to international disasters. This has led to cooperation with fire and emergency response agencies in Australia, Canada and most recently Haiti. The demand for NIFC’s services has increased throughout the years due to an increase in the number of wildland fire and emergency response incidents. This demand has fueled rapid growth at NIFC creating an increased need for on-site building space and adding stress to aging buildings and infrastructure.



As an alternative to leased space elsewhere in the Boise community, the existing NIFC site provides a secure perimeter and is an operationally cost efficient location for member agencies and allows for a collaborative work environment. In addressing continued staffing growth by agencies on-site, NIFC management is constantly adjusting and shifting staff locations and space allocations to make room for new staff and resources in the most efficient way possible. These constant adjustments have begun to affect work efficiencies and left NIFC with no excess space or inadequate space in some instances.

Existing site conditions were analyzed through site visits, management staff interviews, and document research. Land use, utilities, transportation and aircraft operations were all analyzed to understand the current function of NIFC. To fully understand the very complex interagency function and spatial relationships of the agencies at NIFC, the Master Plan team held workshops with agency managers and staff regarding the daily functions, interagency relationships, and future needs of each organization. This included a detailed count of existing employees and existing space being used by each agency as well as space needed to accommodate anticipated growth. An emphasis was placed on understanding how agencies function and interact with each other through the built environment because this has an impact on employee performance and efficiency.

The NIFC Master Plan document includes an inventory of space needs and serves as a road map to guide future growth and development on-site. The document is built upon as understanding of agency interaction and interagency functions while addressing specific space needs through extensive outreach to agency leadership and management. The outreach process resulted in a clear understanding of current and anticipated needs and ultimately a site plan concept to address those needs.



PREFERRED SITE PLAN CONCEPT

A preferred site plan concept was generated after a thorough conceptual design process. Included in the plan are opportunities for existing building expansions and locations for new site and facility improvements. NIFC provides great opportunities for expansion due to the existing utility infrastructure and availability of space on-site to accommodate future structures.

The preferred site plan concept focuses on creating a campus identity with increased pedestrian accessibility through the creation of a central network of buildings in the interior of the site and expanding existing facilities located adjacent to the aircraft ramp. A campus identity

facilitates the integration and coordination between member agencies. The development of this campus identity is strengthened through the increased density and connectedness of existing and future buildings. Through the master plan process, needs were identified to support a new “Wellness Center” facility. It will serve as a central meeting place for NIFC staff and include a multi-purpose room, vending/dining area, exercise/weight room, and meeting space. An additional site feature would be a restroom/shower/locker room facility to serve the Boise Mobilization Center (MOB) located on-site. This facility would provide much needed amenities for personnel in transit through the mobilization center.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Included in the master plan is a strategy for implementing all of the recommended improvements in this document. The improvements would be constructed in phases over several years with phases having been developed to provide some flexibility in later years as facility needs may change. The phasing strategy also

includes planning level construction cost estimates which define expected funding requirements to complete each phase. In addition to the construction cost estimates, the cost summary narrative describes other project costs to be considered on a project by project basis. These other costs include consultant design fees, sustainability integration, consultant construction support, BLM project management, etc. This information is very valuable in preparing cyclical maintenance and capital funding requests.

CONCLUSIONS

The NIFC base is an ever-changing and growing facility which requires a well defined plan and approach to address building and infrastructure needs. This plan provides a vision for the future and a basis for continued future planning. It also identifies more urgent needs relating to a degrading and insufficient infrastructure and provides guidance on how to address these problems. Most of these deficiencies are a result of a steady growth in staff over the years and limited resources for cyclical maintenance and/or capital improvements. Recommended improvements generally include the

expansion of existing buildings, new buildings, expanded parking, reconfiguration of entry points, and upgrades/improvements to existing utility systems. These improvements not only address growth but are required to meet federal safety, energy efficiency, and sustainability requirements. The following are some of the key recommendations for improvements at NIFC by phase:

Phase I:

