



# Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

**June 20, 2019 Negotiated Rulemaking  
Information Presentation**



# Agenda

## Review

Why are we here?

Guiding Principles

What's Been Covered

## Finish Framework Development

Remaining Concepts

Discussions

## Schedule Next Meeting



# Why are we here?

- IDAPA 58.01.01.614.02.b “The Department will develop and put into effect a Smoke Management Plan for Prescribed Burning consistent with the purpose of Section 600 through 614”
- The use of prescribed fire is increasing nationally and in Idaho
- County Commissioners and citizens in many parts of Idaho report concerns about the health impact caused from prescribed fire smoke.
- Competition within an airshed – ag burning, smoke from other states, woodstove use, tribes, small burners that aren’t currently accounted for
- Need year-round smoke management program



# Guiding Principles for Rulemaking

- Protect public health
- Year round system and account for all prescribed burners
- Meet elements of a smoke management program
  - Reduce the amount of emissions
  - Minimize the impacts from smoke from prescribed burning
  - Protect public health
  - Regional Haze and Exceptional Event Policy Criteria
  - Program Evaluation



# Guiding Principles for Rulemaking

- Incorporate basic smoke management practices
  - Evaluate smoke dispersion conditions to minimize smoke impacts
  - Monitor effects of prescribed fire on air quality
  - Record-keeping of prescribed fire activity and smoke behavior
  - Communication – public notification
  - Consider use of emission reduction techniques
  - Share the airshed



# Smoke Management Program

- Rules
- Operating guide



# Summary of Concepts So Far

- Yearly registration of burners
- Leverage the Airshed Group where possible
- Tiered levels of burner
- Move to a year round program including all prescribed burners
- Smoke management training for burners
- Requirements in rule, implementation in operating guide
- Advisory committee to guide program operation and evaluation
- State smoke clearance



# Delineation of Burner Types

- Major Burner
  - Burn more than 2,250 tons material per year
- Minor Burner
  - Burn less than 2,250 tons material per year
  - Burn Category 1
    - More than 100 tons material per day
  - Burn Category 2
    - Between 2 and 100 tons material per day
  - Burn Category 3
    - Less than 2 tons material per day



# Minor Burners

- Does not meet definition of Major Burner
- These burners don't burn frequently throughout the year
- Can burn large amount in a single day
- 3 categories of requirements based on size of individual burn (emissions) at a single site in a 24 hour period



# Minor Burner General Requirements

- Complete DEQ Smoke Management Training every 5 years
- Burn only with DEQ smoke clearance



# Minor Burner – Burn Category 1

- Register individual burn
- Request to burn business day prior
- Burn with DEQ smoke clearance
- Request local weather forecast related to smoke dispersion
- Person responsible for burn to verify and record weather conditions prior to ignition
- Monitor smoke dispersion
- Report accomplishments to DEQ



# Minor Burner – Burn Category 2

- Request to burn one business day prior
- Burn on designated smoke clearance day
- Monitor smoke dispersion
- Report accomplishments to DEQ



# Minor Burners – Burn Category 3

- Follow smoke approvals on DEQ Open Burning Map
- Encourage use of best smoke management practices



# DEQ Smoke Clearance Process

## Major, Minor Category 1 & 2

- Protection of the NAAQS by evaluating the following:
  - Current and forecasted air quality
  - Expected Emissions
  - Proximity to other burns
  - Acreage, burn type, fuel load and characteristics
  - Elevation
  - Duration of burn
  - Meteorological Conditions
  - Proximity to communities
  - Other relevant factors



# DEQ Smoke Clearance Process

## Minor Category 3

- Burning less than 2 tons of material would be allowed if:
  - DEQ has not issued a Stage 1 Air Pollution Forecast and Caution – which bans all open burning
  - Local air quality ordinance is not triggered which bans open burning



# DEQ Notification Process

- Proposed, cleared, and completed burns available online (Major, Category 1 and 2)
- Post weather forecast on website



Next Meeting:

Proposed August 1 Tentative  
in CDA

Topic: Discuss initial rule  
language

