

# Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center



## 2008 Annual Report

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# **NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER**

## **2008 YEAR END REPORT**

The National Weather Service, local ranchers and Fire managers alike seem to be in agreement that the drought has subsided if not completely disappeared for most of the Northern Great Plains Zone. According to US Drought Monitor maps the only areas abnormally dry are the very southwestern tip of South Dakota and the western panhandle of Nebraska. This was a welcome change following seven plus years of warm/dry conditions, followed by moderate to heavy fire activity.

With record snowfall, rainfall and temperatures averaging two to three degrees cooler than normal, the zone experienced a lower than average fire season across the region. The Black Hills National Forest had one type three incident. The Freeland Well fire began in May, going to 168 acres and lasting only a few days. This would be the only large fire activity the zone experienced for the 2008 Fire Season. Smaller size class incidents were down as well, with most units showing well below ½ of the five year average. This data is displayed on the following pages of this report.

Spring snows and rain gave way to a cooler than normal summer which allowed spring burning to carry on into typically summer months. These burns were fairly successful, although in some locations the grass was too green to carry a good, clean ground fire. However, fall conditions were more conducive for prescribed fire conditions therefore allowing many of the units to accomplish their targeted acreage. And once again, winter snows and cold temperatures beginning in November have opened the door to some of the best pile burning conditions the area has seen for many years.

With local activity low and the need for assistance nationally, this allowed for many off zone assignments, giving support to Florida, Montana, Arizona, Georgia and of course California. One accomplishment that is especially fortunate is that each of our permanent dispatchers was able to take at least one assignment, enabling them exceptional learning experiences. They all came back with something to share and a greater knowledge of how different operations can be in various parts of the country and our organizations.

August and September of this year proved to be another active hurricane season for the southeast, with several areas in Texas and Louisiana hit hard. Team C was fortunate enough to get an assignment to New Orleans, assisting the state and local governments with receiving and distribution of supplies, media, training, and overall community support.

Overall the 2008 fire season was uneventful within the zone, which was a welcome change to many of us. Our Interagency partnerships are strong as ever and continuing to grow and we were able to use the opportunity to gain experience and depth within our personnel, which should only prove to be beneficial to all in the future.

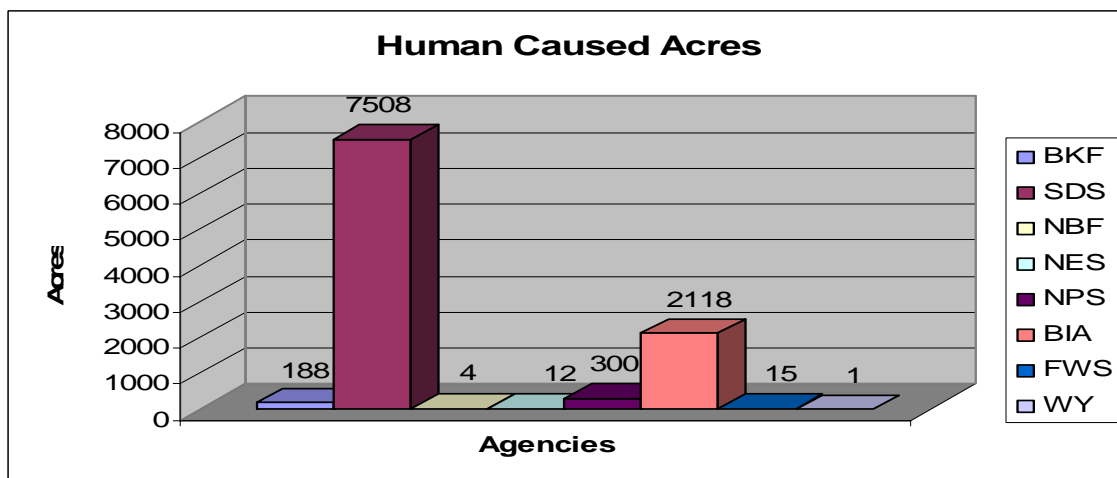
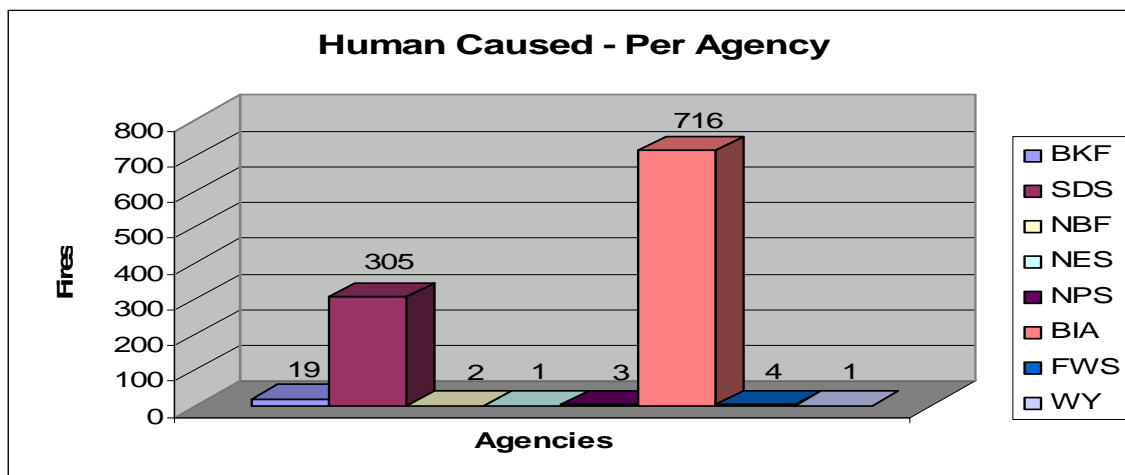
## Fire and Acres by Cause per Agency as Reported on the National Situation Report

