



# Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center 2012 Annual Report



Salmon-Challis National Forest  
Salmon and Challis Field Offices – Idaho Falls District BLM



## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A record number of acres – 429,063 – burned within the Central Idaho Fire Zone during the 2012 fire season. Field-going Forest personnel began a mandatory check-in process with CIFIC which caused an overall increase in radio communications and phone calls.



## INCIDENT SUMMARY

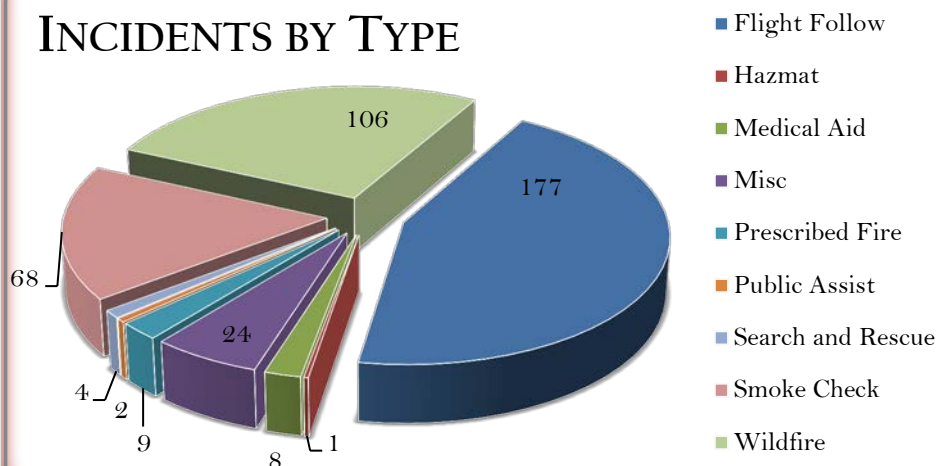
In general, business within Central Idaho Fire Center (CIFIC) was near normal. A total of 401 incidents were created, slightly below the office's 10-year average of 437.

Three of the four Search and Rescue incidents were to assist Lemhi County; the remaining one was an assist to Custer County. USFS aviation resources assisted with two of the searches.

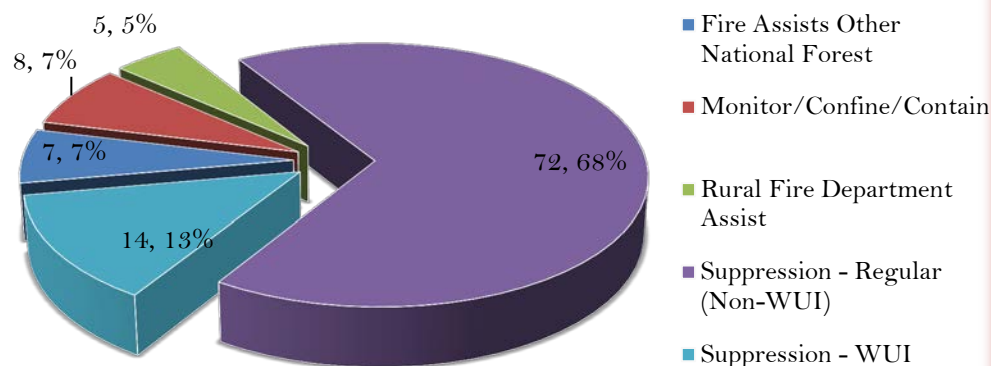
The majority of the Miscellaneous incidents were related to preparedness scenarios and training.

Agency personnel assisted Lemhi County on 5 fires on private land, including the Tenmile Fire that burned about 440 acres of BLM land.

### INCIDENTS BY TYPE



### WILDFIRE INCIDENTS BY SUB-TYPE



## FIRE ACTIVITY

The first fire of 2012 was reported to the North Fork Ranger District on February 20<sup>th</sup> and was human-caused. The last new fire of the year was reported on October 17<sup>th</sup> and called out the following day.

July was the busiest month for initial attack with 50 new fires. The largest bust occurred between July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>, when 37 new fires were recorded, including both the Halstead and Mustang Fires. The single busiest day for new fires was July 28<sup>th</sup> with 11 new fires.

