

Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center



Alabaugh SD-SDS

2007 Annual Report

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

2007 YEAR END REPORT

Once again the drought has been persistent in the Great Plains region, with below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures. Although 2007 did show a slight recovery in precipitation in eastern South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming, the prairie east of the Black Hills, southwestern and south central South Dakota and the panhandle of Nebraska remained deficit. The months of May, June and July were very warm, July being the warmest ever recorded in the Southern Hills, with temperatures well above 100 many days. Along with the higher temperatures came severe thunderstorms, high winds and at times dry lightning. These storms also produced hail across the zone, ranging in diameter from dime size to softball and tennis ball size. These hail storms were severe enough to break the windshields of emergency vehicles and do substantial damage to some facilities. With August came similar storms but with a more active pattern, producing the large hail and winds, but with heavy rains, thus producing flash flooding.

Fire activity for the zone was slightly above average with the zone experiencing three Type II incidents and multiple Type III and IV incidents. All of these incidents were managed either by the Northern Great Plains Interagency team or at the local level, allowing us to build depth in our fire organizations while supporting each other. Of course this was also accomplished with the support of Rocky Mountain and our neighbors in helping us to obtain needed resources to fill in the holes.

Although we began with the Four Mile fire in Custer State Park the latter part of June, July proved to be our busiest month. The Stampede fire on Pine Ridge Agency and the Alabaugh fire which started on private land, both began on July 7th. The Stampede was human caused, but the Alabaugh was ignited by a severe storm passing through the area, which ignited several incidents in southwestern and south central South Dakota. Although initial attack resources were adequate and quick to respond to the incidents, the severe weather, high winds and dry fuels hampered their efforts on these two incidents. There were significant events that occurred on both incidents with the report of a single engine air tanker (SEAT) going down on the Stampede fire shortly after noon and the burn over of two firefighters shortly after midnight on the Alabaugh. We are extremely happy to report all parties involved with these incidents appear to be making full recovery and as partners we are taking steps to learn from what occurred in an attempt to prevent it from happening again.

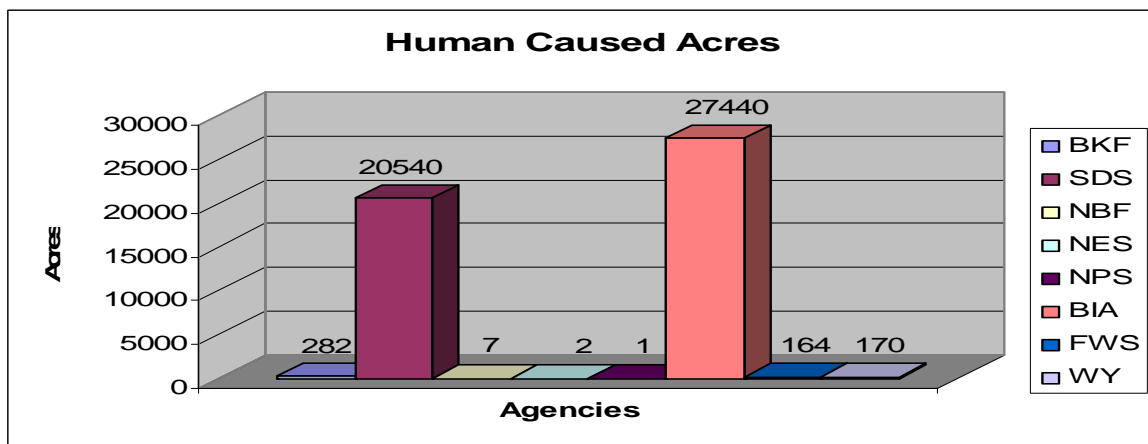
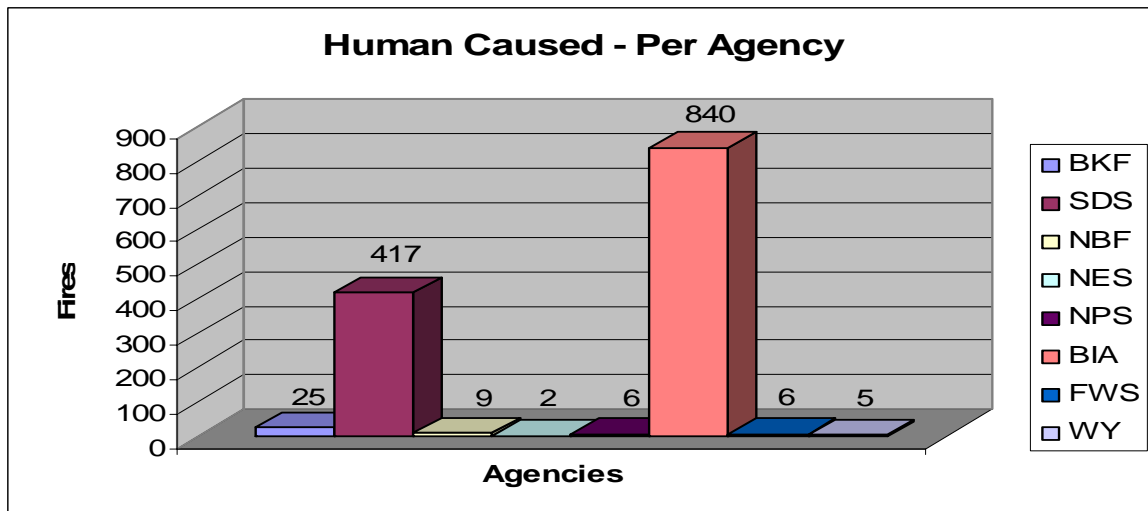
The Box Elder fire, which began on the Black Hills National Forest, had the potential to be a devastating urban interface fire. But with a little help from Mother Nature and the quick response of local firefighters and the Incident Management team, we were able to catch the Box Elder at less than 400 acres.

