

RAWLINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER



Bitter Creek

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by Tina Flodeen and Gary Batchelder

Introduction to the Center

Rawlins Interagency Dispatch Center is hosted by Bureau of Land Management's High Desert District. The center is located in Rawlins, WY. Rawlins is a town of 9,700 people located off Interstate 80 in the middle part of the lower half of Wyoming. We provide services for nine counties (ALX-Albany, CAX-Carbon, FAX-Fremont, LAX-Laramie, LIX-Lincoln, PAX-Platte, SUX-Sublette, SWX-Sweetwater, and UIX-Uinta), four BLM Field Offices (Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kremmerer, and Pinedale), BLM Wyoming State Office, Wyoming State Forestry, the National Park Service (Grand Teton), and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Our staff includes one Center Manager, one Assistant Center Manager, one permanent full time Initial Attack Dispatcher, and one career-seasonal Logistics Dispatcher. During the summer months we hire one to three seasonal dispatchers. This year we had three seasonal dispatchers.

The dispatch zone covers approximately 21 million acres in the state of Wyoming. 48% of this land is owned by the Federal Government (approximately 10 million acres). A large percent of the High Desert District is checkerboard due to the Union Pacific Railroad that runs through Southern Wyoming. This type of land ownership is cause for a multiple agency response to incidents throughout the District.

Center Funding

Rawlins Dispatch Center is funded predominantly by the Bureau of Land Management through the High Desert District. This includes facility costs for the center as well as labor costs associated with staffing the center. All personnel are BLM funded employees, assigned to the High Desert District's Fire Management program.

Overview of 2015

On August 23, 2015, the Center Manager position was filled with Tina Flodeen.

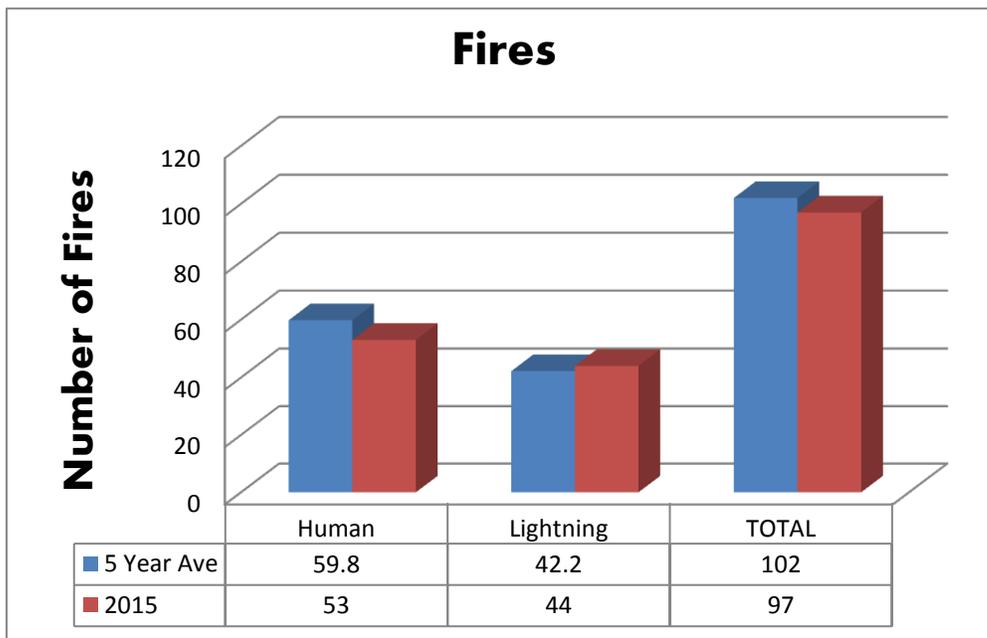
In May, 3 IA dispatchers were filled in with Ashley Epright, Brad Weller, and Carol Cox. Their season lasted until 10/16. The staff was new either to their positions or new to fire dispatching, there was a learning curve for everyone but the season was very successful.

In June, 2015 the PSE logistics dispatcher was filled with Wendy Finnegan.

