

Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center



2009 Tornado
Black Hills National Forest – Crook County Wyoming

2009 Annual Report

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

2009 YEAR END REPORT

The Great Plains zone has experienced its second year of above average precipitation and below average temperatures. Although this is a welcome site and our drought index is non-existent, it has left much of the zone with an abundance of fuel. However preliminary indications are that the 2010 fire season will be similar to our previous two.

All five of the National Weather Service offices utilized within the zone are reporting 2009 to be one of the coolest on record with average summer temperatures ranging 1-5 degrees below normal and average annual precipitation ranging from near normal to well above. The Nebraskan panhandle reported 39.9 inches above their normal snow fall for the year.

The year began with a very windy January, becoming windy and snowy by March and April, with much of the zone being hit by three blizzards within two weeks. The storms buried western South Dakota and Eastern Wyoming, with reports up to 99 inches of snow in the Northern Black Hills, and hurricane strength winds on the plains east of Rapid City. With the snow and the warmer temperatures of spring came the threat of flooding in much South Dakota causing many counties to be declared Federal disaster areas. This prompted an agreement between the Governors of the Dakotas to create an EMAC order for the Rocky Mountain Team C to assist with flooding in Fargo North Dakota. This assignment would turn out to be the only activity for any Rocky Mountain area team.

Early May began the first of eleven tornados that touched down within the zone, with the strongest occurring on July 13th in Crook county Wyoming on the Bear Lodge district of the Black Hills National Forest. The tornado was rated F2 on the Fujita Scale, with winds estimated between 120-130 mph, creating a ½ mile swath of downed trees and destruction. Strong winds and hail remained the norm for most of the summer, with large hail, up to softball size being reported across the zone.

The year went out with a bang with the Christmas Blizzard of 2009 creating blizzard conditions across the entire zone and snagging holiday travel for many. The storm dropped 5 to 50 plus inches of snow, winds in excess of 60 mph and temperatures dipping well below freezing.

Although clearly the weather was the big story for 2009 in the Great Plains zone, we did have three large fires, one in Wyoming and two in the South Dakota plains. We also had one Type three incident, but it was caught at 12.3 acres. In addition, the wildland fire season may have been quiet, but crews have been working hard in the field with nearly all agencies significantly increasing accomplished acres through prescribed fire and/or pile burning.

