

FORT COLLINS INTERAGENCY WILDFIRE DISPATCH CENTER AND AVIATION SERVICE CENTER

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS AND PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Prepared by: Irene C. Mora, Center Manager and Scott Molinari, Asst. Center Manger

COMBINED REPORT: Agency specific information may need to be extrapolated.



Four Mile Canyon Fire September 6, 2010



Churches Park Fire October 3, 2010

FTC WEBSITE: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/

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2010 FTC NARRATIVE/SUMMARY:

Initial Attack/Regional and National Support: During the 2010 year-to-date period, 66,013 fires have burned 3.31 million acres across the U.S., which is the lowest year-to-date acreage burned in the last decade. According to statistics from the [National Interagency Fire Center \(NIFC\)](#), at the end of November, the nationwide number of fires year-to-date was 66,013 which burned 3.31 million acres (1.3 million hectares), with an average of 50.1 acres (20.3 hectares) per fire. During November, an estimated 122,728 acres (49,667 hectares) burned across the U.S., which is 39 percent below the 2000–2009 average.

Although the rest of the nation was not experiencing much activity the Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch had one of its busiest seasons in some years. The Resource Orders for misc. overhead and Fed Engine support to Eastern fires began near the end of Mar. and the Northern CO T2IA crew left for Kentucky in mid April.

Resource Mobilization for the Bark Beetle incident began in mid May. Beginning with only IHC's and eventually bringing down some Type 2 IA (FS Reg.s) crews. The spring remained relatively wet and quiet until the end of June when the Cow Creek Fire was discovered in RMP.

The fire quickly grew to a Type 2 incident but transferred back to a Type 3 incident within a week or so. The fire was contained at 1200 acres in early October. The day after Cow Creek was discovered the Round Mountain fire blew up in the Big Thompson Canyon. The same Type 2 team (Pechota) agreed to take control of both fires. And if it were not for a rain storm that came thru that helped put the Round Mountain fire to bed after the 3rd shift we would have had another rather large incident to deal with.

From then on the fire activity in the zone picked up as indices continued to rise. In Mid August we had a 45 acre fire near the CO/WY border. Over the Labor Day weekend, a significant wind event across the zone came through and on 9/6 the Four Mile Canyon fire started on Private land in Boulder County. Driven by 60 mph winds the fire quickly grew and eventually consumed 167 structures and 6,181 acres of private land. A National Type 1 (Thomas) Team took over the fire. And one week later another fire the Reservoir Road was started in Larimer County which the same team agreed to assist with and was able to provide enough support to catch it within the first few shifts.

Fire restrictions and Bans were put in place across the Front Range after the Four Mile Canyon Fire and severity resources were ordered for the Fort Collins Zone. Activity continued to be steady, with the Churches Park Fire (475 acres) on the Sulphur Ranger District rounding out the year in mid October.

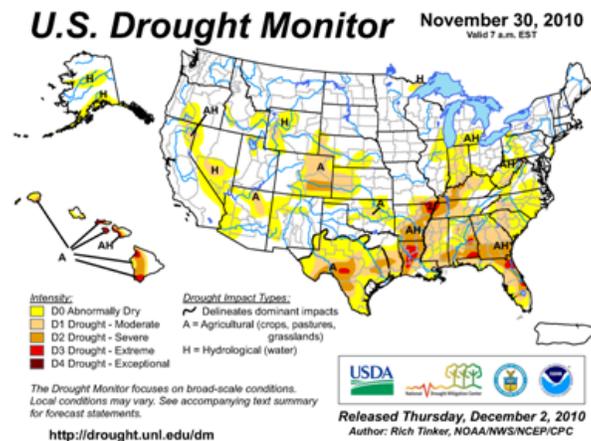
Dry conditions remained and in early November we experienced an increase in fire activity on the Pawnee National Grasslands.

Expanded Dispatch was set up on the FTC zone 4 times in the 2010 season for Cow Creek (RMP), Boswell (ARF), Four Mile Canyon (BLX) and Churches Park (ARF) fires.

Locally, the winter of 2010 saw good snow cover and is allowing for an active pile burning season across all of the zones.

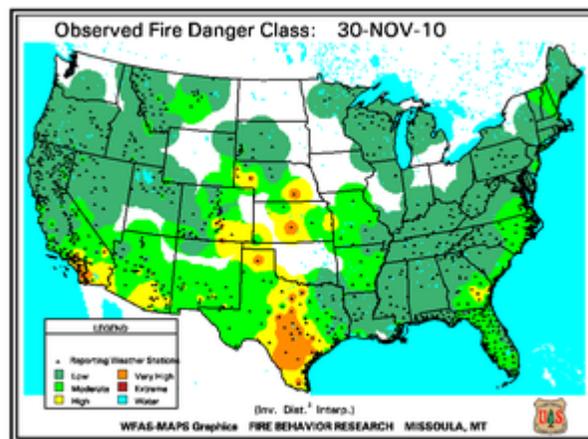
Weather: Weather conditions and we will use the month of November (only data available), when averaged across the U.S. for the month, indicated that precipitation amounts and temperatures were near normal. The western states tended to be cooler and drier than normal, while the Midwest tended to be wetter and warmer than normal. On November 1st, there were 13 large wildfires burning across the U.S.,

three in Kentucky; two in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Florida; and one each in Virginia, **Colorado**, Louisiana, and Mississippi. By the 15th, large wildfire activity was confined to the driest parts of the country — the Ohio River Valley and the Southeast. Four fires were burning in Kentucky, and one was burning in Indiana, Virginia, and Georgia. By the end of the month, wetness in the eastern half of the country helped quiet wildfire activity. Only one large wildfire was burning nationwide — in Oklahoma.



U.S. Drought Monitor map from 26 November 2010

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), the overall size of the drought footprint increased little during November 2010, while some areas experienced drought improvement and others experienced deteriorating conditions. Drought conditions generally improved **one to two** categories across the Ohio River Valley where numerous storm systems dropped several inches of rain during the month. Drought worsened for most of Florida during November, where very little to no precipitation fell. Nearly the entire state was experiencing drought conditions by the end of the month. **Drought also worsened for south Texas and parts of southeast Colorado by two to three categories.** Across the rest of the contiguous U.S., drought conditions did not change much. The ongoing drought conditions across Hawaii improved during November; at the end of the month only 49 percent of the state was experiencing drought, compared to 72 percent at the end of October.



Fire Danger map from 30 November 2010

According to the [U.S. Forest Service \(USFS\) Wildland Fire Assessment System](#), on November 1st, high fire danger was present across areas of the Ohio and mid-Mississippi River Valleys, the northern Rockies, and the Southwest. By the middle of the month, the high fire danger lessened across the northern Rockies, where snowfall was widespread. High fire danger spread in dry areas including the Southeast, lower Mississippi River Valley, western Texas, and the Southwest. A storm system moving through the eastern half of the country during the last few days of the month lowered the fire danger across the Southeast. Dry conditions persisted across the central and southern Plains, where very high fire danger was observed. The high fire danger in the Southwest persisted through the end of November.

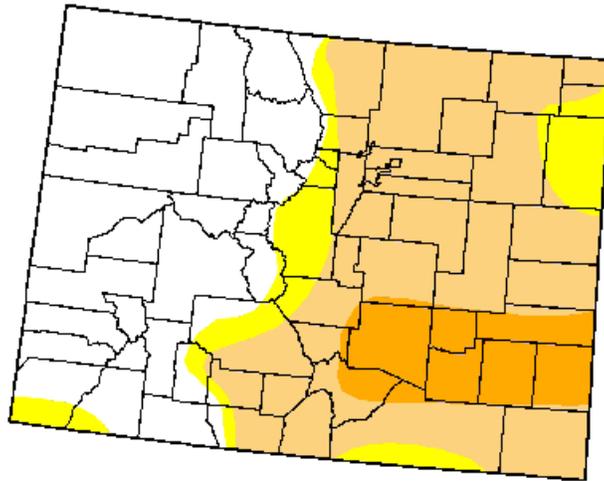
U.S. Drought Monitor

December 28, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Colorado

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	40.40	59.60	49.57	10.13	0.00	0.00
Last Week (12/21/2010 map)	37.45	62.55	48.28	10.13	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (09/28/2010 map)	28.86	71.14	10.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/29/2009 map)	69.22	30.78	7.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	—	—	—	—	—	—
One Year Ago (12/22/2009 map)	69.22	30.78	7.52	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

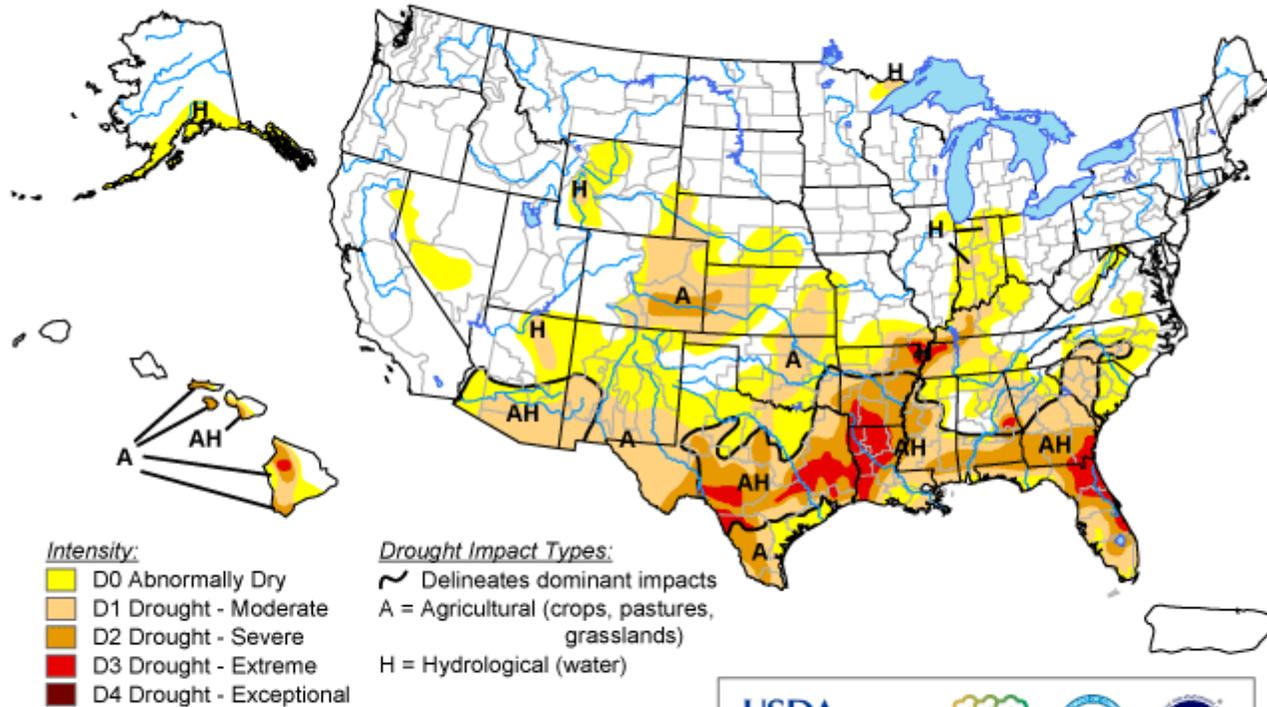


Released Thursday, December 30, 2010
National Drought Mitigation Center

U.S. Drought Monitor

December 28, 2010

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

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- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, December 30, 2010

