



Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center
2024 Annual Report



2024 Year in Review

The 2025 fire season was above average fire season for the Fort Collins Dispatch (FTC) Zone. We average about 100 wildfires per year, and this year we had 128, that covered 17,769 acres. We experienced 20 fires over 50 acres, which totaled 17,374 acres. Most of the acreage burned this year was burned by fires over 50 acres, the vast majority of which was the Alexander Mountain Fire at 9668 acres. There were 128 wildfires reported within the FTC Zone. There were 84 (66%) human caused, 18 (14%), natural, and 26 (20%) undetermined cause fires.

The largest fire across the zone was the Alexander Mountain fire that started on private property in Larimer County just west of Loveland, CO on the Sylvan Dale Ranch destroying 28 homes and 21 other structures. The fire started on July 29th and was fully contained on August 17th. The Southwest Team 1 Complex Incident Management Team managed the fire for seven days before handing the fire back to the local unit. The estimated firefighting cost for the fire was \$11 million and structure damage cost estimate was more than \$30 million. Cause of the fire was arson.

The Stone Mountain fire started the day after the Alexander Mountain fire near the town of Lyons, CO in Boulder County which is approximately 8 miles south of the Alexander Mountain fire. Five homes were destroyed in the fire and one death was reported. Total estimated cost of the fire was \$1.581 million. This fire was fully contained on August 4th.

Below are the 200+ acre fires across the zone:

- The CR 149/82 fire burned 230 acres on April 7th in Weld County
- The CR EE fire burned 300 acres on July 11th in Morgan County
- The 24 fire burned 391 acres on July 11th in Yuma County
- The 104 Fire burned 1,804 acres on July 28th in Weld County
- The Alexander Mountain fire burned 9,668 acres on the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF (ARF) on July 29th
- The Stone Mountain fire burned 1,557 acres in Boulder County on July 30th
- The MM 59 fire burned 200 acres in Weld County on September 11th
- The Exit 60 fire burned 692 acres in Weld County on September 11th
- The Judson fire burned 384 acres in Morgan County on September 25th
- The Wildhorse 5 fire burned 1,200 acres on the ARF on September 29th

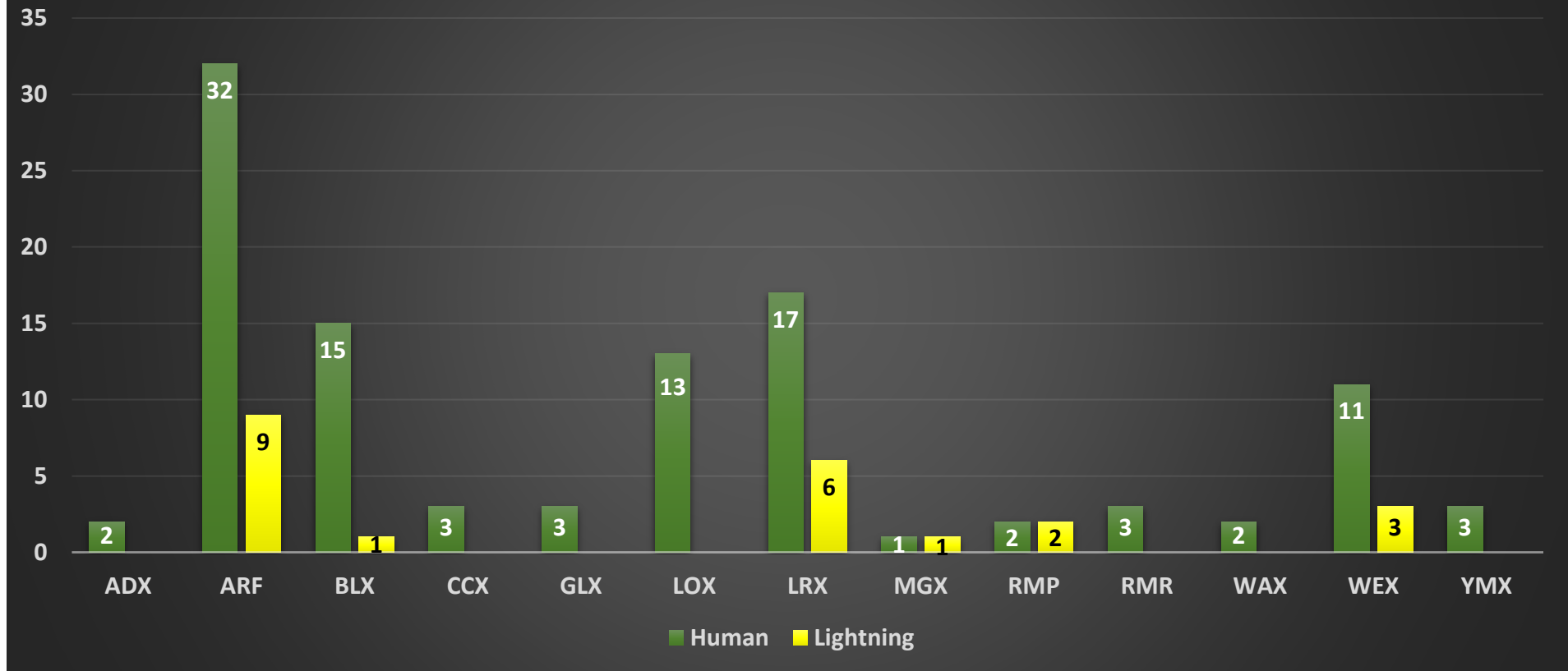


Alexander Mountain



Stone Mountain

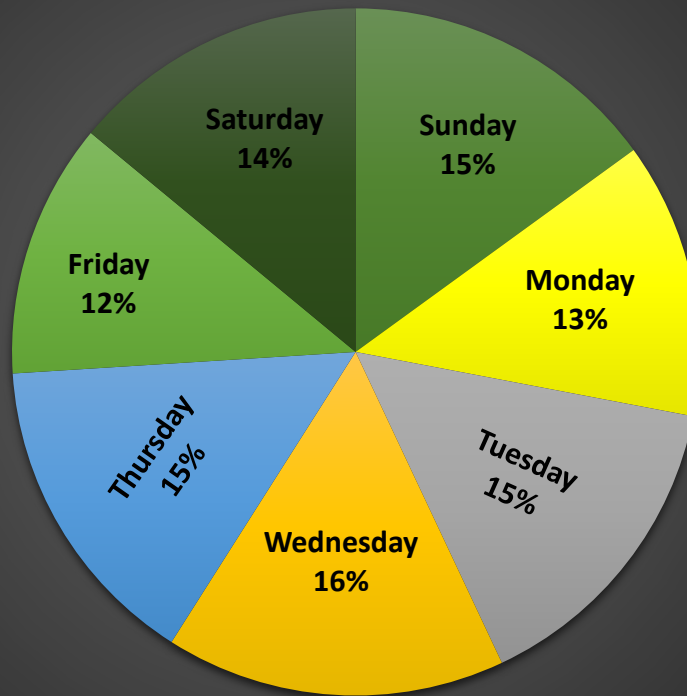
Fires by Agency and Cause



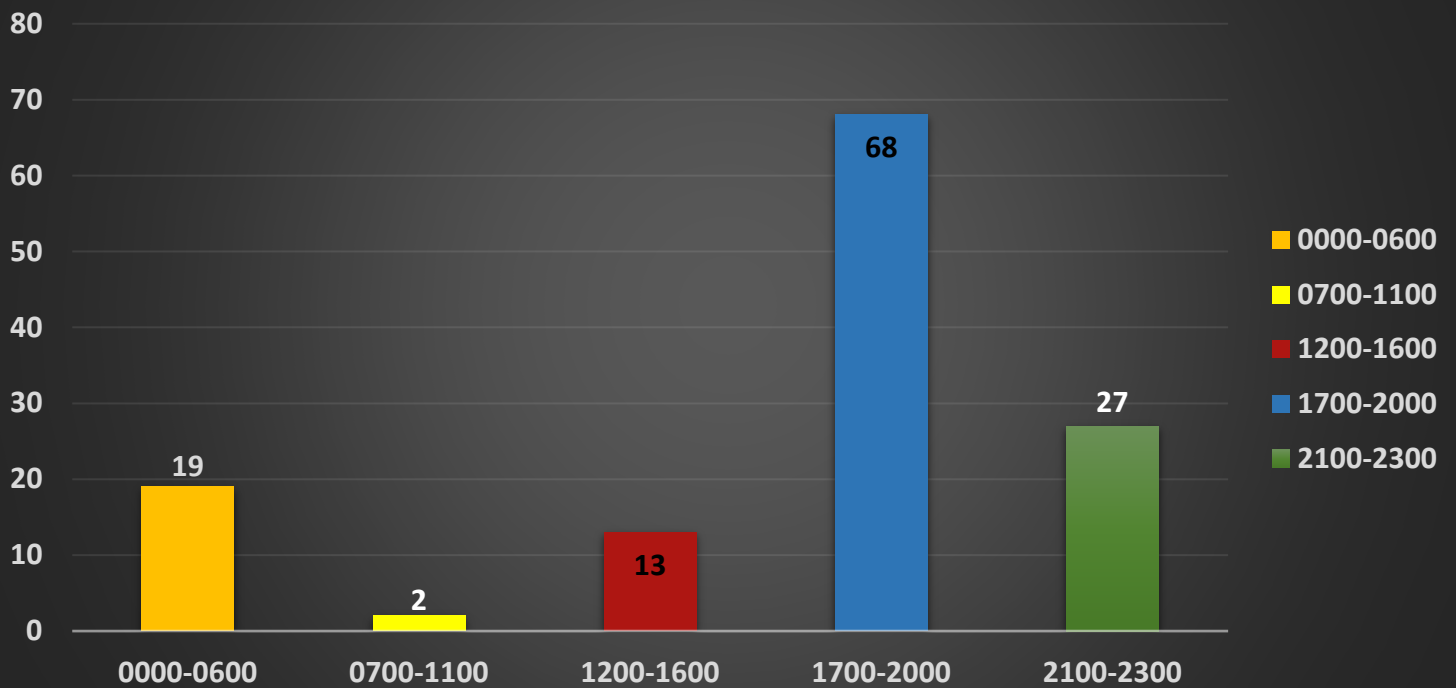
	ADX	ARF	BLX	CCX	GLX	LOX	LRX	MGX	RMP	RMR	WAX	WEX	YMX	TOTAL
Human Acres	133	11,265.35	1,572.93	5.6	0.95	99.3	65.3	384	0.11	40.07	150	1,299.85	471	15,487.46
Lightning Acres	0	605.18	0.1	0	0	0	0.68	300	0.35	0	0	1,473	0	2,379.31
Total Acres	133	11,870.53	1,573.03	5.6	0.95	99.3	65.98	684	0.46	40.07	150	2,772.85	471	17,866.77

¹ ADX: Adams County, ARF: Arapaho-Roosevelt NF & Pawnee NG, BLX: Boulder County, CCX: Clear Creek County, GLX: Gilpin County, LOX: Logan County, LRX: Larimer County, MGX: Morgan County, RMP: Rocky Mountain National Park, RMR: Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Fish & Wildlife), WAX: Washington County, WEX: Weld County, and YMX: Yuma County.

Wildfire Incident Occurrence by Day



Wildfire Incident Occurrence by Hour



Fort Collins Zone WildCAD Incidents

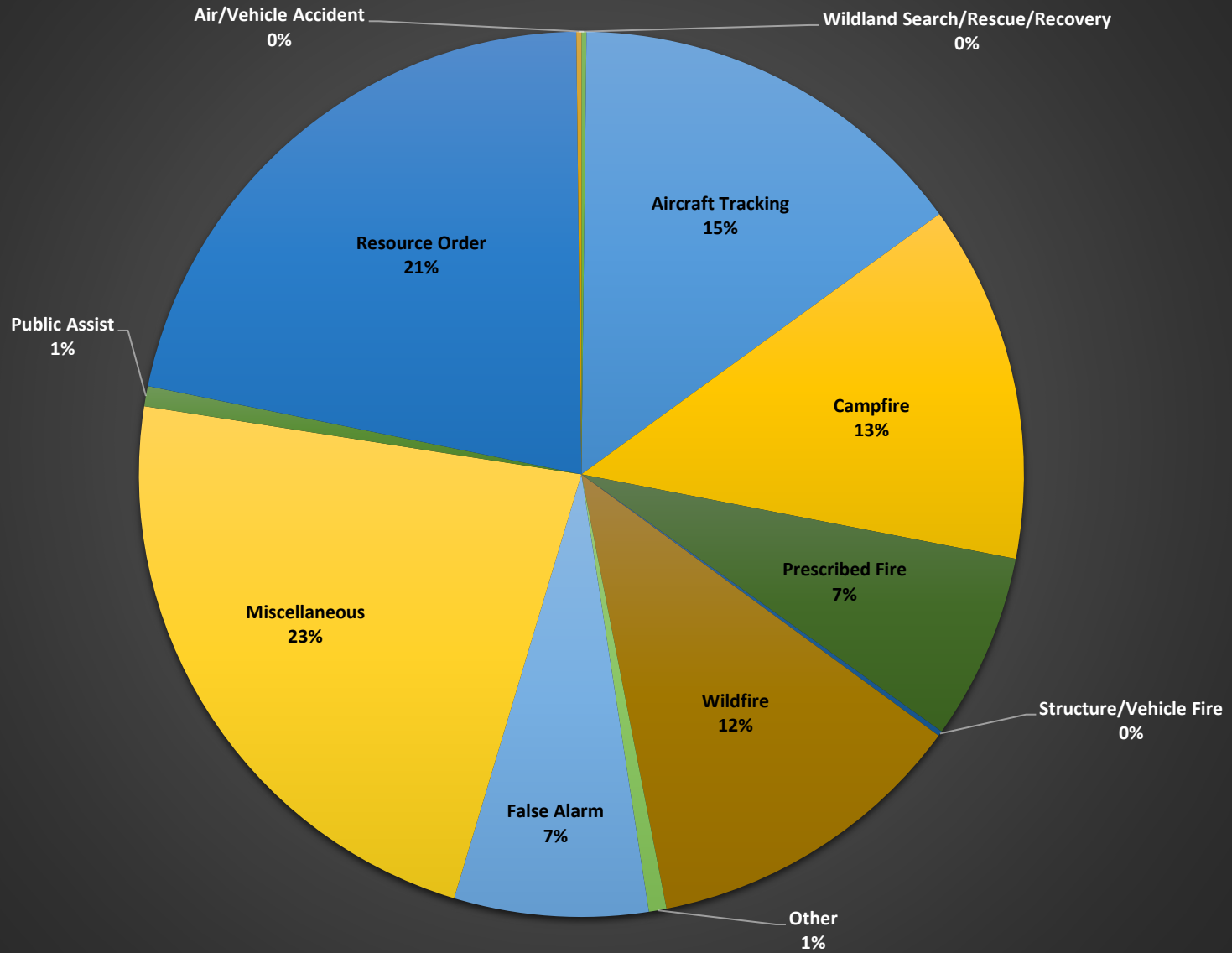
Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center handled 1,087 WildCAD incidents in 2024 including: aircraft tracking (161), campfires (142), wildfires (129), processing resource orders (235), and miscellaneous incidents (248). These incidents accounted for 84% of the WildCAD workload. The other 16% of our workload was attributed to false alarms, medical aid, search and rescue, and prescribed fire.

