

Annual Activity Report

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Boise Interagency Coordination Center Annual Activity Report 2000

Introduction

Highlights of the Year 2000

Personnel

Boise Dispatch Center operated with a near normal compliment of dispatchers. One permanent career seasonal Initial Attack Dispatcher position for the Lower Snake River District BLM, is currently being advertised.

The 2000 fire season offered some unique opportunities for the employees of BDC. Fire assignments and details enabled our dispatchers to gain experiences from different geographical areas and, in some cases, different functions (*see Dispatch Support From BDC*). These opportunities yielded trainee opportunities for others to fill in at BDC. The following local individuals detailed as Forest Service IADP's: Lani Williams (BOF), Kelly DeMasters (BOF), Casey Throngard (BOF), and Elena Miller (BOF). In addition, BDC was able to offer on-the-job training to ten Expanded Dispatch Recorder Trainees, three Initial Attack Dispatcher trainees, and one Expanded Dispatch Support trainee who subsequently completed their taskbooks as fully qualified.

This spring BDC held a D-110 (Expanded Dispatch Recorder) course and a newly developed Initial Attack Dispatcher Course. The turn out was beyond expectation for both courses. There were many individuals that made the success of these courses possible: Kristy Felty (ISO), Donna Kreinesek (FCD), Craig Cook (FCA), Deena Weber (FCD), Holly Glerup (BOD), Ray Raddatz (BOD), as well as all the employees of BDC.

Interagency Successes

The Boise Interagency Logistics Center continues to provide safe, cost effective utilization of the closest interagency resources on wildfires in our jurisdictional area.. BOF, LSRD BLM, and IDL commonly exchange resources to meet agency wildland suppression goals. The Forest Service and BLM helitack crews freely exchanged personnel for better coverage and utilization. Additionally, the BLM helitack provided cross-training opportunities for Rural Fire department personnel. The Forest and BLM continued to share an Interagency Aviation Officer position who provides aviation management expertise for both agencies.

The local Interagency Type III Overhead Team is comprised of individuals representing the BOF, IDL, LSRD BLM , NIFC, and local cooperators. An interagency board of directors provides support and oversight for these teams. This mix of interagency personnel has been instrumental in managing incidents on the Forest that exceeds the capabilities of local initial attack resources. This team saw action on 4 incidents this year.

Local fire training through the Southwest Idaho Interagency Fire Training (SWIFT) partnership provided fire training to more than 800 federal, state and local firefighters during 2000. The Lower Snake River District participated in numerous educational projects in cooperation with rural and city fire departments, as well as local schools.

Seasonal Weather and Severity

Summary

The weather in southwest Idaho during 2000 can be characterized as very dry and warm. Drought conditions existed over much of southwest Idaho, and ranged from extreme along the Oregon and Nevada borders, to moderate over much of the north zone of the Boise Forest. Winter snowpack was also well below normal, with the Owyhee basin experiencing just 41% of normal, Bruneau basin 63% of normal, and Boise and Weiser/Payette basins 75% of normal. For drought conditions in southwest Idaho to be fully abated will require an additional 1" to 4" of moisture above normal this winter, according to SNOTEL and other sources.

Average temperatures through the summer were several degrees above normal. May, June, July, and August all averaged more than two degrees above the norm, with August registering 3.4 degrees above average. The rise in temperatures contributed to low fuel moisture levels throughout the area. During the summer 1,000 hour dead fuel moisture levels on the Boise Forest ranged from 2% to as much as 5% below normal. By late August 1,000 hour dead fuel moisture levels hit 6% or less over much of the

Boise Forest. Live fuel moisture levels also were below normal, and some vegetation exhibited fall dormancy as early as late August, most likely due to drought induced stress. For a graphical illustration, see the Fire Family Plus graphs in the appendices.

WIMS Indices/Components

The agencies represented by BDC use the Burning Index to set dispatch response levels. This NFDRS scale is used to determine difficulty of containment, as it is based upon the flame length (*a number related to the contribution of fire behavior to the effort of containing a fire; derived from a combination of Spread and Energy Release Components*). Each agency has several RAWs and manual stations grouped together into Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS).

BOF SIG: FDR1	BOF SIG: FDR2	BOD SIG: BOD1	BOD SIG: BOD2
Ski Hill (101223)	Pine Creek (101222)	Dead Indian (101402)	Horse Butte (103205)
McCall (101209)	Town Creek (101708)	Boise South (102601)	Triangle (103208)
Bearskin (101221)	Fleck Summit (102802)	Mountain Home (102709)	Pole Creek (103210)
Pine Creek (101222)	North Fork RS (102903)	Brace Flat (103207)	
		Twin Butte (103209)	

FDR1 Narrative:

Burn indices of the upper elevation locations on the Boise National Forest, which are represented by FDR1, were above the nine-year average (1990 - 1999) on a continual basis from April 1st until the middle of June. From the middle of July until the first of September BI's shot up to 60 and beyond, well above the nine-year maximums. Burn indices reached the 90th percentile 22 days and the 97th percentile 16 days in the period of July 10th to September 1st. During this same time period, BI's exceeded the 70 mark on three occasions. For a graphical illustration, see the SIG - FDR1 graphs in the appendices.