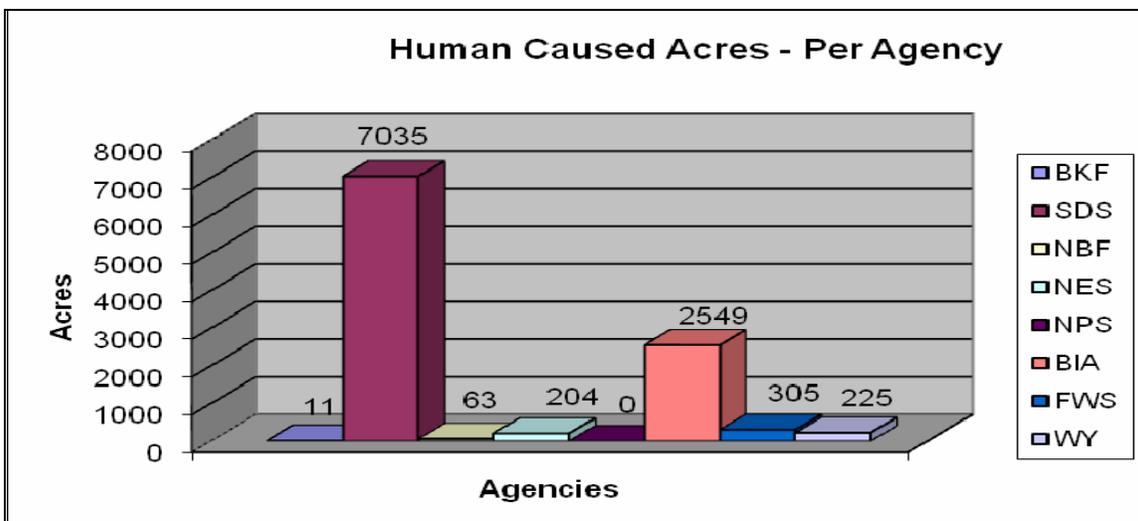
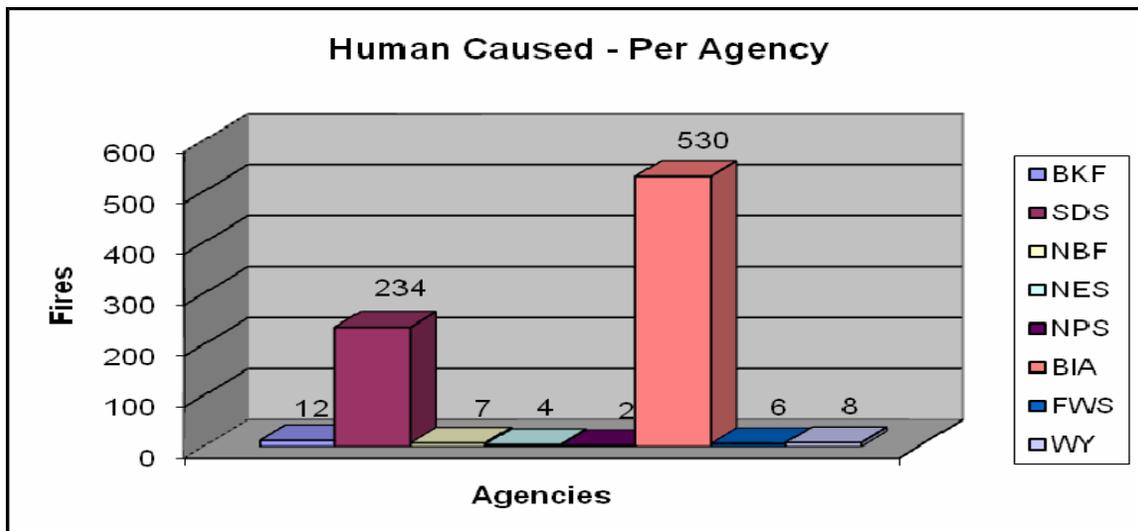
The Great Plains Zone not being the only area to have a quiet season, there was limited out of the area assignments. However, several agencies honored their agreements by swapping resources when possible.

Fire and Acres by Cause per Agency as Reported on the National Situation Report

UNIT	AGENCY/STATE	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL		PRESCRIBED FIRE	
		FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SD-SDS	SD-SDS	234	7035	57	204	291	7239	22	378
SD-TNC	SD-PCI	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	701
SD-BKF	SD-BKF	12	11	37	34	49	45	75	27789
NE-NBF	NE-NBF	7	63	6	164	13	227	8	1725
NE-NES	NE-NES	4	204	3	0	7	204	0	0
SD-BLM	SD-SOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	858
NE-MWP	NE-AFP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	472
NE-MWP	NE-HOP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NE-MWP	SD-BDP	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	880
NE-MWP	WY-DTP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NE-MWP	SD-JCP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NE-MWP	SD-MRP	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	50
NE-MWP	SD-WCP	0	0	2	1	2	1	3	737
NE-MWP	NE-SBP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	45
NE-MWP	SD-MOP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	80
	TOTAL					5	1	8	2264
SD-GPA	SD-CCA	27	195	0	0	27	195	4	181
SD-GPA	ND-SRA	74	509	1	0	75	509	5	518
SD-GPA	SD-LBA	16	33	1	1	17	34	5	478
SD-GPA	SD-SIA	6	2	0	0	6	2	0	0
SD-GPA	SD-RBA	123	95	7	2	130	97	6	116
SD-GPA	SD-CRA	65	261	10	13	75	274	0	0
SD-GPA	SD-PRA	191	990	21	73	212	1063	4	795
SD-GPA	SD-FSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SD-GPA	SD-YAA	6	33	0	0	6	33	0	0
SD-GPA	NE-WIA	22	431	0	0	22	431	29	3710
	TOTAL					570	2638	53	5798
CO-R6R	SD-HUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	3577
CO-R6R	SD-LCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO-R6R	SD-LAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	186
CO-R6R	SD-MDR	3	3	0	0	3	3	21	1758
CO-R6R	SD-SLR	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	950
CO-R6R	SD-WAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	631
CO-R6R	NE-CLR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO-R6R	NE-FNR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO-R6R	NE-NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO-R6R	NE-RBR	2	302	0	0	2	302	30	4805
CO-R6R	NE-VAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	246
CO-R6R	ND-KUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	376
CO-R6R	ND-TWR	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10
	TOTAL					6	305	79	12539
WY-CTY	WY-CRX	5	221	4	1871	9	2092	0	0
WY-CTY	WY-WEX	3	4	1	0	4	4	0	0
	TOTAL					13	2096	0	0

