

FORT COLLINS INTERAGENCY WILDFIRE DISPATCH CENTER AND AVIATION SERVICE CENTER

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS AND PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Prepared by: Irene C. Mora, Center Manager

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

Zimmerman Fire –September 4, 2009



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AND AVIATION SERVICE CENTER
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2009 FTC NARRATIVE/SUMMARY:

Initial Attack/Regional and National Support: While significant fire activity [early in the year](#) threatened to set 2009 above average for both number of fires and acres burned, wetter conditions across many parts of the nation as the year progressed, coupled with effective fire management, helped to restrain fire activity by mid-year. Despite the largest fire in Los Angeles County's (California) recorded history ([Station fire](#)), by the end of [August](#) the nationwide acreage burned by wildfire was very near the 2000–2009 average and thereafter declined below average. However, the number of fires remained slightly above average through the end of the year. Based upon [estimates of December's fire activity](#), 2009 will rank fifth highest (sixth lowest) out of the past decade in terms of number of fires — about 0.6 percent above the 2000-2008 average. Acres burned in 2009 will likely fall approximately 15 percent below the 2000-2008 average, ranking seventh highest (fourth lowest) since 2000. Average fire size also should rank seventh highest out of the 2000-2009 period, at about 17 percent below average.

Based upon [estimates](#) of December's national wildfire activity, 2009 is expected to finish with a total of 78,882 fires having burned 5,944,016 acres (2,405,458 hectares). The estimated number of fires is just 494 fires above the 2000 – 2008 average of 78,388. Estimated acreage burned across the nation in 2009 is, on the other hand, 1,084,753 acres (438,984 hectares), or about 15 percent, below the 2000 – 2008 average of 7,028,769 acres (2,844,442 hectares). Estimated average fire size in 2009 was 75.4 acres (30.5 hectares) per fire, which was 15.1 acres (6.1 hectares) per fire below the 2000 – 2008 average, or about 17 percent smaller than average.

According to the weather summary below 2009 was nothing spectacular for the Fort Collins area. Although the weather was on the warmer side, we did not experience an increase in wildland fires or in fire acres. It was an average fire year, with our major fire activity occurring later in the season in the later part of November. We assisted with All Risk types of incidents, Search and Rescue operations, Hurricane (FEMA), etc. Our overall workload was and is assisting with Regional and National incidents. The Prescribed Fire activity and pile burning increased substantially due to favorable burning conditions in the later part of the year.

Weather: Weather wise, 2009 compared to annual averages had slightly below normal temperature and greatly appreciated above normal precipitation.

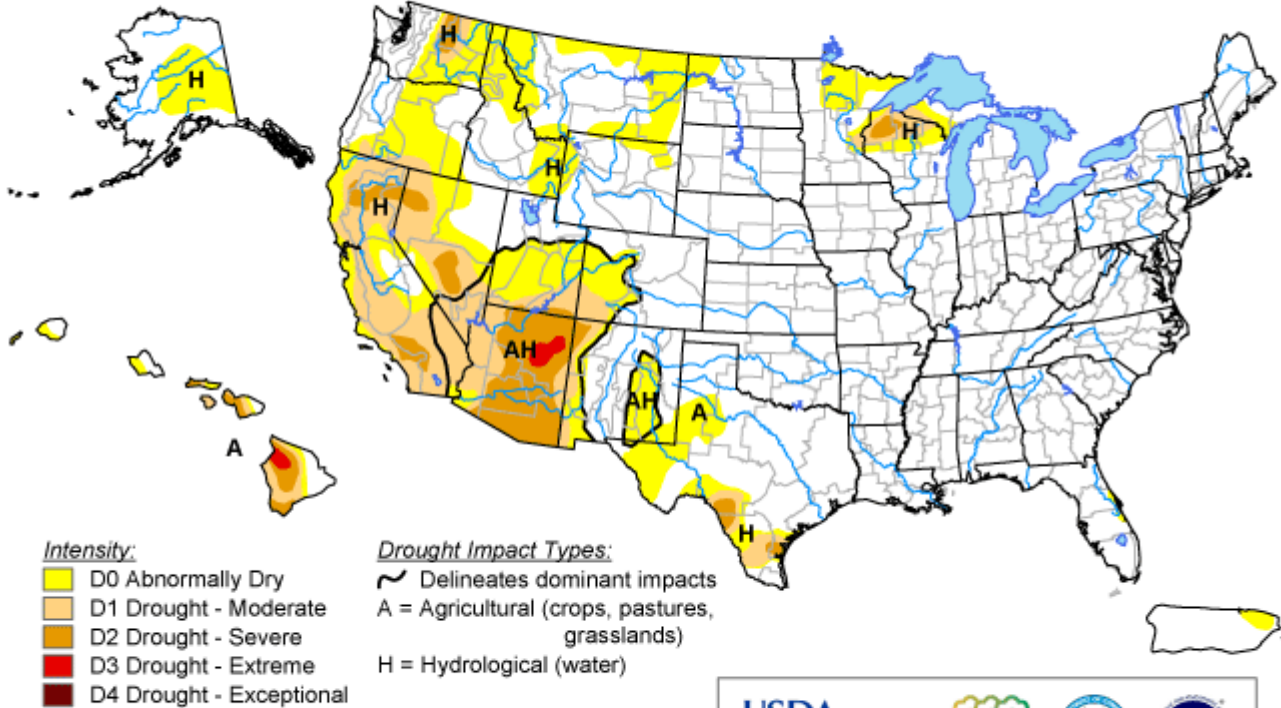
Temperatures finished pretty much near normal. The norm is 50.1 degrees and the year finished with 49.7 degrees, only 0.4 degree below normal. This year there were 18 days that equaled or exceeded the 90 degree mark compared to 2008 with 47 days. 171 days recorded low temperatures at or below freezing. 19 various temperature records were set or tied during 2009.

The annual precipitation ended with a total of 18.12 inches which was 2.31 inches above the norm of 15.81. The year with the wettest total was 1967 with 23.31 inches.

Snowfall was also above normal with 63.7 inches compared to the 61.7 inch normal. Of the 2009-2010 snow season the total accumulated was 37.6 inches which is 2.0 inches above normal. All of the precipitation is reflected in the drought monitor map. The drought map is still showing area of abnormally dry areas to the southwest of the foothills.

U.S. Drought Monitor

December 29, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST



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.

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



Released Thursday, December 31, 2009
Author: Richard Heim, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

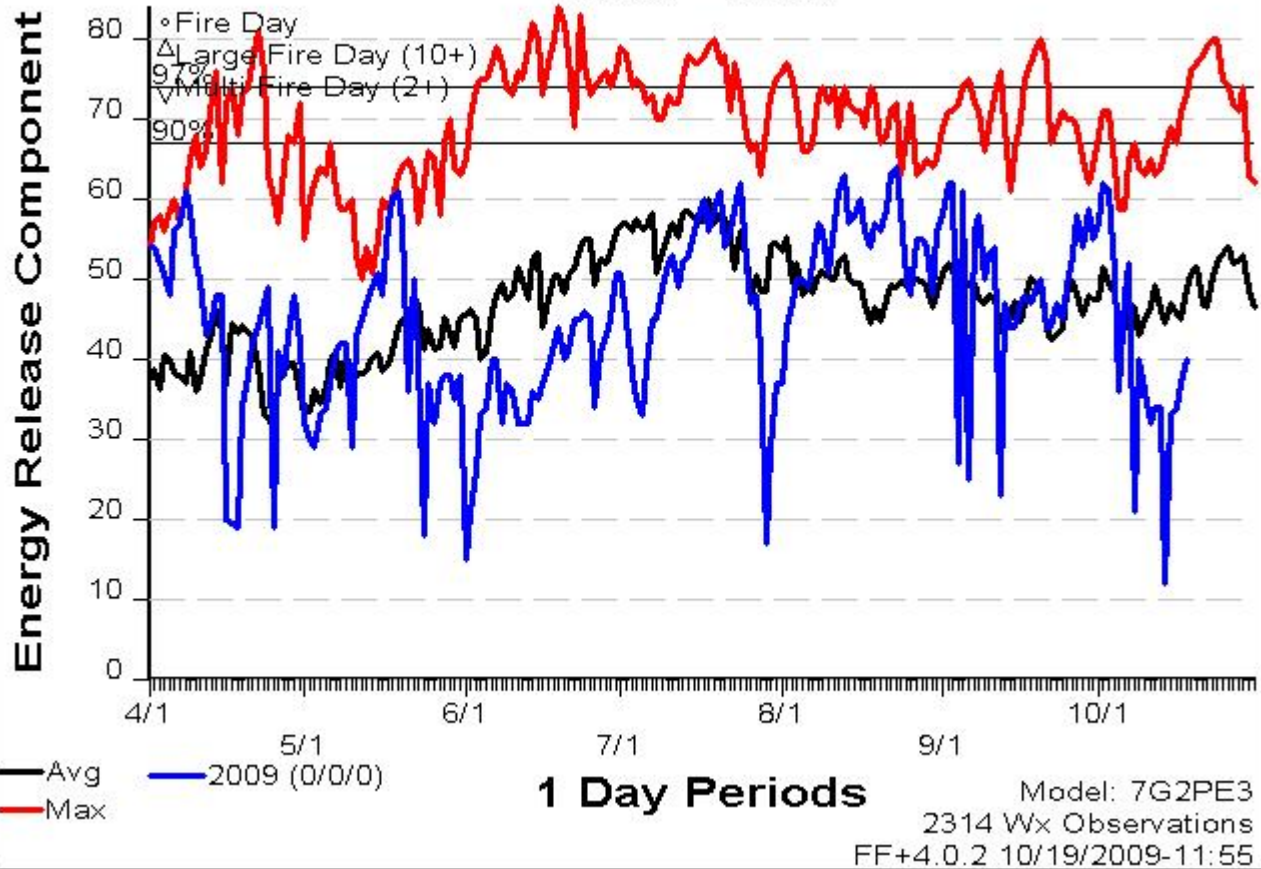
National Drought Summary -- December 29, 2009