FDR2 Narrative:

The BI's of the lower elevations of the Boise National Forest, which are represented by FDR2, were above the nine-year average (1990 - 1999) on a continual basis from April 1st until the second week of June. From mid June until the first of September, the BI's

for 2000 were continually above the nine-year maximums. During this time, the BI s reached the 90th percentile on 16 occasions and reached the 97th percentile 12 times (August 1st shooting over 90). After the first of September, the BI s sharply declined. For a graphical illustration, see the SIG - FDR2 graphs in the appendices.

BOD1 Narrative:

BOD1 represents lower elevation grasslands (below 5,000 feet elevation) of the Lower Snake River District. Burn indices for the month of May were above the nine-year average. From June until the first part of September, the BI s were above the nine-year maximums. From mid-July until mid-November BI s exceeded the 90th percentile on 27 days, and exceeded the 97th percentile on 16 days. In addition, there were five days in which BI's reached 45 or higher. For a graphical illustration, see the SIG - BOD1 graphs in the appendices.

BOD2 Narrative:

The BI s of the upper elevations, sagebrush/western grasses (above 5,000 feet elevation) of the Lower Snake River District, which are represented by BOD2, were above the nine-year averages from mid-May until mid-November. During the period of June 15th until November 15th, BI s exceeded the 90th percentile 37 days and exceeded the 97th percentile 10 days. In addition there were two days in which the BI s reached 70 or higher. For a graphical illustration, see the SIG - BOD2 graphs in the appendices.

Fuel Loading

Fuel loading on the Lower Snake River District hit a five year high in 2000. Cheat grass and litter were the primary contributors, with the total put at 5,652 pounds per acre (1,131 pounds above the recent average). As well, live fuels on the District cured 2-4 weeks ahead of normal this summer.

Severity Funding

LSRD received severity assistance early in the fire season, followed by BOF as the potential for large fire activity escalated in mid-summer.

Fire Activity

Overview

Fire activity in southwest Idaho in 2000 was slightly above normal, compounded by above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Drought conditions persisted over most of southwest Idaho throughout the year (see Seasonal Weather and Severity). Southwest Idaho entered into stage I Fire Restrictions on July 18th, stage II Fire Restrictions on Aug. 1st, and stage III Fire Restrictions on Aug. 17th. All fire restrictions were lifted by the State on Sept. 2nd. Stage III is a new restriction level created in 2000 prohibiting any open fire, anywhere on Federal, State or private lands.

A breakdown of first and last fires for the three agencies represented by Boise Dispatch are as follows.

- Lower Snake River District (BOD) experienced its first fire of the season on May 31 (< 1 acre), and its last fire on October 23 (< 1 acre).
- Boise National Forest (BOF) experienced its first fire of the season on May 16 (0.1 acre), and its last fire on October 27 (0.1 acre).
- Idaho Department of Lands experienced its first fire on May 27 (0.5 acre), and its last fire on September 29 (0.75 acre).

The first lightning caused fire activity occurred on May 16th on the Boise Forest.

Interagency Large Fire Statistics

Lower Snake River District BLM (fires over 1,000 acres.)				
Name	Start date	Control date	Acres	Comments
Arch Canyon	6/26	6/29	4,114	Type 3 team
SE Impact	6/27	6/29	5,735	
5N3 Creek	6/30	7/1	2,140	
Kinyon	6/30	7/1	1,087	
Blue Creek	6/30	7/17	3,426	
Flat Broke	6/30	7/1	5,787	
Worley Draw	7/6	7/7	1,702	
Milepost 77 I-84	7/17	7/18	1,546	
Milepost 63 I-84	7/17	7/18	1,565	
Meadow	7/18	7/25	2,083	
Milepost 78 I-84	7/23	7/24	2,543	
McDonald Cr.	8/3	8/7	10,394	
Goodrich	8/5	8/7	2,257	
Grass Fire	8/5	8/10	35,613	
Oregon Trail	8/7	8/10	31,316	Type 3 team
Crimson Clover	8/23	8/25	16,502	
Hilltop	9/24	9/27	2,551	Type 3 team
Boise National Forest (fires over 10 acres.)				
Name	Start date	Control date	Acres	Comments

Rattlesnake	7/17	7/18	40	
Horn Creek	7/20	7/27	873	Type 2 team
Trail Creek	8/15	10/15	34,759	Type 2 team
Meadow Creek	8/18	8/22	70	
Little Grouse	10/1	10/2	26	BLM IA
Sheep Mountain	10/7	10/9	40	
Dixie Dare	10/7	10/9	10	
Idaho Department of Lands (no large fires in 2000)				

Fire Cause Statistics

The BLM Lower Snake River District suppressed a total of 117 fires for 142,058 acres burned (105,647 acres were BLM). Lightning caused 40 fires for 85,116 acres burned. Human starts numbered 77 fires for 56,942 acres burned. Crews also responded to 26 false alarms during the year.

The Boise National Forest had a total of 93 fires for 35,848 acres burned (34,757 acres were USFS). Lightning caused 48 fires for 34,813 acres burned. Human starts numbered 35 for a total of 1,035 acres burned. Occurrences of non-statistical, abandoned campfires have increased dramatically from years past with a total of 319 for the Forest. The Forest received 29 false alarm and unable-to-locate calls in which crews took some sort of action.