- Develop new driveway and secure vehicular entry points, including a perimeter drive around the north and west sides of the site connecting to Robinson Road for management of primary vehicular circulation and a secure access point at the northwest corner of the site.
- Increase parking capacity through the addition of new parking areas and reconfiguration of existing parking areas to accommodate existing demand and future growth.
- Construct a new 10,500 square foot one-story office building.
- Construct a new 26,167 square foot Wellness Center and outdoor plaza to serve employees in maintaining fitness requirements.
- Construct a new water line loop, gas lines, irrigation mains and connect utilities to new buildings.
- Construct a loop trail and interconnected walkways to enhance pedestrian connectivity and for use by employees in maintaining personal fitness.
- Revise and enhance landscaping around and within and construction of new picnic pavilions to provide sheltered outdoor space for employees.
- Construct a 2,167 square foot restroom/shower/locker room building for use by employees and for personnel coming to the site through the Mobilization Center.

Total Phase I Cost: \$19,083,33

Phase 2:

- Construct a new 14,000 square foot hangar building for USFS and BLM aircraft and associated utility and staff relocation.
- Expand Ramp Services (Building 210) by 2,400 square feet to accommodate growth and passenger waiting area.
- Relocate propane tank and existing water line to accommodate new hangar building.

Total Phase 2 Cost: \$7,705,509

Phase 3:

- Demolition of existing USFS Hangar (Building 405) and Tool Shop.
- Expand the Great Basin Cache (Building 215) by 25,000 square feet to accommodate the returns warehouse and allow off-site warehousing to be relocated on-site.

Total Phase 3 Cost: \$4,236,305

Phase 4:

- Construct two new office buildings, totaling 36,152 square feet and connect to utilities installed in Phase I.

Total Phase 4 Cost: \$5,681,263

Phase 5:

- Construct additional paved areas along aircraft ramp to accommodate large aircraft and enhance maneuverability.

Total Phase 5 Cost: \$3,018,681

Total Estimated Construction Cost: \$39,725,092

Another goal of the master plan was to provide an improved public interface while maintaining high levels of site security. This goal is addressed through the re-establishment of an existing looped entry off of Development Avenue. This entrance was originally designed to provide a welcoming entry and inviting public face for the NIFC base. The reinstatement of the entrance loop provides great opportunity for public interface and enhancement of the NIFC presence in Boise.

Site improvements including parking, storage space, and utility extensions and upgrades are key components of the master plan. Parking in the preferred site plan concept is located along the exterior of the site, maximizing the use of unbuildable land and focusing parking near its immediate users. The location of parking along the exterior of the site strengthens the campus feel of NIFC, while increasing walkability and maximizing the central open space. Existing utilities will not only need to be upgraded to accommodate future growth, but also upgraded more immediately to address utility deficiencies and ensure the safety of employees and proper function of site facilities.

Project Overview



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), maintains and operates the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) administrative site in Boise, Idaho to serve as a coordination center for fighting wildland fires across the nation. Since its inception in the late 1960's NIFC has experienced an ever expanding role in meeting the program objectives of the BLM and its federal and state agency partners tasked with wildland fire management responsibilities. In addition, NIFC's mission has evolved to include supporting response to all types of emergency response including natural disasters, domestic terrorism, and other types of national or international incidents.

With NIFC's growing role in wildland fire management and all hazard emergency response, there has been a continued increase in staffing and associated facility needs for office, warehouse, and workshop space along with increased demand for utility service, parking, security, information technology, and other supporting infrastructure. A Master Plan for NIFC is needed to

effectively prepare for the growth expected from an evolving and expanding wildland fire management mission in an aging facility where the limitations of existing space and infrastructure have become a concern.

The following issues necessitate the development of a NIFC Master Plan:

- Need for renovation/replacement of existing facilities to meet current and future mission needs
- Limited facility construction and maintenance funding requires maximum efficiency
- Coordination with the Boise Airport (BOI) regarding its future expansion plans and infrastructure capabilities
- Coordination with collocating agencies on future growth expectations
- Continued expansion of facility mission to include emergency response to various types of disasters throughout the nation and internationally
- Continued support of natural resource missions throughout the United States

The NIFC Master Plan will be used to establish guidance for the overall programming and development of future facilities for NIFC. The Master Plan's development strategy will be implemented over the years through capital funding requests and the application of cyclical maintenance funding. The plan will address the construction of new facilities where necessary to meet NIFC's ever changing mission requirements.