The West: Precipitation amounts were less than a quarter of an inch across most of the West, well below normal for the week. Half an inch or more fell across some of the mountains and coasts of California to Washington, but not enough to warrant improvement to the USDM depiction. An area of D0H was added to southeast Idaho and adjoining southwest Montana and western Wyoming, reflecting the lowest snowpack and greatest precipitation anomalies. Many mountain stations in this area had snow water content in the driest ten percentile for this time of year, and precipitation so far this water year (October 1 to date) was 50 percent of normal or less at many locations. While snowpack over Arizona was above normal, precipitation across the state was well-below normal for the water year-to-date as well as for the calendar year-to-date. Modeled soil moisture was dry, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports indicated 86 percent of the pasture and range land was in very poor to poor condition as of December 27.

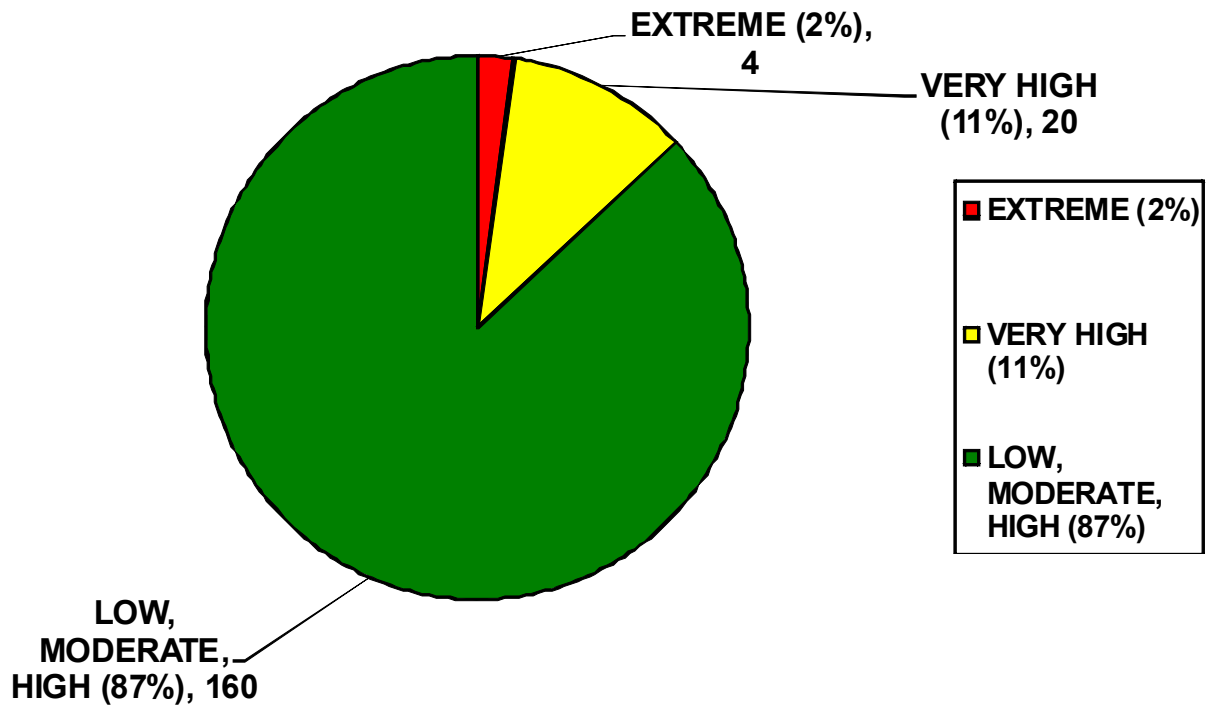
2009 fire season representative ERC chart for the Estes Park weather station:

Of the established April 15th through October 15th fire season (184 days); there were 44 days (24% of fire season) spent above the Very High fire danger rating and 4 days (5% 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 1999 - 2009

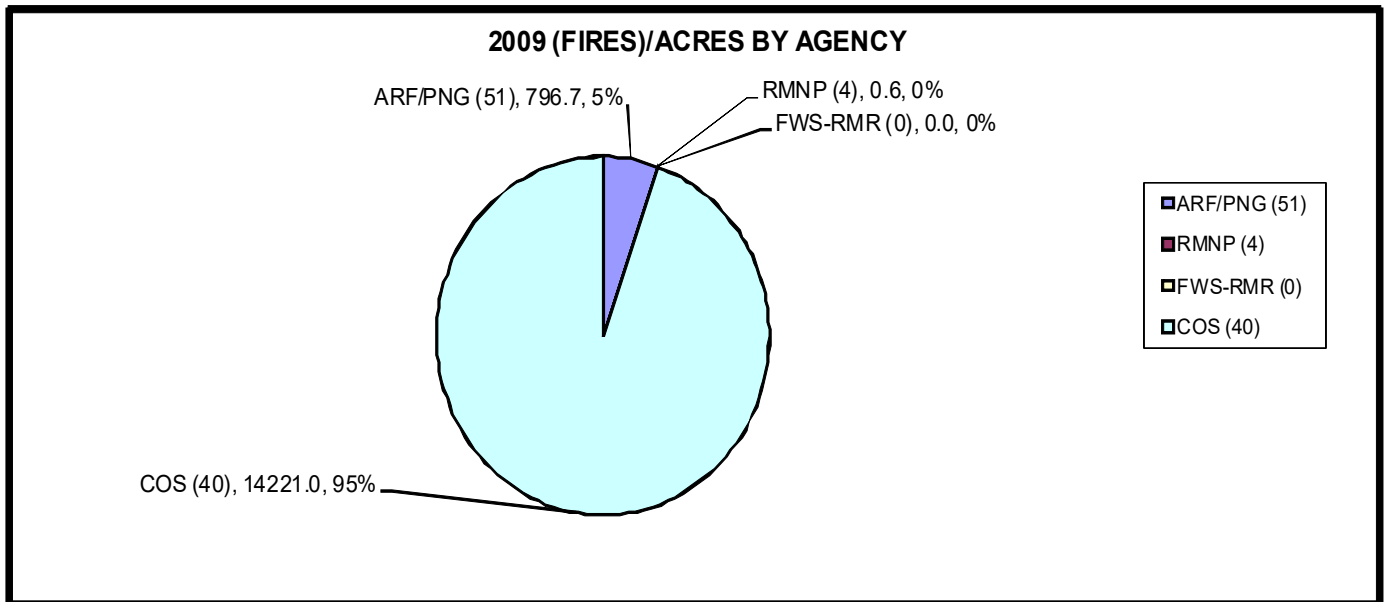


2009 FIRE DANGER DAYS BY CLASS (Fire Season of April 15th-October 15th = 184 Days)



2009 NORTHERN FRONT RANGE INTERAGENCY FIRE OCCURRENCE/ACRES:

The Northern Front Range Interagency Wildfire Cooperators experienced a total of 95 fires for a total of 15,018 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. One fire in Boulder County, the Old Stage burned 3,008 acres. One fire in Mogan County, the Stalk Fire burned 3,500 acres and one fire in Logan burned 7,000 acres which was located near the Colorado and Nebraska Border.