UNIT	AGENCY/STATE	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		WFU*		TOTAL	
		FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SD-SDS	SD-SDS	305	7508	54	100			359	7608
SD-BKF	SD-BKF	19	188	23	7			42	195
NE-NBF	NE-NBF	2	4	1	1			3	5
NE-NES	NE-NES	1	12	0	0			1	12
NE-MWP	NE-AFP	2	12	0	0			2	12
NE-MWP	SD-BDP	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-MWP	WY-DTP	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-MWP	SD-JCP	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-MWP	SD-MRP	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-MWP	NE-SBP	1	288	0	0			1	288
NE-MWP	SD-WCP	0	0	4	0			4	0
	TOTAL							<b>7</b>	<b>300</b>
SD-GPA	SD-CCA	58	66	2	2			60	68
SD-GPA	ND-SRA	128	1000	11	96			139	1096
SD-GPA	SD-LBA	27	23	0	0			27	23
SD-GPA	SD-SIA	3	208	0	0			3	208
SD-GPA	SD-RBA	214	400	5	6			219	406
SD-GPA	SD-CRA	53	60	11	17			64	77
SD-GPA	SD-PRA	227	305	19	99			246	404
SD-GPA	SD-FSA	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-GPA	SD-YAA	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-GPA	NE-WIA	6	56	0	0			6	56
	TOTAL							<b>764</b>	<b>2338</b>
CO-R6R	SD-HUR	2	7	0	0			2	7
CO-R6R	SD-LCR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	SD-LAR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	SD-MDR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	SD-SLR	1	7	0	0			1	7
CO-R6R	SD-WAR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	NE-BCR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	NE-CLR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	NE-FNR	1	1	1	0			2	1
CO-R6R	NE-NPR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	NE-RBR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	NE-VAR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	ND-KUR	0	0	0	0			0	0
CO-R6R	ND-TWR	0	0	1	80			1	80
	TOTAL							<b>6</b>	<b>95</b>
WY-CNTY	WY-CRX	0	0	1	0			1	0
WY-CNTY	WY-WEX	1	1	2	4			3	5
	TOTAL							<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