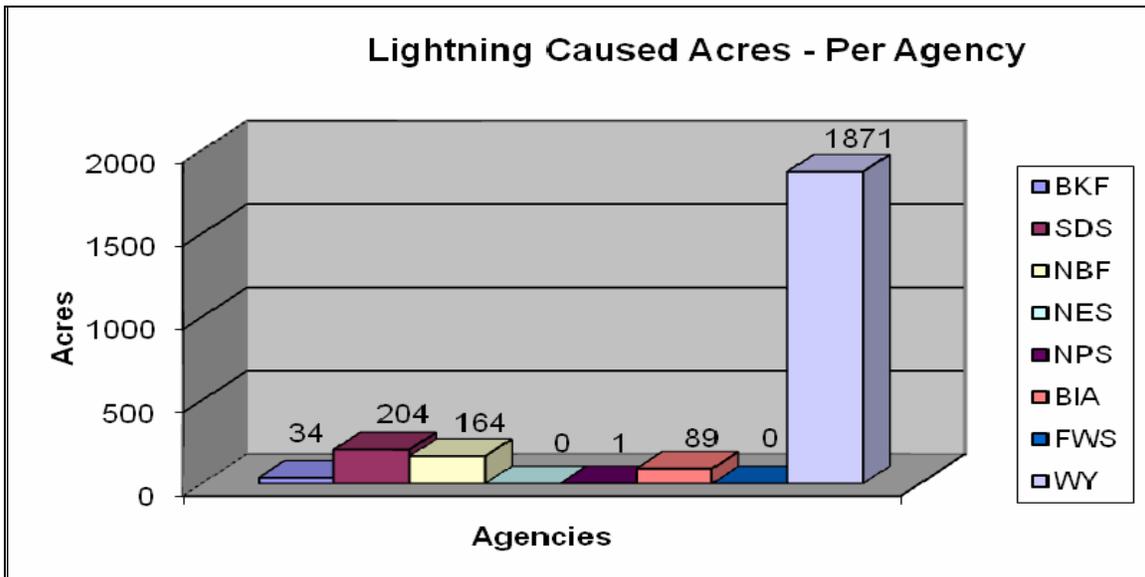
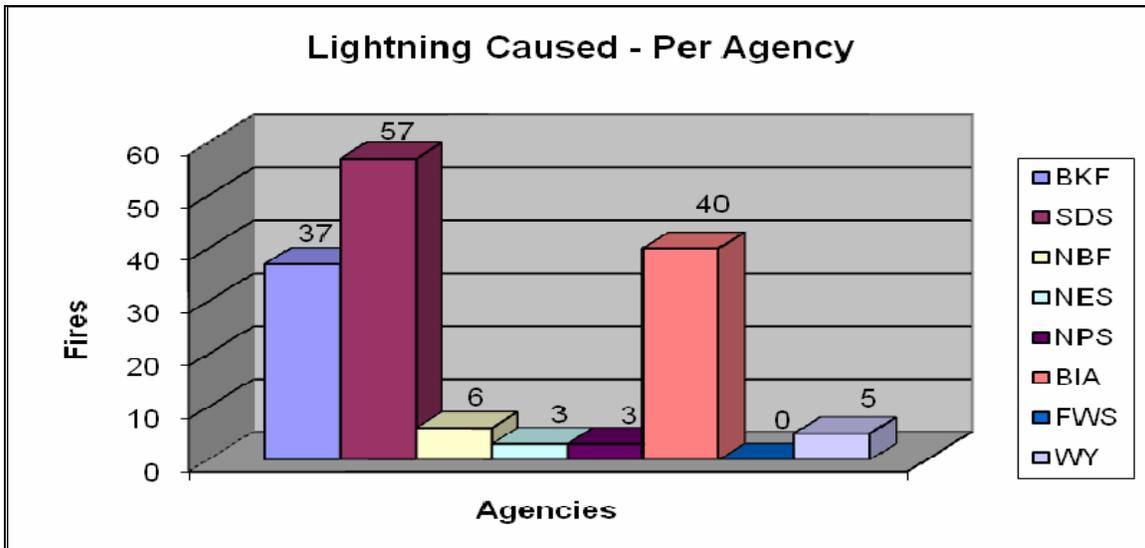
2009
FIRES AND ACRES WITHIN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS
ZONE

