



Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center
2023 Annual Report



2023 Year in Review

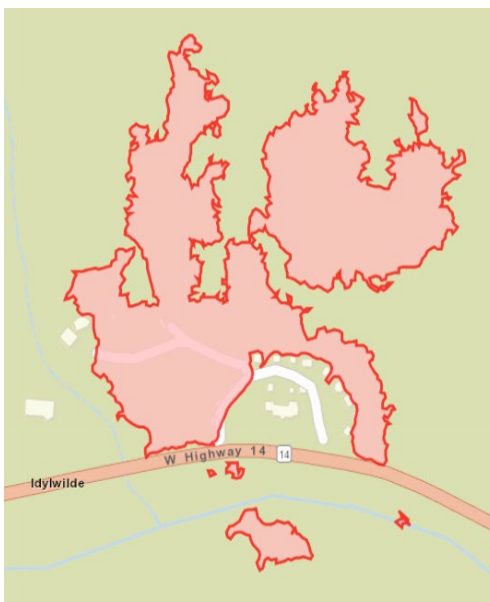
Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center became an official interagency center with the addition of dispatchers from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC). The DFPC dispatchers started in May and integrated seamlessly. Without the addition of these dispatchers, Fort Collins Dispatch would have been made up of two permanent U.S. Forest Service dispatchers and severely understaffed.

The 2023 fire season was well below the average fire season for the Fort Collins Dispatch (FTC) Zone due to the amount of moisture received throughout the winter, spring, and early summer months. The only large fire (81 acres) across the zone was Devil's Thumb near Granby, CO, otherwise, all the other wildfires were under 50 acres.

There were 59 wildfires reported within the Fort Collins Dispatch Zone, which is down significantly from the 2022 fire season of 95 wildfires. Out of the 59 reported wildfires, 42 were human caused (71%) and 17 were caused by lightning (29%). The total acres burned across the zone was only 256.16 acres. Human caused fires accounted for the highest number of acres burned with a total of 173.34 acres. There were 82.82 acres burned across the zone due to lightning caused fires.

Below are the large fires across the zone:

- Arrowhead fire on the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF (ARF) burned 15 acres on March 19th
- Stove Prairie fire on the ARF burned 46 acres on April 1st
- Devil's Thumb fire on the ARF burned 81 acres on July 4th
- Baker Draw fire on ARF burned 30 acres on September 23rd
- Rock fire on ARF burned 19.4 acres on October 16th
- Wildhorse 2 fire on ARF burned 39.2 acres on November 4th



Arrowhead

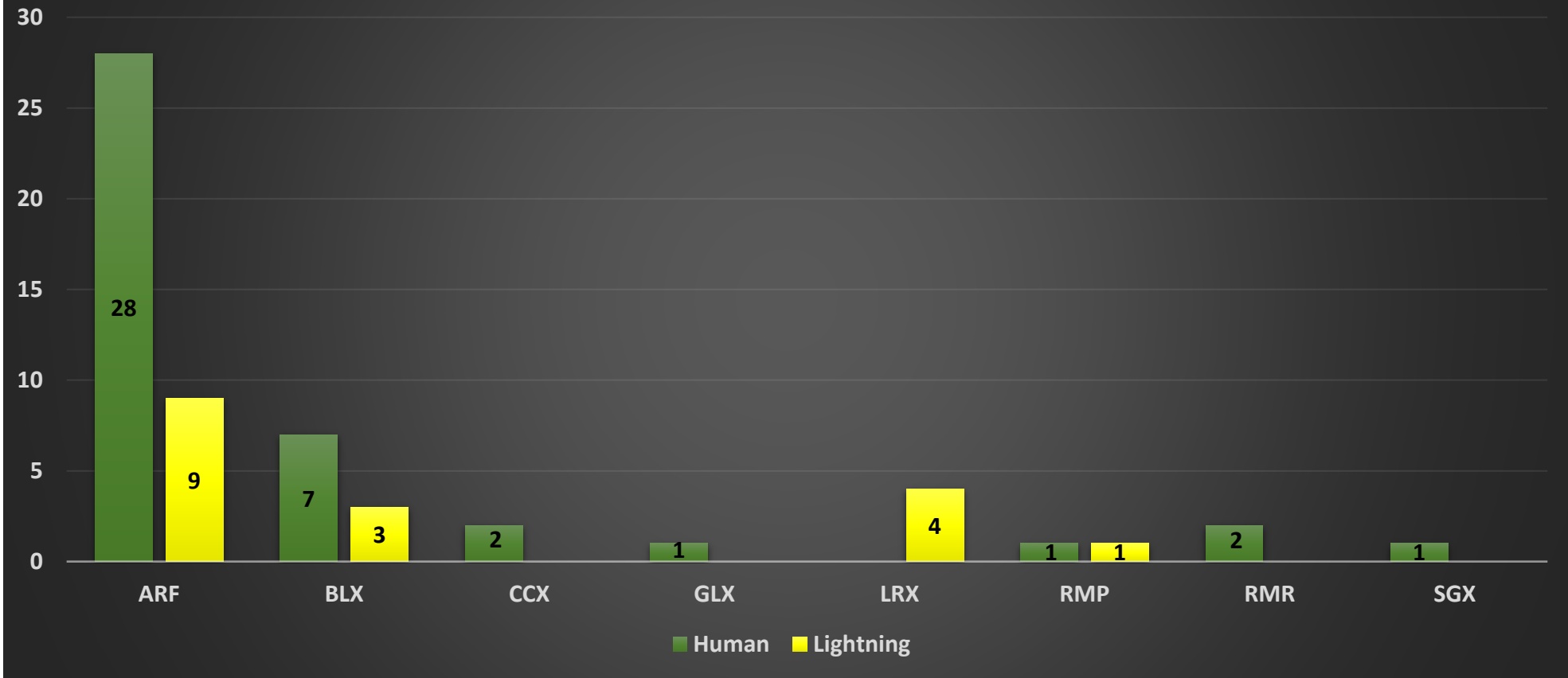


Devil's Thumb



Stove Prairie

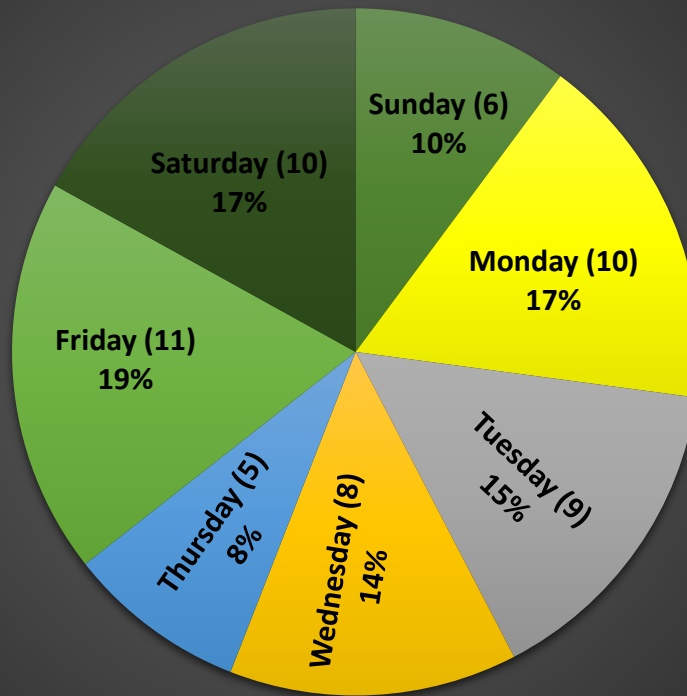
Fires by Agency and Cause



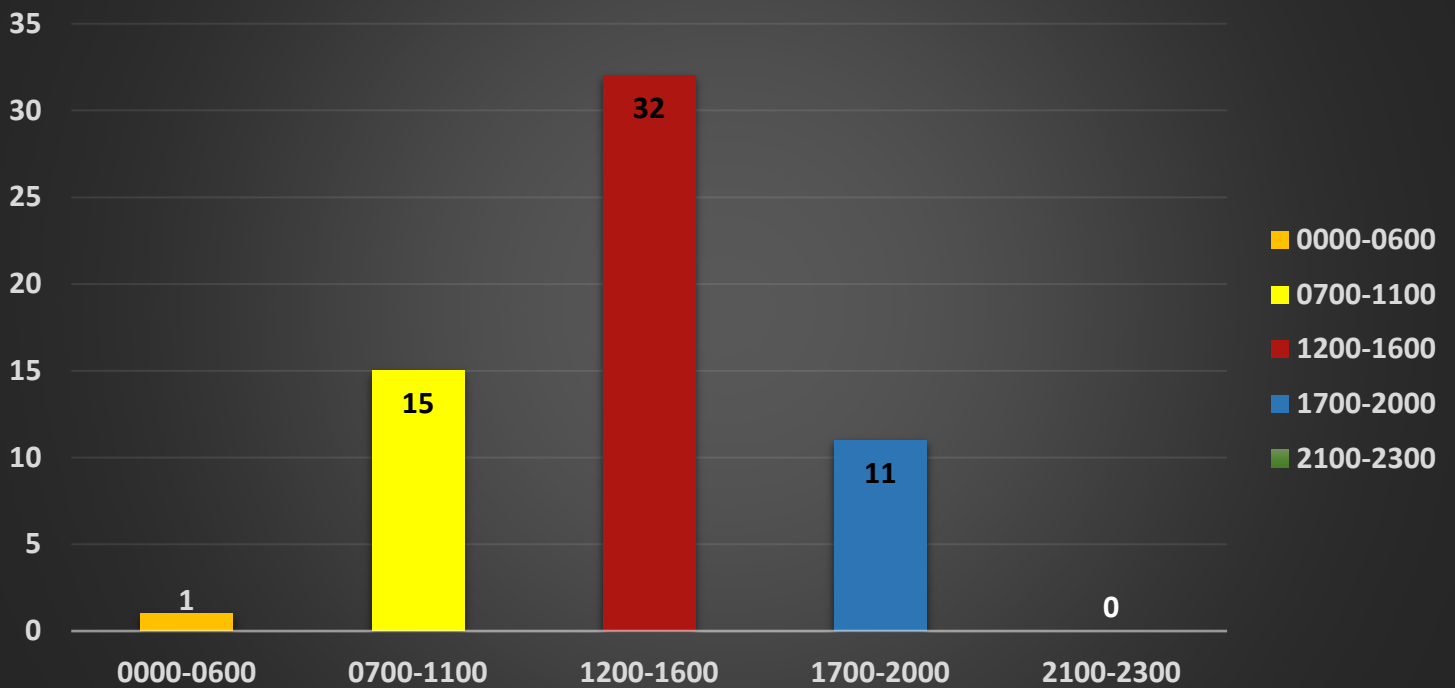
	ARF	BLX	CCX	GLX	LRX	RMP	RMR	SGX	TOTAL
Human Acres	159.01	5.0	0.43	0.1	0.0	0.1	8.6	0.1	173.34
Lightning Acres	82.11	0.3	0	0	0.31	0.1	0.0	0.0	82.82
Total Acres	241.12	5.3	0.43	0.1	0.31	0.2	8.6	0.1	256.16

¹ ARF: Arapaho-Roosevelt NF & Pawnee NG, BLX: Boulder County, CCX: Clear Creek County, GLX: Gilpin County, LRX: Larimer County, RMP: Rocky Mountain National Park, RMR: Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Fish & Wildlife), and SGX: Sedgwick County

Wildfire Incident Occurrence by Day



Wildfire Incident Occurrence by Hour



Fort Collins Zone WildCAD Incidents

All dispatch centers in the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area moved to a new WildCAD version called WildCAD-E. Fort Collins transitioned at the beginning of May and with that came a learning curve as it was different than the previous version. WildCAD-E continues to be improved and most dispatch centers around the country have transitioned to WildCAD-E.

Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center processed 974 WildCAD incidents in 2023. Wildfires, aircraft tracking, processing resource orders, campfires, and miscellaneous incidents accounted for 82% of the WildCAD incidents.

Aircraft tracking includes flight following any aircraft flying within or coming into or out of the FTC Zone. Resource order processing takes the most time for our dispatchers. We processed a total of 191 resources orders to move resources into and out of the FTC Zone, mostly for prescribed fire activities.

Most of the workload (26%) in WildCAD were classified as miscellaneous incident types (255 incidents). Miscellaneous incidents are further broken down into the following categories: training, radio/phone/computer issues, weather warnings (red flag, flash flood, high wind, etc.), severity/support, Region 2 In and Out Board (R2IOB), project work, Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center (RMACC) aircraft extensions, RMACC crew extensions, and ARF extensions.

Weather warnings and tracking overdue Forest personnel (R2IOB) accounted for the largest number of miscellaneous incidents, totaling 165. There were 93 weather warnings and 72 R2IOB incidents.