Master Plan Process

The Otak master planning team has worked closely over the past several months with NIFC staff, including BLM management and representatives from the other eight state and federal organizations represented on the NIFC base. After gathering background information and data from programming interviews and site visits, the team developed three site plan alternatives. These alternatives were presented to NIFC management through a series of concept development presentations. Information gathered at these presentations led to the identification and creation of the Preferred Site Plan alternative. Further refinement of the preferred concept led to preparation of this Draft Master Plan which was reviewed by the NIFC BLM leadership team and governing board made up of all agencies represented on the NIFC base. The Final Master Plan incorporates

BLM and governing board review comments and includes an Appendix with supporting documentation.

It is recommended in the future the Master Plan document be reviewed and updated every three to five years. The Implementation Strategy section of the document should be reviewed annually as part of the yearly capital funding review process. Updating the plan is a necessary process, especially to account for factors such as cost escalation percentages. Escalation factors are "best estimates" for the future and can dramatically affect the overall cost of a project. Adjustments to escalation factors at the end of each year to reflect actual increases and revising the escalation estimates as appropriate in the future years will help assure that funding requests are in line with actual costs.



INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND

NIFC History

In 1963, The Bureau of Land Management fire program task force, responding to a request from the Bureau of the Budget, proposed that a BLM fire center be created in Boise. This facility would serve as the main support center for fire operations in the West. The original BLM fire center was established in a vacant National Guard building at Gowen Field (now the Boise Airport). At the same time many other government agencies, including the Forest Service were also interested in establishing an air center for fire suppression operations focused on aviation support.

It was mutually agreed upon that this center and interagency coordination was of great importance to fire operations. The Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC) was then created in 1965 because the US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and National Weather Service (NWS) saw the need to work together to reduce the duplication of services, cut costs, and coordinate national fire planning and operations. The land for this site was acquired by the BLM through a land exchange with the State of Idaho. Construction funding was also included in the

budget, therefore BLM serves as the host agency of the site and maintains ownership of buildings on-site.

The National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) joined BIFC in the mid 1970s. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) later joined in 1979. The Center's name was changed in 1993 from the Boise Interagency Fire Center to the National Interagency Fire Center to more accurately reflect its national mission. The U.S. Fire Administration and the National Association of State Foresters became partners at NIFC shortly after 2000; and the Department of Defense located a full-time liaison at the Center in 2008. With the addition of DOD, nine different agencies and organizations are represented at NIFC.

NIFC now serves as the nation's support and coordination center for wildland firefighting and many other hazard events. The NIFC base is located on approximately 54 acres adjoining the Boise Airport. This area includes an assortment of twenty-two office, warehouse, shop, and special use buildings in addition to numerous small sheds, storage, or mobile structures.

Located in the center of the NIFC base is the Wildland Firefighters Monument site. This monument is to memorialize and honor wildland firefighters and is frequently visited by both NIFC personnel and the general public. Due to its location and use of airport runways, NIFC operates its own aircraft ramp with two taxiways that provide direct access to the airport's main taxiways and runways. The NIFC aircraft ramp is about 17 acres in size and includes an air tanker retardant base and parking areas for light and heavy fixed wing aircraft. NIFC is considered a tenant by the Boise Airport, and is required to operate under the airport's requirements meeting applicable FAA operating and security regulations.

The agencies represented at the NIFC base employ approximately 900 people. However, a significant number of employees are currently located off-base in other government or commercial facilities near the base. Total number of staff represented on the NIFC base is approximately 772 people. Although that number can increase by approximately 30 percent through the employment of seasonal workers during

peak fire season. Detailers may work in the warehouse and work shop areas moving equipment or may include temporary emergency firefighter personnel that are put in the field where needed.

As previously stated, BLM is the land owner and maintains ownership of the majority of structures on the base with the following exceptions:

- Air Tanker Base structures (trailers) are leased by the Boise National Forest.
- The Forest Service Aircraft Hanger (Bldg #405) is owned and operated by the USFS, Office of the Director, at NIFC. Forest Service ownership does not include the attached simulations room.
- The National Weather Service Office Building (Bldg #3807) was constructed with funding from the National Weather Service but is now owned by the BLM. The National Weather Service maintains ownership of the weather balloon inflation tower adjacent to their NWS building.