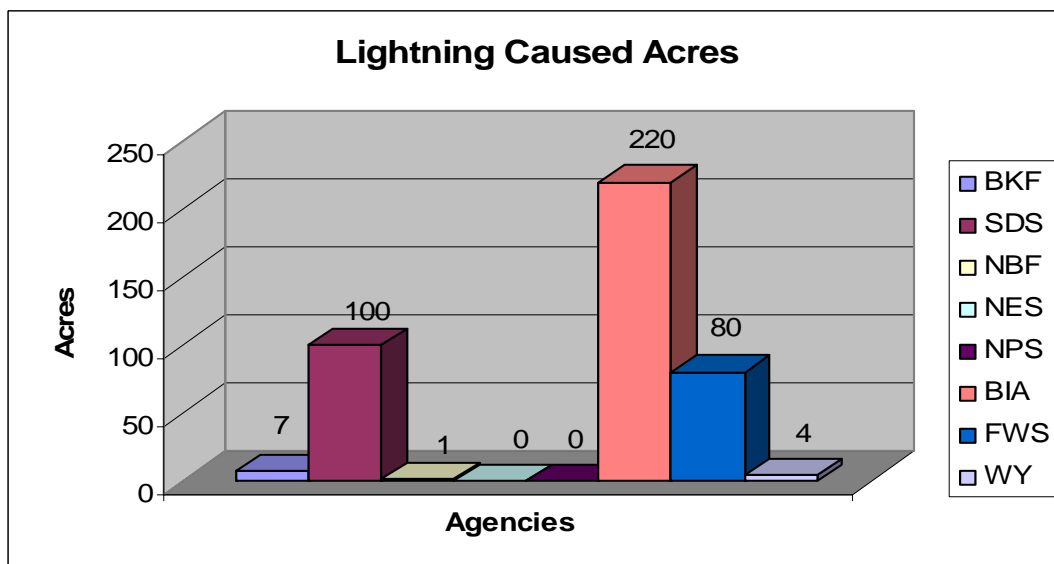
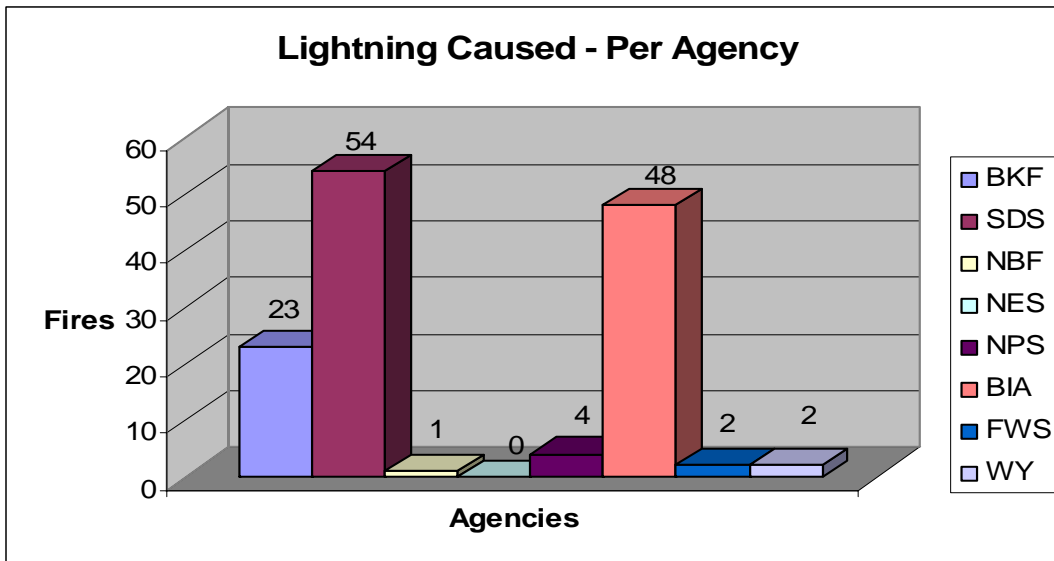
2008

**FIRES AND ACRES WITHIN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS ZONE**

AGENCY	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL	
	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SDS	305	7508	54	100	359	7608
BKF	19	188	23	7	42	195
NBF	2	4	1	1	3	5
NES	1	12	0	0	1	12
NPS	3	300	4	0	7	300
BIA	716	2118	48	220	764	2338
FWS	4	15	2	80	6	95
WY-WEX	1	1	2	4	3	5
WY-CRX	0	0	1	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>10146</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>10558</b>
False Alarms					78	
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>					<b>1264</b>	



