

# Boise Interagency Logistics Center

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2002 updates are in red.

Charlie done in blue.

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# **Boise Interagency Coordination Center Annual Activity Report 2002**

## ***Introduction***

### **Highlights of the Year 2002**

#### **Personnel**

Boise Dispatch Center operated most of the 2002 season with a full staff. Tammy Wodarczk filled the Forest Service Logistics Coordinator position with Stacy Lensing and Hope Spriggs as assistant dispatchers. Bonnie Barcus continued as the BLM Logistics Coordinator with Carol Field, Mark Rich, Pat Shanafelt, and Jack Brinkerhoff as assistant dispatchers. The state dispatch position was again filled by Tina Helmick.

Charlie Leonard detailed to the Intelligence desk at the National Interagency Coordination Center for six months (from April to October). Leigh Ann Hislop and Christine Keavey split details on the Intelligence desk at Boise Dispatch during the 2002 fire season to fill the void left by Charlie.

#### **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.. Boise National Forest, Lower Snake River District BLM, and Southwest Idaho State Department of Lands commonly exchange resources to meet wildland suppression goals. The Forest Service and BLM helitack crews freely exchanged personnel for better coverage and utilization. The three agencies worked together and with BSU to provide fire classes with the opportunity for credit through the local university. Additionally, the BLM helitack provided cross-training opportunities for Rural Fire department personnel. The Forest and BLM continued to share an Interagency Aviation Officer, Dane Lee, who provides aviation management expertise for both agencies.

Boise Dispatch Center opened up expanded operations only once this season but remained opened for several weeks due to the Garden Valley Complex. The Complex provided a good opportunity for several local individuals and other detailers to work for a total of 43 days.

The MAFFS (Military Airborne Fire Fighting Systems) training was held in Boise again this year. Boise Dispatch provided logistical support as well as flight following for the lead planes and C-130's training.

The Dispatch Recorder (D-110) and Initial Attack Dispatch courses were presented again in the spring of 2002. Both courses were very successful. The success of these courses was made possible by a number of individuals. The staff at BDC being the principle contributors with help from Mark Barbo (FCD), Deena Weber (ISO), Kelly DeMasters (BOF), Rick Ochoa (NWS), Randy Eardley (BOD), Tim Blake (FCD), Lani Williams (FCD) and Dane Lee (BOF). Both of these courses will be presented again during the spring of 2003.

The local Interagency Type III Overhead Team is comprised of individuals representing the Boise National Forest, Idaho Department of Lands, Lower Snake River BLM, and the National Interagency Fire Center. An interagency board of directors provides support and oversight for these teams. This mix of interagency personnel has been instrumental in managing incidents that exceed the capabilities of local initial attack resources. The team was mobilized this season on just one incident, the Boulder Creek Fire.

Local fire training through the Southwest Idaho Interagency Fire Training (SWIFT) partnership provided fire training to hundreds of federal, state and local firefighters during 2002. Forty-three other agencies took part in the training including Eagle Fire, National Park Service, National Guard, NIFC, Fish and Wildlife, as well as many other local rural and city fire departments. The Lower Snake River District participated in numerous educational projects in cooperation with rural and city fire departments, and local schools. The annual Ada County Emergency Response Exercise in the Boise Foothills drew participation from Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Idaho Department of Lands again this season.

## **Seasonal Weather and Severity**

### ***Summary***

The multi-year drought continued in Idaho this year despite an improvement to near normal annual levels in the 2001/2002 winter snowpack, and an above average amount of rainfall on the Boise National Forest during the summer. Summer precipitation on the Forest (measured from June through September) exceeded the historical average by 1.5 inches overall, most of which fell on the Forest's North Zone. In contrast, the Boise area in 2002 recorded its third lowest annual precipitation amount ever (based on calendar year) at just under seven inches, more than five inches below normal. Overall, the amount of additional water still needed to return SW Idaho to historic average levels ranges from three inches to as much as nine inches (as measured by the Standard Precipitation Index). Drought conditions on the Boise Forest ranged from moderate to severe this year, and the summer increase in precipitation, along with the slight cooling trend in the latter part of the summer, did little to diminish the drought conditions (see 1000-hour fuel moisture data below). The one benefit to the increased summer precipitation was that many of the lightning storms that developed over our protection area this summer were

accompanied by varying amounts of precipitation, which aided firefighters in keeping most fire starts small.