The miscellaneous incidents can be broken down to the following main subcategories: weather warnings, resource extensions, office equipment issues, project work, in and out board (R2IOB), and fire restrictions. When the FTC Zone went into fire restrictions, Fort Collins Dispatch started tracking fire restriction violations which had not historically been tracked. There were 17 illegal campfires reported to FTC during the fire restrictions period on the zone.

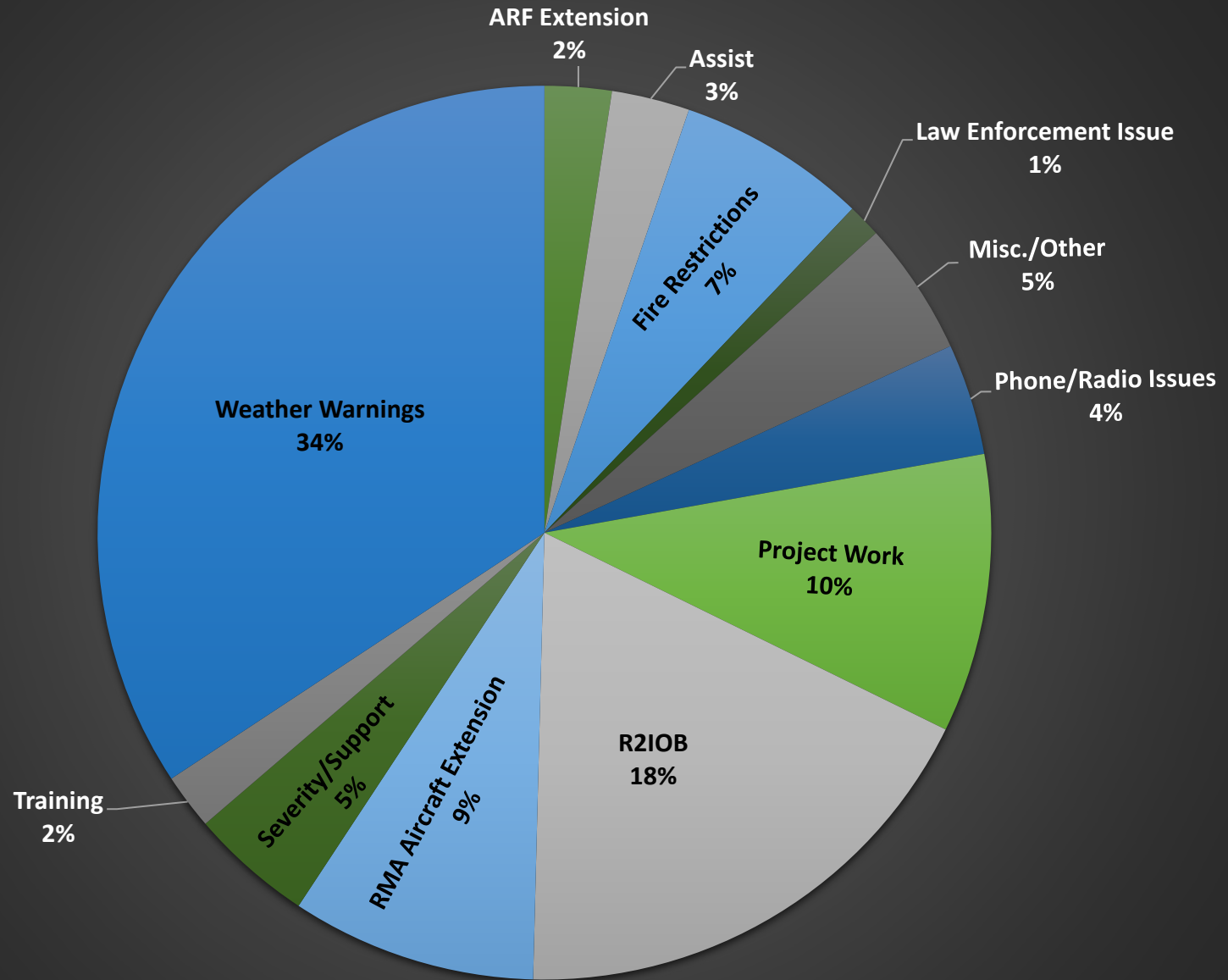
Incident ID	Name	Date
COARF - 2024 1097	Wild Horse 6	12/31/24 1225
COFTC - 2024 1096	Flight Following 12/31	12/31/24 1147
COFTC - 2024 1095	Weather WX 12/30/2024	12/29/24 1426
COFTC - 2024 1094	Flight Following 12/29	12/29/24 1209
COFTC - 2024 1093	Horton	12/27/24 1832
COFTC - 2024 1092	Flight Following 12/27	12/27/24 1308
COFTC - 2024 1090	Flight Following 12/26/24	12/26/24 1021
COLRX - 2024 1091	Co Rd 56	12/21/24 1240
COFTC - 2024 1089	Flight Following 12/21	12/21/24 0953
COBLX - 2024 1088	Lee Hand Command	12/20/24 0917
COFTC - 2024 1087	Flight Following 12-19-24	12/19/24 1000

Incident ID	Name	Date
CORMP - 2024 695	RMP3	07/31/24 0848
CORMP - 2024 693	RMP2	07/30/24 1338
COBLX - 2024 694	Stone Mtn	07/30/24 1334
COFTC - 2024 692	Aircraft 7/30	07/30/24 0750
COFTC - 2024 691	Weather WX 7/30/2024	07/30/24 0628
COFTC - 2024 690	2024 STF OSC Preposition	07/29/24 2130
COBLX - 2024 689	FA 689	07/29/24 2003
COFTC - 2024 687	Retreat	07/29/24 1815
COFTC - 2024 686	Court Rock	07/29/24 1528
CORMP - 2024 685	FA 685	07/29/24 1429
COFTC - 2024 684	FA 684	07/29/24 1325
COARF - 2024 688	CF SRD 688	07/29/24 1300
COARF - 2024 683	Alexander Mountain	07/29/24 1100
COFTC - 2024 682	WX 07/29/2024	07/29/24 1052

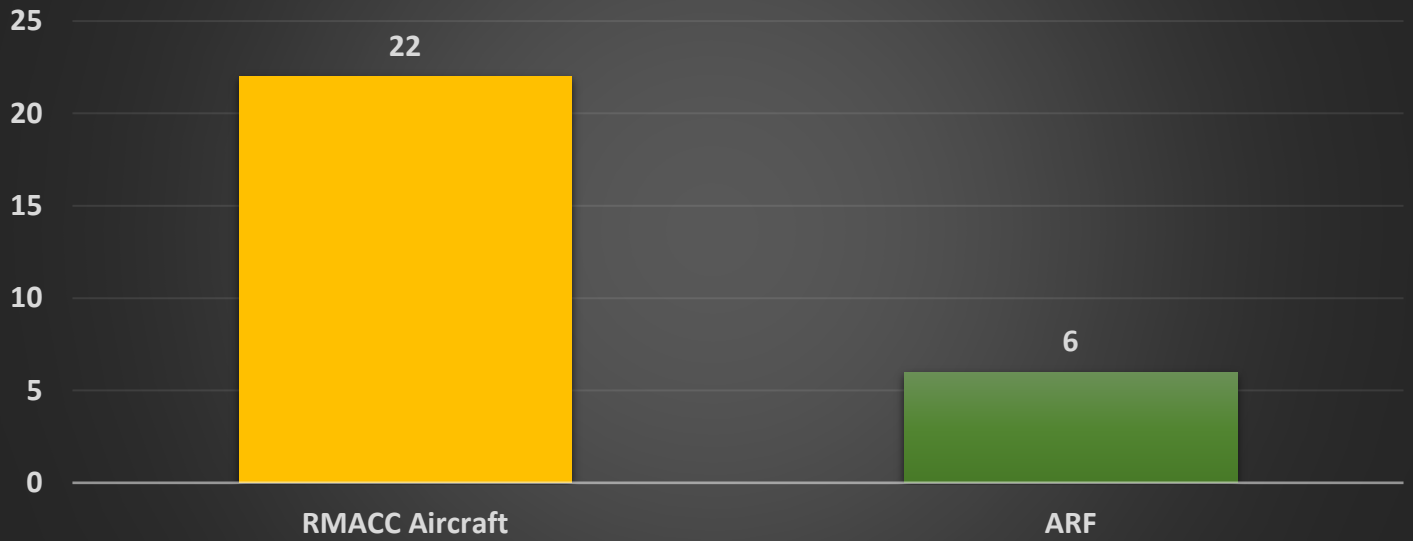
WildCAD Incidents By Type



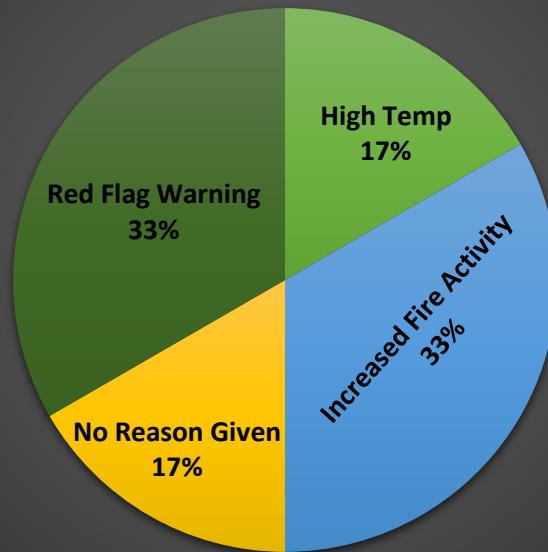
Miscellaneous Sub Incident Type



Extensions by Entity



ARF Extensions by Reason

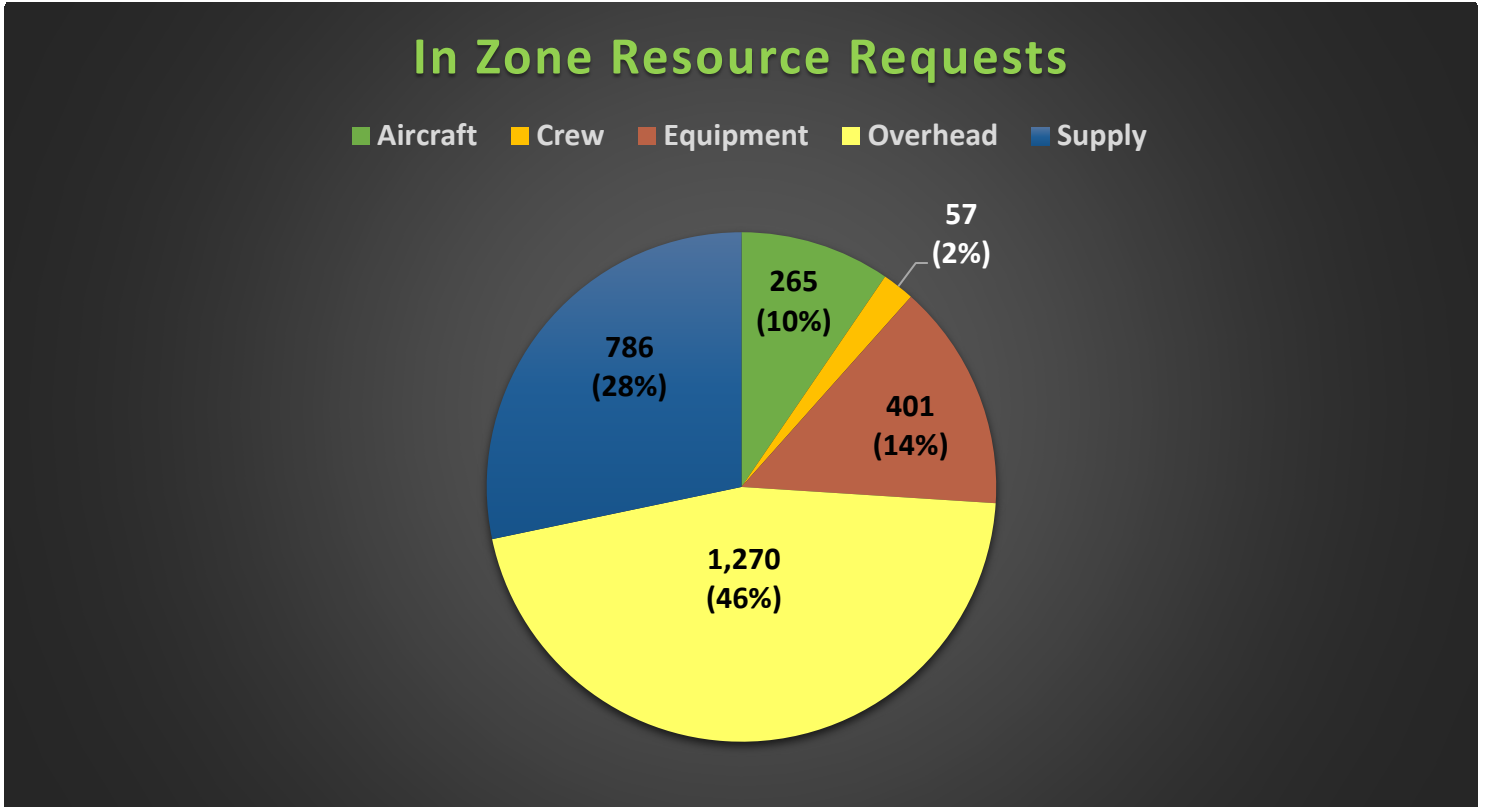


The ARF extended Forest resources six times between July and October. There were two fires that occurred after 1800 while the ARF was extended, both on the Eastern Plains, and did not require FTC Dispatch.

