

Craig Interagency Dispatch Center 2023 Year End Report



Cooperating Agencies

Bureau of Land Management

United States Forest Service

National Park Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Moffat, Routt, Rio Blanco, Jackson & Grand Counties

https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/

Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC)

2023 Year End Report

2023 was a relatively quiet year for the Craig Dispatch Zone. There were 126 fires for 9378 acres, below our 5 year average of 182 fires and well below our 5 year average of 48,591 acres. The largest fire of the year was the Iron on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a total of 7392 acres. There were 2 other large fires, Pike Ridge on BLM for 246 acres and Deserado on Rio Blanco County (RBX) for 1131 acres.

The winter was cooler and wetter than average with several substantial snow events over most of the zone. Our first fire occurred on May 4th on BLM land about 32 miles WNW of Maybell. There were 3 fires in May and 11 in June and then the season picked up in July with 40 fires.

There were 36 fires in August, including 2 of the year's large fires, Pike Ridge on 8/21/23 and Deserado on 8/16/23. September saw 23 fires, including the season's largest fire, the Iron on 29Sep23. October had 4 fires, including the last fire of the year, the 0.1 acre Snake equipment fire on Moffat County (MFX) lands about 30 miles N of Craig.

Craig Dispatch handled about 726 overhead, equipment, aircraft, and crew resource orders to assist firefighting efforts in the GACC and other parts of the country. Local IROC orders for local incidents (including reassignments) totaled 2115 for a total of 2841 orders processed, about 2/3 the five-year average of 4272 orders.

All our incidents were Type III thru V this year. No expanded usage this year. 24 hr staffing was used for 39 days, with the help of GJC Center who covered for us a few times. The Center was short 4 dispatchers, out of 7 when fully staffed, most of the season. USFS MRF helped by rotating apprentices through the Center throughout the summer so a big “thank you” to them! We also had some other local militia helping in the Center as well.

Due to staffing shortages, the Center was only able to send 1 person out to help other centers this season.

In addition to wildland fires, the dispatch center supported all our agencies’ prescribed fire and fuels programs.

A total of 213 incident actions were processed in WildCAD, including wildland fires, prescribed fires, resource orders, public assists, aircraft flight following, and miscellaneous actions.