**2008**  
**FIRES PER AGENCY SUPPORTED AND TRACKED BY**  
**GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH**

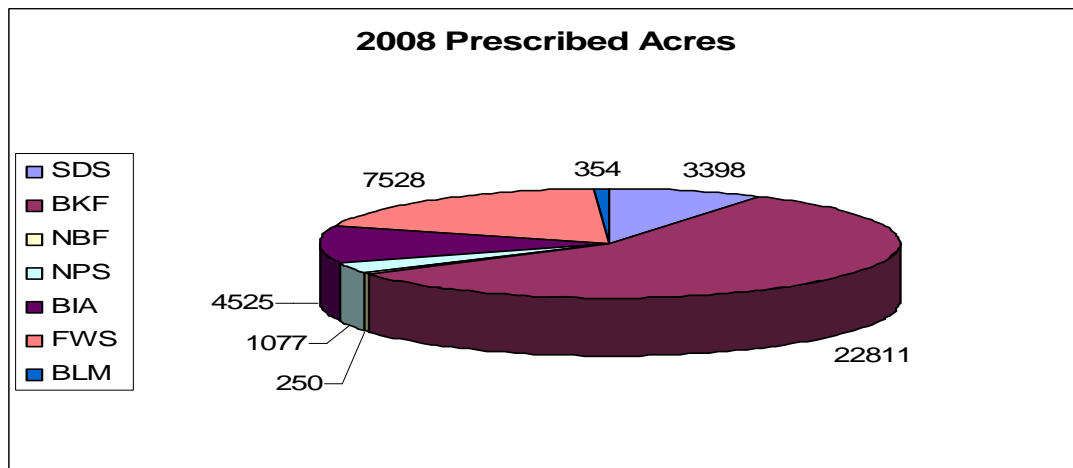
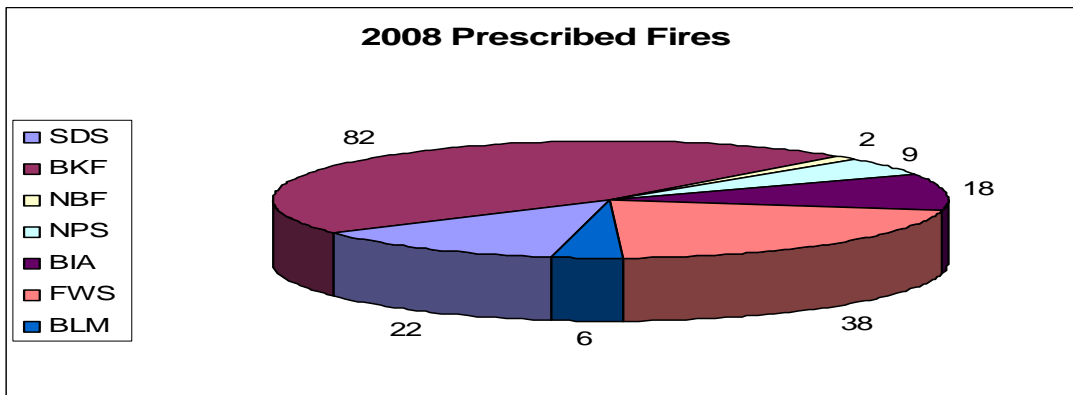


These numbers are taken from what is reported to Great Plains from the field and submitted on the National Situation report. Although Great Plains does not have the responsibility for initial attack for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife, the State of Nebraska and portions of South Dakota 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.