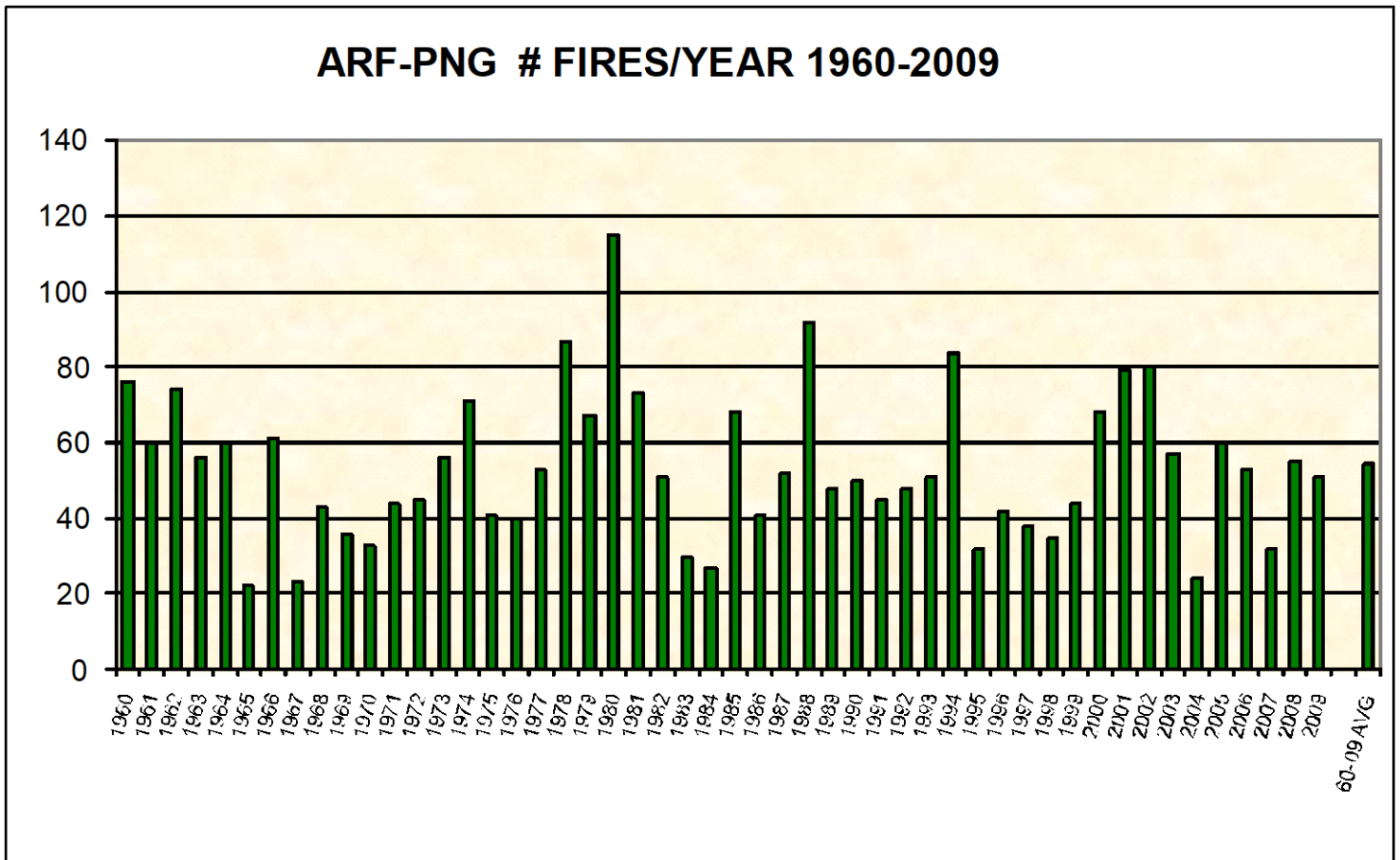


COS Includes: Larimer (LRX), Boulder (BLX), Gilpin (GLX), Clear Creek (CCX), Weld (WEX), Adams (ADX), Washington (WAX), Morgan (MGX) and Logan (LOG) Counties.

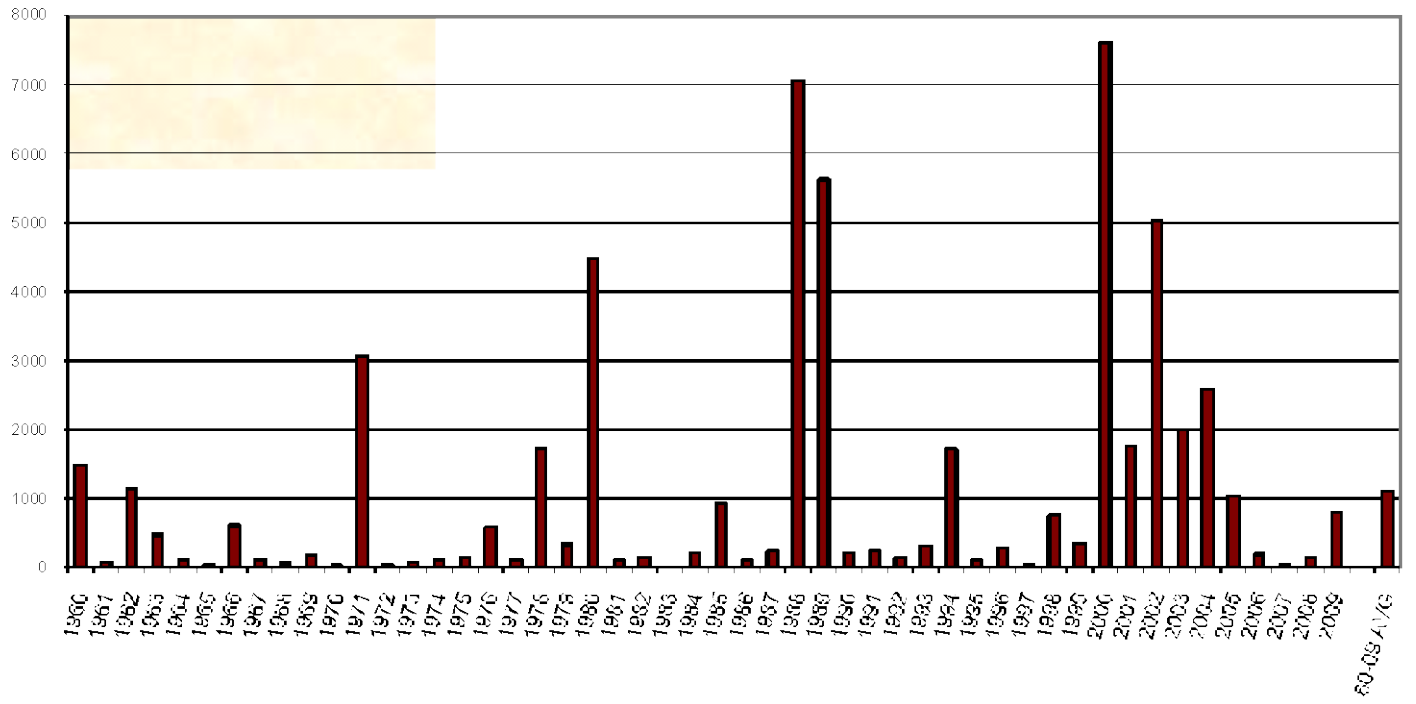
2009 ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT N.F./PAWNEE N.G. FIRE OCCURANCE/ACRES:

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland experienced 51 fires for a total of 797 acres burned (USFS acres only). Of the 51 fires, 36 fires (71%) were human-caused for 786 acres. Fifteen fires (29%) were lightning-caused for 12 acres. The following bar graphs show the fire occurrence and acres burned from 1960 thru 2009 for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. Historical records for the interagency cooperators are not available.