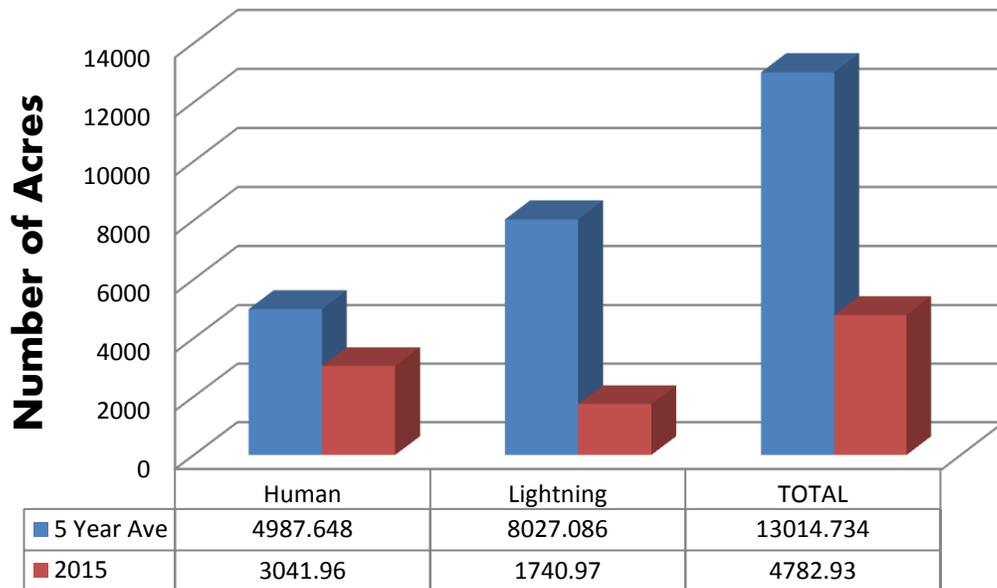
Staffing for the winter of 2014/15 included, Center Manager Tina Flodeen, Acting Center Manager/Assistant Center Manager, Gary Batchelder.

Center Activity

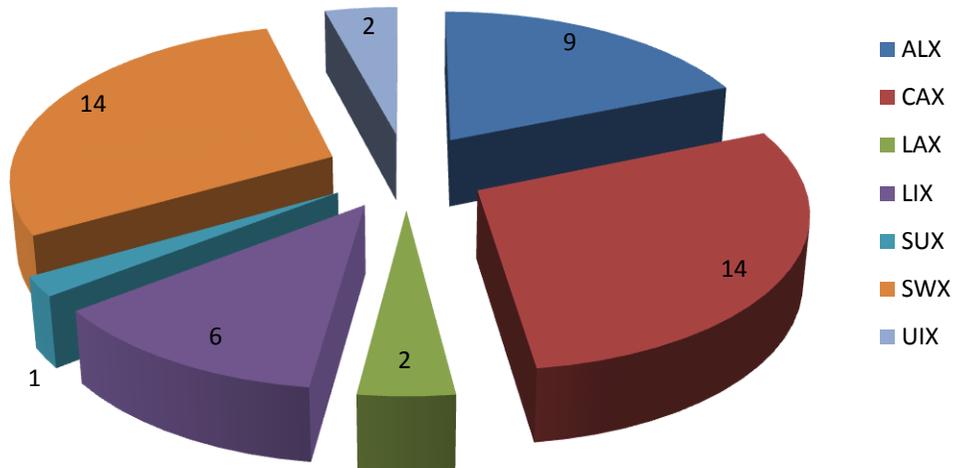
The number of fires during the 2015 season was average with 97 total fires for 4,632 acres, this includes fire on BLM and county's that fall within the HDD response area.