## 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

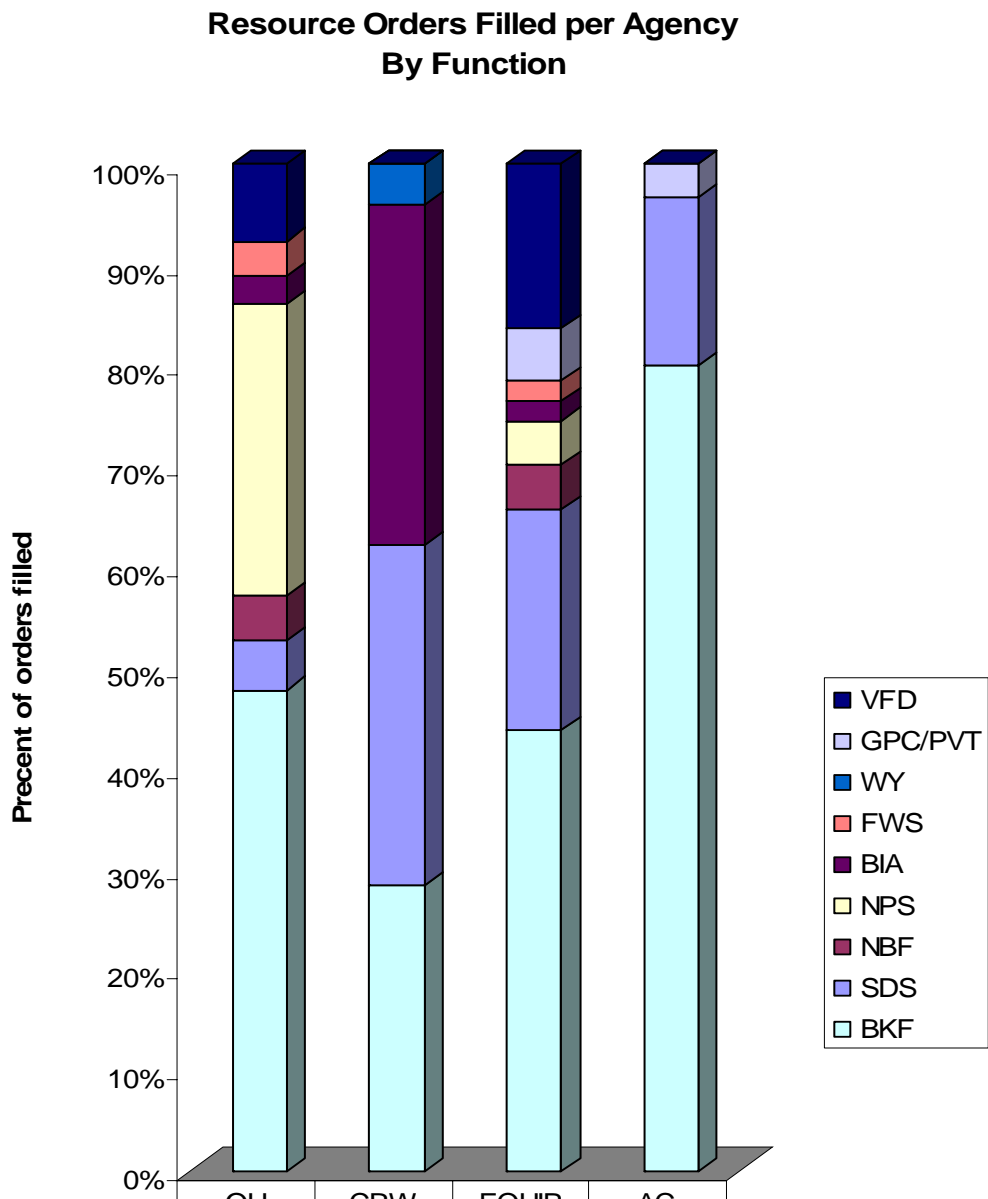
Agency	Number of Fires	Acres
SDS	22	3398
BKF	82	22811
NBF	2	250
NPS	9	1077
BIA	18	4525
FWS	38	7528
BLM	6	354
Total	177	39943