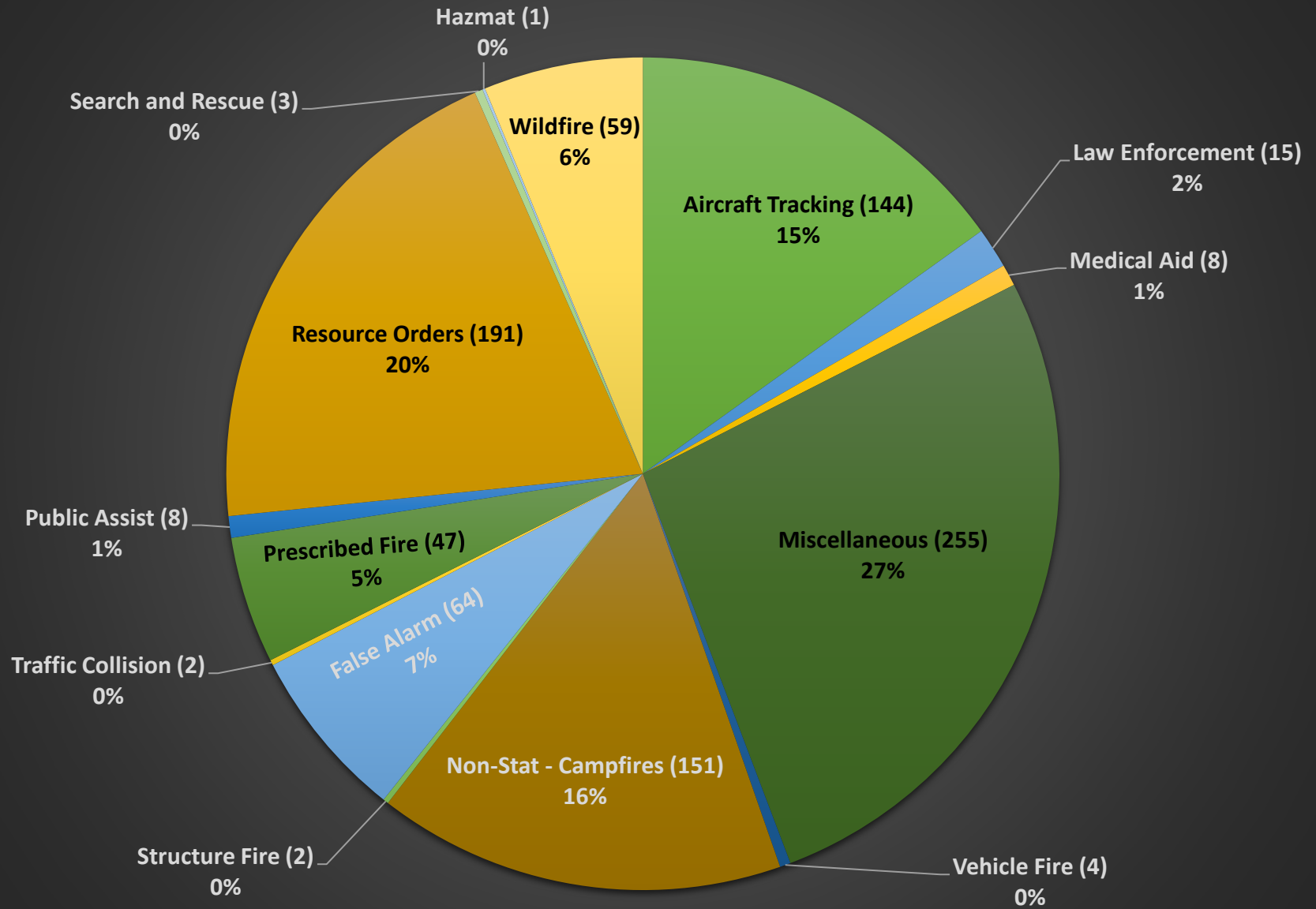
Starting in late June, campfires began getting tracked as non-stat incidents instead of miscellaneous incidents. Campfires were the second highest tracked incident in WildCAD-E with a total of 151.

The screenshot displays the WildCAD-E interface. On the left, the 'Open Incidents' panel lists various incidents with columns for Incident ID and Name. The incident 'COARF - 2023 951 West Creek' is highlighted in red. The main area shows the 'Resource Status' panel with a table of resources. The table has columns for Unit, Res.Type, Lineup, Search, and a grid of resource assignments. The interface includes navigation icons and a 'New Group' button.

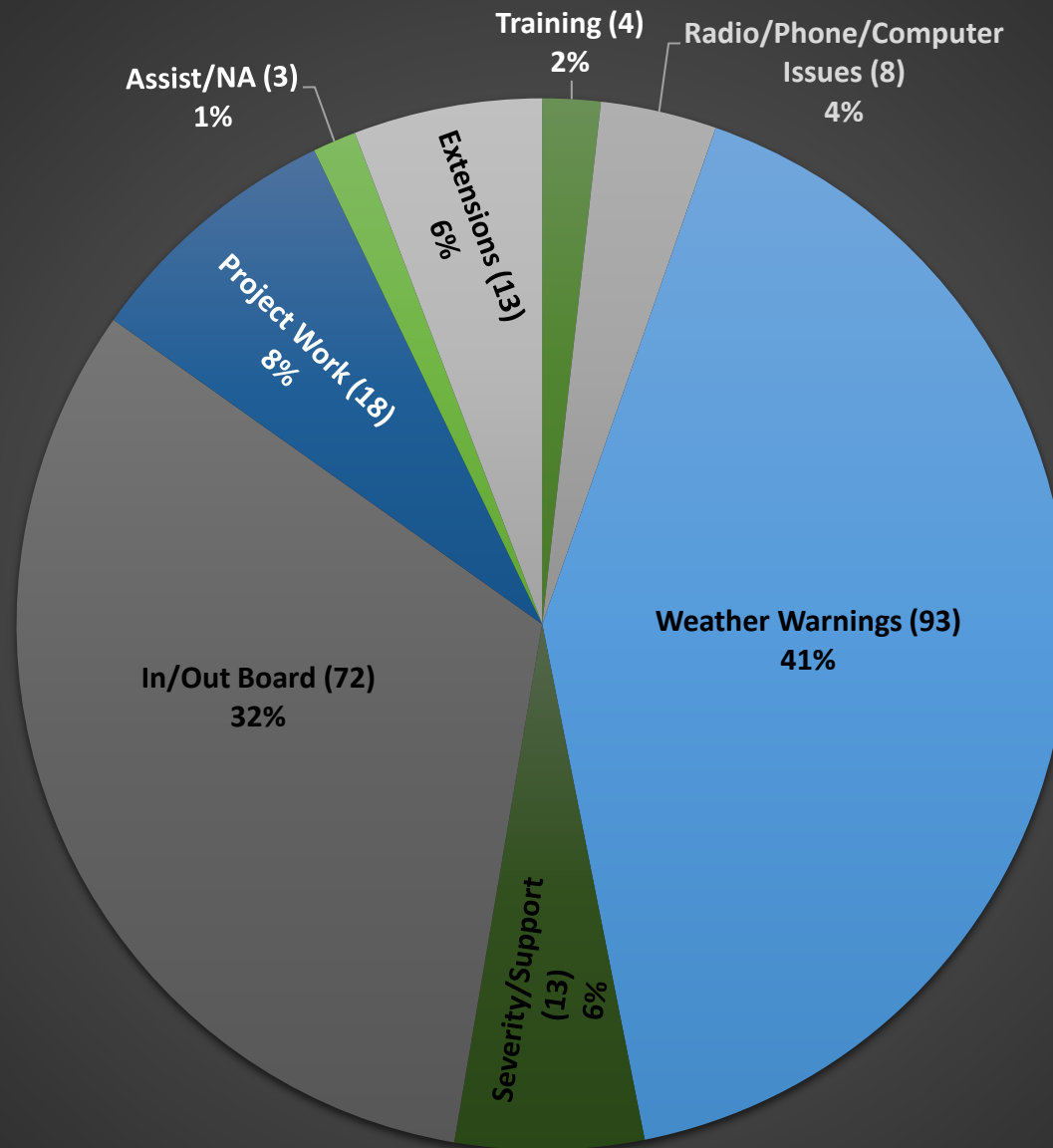
Incident ID	Name
COBLX - 2023 966	Walker Ranch Piles Rx
COARF - 2023 965	Yankee Hill Piles RX
COARF - 2023 962	Little HO GNA Machine Piles RX
COFTC - 2023 958	Snow Mtn Ranch Machine
COFTC - 2023 957	Big Blue Machine Piles Rx
COARF - 2023 951	West Creek
CORMP - 2023 950	Poudre Park Piles Rx
COARF - 2023 928	Forsythe II Cutting Project
COARF - 2023 924	Elkhorn Machine Piles RX
COARF - 2023 923	Red Feather 5 Hand Piles
COARF - 2023 920	Glen Haven 4 Hand Piles
COARF - 2023 916	Fair Piles RX
COFTC - 2023 716	Deadman Cutting Project
COFTS - 2023 410	Banner Lake Project
COARF - 2023 299	Red Feather Project
COARF - 2023 247	Blue Ridge Project Work

Unit	Res.Type	Lineup	Search	Group	Resource	Assignment
ENG	E-653	Alpine Sq	Mod 3-2 C	CREW	BC 3-1	DFPC BC 2215
E-3111 ST	E-6532 BLX	CCXFD	Mon Heitck	IHC Alpine	BC 3-2	DIV
E-3141 ST	E-654	Elk Creek A	OverlandSq	IHC Rosvlt	BC 5-1	DC 11
E-6110	E-681	JamesPk	Sq-1-1	TZIA AR Re	BC 5-2	DFPC DC 1
E-6112 ST	RMA 6109	Lone Pine Fuel	Sq-1-2	TZIA Shdw	DFPC BC 11	Div 1
E-612	RMA 6110	LRX IA Mod	Sq 210	BC	DFPC BC 12	Div 5
E-6121 SL	Yoder E-31	Mod 3-2	Sq-3-2	BC 1-1	DFPC BC 13	CAPT
E-632	Yoder E-61	Mod 3-2 A	Sq-5-5	BC 1-2	DFPC BC 14	Capt 1-1
E-651	SQUAD	Mod 3-2 B	Sq-5-6	BC 1-3	DFPC BC 2211	Capt 1-2