The Road to NIFC

In 1968, construction began on the original administration building and warehouse. The three agencies moved into the administration building in May 1969. By that fall, a mess hall, the west wing of the barracks, and the smokejumper loft were also completed. Remaining major construction was completed in 1970.

At that time, the Forest Service operation was administered by the Boise National Forest and operated the Region 4 Western Zone Air Unit, the National Fire Radio Cache, and the Boise National Forest's Fire Control Branch; which included its dispatchers, smokejumpers, air tanker base, fire warehouse, air operations, and law enforcement.

The BLM organization included the Divisions of Fire Management, Standards and Technology, Aircraft Management, Communications, and Administration; and its charge was to coordinate wildfire support nationally.

Different administrative levels and missions have created interesting challenges through the evolution of the Fire Center. For example, at one time, a yellow line in the warehouse separated the BLM's 5,000-person fire cache from the Forest Service's 2,000-person cache. The dispatch office included three separate operations: the BLM's national fire support staff, the Boise National Forest dispatcher, and a Forest Service regional coordinator.

By 1973, the Forest Service operation was elevated organizationally to a national level after having been administered for a short time by Region 4. Ultimately, through the leadership of BLM-NIFC Director Jack Wilson and Forest Service Director Bob Bjornsen, a new era of cooperation and coordination evolved.

Also in 1973, the Department of the Interior established the Office of Aircraft Services, which was headquartered at the Fire Center. In January 1974, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, composed of the top fire managers of the federal and state wildland fire organizations, was formed. This ultimately had a strong impact on Fire Center operations.

That same year, 1974, the agencies at BIFC were joined by the National Park Service; and in 1976, the Bureau of Indian Affairs became a permanent partner. Finally, in 1979, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially joined as a partner.

In 1993, the Center's name was changed to the National Interagency Fire Center to more accurately reflect its national mission. More recently, shortly after the 2000 fire season, both the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Fire Administration joined NIFC, providing a connection to state and local fire organizations. In 2008, a Department of Defense liaison was established as a partner.

In 1994, a new administration building was constructed, which houses the administrative offices of all agencies, along with the National Interagency Coordination Center. In 1995, this building was dedicated and named the Jack Wilson Building in honor of the BLM director who was instrumental in growing the Fire Center from a fledgling operation to the national interagency role it plays today.

Since its inception, the partner agencies at NIFC have effectively shared firefighting resources and associated costs. Today, through cooperative agreements, NIFC's highly successful interagency concept extends to all 50 states and Canada. NIFC also supports fires and other emergencies in foreign nations when requested by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the U.S. Department of State.

Source: NIFC Office of External Affairs



Airplane Outside the NIFC Hangar

NIFC Management Objectives

MISSION

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), located in Boise, Idaho, is the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. Nine different agencies and organizations are part of NIFC. Decisions are made using the interagency cooperation concept because NIFC has no single director or manager.

This agency collaboration on-site has driven development of interagency groups with a focus on developing consistent policies relating to operations, training, information technology and medical standards.

Due to the knowledge and experience of NIFC personnel in the movement of personnel and equipment through collaborative and coordinated response during fire events, it was a natural expansion in agency mission when NIFC was tasked to aid in the coordination and response for other national emergencies outside the scope of fire management.

This national coordination and management has recently been expanded to include international assistance, as when NIFC personnel and equipment were sent to aid the U.S. military in the disaster relief efforts in Haiti.

NICC

The National Interagency Coordination Center is the focal point for wildfire national rescue coordination activities throughout the United States.

Wildfire suppression is built on a three-tiered system of support - the local area, one of the 11 geographic areas, and finally, the national level. When a fire is reported, the local agency and its firefighting partners respond. If the fire continues to grow, the agency can ask for help from its geographic area. When a geographic area has exhausted all its resources, it can turn to the NICC at the NIFC for help in locating needed equipment or personnel, such as air tankers, radios, meals and supplies, firefighting crews, or incident management teams.