The Lower Snake River District experienced below normal precipitation over much of the District during the summer. Snowpack and precipitation measurements overall were approximately three inches below normal for the desert of southwest Idaho. Rain showers during spring and summer were occasional and very localized as recorded by BLM Remote Automatic Weather Stations (RAWS). During the period from April 1 to October 1 Mountain Home RAWS recorded the least amount of precipitation on the District (at 0.27 inches – historic average is 1.08”), while Horse Butte RAWS recorded the most (at 2.14 inches – historic average is 2.40”). The Boise manual weather station registered just 1.56 inches of precipitation, nearly all of which fell in mid-September.

Temperatures during the summer were fairly average with the exception of July, which experienced significantly higher than average temperatures through much of the month. The highest temperature recorded in SW Idaho in 2002 was 114 degrees on July 13, registered at the Mountain Home RAWS (located at Mountain Home Air Force Base). Boise recorded a high temperature of 110 on July 14. Other peak temperatures recorded on the Lower Snake River District: 104 degrees at Horse Butte RAWS, 109 degrees at Dead Indian Ridge RAWS, both on July 13, and 110 degrees at Twin Butte RAWS on July 14. The Boise Forest recorded its highest temperatures for the year on a single day, July 13, with Bearskin RAWS registering 92 degrees, Pine Creek RAWS 99 degrees, and Town Creek RAWS 106 degrees.

The Boise Forest RAWS recorded below normal 1000-hour fuel moisture readings during the summer, largely due to the drought and higher than normal July temperatures. Bearskin RAWS, the most northerly and highest in elevation (6,700 feet), started the season at near historic maximum 1000-hour fuel moisture levels (25%), but by late May had dropped to average (around 17%), and by June and July Bearskin fuel moisture levels dropped to near historic low levels (7-8%). By mid August, moisture readings had further dropped to around 6% before beginning to rise back up to near normal levels through September. Pine Creek RAWS began the season at near record low 1000-hour fuel moisture levels (15%), and decreased throughout the summer until early September when levels began to gradually increase (to 9%). At no time during the year did 1000-hour fuel moisture levels for Pine Creek RAWS exceed historic averages. Town Creek RAWS, the most southerly and lowest in elevation (4,500 feet), also started the season below average (17% actual versus 19% for an average). Moisture levels bottomed out in mid August at around 6% (about 1% above historic lows for that period), then rose to near average levels by late August, and remained near average for the rest of the fire season.

Live fuel moisture measurements recorded on the Lower Snake River District during the summer were as follows:

<u>Sample Area</u>	<u>June 16</u>	<u>July 14</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Sep 8</u>	<u>Oct 6</u>
Wild West	95%	75%	60%	70%	65%
Kuna	70%	75%	45%	60%	50%
Hammett	170%	105%	105%	65%	85%
Three Creek	140%	120%	NR	70%	70%

NR = no report.

### ***Winter Snowpack Summary***

The water year runs from October 1 to September 30. Using April 23 as the benchmark date for comparing snowpack water content levels for 2002 with past years, the following table shows annual water content levels as a percentage of the long-term average.

<u>Drainage</u>	<u>2002 Water Year</u>	<u>2001 Water Year</u>	<u>2000 Water Year</u>
Boise	97%	64%	95%
Weiser/Payette	102%	59%	95%
Bruneau	92%	74%	78%
Owyhee	91%	83%	80%

### ***WIMS Indices***

All three agencies represented by Boise Dispatch use the Burning Index (BI) to set dispatch response levels. This National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) scale is used to determine difficulty of fire containment, as it is largely based upon flame length. The Lower Snake River District relies on the burn index because it is also partially reliant on wind measurements, and can be a primary determiner of a light fuel (grass and brush) fire's potential to spread.

In addition to using BI to set staffing levels, the Boise National Forest also uses the Energy Release Component (ERC) to measure critical burning conditions. This scale is a good early indicator of a potentially busy fire season. It is derived from a combination of fuel type, fuel loading, and dead and live fuel moisture samples, and is a good model to use in heavier fueled forest lands. The Boise Forest has several RAWS stations grouped together into Special Interest Groups (SIG's) in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS) to provide broader scale averages of NFDRS indices on the Boise National Forest.

#### ***FDR1 Narrative:***

Upper elevation locations on the Boise National Forest are represented by FDR1, a Special Interest Group (SIG) comprised of three RAWS stations located on the Boise and Payette National Forests. This group best represents conditions on the North Zone of the Boise National Forest.

FDR2 Narrative:

Lower elevation locations on the Boise National Forest are represented by FDR2, a Special Interest Group comprised of four RAWS stations located on the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests. This group best represents conditions on the South Zone of the Boise National Forest.