Author: David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

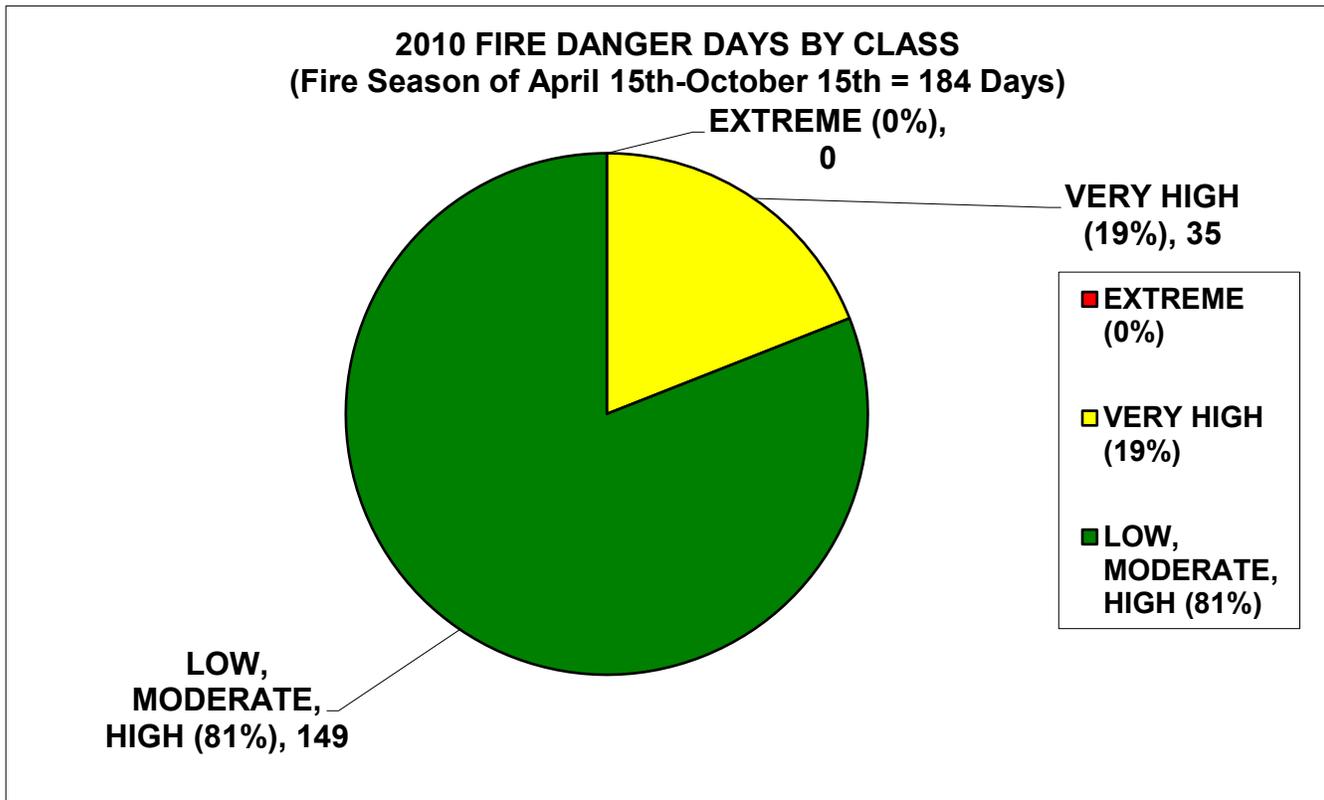
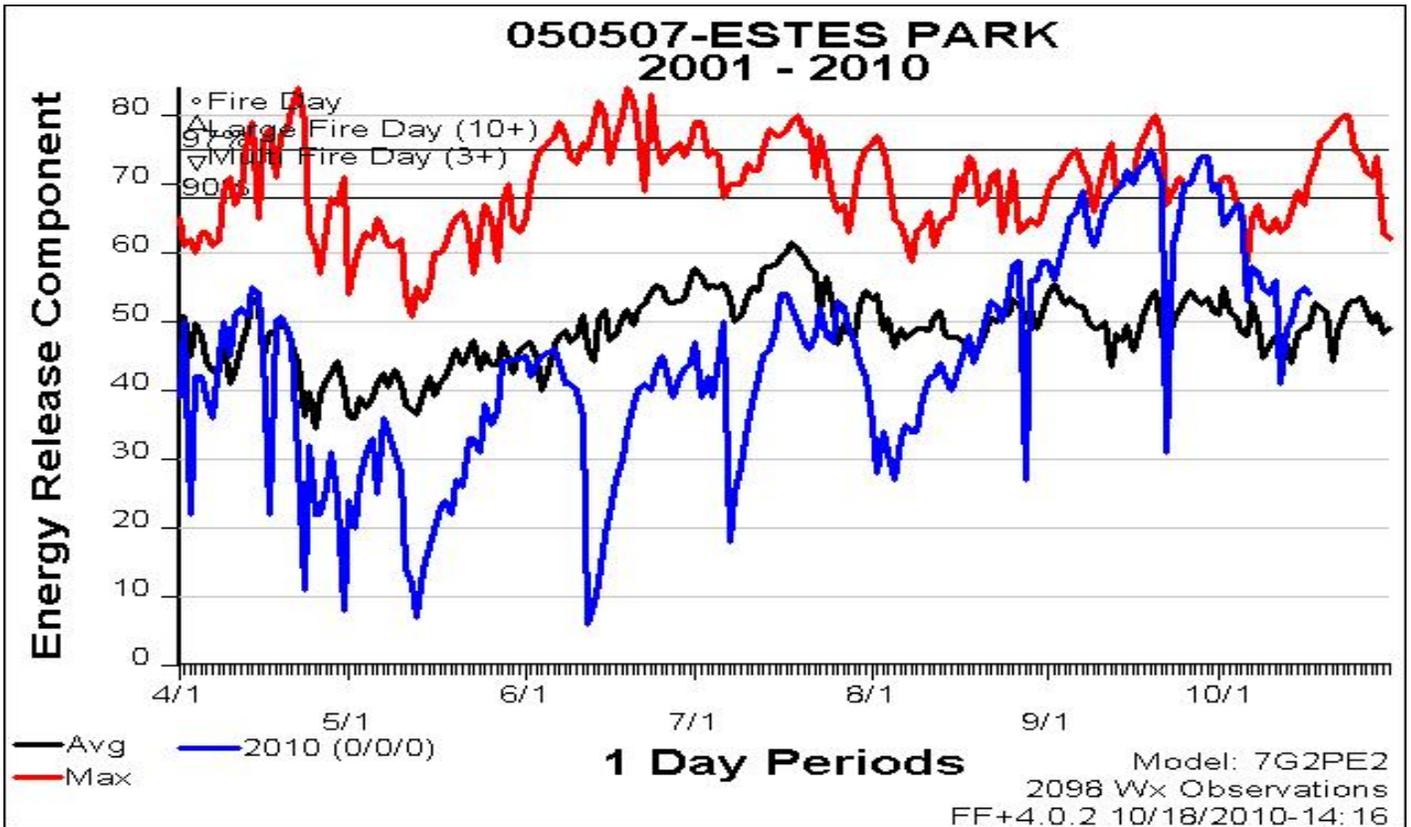
By December 28th, Heavy precipitation inundated parts of the Southwest (especially southern sections of California and Nevada, northwestern Arizona, Utah, and southwestern Colorado) early in the period, but not before flash flooding and mudslides, along with heavy snows at higher elevations, battered southern sections of California and Nevada.

Central and Southern Plains A mixed bag of conditions affected Texas. A swath of moderate rain (1 to 2 inches) fell on central parts, light to moderate rains (0.5 to 1.5 inches) occurred in southeastern sections, light rains (about 0.5 inches) was reported in eastern portions, and little or no precipitation fell on southwest, northwest, and southern Texas. Oklahoma also saw 0.5 to 1.5 inches of precipitation in the southeast but little to the north and west, while eastern Colorado, Nebraska, and most of Kansas measured no precipitation. For improvements, a 1-category change was made in north-central and southeastern Texas (from D2 to D1, and D1 to D0) where 1 to 2 inches of rain fell and short-term dryness was much less than surrounding areas. The southern D3 edge was also slightly trimmed where at least 1 inch of rain was observed. For degradations, D0 was expanded northward in northwestern Texas due to little or no precipitation the past 60-days; D1 and D2 were increased in southern Texas as little or no rain has fallen the past 90-days; and D3 edged into eastern Texas (southwest Nacogdoches and eastern parts of Harrison, Panola, and Marion Counties). The remainder of the state did not change. Farther north in the central Plains, the continued lack of significant precipitation out to 90-days warranted a slight expansion of D0 in southwest and central Nebraska, north-central Kansas, and western Missouri, while D1 increased into the Oklahoma Panhandle, eastern Kansas, and northeastern Oklahoma. In eastern Colorado, although the past 4.5 months have been extremely dry (Fort Collins to Trinidad in the lower tenth percentile), the overall 2010 summer water supplies were good and Colorado's mountain snowpack is off to a good start. Thus, no degradation was made due to the lack of any negative impacts.