Fort Collins Zone Resource Orders²

Fort Collins Dispatch processed 4,511 resource orders: 2,779 for ordering resources into the FTC Zone and 1,732 for sending resources out of the FTC Zone. Of the in zone requests, 297 of them were for prescribed burning operations across the zone.

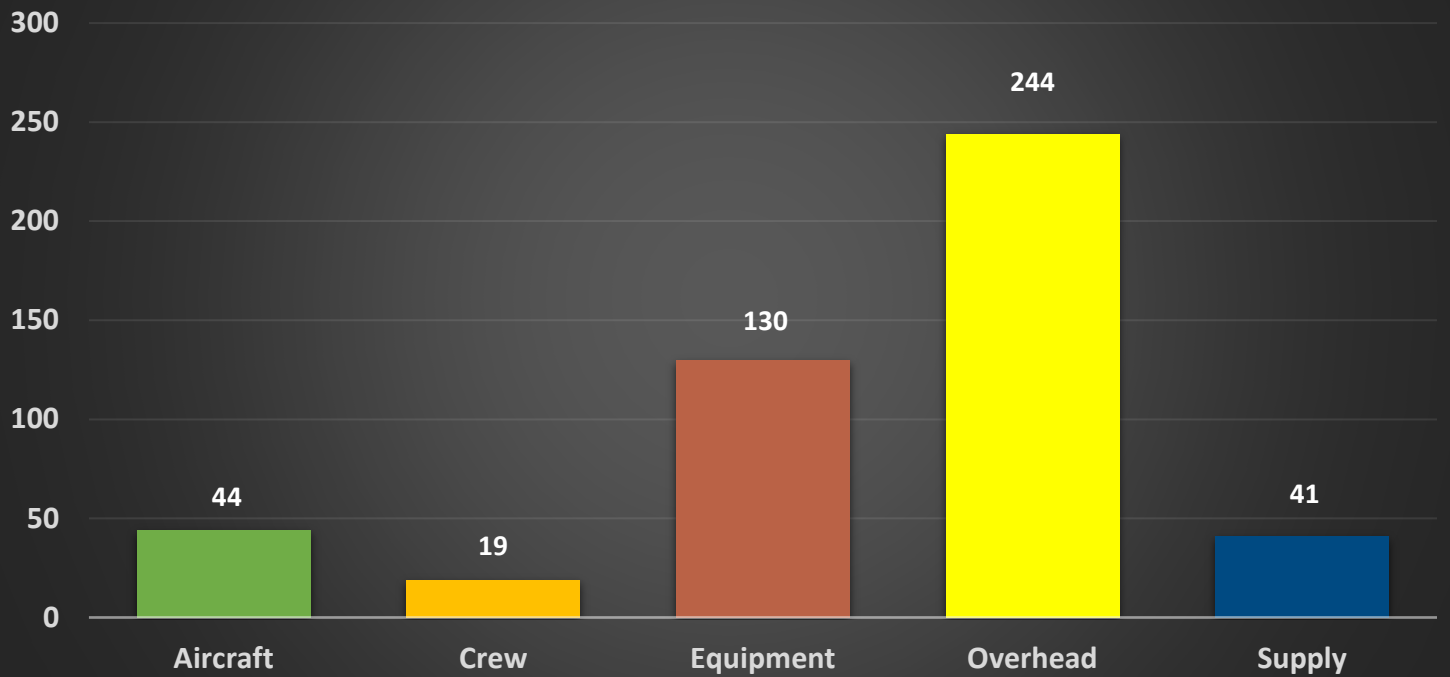
In Zone Resource Requests



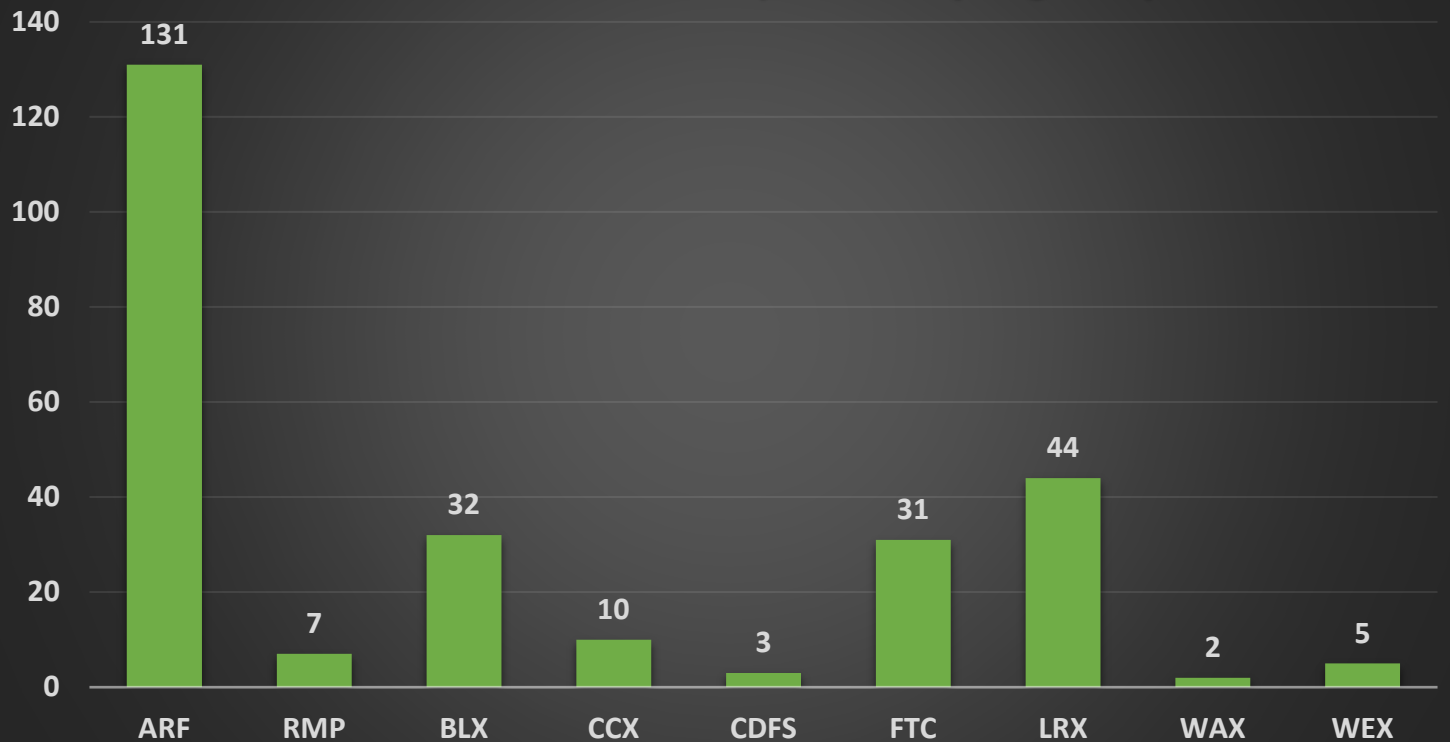
Not all of the resource orders processed for incidents within the FTC Zone were filled. Of the 2,779 resource orders created, 478 (17%) were canceled or UTF'd (unable to be filled).

² All subordinate requests were tallied in the overhead total count.