<b>BOF SIG: FDR1</b>	<b>BOF SIG: FDR2</b>
Ski Hill (101223)	Pine Creek (101222)
Bearskin (101221)	Town Creek (101708)
Pine Creek (101222)	Fleck Summit (102802)
	North Fork RS (102903)

The tables below show the number of days Boise National Forest ERC and burn index (BI) indices exceeded critical breakpoints (90 and 97 percent) in 2002:

*Energy release component (ERC):*

	<u>90 percentile</u>	<u>97 percentile</u>
Bearskin RAWS:	17 days	5 days
Pine Creek RAWS:	21 days	6 days
Town Creek RAWS:	26 days	8 days
BOF FDR1 SIG:	22 days	7 days
BOF FDR2 SIG:	21 days	7 days

*Burn indices (BI):*

	<u>90 percentile</u>	<u>97 percentile</u>
Bearskin RAWS:	12 days	4 days
Pine Creek RAWS:	21 days	7 days
Town Creek RAWS:	15 days	7 days
BOF FDR1 SIG:	19 days	6 days
BOF FDR2 SIG:	25 days	7 days

The table below shows the number of days the Lower Snake River District BI indices exceeded critical breakpoints (80 and 95 percent) in 2002:

	<u>80 percentile</u>	<u>95 percentile</u>
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Boise South Manual Station:	32 days	10 days
Dead Indian Ridge RAWS:	49 days	6 days
Brace Flat RAWS:	38 days	9 days
Horse Butte RAWS:	37 days	9 days
Mountain Home RAWS:	25 days	4 days
Triangle RAWS:	39 days	9 days
Pole Creel RAWS:	38 days	9 days
Twin Butte RAWS:	40 days	9 days

### ***Fuel Loading***

Fuel loading on the Lower Snake River District was above the six-year annual average for cheatgrass, litter and forbs by 757 pounds per acre. The total measured weight in 2002 was 5,304 pounds per acre. The average total measured weight (based on the previous six year average) is 4,547 pounds per acre.

## ***Fire Activity***

### **Overview**

Overall southwest Idaho experienced slightly above average fire starts in 2002, but total acres burned were well below the norm for this area. Only the Lower Snake River District experienced a below average number of fires in 2002.

A breakdown of first and last fires in 2002 for each agency:

- Lower Snake River District (BOD) experienced its first fire of the season on April 23 (83 acres), and its last fire on December 16 (2 acres).
- Boise National Forest (BOF) experienced its first fire of the season on May 6 (0.1 acre), and its last fire on November 27 (0.1 acre).
- Idaho Department of Lands experienced its first fire on April 23 (8.0 acres), and its last fire on November 4 (5.5 acres).

### **Boise National Forest (fires over 10 acres)**

<b>Fire Number</b>	<b>Fire Name</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Comments</b>
P41519	Andersen/Danskin	5/20/02	437	Local Type III Team
P41570	Boulder Creek #2	7/17/02	12	Type III Team
P41576	Middle Fork	7/23/02	108	
P41577	Shasta	7/23/02	53	
P41593	Johnson Creek #2	7/23/02	166	
P41588	Bearskin	7/23/02	15	
P41590	Danskin #2	7/23/02	286	

P41587	Big Guy	7/23/02	240	
P41598	No Man #3	7/23/02	92	
P41606	Tin Cup	8/12/02	20	
P41607	Illinois Gulch	8/13/02	43	
P41597	East Fork	8/1/02	144	

The Boise Forest had 76 smoke reports on July 23, 2002, the single busiest fire day for the Forest. Most of the active fires that started on the North Zone on that date became part of the Garden Valley Complex of fires. Of the 76 reported smokes, 6 became large fires (over 50 acres), 13 were duplicate fire reports, and 28 were never located. Two fires were caught at four acres, two at three acres, and the remaining fires were contained at less than an acre.

The Forest had 260 reported fires, which is 66% above the ten-year average, and burned 1,755 acres, only 4% of the statistical ten-year average. (The years 1992, 1994 and 2000 all experienced significant fire seasons, which inflated the annual average acres burned.)

#### Idaho Department of Lands (fires over 10 acres)

Fire Number	Fire Name	Start Date	Acres	Comments
614008	Seven Sisters	7/14/02	16	
614502	Grimes Creek	9/13/02	12	

The Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office, experienced its busiest fire day (acres burned) on July 17, with eight fires for a combined total of 19 acres burned.