August brought some much needed moisture allowing zone resources to respond and assist the National fire response to the interior mountain west, including; Montana, Idaho and Oregon. In addition, the zone sent multiple overhead, miscellaneous equipment and two strike teams of engines to support the fires in Southern California during the latter part of October. Although they didn't see much fire the interagency strike teams worked well together, ending the season with a good assignment and once again proving how far we have come in our partnerships.

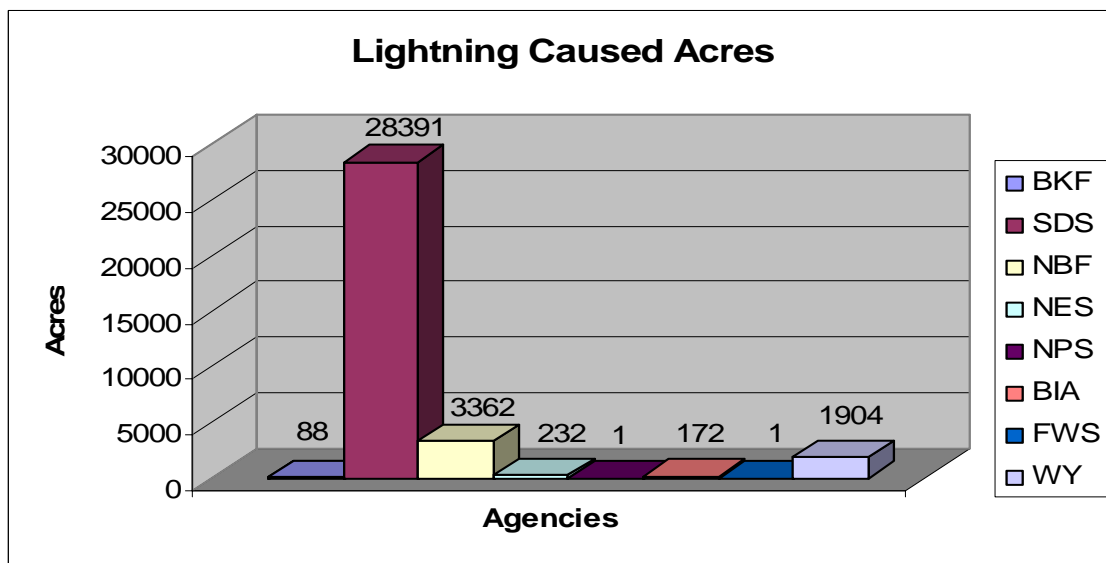
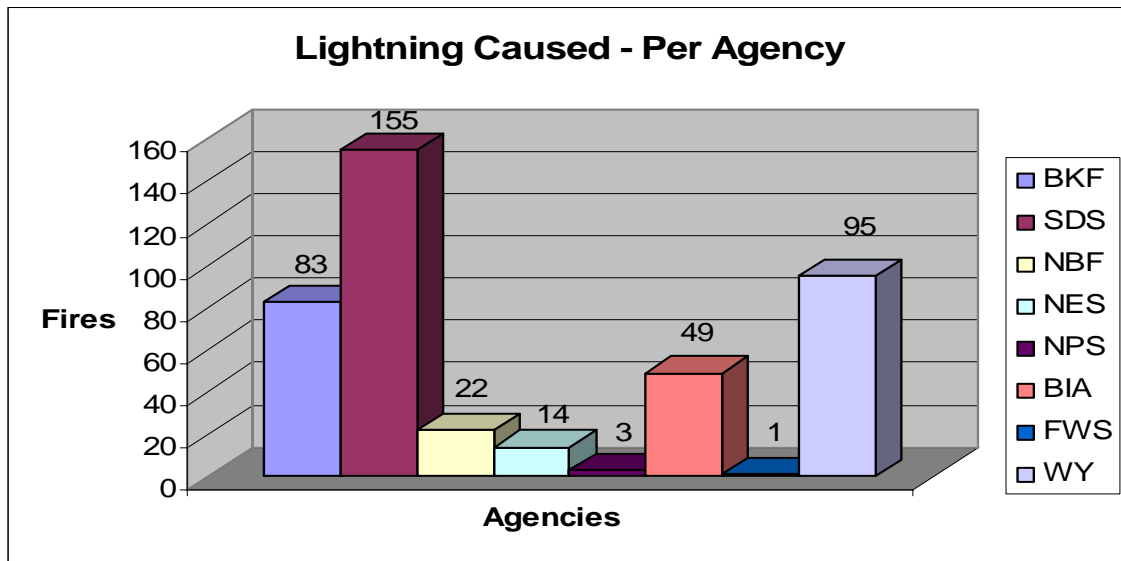
UNIT	AGENCY/STATE	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		WFU*		TOTAL	
		FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SD-SDS	SD-SDS	417	20540	155	28391			572	48931
SD-BKF	SD-BKF	25	282	83	88			108	370
NE-NBF	NE-NBF	9	7	22	3362			31	3369
NE-NES	NE-NES	2	2	14	232			16	234
SD-NPS	NE-AFP	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-NPS	SD-BDP	0	0	1	0			1	0
SD-NPS	WY-DTP	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-NPS	SD-JCP	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-NPS	SD-MRP	6	1	1	0			7	1
SD-NPS	NE-SBP	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-NPS	SD-WCP	0	0	1	1			1	1