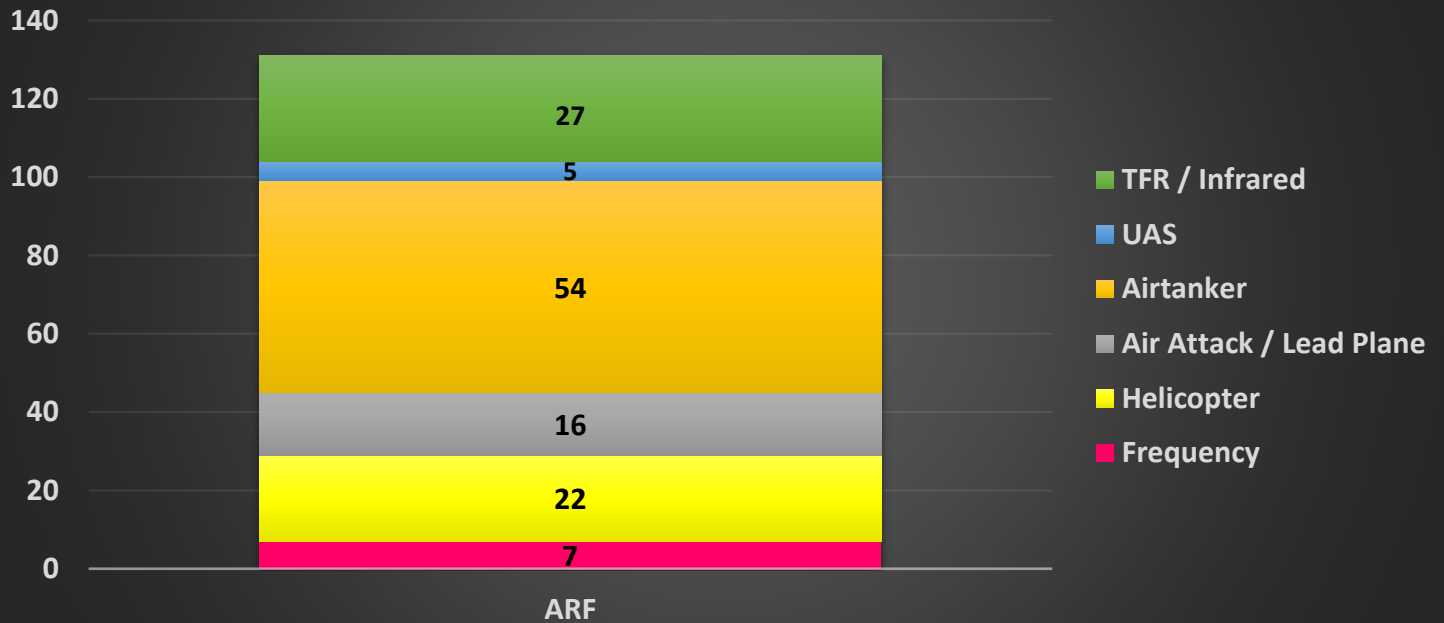
In Zone Resource Orders Canceled/UTF'd



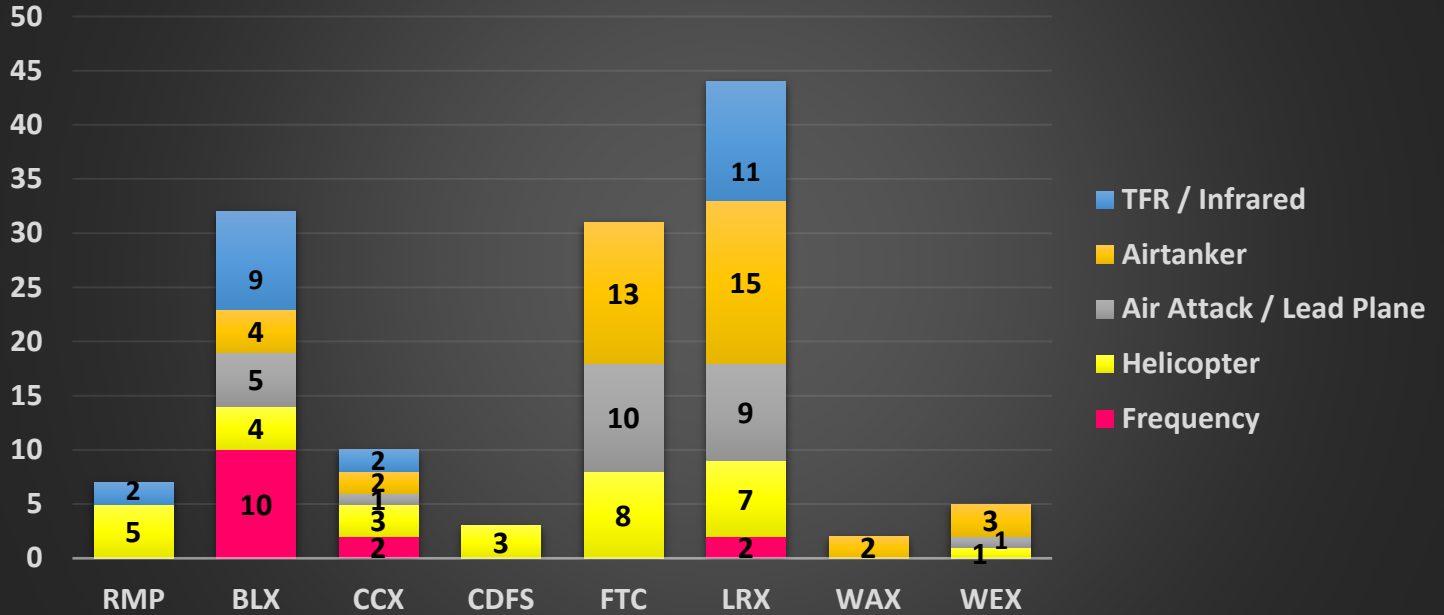
In Zone Aircraft Requests by Agency



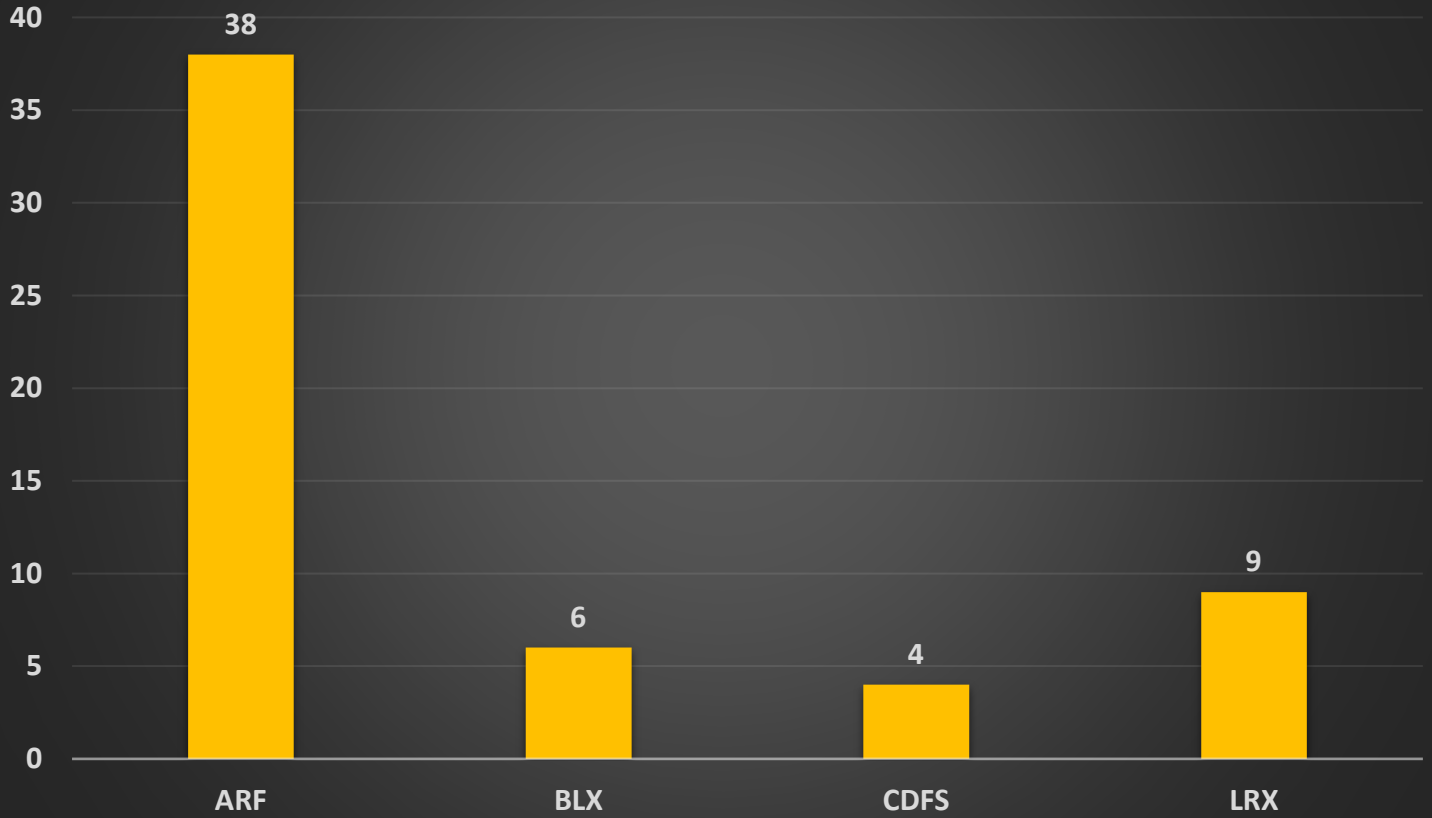
In Zone Aircraft Requests for ARF by Type



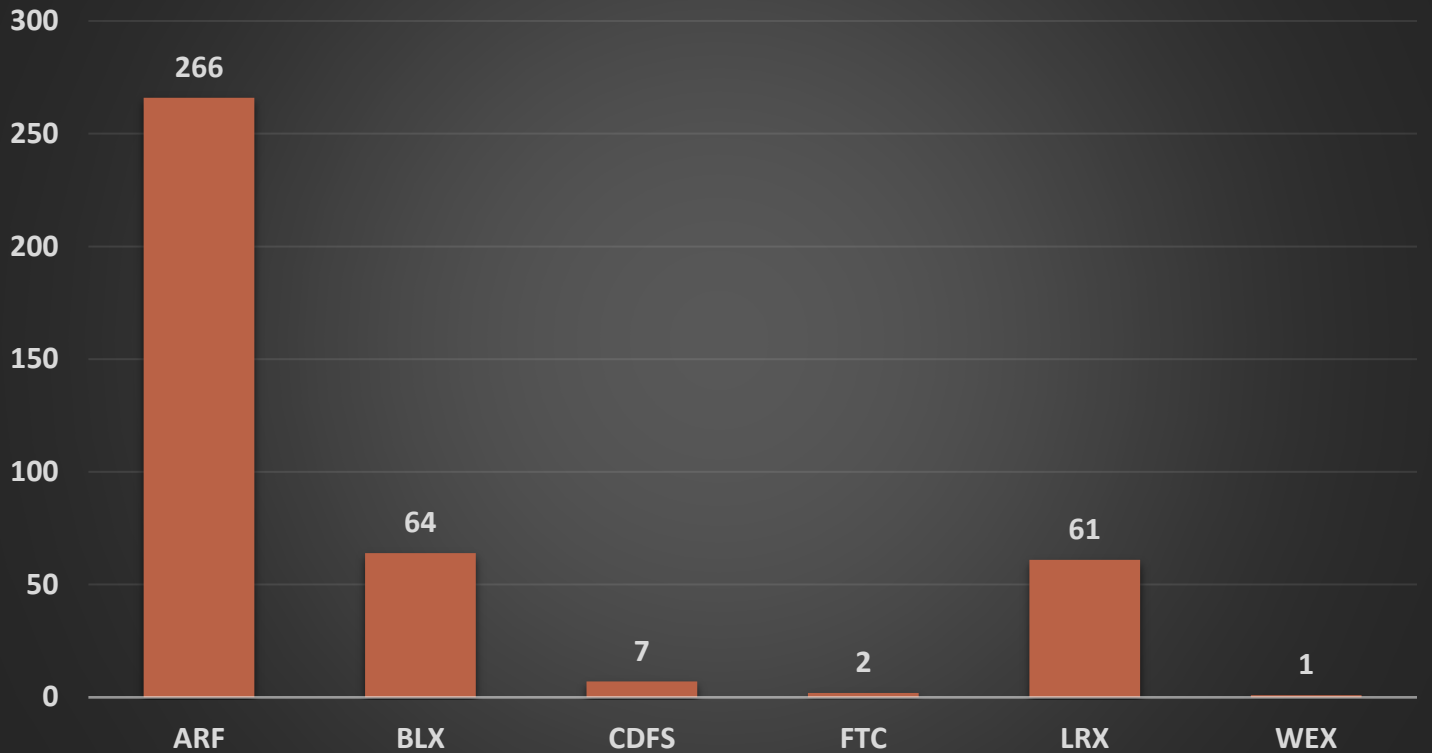
In Zone Aircraft Requests by Agency and Type