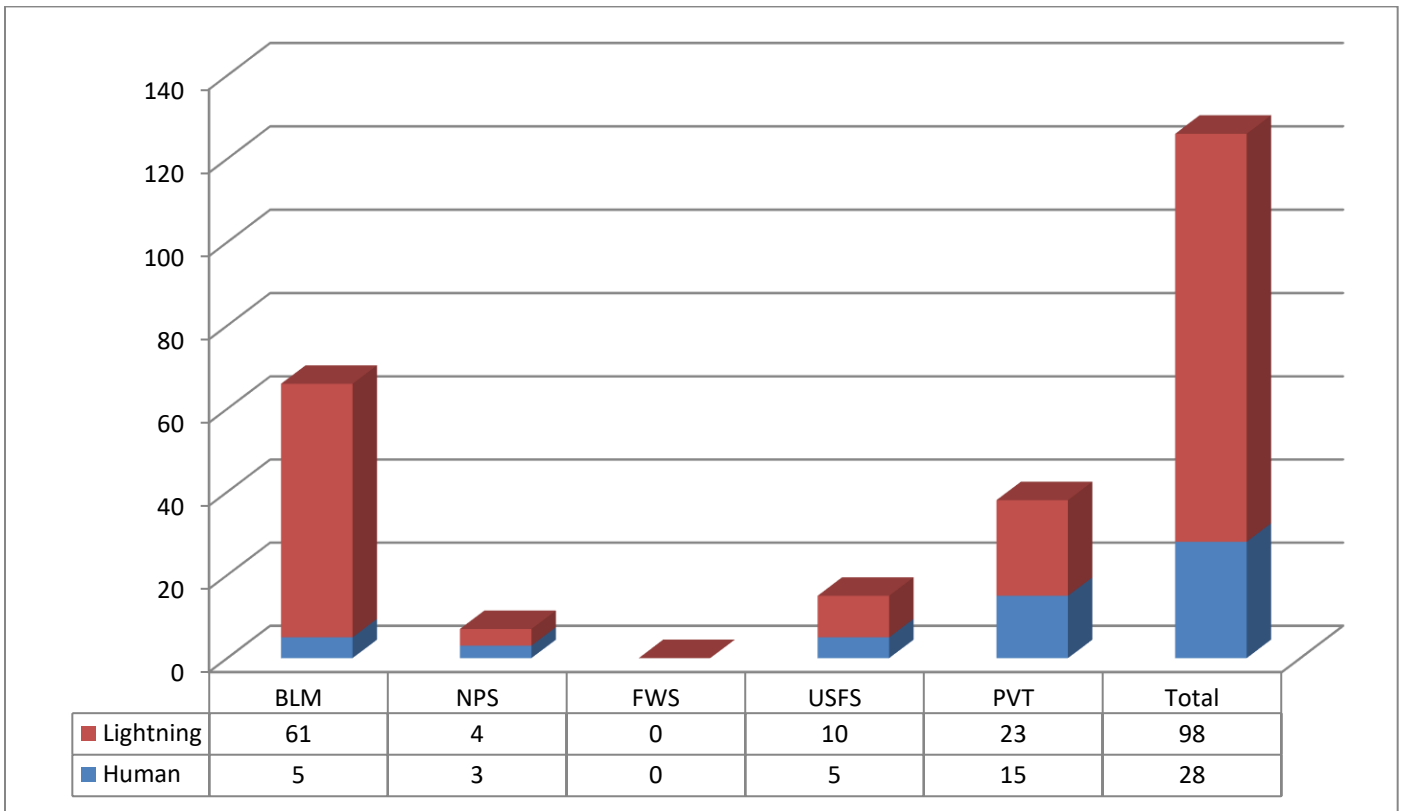
2023 CRC Fire Summary

Wildland Fire Statistics

	Lightning Fires	Lightning Acres	Human Fires	Human Acres	Total Unit Fires	Total Unit Acres
ARR	0	0	0	0	0	0
BPR	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSP	4	10.4	3	0.3	7	10.7
EAX	0	0	0	0	0	0
GFX	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRX	3	0.8	2*	8	5	8.8
JCX	1	0.25	3*	4.03	4	4.28
KRD	3	0.3	2*	0.2	5	0.5
LSD	15	46.43	1	3519	16	3565.43
MFX	12	1.8	7*	3870.2	19	3872
RBX	4	1131.3	1*	3.1	5	1134.4
MRF	10	18.22	5*	0.7	15	18.92
RTX	3	1.1	2*	0.35	5	1.45
WRD	43	759.56	2*	1.83	45	761.39
Totals	98	1970.16	28*	7407.71	126	9377.87

