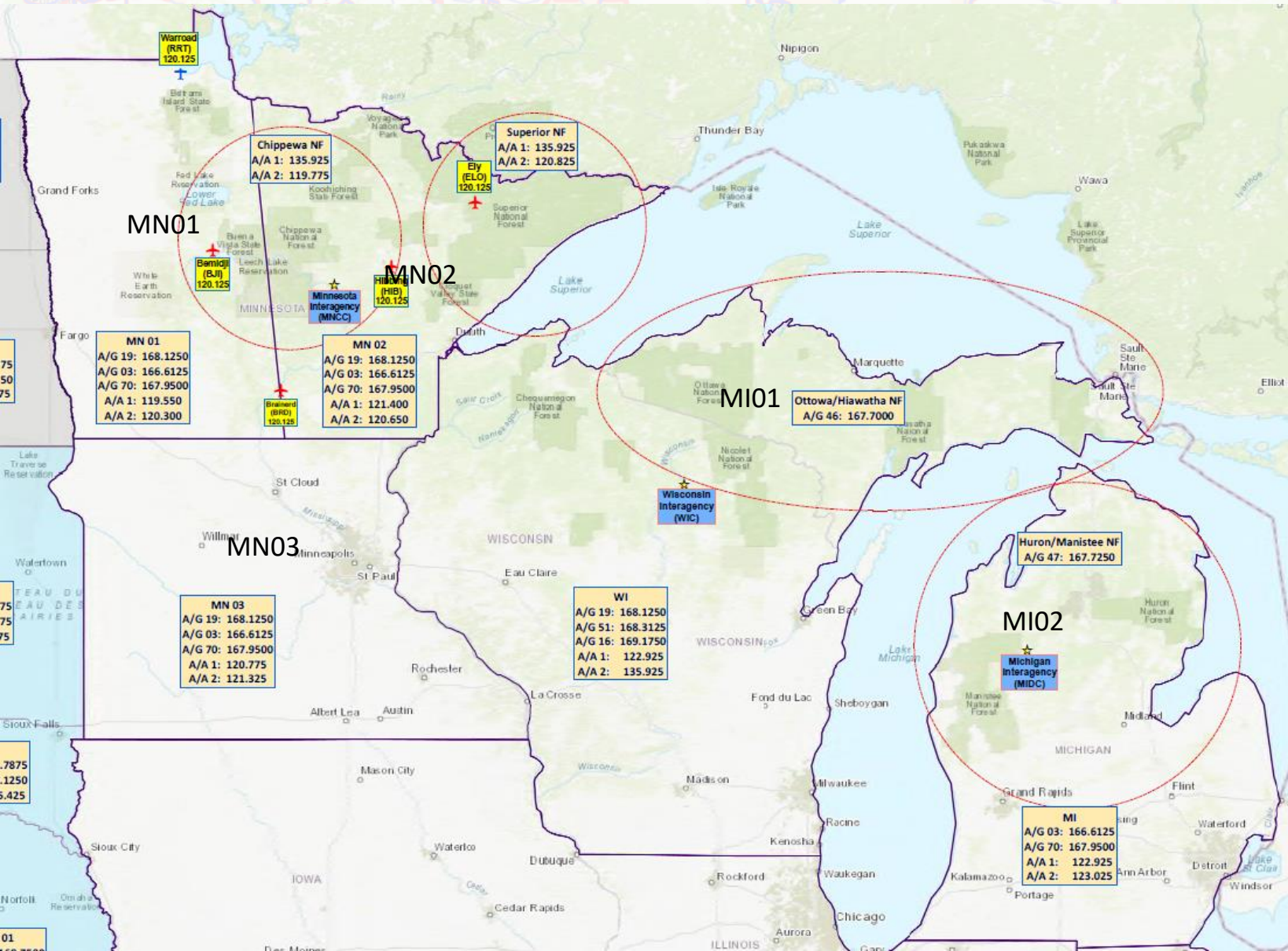


BOUNDARIES MATTER

Initial Attack Frequencies

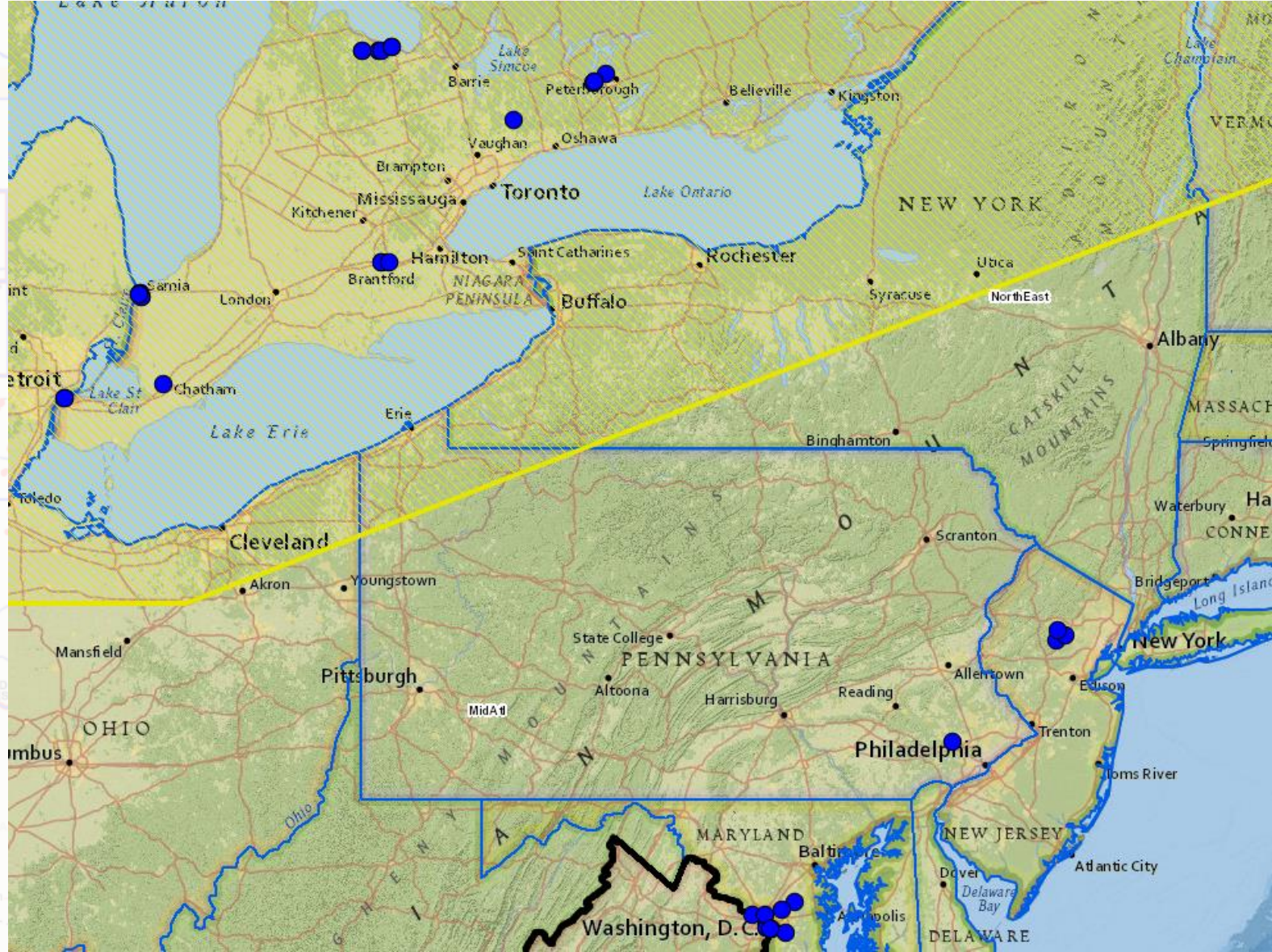
Boundaries



- Dispatch Area –
 - A dispatch center's area of responsibility
- Frequency Zone –
 - The area in which given frequencies are authorized for use
 - Also known as:
 - Initial Attack Zone
 - All Risk Management Zone (ARMZ)