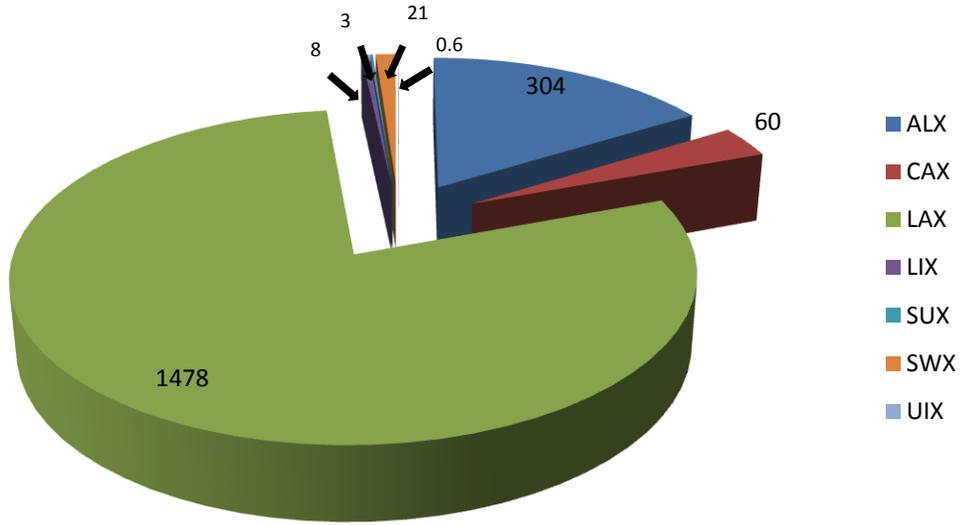
Acres



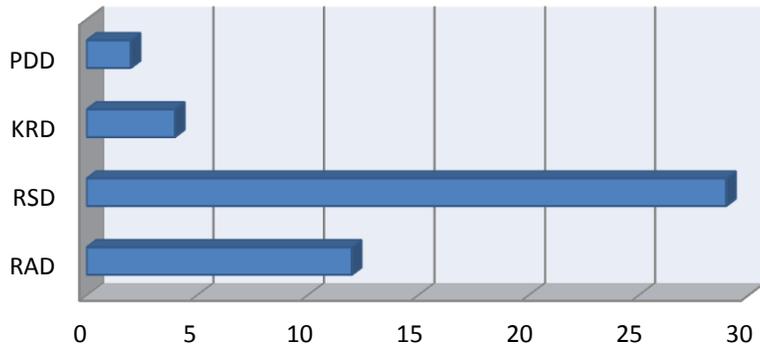
Number of Fires by County



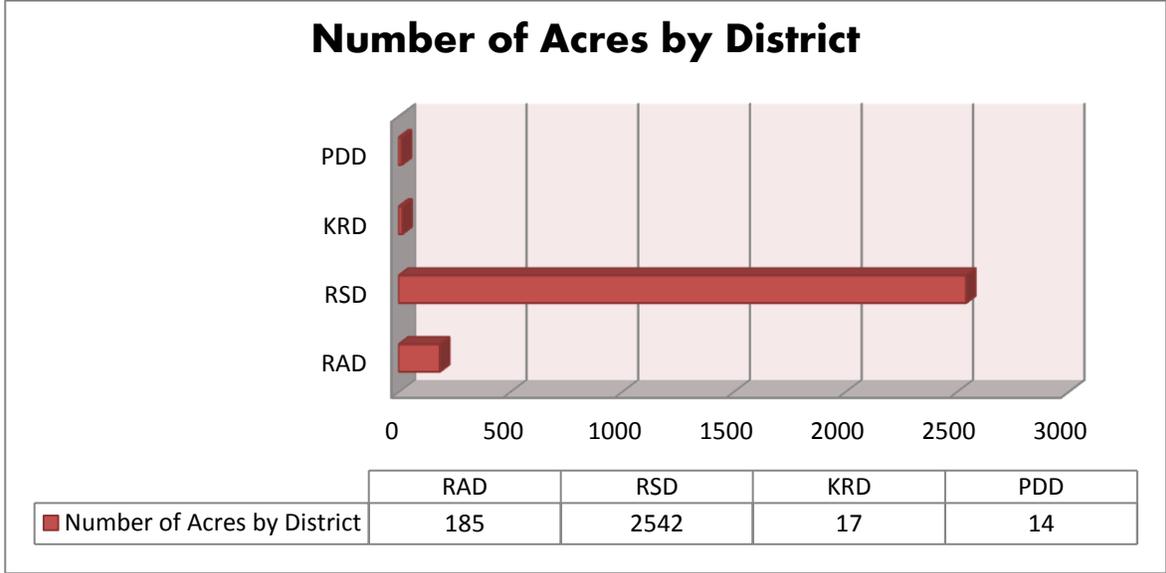
Number of Acres by County



Number of Fires by District



	RAD	RSD	KRD	PDD
■ Number of Fires by District	12	29	4	2



Notable incidents:

Bitter Creek – Started 7/26/15, burned a total of 2,487 acres. Fire started on BLM land, was human caused and not determined. Winds were extreme and erratic for the first couple of days. Aircraft were grounded numerous times because of the wind. Fuels where brush and grass.

Smith Mountain – Started as a prescribed burn on 09/22/15. The prescribed burn was very successful, total acreage burned was 991 on RAD and ALX. On 9/27/15, a report of black smoke came into the Carbon County Sheriff’s Office. Resources quickly got on scene and the fire burned 630 acres on RAD, LAX, and WY State lands. After a thorough investigation, it was determined to be suspicious in nature.