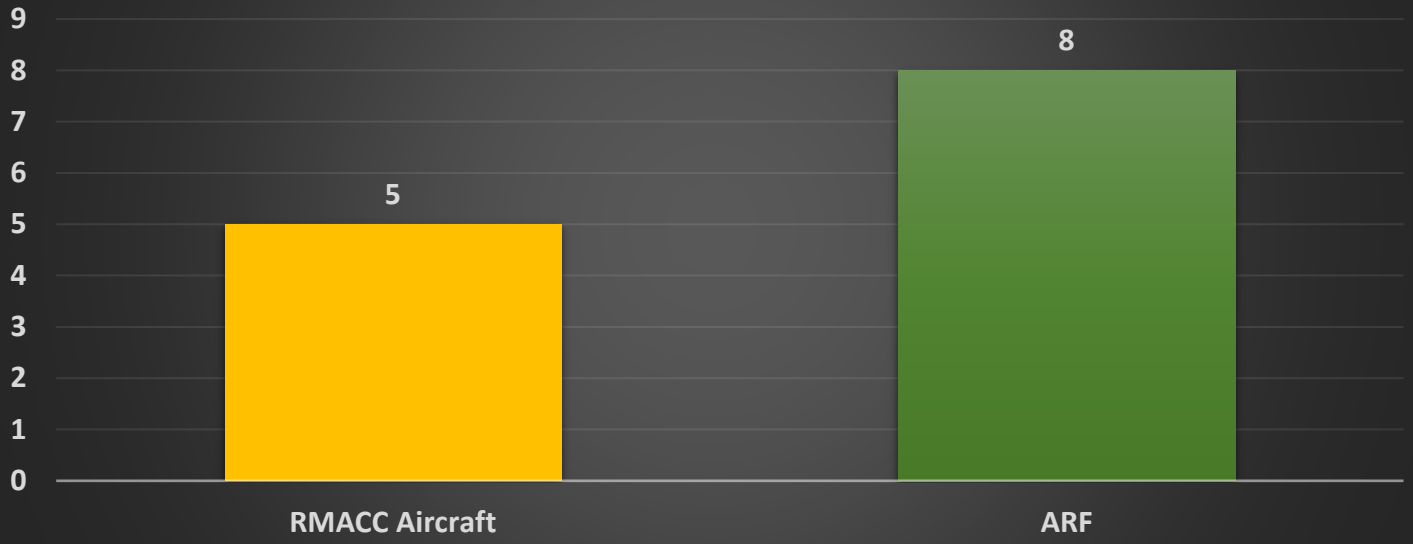
WildCAD Incidents By Type



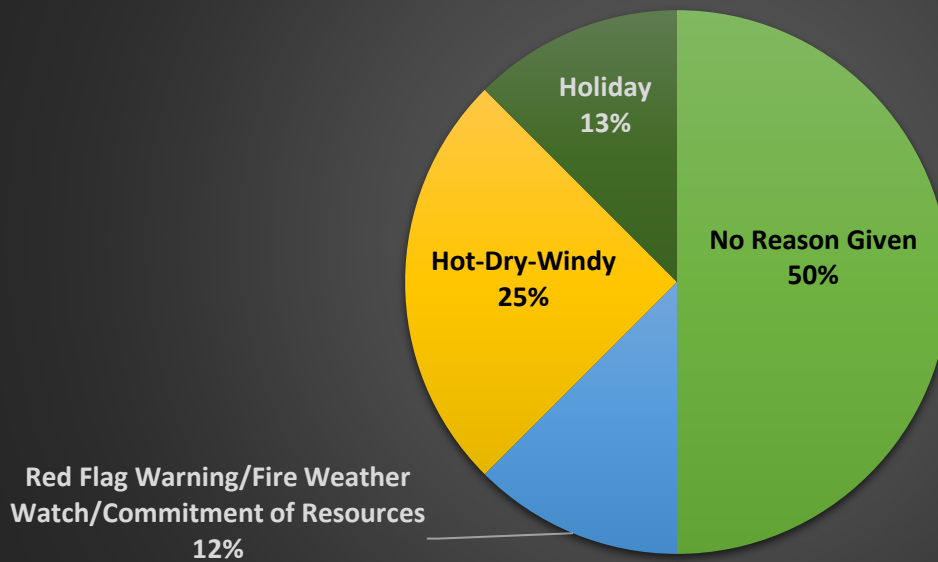
Miscellaneous Sub Incident Type



Extensions by Entity



ARF Extensions by Reason



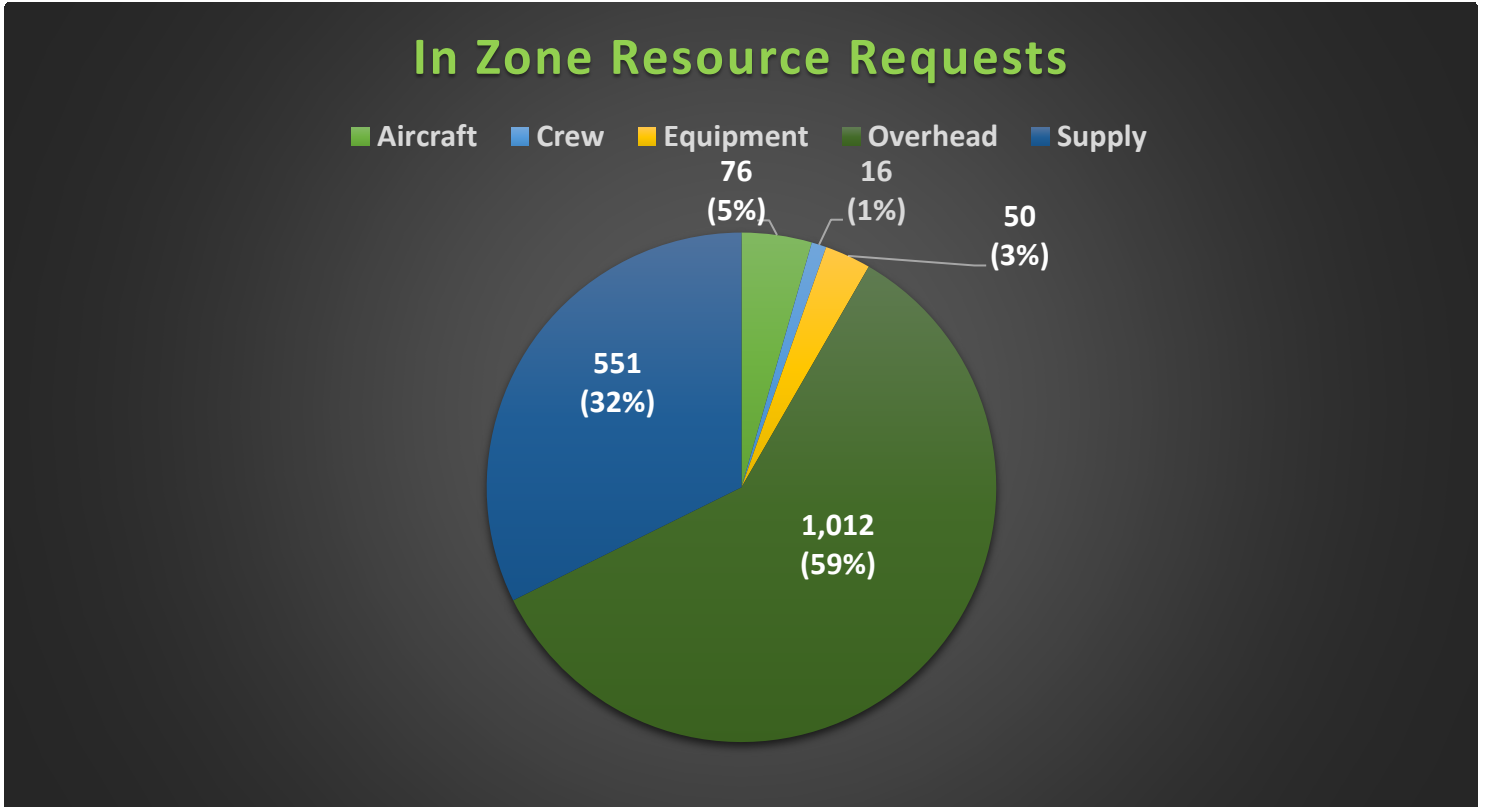
The ARF extended Forest resources eight times from March to December. There was a total of four fires that occurred across the zone after 1800 during this timeframe; two of those were started on the ARF, the other two were wildfires on county lands.

Fort Collins Zone Resource Orders²

Fort Collins Dispatch processed 3,361 resource orders: 1,705 for ordering resources into the FTC Zone and 1,651 for sending resources out of the FTC Zone.

Most of the in zone requests were for prescribed burning operations on the ARF.

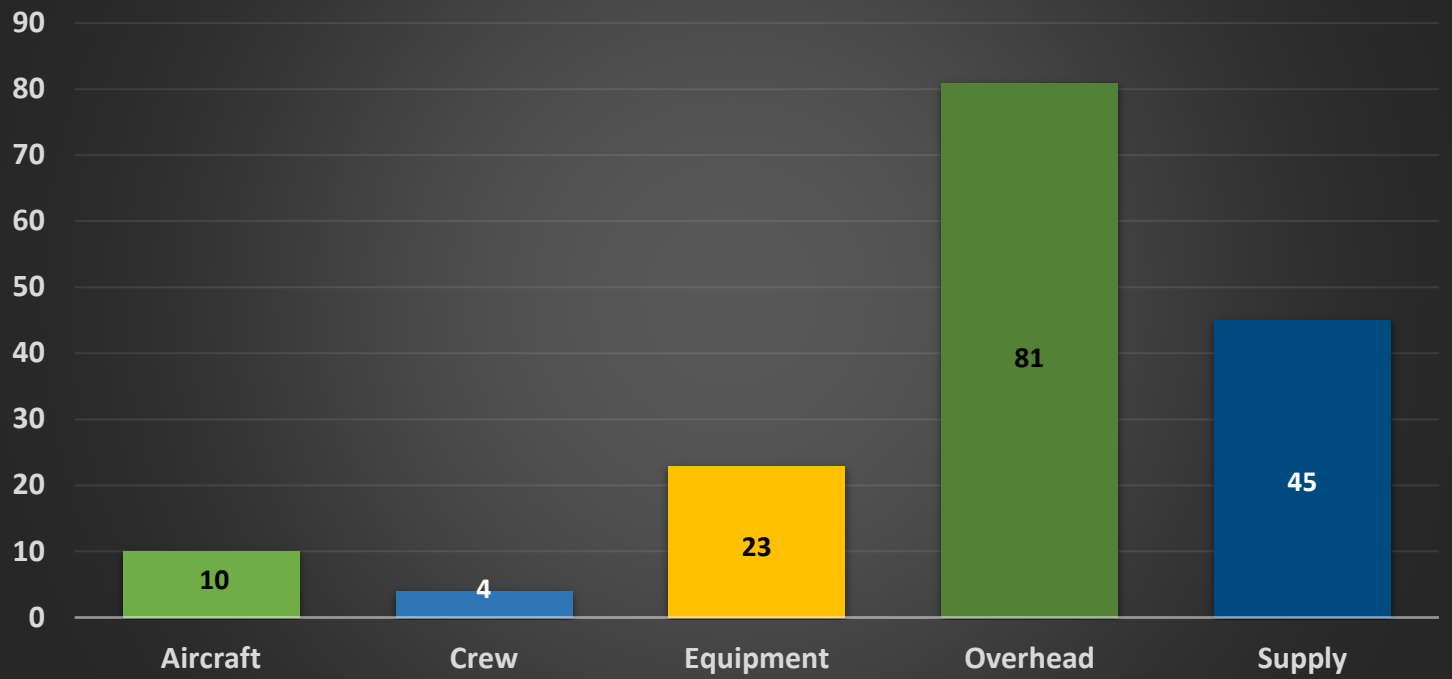
In Zone Resource Requests



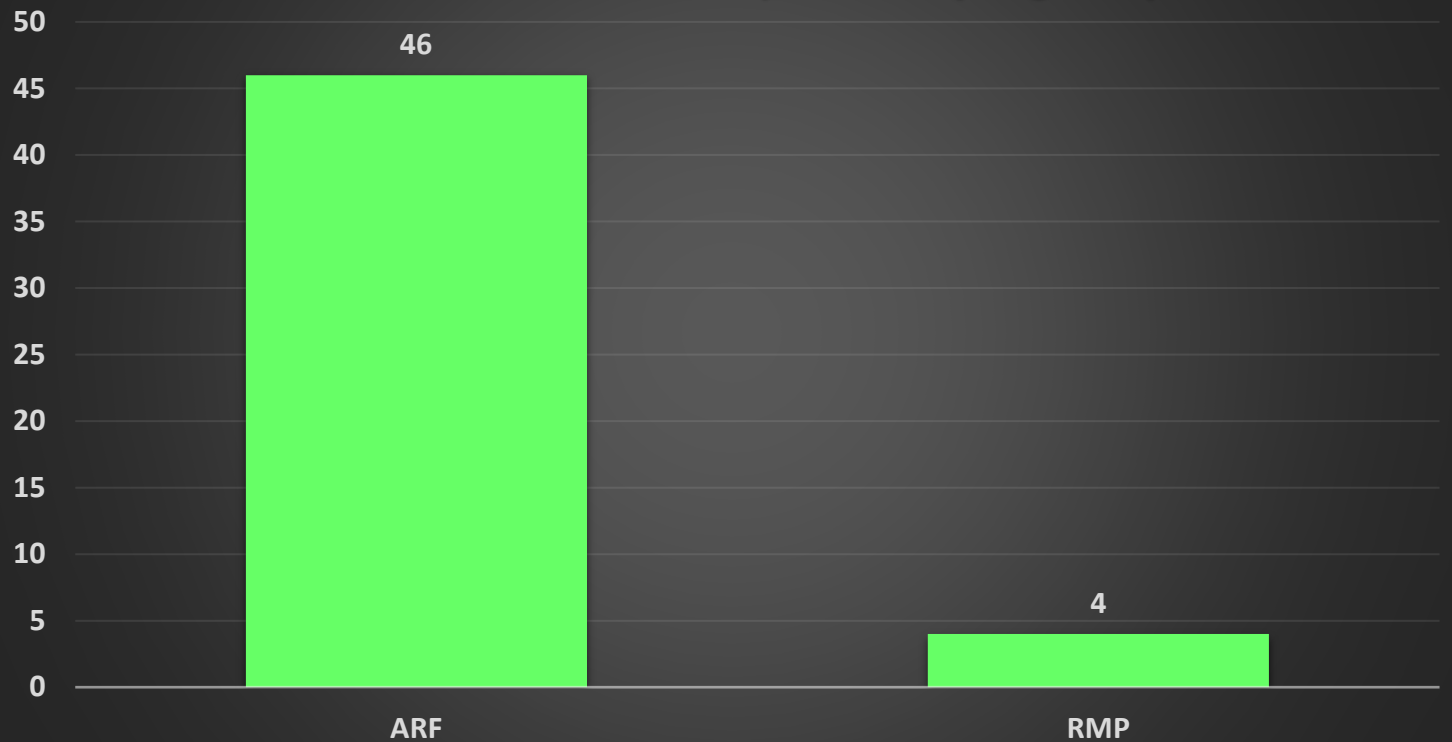
Not all of the resource orders processed for incidents within the FTC Zone were filled. Of the 1,705 resource orders created, 163 (10%) were canceled or UTF'd (unable to be filled).

² All subordinate requests were tallied in the overhead total count.