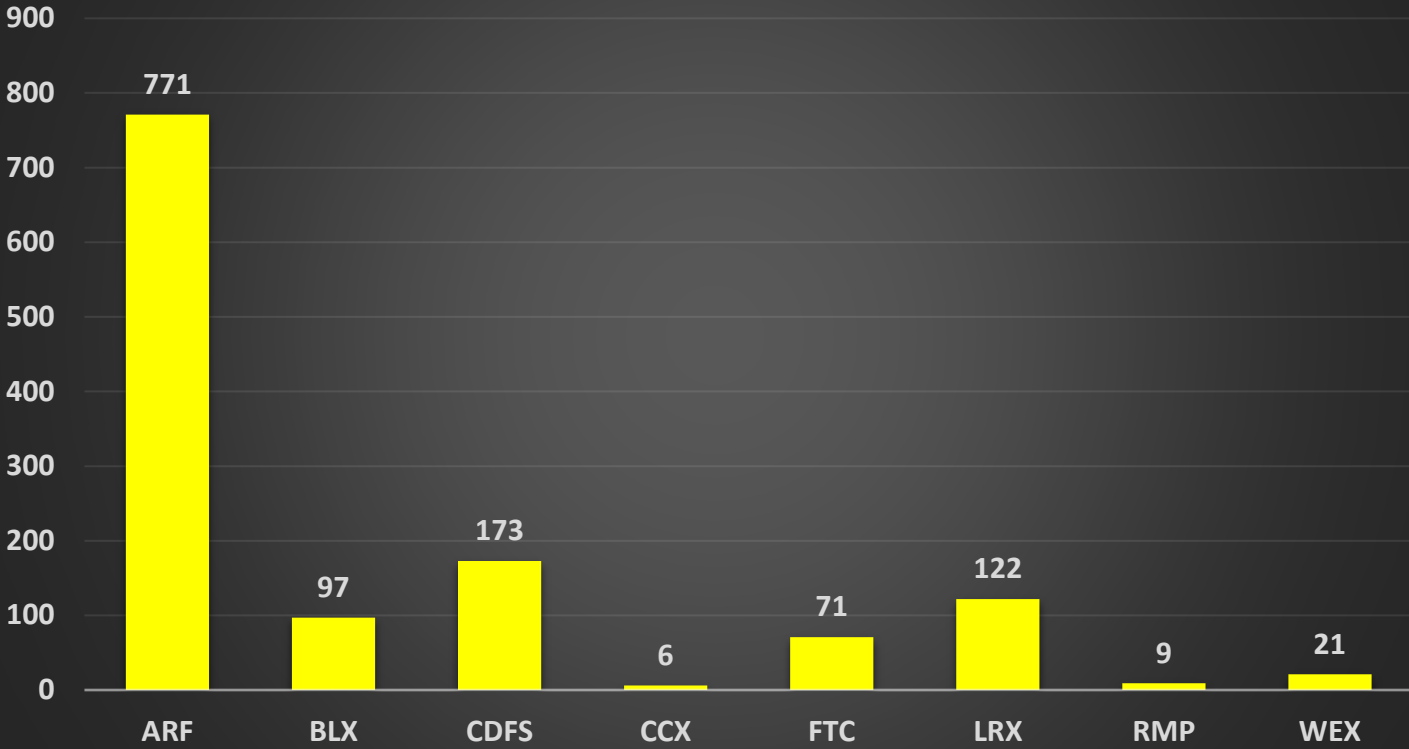
In Zone Crew Requests by Agency



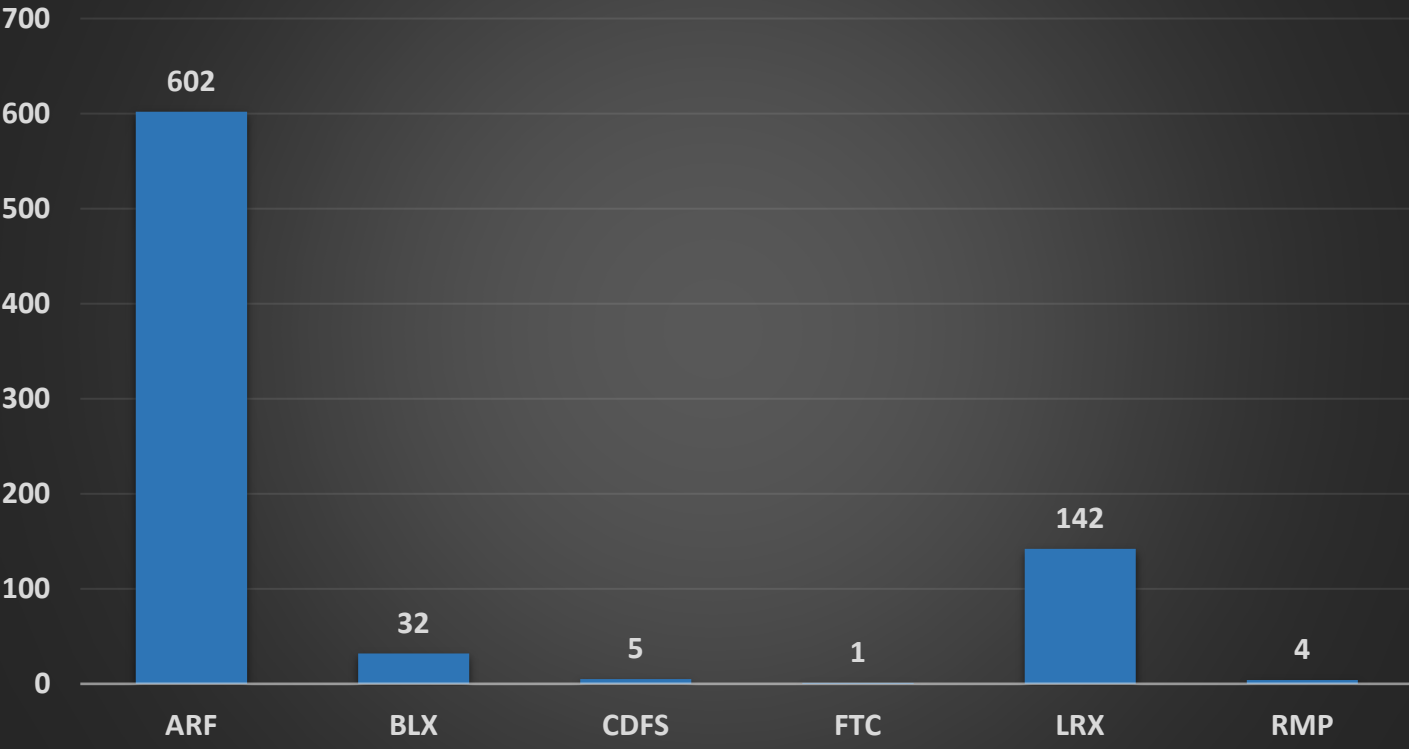
In Zone Equipment Requests by Agency



In Zone Overhead Requests by Agency

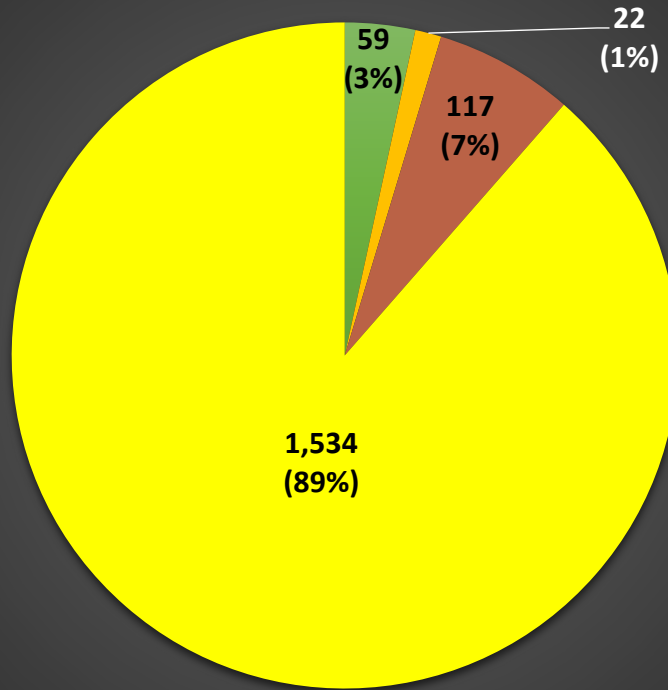


In Zone Supply Requests by Agency



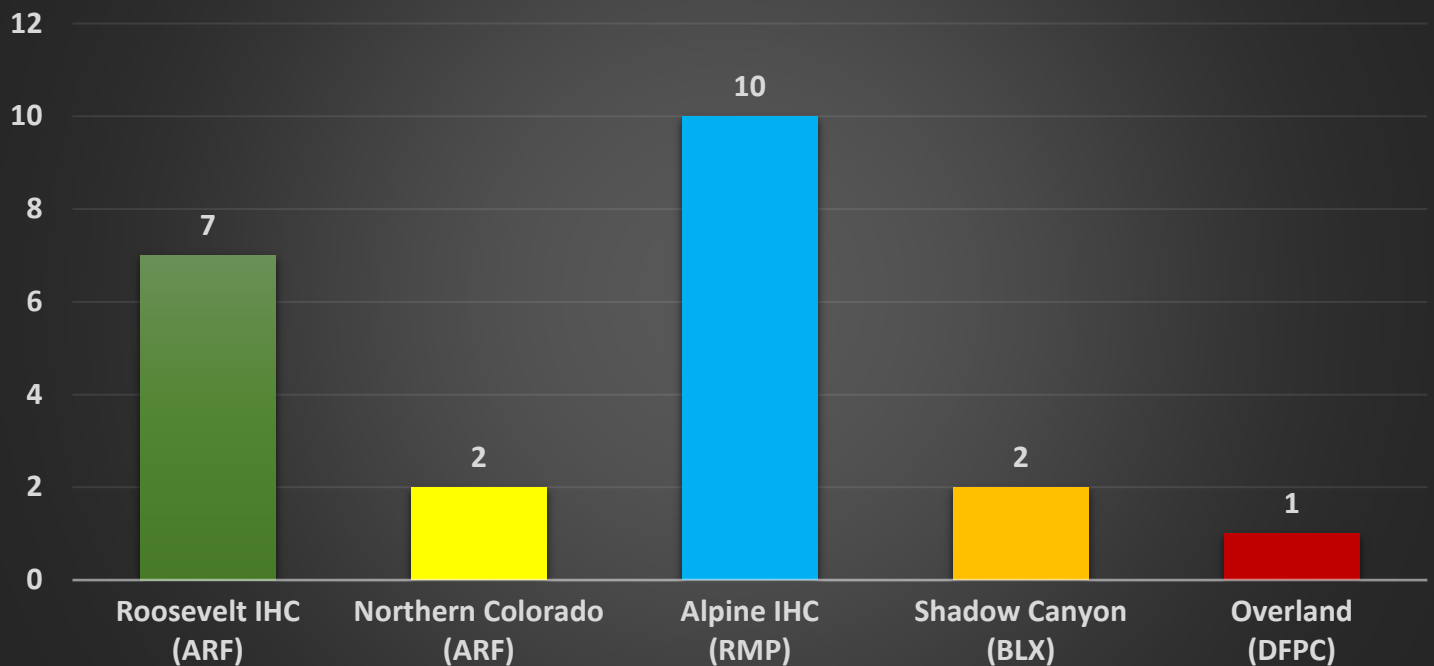
Out of Zone Resource Requests

Out of Zone Resource Requests

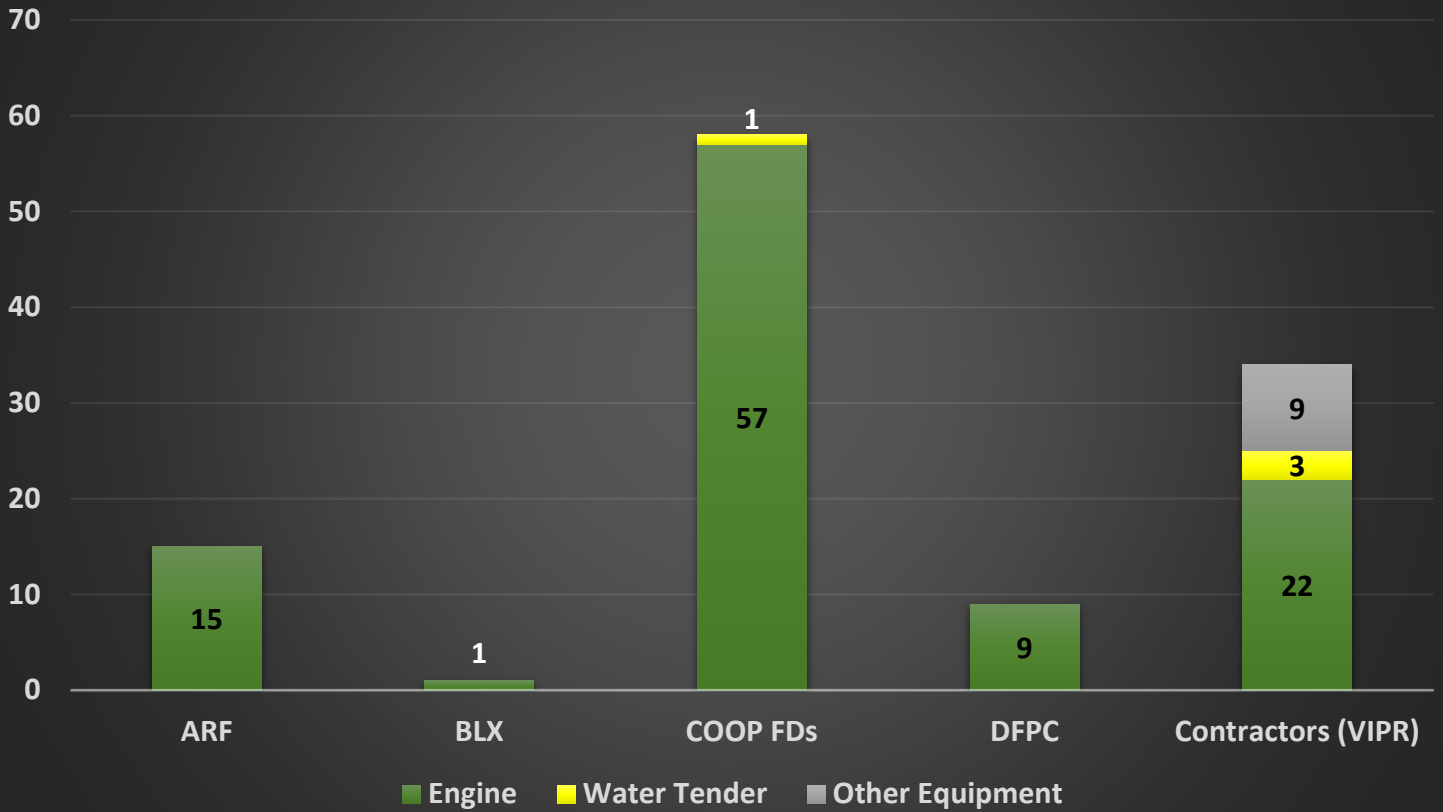


■ Aircraft ■ Crew ■ Equipment ■ Overhead

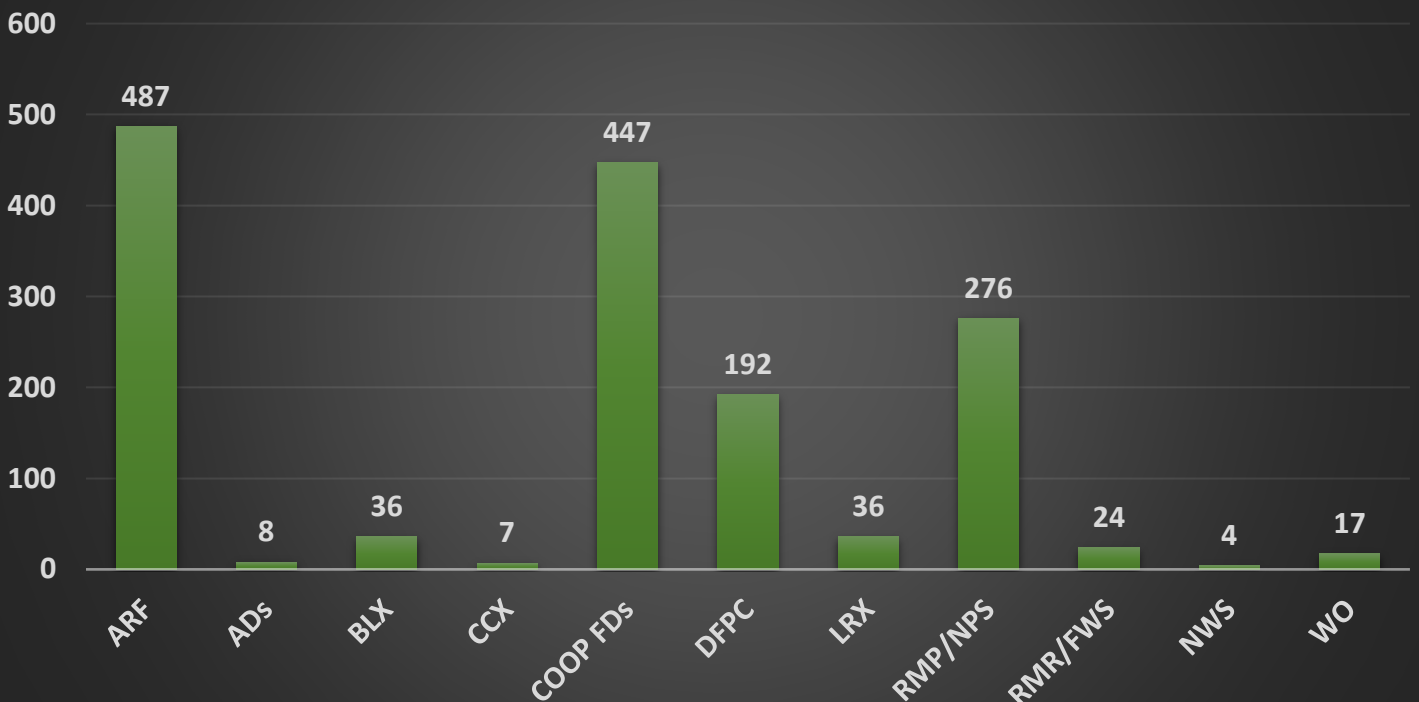
Out of Zone Crew Requests



Out of Zone Equipment Requests

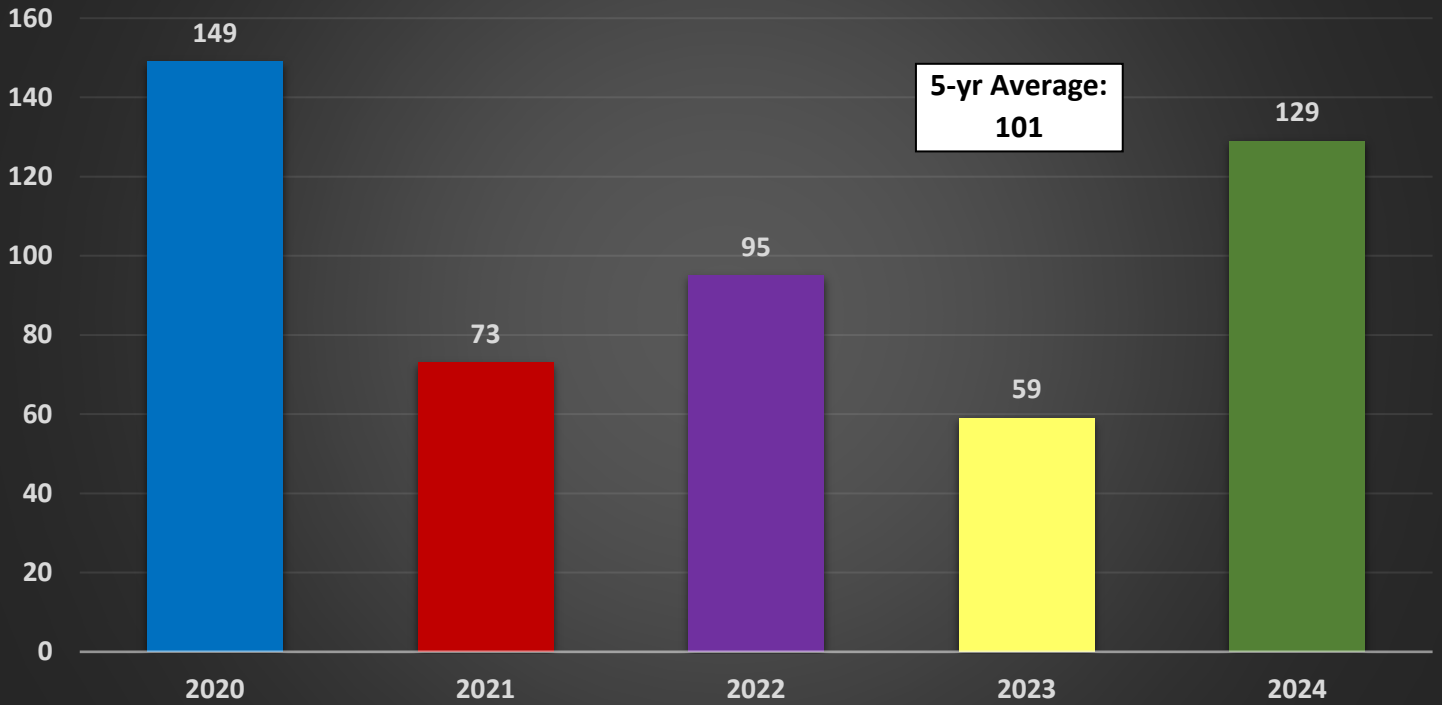


Out of Zone Overhead Requests

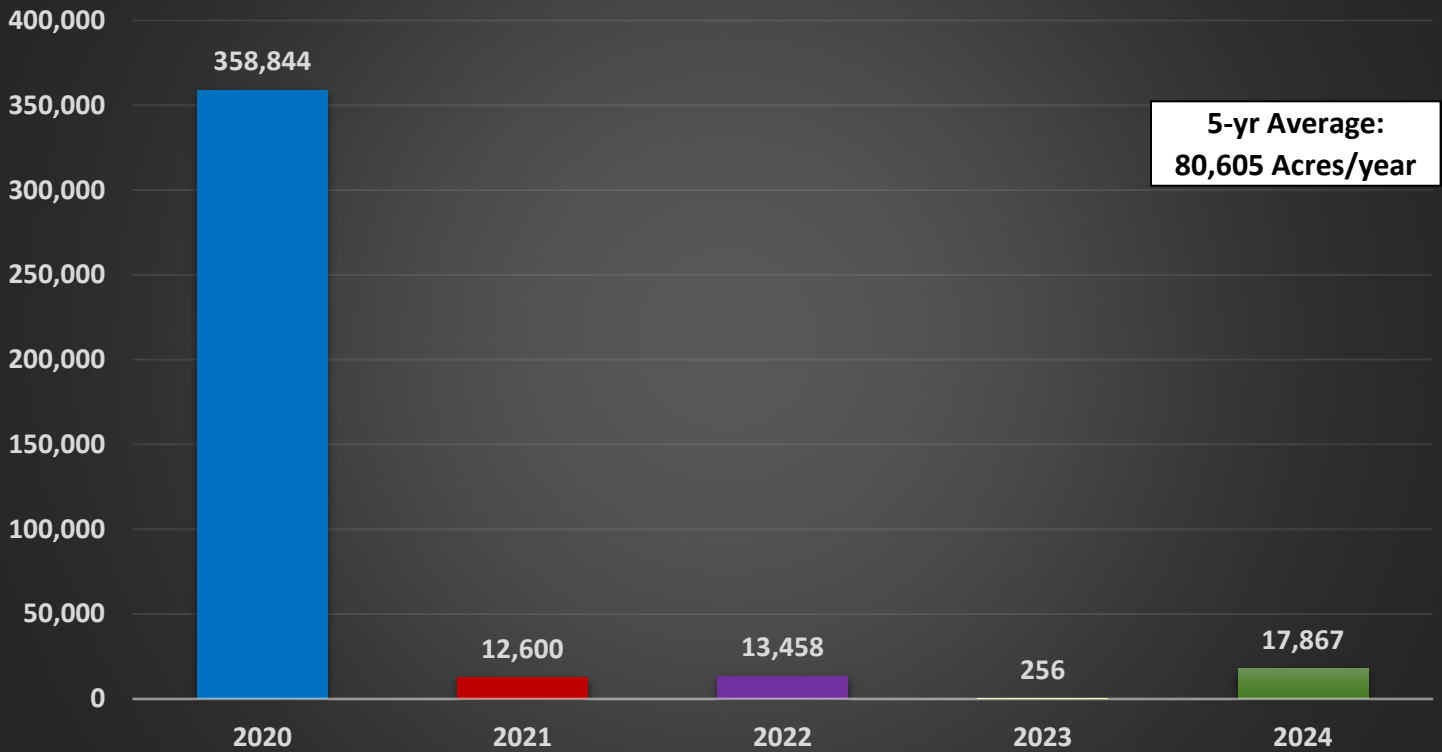


Fort Collins Zone 5-yr Averages

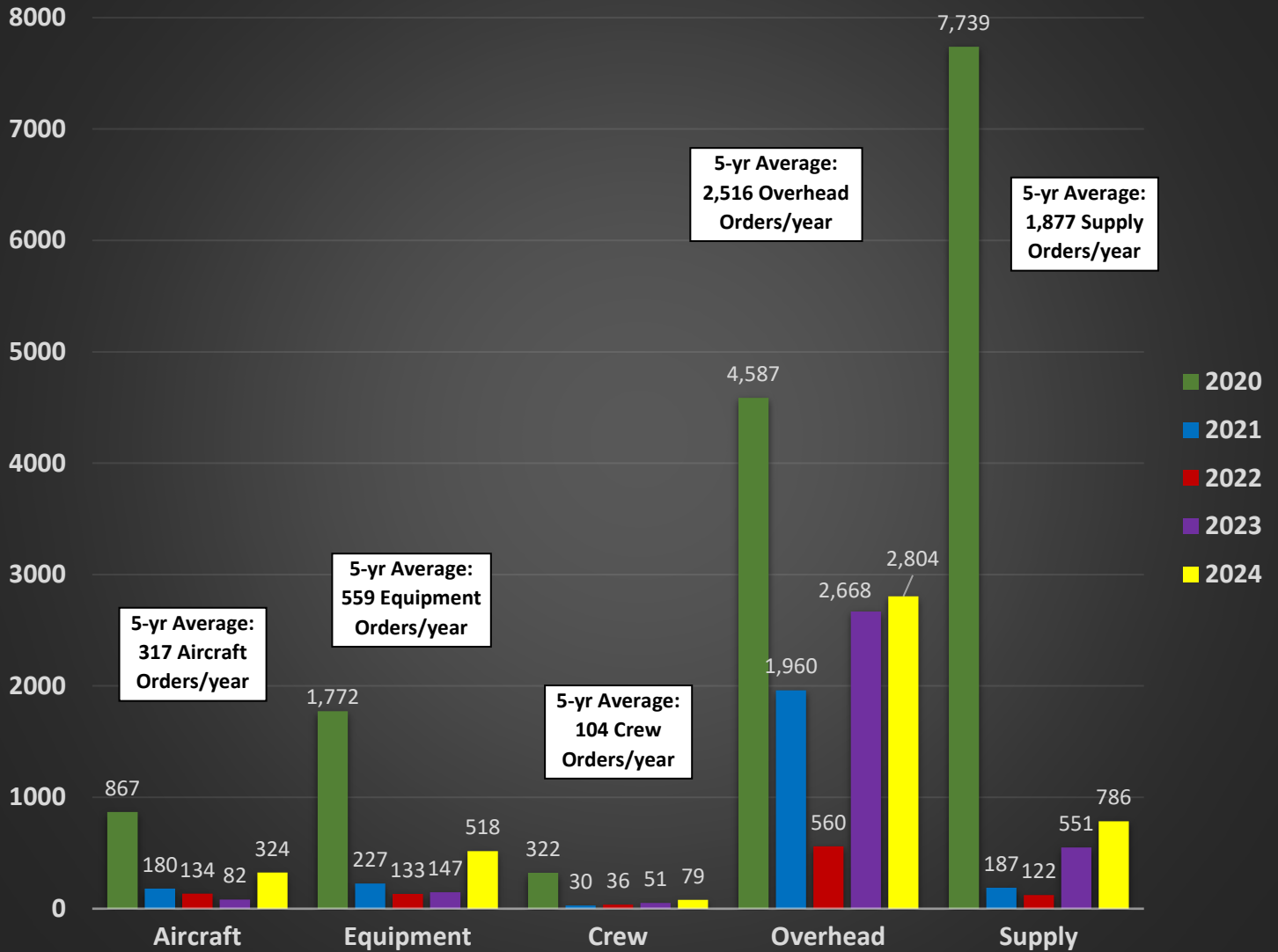
Number of Fires Across the FTC Zone



Acres Burned Across FTC Zone



Resource Requests - In Zone and Out of Zone



Fort Collins Zone Aviation Summary

The Northern Colorado Helitack managed two USFS helicopters over the 2024 fire season, a Type 3 (H-114NS) and Type 1 (HT-163AC) helicopter. H-114NS was on an exclusive use (EU) contract with a Mandatory Availability Period (MAP) from June 9th thru September 16th, but was extended for 14 days and the contract ended on September 30th. HT-163AC was on a Call When Needed (CWN) contract with a MAP from June 6th thru October 22nd. Both helicopters were based at Jeffco Air Tanker Base for the 2024 season.

ARP Managed Aircraft Summary

Tail Number	Type of Contract	# of IA Fires	# of Extended Attack Fires	Flight Time	Gallons of Water Dropped	Gallons of Retardant Dropped
N114NS	EU	9	8	114.0	39,173	0
N163AC	CWN	10	10	199.3	2,039,400	37,000
Total		19	18	313.3	2,078,573	37,000

The Fort Collins Dispatch Zone hosted two State of Colorado (Division of Fire Prevention and Control – DFPC) SEATs (T-857 and T-827) at FNL (Fort Collins-Loveland Airport).

NOCO SEAT Base Summary

Missions Flown: 166		
Gallons of Water Dropped	Gallons of Enhancer Dropped	Gallons of Retardant Dropped