The Idaho Department of Lands had a total of 14 fires for a total of 4 acres, of which 6 fires were lightning caused, for a total of 1 acre burned. Human caused fires numbered 8 for a total of 3 acres burned.

See the following graphs located in the appendices: "2000 Boise Dispatch Total Wildland Fires (by Agency)", "2000 Boise Dispatch Burned Acres (by Agency)", and "2000 Boise Dispatch False Alarms and UTLs".

An interagency Fire Prevention team was requested in late July, increasing efforts to inform the public on the fire potential in Southwest Idaho. Check stations were set up in key locations on the Forest, to provide prevention and fire restriction information. Local Prevention technicians remained busy, throughout the year, in an attempt to reduce the number of

unattended camp fires and the potential for them to escape.

Fire Assist Information

Assists among Boise Dispatch's supporting agencies:

- BOD provided fire suppression assistance to the Forest on 12 incidents, 14 to rural fire departments, and 3 to IDL.
- BOF assisted BOD on 47 incidents and 13 incidents for IDL.
- IDL assisted BOF on 17 incidents.

For an graphical illustration see "2000 Boise Dispatch Assists" in the appendices.

BDC dispatched the following local resources to provide initial attack and support assistance to adjacent forests and districts (does not include overhead team mobilizations or military resources):

- Vale District BLM (VAD):
 - One helicopter with module.
 - Five engines.
 - Two overhead personnel.
 - Twenty-one air tankers and four MAFFS Units (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).
 - Six lead planes.
- Central Idaho Dispatch (CIC):
 - Six Type-2 crews.
 - Two Type-1 crews.
 - Seventy overhead.
 - Seven engines.
 - Three helicopters with module.
 - Forty-four air tankers (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).
 - Nine lead planes.
- East Idaho Dispatch (EIC):
 - Four engines.
 - Ten overhead.
 - Nine Type-2 crews.
 - Four air tankers (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).
 - Five lead planes.

- Payette National Forest (PAF):
 - One helicopter with module.
 - Thirty-three air tankers (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).
 - Nine lead planes.
 - Sixty-two overhead personnel.
 - One Type-1 crew.
 - Five Type-2 crews.
 - Three engines.
 - One dozer.

- National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC):
 - Sixteen overhead personnel (primarily dispatch support to NICC).

- Southern Idaho Dispatch (SID):
 - Eighteen engines.
 - Four dozers and tenders.
 - One helicopter with module.
 - Two air attack planes with ATGS.
 - Twelve air tankers (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).
 - Five lead planes.
 - Four overhead personnel.
 - One Type-1 crew.
 - One Type-2 crew.

- Sawtooth National Forest (STF):
 - One Type-2 crews.
 - Three helicopters with module.
 - One water tender.

Prescribed Burning and Smoke Management

Overview

The Boise National Forest's prescribed fire accomplishments were less than the two prior years for a variety of reasons. The original WFHF target for FY 2000 was 12,600 acres. Much of the target was turned back and the money was reprogrammed into fuels planning dollars to finish planning and to complete NEPA requirements for some of the projects that were envisioned for implementation during the year. The final WFHF target for the Forest was 7,771 acres. The final Forest accomplishment was 5,361 acres, or 69 percent of the target.

The moratorium placed on prescribed burning by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior after the Cerro Grande escape occurred during the spring burning window and curtailed further burning. The Intermountain Region maintained a prescribed burning moratorium throughout the spring and summer. As the fire season moved into the autumn the Forest's fire resources were heavily committed to supporting the National fire suppression effort and the Boise National Forest itself was the recipient of severity authorizations through late October to deal with the above normal burning conditions that developed locally during the dry summer. This period of severe burning conditions was ended by a dramatic change in the weather pattern that eventually resulted in the wettest October on record. After the October rains hit, the Forest began the process of reevaluating and approving individual prescribed fire projects to meet Regional Forester direction, but the fall burning window was quickly lost because of the rapid swing from conditions that went from too dry to too wet.

The Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office completed their spring burns as planned, but due to Fire Closures they missed the optimum burn window and were able to burn only a few acres of one unit. This fall they burned 12 projects between Boise and Council representing approximately 2600 acres. The smoke management restrictions affected operations on several days, but did not prevent them from completing the majority of burning.

The Lower Snake River District prescribed fire program was also affected by the federal moratorium and a dry spring. The district accomplished 450 acres in the spring and 200 acres in the fall, which was considerably less productive than expected.

For the second year the three represented agencies have complied with prescribed fire smoke and airshed management policies established by the Montana/Idaho State Airshed Coordinating Group. The procedures adopted provide burn information to the Montana Monitoring Unit in compliance with DEQ Smoke Management Guidelines.

