

**FORT COLLINS INTERAGENCY WILDFIRE DISPATCH  
CENTER AND AVIATION SERVICE CENTER**

***2006 ANNUAL REPORT***



***ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS  
AND PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND***

*Prepared by: Irene C. Mora, Center Manager, Mark Nelson, Former Center Manager*

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

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**2006 FTC NARRATIVE/SUMMARY:**

***Initial Attack/Regional and National Support:***

As stated in the weather summary below, 2006 fire season ended as one of the warmest. With that, we began Severity in January and continued through June. Although the weather was warmer and we started our fire season earlier, we did not experience an increase in wildland fires or in fire acres. It resulted in an average fire year. We assisted with a couple of Search and Rescue operations but the overall workload was assisting with Regional and National incidents.

***Weather:***

2006 ended as the second warmest year on record with only September and October cooler than average. The months of January, April, May, June, August and November were all significantly warmer than average. For the year as a whole, the average daily maximum temperature was 65.5 degrees, well above the 1971-2000 average of 62.4. The average daily minimum temperature was 37.7 degrees which was 3.9 degrees above average. The mean temperature for the entire year was 51.6 degrees, 3.5 degrees above average, making 2006 the second warmest year since 1889. Making 2005 the warmest, with an average of 52.3 degrees.

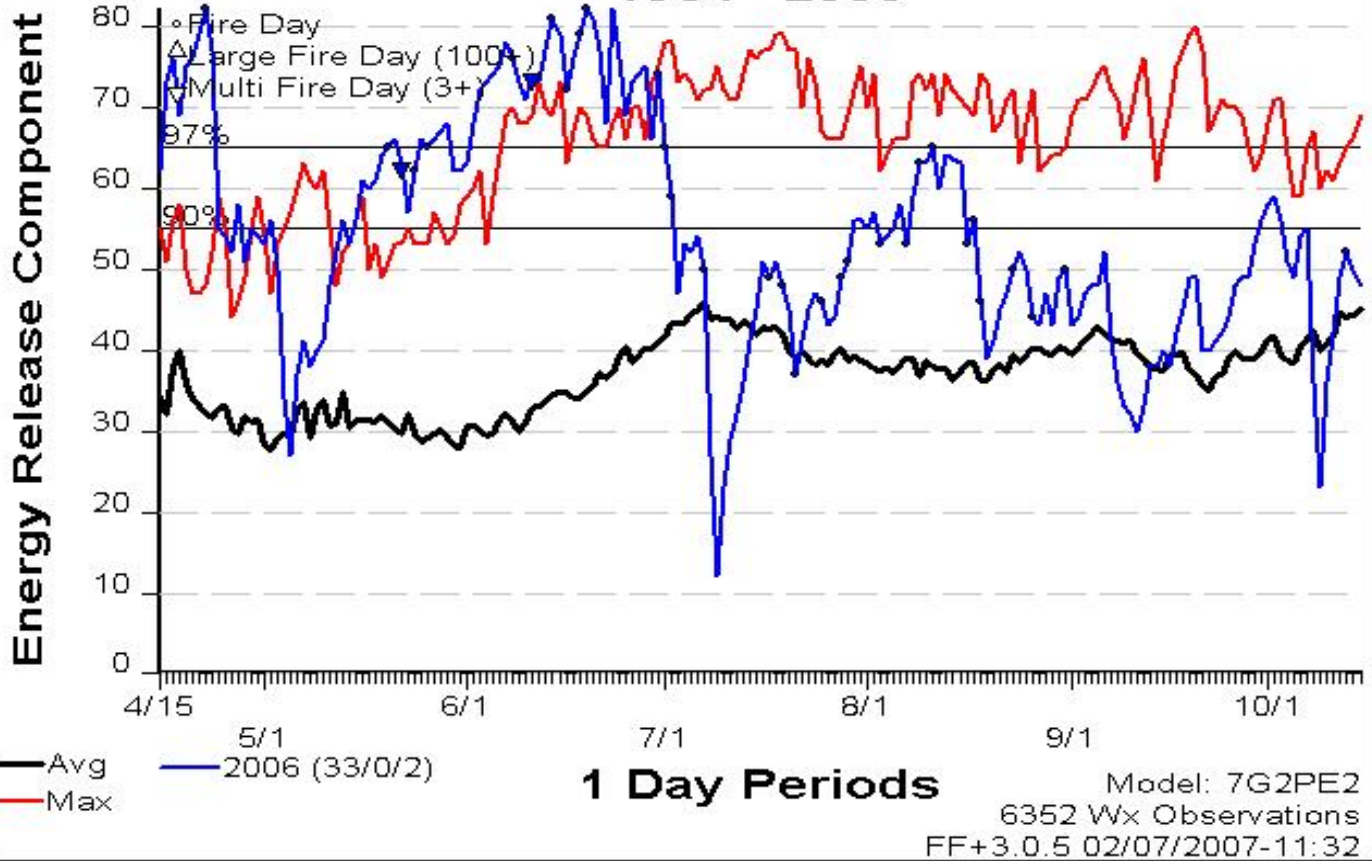
The snowstorms that ended 2006 improved the annual precipitation total to 11.2 inches -,but still nearly four inches below average, "Even with the late-year improvements, 2006 was still 3.86 inches below The year was on track to be one of the warmest, driest ever in this area with only 5.47 inches of precipitation through September. Precipitation between April and September totaled only 3.39 inches - 7.44 inches below the 1971-2000 average and much less than the previous record low of 4.57 inches in 1939 and 5.04 inches in 2002.

Things began to change in October, which totaled 2.27 inches - 1.15 more than average. November, with 0.76 inches, was slightly above normal. Then back-to-back December snowstorms raised the December total to 2.70 inches - 2.24 inches more than average. The blizzard that began Dec. 20 brought 19.9 inches of snow with 1.91 inches of water content followed by a storm on Dec. 28 that added 8.5 inches with 0.73 inches of moisture.

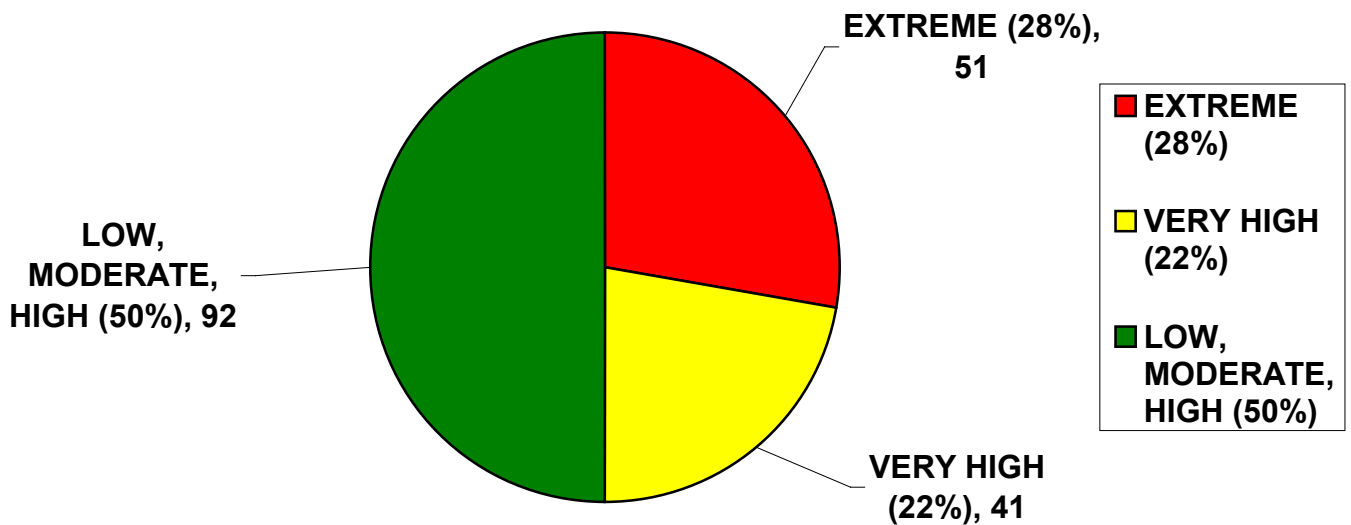
**2006 fire season representative ERC chart for the Estes Park weather station**

Of the established April 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> fire season (184 days); there were 38 days (21% of fire season) spent above the Very High fire danger rating and 49 days (27% of fire season) spent above the Extreme fire danger level. 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 (See chart on next page).

