

2018 Montrose Dispatch Year End Report

Representing the following Cooperating Agencies

Bureau of Land Management

United States Forest Service

National Park Service

Colorado Department of Prevention and Control

Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, Saguache & San Miguel County



Restored by Ken Davis 2018

The dispatch center filled all positions within the center. Laura Megel was hired as the Assistant Center Manager and reported April 26th, the BLM IA 13/13 position was fill with a seasonal hired as a 2151 using the Veterans hiring authority. The National Park Service hired an FMO Steve Heppner, which was the only new FMO for our Dispatch zone this year. At the end of September Carrie Powell the Lead IA dispatcher took a 26/0 dispatch position in Virginia.

The fire season started out early for the Montrose Dispatch Zone, the first federal fire was report March 30th a human cause fire from a vehicle traveling down the Hwy. Multiple out of control private burns occurred though out the next several months. April 9th the first lightning fire was reported at 8200 feet for one tenth of an acre. Horse Park fire started May 26th, growing rapidly with extreme fire behavior at 1630, during this period of time there was a near miss entrapment incident with three personnel from the Logan hotshot crew and a total loss of the crew superintendents truck. There was a Lessons learn created for this incident [Horse Park Fire FLA .pdf](#). Horse Park was the first of our fires to order a Type two team. We continued to be busy with multiple start days with several type 3 fires one of which was the Tabeguache fire on July 6th Type 4 IC ordered a type three team that came from out of area. On July 29th the Bull Draw fire started the local unit managed the fire with a type 3 organization until August 4th at which time they ordered a Type two Team. A second type two team was ordered to replace the first team after they extended to twenty-one days. The second team manage the fire until August 24th at which time they turned the fire back to a local type three organization due to moisture that the fire received. The local units managed the fire between a type four and type three organization for the next 6 weeks, on October 11th the Type four IC called the fire contained. The Dispatch Zone continued to have IA fires though October 26th.

The National Drought Monitor throughout the year categorized the 2018 water year as Extreme to Exceptional drought. Record low streamflow's were set in several major river basins. The graph of soil moisture below shows the complete lack of winter snow and minimal spring precipitation in the North Delta region. Soil moistures hovered near the permanent wilting point for much of the growing season, leaving plants unable to set seed and forced into early dormancy in this region.

Monsoon moisture was sparse at most low elevation sites and only marginally better at higher elevation sites. That resulted in annual precipitation at 50.6% of normal in the Uncompahgre Field Office and 66.4% of normal in the Gunnison Office. The two areas monitored with particular attention, Delta and Paradox were even drier this year. Delta was 58% of normal precipitation in 2017 and 28% of normal in 2018. Delta's annual rainfall in 2017 was 5.74" and 2.79" in 2018. That is a two year rainfall total of 8.53". At a recent drought monitoring check near the Paradox valley, some of the vegetation failed to respond to the fall moisture like it has elsewhere. Continued monitoring will determine if the plants are dormant or if they have suffered a mortality event.

The table below shows the annual departure from the 30-year average since 2010.

	Percent of Average rainfall
2018	56
2017	103.2
2016	98.3
2015	98.3
2014	104
2013	97.9
2012	76.1
2011	99.5
2010	99