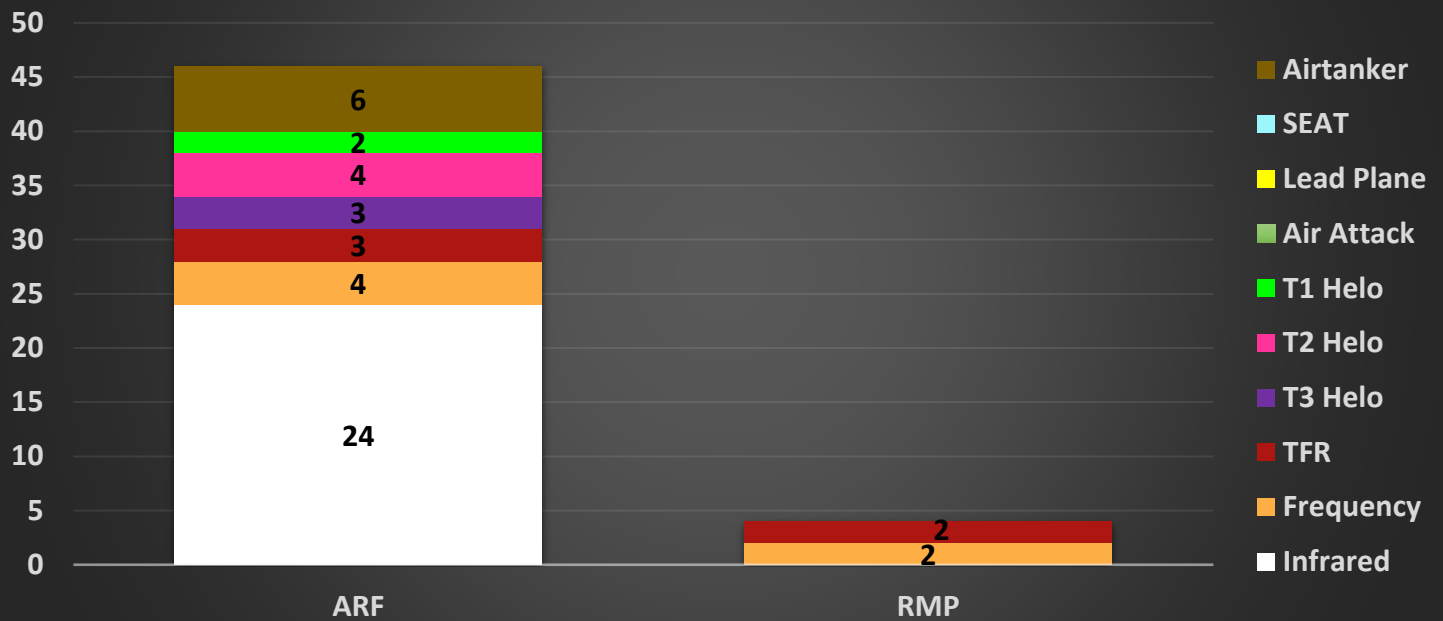
In Zone Resource Orders Canceled/UTF'd



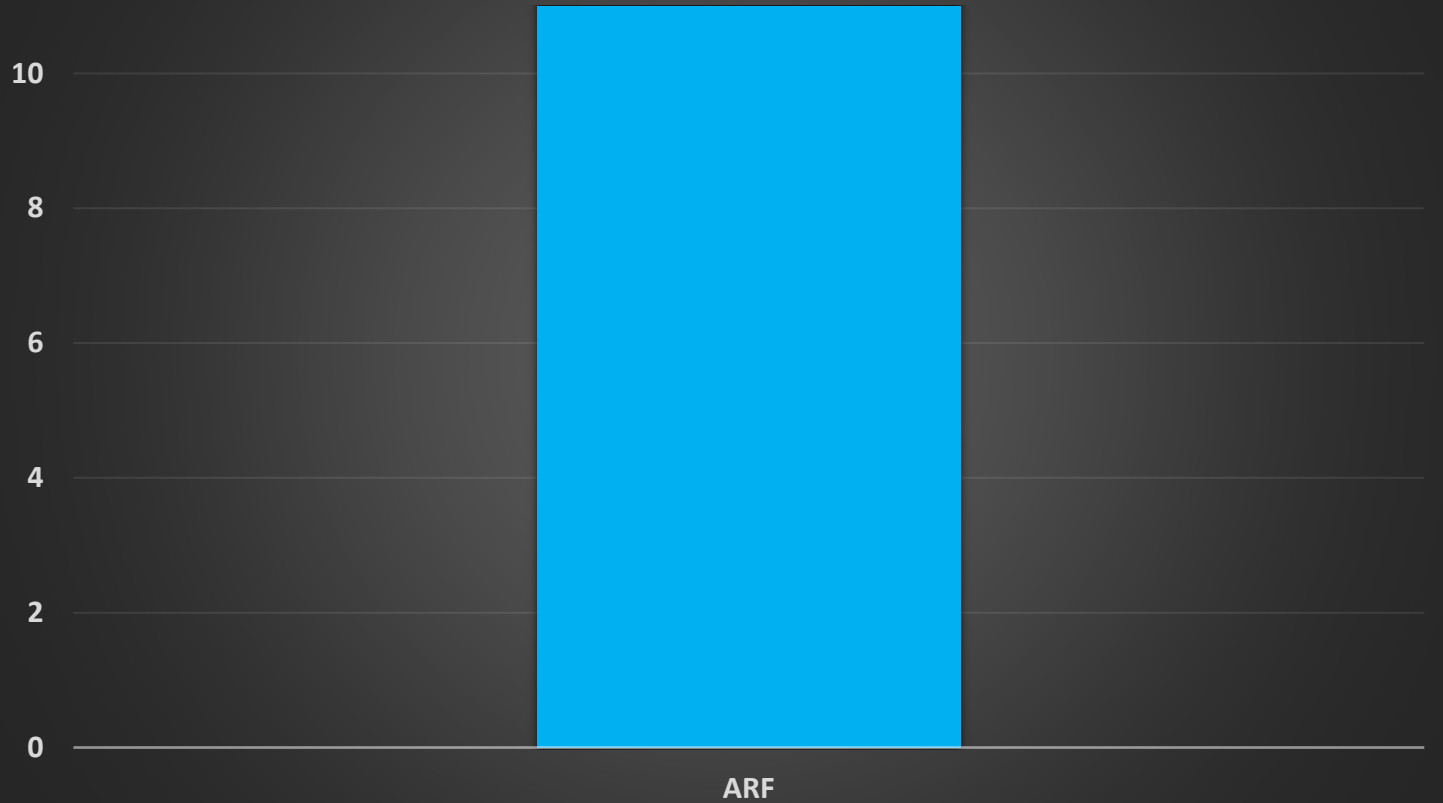
In Zone Aircraft Requests by Agency



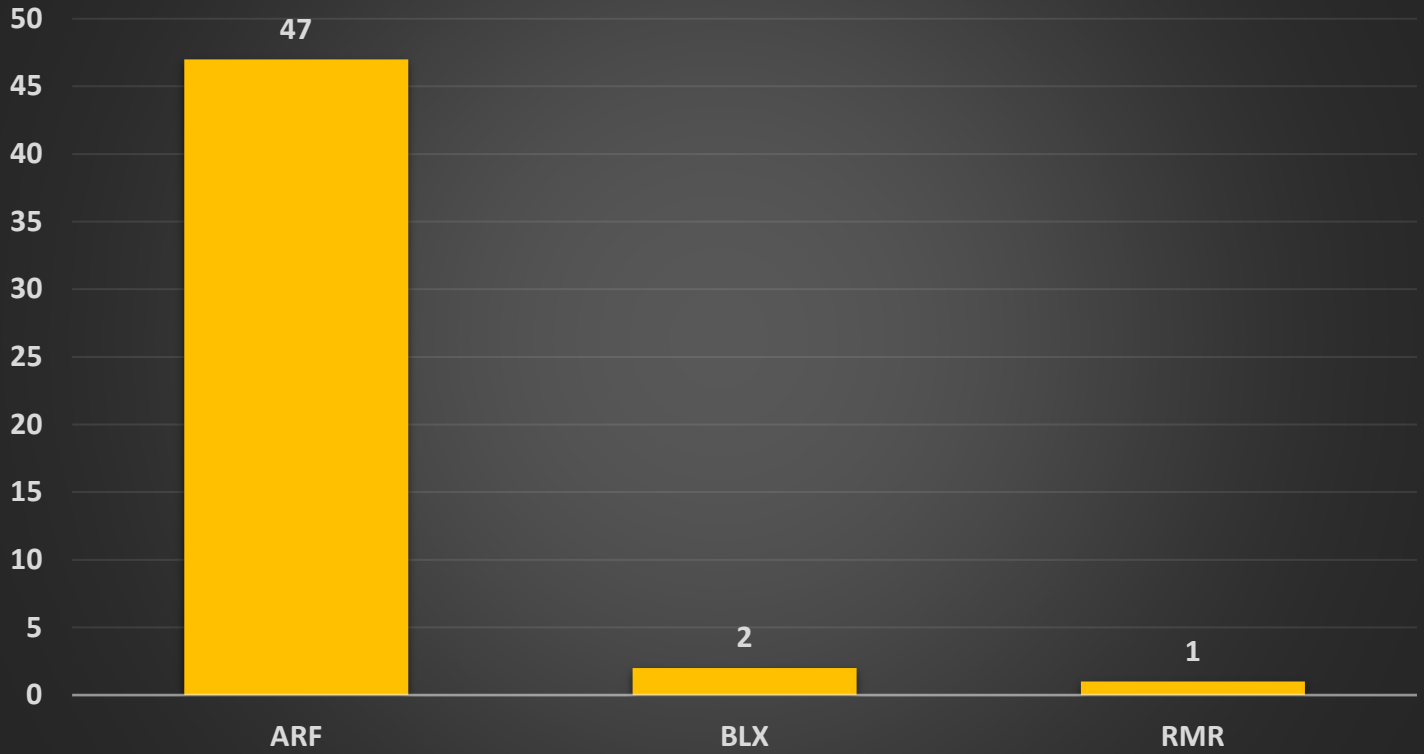
In Zone Aircraft Requests by Agency and Type