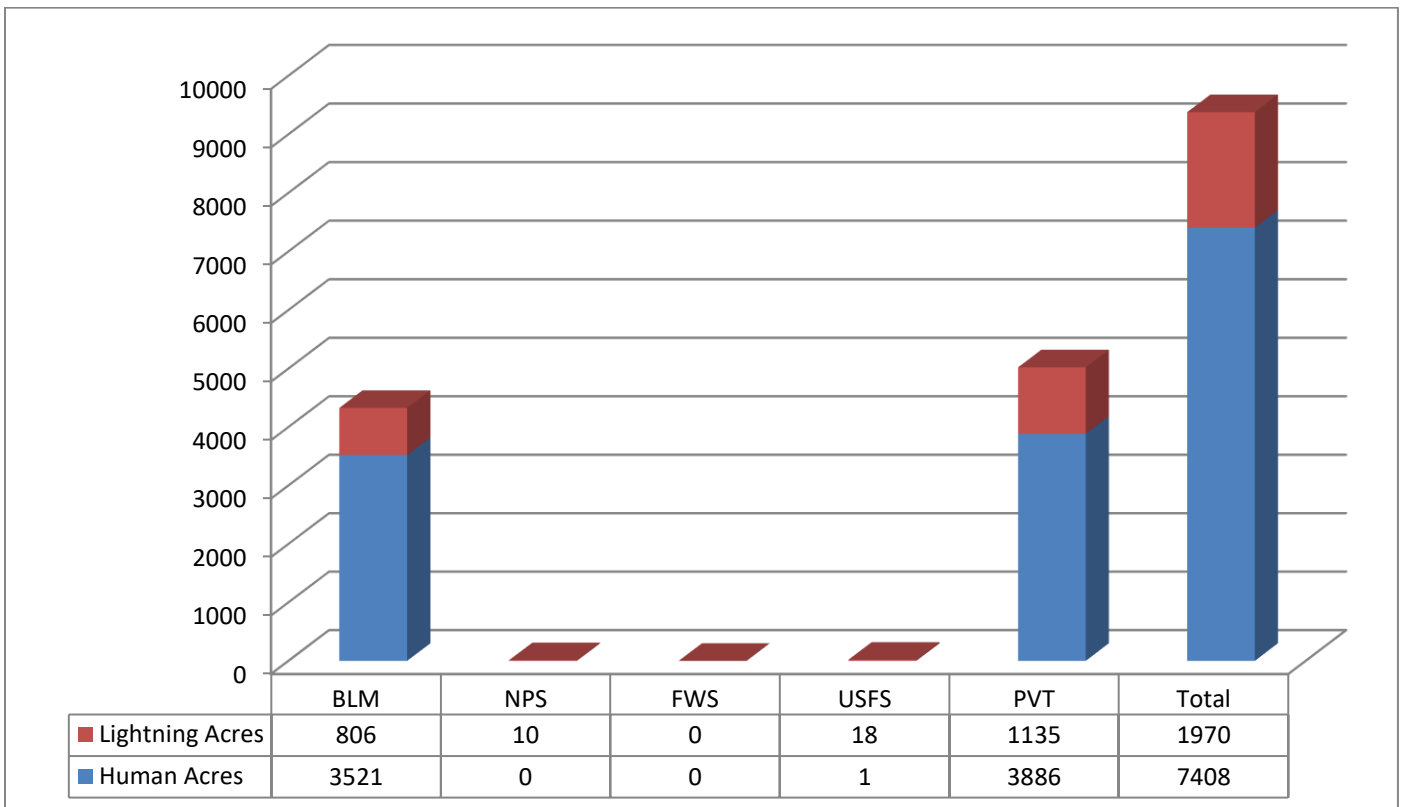
* includes “Undetermined” cause

Fires by Agency Owner and Cause



Acres Burned By Agency Owner and Cause

Includes fires that burned across multiple agency lands



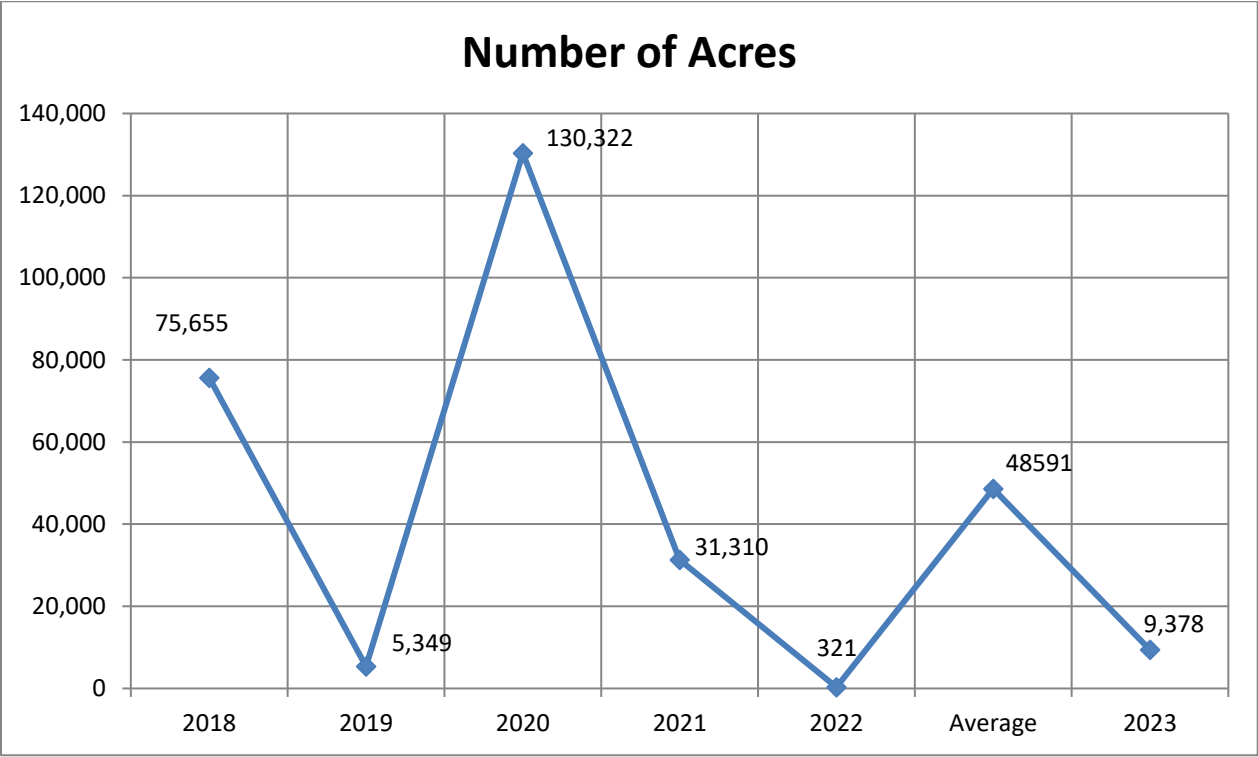
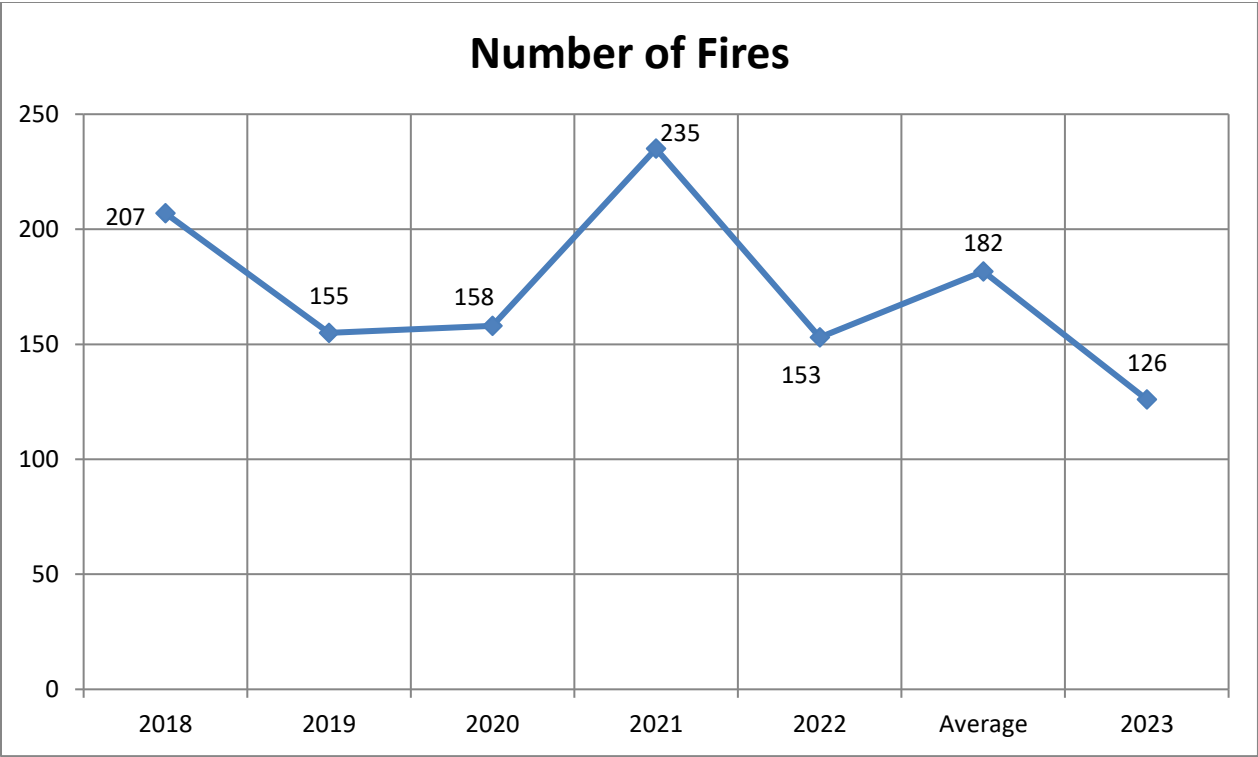
Fire and Acres by Agency and Cause