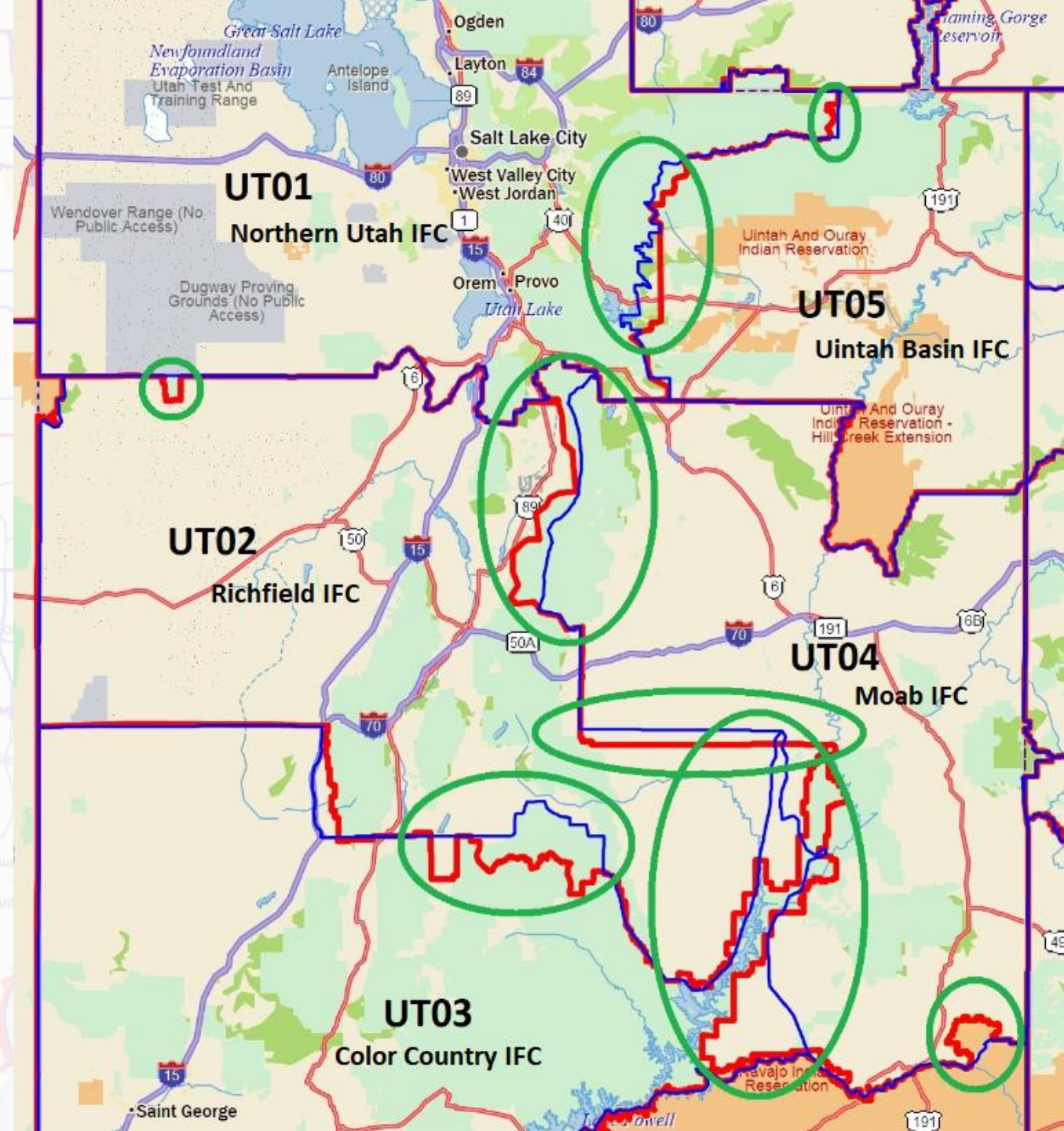
Why are Freq Boundaries Important?

- Frequencies are engineered by FAA and DOI/USDA frequency managers to ensure that, with proper usage, they will not cause or receive interference from other authorized users.
- If a frequency is used outside of (or above) the area for which it is licensed, not only could it cause interference, but if it received interference during a critical time, the consequences could be severe.



Alignment

- Throughout the GACCs, Dispatch Areas and Frequencies Zones are not in alignment
 - By design
 - Because dispatch areas of responsibilities change, therefore boundaries change, and the NIICD CDO is not notified of those changes





Unforeseen Consequences

- Any changes to Dispatch Areas and/or Frequency Zones may affect:
 - Fire Danger Rating Areas, etc.
 - Initial attack frequency changes, loss, or use restrictions

A Process is Needed

- As fire apps are starting to centralize, especially with mapping, an ultimate “Keeper of the Boundaries” needs to be established.
- If not already in place, a designated chain of command from dispatch area to GACC to national needs to be established with “Go To” people identified. This information needs to be provided up the chain in case questions arise.
- Deadlines for each step needs to be set.
- Changes can only be **implemented** once per year.



Goal Dates

- **September 15** – final date for any changes to Dispatch Area boundaries for following fire season
- **October 15** – the Keeper finishes updates to the data layers and gives them to NIICD
- **November 1** – NIICD provides all data to FAA and DOI/USDA frequency managers for approvals and any required engineering
- **January** – frequencies released from FAA and DOI/USDA frequency managers with approvals and changes
- **February 1** – any changes received from the frequency managers will be edited into GIS data layers; GIS layers passed to map makers
- **March** – frequency maps due out to field & posted to <ftp.nifc.gov>

A map of the United States and parts of Canada, showing state and provincial boundaries, major cities, and water bodies. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing text.

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