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(RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 1986

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Mr. Robert F. Burford
Director
Bureau of Land Management
Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Burford:

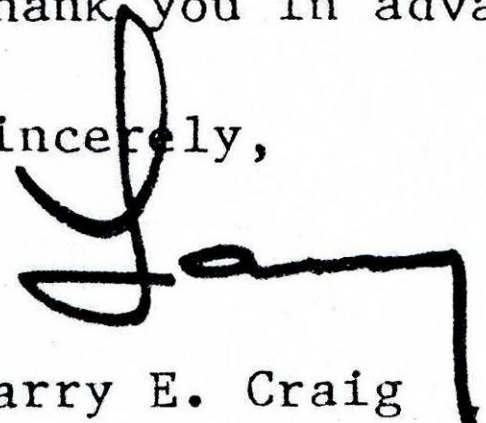
We are writing to direct your attention to the new crisis developing in Idaho as a result of the unprecedented number and magnitude of the fires sweeping Idaho's rangelands.

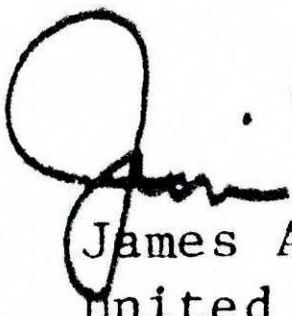
Preliminary figures compiled this morning by the State Bureau of Land Management office indicate that more than 378,000 acres already have been burned in more than 200 separate fires. The magnitude of this problem can best be appreciated by comparing these figures to the average annual 90,000-acre loss and by reflecting on the fact that the Idaho fire season is expected to last at least another month.

As you know, Bob, our success in rehabilitating this rangeland and wildlife habitat depends on BLM's ability to react quickly and effectively. Aerial application of grass seed must be completed after the ashes cool and before the first rain. Seed applied by ground rigs must be planted before the first frost. Since timing is so critical to the success of these efforts, we respectfully request that you make use of your authority to expedite the implementation of the rehabilitation plans currently being completed by BLM on the state level.

We appreciate the past assistance you have given us on similar issues and stand ready to help you resolve this current crisis should the need arise. Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Larry E. Craig
Member of Congress


James A. McClure
United States Senate

Steven D. Symms
United States Senate