	TOTAL							9	2
SD-BIA	SD-CCA	55	70	1	1			56	71
SD-BIA	ND-SRA	65	620	2	21			67	641
SD-BIA	SD-LBA	42	41	2	0			44	41
SD-BIA	SD-SIA	2	24	0	0			2	24
SD-BIA	SD-RBA	195	760	4	1			199	761
SD-BIA	SD-CRA	28	18	10	3			38	21
SD-BIA	SD-PRA	436	25442	28	135			464	25577
SD-BIA	SD-FSA	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-BIA	SD-YAA	5	6	0	0			5	6
SD-BIA	NE-WIA	12	459	2	11			14	470
	TOTAL							889	27612
SD-FWS	SD-HUR	1	1	0	0			1	1
SD-FWS	SD-LCR	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-FWS	SD-LAR	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-FWS	SD-MDR	1	29	0	0			1	29
SD-FWS	SD-SLR	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-FWS	SD-WAR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NW-BCR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-CLR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-FNR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-NPR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-RBR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-VAR	0	0	1	1			1	1
ND-FWS	ND-KUR	1	55	0	0			1	55
ND-FWS	ND-TWR	3	79	0	0			3	79
	TOTAL							6	164
WY-CNTY	WY-CRX	4	170	83	1881			87	2051
WY-CNTY	WY-WEX	1	0	12	23			13	23
	TOTAL							100	2074