AGENCY	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL	
	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SDS	234	7035	57	204	291	7239
BKF	12	11	37	34	49	45
NBF	7	63	6	164	13	227
NES	4	204	3	0	7	204
NPS	2	0	3	1	5	1
BIA	530	2549	40	89	570	2638
FWS	6	305	0	0	6	305
WYS CO	8	225	5	1871	13	2096
TOTAL	803	10392	151	2363	954	12755
False Alarms					100	
TOTAL INCIDENTS					1054	



2009

FIRES PER AGENCY SUPPORTED AND TRACKED BY GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH



These numbers are taken from what is reported to Great Plains from the field and submitted on the National Situation report. Although Great Plains does not have the responsibility for initial attack for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife, the State of Nebraska and portions of South Dakota outside the Black Hills Fire Protection area, we have listed all fires equally as they still are a portion of the workload at the Center via tracking and Intelligence duties.

2009 LARGE FIRE ACTIVITY

Incident Name	State-Unit	Start Date	Cause	Acres	Team Type	Incident Commander
Hurely Butte	SD-SDS	03/16/2009	UI	525	0	J.Kitterman
NE Jim River RD	SD-SDS	03/17/2009	H	650	3	L. Nickles
Windmill Draw	WY-CRX	08/06/2009	L	1933	5	R. Williamson