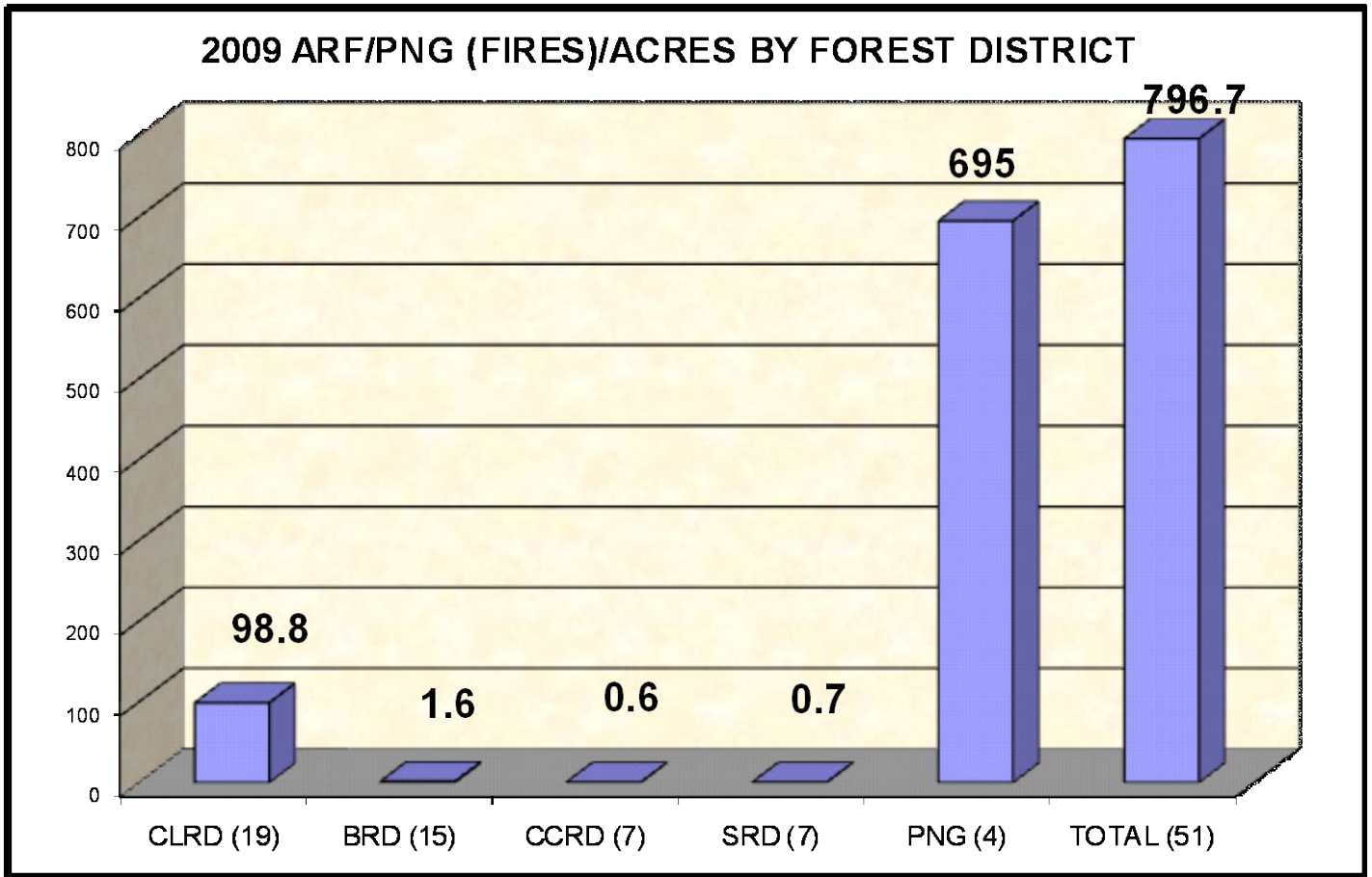
- The 49-year historical average annual fire occurrence and acres burned is: 54 fires for 1,258 acres/year.
- The five-year average annual is: 50 fires for 432 acres per year.
- The ten-year average annual is: 56 fires for 2,114 acres per year burned.
- There have been a total of 2,673 fires for 54,512 acres burned from 1960 through 2009 (49 Years).



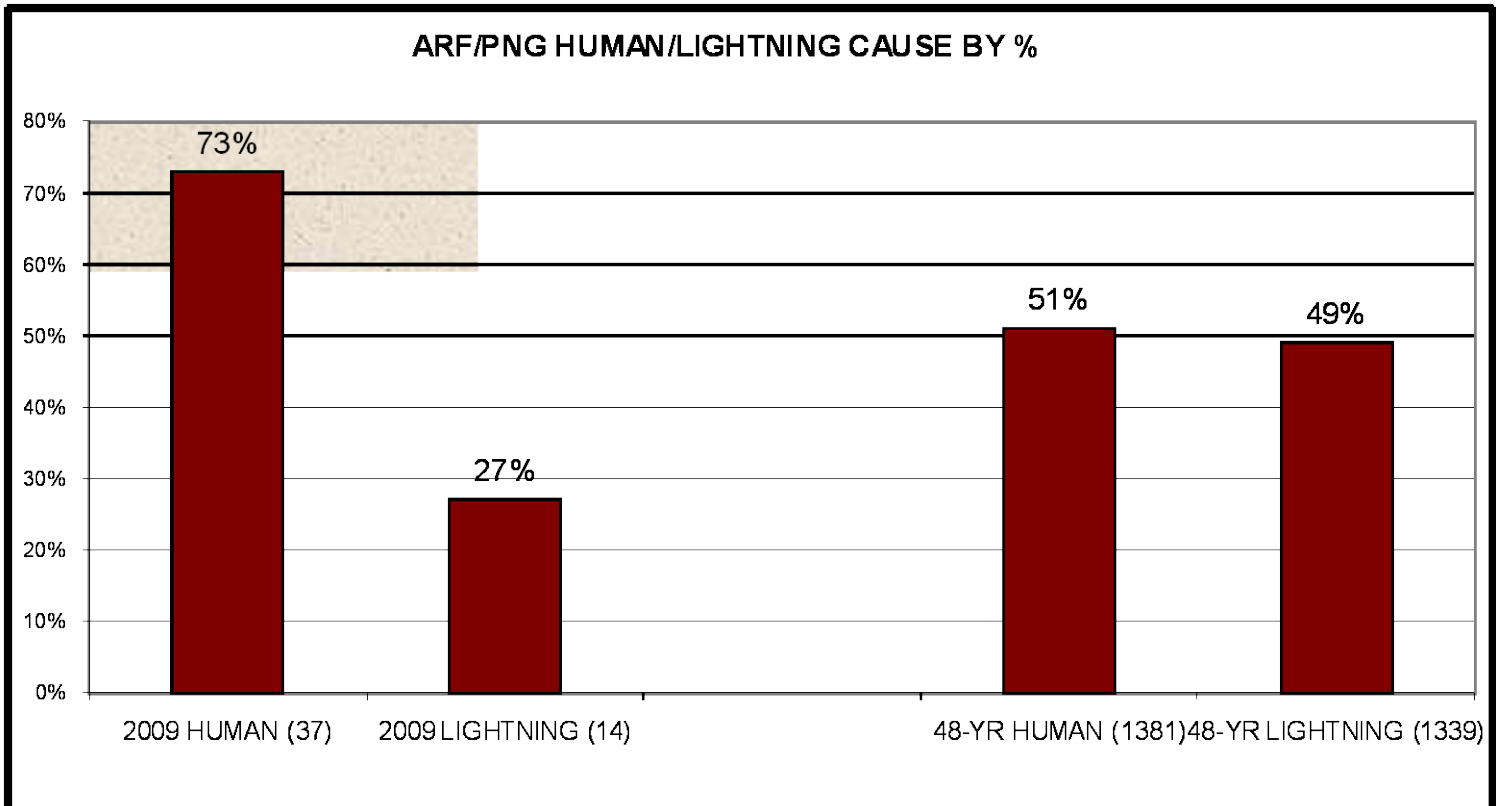
ARF-PNG ACRES BURNED/YEAR 1960-2009



The following chart shows the 2009 distribution of (fires) and acres burned by ARNF/PNG district.