2007
FIRES AND ACRES WITHIN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS
ZONE

AGENCY	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL	
	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SDS	417	20540	155	28391	572	48931
BKF	25	282	83	88	108	370
NBF	9	7	22	3362	31	3369
NES	2	2	14	232	16	234
NPS	6	1	3	1	9	2
BIA	840	27440	49	172	889	27612
FWS	6	164	1	1	7	165
WY-WEX	1	0	12	23	13	23
WY-CRX	4	170	83	1881	87	2051
TOTAL	1310	48606	422	34151	1732	82757
False Alarms					235	
TOTAL INCIDENTS					1967	



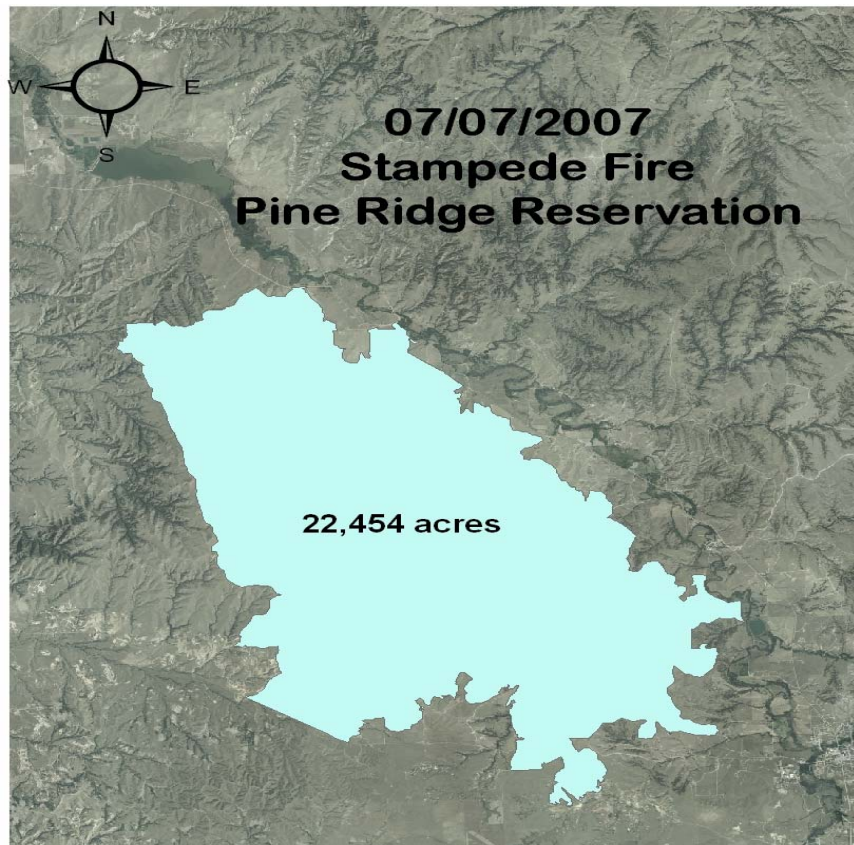
2007
FIRES PER AGENCY SUPPORTED AND TRACKED BY
GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH



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.

2007 LARGE FIRE ACTIVITY

Incident Name	State-Unit	Start Date	Cause	Acres	Team Type	Incident Commander
Four Mile	SD-SDS	06/25/07	H	2,360	2	Joe Lowe
4 th Complex	SD-PRA	07/06/07	H	390	3	Alan Backward
Alabaugh	SD-SDS	07/07/07	L	10,324	2	Joe Lowe
Stampede	SD-PRA	07/07/07	H	22,454	3	Jim Rodriguez
Box Elder	SD-BKF	07/21/07	H	322	2	Joe Lowe
Harris	SD-SDS	07/24/07	UKN	600	4	Harland Hess
Polinski	WY-CRX	07/25/07	H	378	4	Gari Gill
Tower Ridge	SD-PRA	07/30/07	UKN	582	4	Dana Cook
Goddard	SD-SDS	08/02/07	L	1,100	4	Jody Moody
Ake	SD-PRA	08/10/07	L	699	3	Tom Remus
Hawks	SD-SDS	08/12/07	L	500	4	Mike Merriman
Soldier Creek Comp	NE-NBF	08/13/07	L	3,587	3	Brian Daunt
Prairie Berry	SD-SDS	08/13/07	H	741	4	Marty Hansen
Gill	WY-CRX	08/16/07	L	337	3	Gari Gill
Blue Horse	SD-SDS	09/21/07	H	554	3	Keith Robertson
Power	SD-PRA	11/14/07	H	582	3	Doug O'Bryan