2000 Statistics (as of 11/27)

Agency	Numbers of Burns	Acres Accomplished	Type
Lower Snake River District	4	692	Prescribed Fire
Lower Snake River District	0	0	WFURB
Boise National Forest	19	4,710	Prescribed Fire
Boise National Forest	0	0	WFURB
Idaho Department of Lands	15	3,073	Prescribed Fire
Idaho Department of Lands	0	0	WFURB

Logistical Activity Statistics

BDC Operational Periods

The BDC Initial Attack Dispatch office remained open 24 hours supporting local incidents 78 days in 2000 (up from 76 in 1999). The office started seven-day-a-week coverage June 18th in support of incidents. Boise Dispatch remained open seven days a week for BLM fire rehab projects until December 20th.

The BDC Expanded Dispatch organization operated from mid July until the end of September (approximately 82 days). The hours of operation ranged from 10 - 24 hours a day during that time. The Expanded Dispatch operation supported the Payette's Burdorf Junction and Salmon-Challis' Clear Creek Fires with the activation and support of the Idaho Army National Guard. This included not only the mobilization, but also logistical support (transportation, equipment, and supplies) as well as the time keeping for all national guard personnel. Alice Muffley acted as the lead in the military operations, attending meetings and clarifying processes. Dallas Murray was the lead time keeper for all guard personnel, ensuring prompt payment for services rendered. Expanded Dispatch provided the logistical support for the military operation, as well as numerous local incidents.

Boise Mobilization Center

The Boise Mob Center was activated on and remained in operation throughout the summer, supporting large fires on the PAF, SAF, and BOF.

Resource Mobilized to and from Boise Interagency Logistics Center

Number of resource orders processed:

Resource Type	Resources Coming In	Resources Going Out	Total
Aircraft	330	224	554
Overhead	528	918	1446
Crews	105	51	156
Equipment	759	272	1031

Boise Interagency Dispatch processed a total of 3187 requests, with 358 requests supporting other geographic areas.

Overhead

Smokejumpers:

Dispatch ordered four loads of smokejumpers for initial attack and mobilized one smokejumper handcrew for local use.

Fill Statistics:

The graph "National Mobilization for ICS Positions" shows the number of Overhead resources for fully qualified positions that we processed geographically and nationally in 2000 (excluding Idaho). It also compares it to the ability to fill requests. Processing resource orders requires that the dispatcher complete the resource order, run a query on available resources, and make the appropriate contacts inquiring on that resource. Regardless if the request is actually filled, this process can take anywhere from five minutes to one hour for each request. If the request is filled, the dispatcher must set up travel and communicate the commitment of resource to the appropriate dispatch center. As illustrated in the graph, BDC processed over 125 requests alone for New Mexico, 65 requests for Utah, and 62 for Nevada (See *National Mobilization for ICS Positions* in appendices). For detailed information for Idaho, see "Mobilization for ICS Positions in Idaho" in the appendices.

The graph "National Mobilization for Trainees" shows the number of Overhead resources for trainee positions that we processed and compares it to the ability to fill requests in 2000. The processing of resource orders for trainees is the same as the one for fully qualified positions outlined above. As illustrated in the trainee graph, BDC processed over 16 requests for Utah, 8 for Nevada, and 7 for Montana (See *National Mobilization for Trainees* in appendices). For detailed information for Idaho, see "Mobilization for Trainees in Idaho" in the appendices.

Positions that BDC filled:

Although the participation rates for the various Units increased substantially during 2000 (as you will see later in this document), the percent of positions filled remained fairly consistent with 1999. Many individuals were retained at the local level due to the fire danger that this response area experienced during the 2000 fire season. Boise Interagency Logistics Center was able to fill 51% of the requests for fully qualified overhead positions, and 70% for trainee qualified overhead positions. In 1999 the statistics were 53% and 73% respectively.

The table below highlights some of the ICS positions that BDC was able to fill. These numbers include requests filled for local incidents as well as geographically and nationally. For further illustration, see the graphs "Filled ICS Positions" and "Trainee

Positions Filled” in the appendices.

ICS Positions	Number of Requests	Number of Trainee Requests
Technical Specialists	47	0
Division Supervisor	33	12
Buying Team Member	22	0
Expanded Dispatch Recorder	15	24
Helicopter Crew Member	14	2
Expanded Dispatch Support Dispatcher	12	1
Dozer Boss	11	2
Infrared Interpreter	10	4
Information Officer Type 2	5	2
Information Officer Type 3	6	7
Helicopter Manager	6	3
Incident Commander Type 3	6	0
Operation Section Chief Type 2	6	3
Equipment Manager	6	3
Time Unit Leader	6	5
Engine Boss	6	0

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Hardest to Fill Positions:

The table below highlights some of the ICS positions that BDC was not able to fill. These numbers include requests filled for local incidents as well as geographically and nationally. For further illustration, see the graphs “Unable to Fill ICS Positions” and “Unable to Fill Trainees” in the appendices.

ICS Position	Number of Requests	Number of Trainee Requests
Air Tactical Group Supervisor	7	0
Division Supervisor	6	0
Expanded Dispatch Recorder	0	3
Expanded Dispatch Support Dispatcher	6	2
Expanded Dispatch Support Supervisor	7	0
Helicopter Crew Member	14	0
Initial Attack Dispatcher	6	0
Prevention	6	0
Safety Officer Type 2	6	0
Time Unit Leader	0	2
Information Officer Type 3	0	2

Dispatch Support From BDC:

The Center Manager was mobilized as Coordinator, Expanded Dispatch (CORD) to Region 8, in Atlanta, Georgia. He also acted as the MAC group coordinator for fire several fire busts that occurred locally.