	Human	Human Acres	Lightning	Lightning Acres	Agency Fires	Agency Acres
BLM	5	3521	61	806	66	4327
NPS	3	0	4	10	7	11
FWS	0	0	0	0	0	0
USFS	5	1	10	18	15	19
PVT	15	3886	23	1135	38	5021
Total	28	7408	98	1970	126	9378

Large Fires and Fires Managed for Resource Benefit

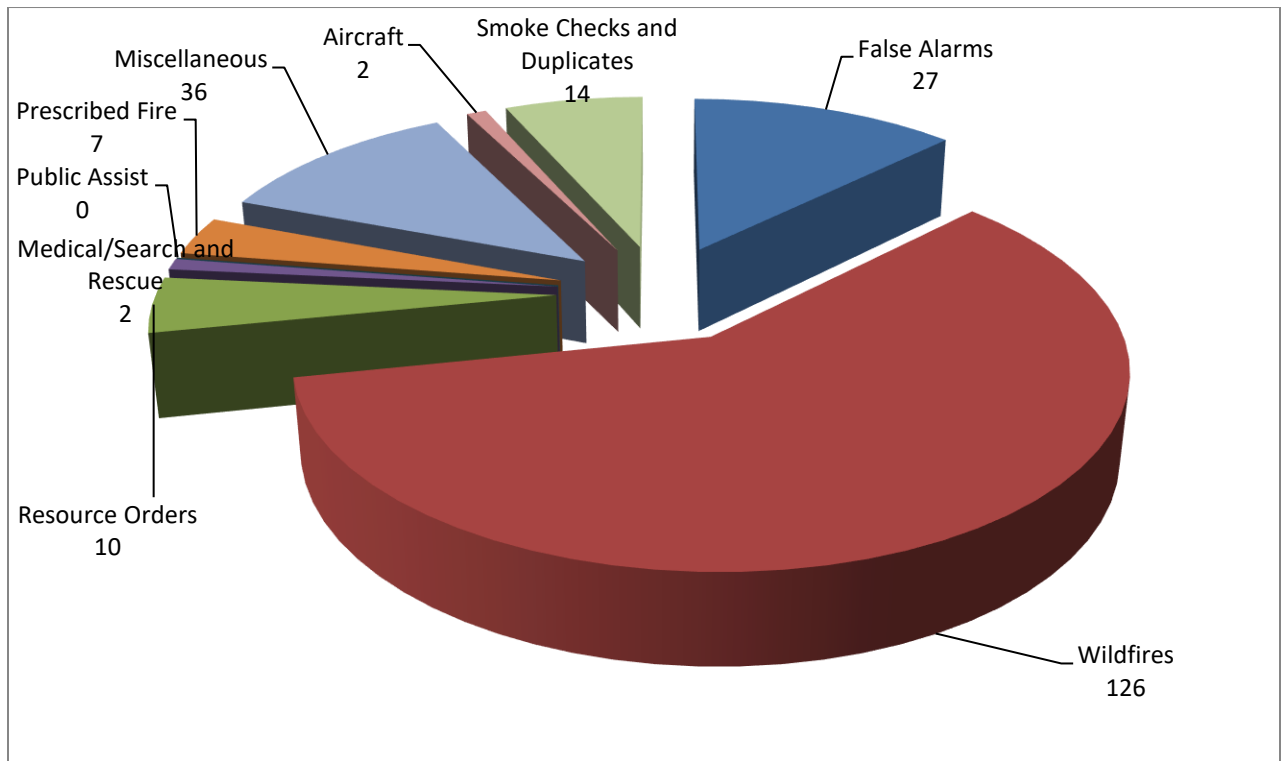
Fires listed below were one of the following; 100 acres in Timber, 300 acres in Grass/Brush, Managed for Resource Benefit (MMO), or had significant resource commitment