0	1,420	118,615
Total Gallons Dropped: 120,035		

The Jeffco Airtanker Base (BJC) did not host any large tankers for the 2024 fire season. The main tanker base for the Front Range of Colorado for the 2024 fire season was the Colorado Springs Air Tanker Base (COS). Although COS was the primary air tanker base, BJC did quite a few missions, primarily due to the Alexander Mountain fire outside of Loveland, CO. BJC served as the primary base when COS was shut down for safety reasons for a few weeks.

Jeffco Tanker Base Summary

Aircraft	# of Missions	Gallons of Retardant
Large Airtanker	164	489,284

DFPC’s Firehawk (N3811C) was put into service and based out of BJC during the 2024 fire season. HT-11C was granted approval to work on federal lands at the end of July. The first fire they flew was the Alexander Mountain fire. HT-11C is available for wildfire and search and rescue missions.

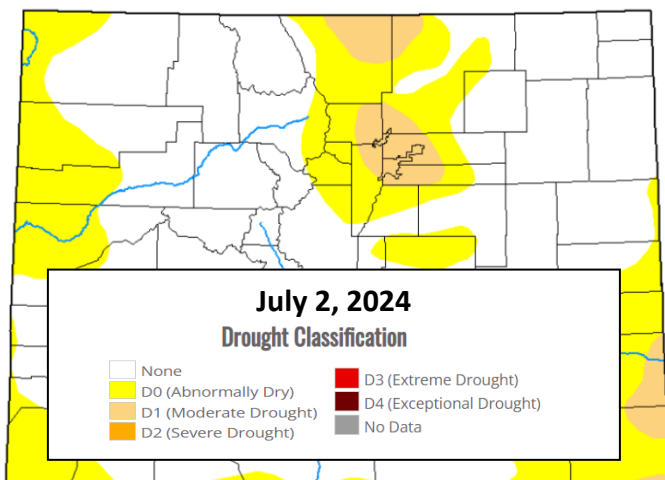
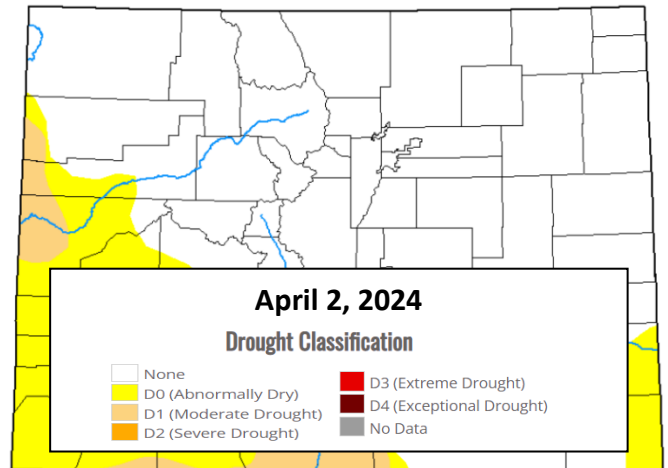
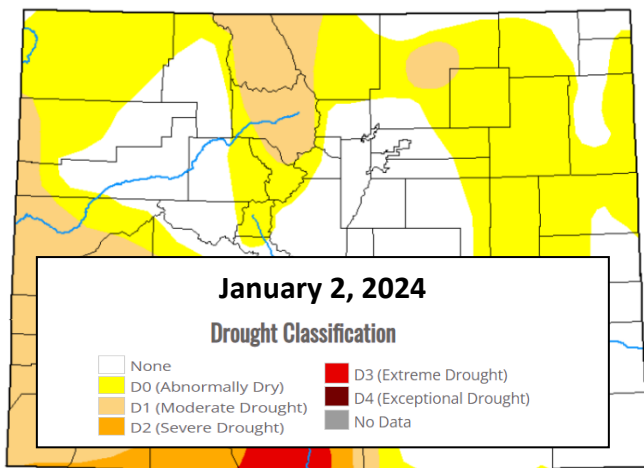
DFPC Managed Aircraft Summary

Tail Number	Type of Contract	# of IA Fires	# of Extended Attack Fires	Flight Time	Gallons of Water Dropped	# of SARs
N3811C	EU	7	3	145.6	145,750	2

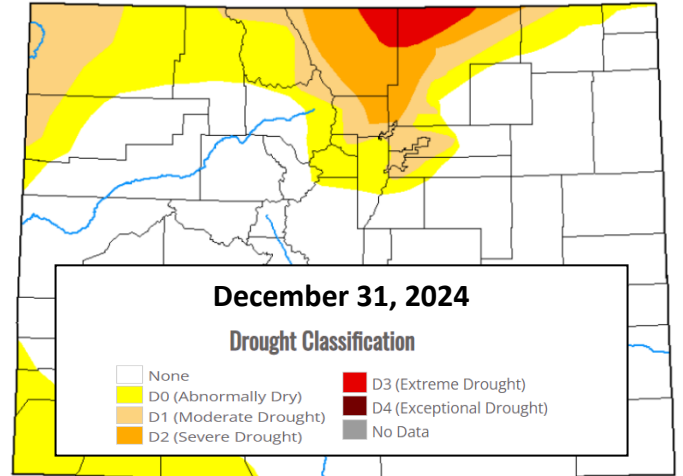
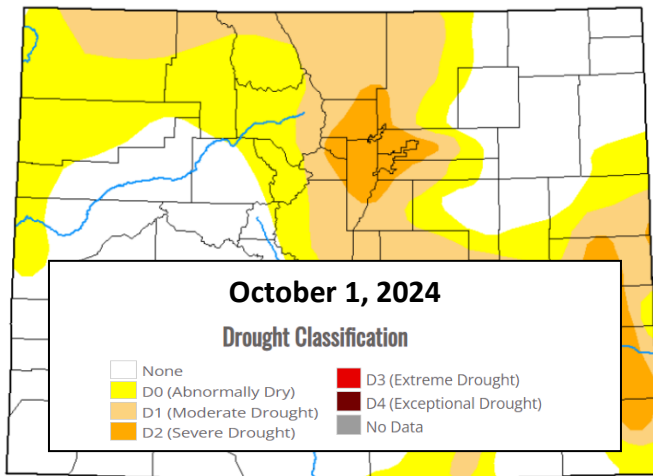
Fort Collins Zone Fire Danger

For the first part of 2024 fire season, the thresholds used for the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) were derived for the ‘fire season’ and ‘shoulder season’ for each of the five fire danger rating areas (FDRA): East Plains, West Plains, Foothills, East Divide, and West Divide. In June, the decision was made to use the fire season thresholds to predict fire danger for the remainder of the year using normalized values of burning index and energy release component. Fire business thresholds will again be re-evaluated for the 2025 fire season to ensure fire danger adjectives are representing the conditions in the field.