2009 ALL RISK INCIDENT ACTIVITY

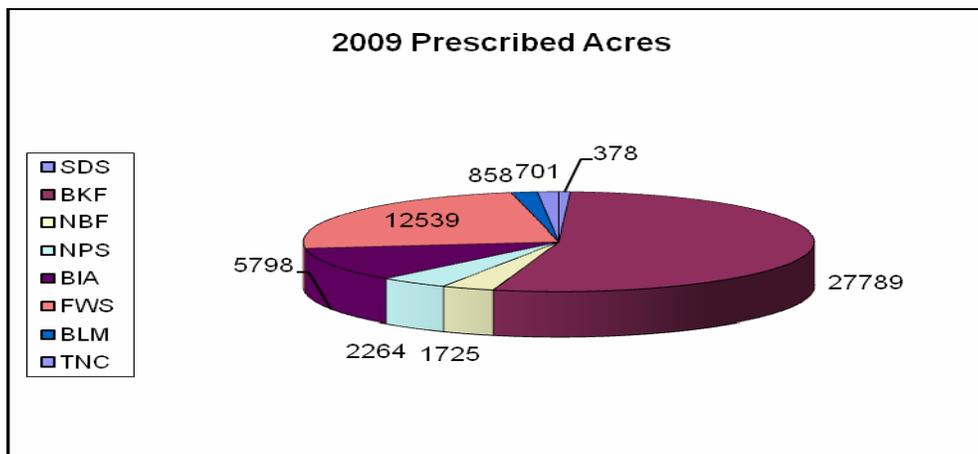
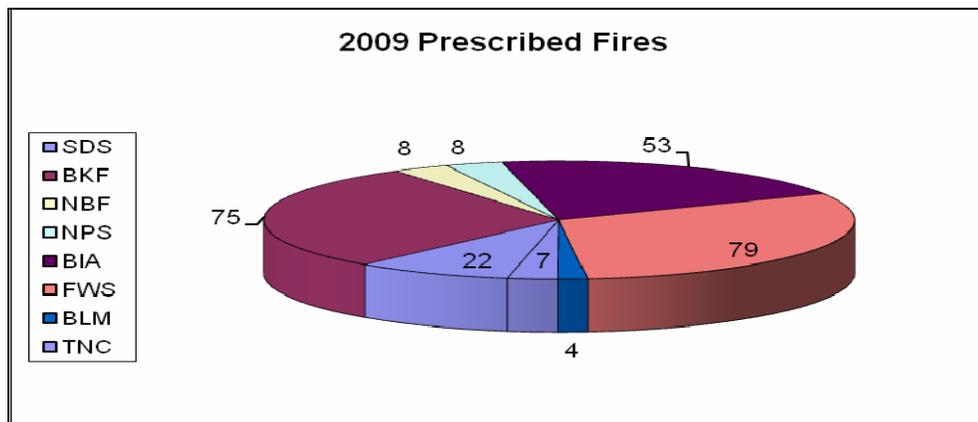
Incident Name	State-Unit	Type of Incident	Start Date	Team Type	Incident Commander
09 Spring Floods	ND-NDS	Flood	03/27/2009	2	J. Lowe
Crook Co Tornado	WY-CRX	Tornado	07/13/2009	0	CRX OEM
Fire Wood Ops	SD-SDS	Public Assist	12/22/2009	2	J. Lowe



2009 PRESCRIBED/PILE BURNING ACTIVITY

Agencies have become more diligent in correctly reporting actual incident numbers and acres. Statistical numbers should be close if not right on to each agency's program reporting.

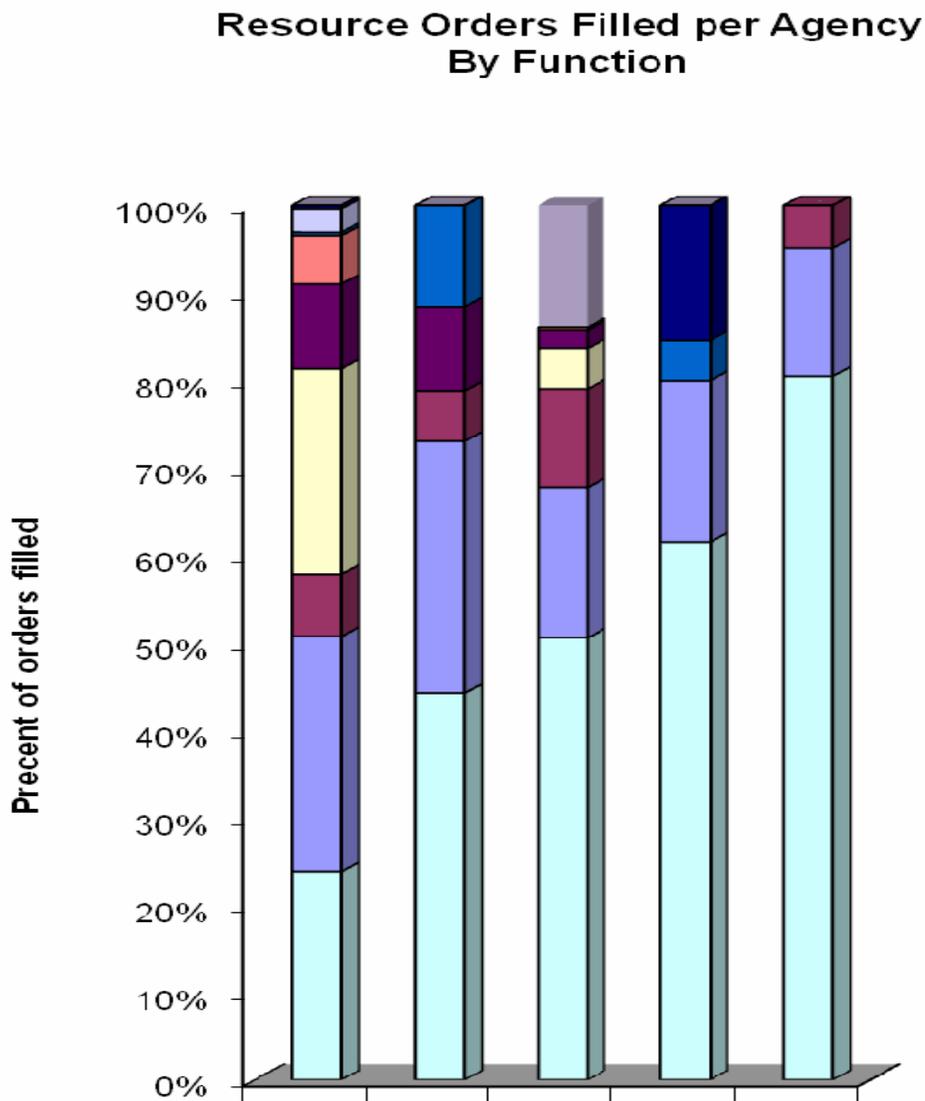
Agency	Number of Fires	Acres
SDS	22	378
BKF	75	27789
NBF	8	1725
NPS	8	2264
BIA	53	5798
FWS	79	12539
BLM	4	858
TNC	7	701
Total	256	52052