Incident Name	Start Date	Cause	Final Acreage	Agency	State & Unit	Team Name	Team Type
Pike Ridge	8/12/23	L	246	BLM	WRD	Voegtle	3
Deserado	8/16/23	L	1131	County	RBX	Frary	3
Iron	9/29/23	H	7392	BLM	LSD	Wheeler	3



2023 WildCAD Incident Action Summary

Total WildCAD Incidents: 213



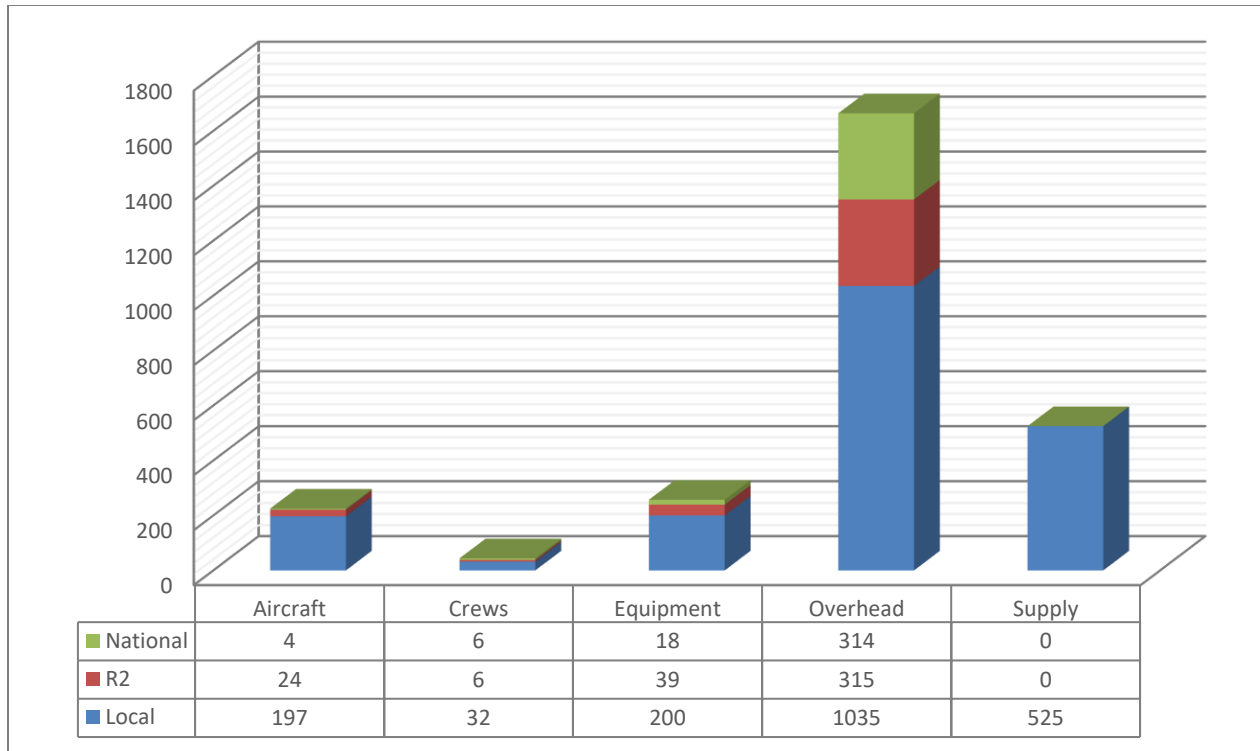
Prescribed Fire Summary

5 units completed 359 acres of broadcast burning and 1047 acres of pile burns.