BDC sent one Coordinator to Utah, six Expanded Supervisory Dispatchers and trainees to the Salmon/Challis, Idaho State Office, Georgia, Wyoming, and Nevada, eleven Support Dispatchers and trainees to NICC, Arizona, Georgia, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, four Dispatch Recorders and trainees the Idaho Falls District and Nevada, and one Initial Attack Dispatcher to South Carolina.

BDC Participation Statistics:

The Resource Manager Database compiles all individuals mobilized by BDC regardless of agency affiliation. We currently have 873 fire participants within this database. This includes not only red carded individuals, but also individuals that work as drivers, receptionists, etc. Listed below are the approximate participation rates of individuals within each agency represented by BDC. This information is compiled by individuals that are shown as available at on point in time, this status will change on a frequent basis. (See "*BDC Agency Participation for 2000*" located in the Appendices). This also represents any out-of-area participation.

Unit	Participation Rate (Percentage)
Bureau of Land Management, NIFC (FCD)	81%
Bureau of Indian Affairs, NIFC (FCA)	98%
Forest Service, NIFC (FCF)	97%
National Park Service, NIFC (FCP)	97%
Fish & Wildlife Service, NIFC (FCR)	67%
Idaho Department of Lands (IDS)	87%
Bureau of Land Management - State Office (ISO)	79%
Lower Snake River District, BLM (BOD)	88%
Boise National Forest (BOF)	94%

Crews

Type I Crew Mobilizations:

Type I crews were in great demand in 2000 and extremely difficult to acquire. The Boise Hot Shots were mobilized a total of eight times from BDC, traveling off unit but within the Great Basin on eight occasions. Out of region, the Hot Shots assisted in such states as Montana, South Dakota, and Colorado. They were also helpful on large fires as well as initial attack locally.

Statistics for the 2000 fire season:

- 90 Days of Hazardous Duty
- 22 Days in Travel Status
- 16 Days, Extended Attack, large fire assignments
- 03 Initial Attack Fire Assignments
- 05 Days of Standby
- 03 Days assigned to Rehabilitation efforts on the High Meadow incident.

Type II Crew Mobilizations:

Boise Regular Crews

This year, the Forest Service Type II crews were dispatched to six incidents off unit but within the Great Basin and once to Montana. Locally, they were utilized several times as Smokechaser/IA units. At midseason, a third Boise Regular Crew was pieced together for support of large fire activity experienced here on the Forest.

SICI Crews

The Southern Idaho Correctional Institution put together another type II crew this year, bringing the total to three SICI crews. Aside from local use, these crews were dispatched nine times to incidents off unit but within the Great Basin, twice to Arizona, once to New Mexico, once to Kentucky, and once to Virginia in 2000.

Job Corps

The Nampa Job Corps provided the Blue Goose type II crew which was mobilized twice to neighboring Forests, and utilized three times locally.

Contract Crews

This year when BDC ordered Type II hand crews, we received contract handcrews from Oregon and California. These contract crews filled 13 requests on several incidents. This proved to be an educational experience as the need for contract interpretation and purchasing authority became quite evident.

AD Crews

The Boise National Forest and the Lower Snake River District sponsored four additional fire schools in July to enhance the number of resources in our entry level fire fighter pool. Of the more than 120 students, 60 of them were ADs. The BOF hired and utilized two AD Type II crews and the BOD hired and utilized one AD Type II crew on the Trail Creek fire. In addition, the BOF put together two Type II crews from local non-fire forest service employees which were also utilized by our neighbors the Payette National Forest.

Equipment

As previously outlined, BDC ordered 759 requests and processed 272 requests from other units for equipment. The severity of the fire season and the shortage of resources resulted in increased use of private contractors. The table below, helps to illustrate the volume of business transactions with these private vendors.

Type of Contract Resources	Number of Requests Coming In	Number of Requests Going Out
Engines	19	0
Buses	44	21*
Miscellaneous Equipment (<i>Water Tender, Dozers, and Backhoes</i>)	173	0

* Due to the military mobilization for support of neighboring units.

Aircraft Activity

Helicopter Usage

BDC had three exclusive use helicopters at their disposal, one Type III for BOD, one Type III for BOF and a Type II for BOF. The table below illustrates the number of flight hours that occurred during 2000. During any helicopter operation in which any one of the agencies BDC represents is involved, dispatchers of BDC must monitor flight operations. This is true whether or not BDC does the actual flight following, to comply with various agency safety regulations. The significance of this to BDC is in staffing. There must be at least one dispatcher who constantly monitors radio traffic, maintains the 15 minute check in rule, and knows how to handle aircraft issues (late, overdue, downed, etc).