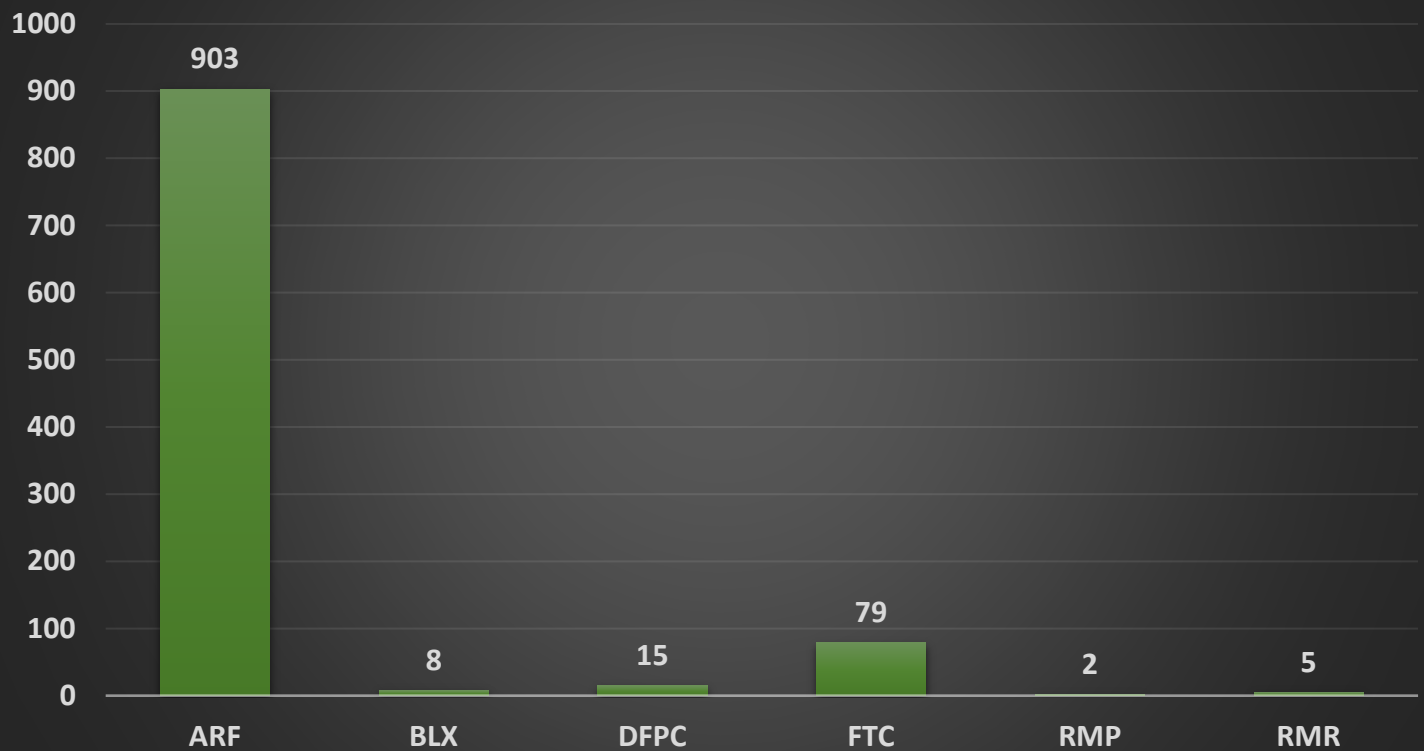
In Zone Crew Requests by Agency



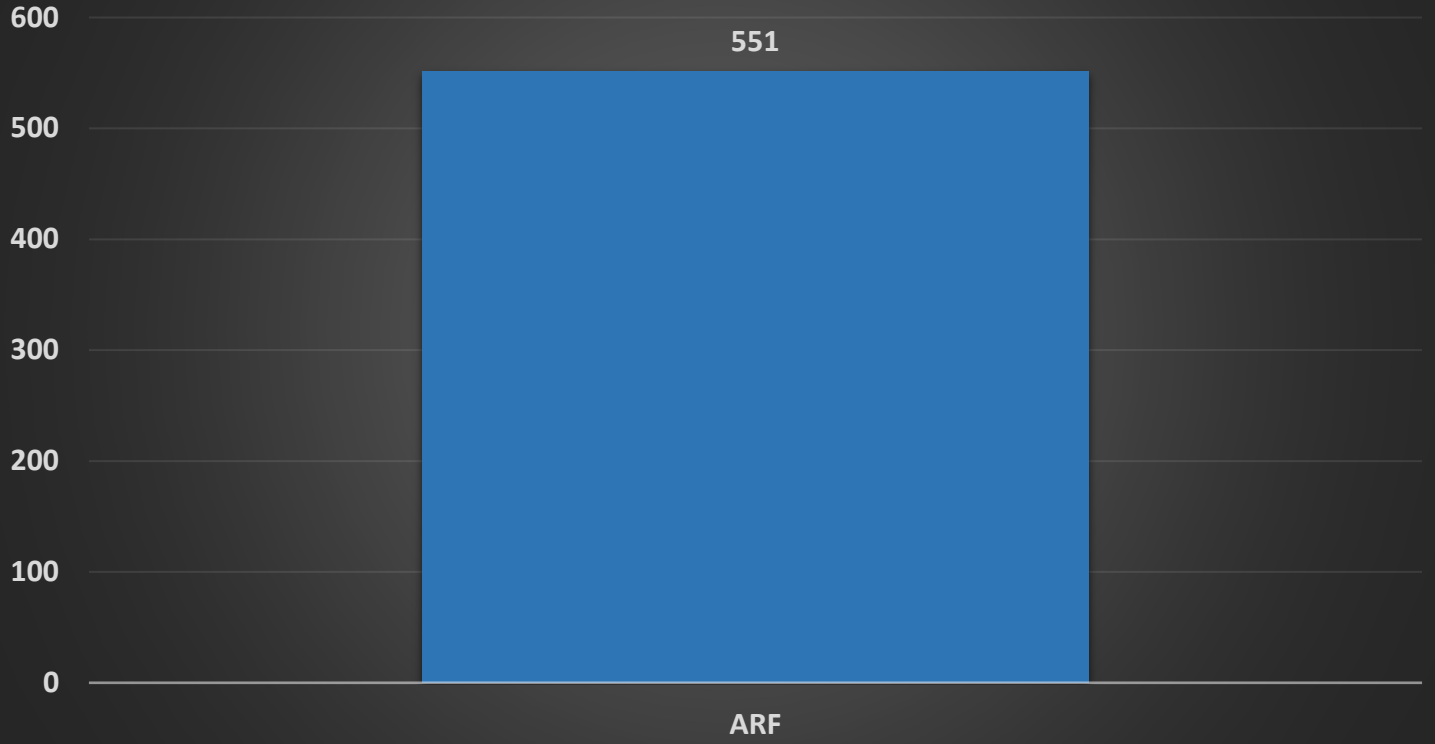
In Zone Equipment Requests by Agency



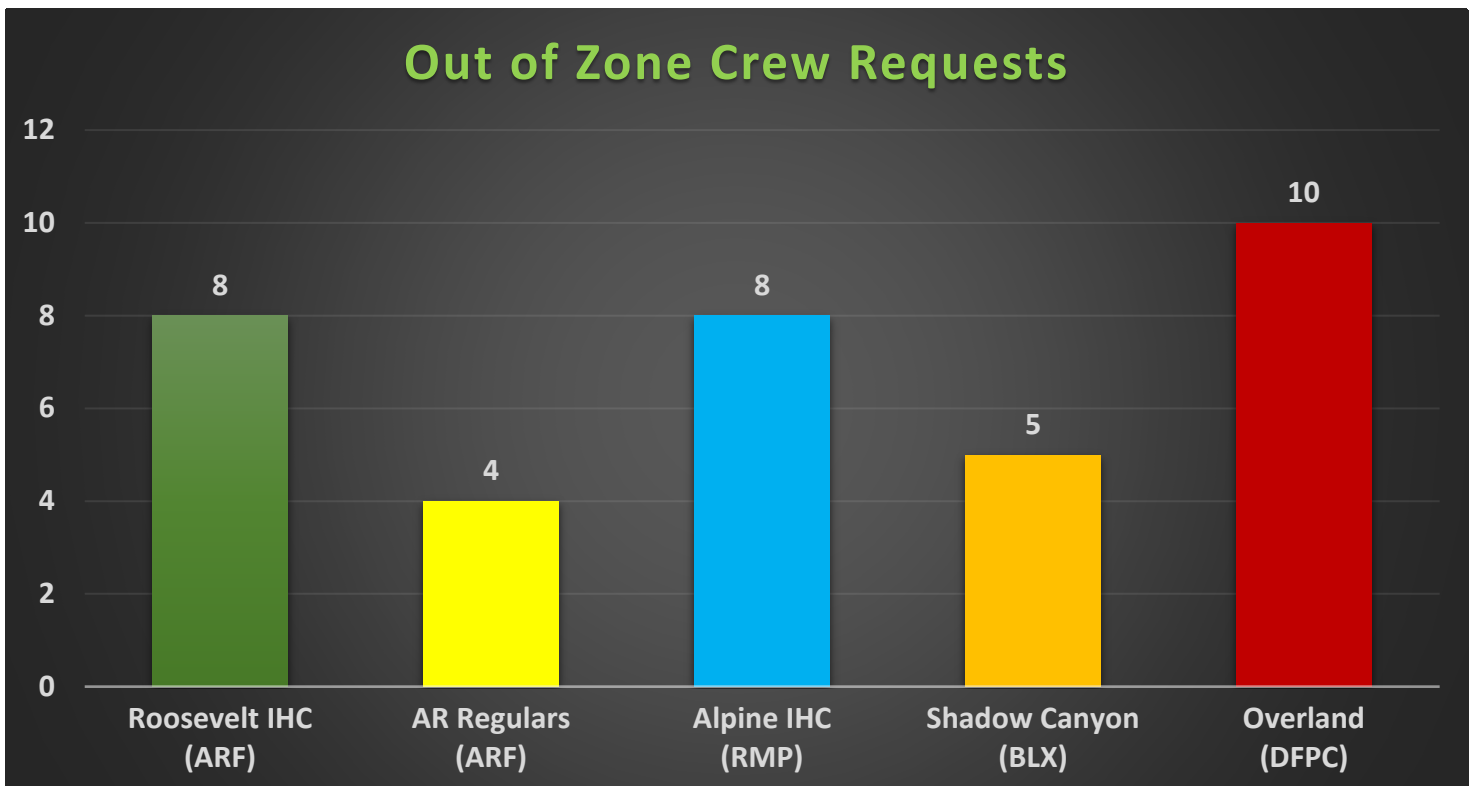
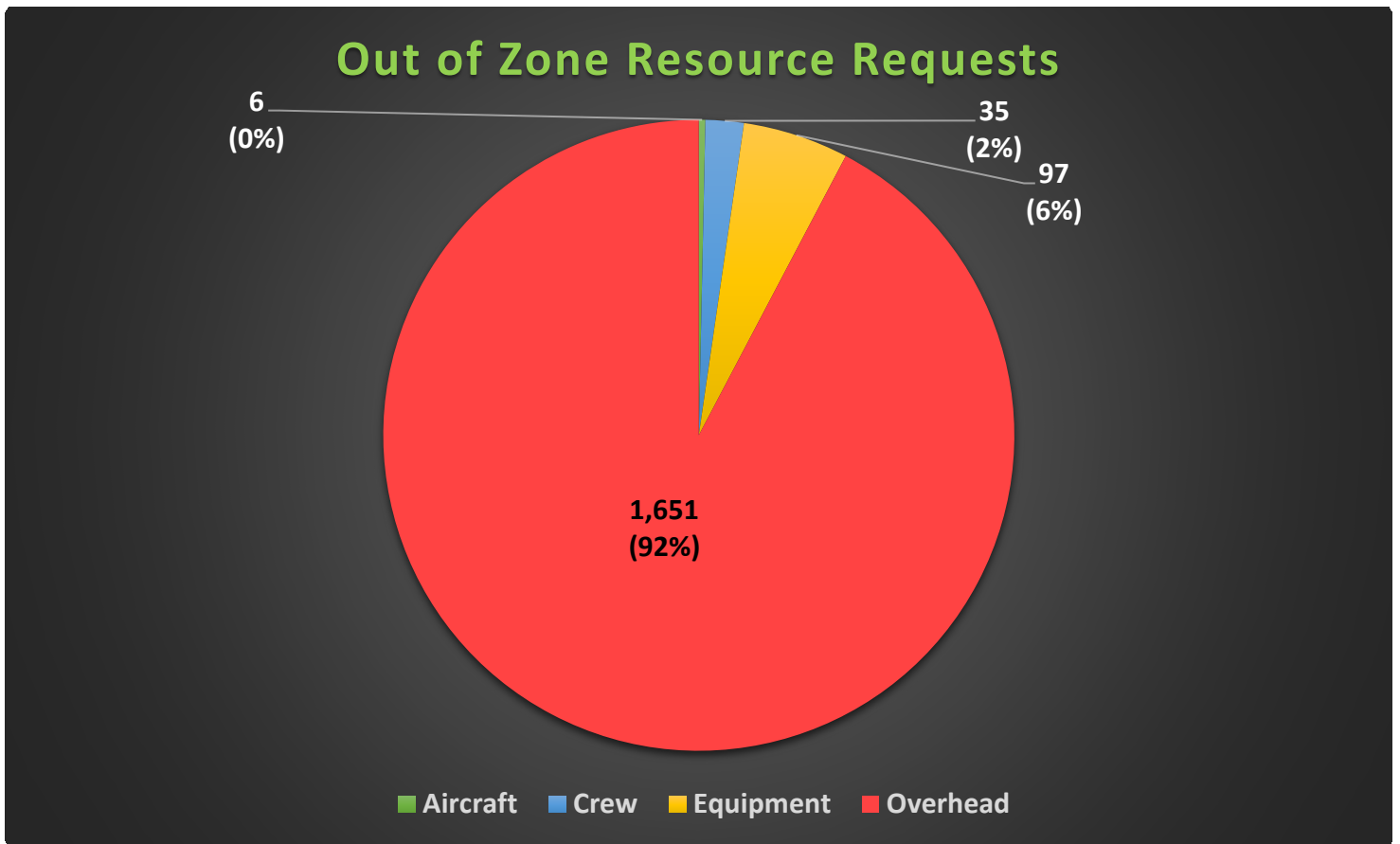
In Zone Overhead Requests by Agency



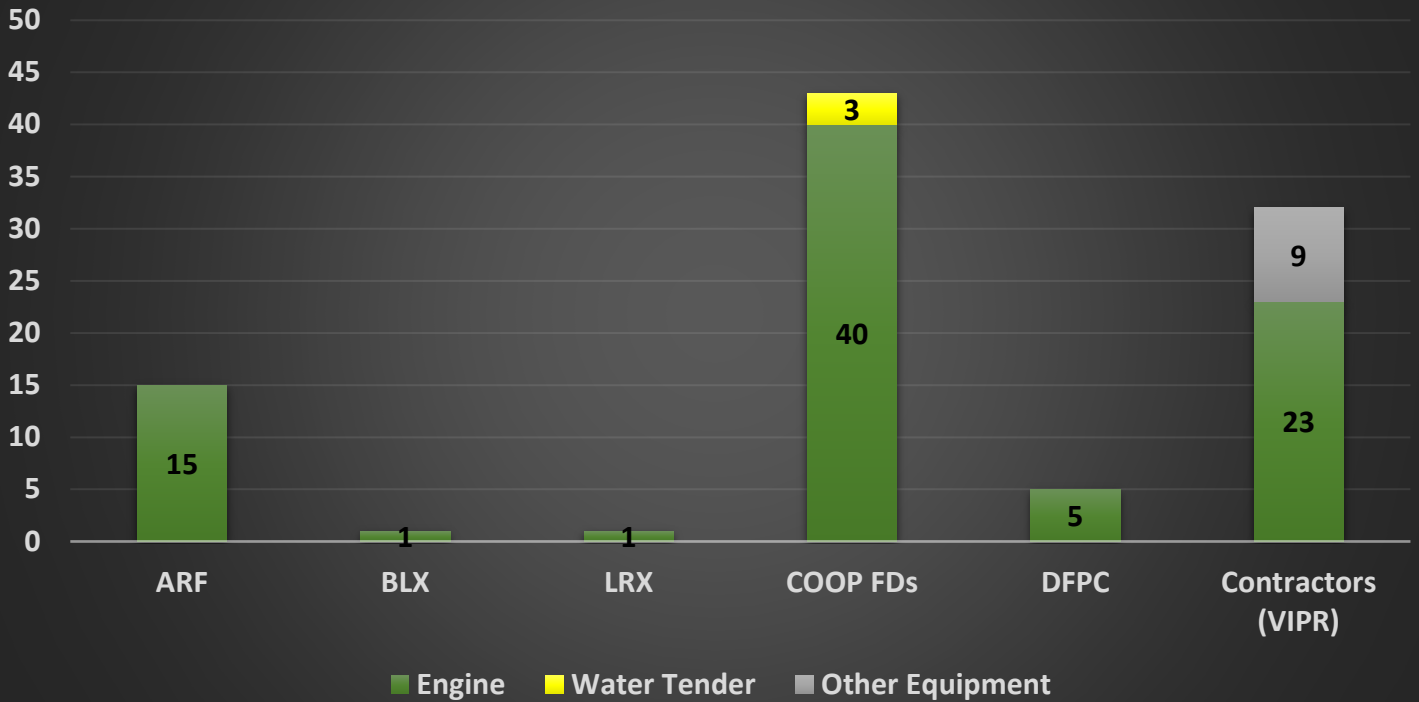
In Zone Supply Requests by Agency



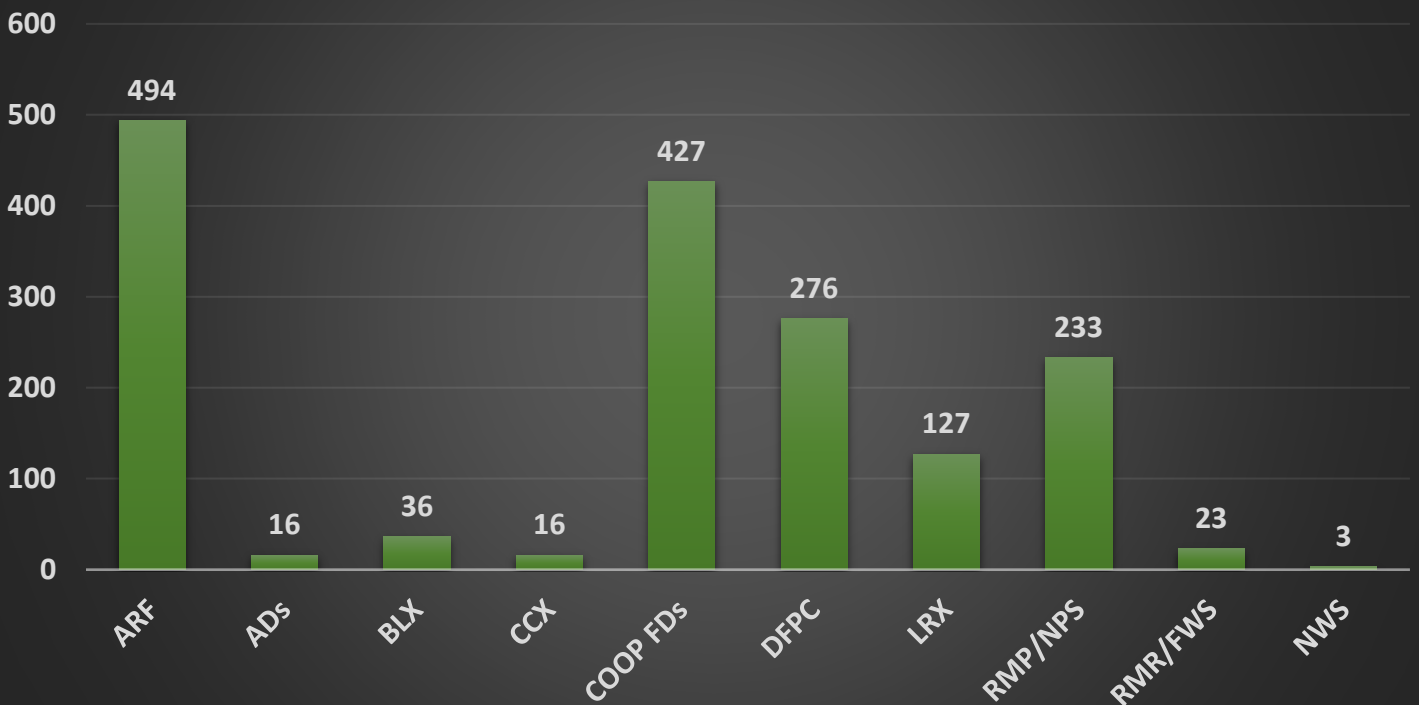
Out of Zone Resource Requests



Out of Zone Equipment Requests



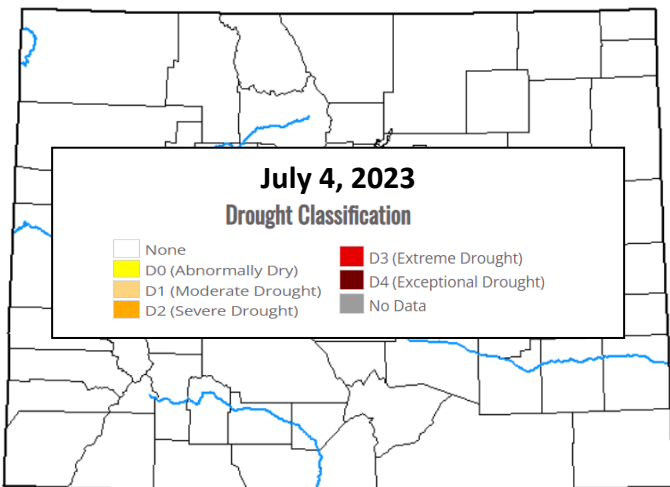
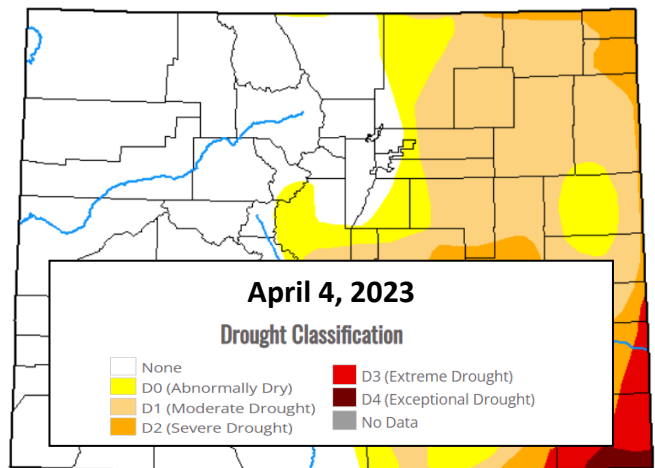
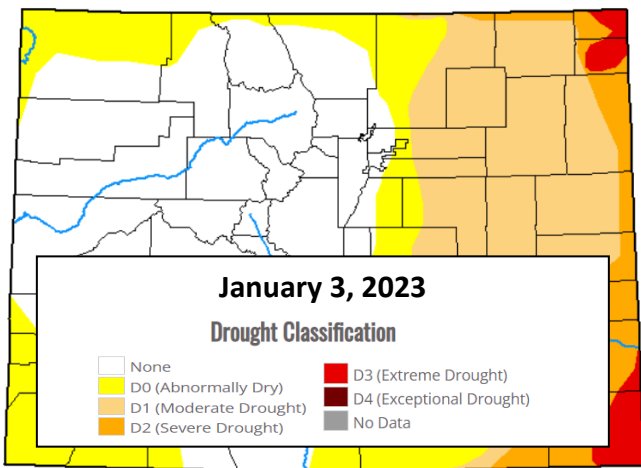
Out of Zone Overhead Requests