2009 Bureau of Land Management Information

As part of the annual operating plan between South Dakota Bureau of Land Management and the State of South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire (SD-SDS), all fire suppression activities are the responsibility of SD-SDS, therefore suppression information and numbers are lumped into the SD-SDS statistics. However, prescribed fire is not part of the agreement; therefore information given to Northern Great Plains Dispatch is listed within the GPC Situation Report.

RESOURCE ORDERS BY FUNCTION – FILLED PER AGENCY

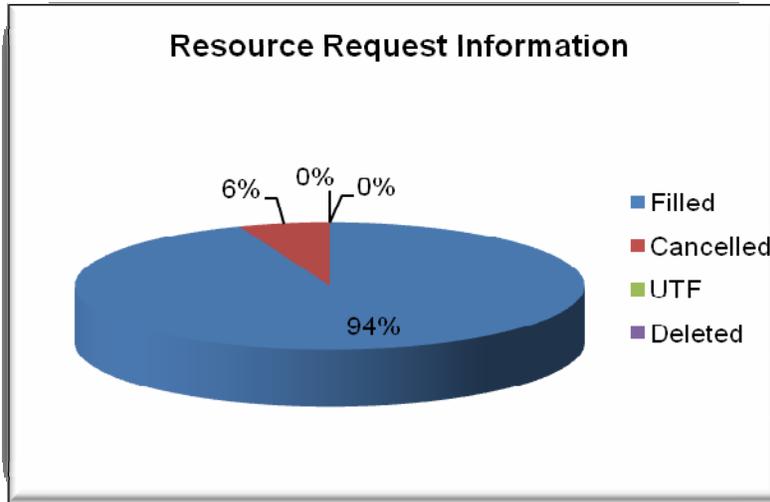


	OH	CR	EQ	AC	SU
■ VFD	0	0	48	0	0
■ GPC/PVT	1	0	0	10	0
□ BLM	7	0	0	0	0
■ WY	1	6	0	3	0
■ FWS	15	0	1	0	0
■ BIA	26	5	7	0	0
■ NPS	63	0	16	0	0
■ NBF	19	3	39	0	2
■ SDS	72	15	59	12	6
■ BKF	64	23	174	40	33