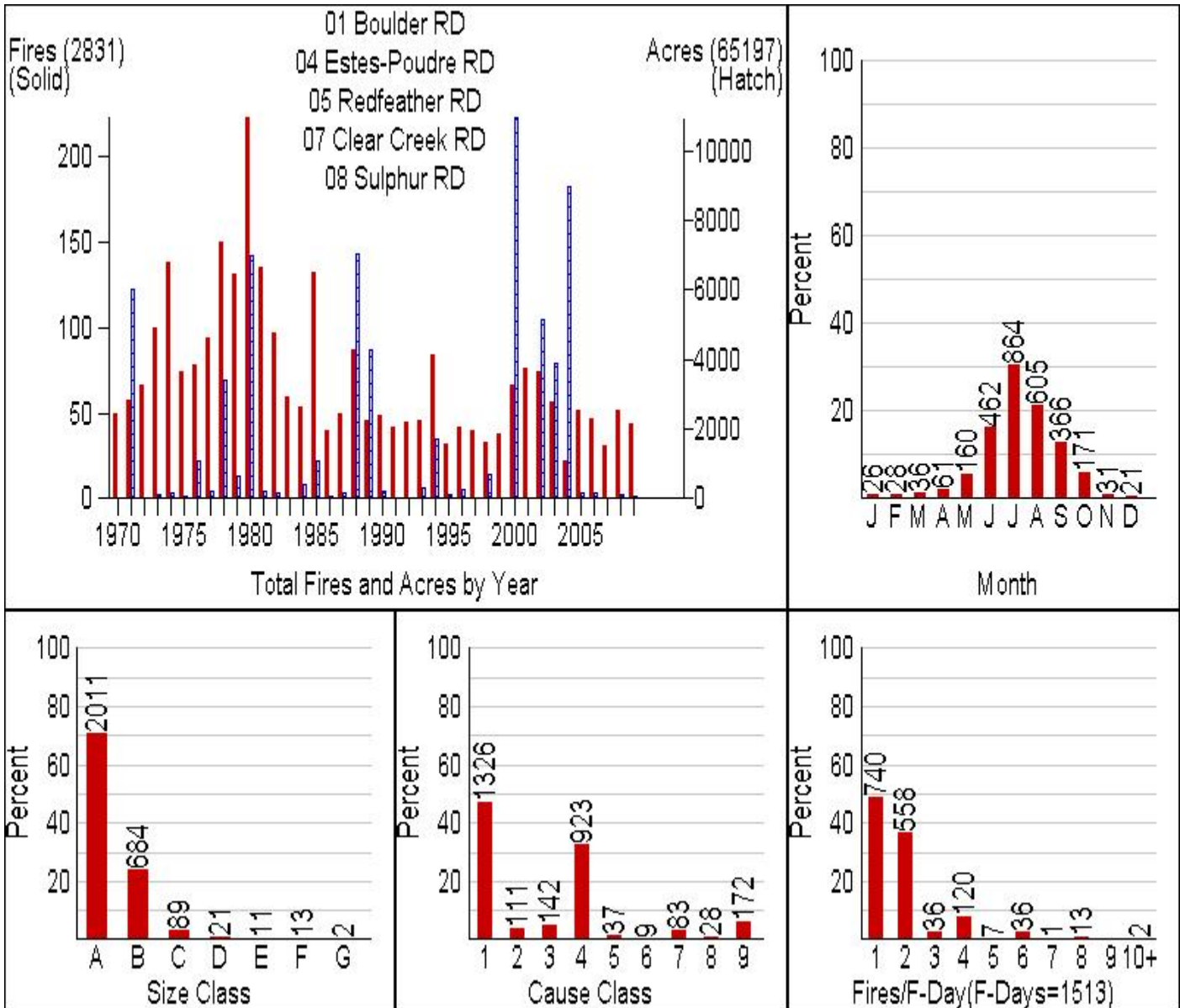


The following chart shows ARNF/PNG fire cause (Human Vs Lightning)
For 2009 compared to 48-year average.



The follow series of charts are a compilation of fire records from 1970 to 2009:
 (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.

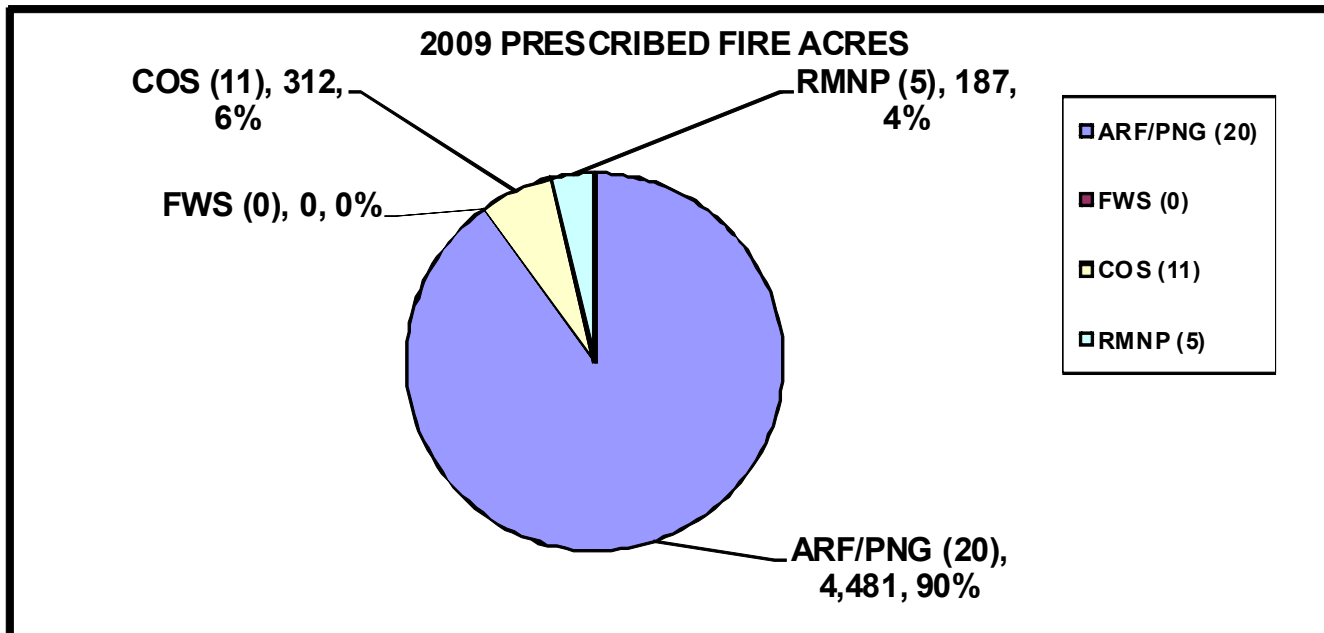


ARF/PNG LARGE FIRE HISTORY 1960-2009 (300+ ACRES GRASS/100+ ACRES TIMBER):