Intermountain West and north-central Rockies Pacific storms continued to lash the West, dropping more than 2 inches of precipitation along the entire West Coast and on the Sierra Nevada. The small D0 area in west-central California (San Benito, northwest Fresno, and southwest Merced Counties) was erased after another 0.5 to 1 inches of rain fell there. Farther south, a fetch of deep Pacific moisture dumped copious rains on southern California (5 to 10 inches in southeastern Los Angeles, southwestern San Bernardino, western Riverside, and northern San Diego Counties) and eastward into southeastern California (1 to 5 inches in eastern San Bernardino and southeastern Inyo Counties), southern Nevada (1 to 4 inches in southern Nye, southern Lincoln, and Clark Counties), northwestern Arizona (refer to Southwest narrative), and eastward into Utah, western Wyoming, and western Colorado, abruptly ending the D0 in southern Nevada and further trimming the D0 in central Nevada. The D1 in central Nevada was also removed as all available indicators supported no drought, and the few available sites had more than 200 percent of normal WYTD precipitation. Another wet week (0.5 to 2 inches, locally to 3.5 inches in southwestern Colorado) was enough to trim more D0 in southeastern Utah, southwestern Colorado, and northwestern New Mexico. Farther north, although individual stations are sparse in southwestern Wyoming, the Upper Green River Basin reported good soil and stream flow conditions, along with more than 300 percent of normal precipitation so far this month. Also, adjacent SNOTEL average basins WYTD precipitation and Dec. 28 SWC were between 130 to 170 percent, so D0 was eased in southwestern Wyoming. Furthermore, the western D0 and D1 edges were slightly trimmed away as 0.5 to 1.5 inches of precipitation fell. SNOTEL average basins in western Wyoming are now above 100 percent for both WYTD precipitation and Dec. 28 SWC, but lower elevation sites remained subnormal.

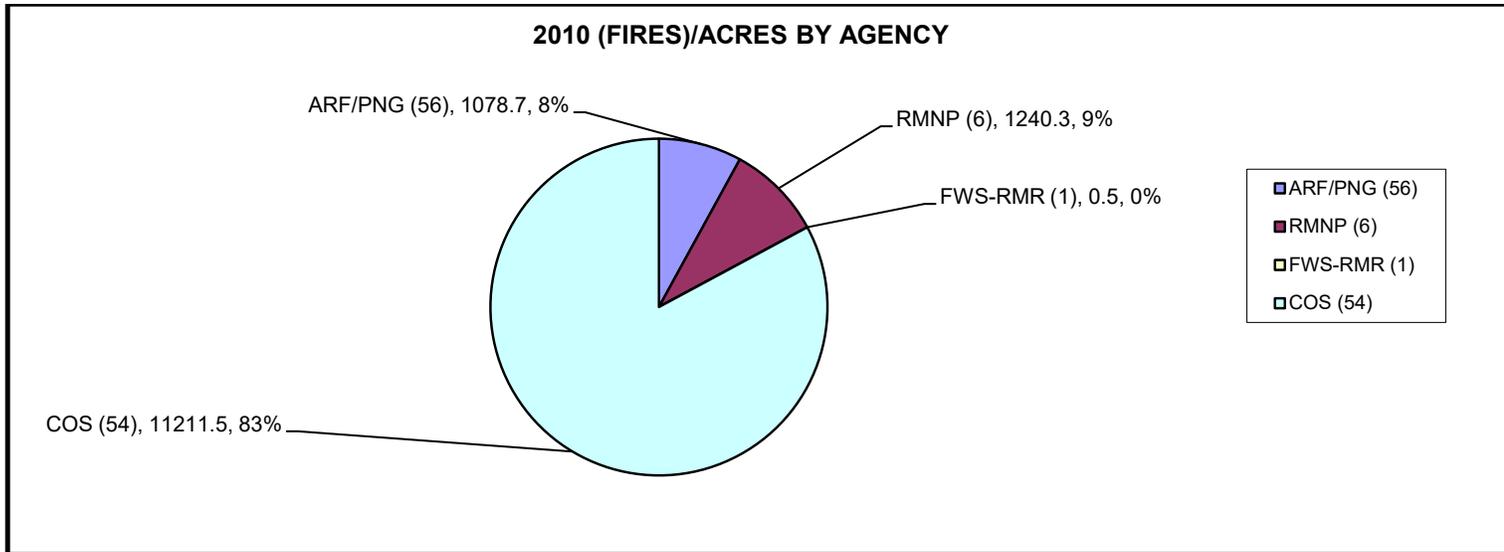
2010 fire season representative ERC chart for the Estes Park weather station:

Of the established April 15th through October 15th fire season (184 days); there were 35 days (19% of fire season) spent above the Very High fire danger rating and zero days of the fire season spent above the Extreme fire danger level. Based on passed fire occurrence an average annual fire season would have 18 days (10%) at or above the Very High Fire Danger level and 5-6 days (3%) in the extreme fire danger level.



2010 NORTHERN FRONT RANGE INTERAGENCY FIRE OCCURRENCE/ACRES:

The Northern Front Range Interagency Wildfire Cooperators experienced a total of 117 fires for a total of 13,531 acres burned. The Interagency breakdown of number of fires (in parentheses) and acres burned are shown in the following. The stats reported in this document are only for fires that received an FTC incident number or impacted resource allocation within a county that has a County Annual Operating Plan. State and private statistics are available from the Colorado State Forest Service.

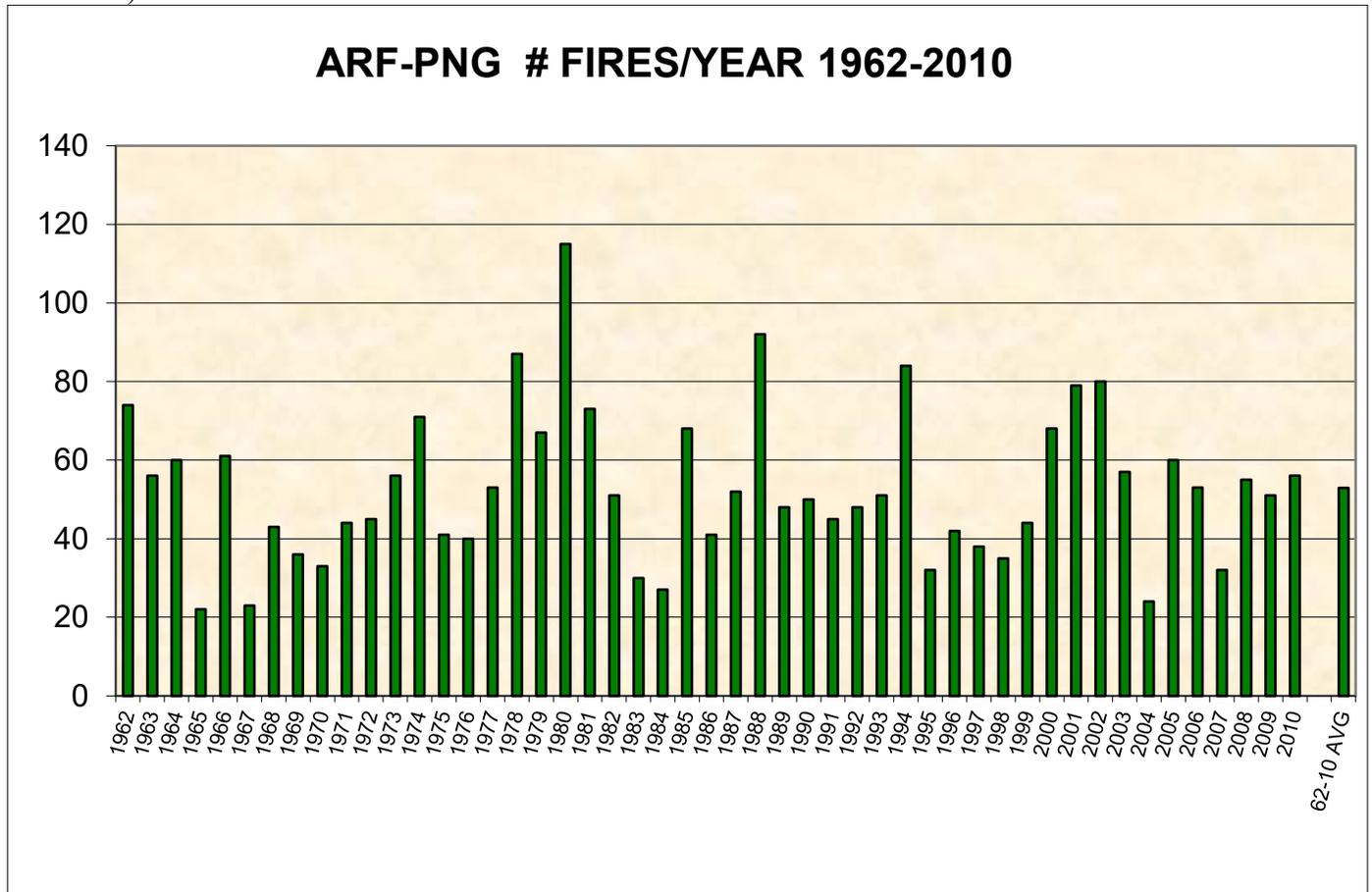


COS Includes: Larimer (LRX), Boulder (BLX), Gilpin (GLX), Clear Creek (CCX), Weld (WEX), Adams (ADX), Washington (WAX), Morgan (MGX) and Logan (LOG) Counties.