Exclusive Use Helicopters

Unit	Helicopter Make	Fire Mgt. Flight Hours	Hours flown for "other"	Hours flown on unit*	Hours flown off unit	Cargo Internal & External	Gallons of Retardant/Water delivered
BOD	Bell 206 L3	171.2	5.1	146.8	24.4	30,975 lbs.	113,830 gal.
BOF-GV	Bell 407	184.8	12.4	179.4	17.8	89,931 lbs.	143,540 gal.
BOF-GV	AS 350 B2	71.6	0	71.6	0	118,730 lbs.	26,246 gal.
BOF-LP	Bell 212 HP	316.4	100.2	289.2	127.4	826,595 lbs.	554,344 gal.

* Unit refers to the contracted agency.

Exclusive Use helicopters performed various missions in support of wildland fire suppression: Initial Attack, Initial Attack/Rappel, Bucket Support, Demobilization of Resources. The statistics for the 2000 fire season are listed below.

Agency	Helicopter Make/Model	Initial Attack Fires	Number of Operational Rappels	IA fires supported w/bucket	IA fires demobed w/helicopter	Number of Large Fires
BOD	Bell 206 L3	36	N/A	35	36	14
BOF-GV	Bell 407	26	12	24	25	7

Agency	Helicopter Make/Model	Initial Attack Fires	Number of Operational Rappels	IA fires supported w/bucket	IA fires demobed w/helicopter	Number of Large Fires
BOF-GV	AS 350 B2**	3	N/A	3	3	1
BOF-LP	Bell 212 HP	27	8	10	9	17

* BOF Large Fires are 10 acres or bigger; BOD Large Fires are 300 acres or bigger.

** Helicopter was on contract from 9/16/00 - 10/31/00.

On four occasions, BDC provided helicopter assistance to other units with wildland fire suppression activities.

Call When Needed Helicopters

In order for our unit to utilize CWN helicopters, the dispatchers at BDC must follow specific ordering protocols. The amount of time it takes to complete this task can range from 15 minutes to several days depending upon the type and the availability. Due to the heavy fire load, this year the dispatch offices agreed to support their counterparts by hiring local type III helicopters and mobilizing them to other units. The table below illustrates the number of requests, types of helicopters that were hired, in what capacity and for whom (in some cases, aircraft were utilized for multiple requests).

Type of Helo	Local IA	Local Large Fires	Other Units
Type I	1	3	1
Type II Restricted	0	4	0
Type II Standard	2	13	0
Type III	5	12	4

Fixed Wing Usage

BDC uses fixed-winged aircraft for air attack, lead planes, air tankers, and overhead mobilization missions.

Air Attack Platforms

The Lower Snake River District, BLM contracts an aircraft to serve as the Air Attack Platform during the fire season (this year 756VS flew 208.14 flight hours supporting both Boise District BLM and Boise National Forest fires). Typically when a smoke is reported on the Lower Snake River District (BOD), the air attack aircraft is mobilized.

Increasingly, the Boise National Forest is utilizing the “eye in the sky” for early size up and monitoring of fire behavior and fire suppression activities. Unlike the BOD, the BOF does not have an air attack platform on contract. If the fire situation allows, the BOF can request the services of the BOD contract air attack platform. Most times, however, this is not the case and the dispatchers or the aviation officer must hire a fixed-winged aircraft. Like the helicopters, the processing time of hiring a fixed-wing aircraft can take from 15 minutes to several hours. Again, this depends upon the availability of aircraft. Due to the heavy fire load this year, the dispatch offices agreed to support their counterparts’ air attack platform needs by hiring local fixed-wing aircraft and mobilizing them to other units. The table below illustrates the number of requests and for whom (in some cases, aircraft were utilized for multiple requests).

Aircraft	Local IA	Local Large Fires	Other Units
Rentals (OAS and FS)	4	5	1
Exclusive Use Ordered	2	0	3

Lead Planes

Lead planes seemed to be a hot commodity this year, as many new starts required multiple airtankers and helicopters. BDC was host to a lead plane, but at times one was not enough. The table below illustrates the volume of lead plane requests into and out of BDC.

Status	Number of Requests
Local requests	18
Out of area requests	35

Airtanker Retardant and Foam Usage

The Boise Air Tanker Base pumped 1,694,199 gallons in support of local and regional fire incidents in 2000 making it one of the busier tanker bases nationally.

The table below show the number of requests for Airtankers that BDC managed.

Type of Airtanker	Local requests	Out of area requests
Contracted Airtankers	56	164
MAFFS Units	12	12

Interagency Annual Aircraft Use Summary

For the 2000 fire season, the total aircraft flight hours (fixed wing and rotor wing) were 1,062.27 (fire suppression, recon, and rehab only), for a total cost of \$1,255,290.62 (fire suppression, recon, and rehab only). This includes support of out of area incidents as well as within our response area.

Type of Aircraft	Agency Missions	Total Flight Hours	Total Cost
Helicopters	BOD	515.19	\$597,861.37
Helicopters	BOF	472.30	\$343,480.80
Fixed Wing	BOD	274.77	\$70,505.79
Fixed Wing	BOF	257.64	\$55,268.99
Grand Total	All	1,519.90	\$1,067,116.80

Miscellaneous Office Activities

Radio Activity

The radio consoles located at BDC hold 15 different frequencies and 29 tones for the Lower Snake River District; Boise National Forest; and Idaho Department of Lands , Southwest Office. In addition to fire traffic, the dispatcher's spend a portion of their time monitoring miscellaneous radio traffic such as: tracking of non-fire personnel as they complete their projects, medical and other emergencies (for government personnel as well as private citizens), and aircraft tracking. Each year, the amount of aircraft related traffic increases. In 2000 the dispatchers spent a considerable amount of time dealing with many aircraft related radio traffic. The table listed below gives the approximate amount of time spent on various aircraft activities (*also see "Aircraft Radio Traffic for 2000 in appendices*).