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

2009 PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

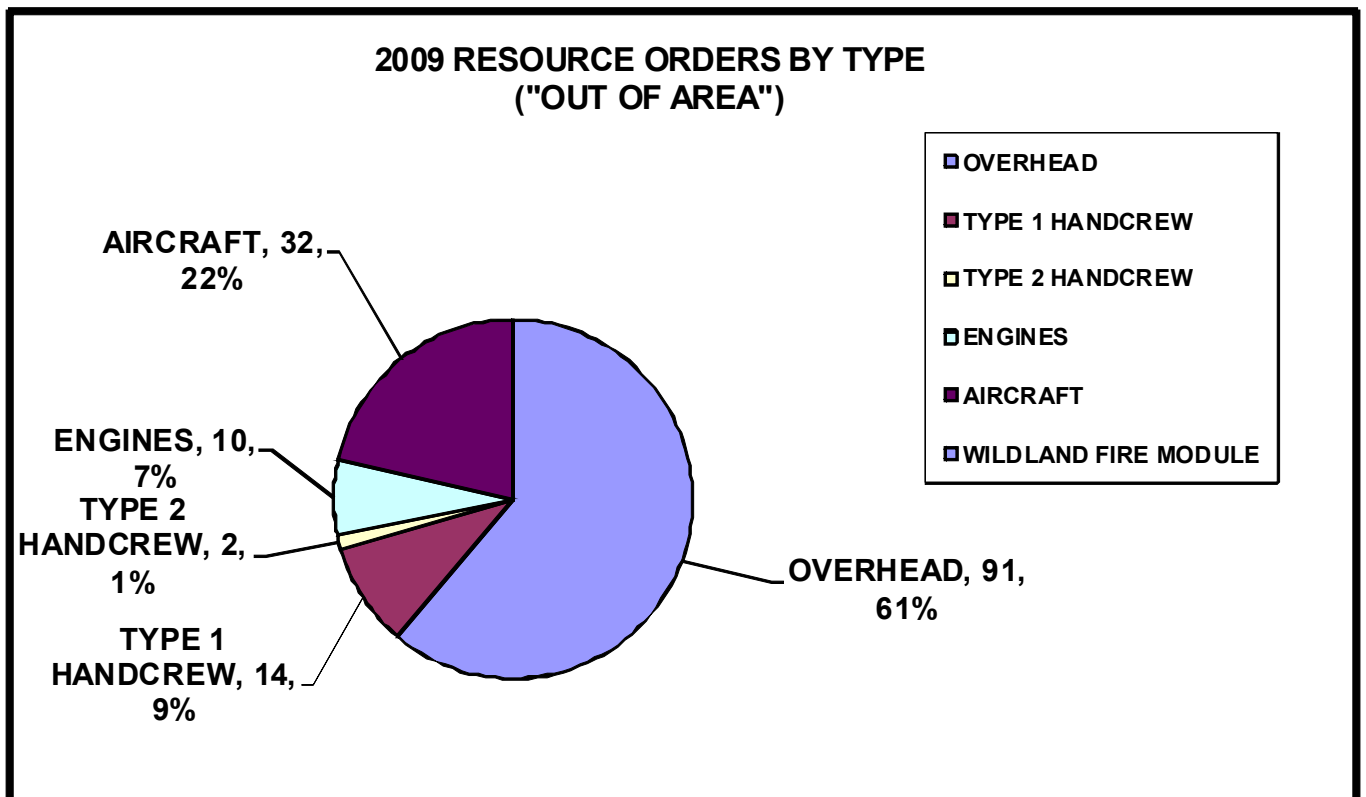
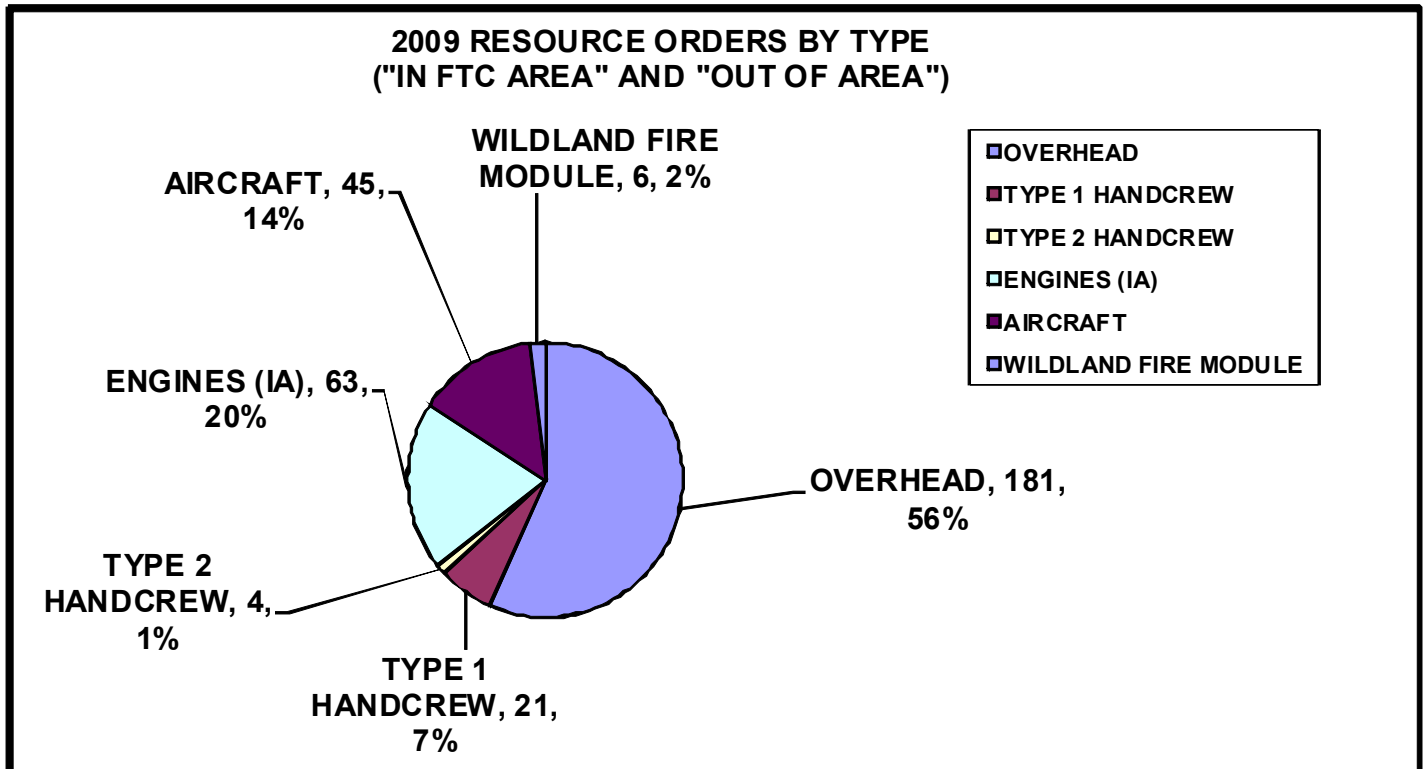
These were the numbers for prescribed burns currently available as of 12/31/09 for all the agencies. .



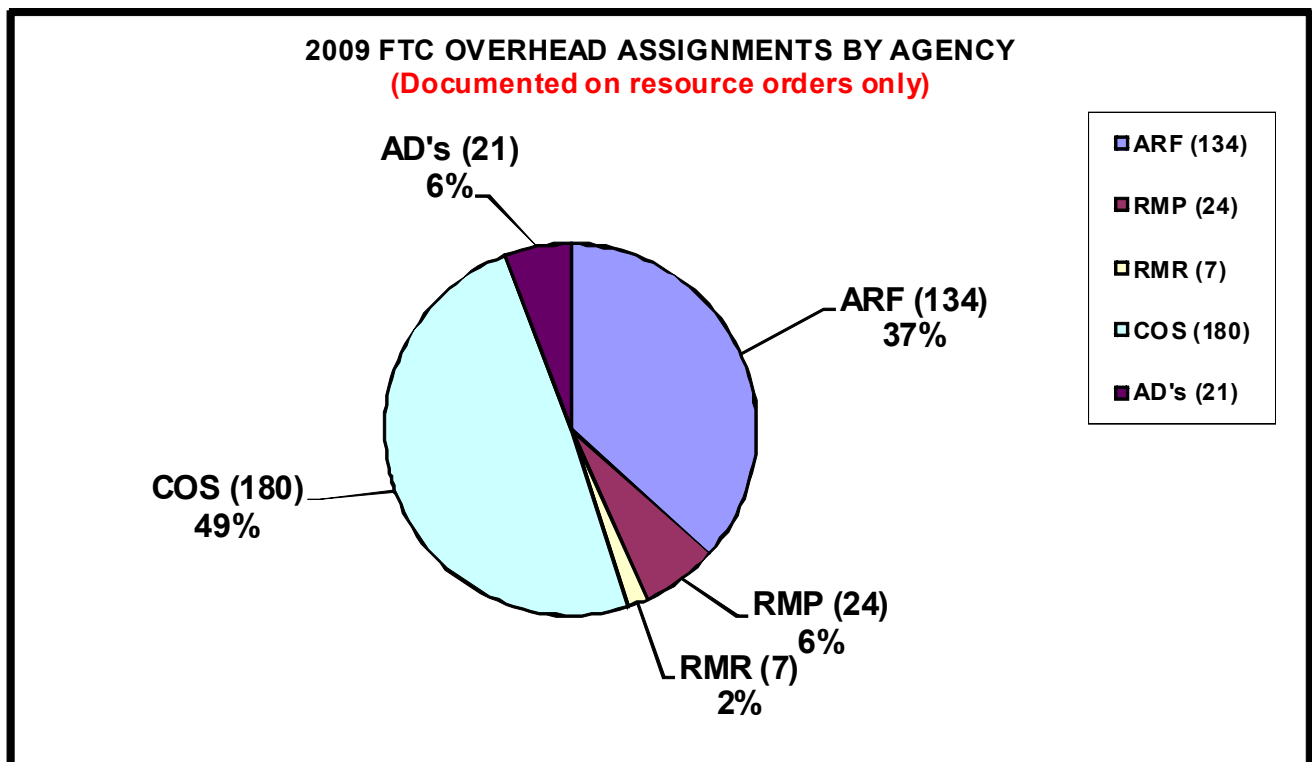
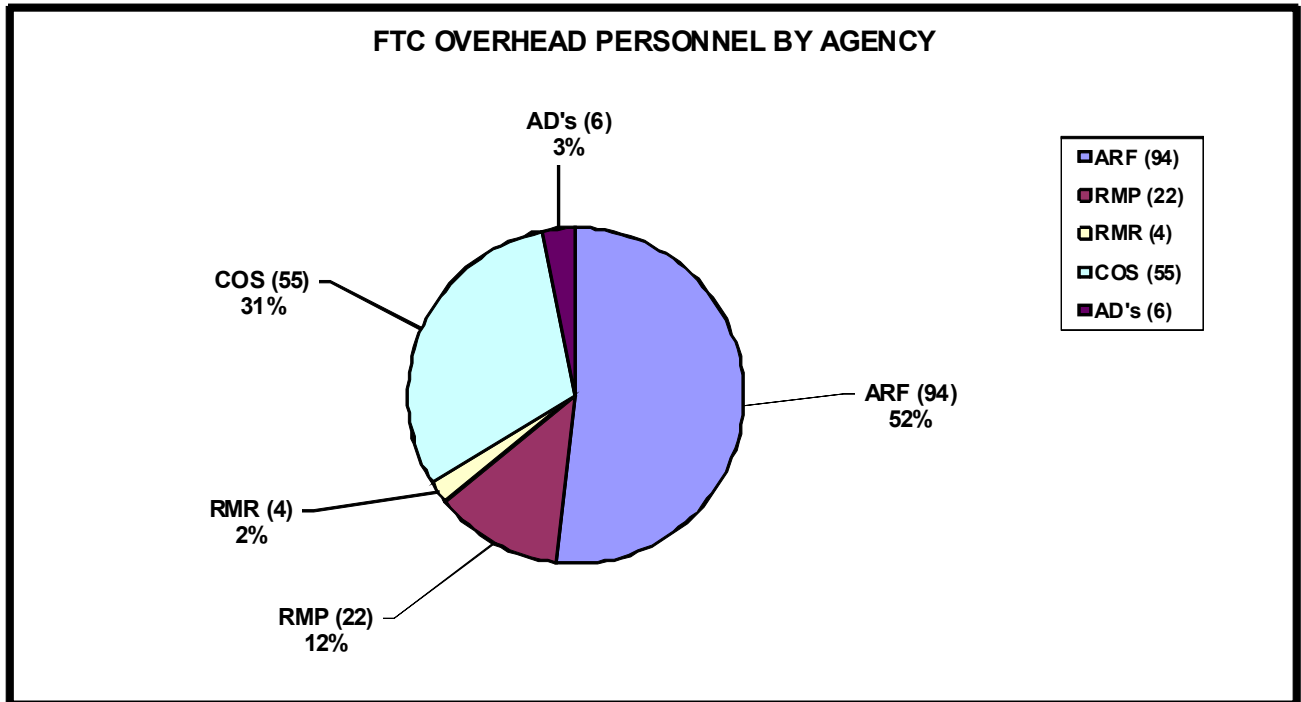
2009 FORT COLLINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER AND AVIATION SERVICE CENTER REPORT:

FTC processed a total of 336 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 nor does it include de-mob and reassignment orders for out-of-area resources brought into the area for project fire support.*

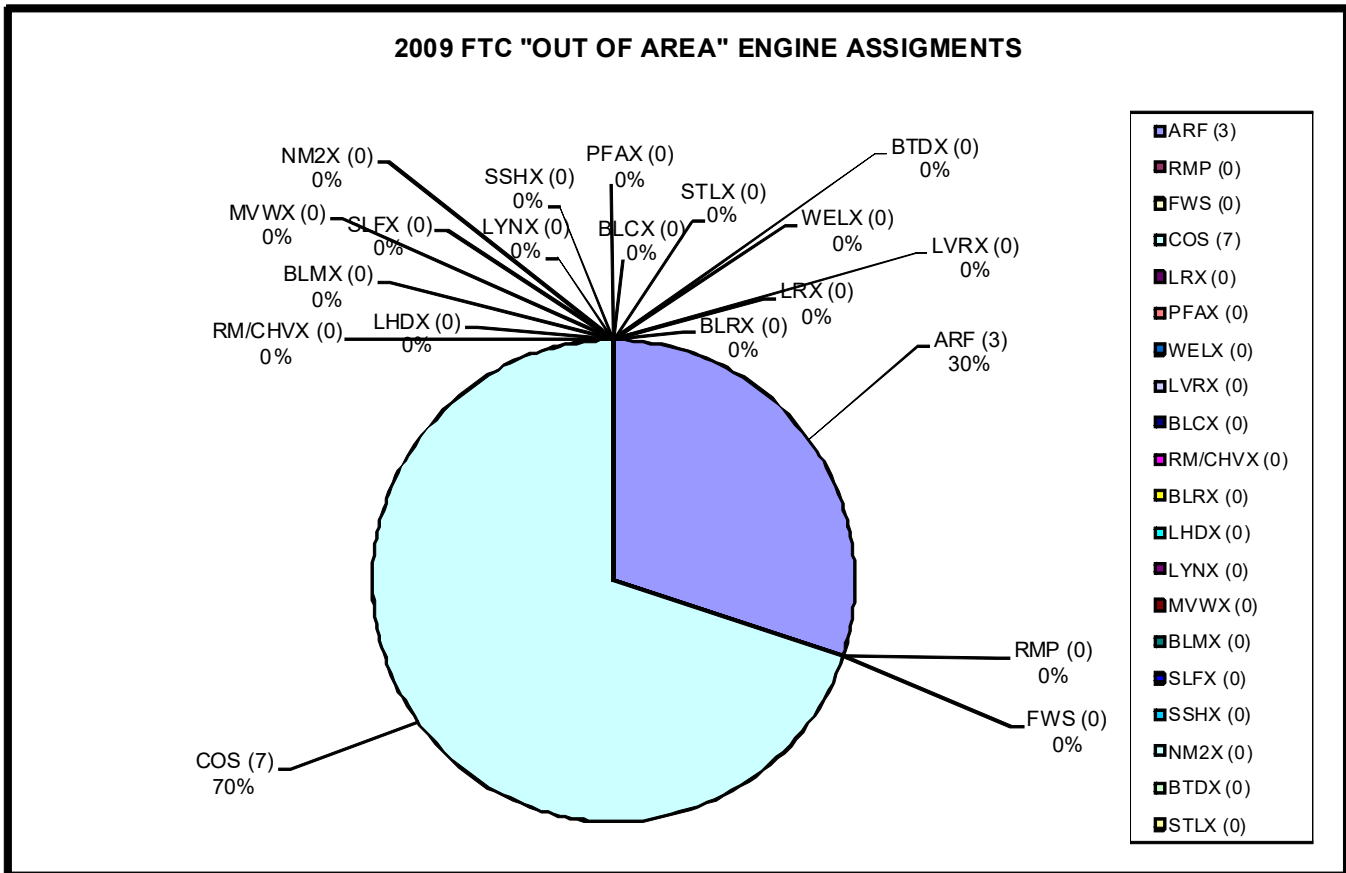
The breakdown of resource assignments by type is shown in the following chart.



The chart below shows the number of personnel assigned to incidents from each agency for 2009. 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 52% 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.