### 2008 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

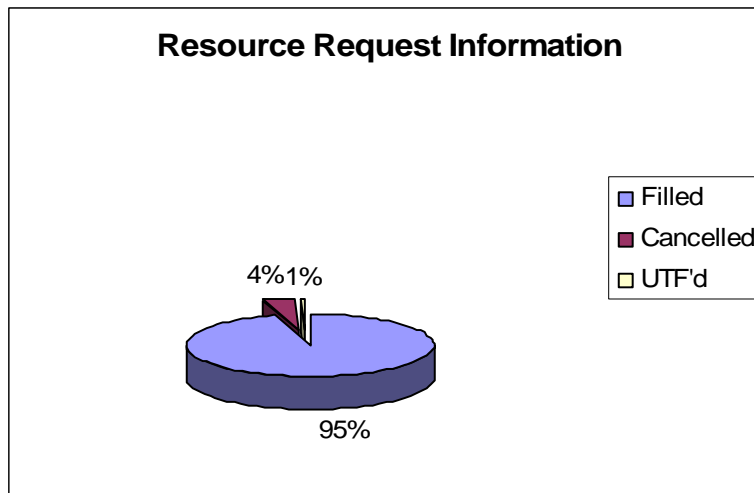


	OH	CRW	EQUIP	AC
■ VFD	36	0	61	0
□ GPC/PVT	0	0	19	1
■ WY	0	3	0	0
■ FWS	16	0	8	0
■ BIA	13	25	7	0
■ NPS	137	0	16	0
■ NBF	21	0	17	0
■ SDS	23	25	82	5
■ BKF	225	21	163	24

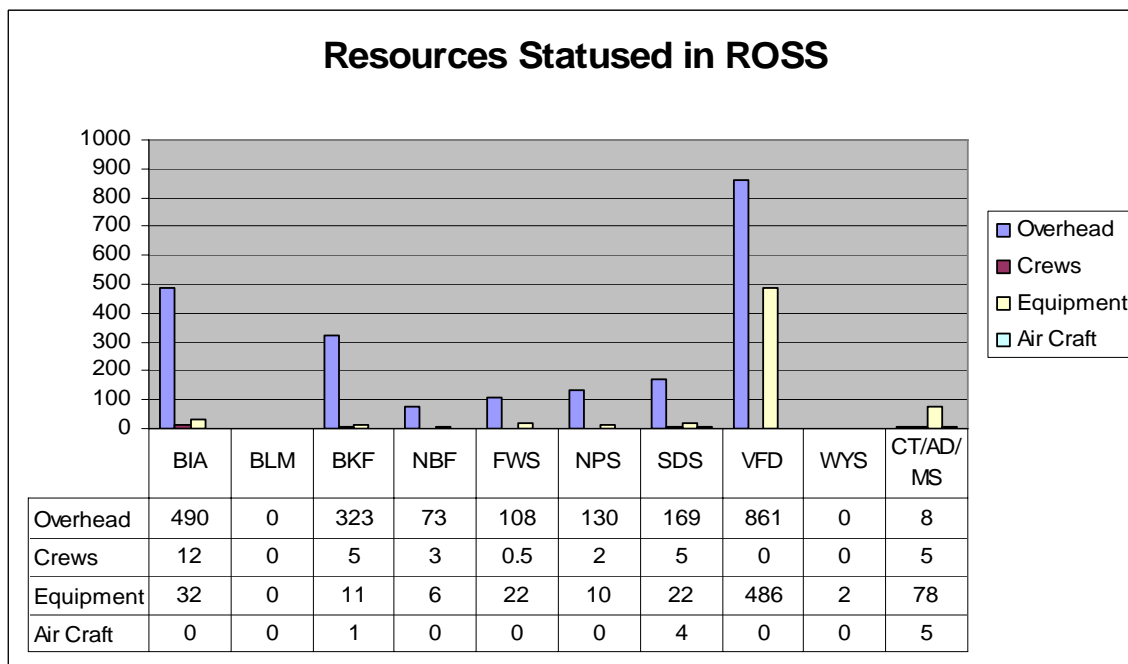
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## RESOURCES ORDERED THROUGH GPC

RESOURCE TYPE	REQUESTS FILLED	CANCELLED	UNABLE TO FILL
AIRCRAFT	30	1	1
CREWS	74	3	2
OVERHEAD	471	5	3
EQUIPMENT	373	35	0
SUPPLIES	47	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>



## RESOURCES STATUSED IN ROSS PER AGENCY PER FUNCTIONAL AREA



CT/AD/MS = Contracts, AD's and Misc such as NWS, NES, SDNG, etc..



# 2008 Northern Great Plains Air Operations

## Statistics for Rapid City, Air Tanker Base

The Rapid City Air Tanker Base (RAP ATB) was in full operation from June 1st through October 4<sup>th</sup> for the 2008 fire season. 2008 was the 2nd year for a full service retardant contract with ICL Performance Products LP. RAP ATB supported wildland fire operations in SD. This was accomplished with a clean safety record with no reportable injuries or accidents.

A new Air Tanker Base Manager (ATBM) was hired and entered on duty on April 27, 2008. The ATBM assisted nationally with 3 off-forest national ATBM assignments.

