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## FEATURE STORY DIGEST



Here is the latest content from the Idaho National Laboratory Newsroom. These feature stories are available to run in your publication or on your website. [Click here](#) to access the Word docs with captions and hi-res photos. If you're interested in writing your own story, contact our media relations team and they can connect you with the experts you'll need. See more INL news at [www.inl.gov](http://www.inl.gov). Follow us on social media: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

July 1, 2020

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### [ONE YEAR AFTER HISTORIC SHEEP FIRE, IDAHO SITE CONTRACTORS, AGENCIES EYE COMING FIRE SEASON](#)

As summer nears and Idaho National Laboratory prepares for fire season, the Sheep Fire of 2019 is still fresh in everyone's collective memory. The fire burned an estimated 112,106 acres of vegetation, the largest fire in the Site's 70-year history. It also affected 21 soils types, nine vegetation classes, and numerous wildlife species, including greater sage grouse, designated as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the state of Idaho.



### [INL CODING COALITION HELPS LOCAL TEAM RANK HIGHLY IN NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY COMPETITION](#)

It would have been a challenge even in normal times, but a four-girl team from Skyline High School in Idaho Falls overcame quarantine and equipment issues to finish 29th in Girls Go CyberStart, a national online problem-solving competition held in late May.



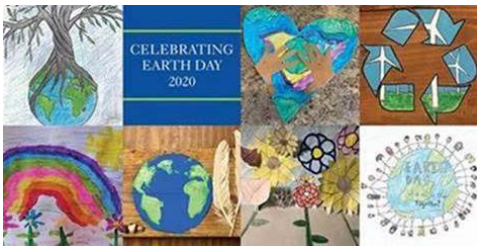
### [SPUDS AND SPACE: NASA AND IDAHO HAVE A LONG HISTORY](#)

When people think of NASA, Idaho doesn't exactly jump to mind. Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center are in Florida. Johnson Space Center and Mission Control are in Texas. And the Jet Propulsion Laboratory is in California. But Idaho's contributions to space exploration date back to the early years of the space race and continue today.

In fact, when NASA launches the Perseverance mission to Mars this summer, its rover's heat and power will come from a radioisotope power system (RPS) assembled and tested at Idaho National Laboratory.

### [FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY GOES VIRTUAL](#)

How do you organize a popular event that brings together people from our local community when that community can't be together in person? That was the challenge faced by the organizers of the Idaho Falls Earth Day celebration, which has taken place every year since the 1990s. The fiftieth anniversary of the celebration saw further transformation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic as observances largely went online.



#### **BRINGING RESILIENT POWER TO PUERTO RICO WITH MICROREACTORS**

The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority began addressing the challenge of energy independence with an Integrated Resources Plan that calls for a steady increase of renewables as well as natural gas. Yet the minimum amount of electricity needed is high enough that it is difficult to meet relying primarily on wind and solar power. To meet the demand without the need for more fossil fuels, one promising candidate is the use of microreactors.