2012		FIRES	ACRES
USFS	Lightning	71	428,257
	Human	10	88
BLM	Lightning	4	199
	Human	4	507
Rural Assist	Lightning	2	.5
	Human	4	11
TOTAL		95	429,063

USFS	YEARS	AVERAGE ANNUAL FIRES	MEDIAN ANNUAL ACRES	AVERAGE ANNUAL ACRES
<u>5 year</u>	2008 - 2012	55	5,664	97,479
<u>10 year</u>	2003 - 2012	73	44,077	42,094
<u>20 year</u>	1993 - 2012	98	16,707	45,528
<u>30 year</u>	1983 - 2012	104	7,959	36,990
<u>40 year</u>	1973 - 2012	103	6,002	30,783

The Salmon-Challis National Forest eclipsed its former record of 417,260 acres that burned in 2000. The number of fires reported was more consistent with historical trends, whereas the past few years have seen very low numbers.

The Salmon Field Office of the Idaho Falls District saw an increase in fire activity in 2012 as well. Though not near the 6,714 acres burned in 2003, the office documented the 5<sup>th</sup> highest acreage on record.

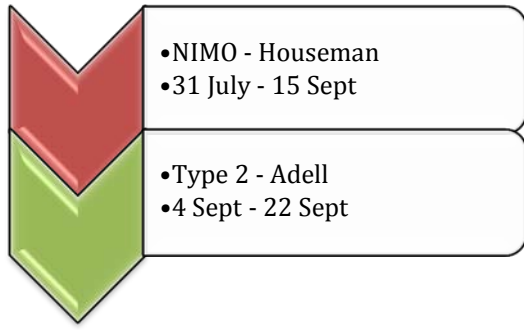
BLM	YEARS	AVERAGE ANNUAL FIRES	MEDIAN ANNUAL ACRES	AVERAGE ANNUAL ACRES
<u>5 year</u>	2008 - 2012	6	3	143
<u>10 year</u>	2003 - 2012	9	15	766
<u>20 year</u>	1993 - 2012	10	20	449
<u>30 year</u>	1983 - 2012	11	24	435

## LARGE FIRES

The Kriley and Tenmile Fires were both contained the day following ignition and managed by initial attack incident commanders. The Merino Fire was minimally staffed under the direction of contiguous Type 3 ICs.

LARGE FIRES	LAND	ACRES	START DATE	CAUSE
Kriley	IFD	694	4 June	Lightning
Tenmile	LEX	440	18 July	Human
Halstead	SCF	181,948	27 July	Lightning
Mustang Complex*	SCF	341,488	30 July	Lightning
Bench	SCF	222	9 August	Lightning
Merino	SCF	7,863	9 August	Lightning

## Halstead Fire

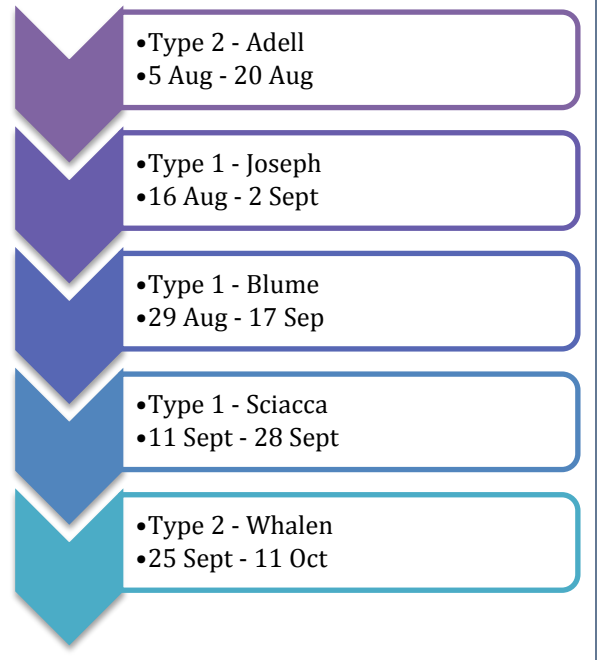


The Halstead Fire was initially going to be managed by a Type 3 Team; however, conditions necessitated higher management and a National Incident Management Organization was ordered on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The team also directed initial attack on 3 fires, including the Bench Fire. The Halstead Fire impacted 171,638 acres of the SCNF and 10,310 acres of the Sawtooth National Forest.

A Type 3 Team was in place on the Mustang Fire on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Mustang Complex was formally created on August 6<sup>th</sup>, when a Type 2 Team was ordered. The Complex eventually grew to a total of 341,488 acres, connecting 8 fires on the S-CNF as well as the Hamilton Fire on the Bitterroot National Forest and the Cabin Springs Fire on the Nez Perce National Forest. Additionally, both the Lost Packer and Mustang Fires burned over the forest boundary and onto the Bitterroot National Forest.