#### Lower Snake River District (fires over 1,000 acres)

Fire Number	Fire Name	Start Date	Acres	Comments
F323	Grinder	6/26/02	3,459	
F324	Roses	6/26/02	3,459	
F345	Guff	7/8/02	1,346	
F346	Jack Knife	7/8/02	1,346	Type II Team staged
F350	Webb	7/8/02	2,583	
F007	Chip	7/13/02	3,629	
F016	Big Crow	7/14/02	2,800	
F024	Clot	7/22/02	4,218	
F033	Horse Skin	7/25/02	8,140	
F079	Sheepshead	10/18/02	2,120	

The BLM experienced its busiest fire day (in acres burned) on July 25, with four fires that burned a combined total of 8,233 acres.

## Fire Cause Statistics

The Lower Snake River District BLM suppressed a total of 101 fires for 42,875 acres burned (28,824 of those acres were on BLM managed lands). This is less than the previous five-year average for both fires and acres. Lightning caused 58 fires, and accounted for 36,470 acres of the total acreage burned. Human caused fires numbered 42, and accounted for 6,403 acres burned. LSRD fire crews responded to 10 false alarms during the year.

The Boise National Forest had a total of 260 fires for 1,756 acres burned (1,689 acres were USFS ownership). The number of fire starts on the Forest in 2002 was nearly double the annual average. The acreage burned was less than the five year average, but only because 2000 had a single event, the Trail Creek fire, which alone burned 34,759 acres. Lightning-caused fires numbered 205 for 1,217 acres burned. Human-caused fires numbered 55 for 539 acres burned. Occurrences of non-statistical, abandoned campfires totaled 382 this season. This is a dramatic increase from last year's count of 164 reported abandoned campfires. The Forest received 53 false alarm fire reports and unable-to-locate fire reports in which fire crews took some responsive action.

The Idaho Department of Lands had a total of 45 fires for a total of 57 acres burned (only four acres were State ownership). Lightning caused 36 fires for 32 acres burned. Human caused fires numbered 9 for 25 acres burned.

## Recent Fire Data

The following table provides a comparison of this year's fires and acres by agency with data from the previous ten years. (Acres shown are total acres, not solely agency acres.)

Year	LSRD Fires	LSRD Acres	BOF Fires	BOF Acres	IDL Fires	IDL Acres
1992	96	175,401	297	207,065		
1993	47	4,815	104	29		
1994	86	35,842	148	198,885		
1995	121	186,506	279	1,736		
1996	159	234,592	108	16,264	18	3,016
1997	116	24,380	134	164	12	75
1998	85	11,642	160	1,726	11	3
1999	145	92,102	120	171	17	48
2000	117	142,058	93	35,848	15	4
2001	138	71,768	196	115	36	443

<b>2002</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>42,875</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>57</b>
<i>10 Yr. Averages</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>97,910</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>46,200</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>598</i>
<i>(1992-2001)</i>					<i>(6 year average)</i>	<i>(6 year average)</i>

## Fire Assist Information

### Assists among Boise Dispatch's supporting agencies:

- § LSRD provided fire suppression assistance to the Boise Forest on 15 incidents. LSRD also provided assistance to rural and city fire departments on 7 incidents, and provided assistance to the Department of Lands on 6 incidents.
- § BOF assisted IDL on ten incidents, BOD on 4 incidents and SITPA on one incident.
- § No assists were provided from IDL to the Forest.

BDC dispatched the following local resources to provide initial attack and support assistance to adjacent forests and districts:

- § **Vale District BLM (VAD):**
  - < Eight commercial air tankers and twenty-three MAFFS Units (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).
  - < Ten lead planes.
  - < One air attack aircraft
  - < Eleven overhead personnel
  - < Eight agency engines and two contract engines
  - < Thirty-two buses
- § **Salmon/Challis National Forest (SCF)**
  - < Two air tankers and four MAFFS Units (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident)
  - < Two lead planes
  - < One Type 2 helicopter
  - < One Type 1 crew
  - < One Type 2 crew
  - < One agency and two contract engines
  - < Forty-seven overhead personnel (Includes two type 2 team orders and one buying team)
- § **Payette National Forest (PAF):**
  - < Three commercial air tankers and two MAFFS Units (does not include

multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).