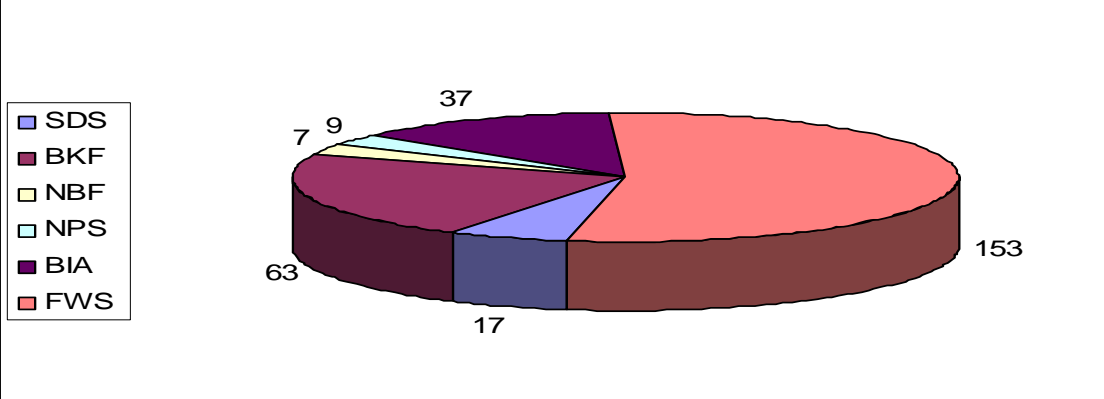


PRESCRIBED/PILE BURNING ACTIVITY

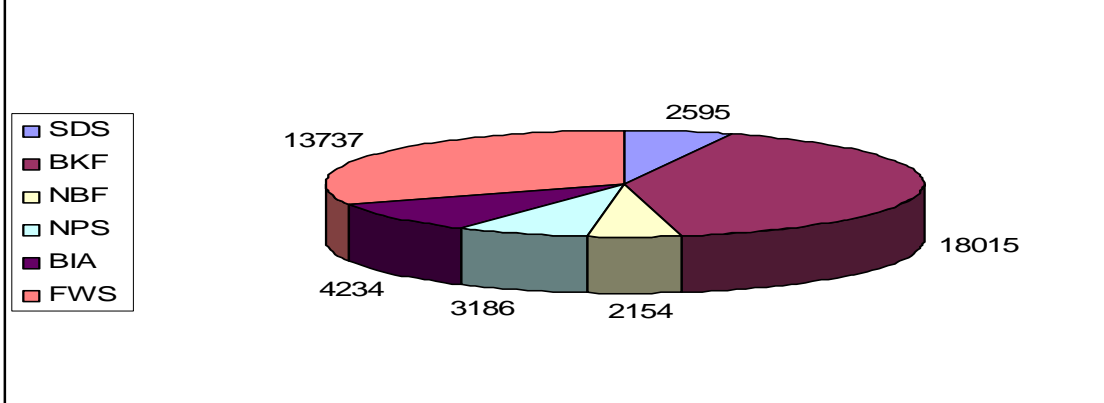
These numbers are an estimate, as they are taken from the National Situation report or as listed in the Great Plains Data Base as information is given. Numbers may not match any particular agency's program

Agency	Number of Fires	Acres
SDS	17	2595
BKF	63	18015
NBF	7	2154
NPS	9	3186
BIA	37	4234
FWS	153	13737
BLM	0	0
Total	286	43921