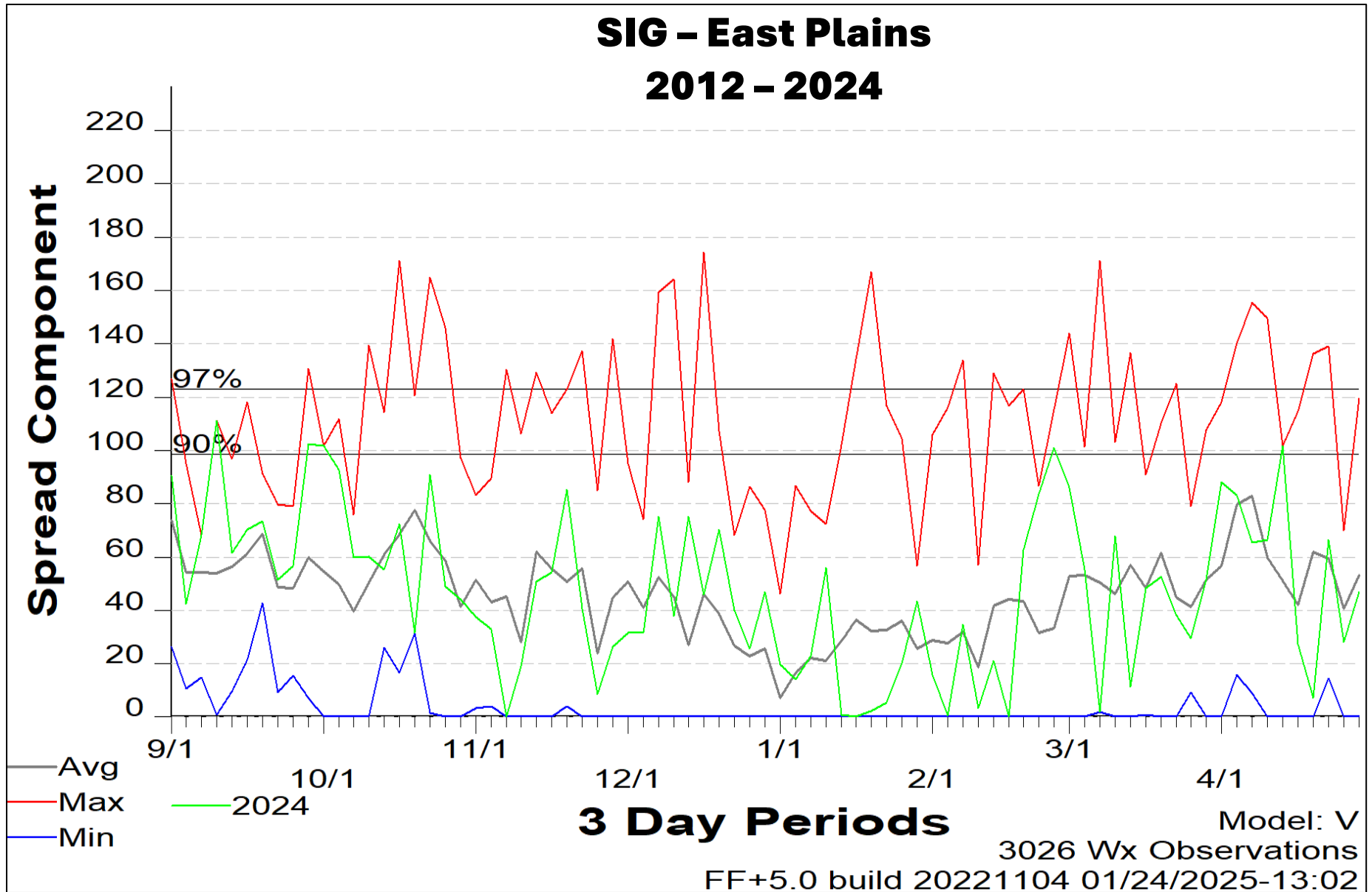
The beginning of 2024 was warm and dry with few winter storms providing limited moisture across the zone. As the zone moved into the spring, rain and snowstorms became more widespread across the northern portion of Colorado which helped eliminate the drought.



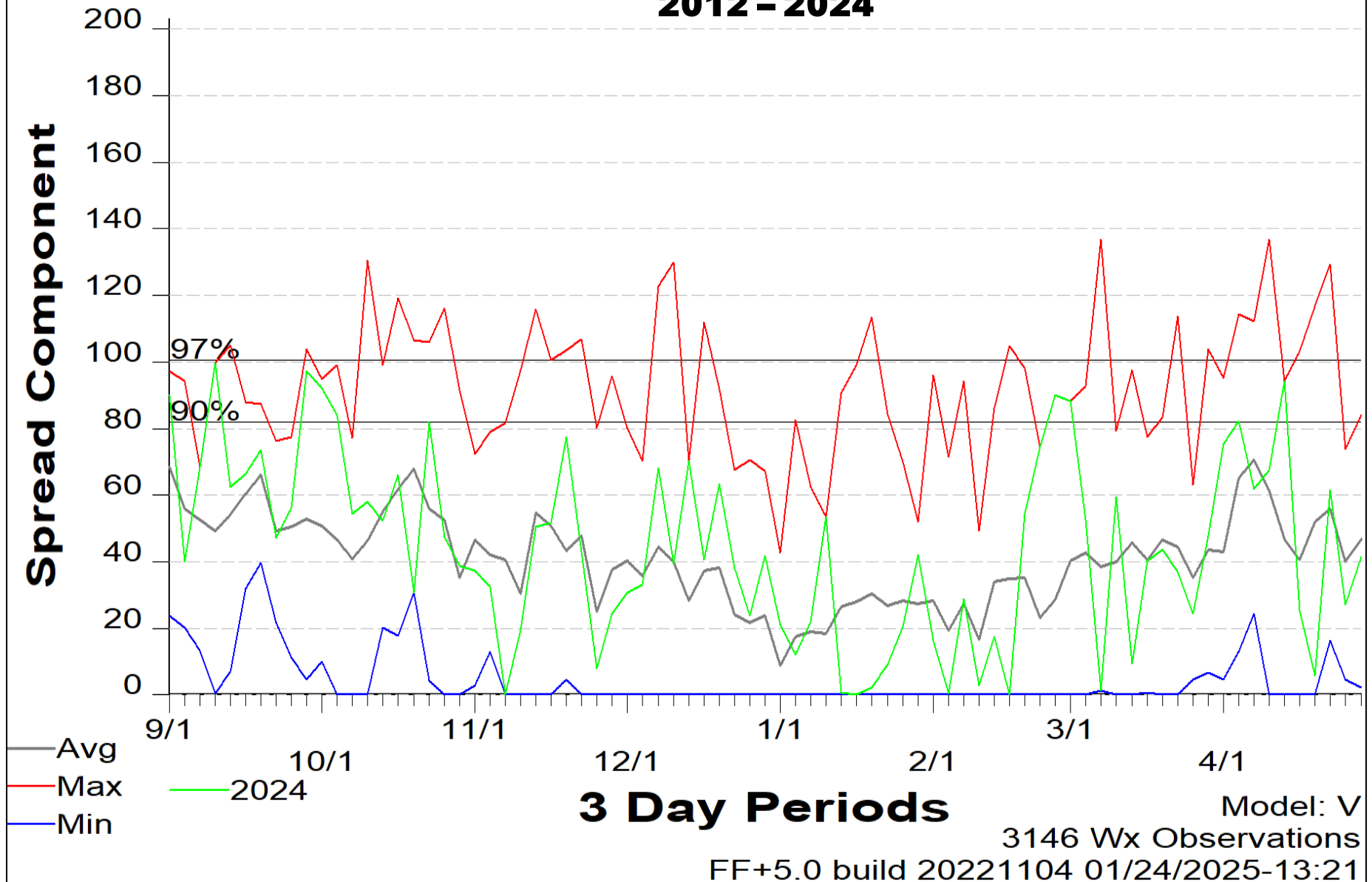
As the zone transitioned into summer, very little moisture was received in May, June and July increasing the drought especially in along the foothills. Temperatures remained higher than average during those months as well. With these conditions, the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, Boulder County, Clear Creek County, and Gilpin County went into fire restrictions on July 2nd. Larimer County went into fire restrictions on July 31st. Rocky Mountain National Park went into Stage 2 fire restrictions on August 1st. All fire restrictions were rescinded by November 1st.



The warm and dry trend continued through October. November was a wetter month across Northern Colorado, but it did little to lessen the drought conditions. December continued with warm and dry conditions, increasing the drought across most of the zone.