- < One lead plane
- < One Type 2 helicopter
- < One Type 3 helicopter
- < Four Type 2 crews
- < Two overhead personnel
- < Twelve buses

§ **National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC):**

- < Nineteen overhead personnel

§ **Southern Idaho Dispatch (SID):**

- < Four air tankers and eight MAFFS Units (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident)
- < Four lead planes
- < Two Type 3 helicopters
- < Two Type 2 crews
- < Seventeen overhead personnel
- < Six Agency engines and Thirteen Contract engines
- < Three buses

§ **Sawtooth National Forest (STF):**

- < Four commercial air tankers (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident).
- < Two lead planes.
- < One air attack
- < One Type 2 helicopter
- < One Type 3 helicopter
- < One Type 1 crew.
- < One Type 2 crew
- < Seven overhead personnel.
- < One agency engine



§ **Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTF):**

- < Six MAFFS Units (does not include multiple sorties by a single ship on one incident)
- < Two lead planes
- < One Type 2 crew

< Five contract engines

## *Prescribed Burning and Smoke Management*

The Boise National Forest's prescribed fire accomplishments in 2002 increased over those completed the previous two years despite consistently dry burning conditions during much of the burning season. Burners made use of small windows in both spring and fall to complete several burn projects. A burn ban issued for SW Idaho by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in November temporarily shut down several burns in November. The final prescribed fire accomplishment for the Forest in 2002 was 27 burns for 5,467 acres treated.

The Forest increased the use of mechanical treatments with an emphasis on protecting wildland-urban interface areas. In addition to treating areas with prescribed fire, over 2300 acres of mechanical hazardous fuel reduction was accomplished by contractors and local cooperators, as well as using local resources under cooperative agreements to create defensible spaces near wildland-urban interface and intermix areas. This included shaded fuel breaks, and treating areas adjacent to private land boundaries.

The Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office completed 13 prescribed burn projects for 2,660 acres completed. The smoke management restrictions affected operations on several days, but did not prevent them from completing the majority of burning. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality also issued a burn ban in that affected several burn projects between Department of Land and the Boise Forest for about a week in November when air quality in the Treasure Valley was declared unhealthful.

The Lower Snake River District prescribed fire program accomplished 1,032 acres on two prescribed burns, much of it fence line tumbleweed reduction around the District. Air quality restrictions did not impact the timing of District burns this year.

For the third year the three primary land management agencies in SW Idaho have complied with prescribed fire smoke/airshed management policies established by the Montana-Idaho States Airshed Coordinating Group. The procedures adopted provide burn information to the Montana Monitoring Unit in compliance with DEQ Smoke Management Guidelines. This year the smoke/airshed monitoring web site was changed to allow burners to directly input burn data themselves rather than having Boise Dispatch input daily burn requests each day. Boise Dispatch, through the Intelligence desk, continues to provide technical support and regulatory guidance, as well as reporting assistance for burners as needed. Boise Dispatch remains the primary liaison between the burning community and the Airshed Coordinating Group for problems and dispute resolution.

**2002 Prescribed Burn Statistics**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Numbers of Burns</b>	<b>Acres Accomplished</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>Lower Snake River District</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>Prescribed Fires</b>
<b>Lower Snake River District</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>WFURB</b>
<b>Boise National Forest</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5,467</b>	<b>Prescribed Fires</b>
<b>Boise National Forest</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>WFURB</b>
<b>Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>Prescribed Fires</b>
<b>Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>WFURB</b>

## ***Logistical Activity Statistics***

### **BDC Operational Periods**

Boise Dispatch Center had a designated Night Dispatcher position for the 2002 season. The office started its 24-hour coverage June 24<sup>th</sup> and ended August 24<sup>th</sup>, when the summer temporary employee returned to teaching school. Beyond that window we had 30 other days where we had the office open 24 hours. The combined total for 24 hour shifts in dispatch for 2002 was 90 days. The night shift again proved to be very beneficial for the well being of the other dispatchers as it was no longer necessary for people that had been on duty all day to then take the cell phone home at night. It also alleviated the need to find someone to work the night shift when needed, saving a great deal of time and relieving stress. The office shifted to seven day coverage June 16<sup>th</sup> due to early fire activity. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, dispatch shifted back to a Monday through Friday schedule.

The BDC went expanded July 17<sup>th</sup> for the Type 3 Boulder Creek Fire and remained open through August 27<sup>th</sup> in support of Garden Valley Complex and other large fires.

### **Boise Mobilization Center**

The Boise Mobilization Center was utilized off and on throughout the 2002 fire season. The first activation of the Boise Mob Center was on June 1<sup>st</sup> with much activity occurring throughout June. On July 1<sup>st</sup> the Mobilization Center was opened full time. Although the fire activity in our region was minimal, the Mobilization Center was impacted quite heavily by fire activity in other regions. With the Military and International agreements set in motion we had numerous firefighters and trainers from other countries arrive to support the fire activity occurring in Oregon.