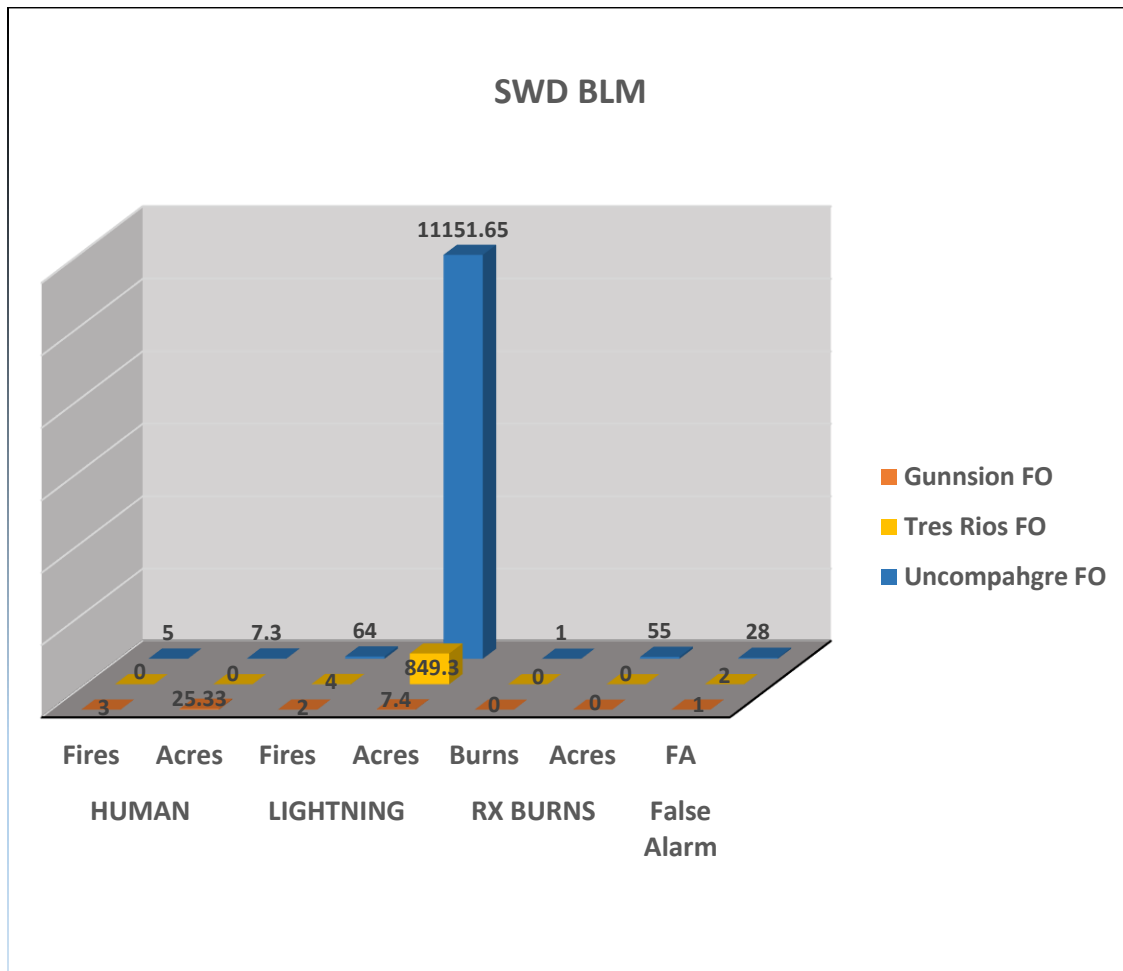
Horse Park SWD 2018



Montrose Dispatch Statistical Data

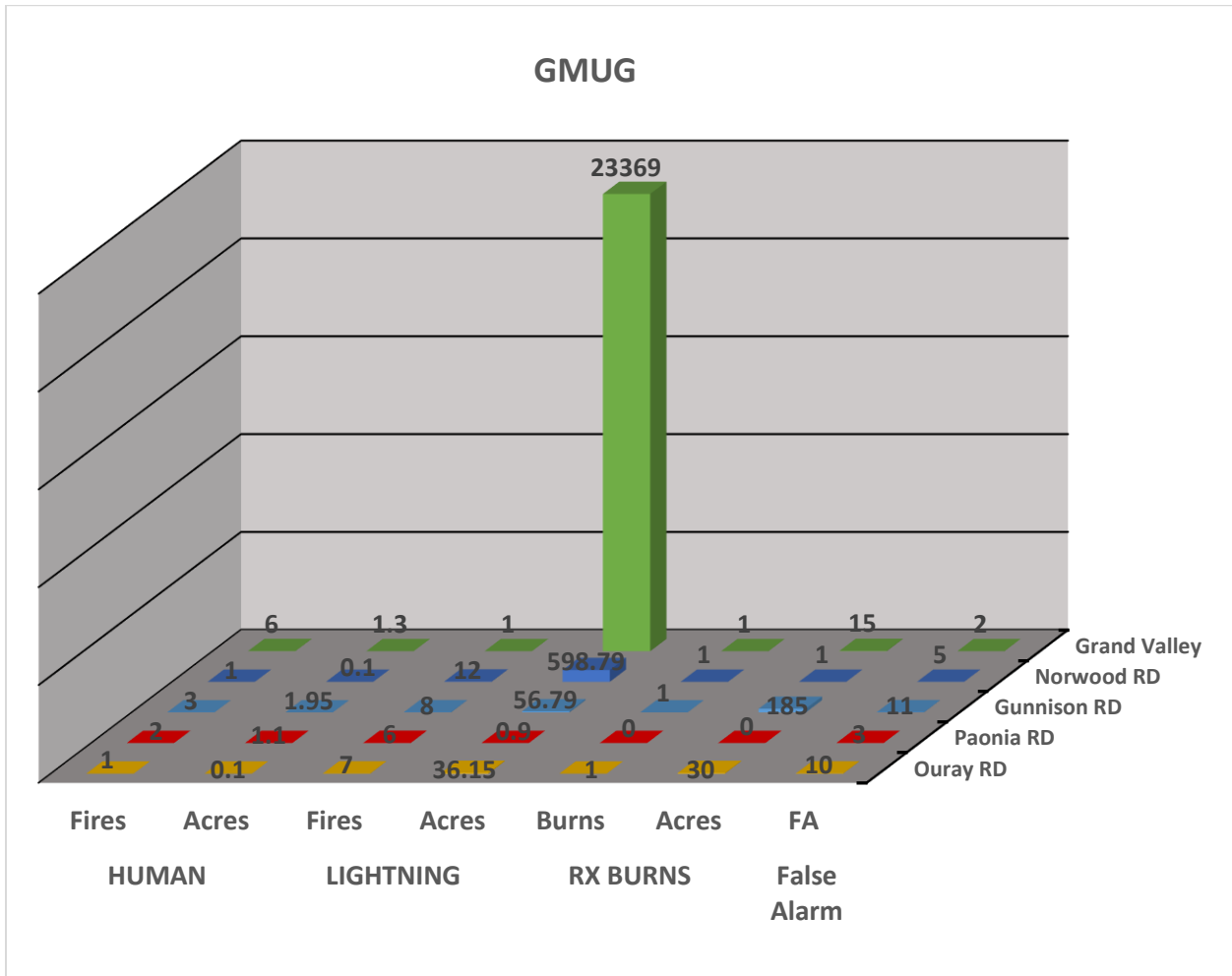
SOUTHWEST BLM FIRE AND AVAITION

Agency	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL		RX BURNS		False Alarm
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Burns	Acres	FA
Gunnison FO	3	25.33	2	7.4	5	32.73	0	0	1
Uncompahgre FO	5	7.3	64	11151.65	69	11158.95	1	55	28
Tres Rios FO	0	0	4	849.3	4	849.3	0	0	2
TOTAL	8	32.63	70	12008.35	78	12040.98	1	55	31



GRANDMESA UNCOMPAHGRE GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST

Agency	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL		RX BURNS		False Alarm
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Burns	Acres	FA
Ouray RD	1	0.1	7	36.15	8	36.25	1	30	10
Paonia RD	2	1.1	6	0.9	8	2	0	0	3
Gunnison RD	3	1.95	8	56.79	11	58.74	1	185	11
Norwood RD	1	0.1	12	598.79	13	598.89	1	1	5
Grand Valley	6	1.3	1	23369	7	23370.3	1	15	2
TOTAL	13	4.55	34	24061.63	47	24066.18	4	231	31