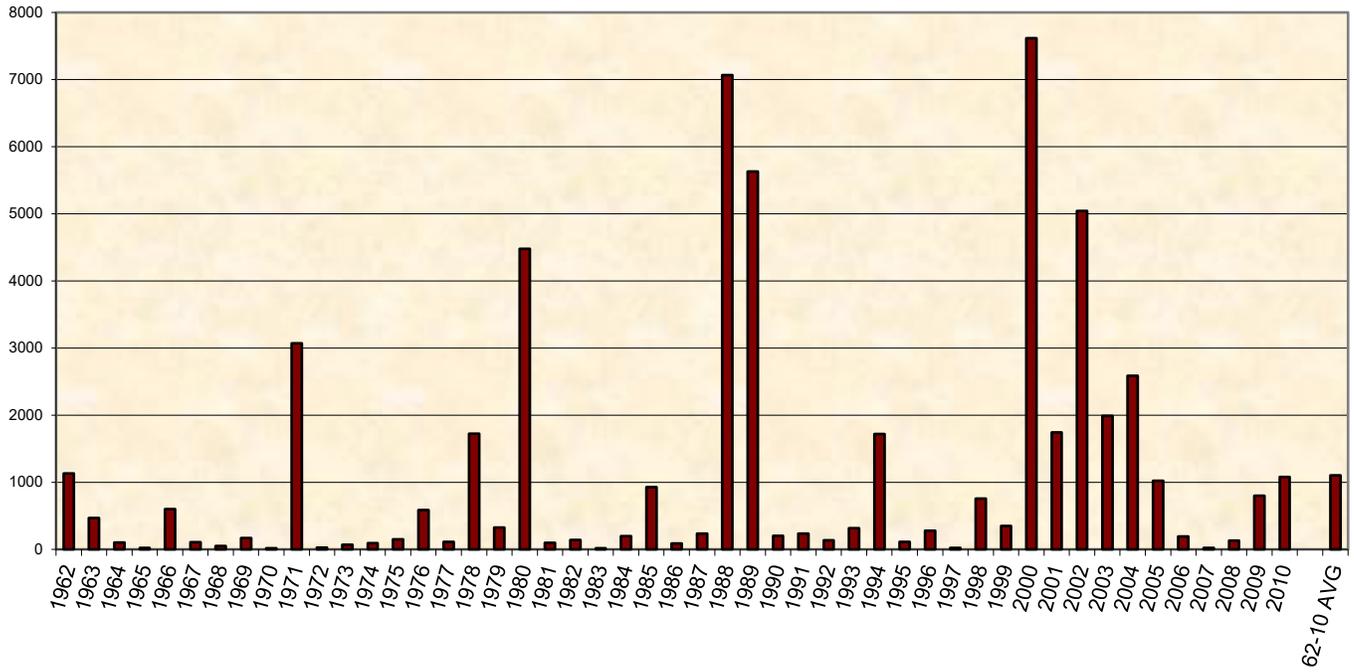
2010 ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT N.F./PAWNEE N.G. FIRE OCCURANCE/ACRES:

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland experienced 56 fires for a total of 1,079 acres burned (USFS acres only). Of the 56 fires, 44 fires (79%) were human-caused for 1,031 acres. Twelve fires (21%) were lightning-caused for 48 acres. The following bar graphs show the fire occurrence and acres burned from 1962 thru 2010 for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. Historical records for the interagency cooperators are not available.

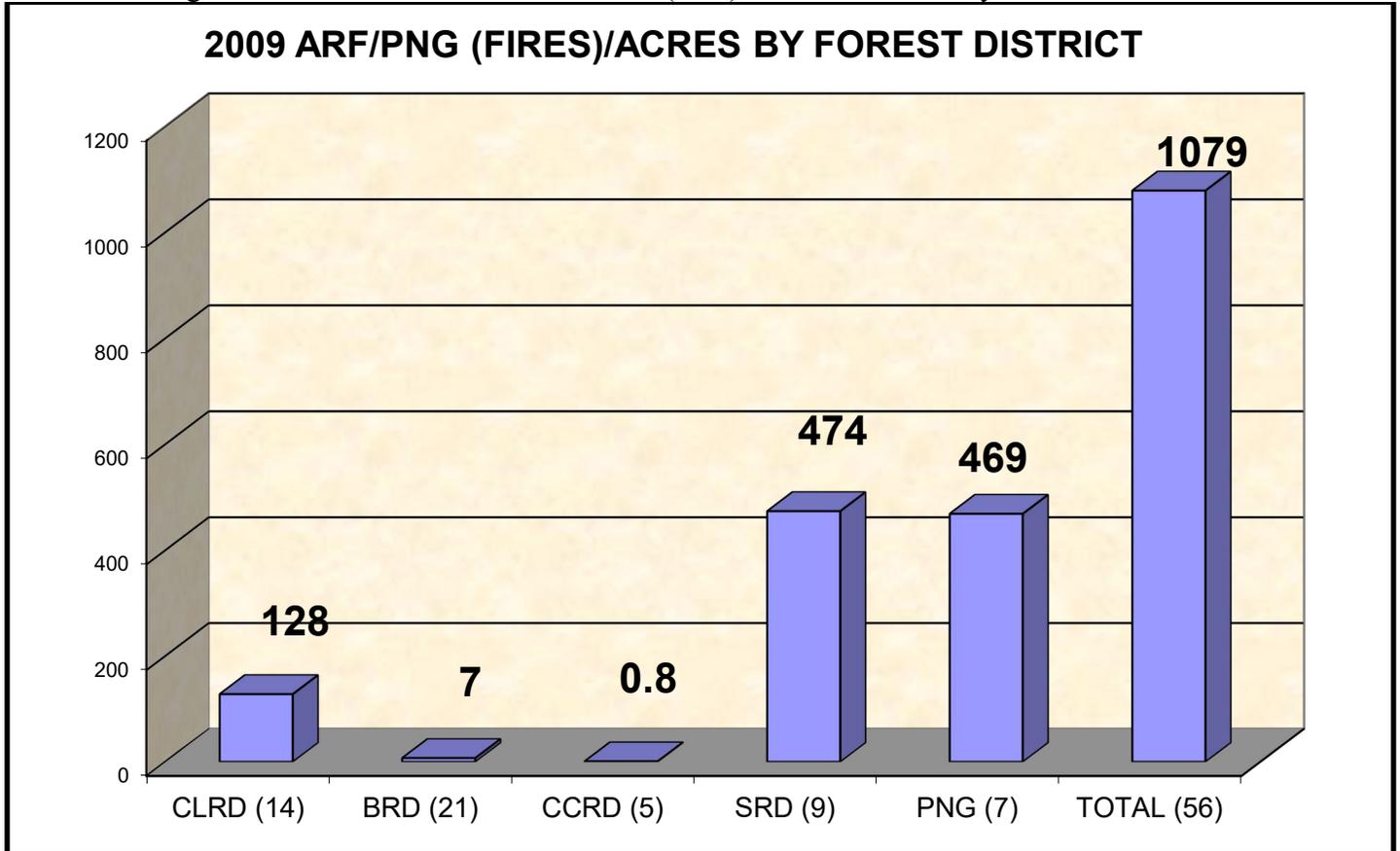
- The 49-year historical average annual fire occurrence and acres burned is: 53 fires for 1,103 acres/year.
- The five-year average annual is: 50 fires for 444 acres per year.
- The ten-year average annual is: 55 fires for 1,460 acres per year burned.
- There have been a total of 2,593 fires for 54,024 acres burned from 1962 through 2010 (49 Years).



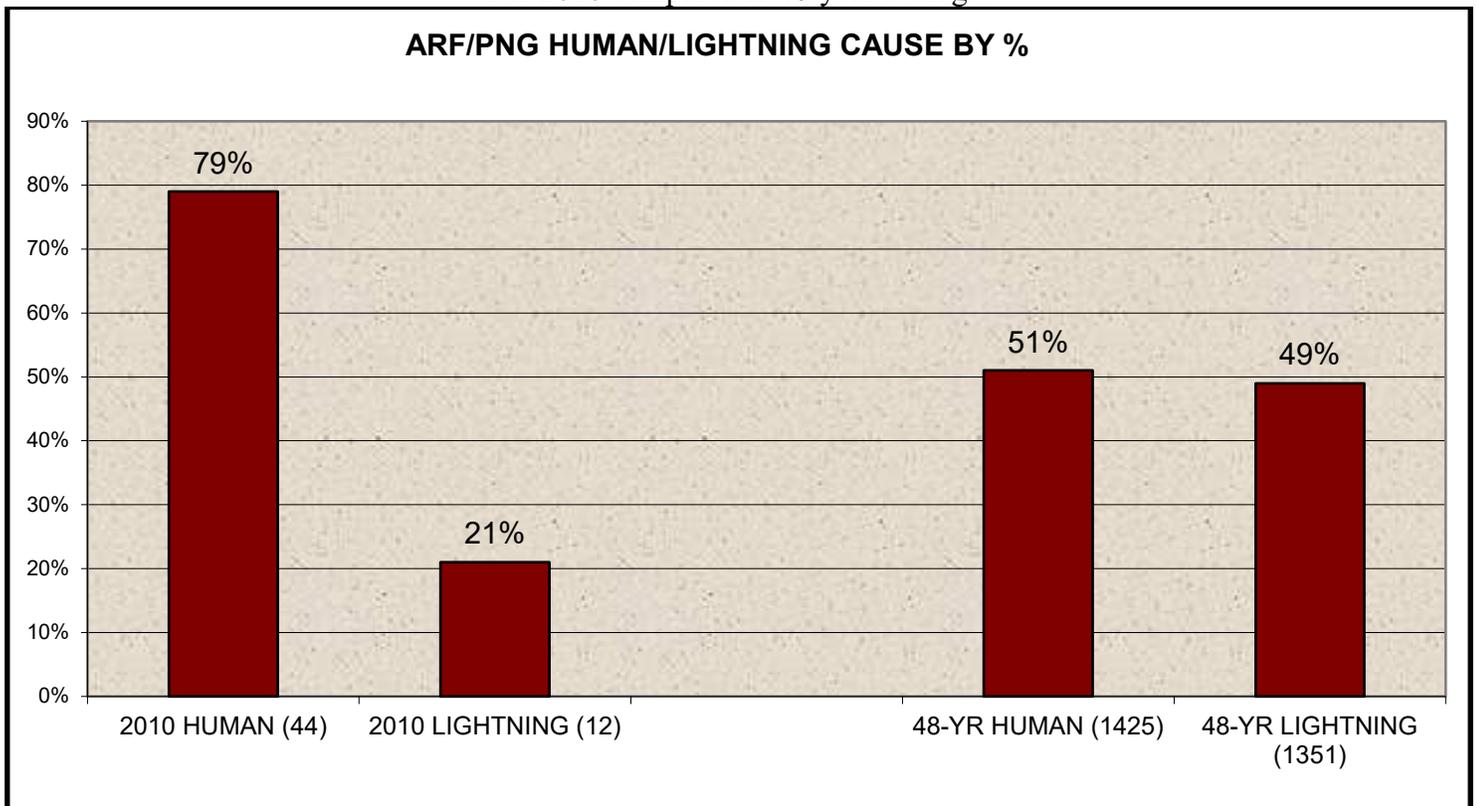
ARF-PNG ACRES BURNED/YEAR 1962-2010



The following chart shows the 2010 distribution of (fires) and acres burned by ARNF/PNG district.