# 050507-ESTES PARK 1964 - 2005

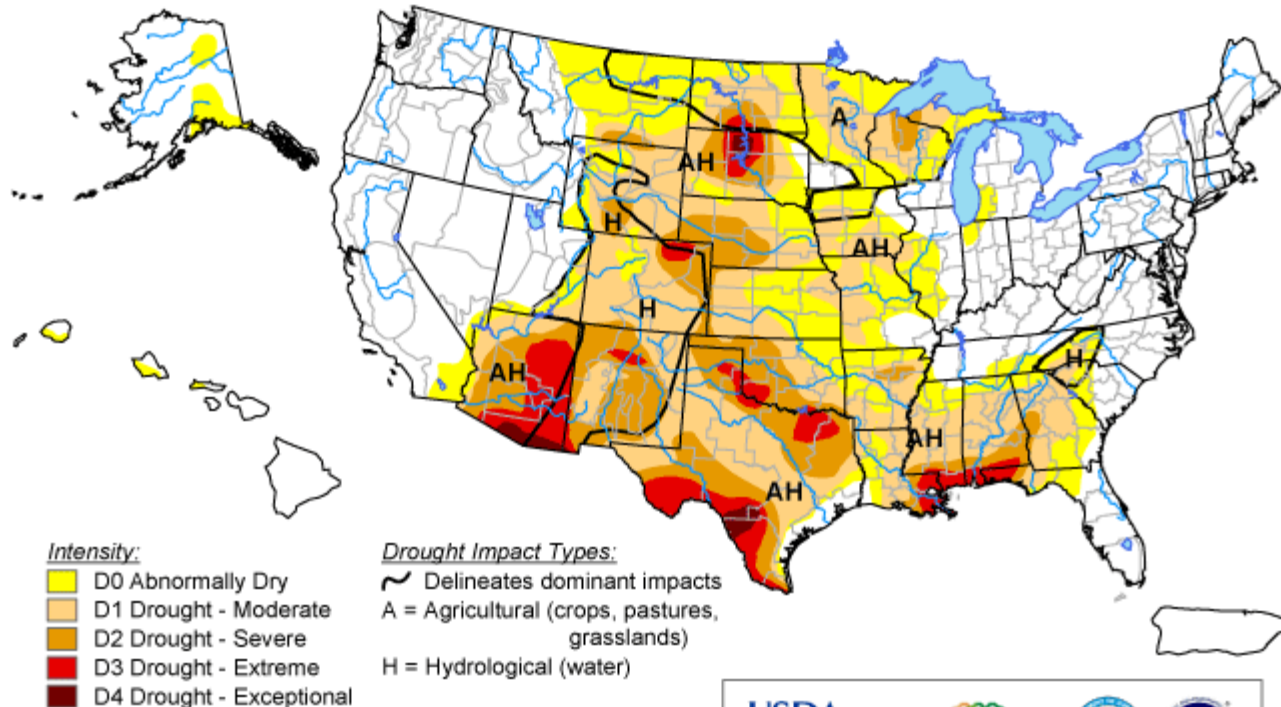


## 2006 FIRE DANGER DAYS BY CLASS (Fire Season of April 15th-October 15th = 184 Days)



# U.S. Drought Monitor

July 11, 2006  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



**Intensity:**  
D0 Abnormally Dry  
D1 Drought - Moderate  
D2 Drought - Severe  
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.



Released Thursday, July 13, 2006

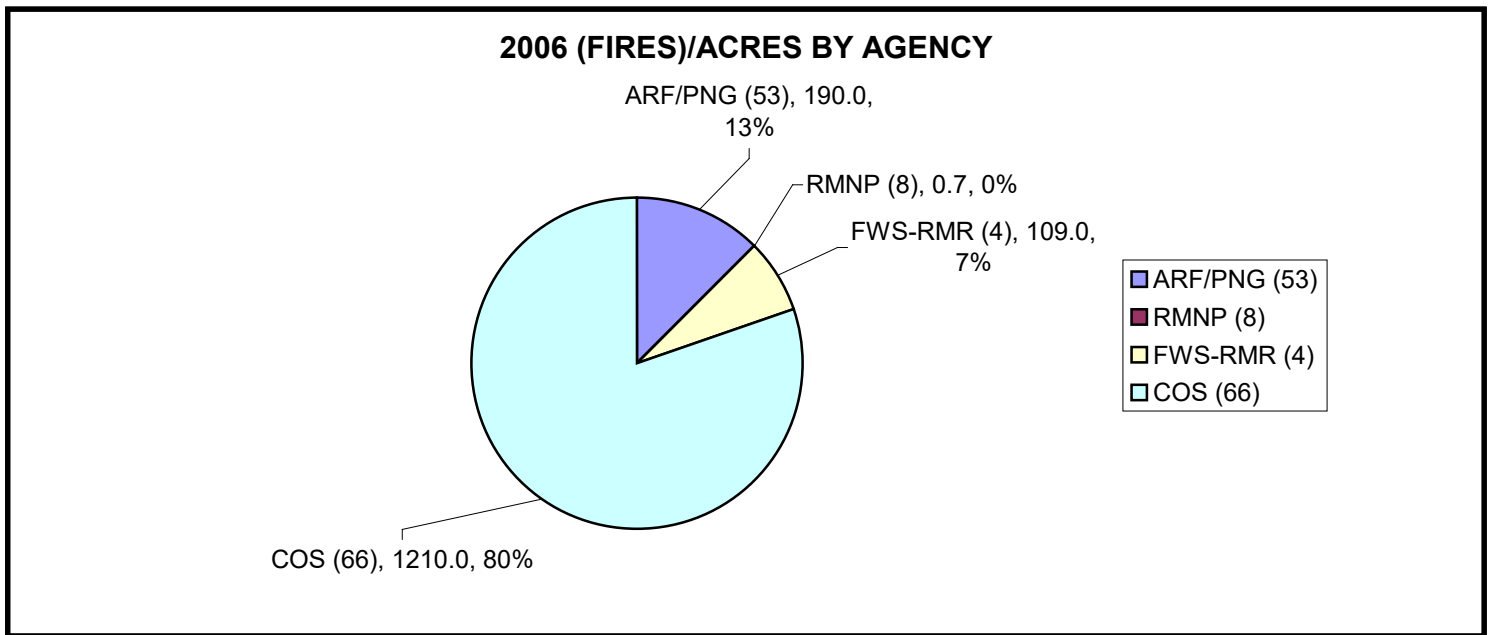
Author: Doug Le Comte and Tom Heddinghaus, CPC/NOAA

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

Heavy rains brought flooding and short-term drought relief to the Southwest and Colorado, while hot and dry weather further aggravated drought in the northern Plains and Upper Midwest. Heavy monsoon rains extended across the region, with weekly totals of 2 to 5 inches in many parts of New Mexico and Colorado. The moisture reduced fire danger and benefited crops and grasslands, although the impact on water supplies was less. The rains led to a general one- to two-category drought reduction across New Mexico and much of Colorado. Parts of western New Mexico improved to D1, but a small area of D3 remained from near Las Vegas, New Mexico, to Los Alamos due to continuing water shortages.

## 2006 NORTHERN FRONT RANGE INTERAGENCY FIRE OCCURRENCE/ACRES:

The Northern Front Range Interagency Wildfire Cooperators experienced a total of 131 fires for a total of 1,505 acres burned. The Interagency breakdown of number of fires (in parentheses) and acres burned are shown in the following chart (does not include the state stats for agricultural/grass fires in Northeast Colorado counties). 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.