Number of air tankers (Type I and Type II) flown out of RAP ATB	= 0
Number of Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) flown out of RAP ATB	= 1
<b>Total number of air tankers flown out of RAP ATB</b>	<b>= 1</b>
Number of air tanker (Type I & Type II) flight missions (loads)	= 0
Number of Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) flight missions (loads)	= 2
<b>Total number of air tanker flight missions (loads)</b>	<b>= 2</b>
Gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered by Type I & Type II air tankers	= 0
Gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered by Type III & Type IV air tankers	= 0
Gallons of water delivered by Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs)	= 1500
<b>Total gallons of LC-95A retardant delivered to wildland fires in CO, ND, NE, MT, SD and WY</b>	<b>= 0</b>
Flight hours for Type I & Type II air tankers out of RAP ATB	= 0
Flight hours for Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) out of RAP ATB	= 1.72
<b>Total flight hours for Type I air tankers – SEATs out of RAP ATB</b>	<b>= 1.72</b>
<b>Number of wildland fires RAP ATB supported</b>	<b>= 1</b>
Total Landing Fees paid out to the Rapid City Regional Airport	= \$61.92

*\* All statistics are taken from the Rapid City Air Tanker Base report, submitted in October of 2008.*

## 2008 Northern Great Plains Air Operations - Continued

### Expanded SEAT program for South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression

In addition to the SEAT's that are normally 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 Lemmon SEAT base was intended to support incidents 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 intended to be utilized for southwestern counties of South Dakota, since they were identified as still having drought conditions. Managers were stationed at both locations along with the SEATS, however neither base or SEAT flew a mission during the 2008 Fire season.

### Interagency Helicopter Program

The exclusive use contract on the Black Hills National Forest began on June 12th 2008. With plenty of moisture in the late spring continuing through much of the summer, which in turn made the Helitack crew available nationally much of the summer. The 90 day contract ended on September 9th. The 2008 Black Hills Helitack crew was comprised of 8 firefighters who kept the helicopter staffed and available 7 days a week, with many days being out of region working 12-15 hours a day.

Number of Initial attacks for the season	= 7
Bucket Support for initial attack	= 2
Number of Large Fires	= 3
Number of Extended Attack Fires	= 3
Total number of flight hours (fire and non-fire)	= 135
Number of personnel transported	= 235
Number of person days on fires	= 370
Number of person days on project	= 9
Total pounds of cargo internal/external	= 30,628
Total gallons of water/retardant dropped	= 11,505
Total Contract cost	= \$461,793

## 2008 Northern Great Plains Air Operations - Continued

### National Type I Exclusive Use Contract H-N184CH

During the 90 day mandatory availability period (MAP), the helicopter was in Custer 15 days with 0 flight hours on the Forest. The other 75 days of the MAP plus the 13 day extension were utilized for fire support off Forest and ferry flights to and from the incidents. The helicopter was primarily used for large fire support, with minimal work performed on initial attack incidents. Incidents the helicopter performed bucket work on included the Indians, East Basin Complex, and Serpentine Fires in California, the New Fork and Gunbarrel Fires in Wyoming, the Cove Springs Fire in Idaho, the Deep Draw Fire in Montana, and the Bridge Creek and Lonesome Complex Fires in Oregon. It was also used for bucket work on 2 initial attack fires while attached to the extended attack incidents in Wyoming and Oregon.

Flight hours for initial attack	= 4.9
Gallons of water dropped for initial attack	= 9,900
Flight hours for extended attack	= 374.4
Total gallons of retardant dropped for extended attack	= 1,581,010
Total gallons of water dropped for extended attack	= 29,217
Flight hours for initial and extended attack	= 379.3
Total gallons of water/retardant dropped	= 1,620,127

#### Total Contract cost:

Total earnings paid to the contractor were \$926,191.33 for availability, \$1,494,270.70 for flight time, \$21,439.08 for service mileage, \$37,367 for pilots' extended standby (ES), \$18,275 for mechanics' ES, \$7,869 for drivers' ES, and \$102,821 for overnight charges. Out of their 14 hour days for the total of 103 days (1442 hours), the helicopter was unavailable for approximately 23 hours for maintenance discrepancies.