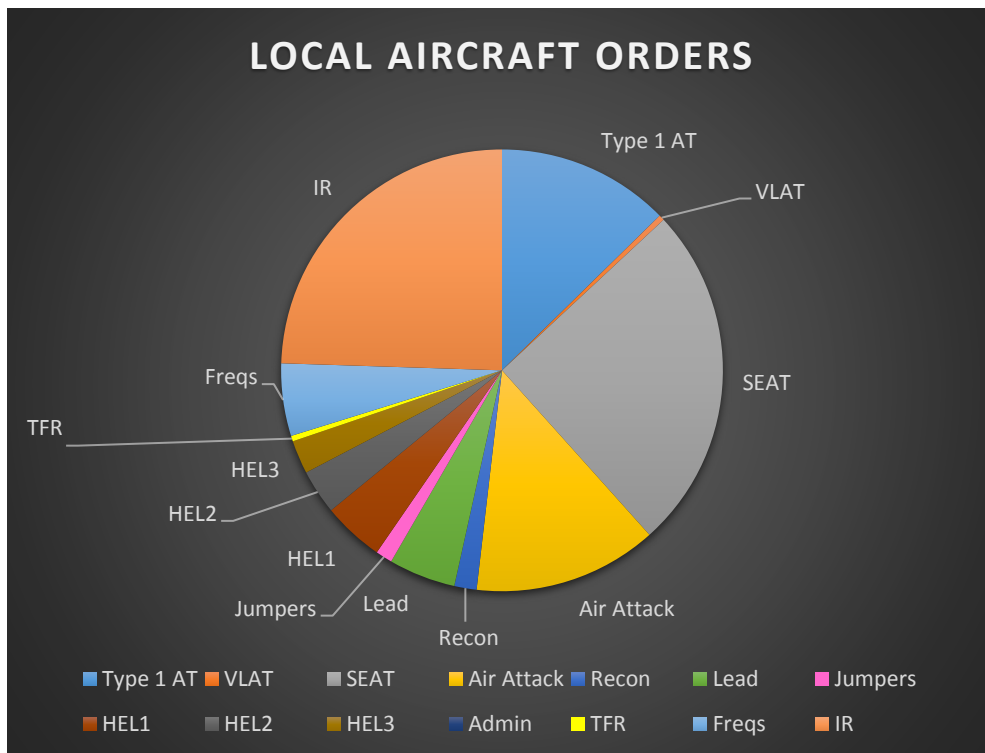
**BLACK CANYON NATIONAL PARK AND CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION
AREA**

Agency	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL		RX BURNS		False Alarm
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Burns	Acres	
Black Canyon NPS	0	0	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Curecanti NPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0

County Fires Federal response	Fires	Acres	False Alarm
Delta	3	38.2	1
Gunnison	5	14.85	1
Montrose	7	23.57	2
San Miguel	2	372.75	0
Ouray	0	0	0
Hinsdale	0	0	0
Saguache	1	0.64	0

COUNTY FIRES reported by County	Fires	Acres
Delta	1	35
Gunnison	1	4
Montrose	19	62.85
San Miguel	4	20.45
Ouray	NR	0
Hinsdale	NR	0
Saguache	NR	0

LOCAL AIRCRAFT ORDERS	
Air Tankers	
Type 1 AT	31
VLAT	1
SEAT	62
Air Attack	33
Recon	4
Lead	12
Jumpers	3
HEL1	11
HEL2	8
HEL3	6
Admin	
TFR	1
Freqs	13
IR	60



OUTGOING RESOURCE ORDERS NON LOCAL INCIDENTS		
	ORDERS	INCIDENTS
OVERHEAD	200	94
EQUIPMENT	48	30
Crew	3	3
Camp Crew	5	5
Aircraft	1	1
Wildland Fire Module	1	1
Totals	258	134

INCOMING RESOURCE ORDERS LOCAL INCIDENTS		
	ORDERS	INCIDENTS
OVERHEAD	2545	45
EQUIPMENT	378	20
Crew	58	7
Camp Crew	4	2
Wildland Fire Module	9	5
Totals	2994	79

Crew Mobilizations	Assignments	Days
Gunnison River crew	1	15
Buzzard Creek	2	5
JCC Camp crew	5	65

5 YEAR AVERAGE

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	AVERAGE	2018
# Fires	78	44	38	71	57	57.6	141
# Acres	475.03	97.35	4.5	170.9	107.48	171.052	36557.17

Middle Fork GMF 2018