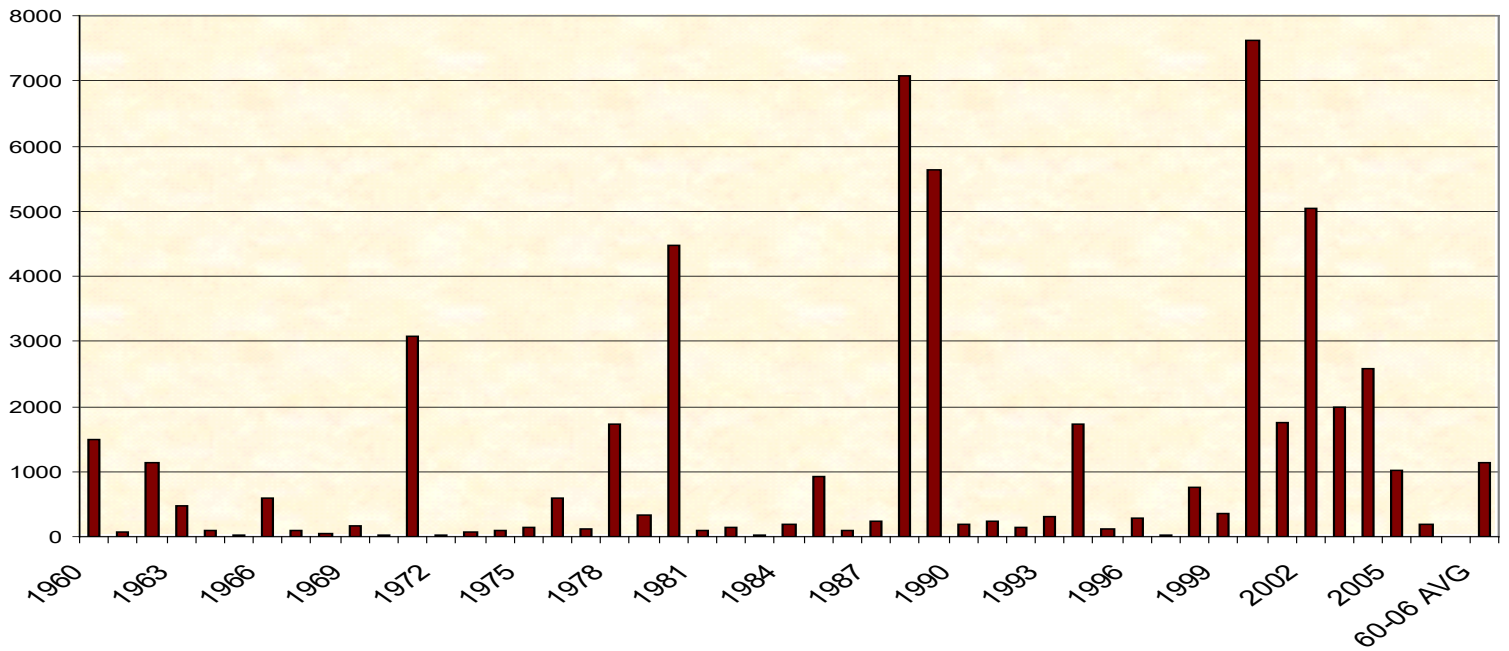
COS Includes: Larimer (LRX), Boulder (BLX), Gilpin (GPX) and Clear Creek (CCX) Counties

**2006 ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT N.F./PAWNEE N.G. FIRE OCCURANCE/ACRES:**

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland experienced 53 fires for a total of 190 acres burned (USFS acres only). Of the 53 fires, 17 fires (32%) were human-caused for 36 acres. 36 fires (68%) were lightning-caused for 154 acres. The following bar graphs show the fire occurrence and acres burned from 1960 thru 2006 for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. Historical records for the interagency cooperators are not available.

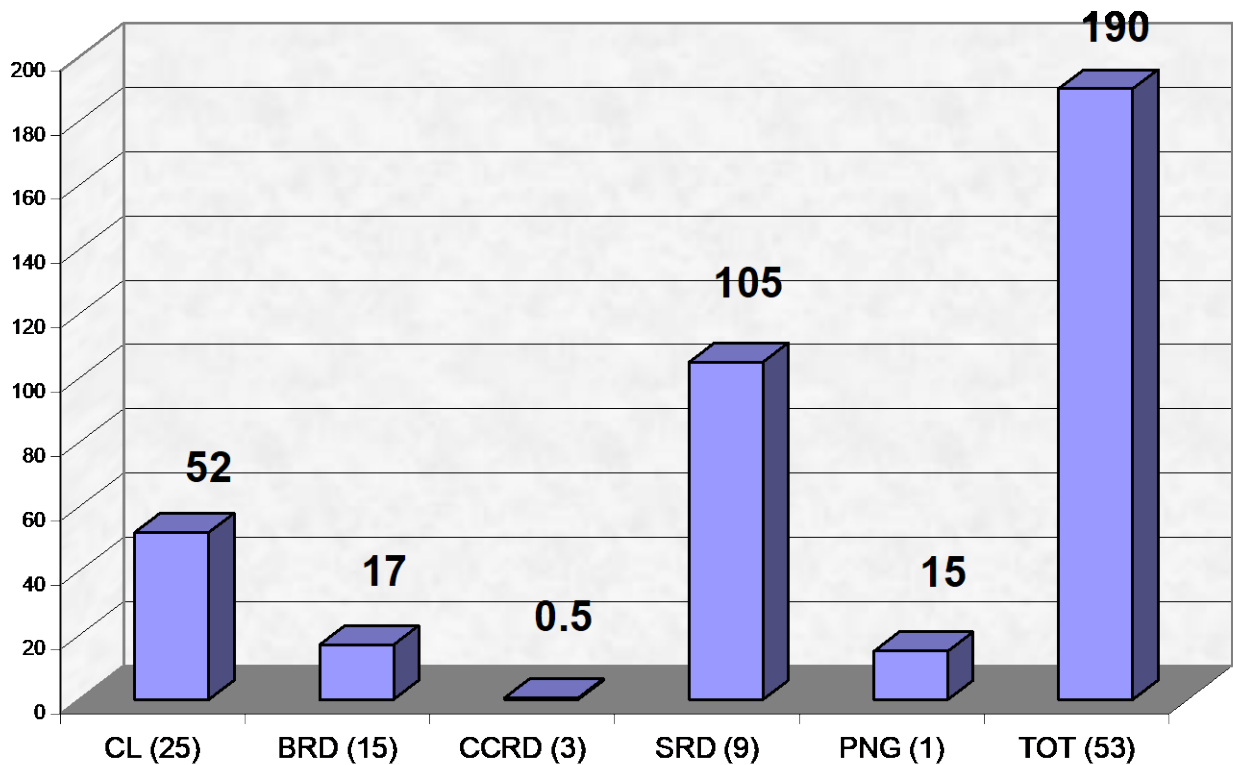
- The 47-year historical average annual fire occurrence and acres burned is: 55 fires for 1,945 acres/year.
- The five-year average annual is: 55 fires for 2,165 acres per year.
- The ten-year average annual is: 54 fires for 2,132 acres per year burned.
- There have been a total of 2,535 fires for 53,563 acres burned from 1960 through 2006 (47 Years).

### ARF-PNG ACRES BURNED/YEAR 1960-2006



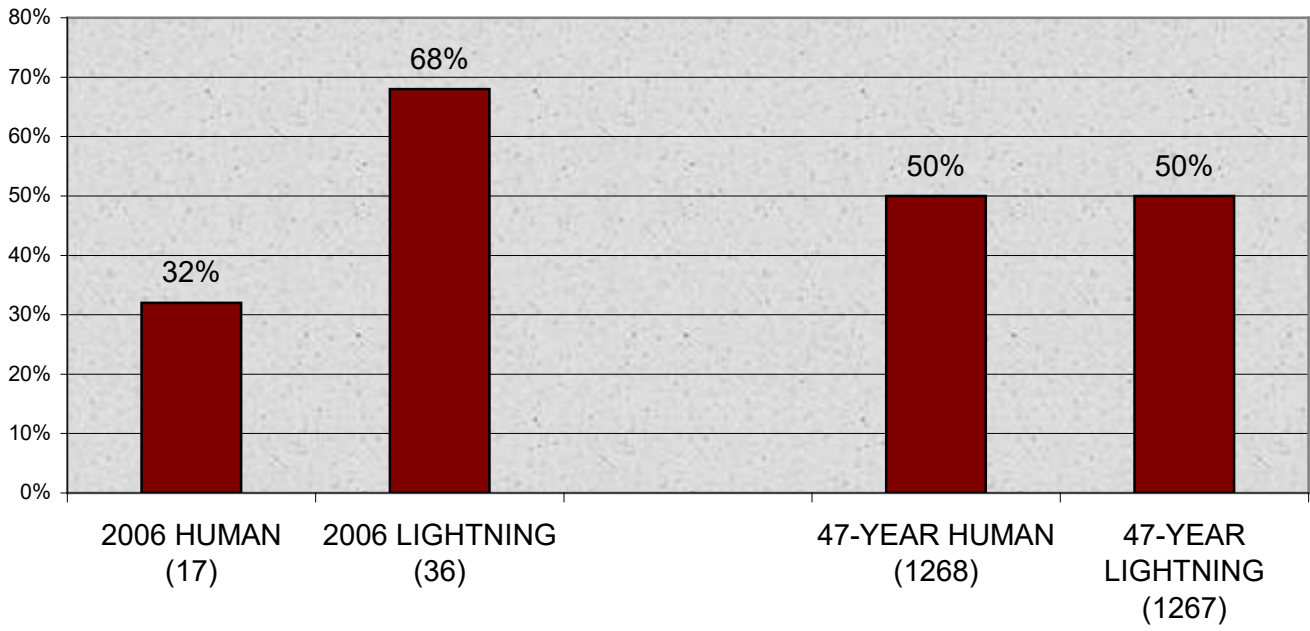
The following chart shows the 2006 distribution of (fires) and acres burned by ARNF/PNG district.