2007 Prescribed Fires



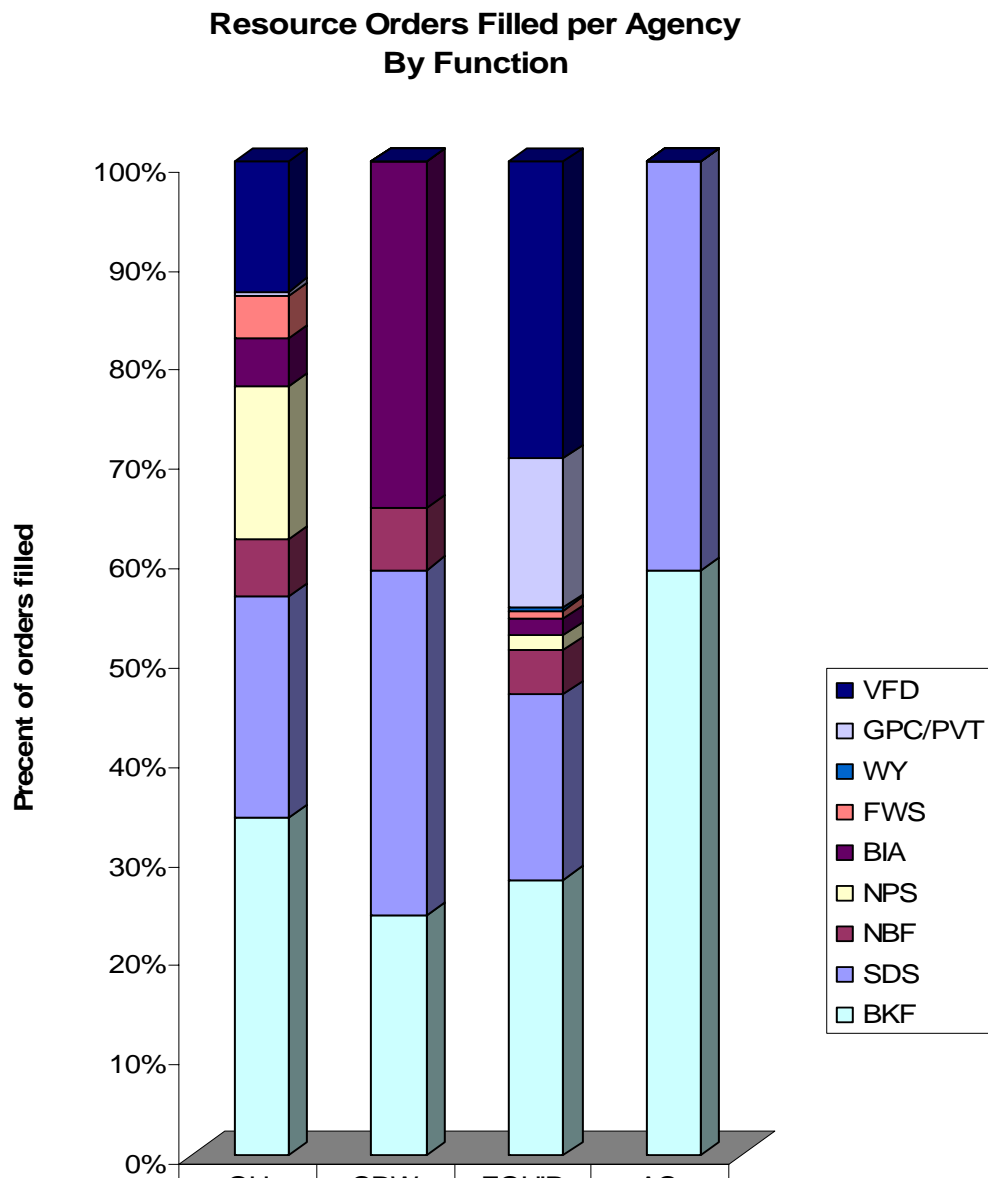
2007 Prescribed Acres



2007 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

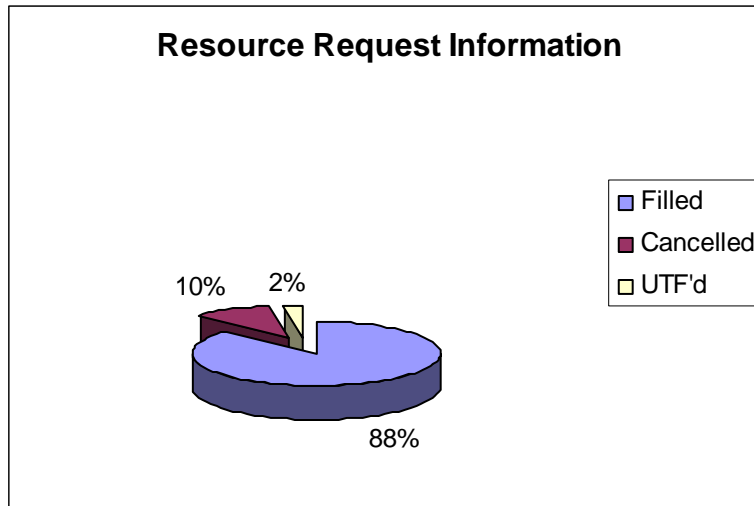


	OH	CRW	EQUIP	AC
VFD	161	0	368	0
GPC/PVT	6	0	185	0
WY	0	0	3	0
FWS	52	0	10	0
BIA	61	45	21	0
NPS	189	0	18	0
NBF	72	8	56	0
SDS	275	45	229	56
BKF	420	31	341	80

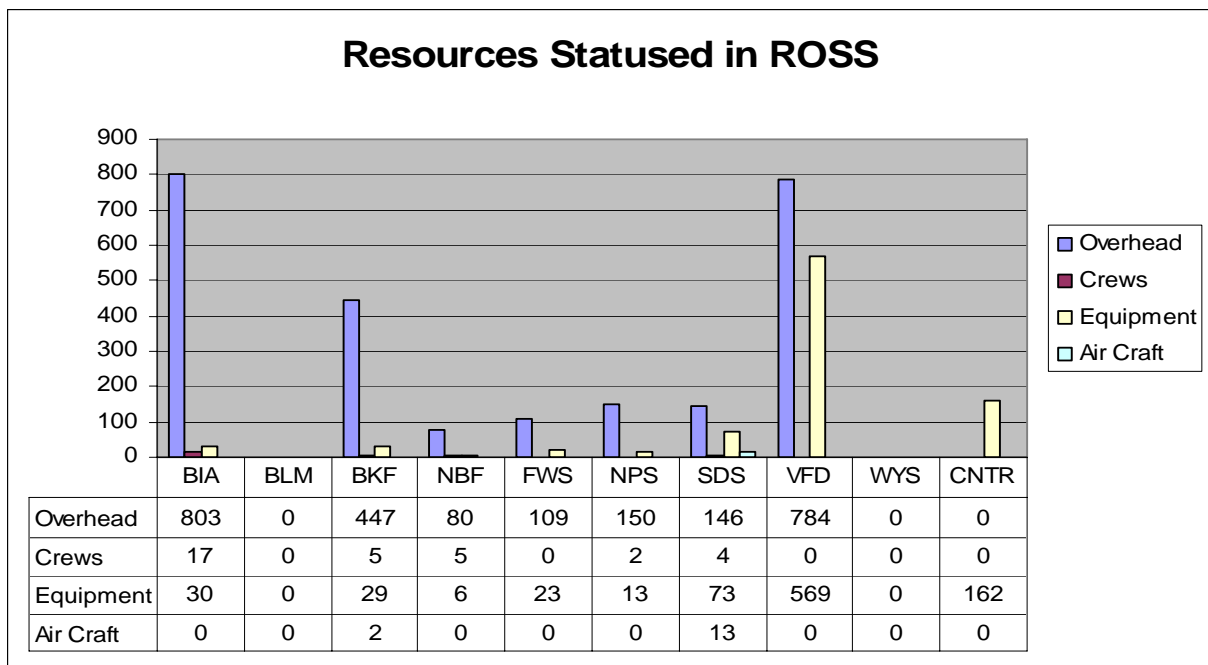
Function

RESOURCES ORDERED THROUGH GPC

RESOURCE TYPE	REQUESTS FILLED	CANCELLED	UNABLE TO FILL
AIRCRAFT	395	33	14
CREWS	165	0	0
OVERHEAD	1201	181	76
EQUIPMENT	1569	171	8
SUPPLIES	301	49	1
TOTAL	3631	434	99



RESOURCES STATUSED IN ROSS PER AGENCY PER FUNCTIONAL AREA



CNTR = Contractor

2007 Northern Great Plains Air Operations

Statistics for the Rapid City Air Tanker Base

The Rapid City Air Tanker Base (RAP ATB) was in full operation from June 1st through October 22nd for the 2007 fire season. The 2007 season, was the first year for a full service retardant contract with ICL Performance Products LP and also the first year for an Interagency Air Tanker Base. RAP ATB supported wildland fires in CO, ND, NE, MT, SD and WY. This was accomplished with a clean safety record with no reportable injuries or accidents at the Tanker Base.

