



# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AIMS TO “KEEP SMALL FIRES SMALL” WITH EXPANDED SEAT FLEET

Supplementing its single engine tanker fleet with two Fire Bosses has added key capabilities and support for IDL's fire aviation program

With recent population increases in key locations across the state, Idaho faces a growing Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where people are building homes in areas near or among lands prone to wildfire. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) relies on its fleet of single engine tankers (SEATs) to quickly and effectively combat wildfires and protect life, property and resources across 6.3 million acres of state, private, and federal lands.

With a seasonal goal of keeping 94% of all wildfires at 10 acres or less, the Fire Boss is an integral part of IDL fire suppression efforts. The 800-gallon capacity amphibious aircraft can scoop water and perform continuous drops on a fire without needing to return to a base, and it has become an efficient, cost-effective initial attack tool for IDL fire managers.





## Key benefits of the Fire Boss:

- **Cost-Effective Versatility:** The Fire Boss's combined agility and scooping mechanism has filled a unique niche in Idaho's diverse wildland environment, enabling the state to achieve rapid turnaround times and shorter fire suppression missions.
- **Technological Advantage:** Working in Idaho's many remote areas, the Fire Boss's on-board gel mixing system has allowed pilots to enhance water loads in flight, after scooping from nearby lakes and reservoirs. The enhanced loads are dropped directly on a fire line, helping the state aggressively attack and contain small blazes.
- **Improved Initial Attack:** Able to mobilize in minutes from small air bases in the WUI and perform continuous precision drops, the Fire Boss has become an integral part of the department's rapid, safe and effective initial air attack strategy and has helped IDL achieve its metric for success in past years, keeping 94% of all wildfires at 10 acres or less.

Since 2012, Dauntless Air has been assisting Idaho in protecting people, land and property from the devastation of wildfires. With the addition of two Fire Bosses, the state has a stronger initial attack punch that's keeping fires small and costs within budget.