### 2006 ARF/PNG (FIRES)/ACRES BY FOREST DISTRICT



The following chart shows ARNF/PNG fire cause (Human Vs Lightning)  
For 2006 compared to 47-year average.

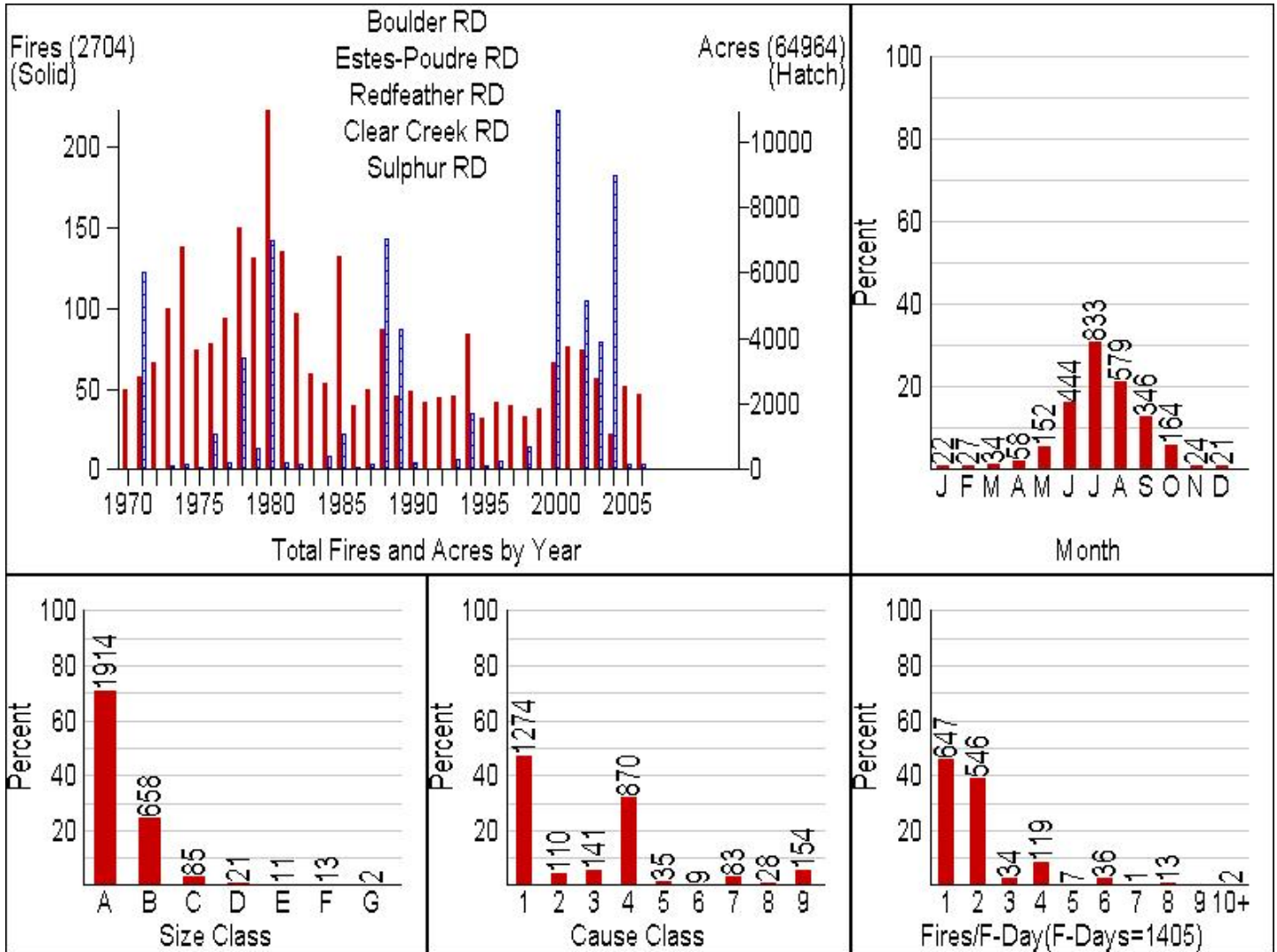
### ARF/PNG HUMAN/LIGHTNING CAUSE BY %



**The follow series of charts are a compilation of fire records from 1970 to 2006:**

(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.