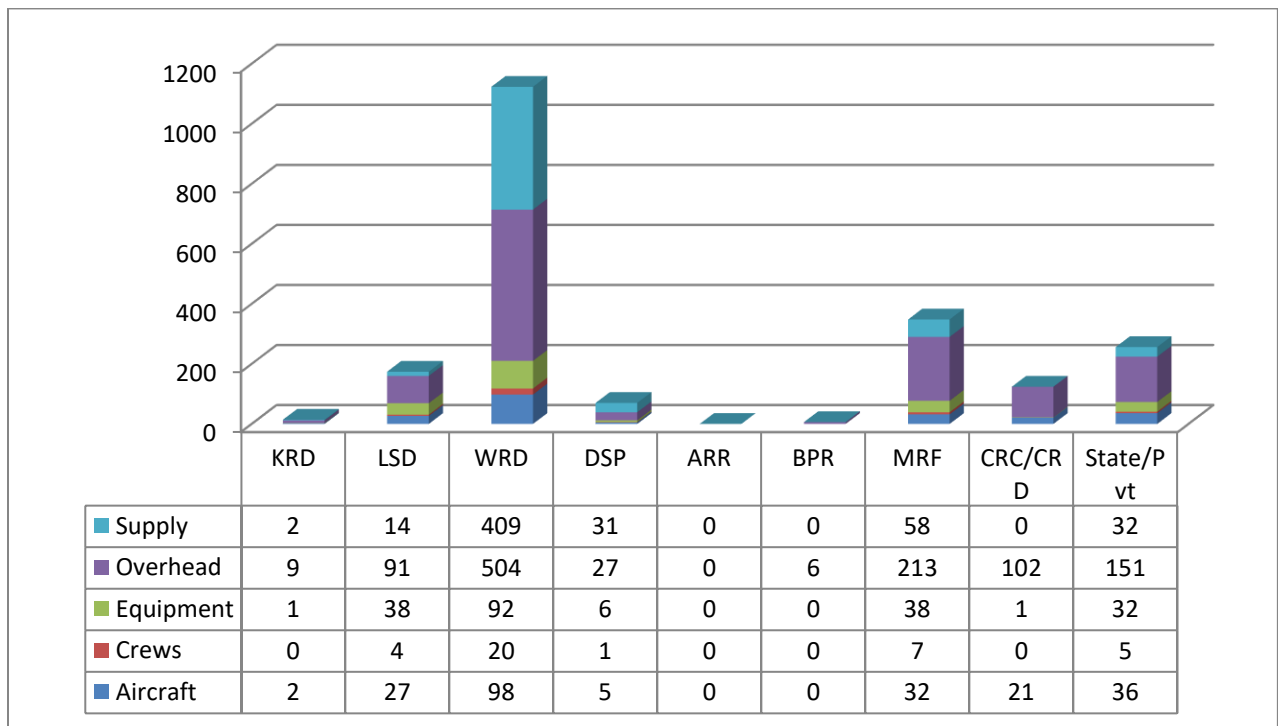
CRC Resource Order Statistics

IROC Orders Filled

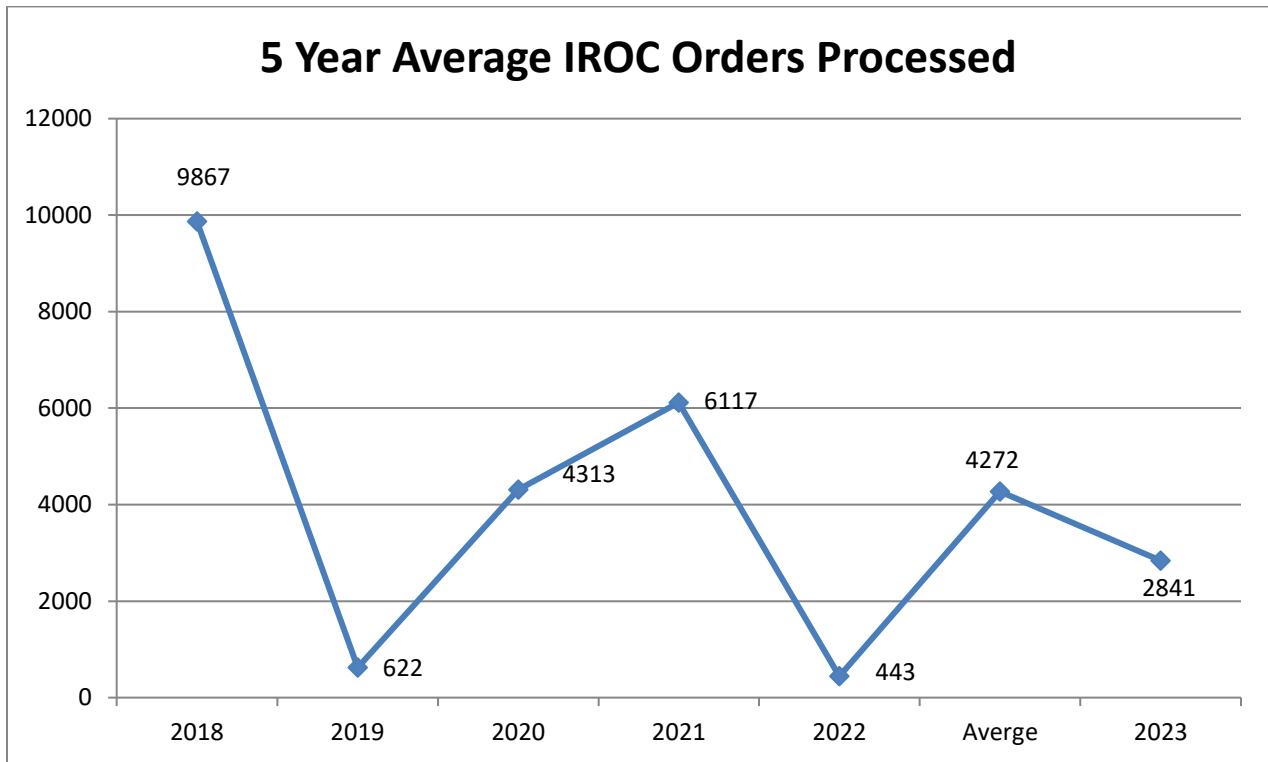
(Includes Incoming and Outgoing Orders)