*Mustang Complex	
Horse Butte	4
Mustang	273,441
Roan	213
Broomtail	1,405
Cayuse	1,077
Filly	1
East Butte	1,320
Lost Packer	53,627
Hamilton	5,573
Cabin Springs	7,863
<b>SCNF Total</b>	<b>248,430</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>341,488</b>

## Mustang Complex



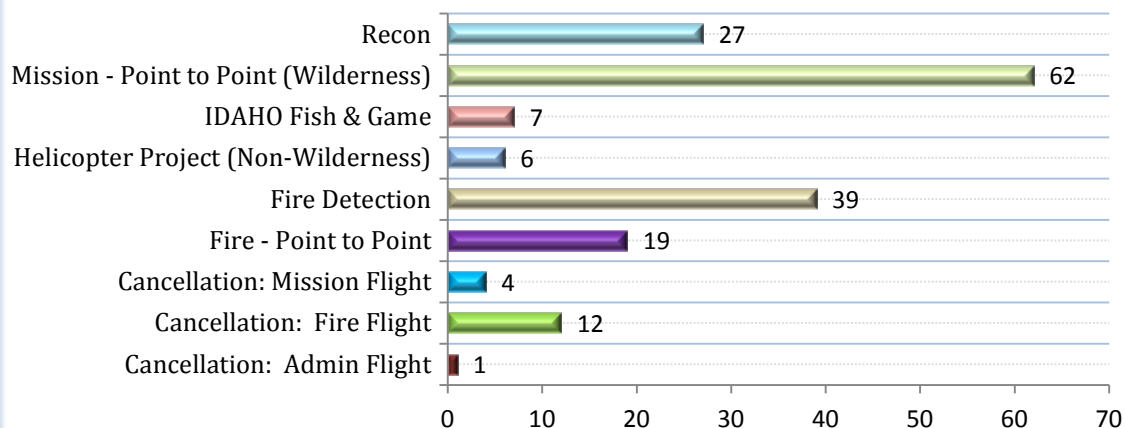
CIFC scheduled a near-normal number of flights both for fire and administration business despite the extremely smoky conditions which limited air navigation on many days in August and September. The majority of flights (41) were conducted from Challis to one of the backcountry airstrips along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Most of the contracted flights were scheduled through Middle Fork Aviation, with occasional service by McCall/Salmon Air. A few flights were completed using agency aircraft from the Payette National Forest.

User	Flights	PAX	Cargo (lbs)	Flight Hours	Flight Cost
<b>Fire</b>	44	51	2,000	77.1	\$34,294.66
<b>Administrative</b>	73	174	29,740	102.1	\$95,308.76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>31,740</b>	<b>179.2</b>	<b>\$129,603.42</b>

\*NOTE: Agency aircraft, including those ordered on incidents, are not included in the monetary totals.

Half of the scheduled Fire Detection flights were completed with the use of aircraft ordered through ROSS and assigned either to large incidents or available for initial attack. Reconnaissance flights include those conducted by both fixed and rotor-wing aircraft. CIFIC provided flight following to Idaho Fish and Game for a total of 32 days this year.

### Flight Following Incidents by Sub-Type



Personnel Employed on Wildfire Pre Suppression and Suppression Activities	Unit: Salmon -Challis Calendar Year 2012	
	Subtotal	Total
1. Regular appointed personnel	21	
a. Full time fire management (20 pay periods or more)		
B. Part time fire management	33	
C. Others used on pre suppression sometime during the year	0	
D. Others used in suppression (excluding a, b, and c)	45	
E. Total (a + b + c + d)		99
2. Seasonal or short term personnel	53	
A. Regular fire control (crews, patrol, lookouts, etc..)		
B. Others (BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.) Some time on fire work	10	
C. Emergency firefighters (exclude those under a or b)	0	
D. Total (a + b + c)		63
3. Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression (each reemployment counts as an employment)		40
4. Number of casuals (included in item 3) employed for the first time (an Estimate is adequate)	1	
5. Grand Total (1e + 2d + 3)		192

Form FS-5100-9, Land Ownership Protection Report

USDA-FOREST SERVICE								Calendar Year 2012	
LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT (Summary of acres by states)								Region R-4 Salmon Challis NF	
STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES							S&P LAND PROTECTED  by STATE and FS	National Forest Land Protected Others
	PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE								
	State and Private Land				Other Federal	N F Land	Total		
	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Reimburse Suppression	Without Reimbursement					
Salmon/Challis NF						4,398,989	4,398,989		
Idaho Dept. of Lands		124,262					124,262		
Private Lands				40,655			40,655		
Total		124,262		40,655		4,398,989	4,563,906		