Fort Collins Zone Fire Danger

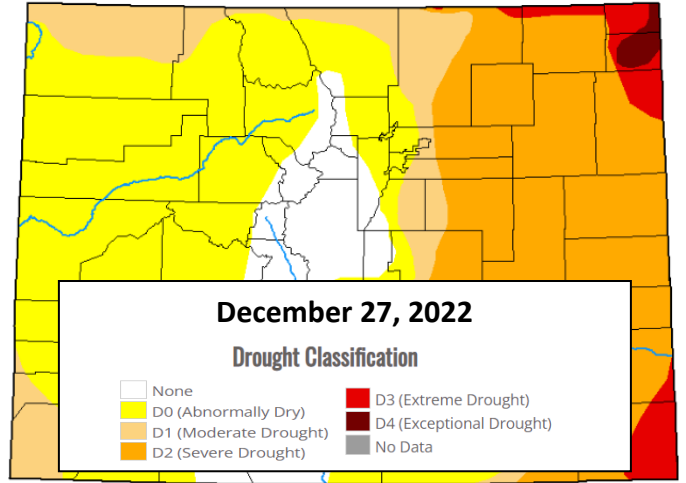
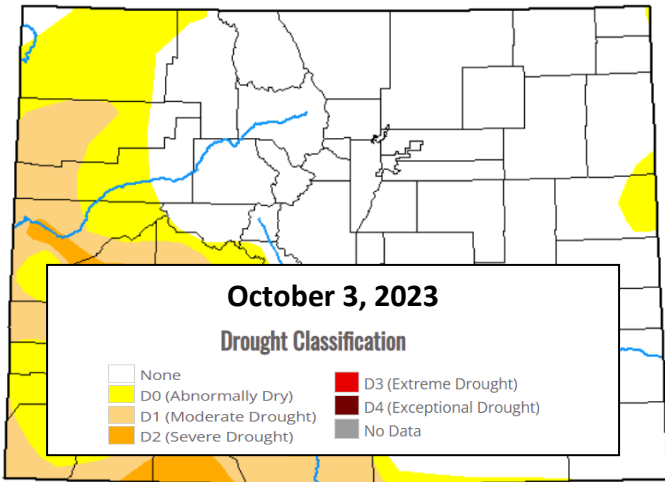
As was the case for the 2023 fire season, National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) fire business thresholds were derived for the ‘fire season’ and ‘shoulder season’ for each of the five fire danger rating areas (FDRA): East Plains, West Plains, Foothills, East Divide, and West Divide. Based on the 2022 fire season adjectives, new breakpoints were developed for 2023. Corral Creek RAWs weighted average was reduced to 0.5 for the Foothills FDRA during the fire season to reduce its effect on the overall average. Both East and West Divide FDRAs fire season fuel models were changed to a slash model (Z) to try and normalize the adjective ratings during that timeframe. There will be more work to do on these fire business thresholds as the adjective ratings we saw over the year still seemed higher than what fire managers expected.

The year began with an abundance of moisture through about mid-March. This moisture helped reduce the drought across the zone. However, from mid-March thru April we received very little moisture which is evidenced by the Arrowhead and Stove Prairie fires during this time period.



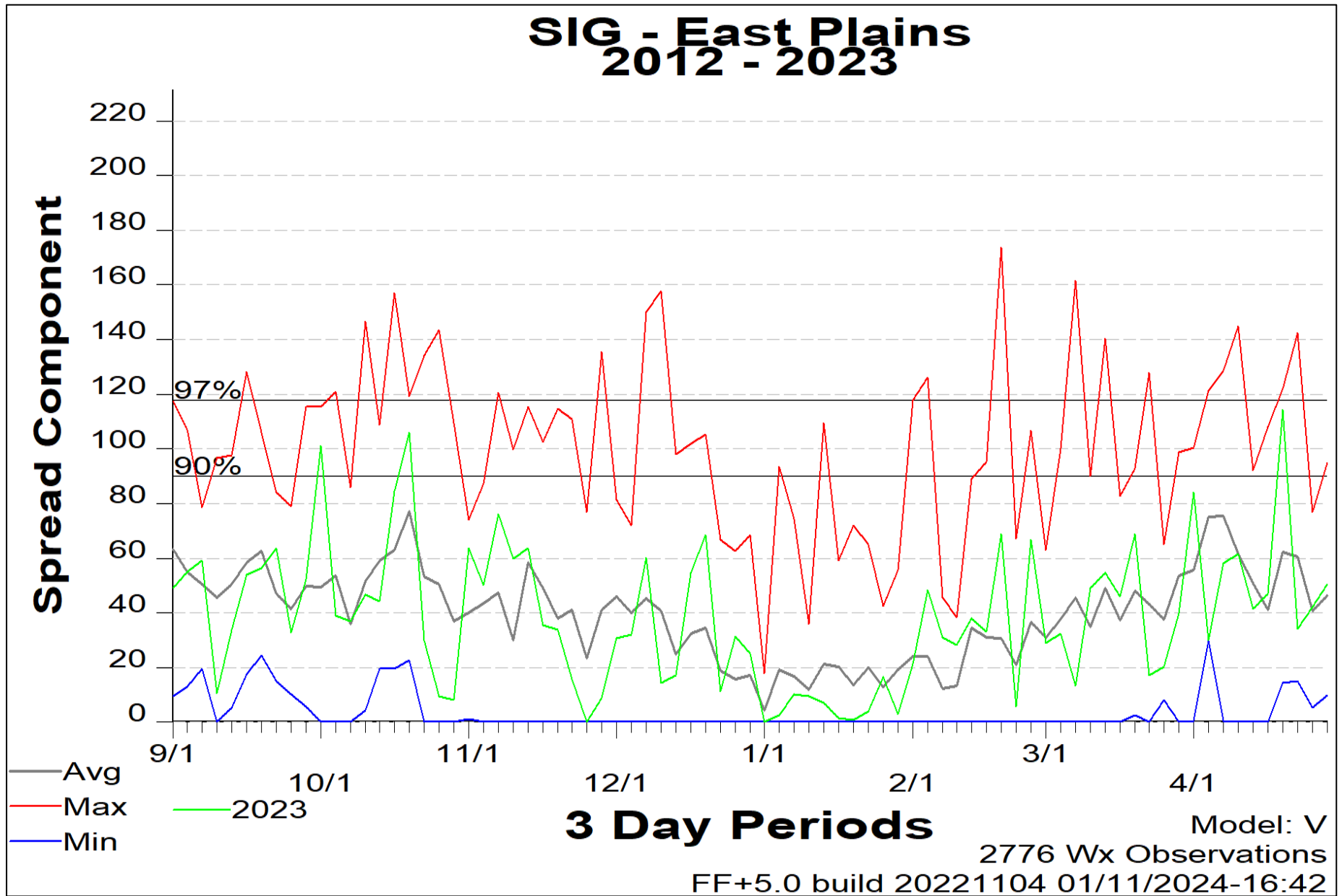
By summer, the entire FTC zone was out of drought conditions due to the wet May and June.

By fall, the moisture began to dry up once again creating dry conditions and increasing drought severity going into winter.

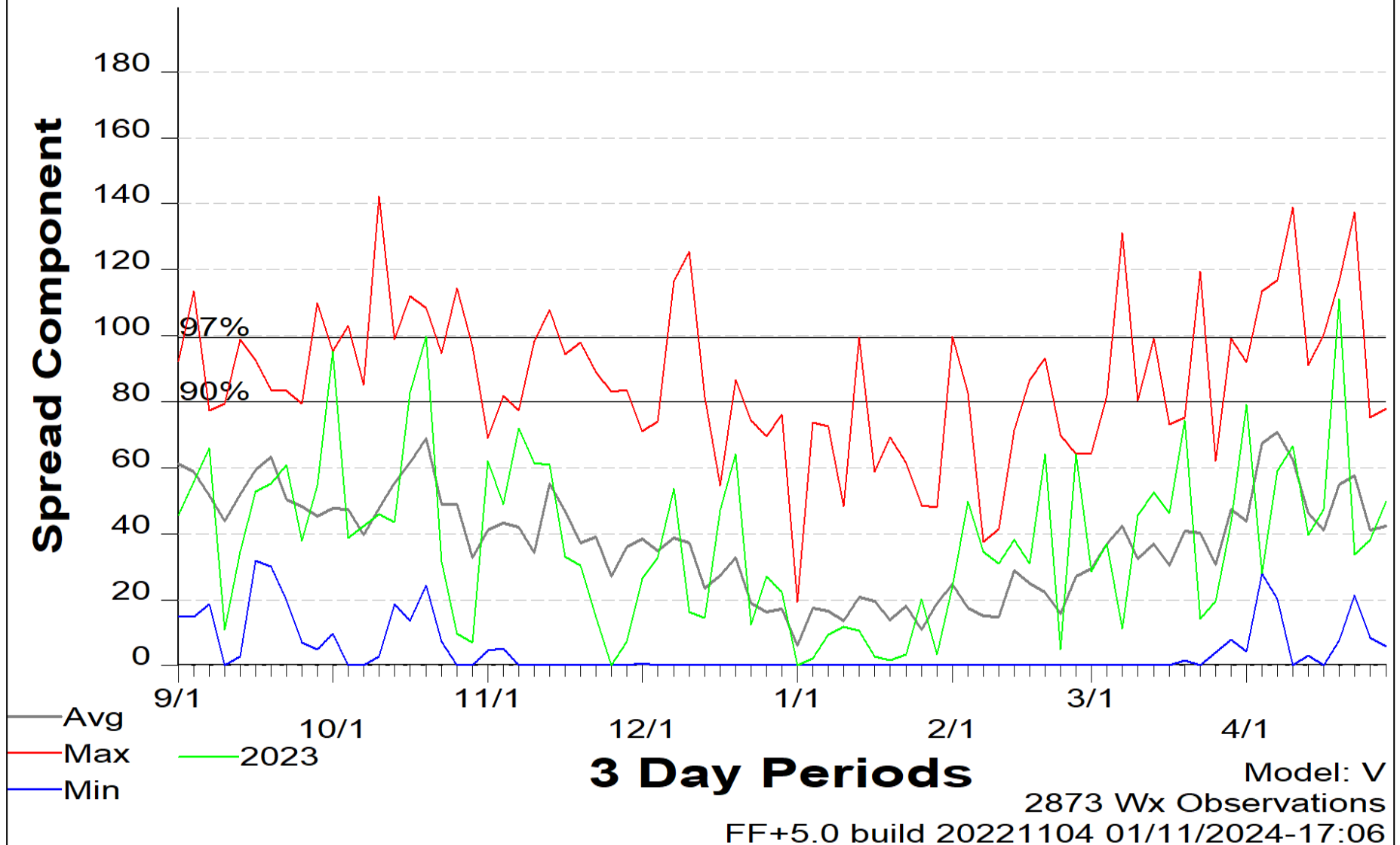


Because the FTC Zone received so much moisture, no entity had any fire restrictions.

Indices Charts for Each Fire Danger Rating Area with 2023 Overlayed for Comparison