As of this date 3460 personnel moved through the Mobilization Center. Of the 3460 personnel, 900+ were Canadian firefighters, 48 were New Zealand and Australians. This count included one group of MCADS for a military battallion, the second group of MCADS were cancelled after most of them arrived. The last activity of the Mobilization Center was September 14<sup>th</sup> when the New Zealand and Australian Firefighters departed.

Resources Mobilized to and from Boise Interagency Logistics Center

*Number of resource orders processed:*

Boise Interagency Dispatch processed a total of 552 orders. Of the 552 orders 207 of these orders were from outside the Great Basin. Each order usually has multiple requests. The total number of individual overhead requests that BDC processes during the 2002 fire season was 908. This does not include the unable to fill and cancelled requests.

## **Overhead**

### **Smokejumpers:**

Smokejumpers from McCall and Boise were ordered by BDC on 18 occasions during the 2002 fire season. LSRD ordered BLM jumpers for a lightning caused fire on July 10 and ordered forest service McCall jumpers for another lightning caused fire on July 15. Both fires grew to only one acre. Boise National ordered jumpers for 14 lightning fires and the State used jumpers on 2 fires. The smokejumpers also assisted with prescribed burn projects on the Forest.

### **Fill Statistics:**

In 2002 BDC processed a total of 2,022 overhead requests as compared to 1,184 requests for 2001. 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 or not, this process can take anywhere from five minutes to one hour or more for each request. If the request is filled, the dispatcher must set up travel and communicate the commitment of the resource to the appropriate dispatch center. In 2002 the bulk of the requests were from within the Geographic Area, with BDC filling over 83 requests for Nevada, 213 requests for Utah, and 18 requests for the Bridger-Teton in Wyoming. BDC also filled 61 mostly overhead requests for Colorado, and filled 172 total requests for Oregon. The requests for Oregon consisted of 66 overhead, 6 crews, 48 aircraft orders, and 52 equipment orders. The significant number of aircraft requests were for airtankers, including MAFFS, to the Vale District BLM.

AD/EFF folks are playing a greater and greater role in filling positions in the fire organization. Boise Dispatch Center filled 55 overhead requests with AD hires this season, 38 of those were assignments out of the state.

### **Hardest to Fill Positions:**

The BDC turned back a total of 221 requests for overhead during the 2002 season. Typical hard to fill positions were in air operations: HELB, HCWN, even HECM. Other hard to fill positions were DIVS, DOZB's and SOF2's. Although BDC has a large number of individuals qualified for those positions (with the exception of SOF2), the number of requests has been greater than we can supply and still maintain necessary staffing levels at home.

### **Dispatch Support From BDC**

Due to local fire activity experienced over the summer, the BDC dispatchers were unable to take fire assignments outside the local area this season. The Center Manager had one off unit fire assignment in 2002. He worked a 14 day assignment at the National Coordination Center. A couple of individuals assisted NICC for short periods, and Charlie Leonard detailed to the National Interagency Coordination Center Intelligence desk for the fire season (120 days). Dispatch positions that were filled from other local talent were a total of four Coordinators to Colorado, Montana, Oregon, and Utah, one Expanded Supervisory Dispatchers (EDSP) to Utah and one trainee to Nevada. Expanded Support Dispatchers (EDSD) were sent to Virginia and a trainee went to Shoshone, Idaho. Expanded operations within the BDC provided experience for three EDSP's, two EDSD's and one trainee, and six Expanded Dispatch Recorders (EDRC) and three trainees. The National Coordination Center also provided experiences for one EDSP, three EDSD's, and seven EDRC's and one EDRC trainee. Initial Attack Dispatchers (IADP) from the local pool filled assignments in Oregon and South Carolina.

## Crews

### Type I Crew Mobilizations:

The Idaho City Hotshot Crew and the Boise Hotshot Crew were both gone on out of area assignments most of the summer. The states that the Hotshot crews traveled to were Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, California, Oregon and Idaho.

#### Boise Hotshots

Statistics for the 2001 fire season:

- 155 Days in Pay Status
- 30 Days in Travel Status
- 19 Days Off
- 19 Large Fire Assignments
- 6 Initial Attack Fire Assignments

#### Idaho City Hotshots

Statistics for the 2002 fire season:

- 178 Days in Pay Status
- 33 Days in Travel Status
- 9 Days Off
- 20 Large fire assignments
- 5 Initial Attack Fire Assignments

### Type II Crew Mobilizations:

Boise Regular Crews had 6 assignments outside the local area. Those assignments

included one to the Sawtooth National Forest, one to California, two to Oregon, and one to Utah.