Fixed wing base operations included manifesting and weighing the Alpine Hotshots and Tatanka Hotshots for a wildland fire assignment in the Southern Area in late May; documenting two additional landings (July and August) for crew carriers; and documenting all fixed wing aircraft landings at the Rapid City Regional Airport that included crew carriers, Civil Air Patrol, lead planes, air attack, Type I, Type II, Type III and Type IV air tankers.

Number of air tankers (Type I and Type II) flown out of RAP ATB	= 8
Number of air tankers (Type III and Type IV) flown out of RAP ATB	= 6
Total number of air tankers flown out of RAP ATB	= 14
Number of air tanker (Type I & Type II) flight missions (loads)	= 57
Number of air tanker (Type III & Type IV) flight missions (loads)	= 116
Total number of air tanker flight missions (loads)	= 173
Gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered by Type I & Type II air tankers	= 134,011
Gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered by Type III & Type IV air tankers	= 58,342
Total gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered to wildland fires in CO, ND, NE, MT, SD and WY	= 192,353
Flight hours for Type I & Type II air tankers out of RAP ATB	= 65.68
Flight hours for Type III & Type IV air tankers out of RAP ATB	= 85.9
Total flight hours for Type I – Type IV air tankers out of RAP ATB	= 151.58
Number of wildland fires RAP ATB supported	= 25
Total Landing Fees paid out to the Rapid City Regional Airport	= \$17, 891

** All statistics are taken from the Rapid City Air Tanker Base report, submitted in October of 2007.*

2007 Northern Great Plains Air Operations - Continued

Expanded SEAT program for South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression

In addition to the SEAT's that were located at the Rapid City Tanker Base, the state of South Dakota in conjunction with the South Dakota Office of Emergency management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), maintained two additional SEAT bases, one located in Lemmon, South Dakota and the other located in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The SEAT in Lemmon was utilized for identified "HOTZONES" in the northwest portions of the state and to assist the BIA on lands in north-central South Dakota and south-central North Dakota. The SEAT located in Hot Springs was utilized for southwestern counties of South Dakota, identified to be drought stricken.

Number of missions flown from Lemmon and Hot Springs	= 61
Number of Flight hours	= 4.3
Gallons of retardant delivered to incidents	= 30,486
Gallons of foam delivered to incidents	= 600

Pine Ridge Agency Aviation Program

As in years past the Pine Ridge Agency hosted a SEAT for the majority of July and August. With the reload base located at Pine Ridge, it gave much needed support in those identified dryer areas in southern South Dakota, not only to the Pine Ridge area but including assistance to the Alabaugh fire.

Number of retardant drops	= 77
Gallons of retardant delivered to incidents	= 55,200

In addition, Pine Ridge hosted two Type III helicopters which shared duty on the agency, both were call when needed (CWN) from out of the area.

Interagency Helicopter Program

The Black Hills Interagency helicopter program was once again extended past its ninety day contract period, for an additional eleven days. The additional contracted days were spent on the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming.

Number of Initial attacks for the season	= 60
Number of Large Fires	= 4
Total number of flight hours (fire and non-fire)	= 131.9
Number of personnel transported	= 416
Total pounds of cargo internal/external	= 38,630
Total gallons of water/retardant dropped	= 79,800
Total Contract cost	= \$400,248.

2007 Northern Great Plains Air Operations - Continued

South Dakota National Guard

As in years past the SD National Guard served as an important partner in the Northern Great Plains air operation. The Guard assists in training operations, severity stand by and of course wildland fire suppression.

Total number of fires	= 4
Number of days in operation (includes training and severity)	= 32
Number of flight hours	= 110.2
Number of water/retardant drops	= 504

Type II National Contract H-145MA

The Black Hills National Forest agreed to manage a National contract, with support of Management to the ship. Since this was a last minute decision due to national contractual issues, it was agreed the helicopter if on assignment would stay in that area until no longer needed. Therefore the ship spent all of July and August on incidents in WA, OR, and ID, finally coming to the Black Hills around mid September. Although the air craft was utilized elsewhere for the majority of our fire season, they were still able to assist in several initial attack incidents and one T-3 incident in the zone. Making it a worthy endeavor, one for which we would like to continue.



Black Hills Interagency Helicopter