Type of Aircraft Radio Activity	Hours	Dispatcher Shifts (One dispatcher working an eight-hour day)	1999 Hours
Fire	1530:16	191.25	1414:05
Courtesy Flight Following	*692:34	86.5	282:50
Rehabilitation	*214:18	26.75	2:49
Aerial Survey	*145:12	18.13	27:40
Reconnaissance	144:50	18.13	157:18
Mapping	66:13	8.25	15:36
Prescribed Fire	37:27	4.63	29:07
Photography	18:24	2.25	24:05
Proficiency	27:13	3.38	8:19
Training	34:05	4.25	75:17
Other	5:59	6:00	20:04

* Note: The significant increase in activity is due in part to improved record keeping in 2000.

The categories of aircraft radio traffic are:

- Courtesy: Flight following for aircraft that are flying into or out of our area; they were not requested from BDC.
- Fire: Aircraft working on fire missions.
- Mapping: Aircraft utilized to map fires in the BDC response area.
- Photo: Non-Fire aerial photography.
- Reconnaissance: Aircraft utilized to recon BDC response areas (fixed and rotor wing).
- Prescribed Fire: Aircraft utilized to complete prescribed fire operations.
- Proficiency: Proficiency and training operations that are affiliated with the BDC.
- Rehabilitation: Aircraft utilized to complete rehabilitation efforts.
- Survey: Non-fire related aerial surveys (snow pack, Big Horn Sheep, etc.)
- Training: Flight following of aircraft not affiliated with the agencies under the BDC.
- Other: All other miscellaneous flights.

The Courtesy and Training categories that are listed are services rendered to agencies that are not included as those in which BDC serves. This includes, but is not limited to, the various offices at NIFC and the Boise Smokejumpers. The significance of this to BDC is the fact that there is no funding provided for the services that are rendered.

Intelligence Activity

The intelligence position in 2000 primarily dealt with accumulating, managing, and disseminating fire information, weather activity, and statistical fire reports. Among the data and reports generated by the intelligence dispatcher were: monthly potential assessment reports, daily fire weather reports, Weather Information Management System data (RAWS and manual weather stations), fire news briefs to the media, daily situation reports to Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center, fire statistical data, and other information.

Intelligence was responsible for archiving a wide variety of fire related data and information, including aircraft statistics, weather reports, situation reports, lightning data, fire statistics, prescribed fire, and airshed data.

A new BDC web site was published on the Internet in April. The site was built, and updated daily by the Intelligence Officer. The site provided useful information to the public, media, and fire organizations on wildfire and prescribed fire activity, FDR, burn indices, press releases, fire restrictions and closures, photo gallery, hiring, frequently asked questions, contact information, GIS fire maps, and information about Boise Dispatch. The site received thousands of “hits” during the fire season.

The Intelligence position was responsible for the daily reporting of prescribed burns to the Idaho/Montana Airshed Group. Intelligence was the primary intermediary between local burners and the Airshed Monitoring Group, and assisted burners with questions and problems associated with smoke management.

In addition, the intelligence dispatcher assisted dispatchers with initial attack dispatching and processing resource orders for local and national incidents.

Receptionist Activity

This position proved, once again, to be a valuable one for not only the overall daily operations, but also for end of the year processes.

Telephone Load

Dispatch continues to receive a large volume of telephone calls, both dispatch related and non-dispatch related. Calls inquiring about jobs and airtanker mobilization comprised our heaviest load this summer, with 100 - 200 calls per day. Due to the number of individuals detailing into this position throughout the summer, the volume was not recorded as accurately during the August and September, and consequently a sharp decline is noticed during these months. (See *"Telephone Load for 2000" in appendices*).

During the busy fire months, we utilized nine other individuals, for multiple shifts, to assist with telephone management at BDC.

Customer Service

In addition to answering the telephone, the receptionist position was responsible for typing, filing, data input, recording burn permits, processing e-mail, creating and updating Red Card files, and updating Forest Service manuals as materials were provided. Providing information to staff and the public concerning phone numbers and locations of Forest Service, Lower Snake River District BLM and Law Enforcement personnel and equipment, as well as other duties as assigned were also part of the receptionist's duties. This year our receptionist was further able to assist with the basic logistical functions of the office as she completed ICS courses in business and dispatching.

Walk in Traffic

During the 2000 fire season there was an almost constant flow of people walking into the Dispatch Office, including pilots, firefighters, people looking for job applications, and vendors looking for any possible work. We also had tours, media people, and people who simply wanted to visit. While Expanded Dispatch was open, a large percentage of traffic was diverted from initial attack.

Public Information Assistance

The receptionist provides a valuable service in providing interagency information to employees and the general public.