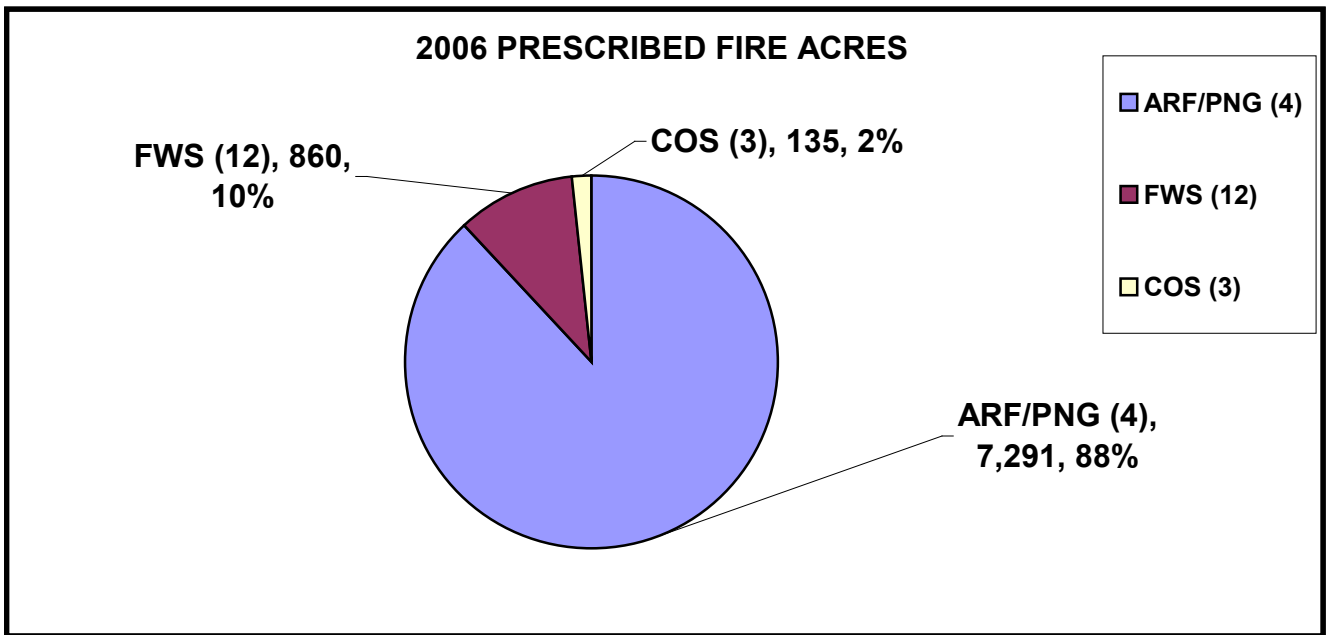


**ARF/PNG LARGE FIRE HISTORY 1960-2006 (300+ ACRES GRASS/100+ ACRES TIMBER):**

<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	1988	RFRD	SWAN	200	L
1960	PNG	TOEDTLI	660	L	1988	BRD	BLACKTIGER	1,804	H
1962	CCRD	REST HOUSE	1,007	H	1989	RFRD	MOBERLY	364	L
1962	RFRD	ROACH	748	H	1989	RFRD	LIVERMORE	1,967	L
1962	EPRD	PALISADE	140	H	1989	RFRD	EATON RES.	100	H
1966	EPRD	COMANCHE	470	H	1989	PNG	HORSETAIL	1,283	H
1968	CCRD	LINCOLN	740	L	1989	RFRD	GOODELL	141	L
1971	RFRD	BULL MTN.	2,635	H	1990	EPRD	SNOWTOP	275	L
1971	RFRD	LOOKOUT	124	L	1993	EPRD	HOURLASS	1,221	L
1971	RFRD	SKYLINE	210	H	1994	EPRD	EGGERS	370	L
1976	BRD	COMFORTER	256	H	1994	EPRD	CRYSTAL	370	L
1976	RFRD	ANSEL #2	250	H	1996	RFRD	GREYROCK	130	H
1978	CCRD	RESERVOIR	400	H	1998	CCRD	BEAR TRACK	477	H
1978	RFRD	KILLPECKER	1,200	H	1998	CLRD	BOBCAT GULCH	10,599	H
1979	EPRD	PIERSON PARK	312	H	2000	PNG	SPRING	1,268	H
1980	SRD	M.SUPPLY CK.	477	H	2001	CLRD	PREVENT	190	H
1980	RFRD	BEARTRAP	2,734	H	2002	CLRD	HEWLETT GULCH	500	H
1980	EPRD	YOUNG GULCH	180	H	2002	CLRD	BIG ELK	4,348	H
1980	PNG	KLINGENSMITH	1,000	L	2002	BRD	OVERLAND	3,400	H
1985	RFRD	GREYROCK	235	L	2003	CLRD	PICNIC ROCK	8,908	H
1985	PNG	McGREW	310	L	2004	PNG	KLINGENSMITH	850	H
1988	RFRD	GRACE CK.	2,800	H	2005		None		
1988	BRD	BEAVER LK.	757	H	2006		None		
	BRD	CANYON	2,471	H					

**2006 PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

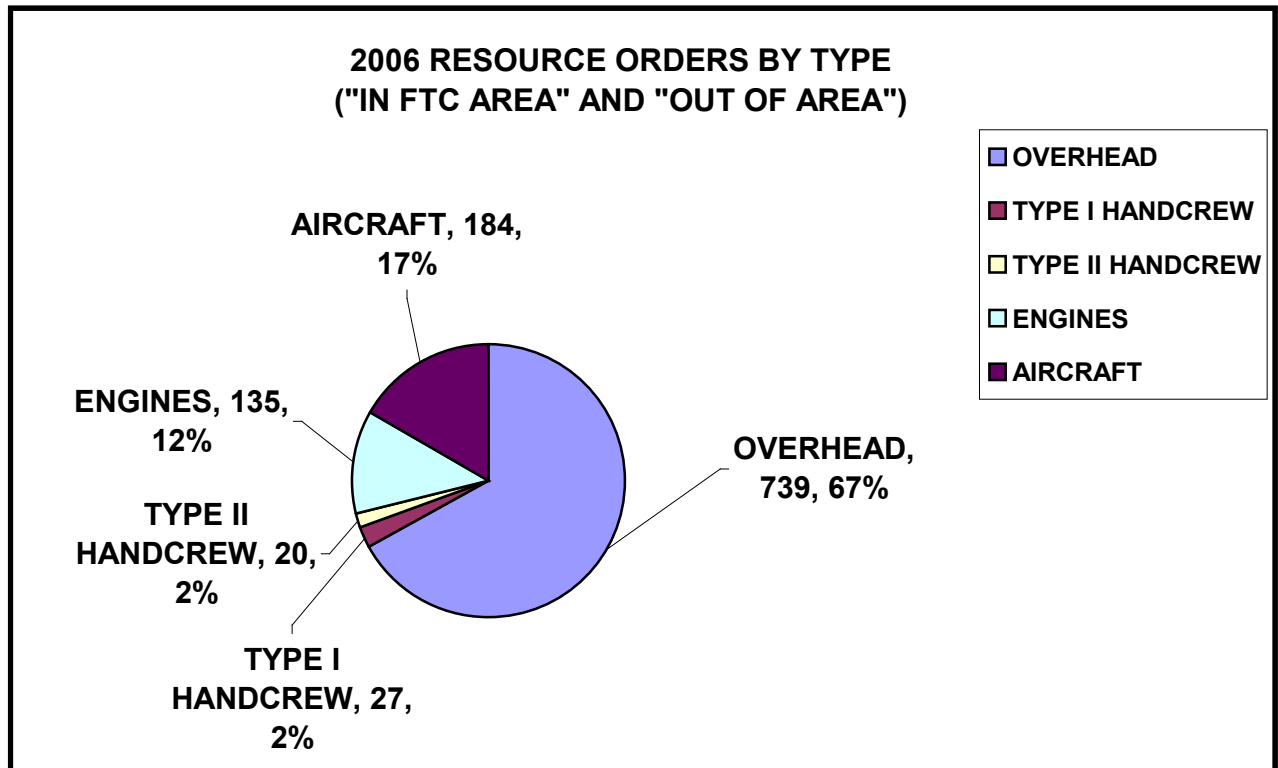
These were the numbers for prescribed burns currently available as of 12/31/05 for all the agencies. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland worked on 4 projects for a total acreage of 7,291 acres. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge RX burns included 12 projects for approximately 860 acres.