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Elements of NIFC

While the NIFC base is home to nine different agencies, each with their own mission statement and funding, those agencies work collaboratively to coordinate and manage firefighting resources and other hazard management resources across the United States and internationally. There are several interagency groups on the NIFC base, each with representatives from multiple agencies with missions ranging from equipment programming and standards to fire training.

NICC

The National Interagency Coordination Center serves as a focal point for coordinating the national mobilization of resources for wildland fire and other incidents throughout the United States and abroad. The NICC is currently located central to the NIFC base in the Jack Wilson Building (Bldg 300) and includes four functional areas: equipment and supply dispatching; overhead and crew dispatching; aircraft dispatching; and intelligence and predictive services.

The NICC executes its mission using the closest forces and total mobility concepts, utilizing a three-tiered dispatching system: local, geographic area (eleven geographic areas total), and national and are responsible for the dispatch of heavy airtankers, lead planes, smokejumpers, hotshot crews, Type I Incident Management Teams, area command teams, medium and heavy helicopters, infrared aircraft, military resources, telecom equipment for fires, Fire and Project type Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS), and large transport aircraft.

The NICC also provides intelligence and predictive services products designed for the use by the internal wildland fire community for wildland fire and incident management decision making.

GREAT BASIN CACHE

The Great Basin Cache is one of eleven fire caches



across the country (two BLM and nine U.S. Forest Service). This cache is the central warehouse at NIFC and one of the largest at approximately 80,000 square feet. Because of its size, it functions as both a geographic area cache and a national cache.

The cache maintains an inventory with the capability to equip 10,000 firefighters, serves as the national distribution center for training materials and operation manuals for wildland fire suppression, and constructs and maintains 48 different configurations of field kits. It is not uncommon for the cache to operate 24 hours a day and employ up to 150 additional seasonal staff and detail personnel during intense periods of high fire activity.



RETURNS WAREHOUSE

The Returns Warehouse is an auxiliary warehouse on the NIFC base where fire equipment is returned from incidents in the Great Basin. The equipment is cleaned, refurbished, and repaired in preparation to be returned to the field.

REMOTE AUTOMATED WEATHER STATIONS (RAWS)

RAWS are self-contained, portable, battery/solar powered weather stations that provide real time local weather data used in fire management. Weather data is critical to predicting fire behavior, which is critical to effective fire management including suppression, and prescribed burning, as examples. There are

approximately 2,300 RAWS located throughout the country that transmit data hourly to the National Weather Service personnel at NIFC via the GOES satellite receiver dish on base.

RADIO CACHE

The wildland fire community's national radio and repeater cache contains three elements: radios and telecom, avionics, and infrared.

Radios and Telecom

The NIFC Radio Cache maintains the largest inventory of non-military radios in the world consisting of 11,000 handheld radios, 200 repeaters,

INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND

and 15 portable satellite systems. This equipment can support approximately 32,000 firefighters or 53 major disasters at one time. The Radio Cache has supported a large variety of incidents including the Columbia shuttle disaster, Oklahoma City bombing, Winter Olympics, Exxon Valdez oil disaster, Hurricane Katrina response, drug wars, natural disasters, etc.

Every year, the Radio Cache sends out kits to fires across the country. The returned radio kits are cleaned, reprogrammed, tested, and repaired as needed. Systems can be processed and sent back out within four to six hours of being returned. Typically, there is approximately a three percent breakage rate on returned radio equipment.

Avionics

The avionics division of the Radio Cache maintains and installs aircraft communication systems in firefighting

aircraft. Avionic technicians annually inspect avionics in contracted large airtankers and heavy helicopters for contract compliance and maintain avionics on two US Forest Service infrared aircraft.

Infrared

The infrared division of the Radio Cache support fires with airborne heat detection and mapping technology. Infrared scanners can detect a hotspot (over 600 degrees) on the ground that is six inches across from 14,000 feet above ground. Infrared scanning is done at night due to favorable temperature contrasts. Scanners can cover almost 1 million acres in one hour of flight time. This information is transmitted to the NICC and provides valuable information on the patterns, reach and containment of active fires. Infrared flights are flown by two US Forest Service aircrafts that are housed and maintained on the NIFC base, a King Air and Cessna Citation jet.