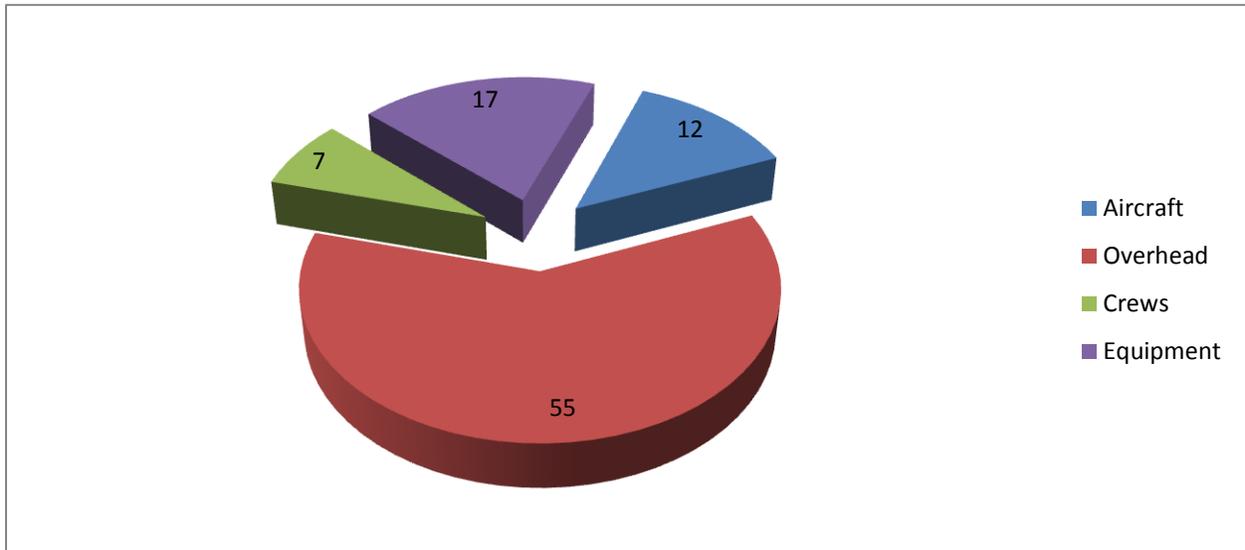
Aircraft - RWC was a heavy participant of the Forest Health flight. Forest health flight went for 6 days.

WILDCAD INCIDENTS BY TYPE

INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER
Aircraft	19
Medical Aid	2
Miscellaneous	8
Prescribed Fire	13
Resource Order	93
SAR	1
Smoke Check	60
Structure Fire	4
Vehicle Fire	2
Wildfire	97
Red flag/fire wx watches	73
Total	372

Resources Sent Out

Given the nature of a moderately slow fire season in southern Wyoming, Rawlins Dispatch was able to fill multiple resource orders for events outside of our zone.



Rawlins Aviation Activity in 2015

BLM Contracted Type 3 Standard Helicopter

N32HX began its 90 day contract on June 14th and ended its season on September 30 of 2014 that included a 19 day extension. It was staffed with a module of 8 personnel. During its 90 days of contract the helicopter flew 191.2 total hours of which 0 of those hours were firefighting operations within the RWC zone. It delivered a total of 34,660 gallons of water, 79,360 pounds of cargo (both internal and externally) and transported 212 passengers.

Rawlins SEAT Base

In support of the 2015 fire season the Rawlins SEAT base was open for approximately 135 days. During that time, 2 helicopters, 4 Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs), and 3 Air Attack platform used the facility. In support of 5 large fires, the SEAT base delivered 11,200 gallons of retardant at a cost of \$24,640 via 16 sorties and 28.6 flight hours at a cost of \$104,125.

WEATHER

In 2014 there were 11 Fire Weather Watch/Warnings days issued for zones within RWC. The first of these was issued April 5th and the last was issued September 14th .



RAWS STATIONS REPORTS

Total Precipitation in Inches	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Snow Spring Creek (Sweetwater County) 481904	.86	6.57	.96	2.26	.54	.25	11.44
Dodge Creek (Albany County) 482106	1.33	2.6	2.38	1.19	.61	.04	8.15
Muddy Creek (Uinta County) 481801	.75	3.14	.47	1.31	1.4	.37	7.44
Anderson Ridge (Sublette County) 481903	.54	2.4	.81	1.01	.93	.19	5.88
Cow Creek (Carbon County) 482011	2.19	4.00	.5	.59	.35	1.22	8.85