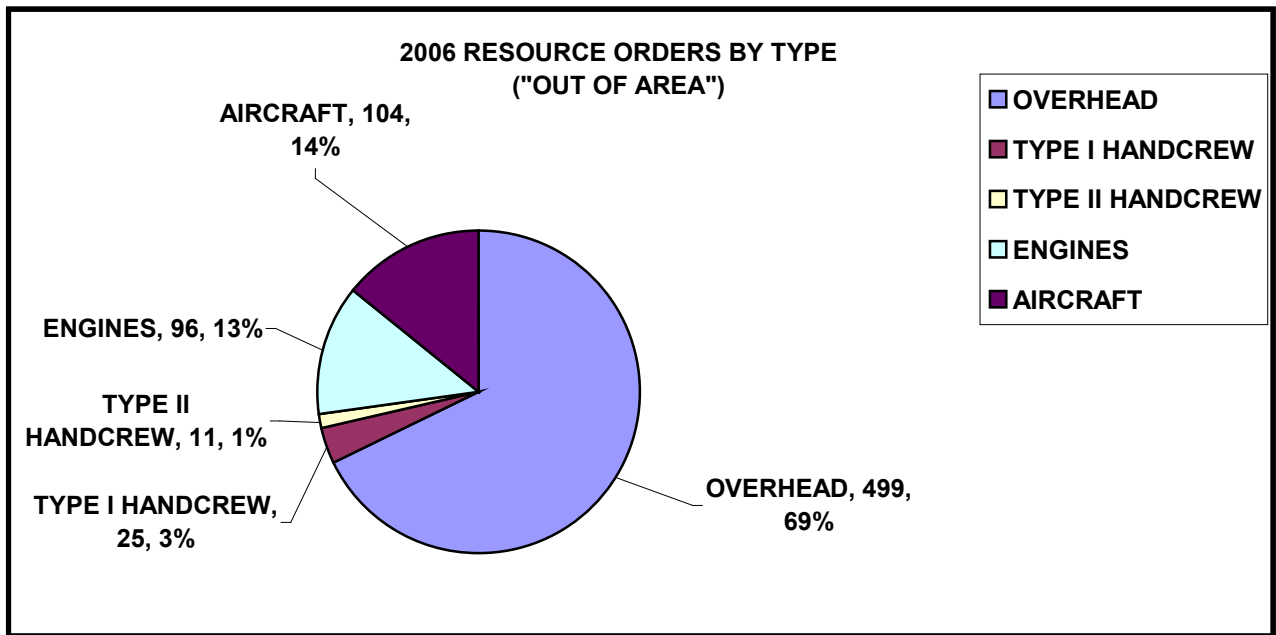


**2006 FORT COLLINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER AND AVIATION SERVICE CENTER REPORT:**

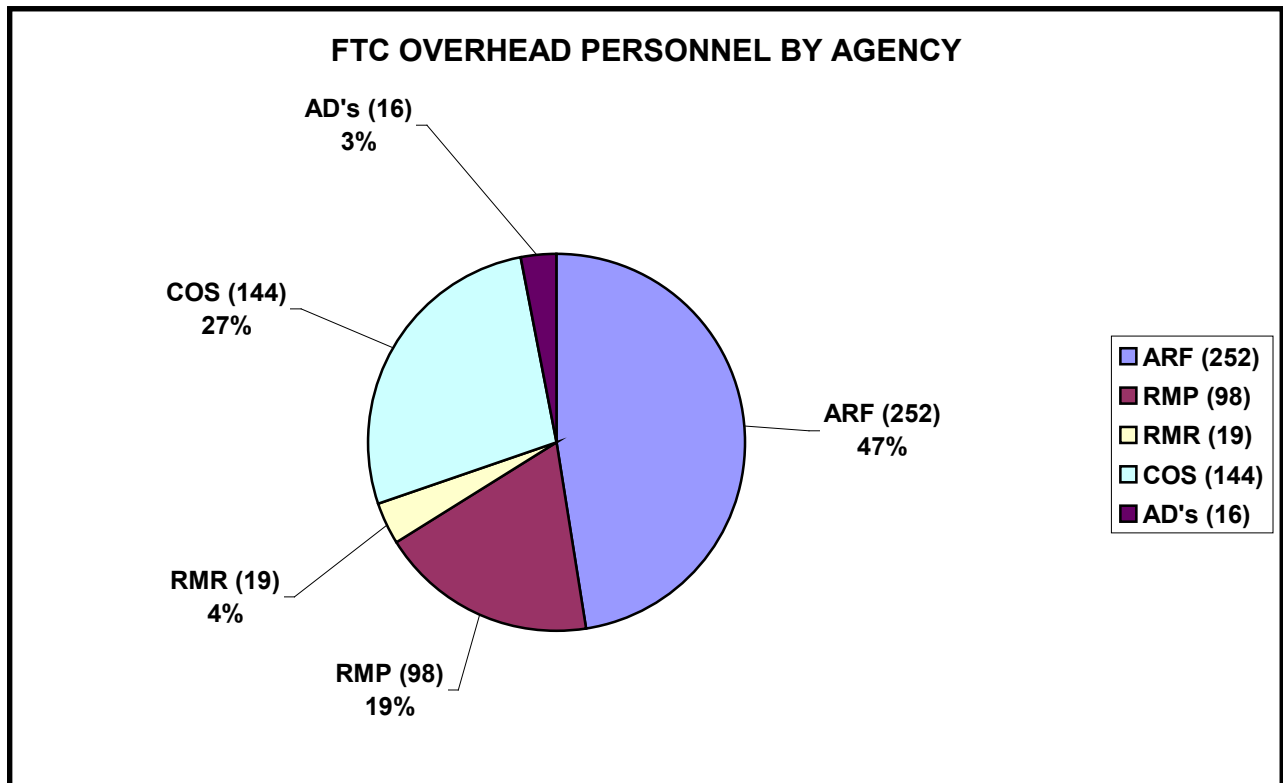
FTC processed a total of **1,105** resource orders. This includes all resource orders for “in-area” and “out-of-area” assignments. *This does not include many resources that were not ordered through official channels (Local I.A.), nor does it include de-mob and reassignment orders for out-of-area resources brought into the area for project fire support.*