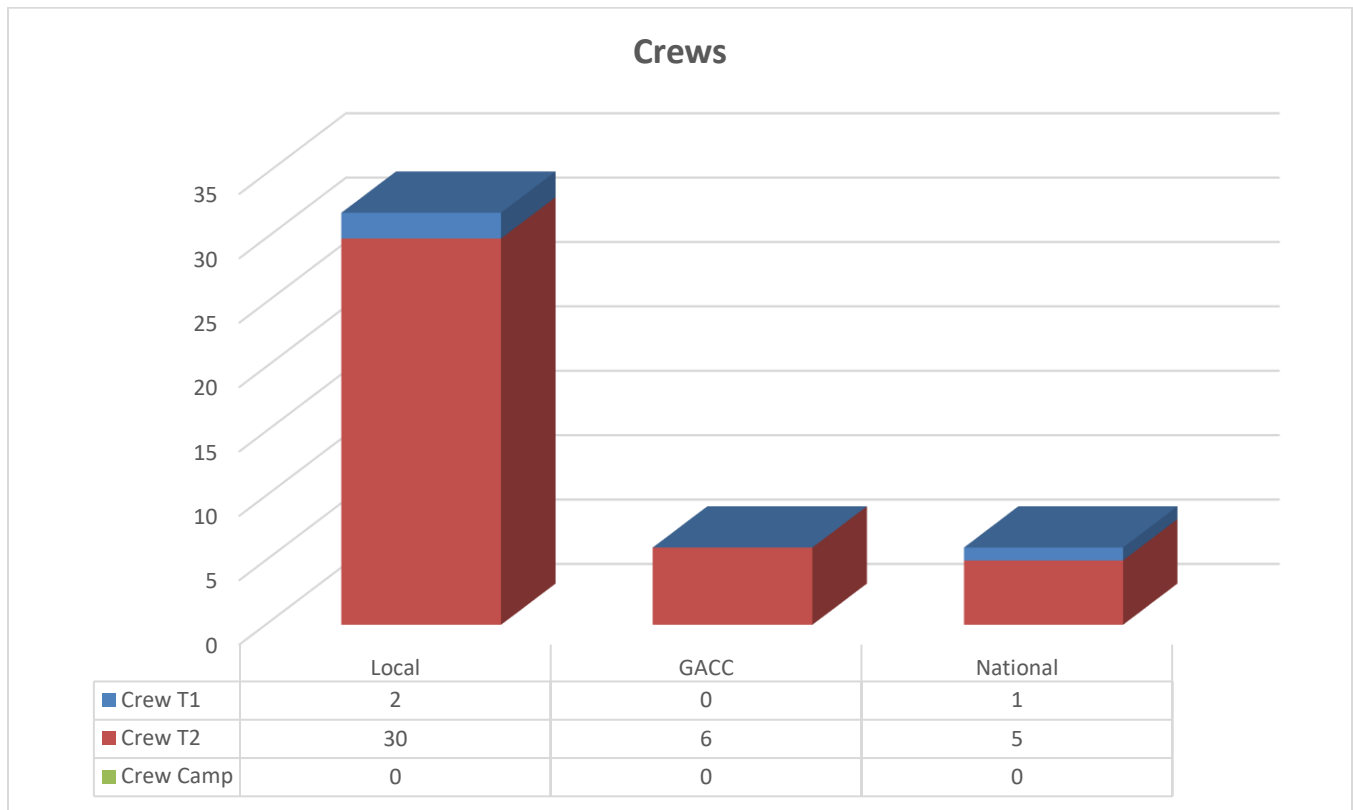
Local IROC Orders Placed by Unit



IROC Orders Processed: Five-Year Average, 2018-2022



Crew Summary



Craig Hotshot 2023 Summary

Craig IHC worked on 9 Wildfires nationally and internationally and 2 RX assignments within R2. These included assignments to Colorado, Alberta Canada, California, Montana, Washington and Oregon (totaling 124 days assigned to incidents, including travel). The crew participated in several fuels reduction projects for the BLM (prescribed fire and mechanical treatments, for a total of 19 days and approximately 1323 acres treated). The fleet consisted of 4 vehicles, 1 trailer and UTV. The Chase truck was down for one roll in August due to repairs over the minimum amount. The milage driven between all 4 vehicles was 67,902 miles. 2023 Started out earlier than years past so the crew could participate and help Colorado BLM with fuels work. With Canada and all the other assignments during the 2023 season the crew stayed out the door and relatively busy but was one of the slower fire seasons in several years.