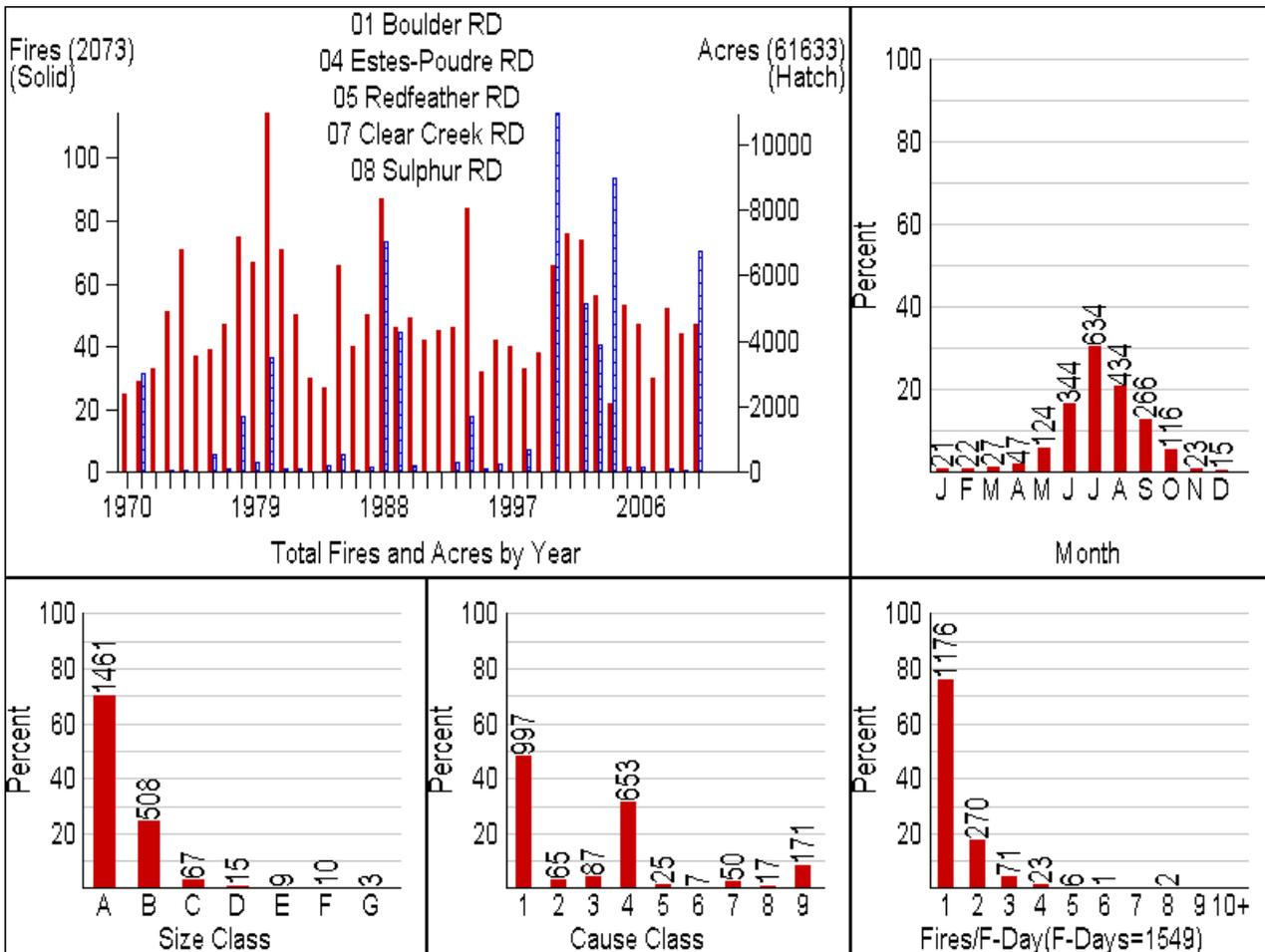


The following chart shows ARNF/PNG fire cause (Human Vs Lightning) For 2010 compared to 48-year average.



The follow series of charts are a compilation of fire records from 1970 to 2010:
(Does not include Pawnee National Grassland fires)

- The first chart shows fires and acres burned each year (*Includes Non-forest Service acres*).
- Fire occurrence by month (Fire Season).
- Fires by size class: (A: 0-.25) (B: .25-10) (C: 10-100) (D: 100-300) (E: 300-1,000) (F: 1,000-5,000) (G: 5,000+)
- Fires by cause: (1=Lightning) (2=Equipment) (3=Smoking) (4=Campfire) (5=Debris) (6=Railroad) (7=Arson) (8=Children) (9=Miscellaneous)
- Fires per day.

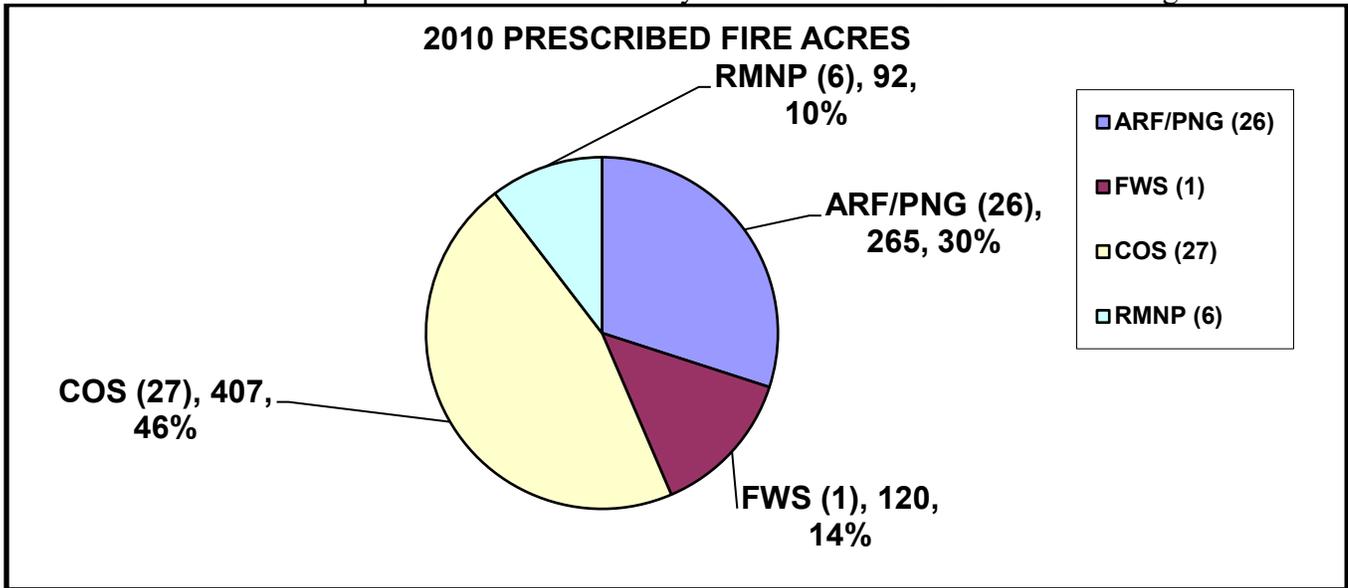


ARF/PNG LARGE FIRE HISTORY 1960-2009 (300+ ACRES GRASS/100+ ACRES TIMBER):

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>FIRE NAME</i>	<i>ACRES</i>	<i>H/L</i>	<i>YEAR</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>FIRE NAME</i>	<i>ACRES</i>	<i>H/L</i>
1960	PNG	RENO	606	H	1996	RFRD	GREYROCK	130	H
1960	PNG	TOEDTLI	660	L	1998	CCRD	BEAR TRACK	477	H
1962	CCRD	REST HOUSE	1,007	H	1998	CLRD	BOBCAT GULCH	10,599	H
1962	RFRD	ROACH	748	H	2000	PNG	SPRING	1,268	H
1962	EPRD	PALISADE	140	H	2001	CLRD	PREVENT	190	H
1966	EPRD	COMANCHE	470	H	2002	CLRD	HEWLETT GULCH	500	H
1968	CCRD	LINCOLN	740	L	2002	CLRD	BIG ELK	4,348	H
1971	RFRD	BULL MTN.	2,635	H	2002	BRD	OVERLAND	3,400	H
1971	RFRD	LOOKOUT	124	L	2003	CLRD	PICNIC ROCK	8,908	H
1971	RFRD	SKYLINE	210	H	2004	PNG	KLINGENSMITH	850	H
1976	BRD	COMFORTER	256	H	2009	BLX	OLD STAGE	3,008	H
1976	RFRD	ANSEL #2	250	H	2009	MGX	STALK FIRE	3,500	H
1978	CCRD	RESERVOIR	400	H	2009	LOX	LOGAN FIRE	7,000	H
1978	RFRD	KILLPECKER	1,200	H	2009	ARF	BAKER DRAW	623	H
1979	EPRD	PIERSON PARK	312	H	2009	LRX	RED TAIL	332	H
1980	SRD	M.SUPPLY CK.	477	H	2010	WEX	WIND FARM	487	H
1980	RFRD	BEARTRAP	2,734	H	2010	WEX	EAGLE NEST PRAIRIE	600	H
1980	EPRD	YOUNG GULCH	180	H	2010	RMP	COW CREEK	1,200	L
1980	PNG	KLINGENSMITH	1,000	L	2010	LRX	RENNELS	327	H
1985	RFRD	GREYROCK	235	L	2010	BLX	FOUR MLE CANYON	6,181	H
1985	PNG	McGREW	310	L	2010	LRX	RESERVOIR ROAD	725	H
1988	RFRD	GRACE CK.	2,800	H	2010	WEX	WELD HWY 34	500	H
1988	BRD	BEAVER LK.	757	H	2010	WEX	S. WELD HWY 34	500	H
1988	BRD	CANYON	2,471	H	2010	WEX	KERSEY	1,000	H
1988	RFRD	SWAN	200	H	2010	SRD	CHURCHES PARK	473	H
1988	BRD	BLACKTIGER	1,804	H	2010	PNG	SAND CREEK	340	H
1989	RFRD	MOBERLY	364	L					
1989	RFRD	LIVERMORE	1,967	L					
1989	RFRD	EATON RES.	100	H					
1989	PNG	HORSETAIL	1,283	H					
1989	RFRD	GOODELL	141	L					
1990	EPRD	SNOWTOP	275	L					
1993	EPRD	HOURLASS	1,221	L					
1994	EPRD	EGGERS	370	L					
1994	EPRD	CRYSTAL	370	L					