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

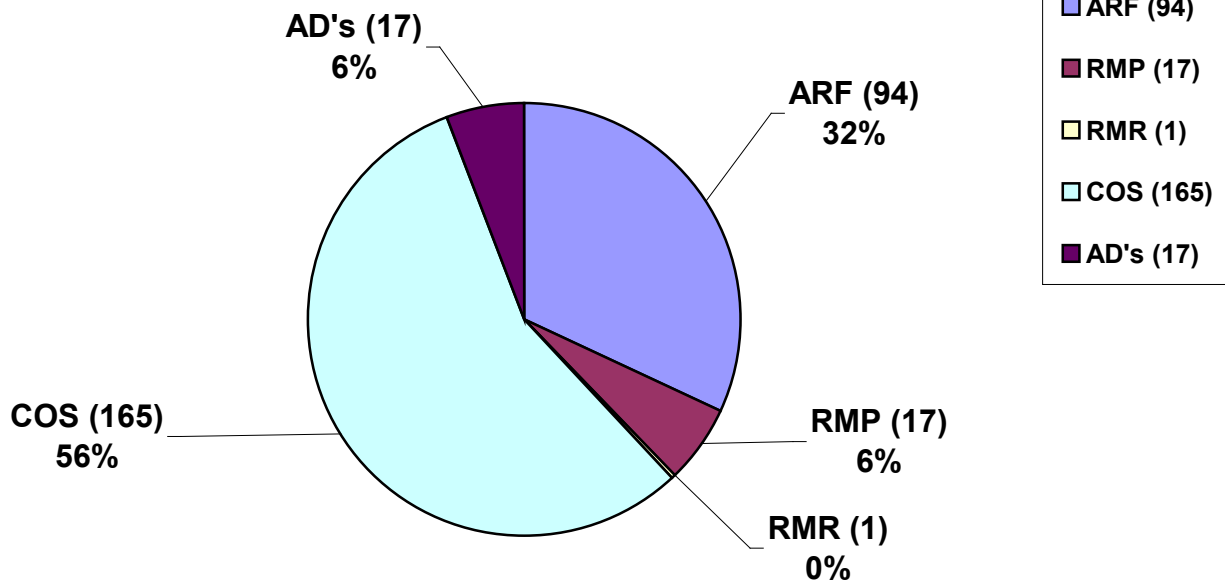




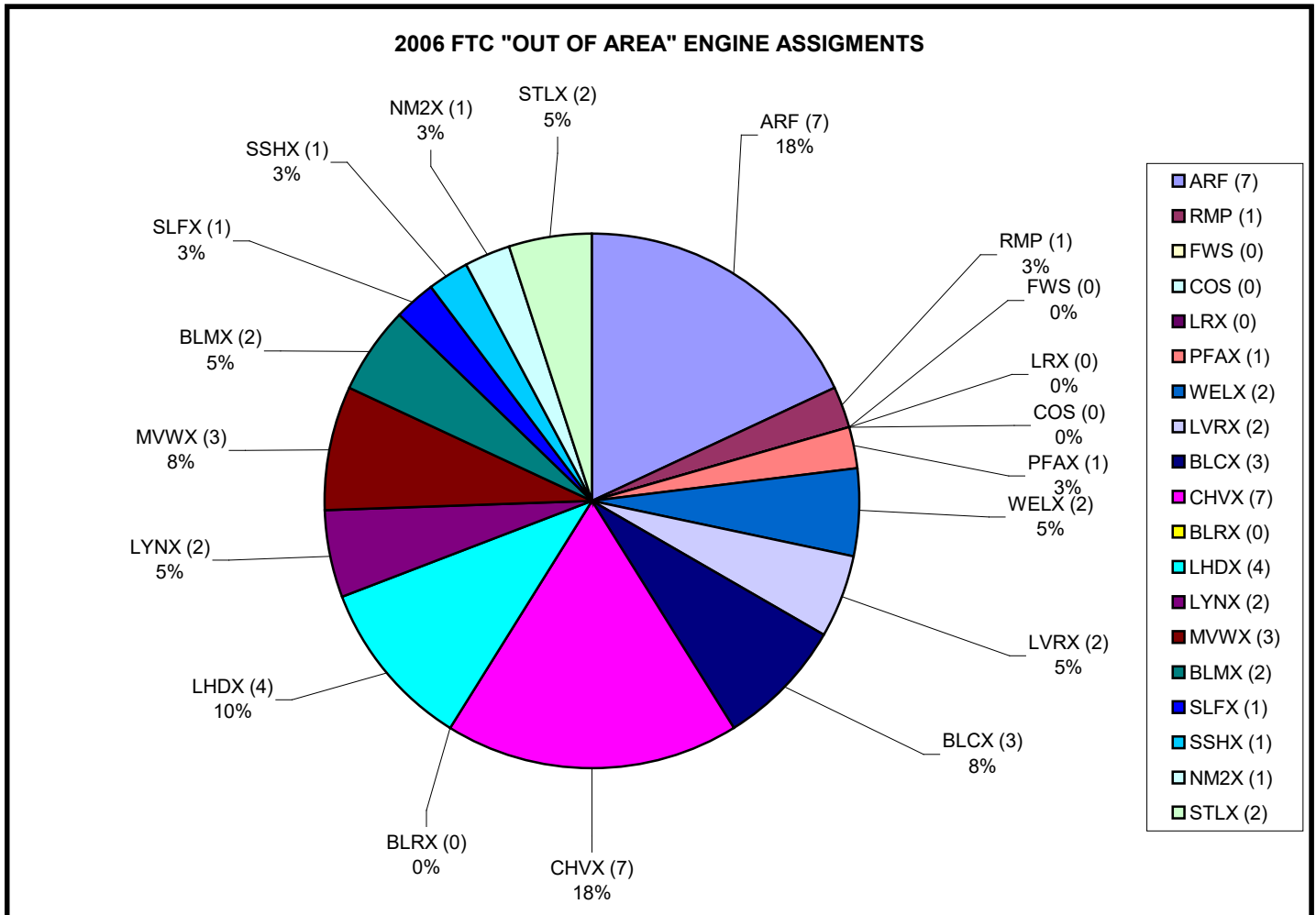
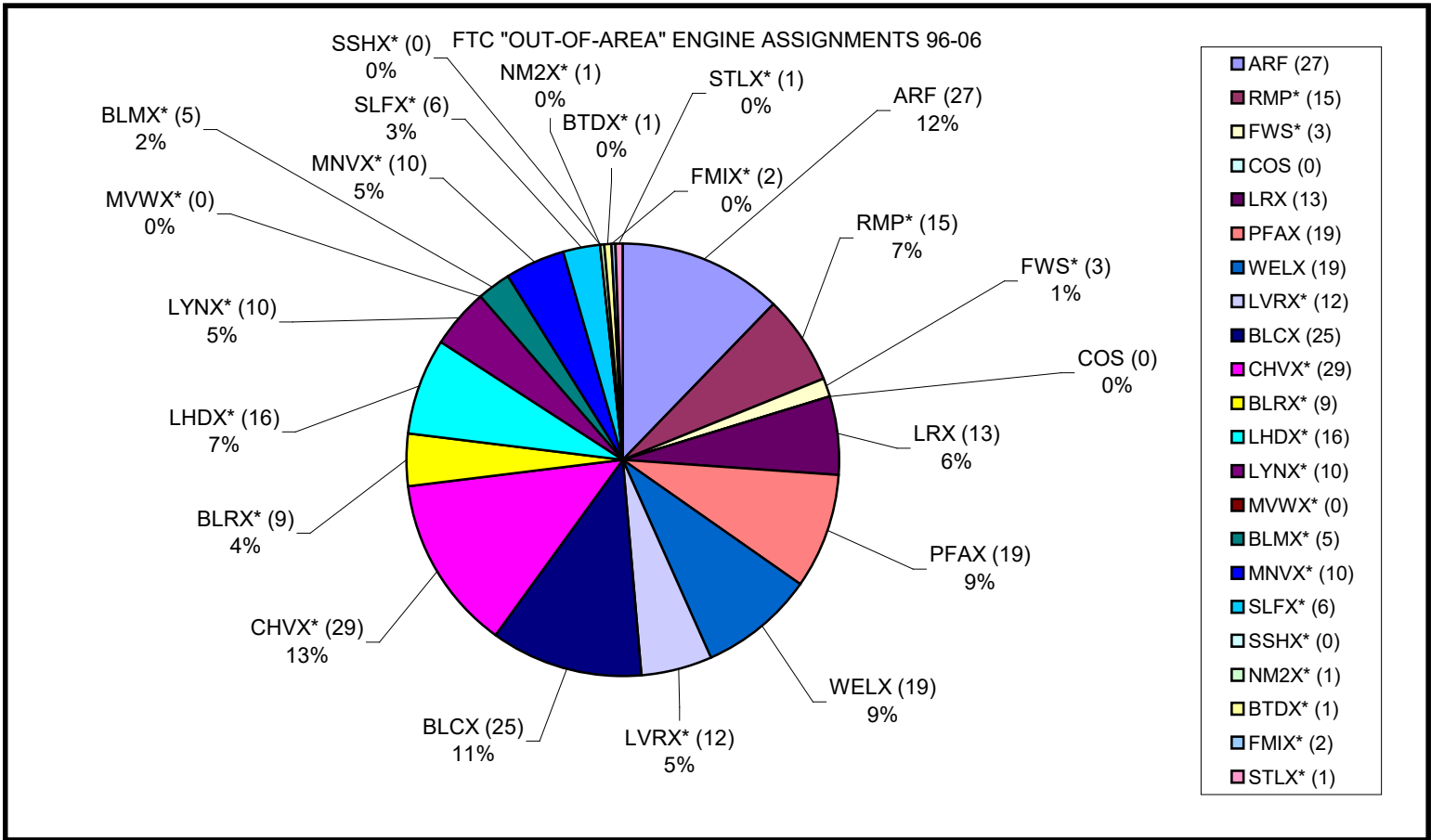
The chart below shows the number of personnel assigned to incidents from each agency for 2006. The number in ( ) is the number of Overhead assignments the agency filled. The percentage of the total number of filled Overhead assignments is also denoted. Example: The Arapaho-Roosevelt N.F./Pawnee N.G. have 47% of the total number of Overhead personnel (chart #1) and filled 32% 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.



**2006 FTC OVERHEAD ASSIGNMENTS BY AGENCY  
(Documented on resource orders only)**



There were a total of 44 out-of-area wildfire incident engine assignments filled. There have been 278 total assignments from 1996 through 2006 (ten years). This does not include Severity, Pre-Suppression, or agency specific requests. The average annual number of engine assignments is 24 orders per year.