Miscellaneous Projects

Center Manager

Steve Waters:

- Smoke Management Coordinator for the Montana Airshed Group, new position for 2000.
- Eastern Great Basin Dispatch steering committee, Chairman.
- Review team member, analyzing Minden Dispatch Center operations.
- Interagency Fire Program management Qualifications Task Group member, developing standard competencies for dispatchers.
- South Eastern Idaho Aviation Plan Review
- Participated in Ada County Interagency Wildfire Simulation exercise.
- S-420 Command and General Staff (roll playing.)

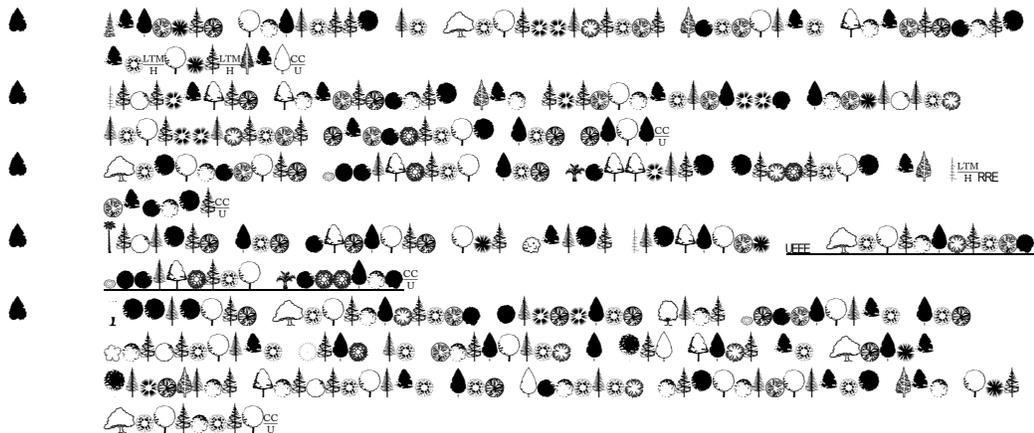
Coordinator Projects

Bonnie Barcus:

- BOD Redcard committee member and program input
- Ross Partner team member
- Arcview/Tactical mapping for Dispatch use
- D-110 course instructor for 2000
- Initial Attack Dispatcher Training course instructor for 2000
- Participant in ICQS session
- IADP course instructor

Karin Frost:

- Red Card Functional Support for Region 4.
- Assisted in the completion of the Fire Danger Operating Plan.
- Coordinated the implementation of the new Forest Service Red



Kole Berriochoa:

- Instructed and coached Expanded Dispatch Recorder and Initial Attack Dispatcher trainees during the course as well as in on-the-job training.
- Updated Red Card information in the database and master record files.
- Assisted with the pre-season suppression reviews on engines, helicopters, and crews.
- Detailed to the Santa Fe National Forest as an Assistant Zone Fire Management Officer for one month.
- Detailed to the Sawtooth National Forest as an Assistant Zone Fire Management Officer for four months and Acting Zone Fire Management Officer for one month. He assisted with the Prescribed burning and completed the Firestat reporting for the Sawtooth South Zone.

Kevin Mason:

- Served as the subject matter expert and forest contact for the FireStat program.
- Introduced the new IAMS program to BDC and served as the resident subject matter expert.
- Instructed and coached Expanded Dispatch Recorder and Initial Attack Dispatcher trainees during the courses as well as on-the-job training.
- Created spreadsheet for tracking abandoned campfires for the forest.
- Installed and maintained the Dispatch Management System (DMS) on all BDC computers.
- Acted as Forest Service Coordinator trainee on several occasions during the Trail Creek fire.
- Served as field certifier for Class A and B sawyers during two S-212 courses.

Mark Rich:

- Updated and renovated the fire boards in dispatch.
- Acted as the BLM Coordinator trainee on several occasions.
- Assisted in the development and implementation forest-wide CAD demonstration.
- Coached Initial Attack Dispatcher trainees during on-the-job training.

Carol Field:

- Instructed and coached Expanded Dispatch Recorder and Initial Attack Dispatcher trainees during the course as well as in on-the-job training.
- Acted as Forest Service Coordinator trainee on several occasions during the Trail Creek fire and MAFFS mobilization.
- Assisted in the development of the “Boise National Forest Radio Use Procedures” video.
- Assisted the Radio Shop in repair and maintenance of repeater sites.

Pat Shanafelt:

- Updated and renovated fire boards in Dispatch.
- Coached Initial attack dispatcher trainees during fire season.
- Supported Expanded Dispatch.

Ann Rutledge:

- Served as an EDRC trainee during the Horn Creek, Burgdorf, Clear Creek, and Trail Creek fires.
- Created the BDC Receptionist Handbook and Detailer guide.
- Put together all the AD hire packets.
- Coached detailers on local processes including how to use the Resource Manager Database, and on how to complete dot mobes.
- Maintained supply levels for BDC.
- Translated all radio logs for BDC to categorical spreadsheets for statistical purposes (BILC annual plan).

Jack Brinkerhoff

- Served in the vacant Initial Attack Dispatch position for the 2000 fire season.

Appendices