2010 PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

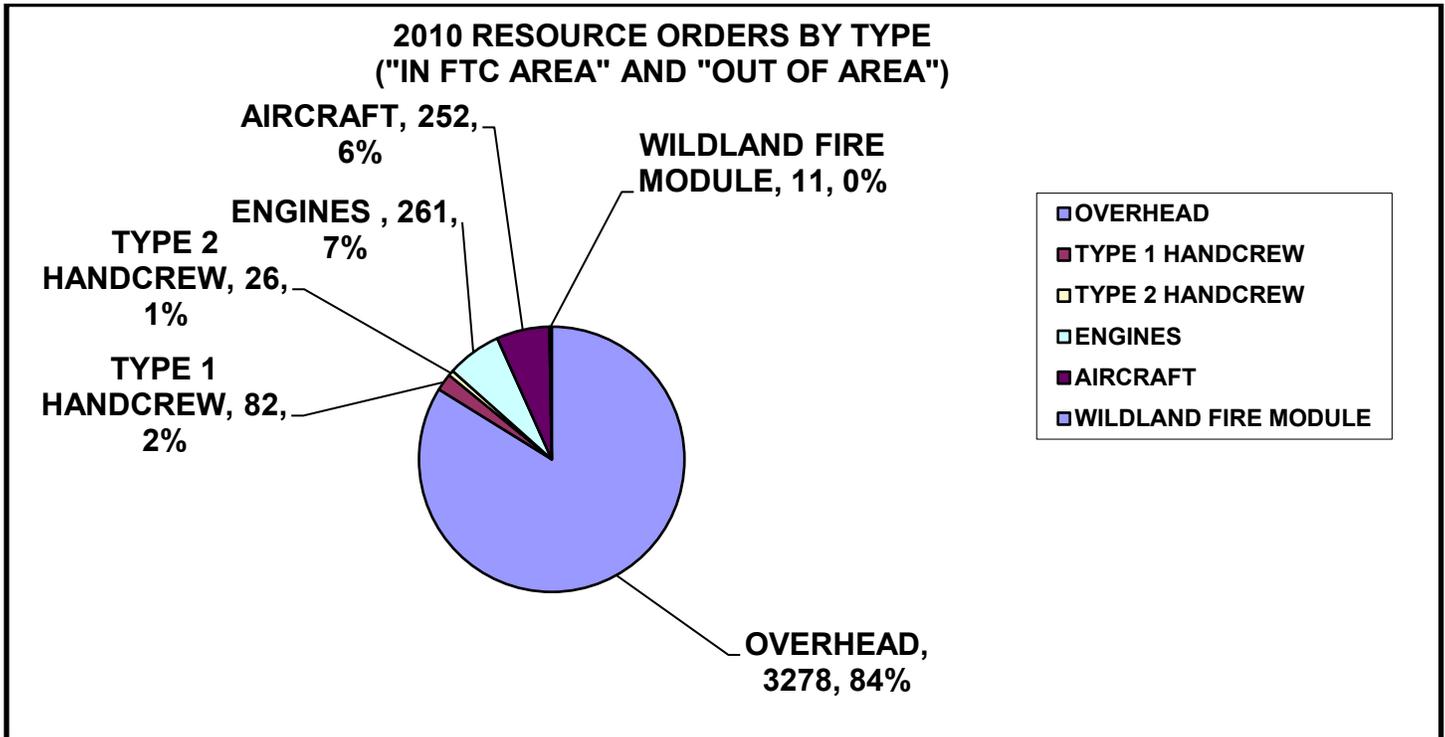
These were the numbers for prescribed burns currently available as of 12/31/10 for all the agencies. .

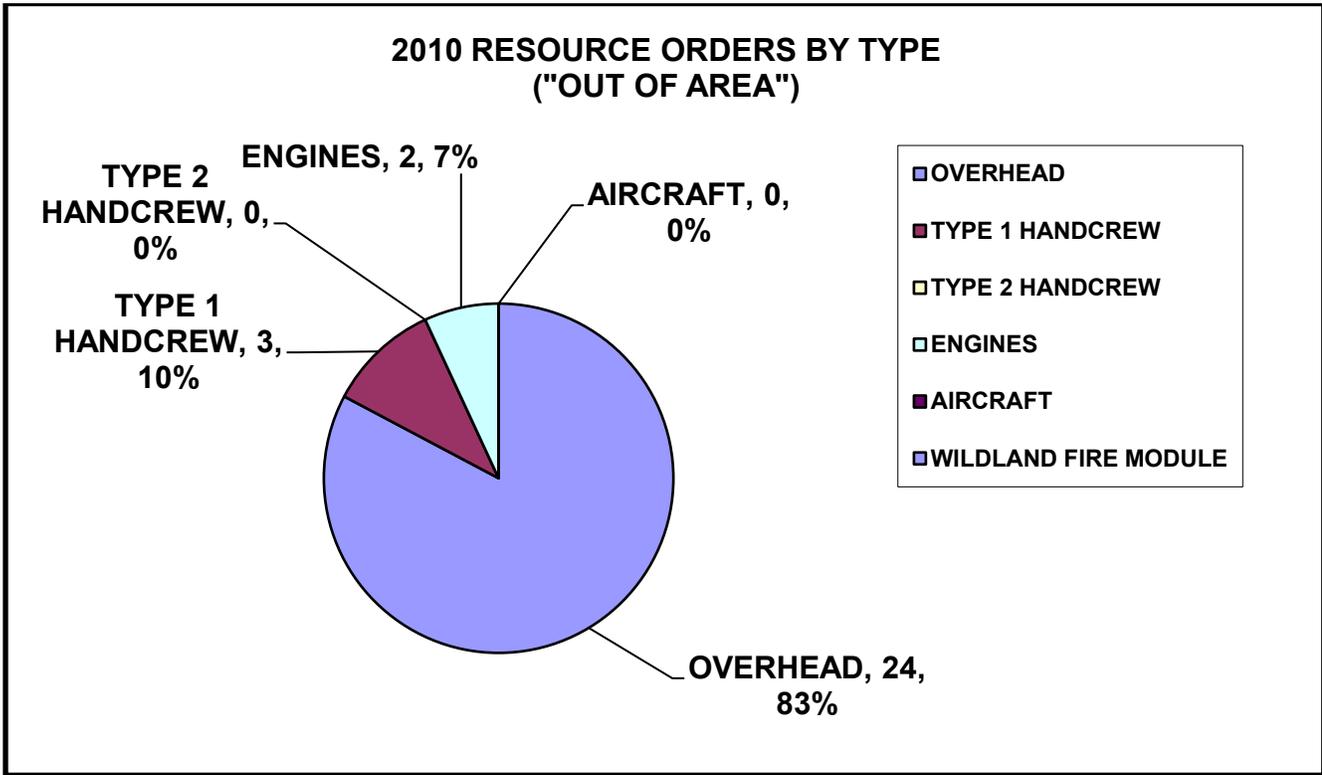


2010 FORT COLLINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER AND AVIATION SERVICE CENTER REPORT:

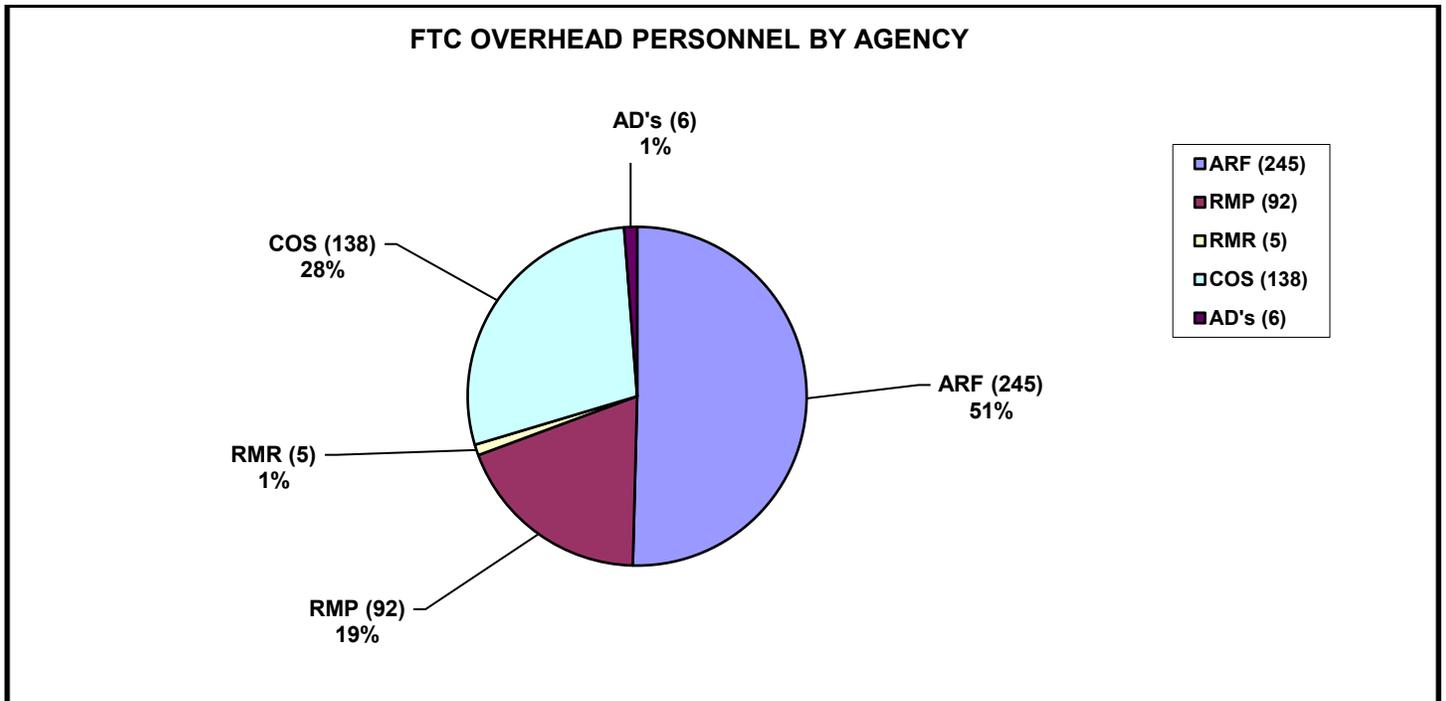
FTC processed a total of **4,191** resource orders (excludes supply/service orders). This includes all resource orders for “in-area” and “out-of-area” assignments. *This does not include many resources that were not ordered through official channels nor does it include de-mob and reassignment orders for out-of-area resources brought into the area for project fire support.*

The breakdown of resource assignments by type is shown in the following chart.