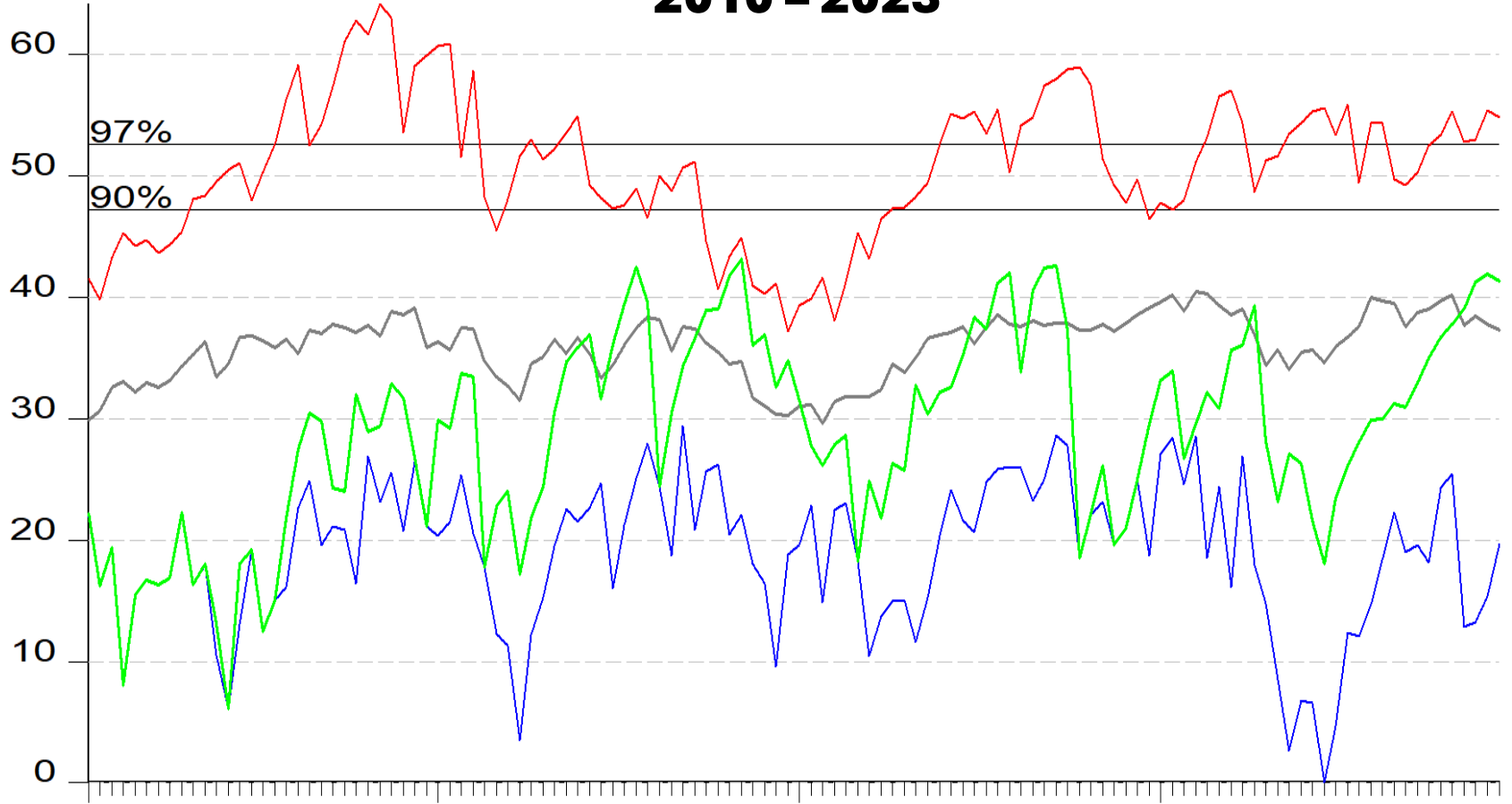
SIG - West Plains 2012 - 2023



SIG - Foothills 2010 - 2023

Fire Season

Energy Release Component



— Avg
— Max
— Min
— 2023

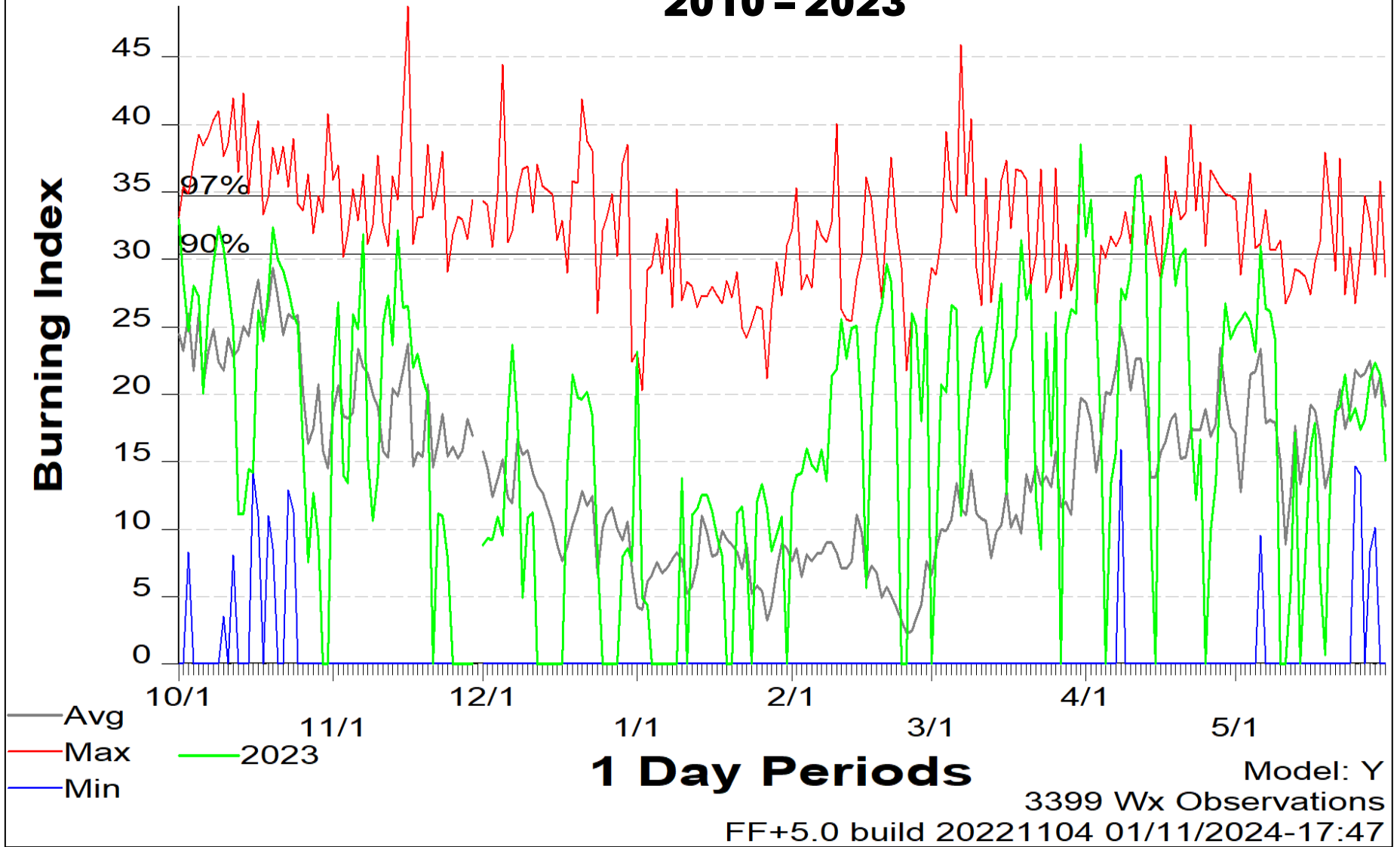
1 Day Periods

Model: Y
1708 Wx Observations

FF+5.0 build 20221104 01/11/2024-17:18

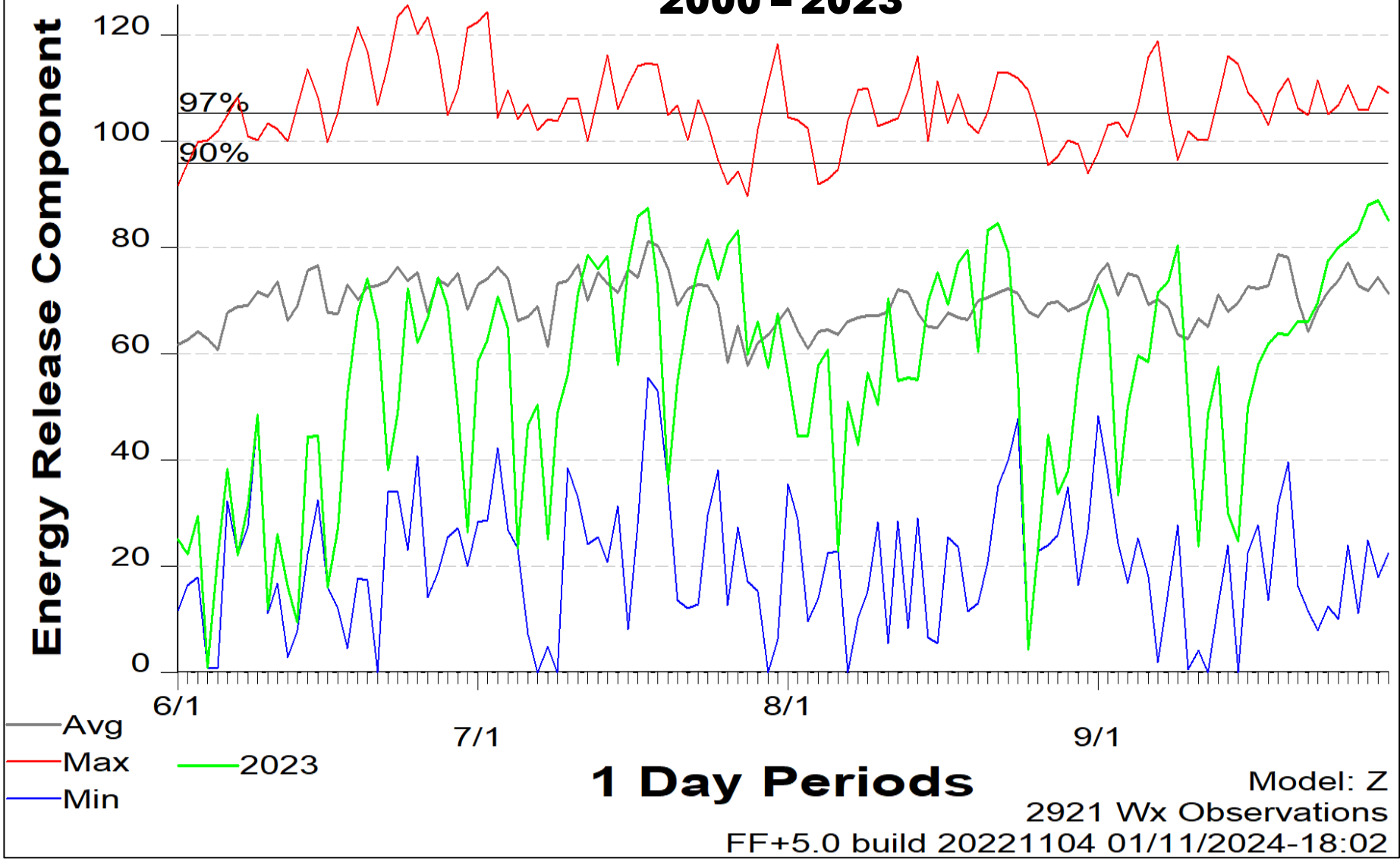
SIG - Foothills 2010 - 2023

Shoulder Season



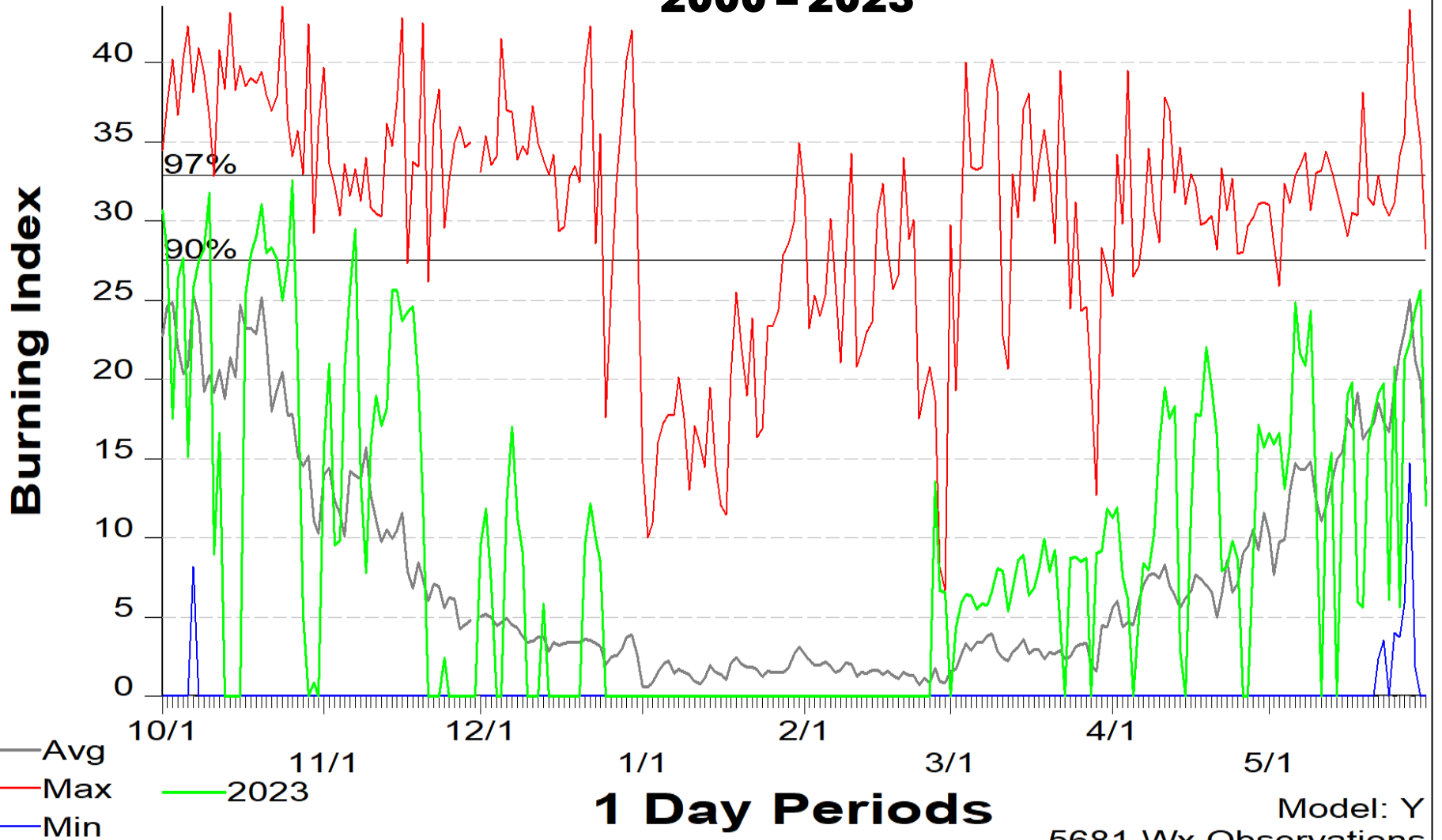
SIG - East Divide 2000 - 2023

Fire Season



SIG - East Divide 2000 - 2023

Shoulder Season



1 Day Periods

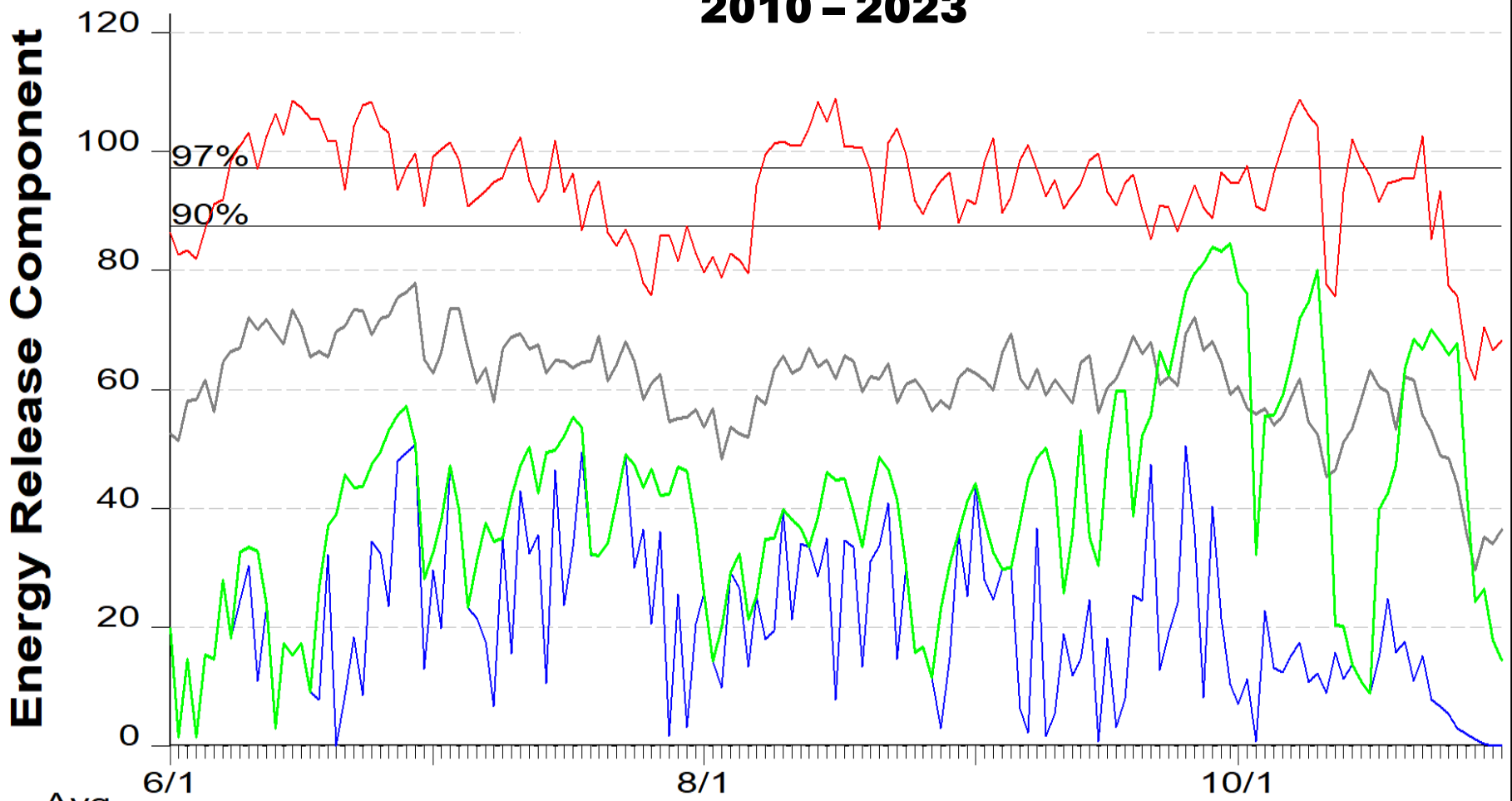
Model: Y

5681 Wx Observations

FF+5.0 build 20221104 01/11/2024-18:18

SIG - West Divide 2010 - 2023

Fire Season



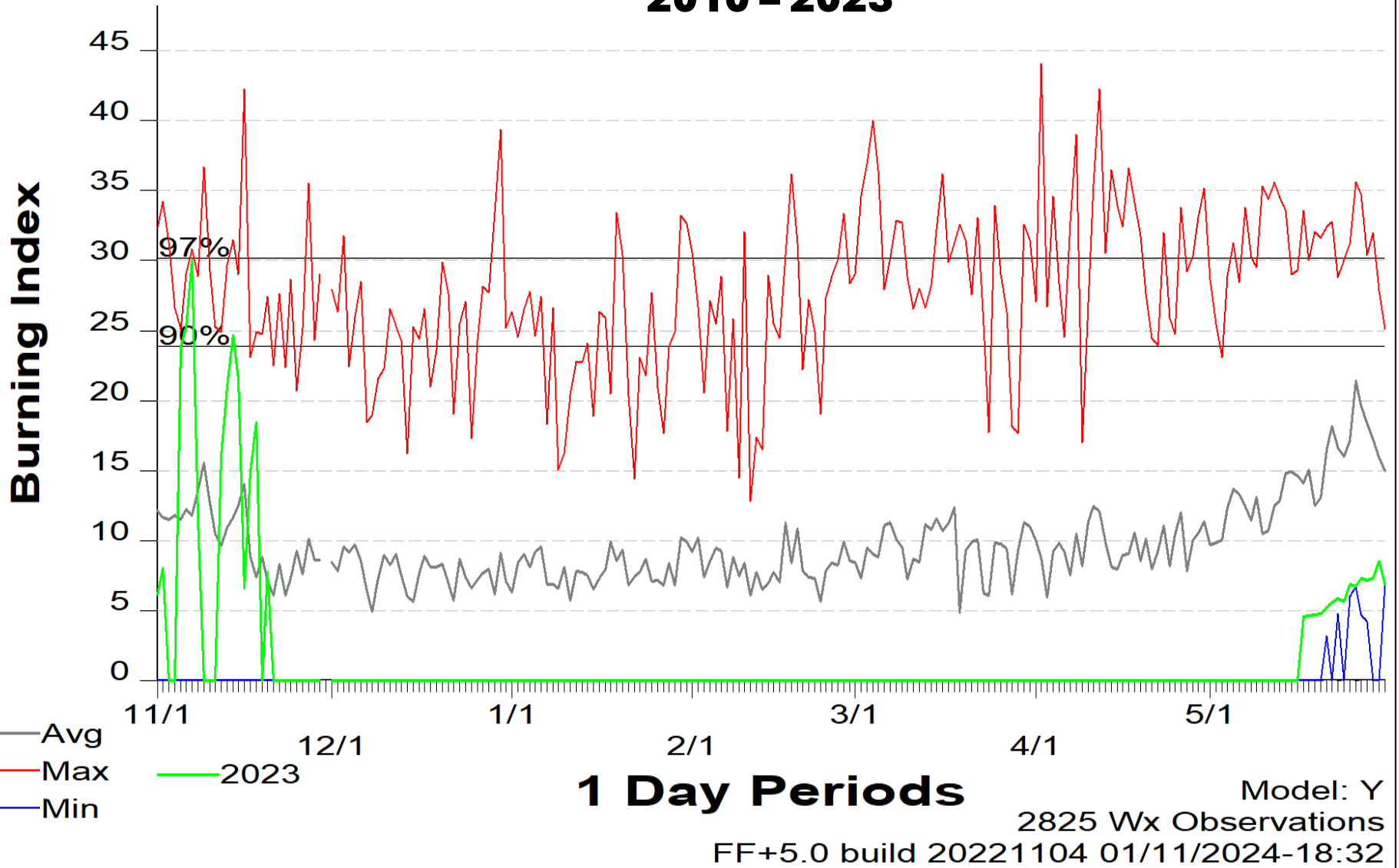
— Avg
— Max
— Min
— 2023

1 Day Periods

Model: Z
2127 Wx Observations
FF+5.0 build 20221104 01/11/2024-18:28

SIG - West Divide 2010 - 2023

Shoulder Season



Fort Collins Zone Aviation Summary

The ARP managed two USFS contracted helicopters at Northern Colorado Helitack over the 2023 fire season, H-777TD (Type 3) and H-405AJ (Type 1). Both Helicopters were on Call When Needed (CWN) Contracts covering their Legacy Mandatory Availability Period (MAP) with Jeffco as their host base. The Type 3 MAP was June 9th through September 23rd and the Type 1 was April 10th through October 6th. H-7TD started the contract off in R2 and then supported incidents across the RMA GACC before finishing up their contract in R1 & R6. H-5AJ spent most of the season in R9, R2 and R6 finishing on day-to-day CWN in late November.