SICI Crews had 5 assignments outside the local area. One assignment to the Salmon/Challis, one assignment to the Sawtooth National Forest, and three assignments to Utah.

Job Corps crews The Blue Goose had two assignments to Utah.

Contract Crews were mobilized for 9 assignments. One assignment to the PAF and eight assignments to Utah.

BDC did not mobilize an AD crew this season.

### Equipment Statistics

Equipment Used	Number of Requests Coming In		Number of Requests Going Out	
	Agency	Contract	Agency	Contract
Engines	49	11	35	66
Dozers	1	18	2	0
Water Tenders	6	29	0	2
Buses	0	3	0	61

### Aircraft Activity

Boise Dispatch Center (BDC) dispatchers monitor flight operations for flights that involve agency personnel. This includes point-to-point flights passing through SW Idaho, and courtesy flight following for non-agency aircraft if requested. A significant amount of time is spent by dispatchers handling flight operations, as demonstrated by the number of radio log hours shown in the Radio Activity section of this report.

In 2002 the LSRD paved a parking ramp adjacent to the Air Attack Base where the new Boise Helitack crew is based.

#### Helicopter Use

Boise Dispatch Center had three exclusive use helicopters at its disposal, one Type III contracted by LSRD, and a Type III and Type II contracted by BOF.

The LSRD Type 3 helicopter (AS 350 B2) was on contract from June 10 to October 3, 2002, and was based at the Boise Airport. Its contract was not extended after the contract expired. The ship flew a total of 202.3 hours on fire and non-fire missions. It was utilized for initial attack on emerging fires 19 times, and spent 25 days on extended fire assignments. The ship delivered 82,546 gallons of water via bucket for fire suppression, and transported 349 fire fighters during active incidents. The helicopter and crew went off District twice on fire assignments, once to the Dixie National Forest in Utah, and once to Southern Idaho BLM District.

Non-fire suppression flight hours for the LSRD contract ship were as follows:

- < Aerial GPS fire mapping: 13.0 hours
- < Wild horse survey flights: 9.2 hours
- < Fire prevention flights: 0.3 hours
- < Bridge component transportation on the Boise Front: 1.3 hours

In addition to the contract helicopter, the District also hired two Call When Needed (CWN) helicopters for the Webb fire near Emmett. One was a restricted UH1 helicopter, and the other was a S-61 helicopter. These helicopters were released following the conclusion of this fire.

The Boise National Forest had two helicopters on contract for the fire season. The Type 2 helicopter (Bell 212) was stationed at the new Lucky Peak Helibase north of Boise, and was on contract from June 13 to September 30, 2002. The ship flew a total of 224.5 hours for fire suppression, and 14.7 hours for non-fire missions. It flew 129.1 hours on the Boise Forest and 95.4 hours off Forest. It was utilized for initial attack on 39 emerging fires and ten large fires. The ship delivered 253,560 gallons of water/foam, and transported 1,646 personnel in support of fire suppression operations. It successfully completed 31 operational rappels to staff nine incidents.

The Garden Valley Type 3 helicopter (Bell 407) was on contract from June 1 to October 9, 2002. The ship flew a total of 289.2 hours for fire suppression, and 16.1 hours for non-fire missions. It flew 238.6 hours on the Boise Forest and 50.6 hours off the Boise Forest. It was utilized for initial attack on 72 emerging fires and five large fires. The ship delivered 87,638 gallons of water/foam and transported 874 personnel in support of fire suppression operations. It successfully completed 56 operational rappels to staff 25 incidents.

#### Call When Needed Helicopters

Call when needed helicopters were utilized several times between the Lower Snake River District and Boise National Forest in 2002. The LSRD Webb fire had one Sikorsky S-61 Type 1 helicopter and a UH1 Type 2 helicopter assigned to it. The Boise Forest Garden Valley Complex had the following CWN helicopters assigned:

- < Type 1: One Boeing Chinook 234, one Sikorsky S58, and a Kaman Kamax.

- < Type 2: Four Bell 212 ships, one UH1, and a 205A restricted.
- < Type 3: One AS 350B A Star.

### Fixed Wing Use

Boise Dispatch Center uses fixed-winged aircraft for air attack, lead planes, air tankers and overhead transportation missions. Aerial reconnaissance is another major use of fixed wing aircraft hired by this office. Fire is the main use in this category, but there are also flights for wildlife and vegetation reconnaissance as part of resource management.