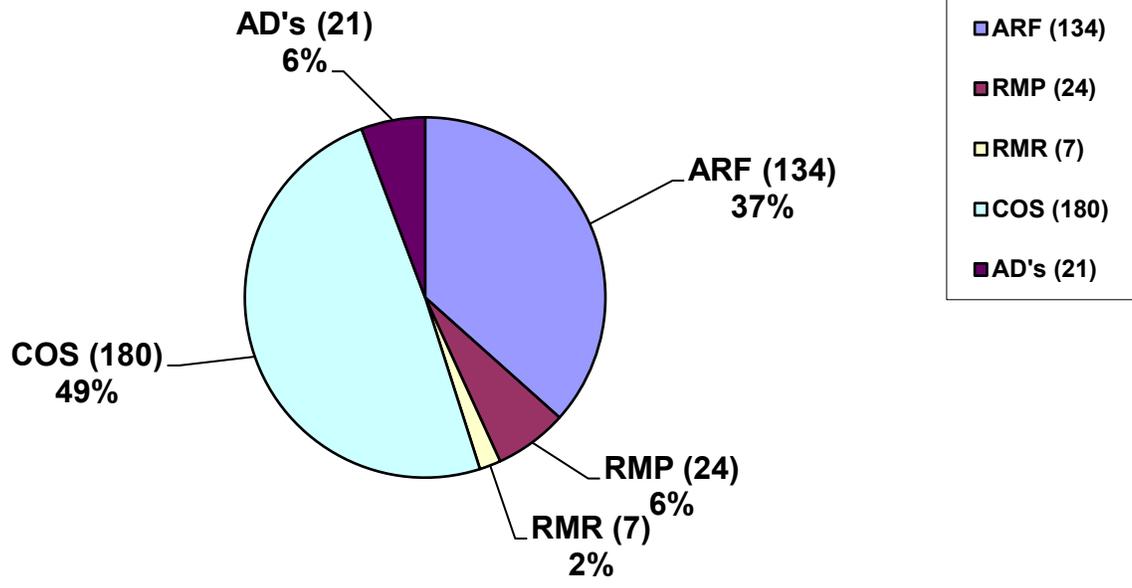




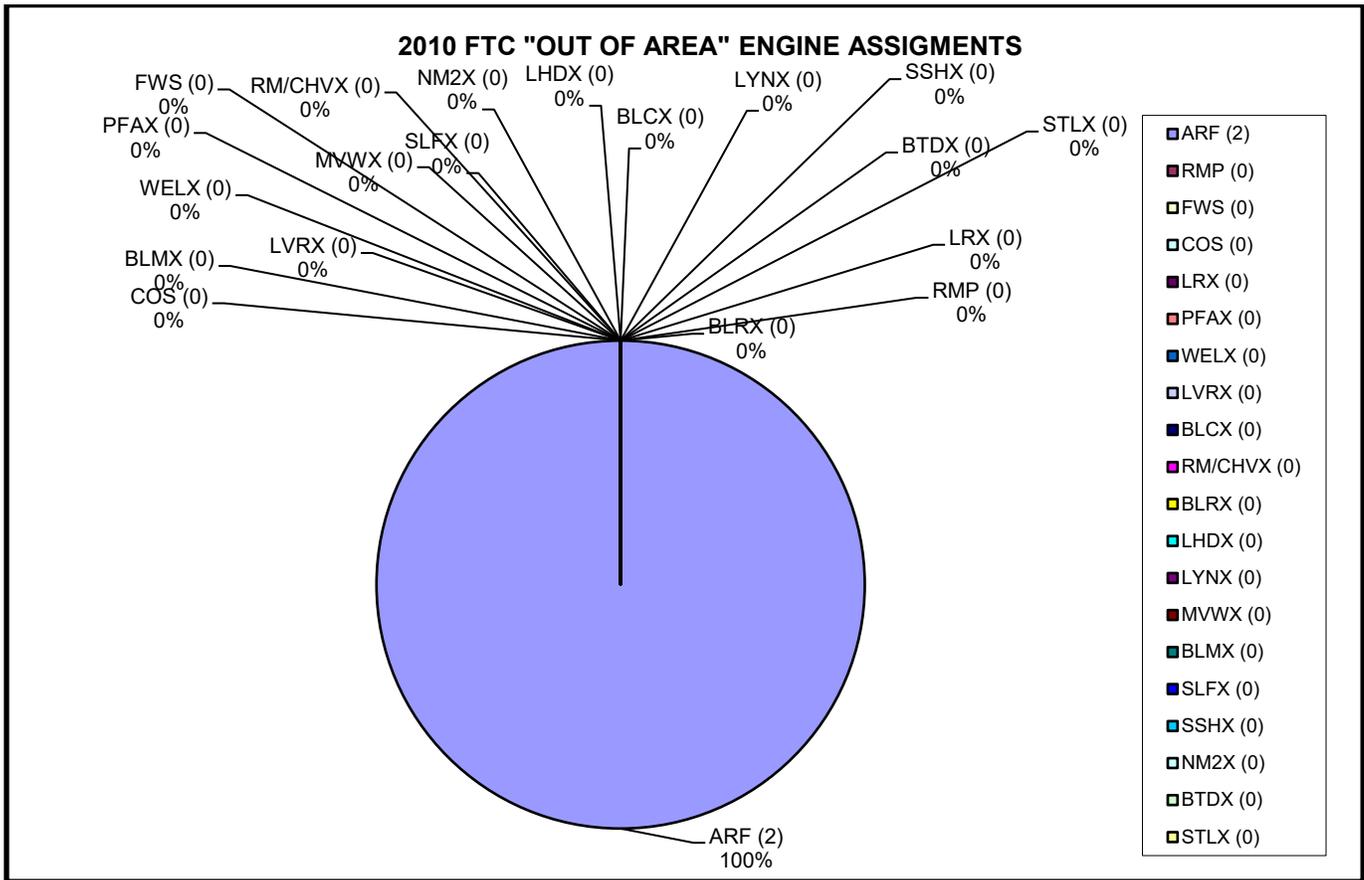
The chart below shows the number of personnel assigned to incidents from each agency for 2010. The number in () is the number of Overhead assignments the agency filled. The percentage of the total number of filled Overhead assignments is also denoted. Example: The Arapaho-Roosevelt N.F./Pawnee N.G. have 51% of the total number of Overhead personnel (chart #1) and filled 37% of the Overhead resource orders (chart #2). These numbers are influenced by the amount of commitment required on the home unit due to fire severity.