Wildland Firefighters Monument Bronze Statue

BOISE BLM SMOKEJUMPERS

Smokejumping in the United States dates back to 1939. Smokejumpers are firefighters who are transported to fires by airplane and parachute. They are important because they can get to remote fires safely and quickly, helping keep high-risk fires small. The US has a total of about 400 smokejumpers with approximately 80 to 85 employed out of the NIFC jump base. Boise is one of two BLM jump bases with the other located in Fairbanks, Alaska. The US Forest Service has seven jump bases (Winthrop, Redmond, Redding, McCall, Grangeville, Missoula, and West Yellowstone).

Smokejumpers require specialized training and physical fitness and, while not in the field, are required to exercise as part of their daily work tasks. Additionally, BLM smokejumpers at the NIFC base are responsible for keeping their gear in working order and ready for the next fire mission, including sewing repairs of jump suits and packs. A load of smokejumpers takes about eight minutes to get suited up and into the air after being dispatched; therefore they must always be ready. Once they have completed their fire mission, out in the field smokejumpers usually have to pack out their gear, which can weigh 110 pounds or more.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS' MONUMENT

The Wildland Firefighters' Monument is located in the center of the NIFC base and was built with donations and volunteer labor to honor all past, present, and future firefighters. The monument was built in the late 1990s and dedicated in May of 2000. It features a ribbon-like walkway through vegetation native to the Great Basin landscape with bronze statues of firefighters. The monument was designed by a National Park Service volunteer.

The monument is visited throughout the year by NIFC employees and the general public including: firefighters, colleagues, and family members of those involved with wildland fire.



Wildland Firefighters Monument Bronze Statue

INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND

Master Plan Goals & Objectives

Establishing goals and objectives for the Master Plan is an integral part of a successful process. The mission of the agencies located at NIFC has changed over the years from individual agency driven directives to more commonality between agencies. The agencies realized there were efficiencies and better coordination by working more collaboratively in fighting wildland fire, since fire doesn't follow jurisdictional boundaries.

With this shift in approach, the emphasis on the NIFC base as stronger centralized fire coordination and policy

center has led to significant growth on the campus. There is also more recognition that the model created at this site provides the ability to address other types of critical response needs beyond just wildland fire.

All of this history and evolution in the function of the base creates the basis for the goals and objectives of this master plan process. The plan's goals and objectives embody the mission of the NIFC organization and provide a common basis for evaluating the potential option for future development at the base. The goals also reflect

the changing mission and the need to better communicate the importance and role of the facility to the public.

The following are goals and objectives for the NIFC Master Plan:

- Align facility planning with interagency mission.
- Assemble all pertinent site and facilities programming data into one planning document to provide a complete picture of the current use and future needs of each agency.

- Develop a coordinated facility planning document to manage response to future facility growth and infrastructure needs.
- Develop infrastructure planning and cost guidance for future capital funding requests.
- Provide design guidance for future facilities with an emphasis on cost effectiveness and sustainability.
- Create a stronger identity for the base and the NIFC organization.