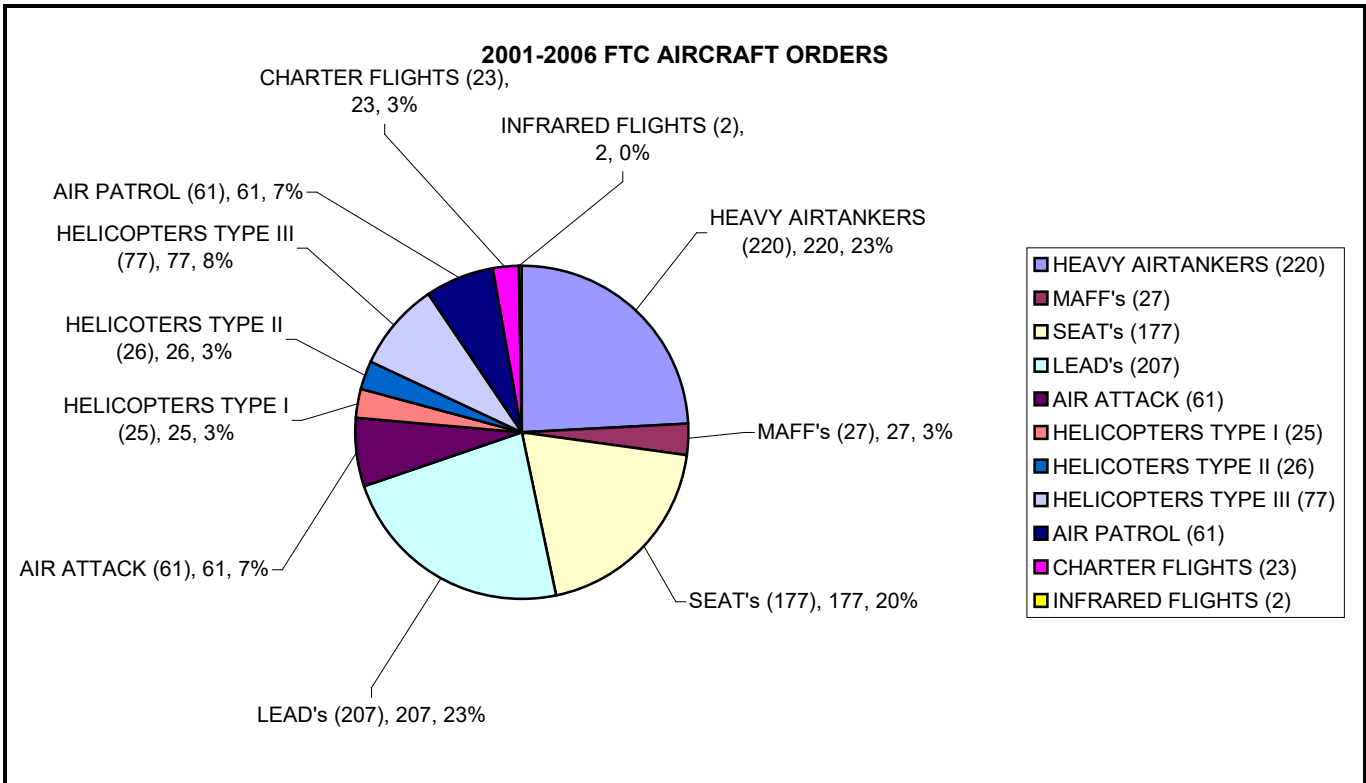
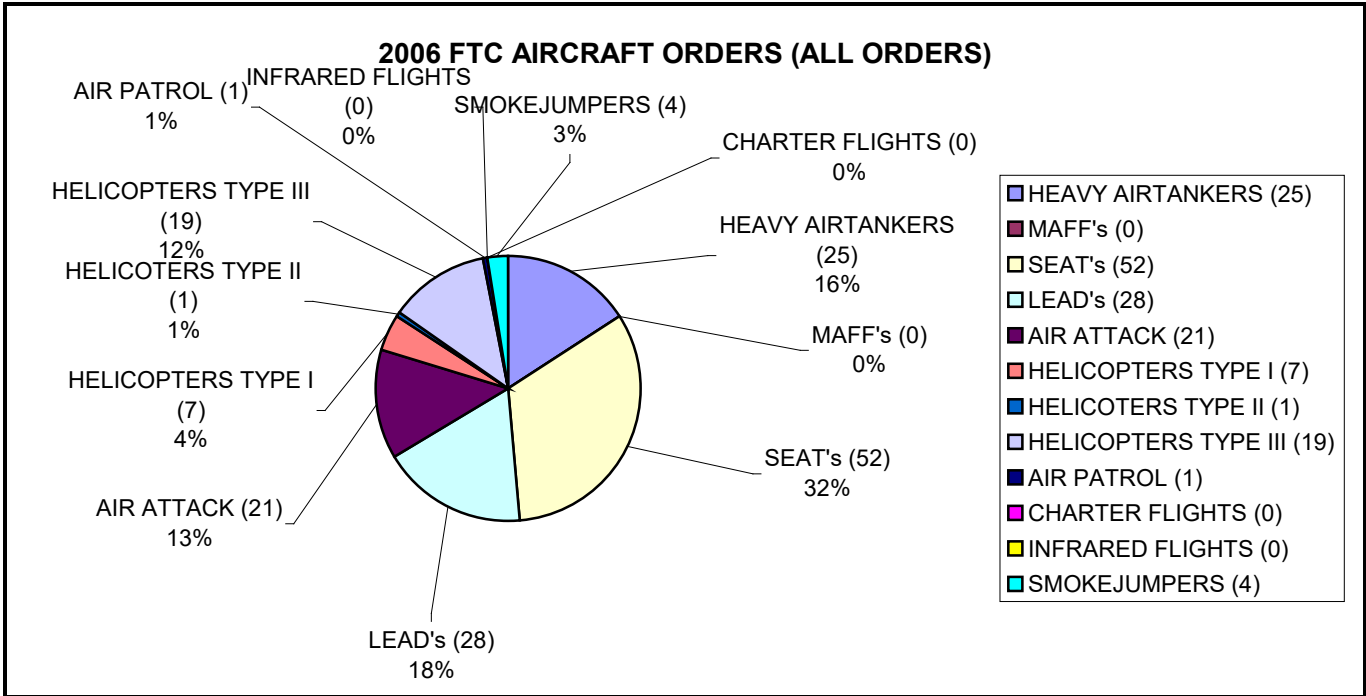


Units that have not participated in the engine program for all ten years.

**AVIATION:**

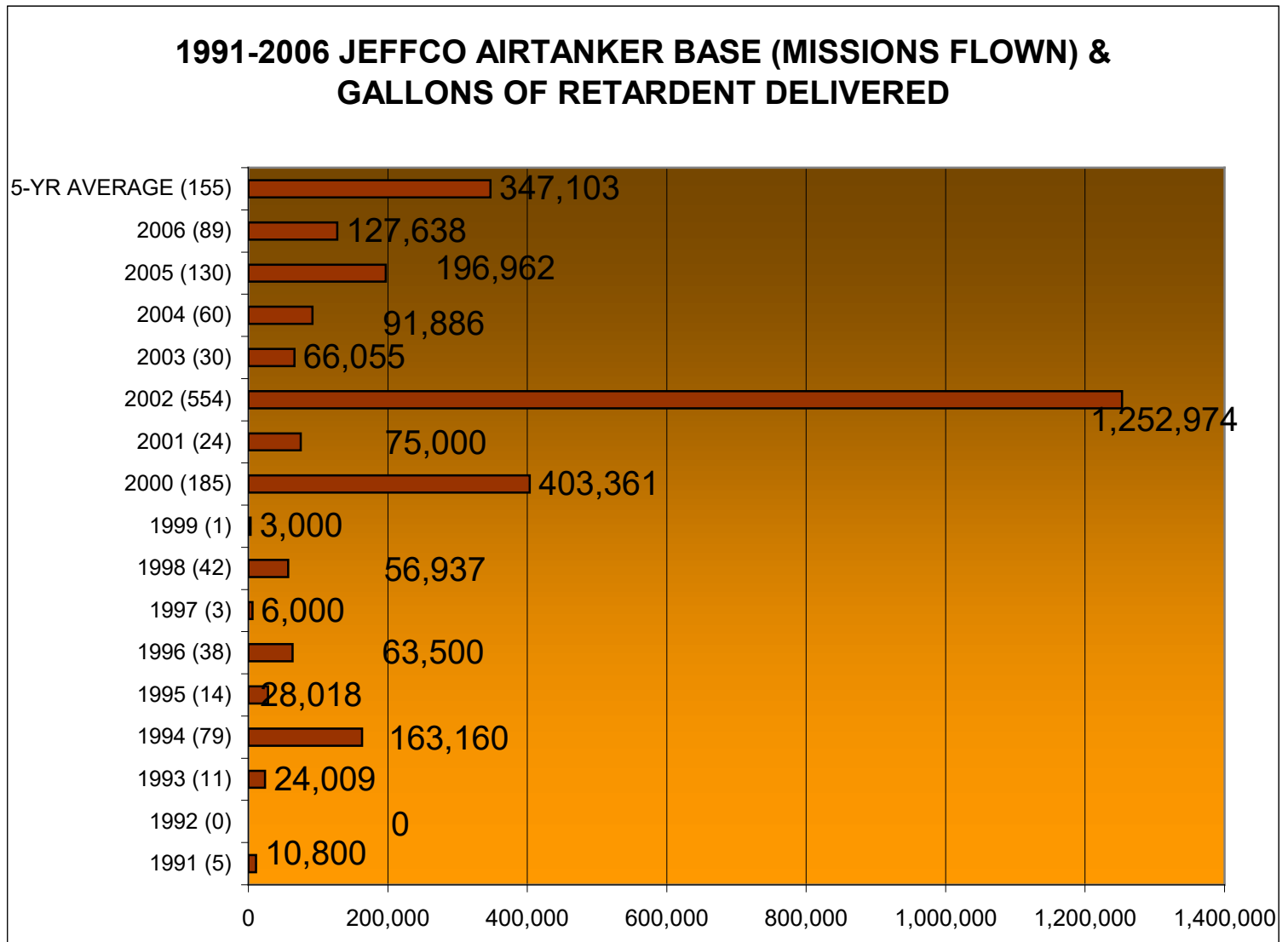
FTC processed 158 aircraft orders during the 2006 fire season. See chart below for breakdown of orders and aviation resource types.

The Redfeather Helicopter was not assigned to the ARF this year. The Boulder County Helicopter program was terminated in 2004.



## Airtanker Base

There were 89 missions flown, delivering 127,638 gallons of retardant, from the Jeffco Airtanker Base in the 2006 fire season. The 5 five year average annual numbers for the Jeffco Airtanker base are 155 missions flown per year and 347,103 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
PFAX	Poudre Fire Authority
WELX	Wellington Fire Dept.
LVRX	Loveland Rural Fire Dept.
BLCX	Boulder City Fire Dept.
CHVX	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.

## **2007 EMPHASIS AREAS FOR FTC:**

- Recruit and fill the FTC Part Time Dispatcher Position (Vice Pete Cadmus).
- Continue to review and improve dispatch operations in the new facility.
- Continue with integrating with Colorado State Office of Emergency Management Dispatch Operation.
- Continue working with the Rocky Mountain National Park on Radio Issues..
- Continue to evaluate feasibility of WILDCAD dispatch system. Plan for 2007 set-up and implementation pending technical approvals, funding, computer networking issues and practicality.