2010 FTC OVERHEAD ASSIGNMENTS BY AGENCY
(Documented on resource orders only)

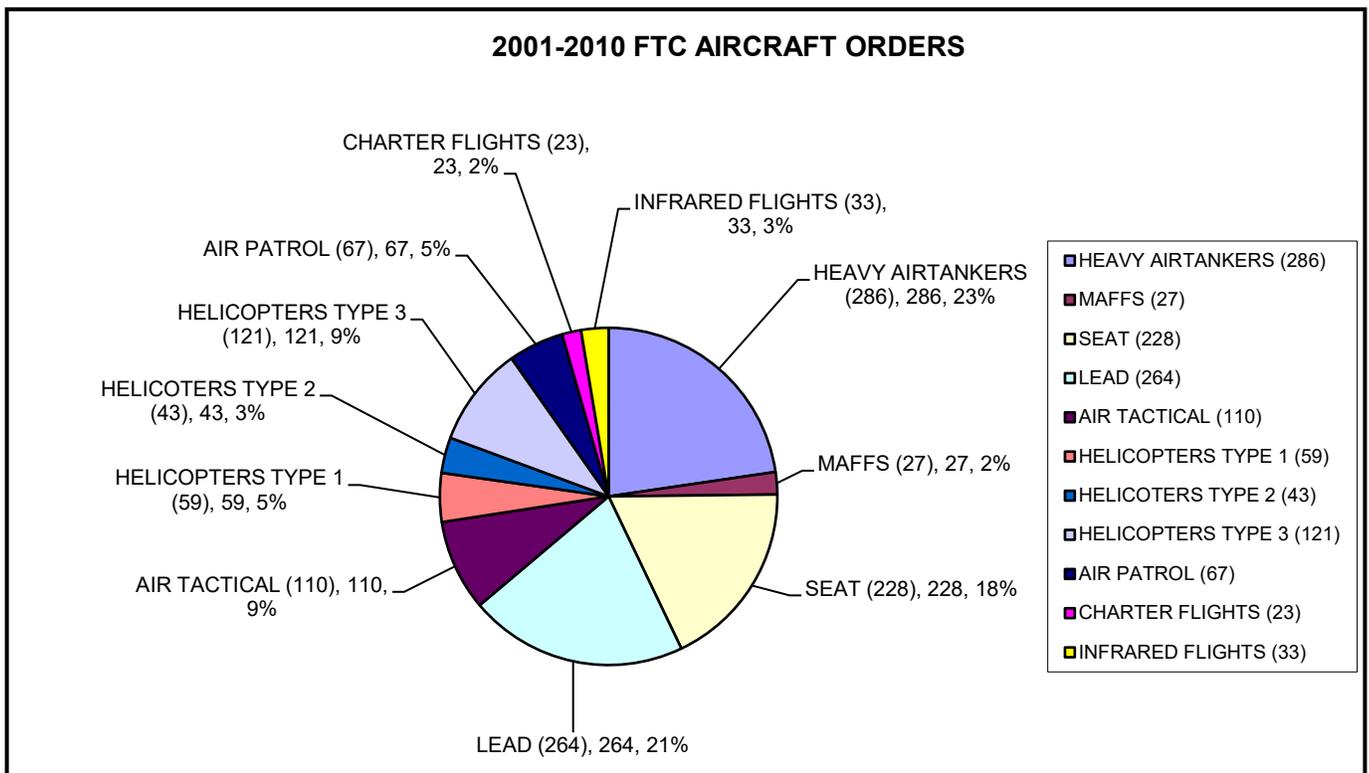
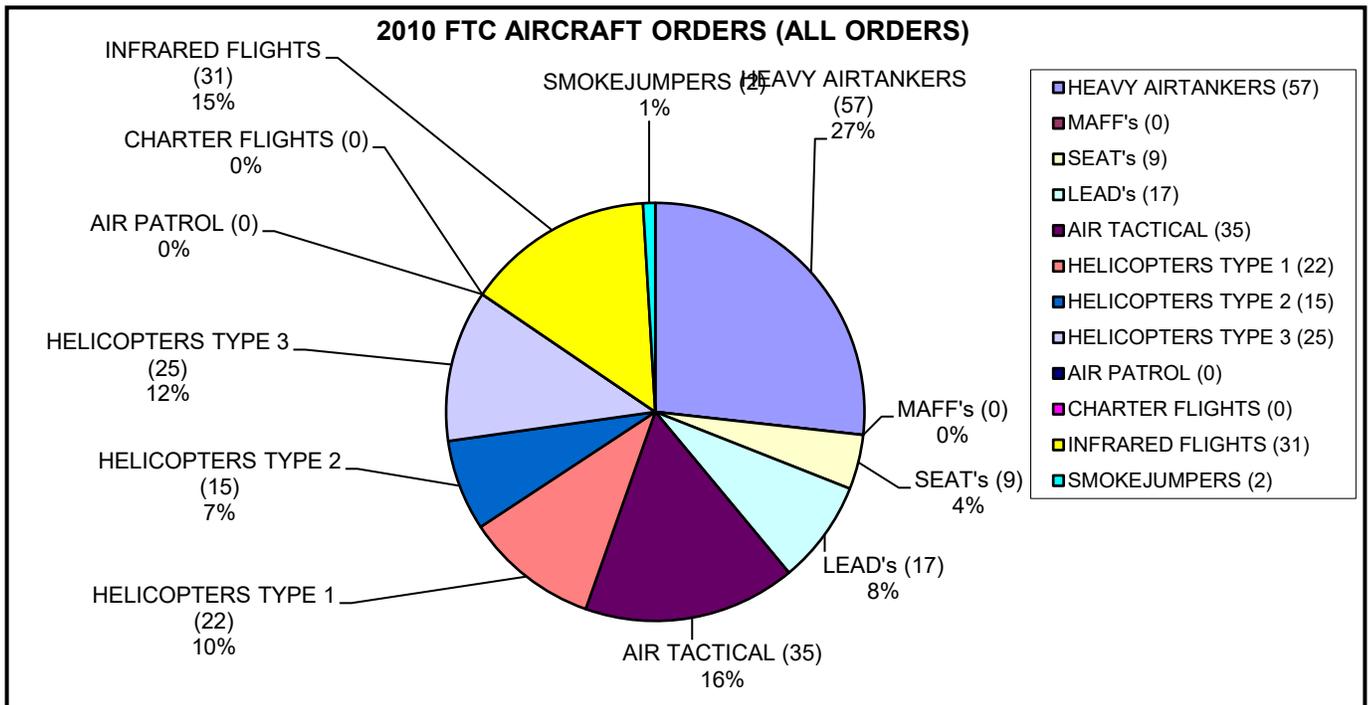


There were a total of 6 out-of-area wildfire incident engine assignments filled. There have been 315 total assignments from 1997 through 2010 (thirteen years). This does not include Severity, Pre-Suppression, or agency specific requests. The average annual number of engine assignments is 26 orders per year.

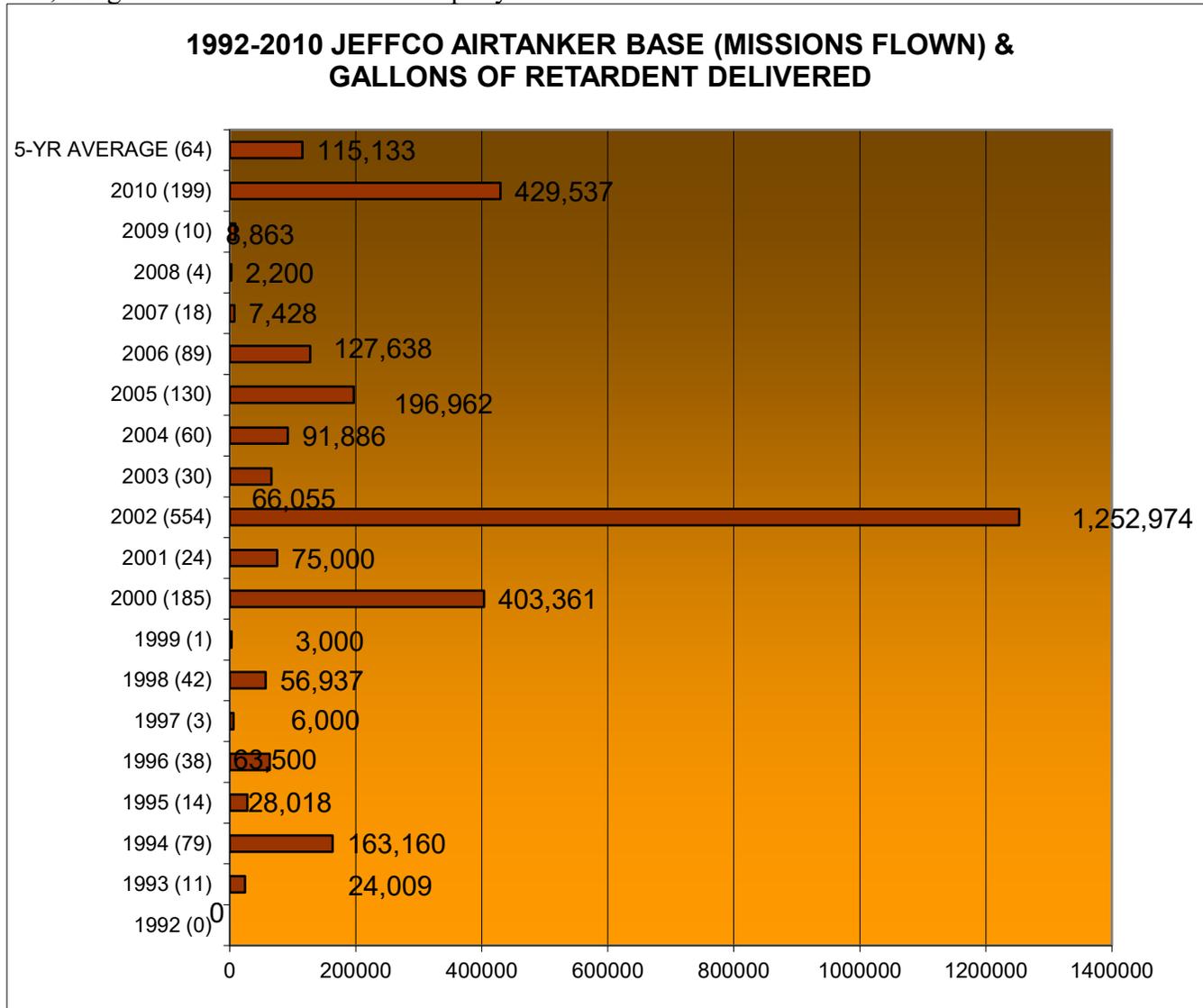


AVIATION:

FTC processed 213 aircraft orders during the 2010 fire season. See chart below for breakdown of orders and aviation resource types.



There were 199 missions flown, delivering 429,537 gallons of retardant, from the Jeffco Airtanker Base in the 2010 fire season. The 5 five year average annual numbers for the Jeffco Airtanker base are 64 missions flown per year and 115,133 gallons of retardant delivered per year.



Key to Legend Mnemonics:

ARF	Arapaho-Roosevelt/Pawnee
RMP	Rocky Mountain National Park
RMR	Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
COS	Colorado State Forest Service
LRX	Larimer County Sheriff's Department
BLX	Boulder County Sheriff's Department
PFX	Poudre Fire Authority
WELX	Wellington Fire Dept.
LVRX	Loveland Rural Fire Dept.
BLCX	Boulder City Fire Dept.
RM/CHVX	RockyMtn/Cherryvale Fire Dept.
BLRX	Boulder Rural Fire Dept.
LHDX	Lefthand Fire Dept.
LYNX	Lyon's Fire Dept.
MVWX	MountainView Fire Dept.
BLMX	Boulder Mountain Fire Dept.
SLFX	Sugarloaf Fire Dept.
NM2X	North Metro Fire Dept.
STLX	Sterling Fire Dept.
MRX	Morgan County FD
LRX	Logan County FD

2010 EMPHASIS AREAS FOR FTC:

- Continue to review and improve dispatch operations.
- Continue to improve map quality (land ownership)
- WILDCAD
- Work on funding if needed for a street map application for WILDCAD
- Continue working with all agencies on Radio Issues, frequencies, etc.
- Continue to pursue “Fair Share” funding with state cooperators.
- Work happening the status of the vice Horner position. Would like to see if we can get that position filled this year as well 13/13.
- Continue working with Colorado State on the funding of a position for FTC.