ARP Managed Aircraft Summary

Tail Number	Type of Contract	# of IA Fires	# of Extended Attack Fires	Flight Time	Gallons of Water Dropped	Gallons of Retardant Dropped
N777TD	CWN*	6	9	82.8	6,266	0
N562AJ	CWN*	11	9	176.5	1,306,753	0
Total		17	18	259.4	1,313,019	0

*CWN: Call When Needed

The Fort Collins Dispatch Zone hosted two DFPC SEATs (T-857 and T-827) at FNL (Fort Collins-Loveland Airport), however they were only at FNL for a few days at the beginning of their season before they both prepositioned down in Colorado Springs in the Pueblo Dispatch Zone for the remainder of their availability. T-857 was ordered for the Arrowhead fire but was cancelled enroute so that load of retardant was jettisoned the load at the NoCO SEAT Base.

NOCO SEAT Base Summary

Missions Flown: 0	
Gallons of Water Dropped	Gallons of Retardant Dropped
0	0
Total Gallons Dropped: 0	

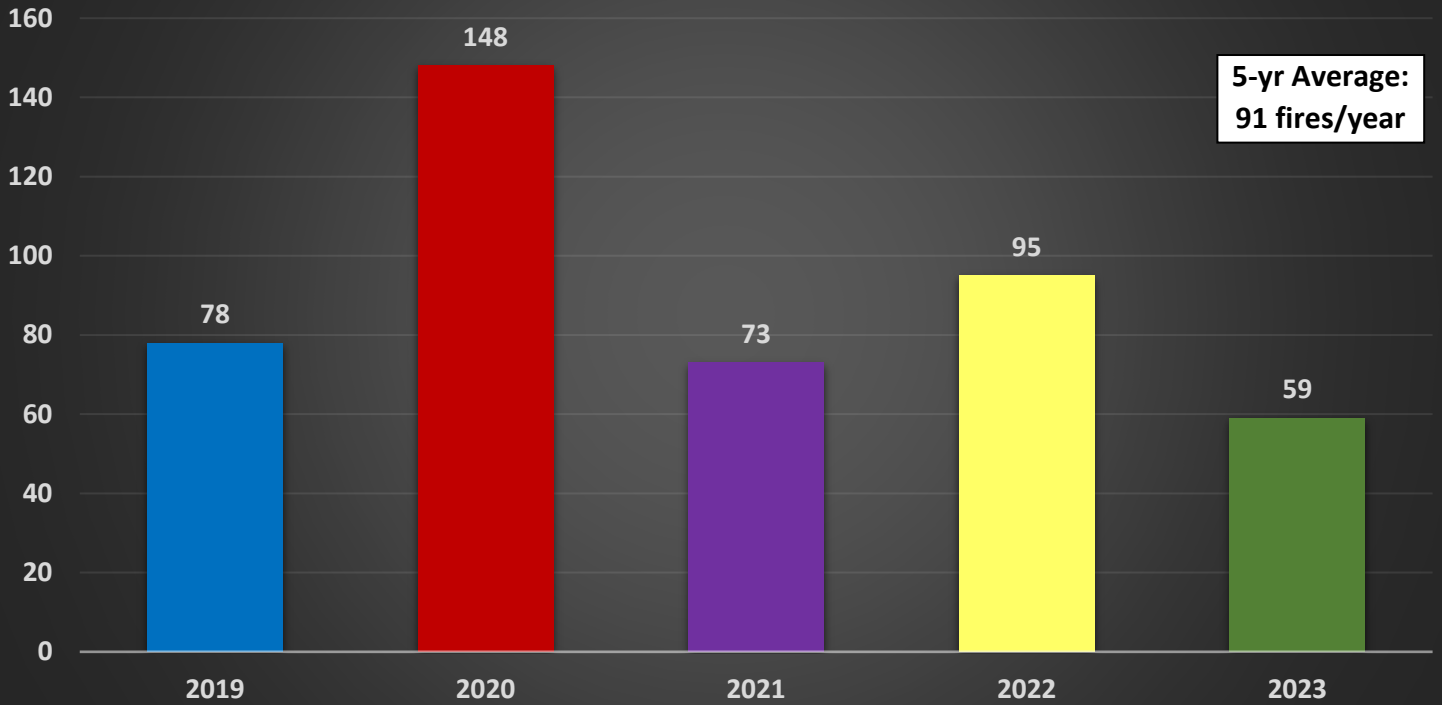
The Jeffco Airtanker Base (BJC) did not host any large tankers for the 2023 fire season. BJC loaded airtankers for out of zone fires only.

Jeffco Tanker Base Summary

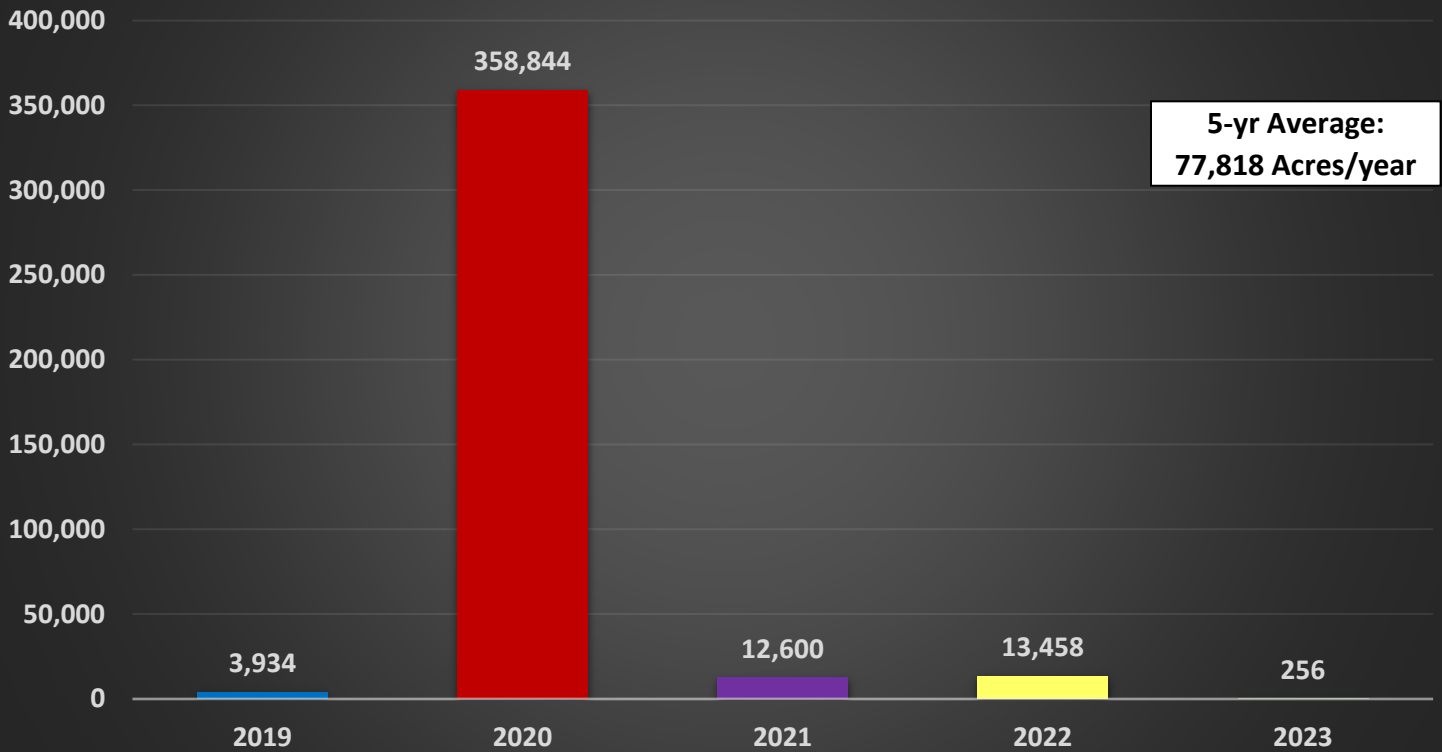
Aircraft	# of Missions	Gallons of Water	Gallons of Retardant
Large Airtanker	24	0	70,441
Aerial Supervision	5	NA	NA
Total	29	0	70,441

Fort Collins Zone 5-yr Averages

Number of Fires Across the FTC Zone



Acres Burned Across FTC Zone



Resource Requests - In Zone and Out of Zone