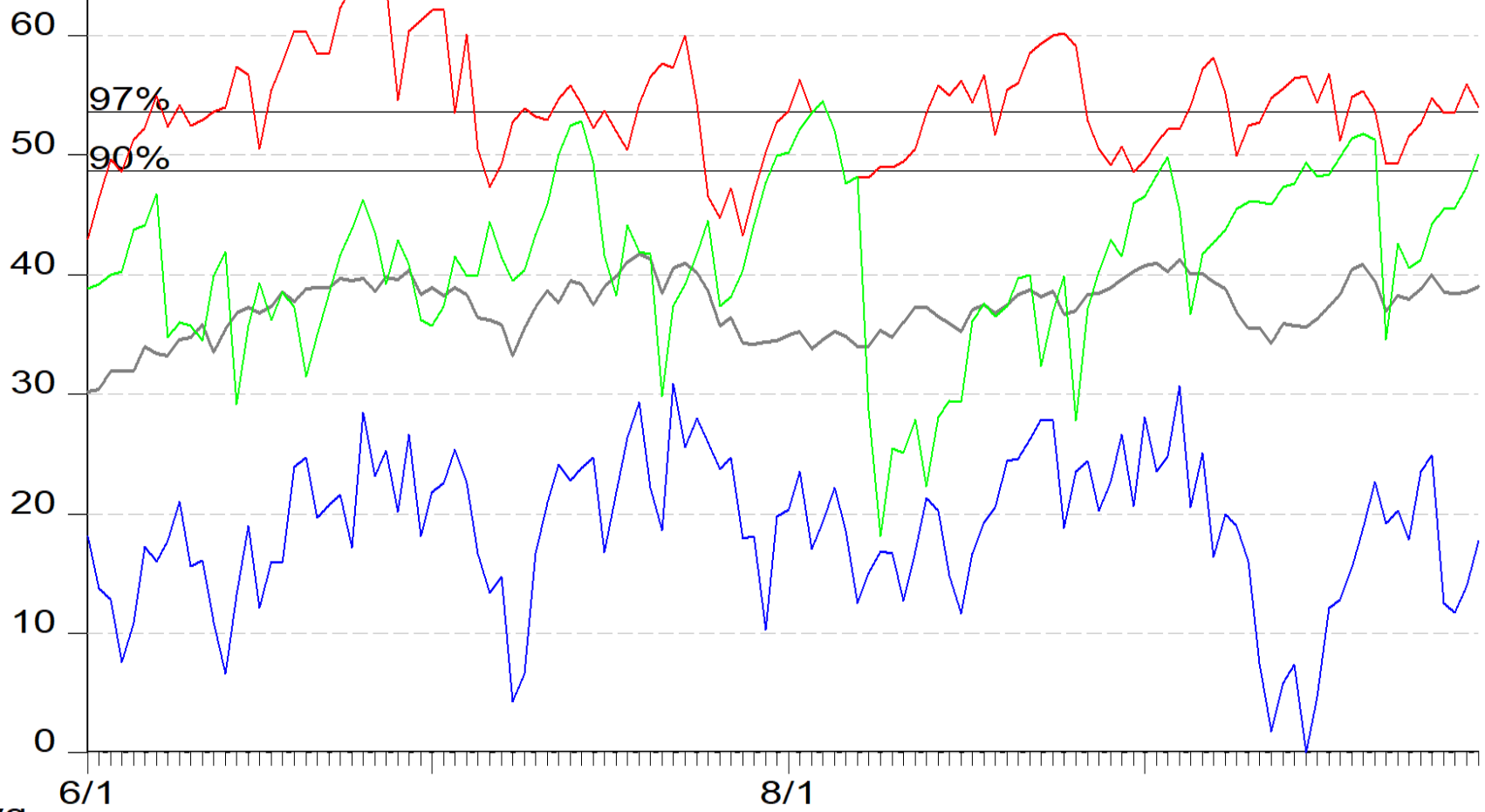
SIG - West Plains 2012 - 2024



SIG - Foothills 2005 - 2024

Fire Season

Energy Release Component



— Avg
— Max
— Min
— 2024

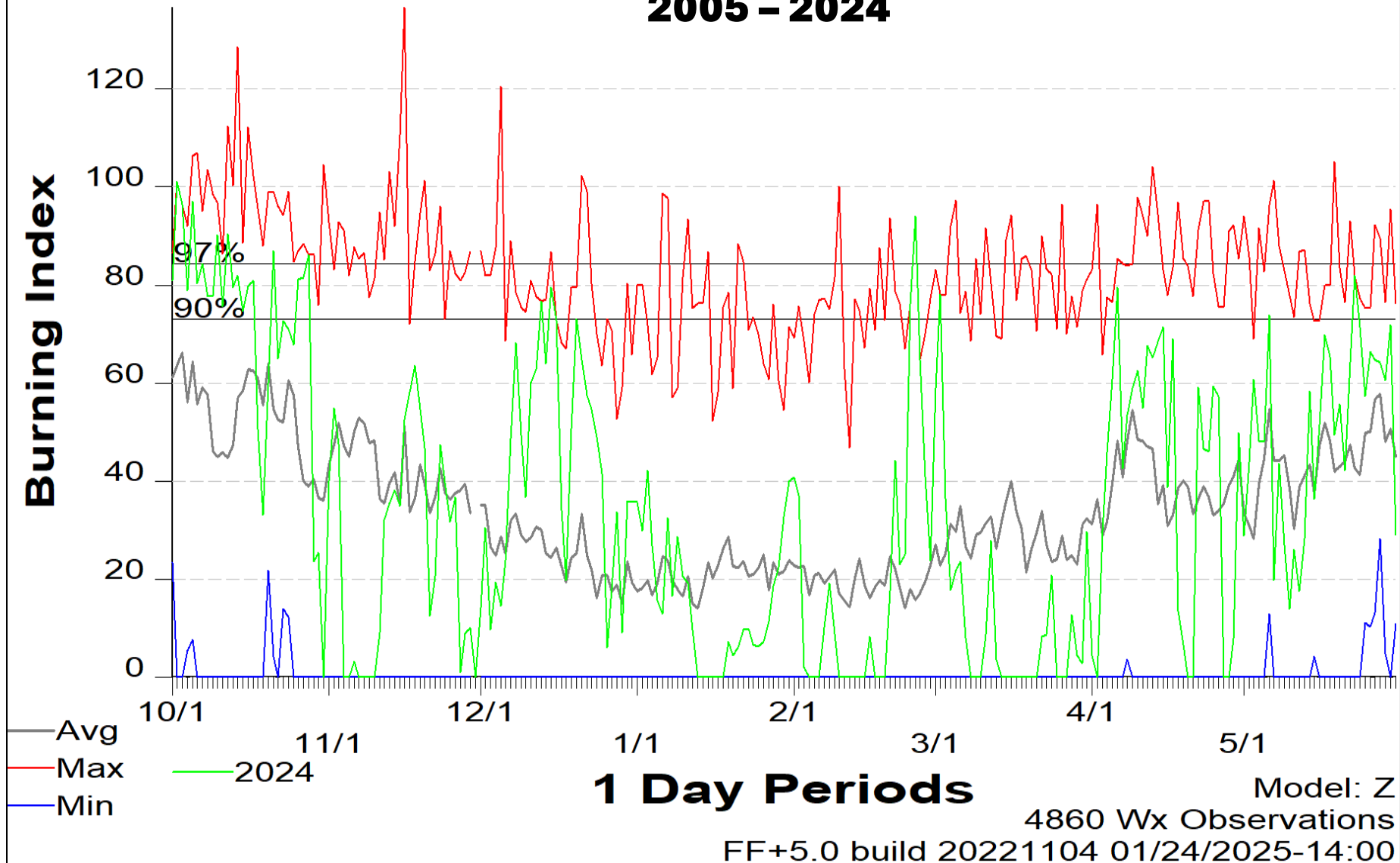
1 Day Periods

Model: Y
2440 Wx Observations

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SIG - Foothills 2005 - 2024

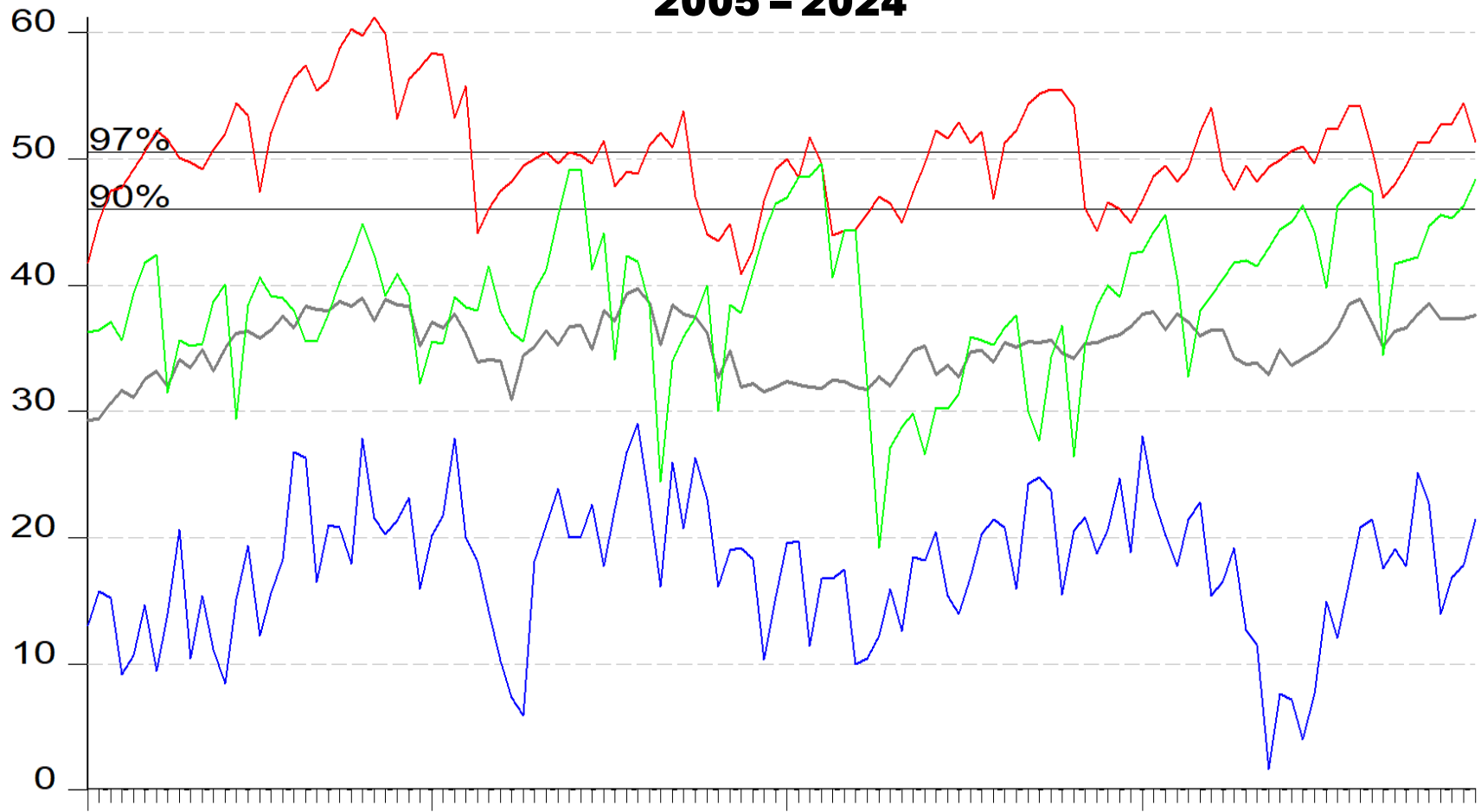
Shoulder Season



SIG – East Divide 2005 – 2024

Fire Season

Energy Release Component



— Avg
— Max
— Min
— 2024

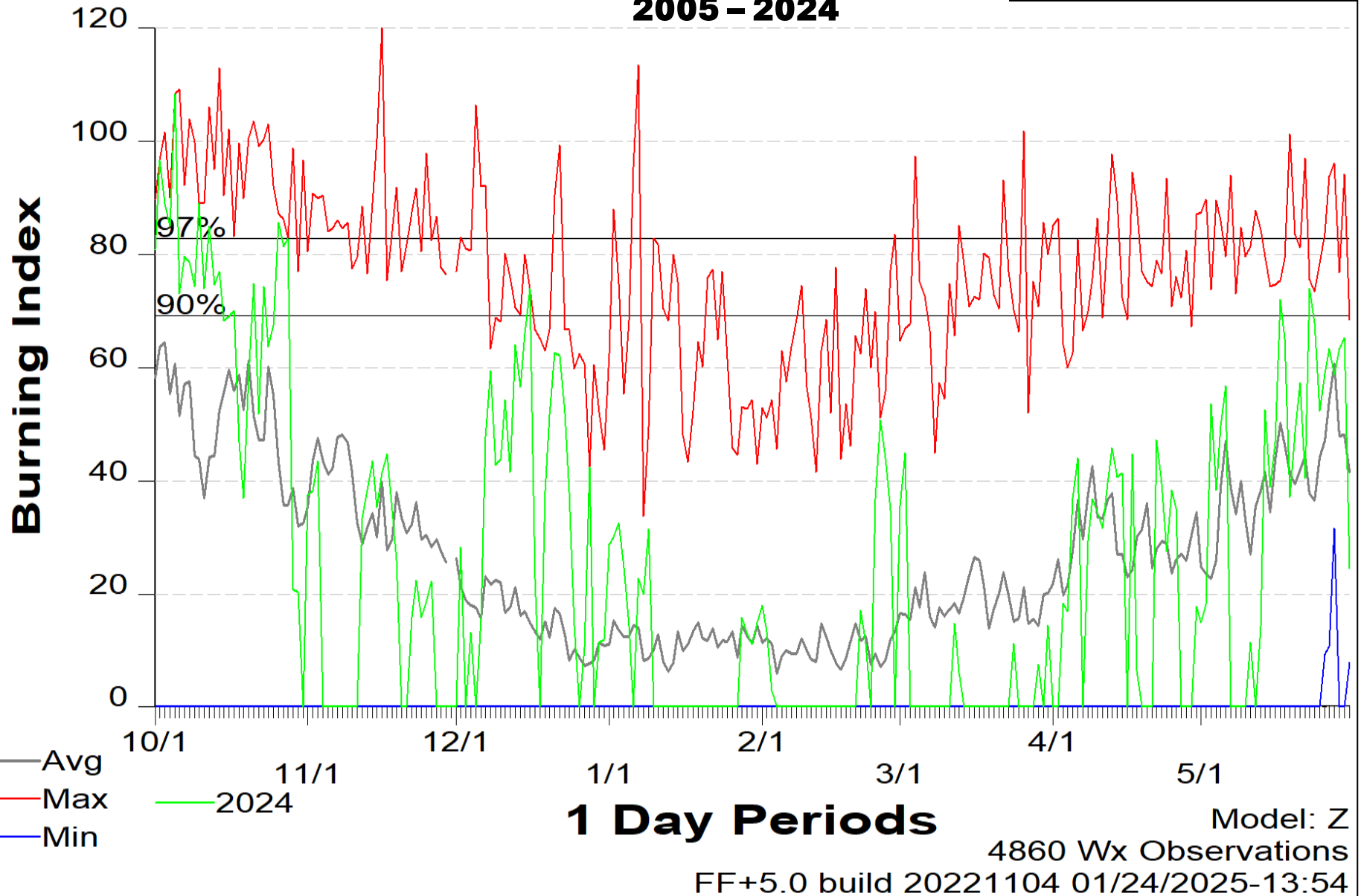
1 Day Periods

Model: Y
2440 Wx Observations

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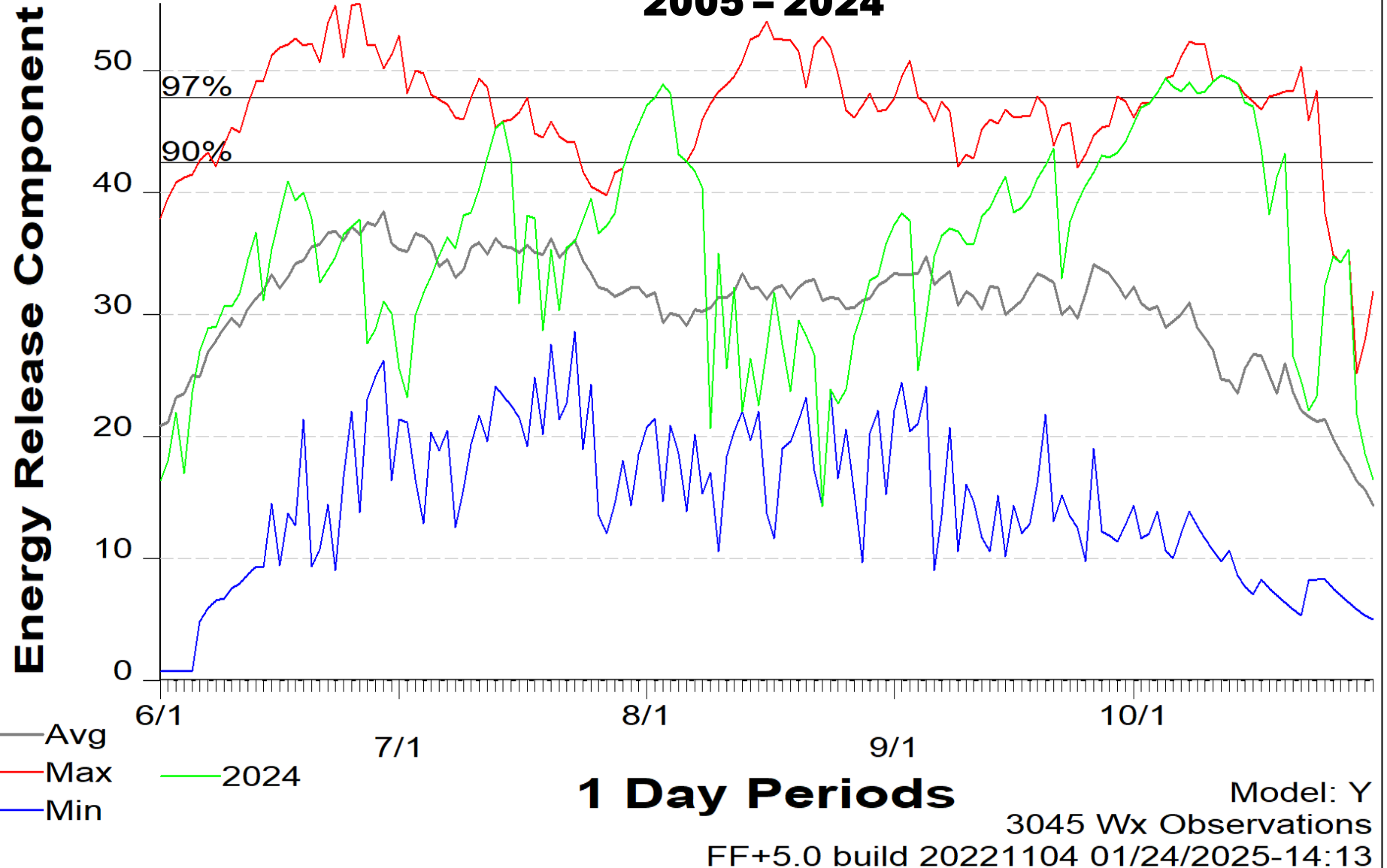
SIG - East Divide 2005 - 2024

Shoulder Season



SIG - West Divide 2005 - 2024

Fire Season



SIG - West Divide 2005 - 2024

Shoulder Season