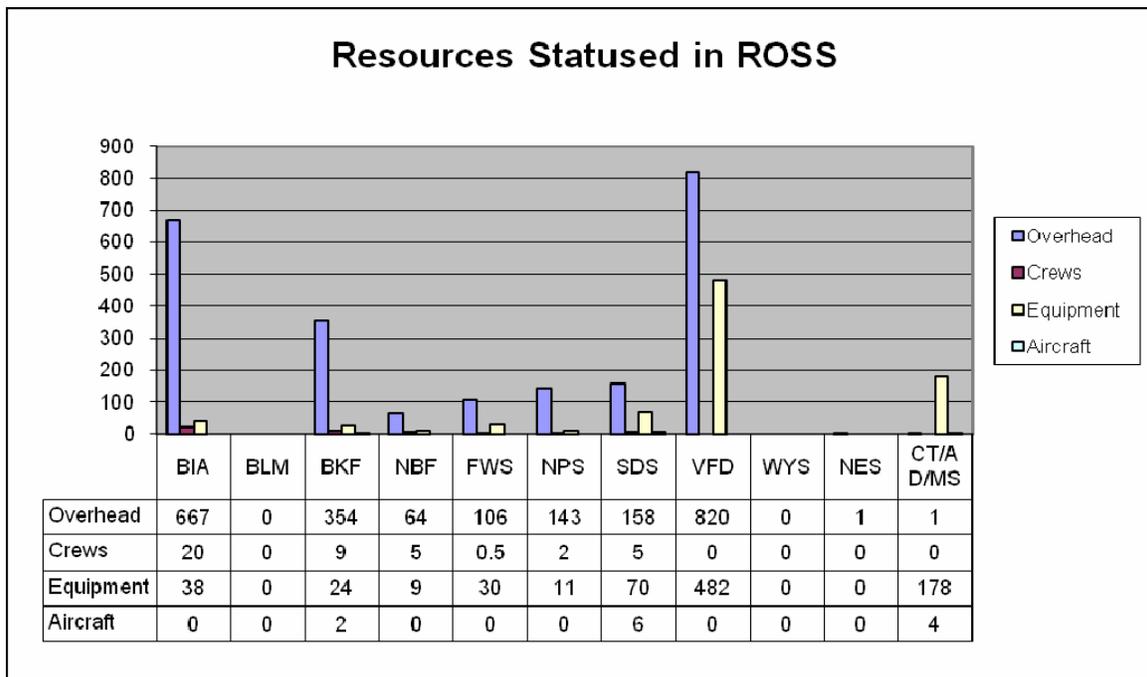
Function

RESOURCES ORDERED THROUGH GPC

RESOURCE TYPE	FILLED	CANCELED	UTF	DELETED
AIRCRAFT	65	4	0	0
CREWS	52	1	0	11
OVERHEAD	268	10	1	0
EQUIPMENT	344	17	0	3
SUPPLIES	41	15	0	2
TOTAL	770	47	1	16



RESOURCES STATUSED IN ROSS PER AGENCY PER FUNCTIONAL AREA



CT/AD/MS = Contracts, AD's and Misc such as NWS, NES, etc..

2009 Northern Great Plains Air Operations

Statistics for Rapid City, Air Tanker Base

The Rapid City Air Tanker Base (RAP ATB) was in full operation from June 1st through October 1th for the 2009 fire season. 2009 was the 3rd year for a full service retardant contract with ICL Performance Products LP. RAP ATB supported wildland fire operations in SD. This was accomplished with a clean safety record with no reportable injuries or accidents.

It was a quiet year for fixed wing flight operations out of the RAP ATB. One large air tanker was stationed at the ATB for 2 days for the Fossil fire after 1 retardant drop that was loaded at the JEFFCO ATB. The ATB also hosted the SDWFSD SEAT at the end of the season when the Hot Springs Airport was undergoing runway improvements, but no missions were flown. The ATB received personnel support from the Arapahoe / Roosevelt NF, and SD Division of Wildland Fire Suppression.