NIFC Ramp and Smokejumpers Building

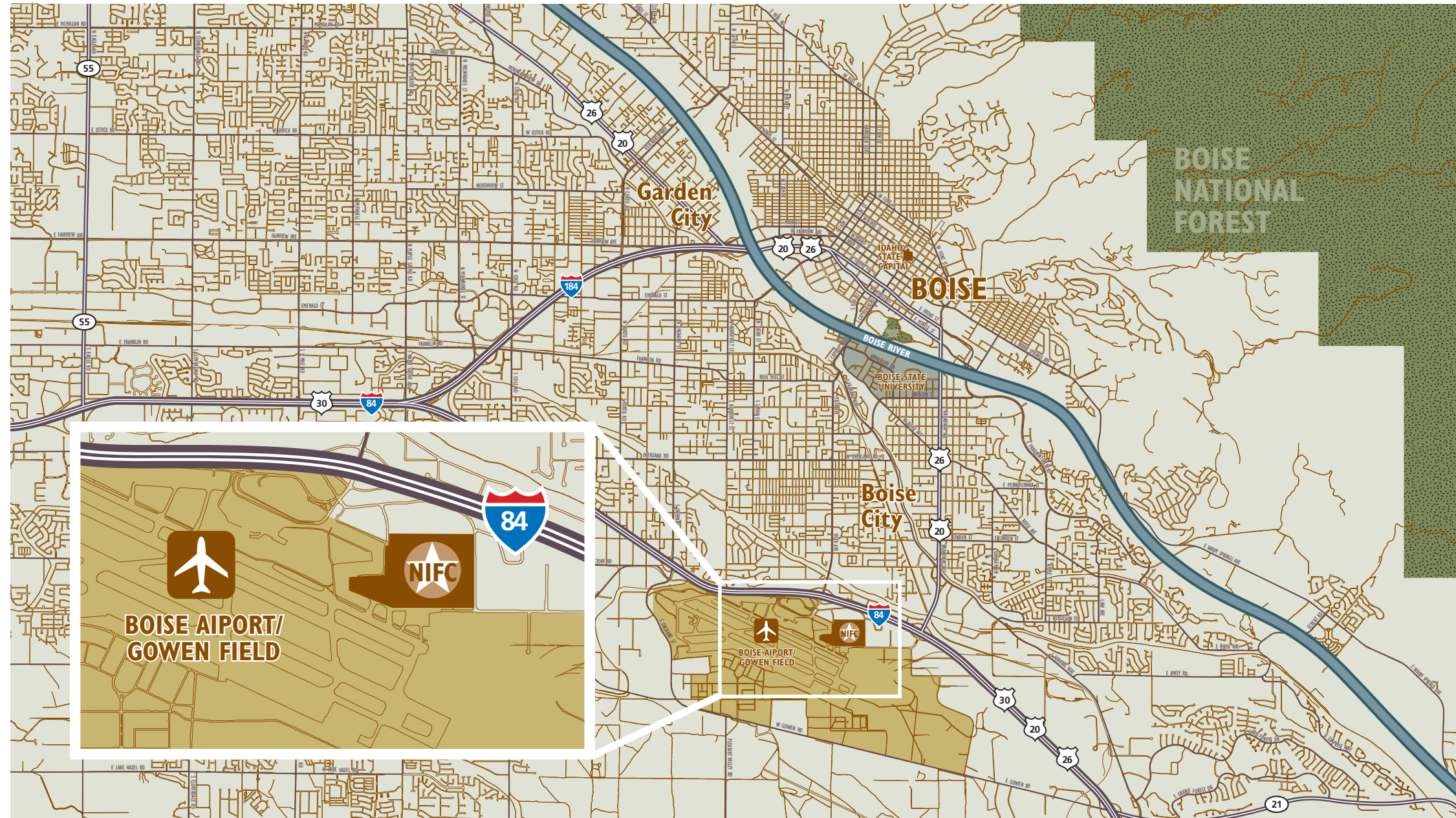
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NIFC in Boise

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION/REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The National Interagency Fire Center currently occupies a 54-acre site located adjacent to the Boise Airport in Boise, Idaho. Boise is located in southwestern Idaho along the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Boise, the capitol of Idaho, has a rich past as a destination along the Oregon Trail during the Gold Rush.

The City of Boise is the largest metropolitan community in the State of Idaho and third largest metropolitan community in the Pacific Northwest at an estimated population of 241,000 people in 2007. Boise has much to offer, as home to many corporate headquarters, above average per capita income and below average cost of living, nearby national forests and trails, and a moderate climate.



Environmental Context

Climate

The climate in Boise is moderate with temperatures reaching 100 degrees in the summer months to lows of below 0 degrees with snow in the winter. Precipitation averages 12.5 inches a year.

Topography

The City of Boise is approximately 2,800 feet above sea level at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The NIFC base is located, adjacent to the Boise Airport. The topography of the site is generally flat, with a gentle slope.

Geology and Soils

Soils within the NIFC site are classified as Elijah Silt Loam.

Vegetation

There are no known threatened or endangered species in the project area. Over time, development has displaced much of the natural vegetation on the site, which has been replaced with landscaping consisting of trees, shrubs, and grass. Vegetation native to the Boise area is typical of high desert landscapes with species such as Juniper, Sage and grasses.