The crew reported to work on April 10th. Following their two-week Operational Preparedness Training, the crew was made available local and participated in the Colorado Fallen Firefighter memorial ceremony. After which the crew was picked up by SW Colorado BLM to participate in RX prep and eventually Animas Mountain RX which consisted of several successful days of burning multiple units. The crew did a total of 13 days including travel. Craig IHC went available nationally, as a Type 1 crew, and immediately dispatched to Alberta, Canada. After completing two assignments, back-to-back, in Canada the crew returned home for R&R. They found themselves closer to home for the next assignments, on the Spring Creek incident outside Rifle, CO where the

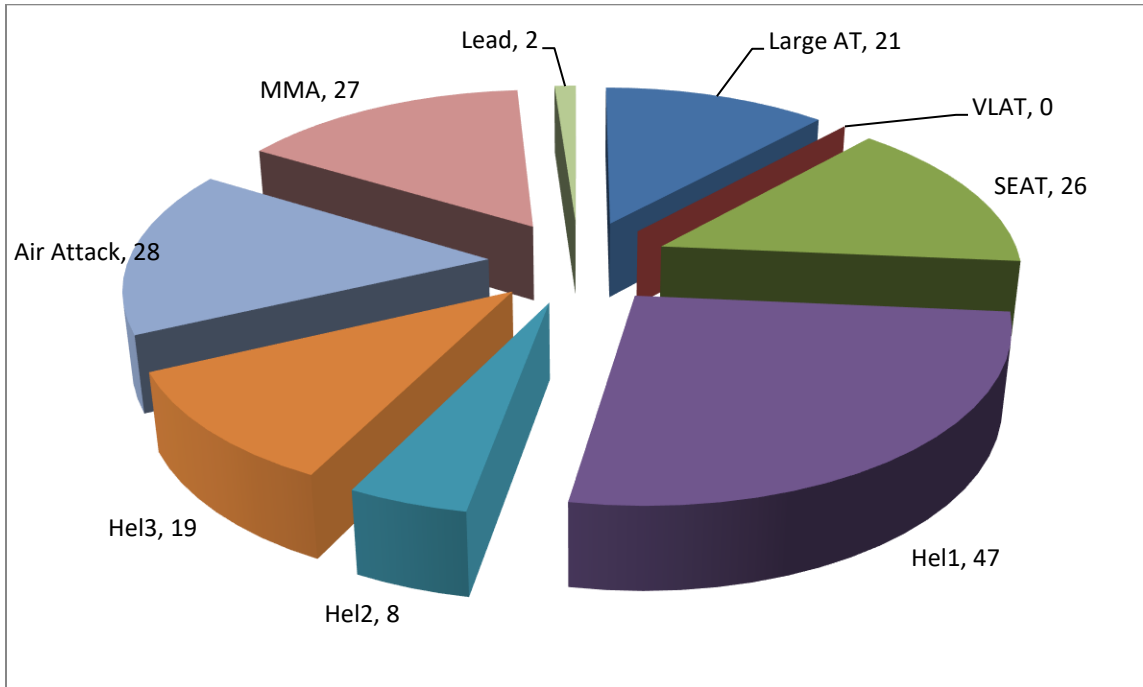
crew also did a 14-day assignment. The 2 assignments that followed were to California INF and then to Montana where the crew was put on a surge and participated in the Colt fire and the Big Knife. The last assignment that the crew was together as a type 1 crew was to Washington and Oregon. The incident in Washinton was a lightning support for the GPF where the crew was lucky enough to work with one of the Rocky Mountain CIMT's before getting released and heading to the Rouge River NF for the Anvil fire. The crew help with road prep and indirect line construction before having a serious accident, a sawyer slipped losing control of his saw and in a desperate attempt to get the saw away from him, his left had came into contact with the teeth and severely cut his 2 middle fingers. After the IWI, the crew demobed from the incident and waited in Eugene, OR so the crewmember could receive surgery. The crew then left and returned home, the injured crewmember stayed for a follow up appointment in Eugene.

Some individuals were laid off Friday the 22nd of September, but most individuals stayed for one more pay period to participate in the Mod roll, which was turned into a Type 2IA crew since the numbers and quals were available. 2 Squad Bosses filled in as Crew Bosses and were ordered up for a San Juan support where they participated in RX and initial attack for the local unit. After returning to Craig the rest of the seasonal employees were laid off the 6th of October.

The 2023 season was very successful minus the injury at the tail end of the season. The crew had lots of opportunity for training, growing and restructuring after the 2022 season events and after losing some key positions the year before. The crew was able to maintain their IHC status for the entire season which hasn't happened for several years (the Mod/Type 2 IA roll was done purposely for training and for seasonals to get 6 months of service). I looked at the 2023 season as a rebuilding and growth year and was very successful in my opinion.

Aircraft Summary

Tactical Aircraft Orders by Aircraft Type



TOTAL ORDERS: 178

Craig SEAT Base usage

The Craig SEAT Base was not activated in 2023.