Number of air tankers (Type I and Type II) flown out of RAP ATB	= 0
Number of Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) flown out of RAP ATB	= 0
Total number of air tankers flown out of RAP ATB	= 0
Number of air tanker (Type I & Type II) flight missions (loads)	= 0
Number of Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) flight missions (loads)	= 0
Total number of air tanker flight missions (loads)	= 0
Gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered by Type I & Type II air tankers	= 0
Gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered by Type III & Type IV air tankers	= 0
Gallons of water delivered by Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs)	= 0
Total gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered to wildland fires	= 0
Flight hours for Type I & Type II air tankers out of RAP ATB	= 0
Flight hours for Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) out of RAP ATB	= 0
Total flight hours for Type I & 2 air tankers & SEATs out of RAP ATB	= 0
Number of wildland fires RAP ATB supported	= 1

** All statistics are taken from the Rapid City Air Tanker Base report.*

Expanded SEAT program for South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression

In addition to the SEAT's that are normally located at the Rapid City Tanker Base, the state of South Dakota in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service, maintained four additional SEAT bases, located in Lemmon, Buffalo, Pierre, and Hot Springs South Dakota. The Lemmon SEAT base was intended to support incidents in the northwest portions of the state and to assist the Grand River and Dakota Prairie Grassland along with the BIA on lands in north-central South Dakota and south-central North Dakota. The SEAT located in Hot Springs was intended to be utilized for southwestern counties of South Dakota, since they were identified as still having drought conditions. Two missions were flown from the Hot Springs Base in 2009. One incident was private land and the other was a Forest Service and State Lands Fire.

South Dakota National Guard Support

The SDNG assisted the Interagency wildland fire operations with one incident for the season, the Fossil fire. Below are the statistics on that incident:

Total sorties:	1
Total flight hours:	2.5
Total bucket drops:	6
Total gallons of water delivered:	3600

National Type I Exclusive Use Contract H-N184CH

During the 90 day MAP, the helicopter was in Custer 44 days with 1.1 flight hours on the Forest performing Initial Attack, and .9 flight hours for pilot proficiency. The other 46 days of the MAP plus the 130 day extension were utilized for fire support off Forest. The initial extended contract period (Jan 31-May 17) was supporting Texas Forest Service with wildland fire suppression on private and state owned lands. The extension from Sept 12-Oct 4 was spent performing large fire support for USFS owned lands in Oregon, Region 6. The helicopter was primarily used for large fire support, and initial attack incidents.

Flight hours for initial attack	= 106.5
Gallons of water dropped for initial attack	= 463,748
Flight hours for extended attack	= 256.8
Total gallons of water dropped for extended attack	= 990,567
Flight hours for initial and extended attack	= 363.3
Total gallons of water dropped	= 1,454,315

Total Contract cost:

Total earnings paid to the contractor were \$2,021,353.03 for availability, \$1,263,429.80 for flight time, \$30,940.97 for service mileage, \$70,029.00 for pilots' extended standby (ES), \$70,029.00 for mechanics' ES, \$23,582.00 for drivers' ES, and \$136,241 for overnight charges. Out of their 14 hour days for the total of 220 days (3080 hours), the helicopter was unavailable for approximately 29.5 hours for maintenance discrepancies. The Helicopter maintained 100% availability though out the entire Mandatory Availability Period. Total Cost for the 2009 contract was \$3,622,949.16.

Interagency Helicopter Program

The exclusive use contract on the Black Hills National Forest began on June 18th and ended on September 15th. The winter brought plenty of moisture to the Black Hills area and continued through much of the summer. That moisture provided a chance for a busy end to the summer fire season, but the temps stayed cool with enough moisture to minimize fire starts. The summer as a whole was pretty slow. We ended up with 30 Initial Attack's on forest and traveled to the Arapahoe Roosevelt National Forest for a couple of smaller fires.

The 2009 Black Hills Interagency Helitack crew was comprised of eight firefighters who staffed the helicopter seven days a week.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Black Hills Helitack. We celebrated this summer with an open house in July. We had an excellent turn out with approximately 120 people attending the reunion.

Number of Initial attacks for the season	= 30
Total number of flight hours (fire and non-fire)	= 71.9
Number of personnel transported	= 193
Number of person days on fires	= 261
Number of person days on project	= 52
Number of person days on training	= 8
Total pounds of cargo internal/external	= 28,655
Total gallons of water/retardant dropped	= 26,413
Total Contract cost	= \$377,078.93