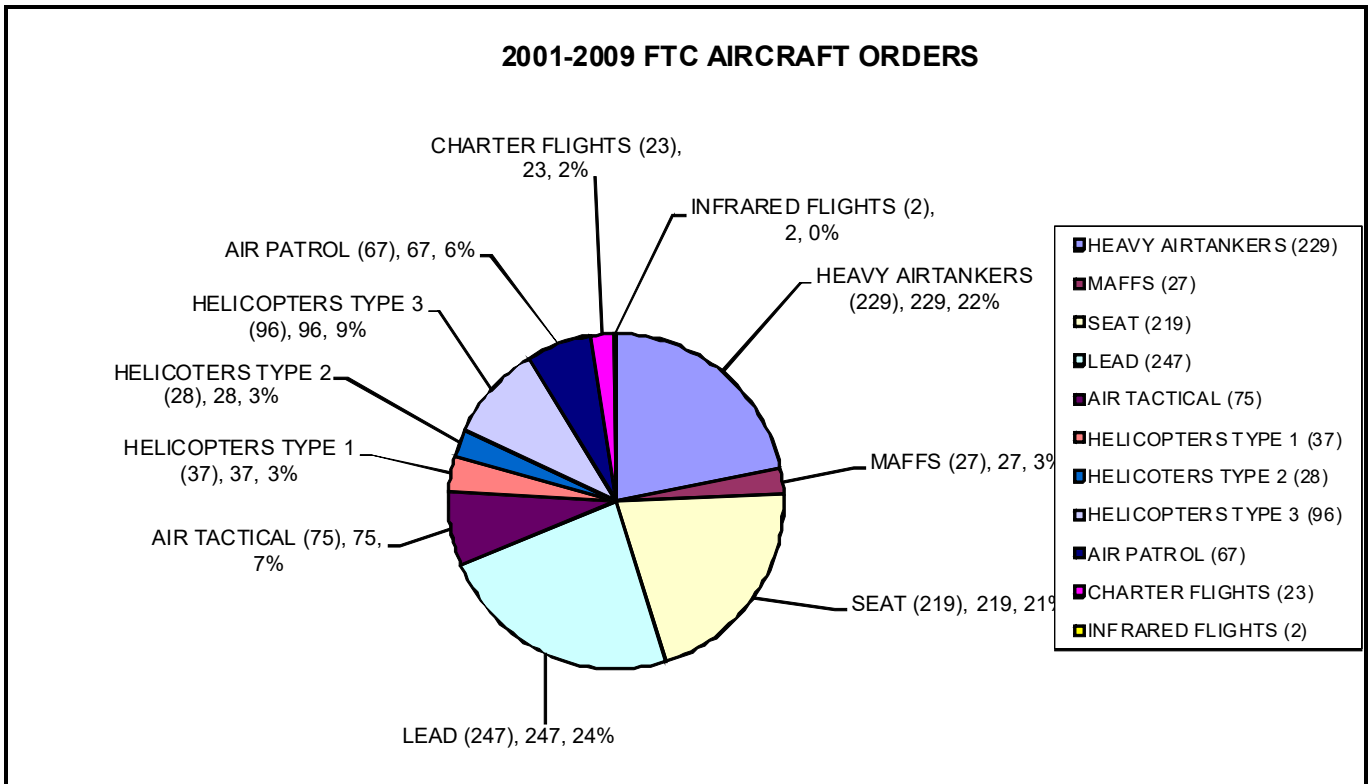
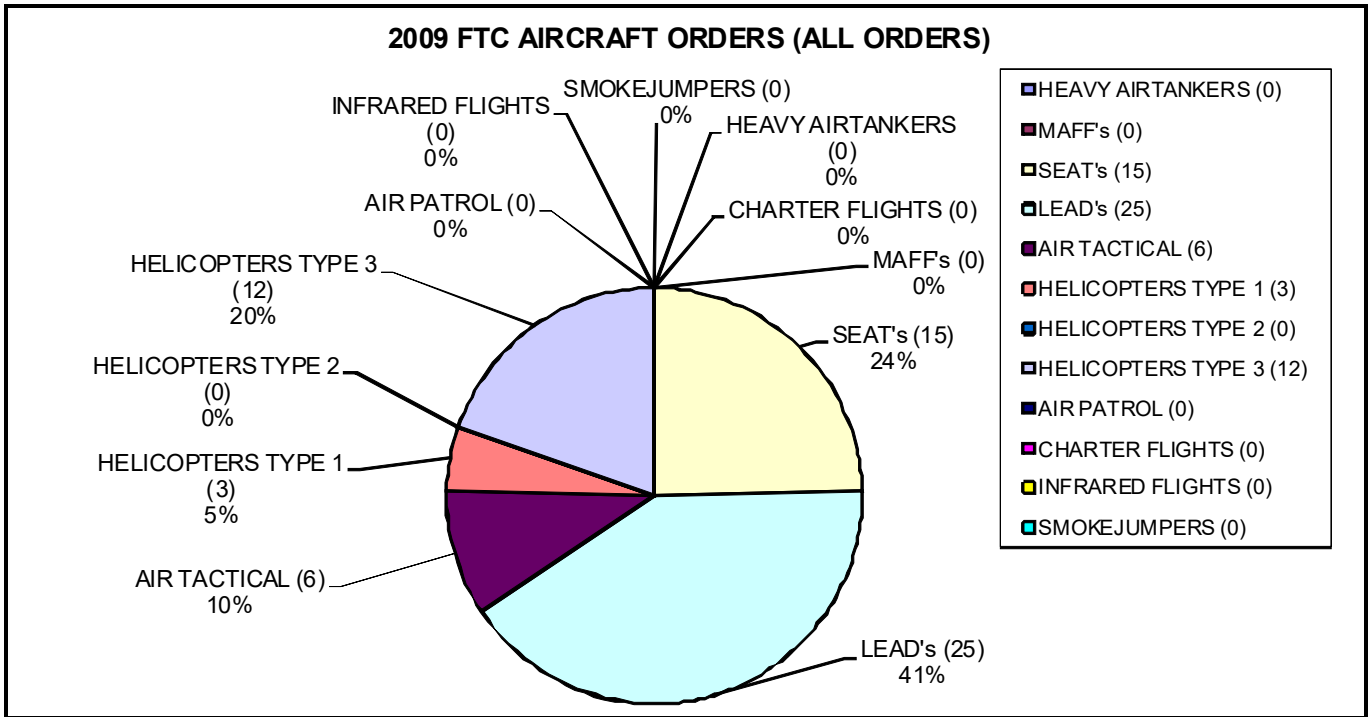


There were a total of 10 out-of-area wildfire incident engine assignments filled. There have been 309 total assignments from 1997 through 2009 (twelve years). This does not include Severity, Pre-Suppression, or agency specific requests. The average annual number of engine assignments is 26 orders per year.

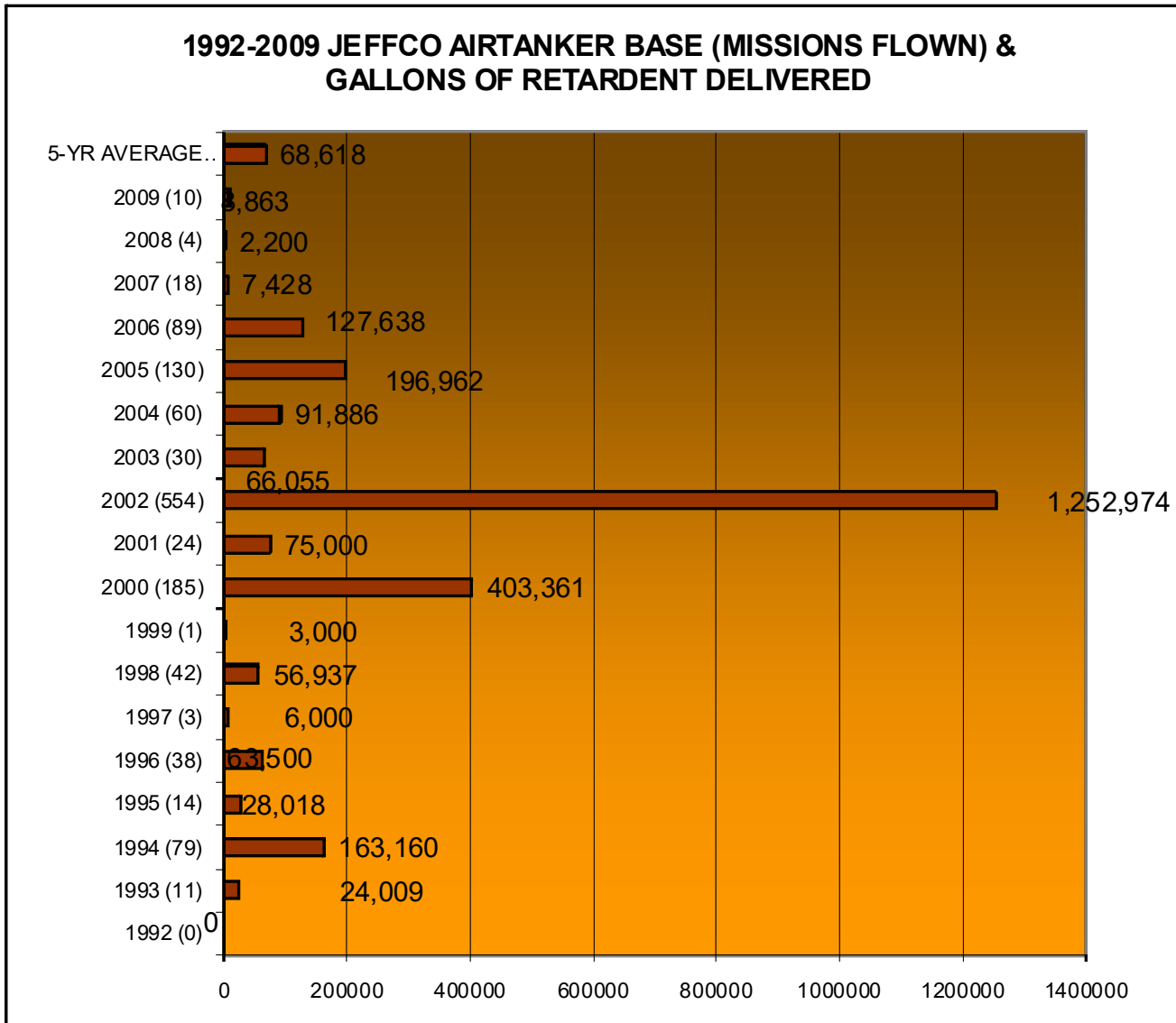


AVIATION:

FTC processed 61 aircraft orders during the 2009 fire season. See chart below for breakdown of orders and aviation resource types.



There were 10 missions flown, delivering 8,863 gallons of retardant, from the Jeffco Airtanker Base in the 2009 fire season. The 5 five year average annual numbers for the Jeffco Airtanker base are 50 missions flown per year and 68,618 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. |
| 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 |

2009 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.
- Continue working with Colorado State on the funding of a position for FTC.