### Air Attack Platforms

The air attack platform contracted by the Lower Snake River District (a Shrike Commander 500) flew a total of 233.45 hours during the 2002 fire season (it was also hired outside of the contract period and flew an additional 36 hours). Of this total, 176.71 hours was as an air attack platform, 43.78 hours for fire detection, 7.13 hours for fire monitoring, 2.13 hours for prescribed fire, and 3.7 hours for non-fire project missions. The aircraft directed 121 aerial retardant drops on incidents. The aircraft was assigned to 29 fires for the Lower Snake River District, 39 fires for the Boise National Forest, four fires for Idaho Department of Lands, three fires for Ada County, two fires for Southern Idaho BLM, two fires for the Sawtooth National Forest, and one fire each for Vale District BLM, Payette National Forest and Salmon-Challis National Forest. This amounts to a total of 82 separate fires flown. Two ATGS trainees flew missions on the aircraft this fire season, and one was signed off as fully qualified.

The Boise National Forest air attack platform (a Cessna 210) was on contract for 90 days, and flew a total of 257.28 hours, of which 16.28 hours were supporting fire operations on the Lower Snake River District. As well, a call when needed (CWN) Cessna T206 was hired several times by the Boise Forest to assist in air attack missions in 2002. It flew a total of 108.6 hours during the fire season.

### Lead Planes

During the 2002 fire season several military Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) aircraft were stationed in Boise to support large fires burning in the West. This necessitated bringing in several MAFFS qualified lead planes to operate with the MAFFS. These aircraft were tracked and flight-followed through Boise Dispatch.

### Airtanker Retardant Use

Two air tankers were assigned to the Boise Tanker Base during the 2002 season, a Neptune P2V (Tanker 48) and Neptune SP2H (Tanker 01). Combined, these two aircraft dropped a total of 618,625 gallons of retardant in 2002. The Boise Air Tanker Base pumped a total of 905,502 gallons of retardant in 2002. Of this total, 395,052 gallons were dropped on BLM fires, 470,252 gallons on Forest Service fires, 35,740 gallons on Idaho Department of Lands fires and 4,458 gallons on Bureau of Indian Affairs fires.

Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) aircraft were stationed in Boise to support large fires burning in the West for the latter part of the fire season. For statistics on MAFFS usage refer to the *Fire Assist Information* section of this report.

## Miscellaneous Office Activities

### Radio Activity

Boise Dispatch radio consoles utilize 15 different frequencies and 29 separate tones for the Lower Snake River District, Boise National Forest, and Idaho Department of Lands Southwest Office. In addition to fire traffic, dispatcher's spend a portion of their time monitoring miscellaneous radio traffic such as tracking of personnel in the field, medical and other emergencies (for government personnel as well as private citizens), and aircraft tracking. Radio traffic at Boise Dispatch continues to increase with continuing additional demands placed on the Center for radio time, especially from non-primary offices and agencies. This includes adjoining agency/office resources (surrounding national forests and BLM districts), the National Interagency Fire Center, local fire departments, contractors, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, BLM Idaho State Office, and civilian aircraft.

A breakdown of aircraft radio traffic to Dispatch for 2002 is as follows (hours : minutes):

Boise National Forest, 1,351:25 hours	Lower Snake River District, 526:54 hours
Idaho Department of Lands, 21:49 hours	ID Fish and Game, 32:53 hours
Office of Aircraft Services, 5:56 hours	National Weather Service, 11:27 hours
Bureau of Reclamation, 6:04 hours	US Fish and Wildlife Service, 14:15 hours
Smokejumper aircraft, 215:22 hours	Other*, 818:40

\*Other refers to all federal, state and local agencies and offices not listed above.

Significant non-aircraft radio traffic in 2002 included:

Lower Snake River District fire rehabilitation, 100:31 hours.

Prescribed fire, LSRD 55:10 hours; BOF 49:23 hours; and IDL 55:18 hours.

The table below gives an approximation of the amount of radio time spent on various aircraft operations. The hours were derived from radio logs at each console. Some aircraft radio traffic in Dispatch was logged on fire incident run cards, and is not reflected in the figures below.

Type of <u>Aircraft</u> <u>Radio Activity</u>	2002 Hours	2001 Hours	2000 Hours	1999 Hours
Fire	1,883:35	1,050:13	1,530.16	1,414:05
	44:07	139:06		

Courtesy Flight Following			*692:34	282:50
Rehabilitation	90:13	41:53	*214:18	2:49
Aerial Surveys	104:23	191:34	*145:12	27:40
Reconnaissance/Detection	255:59	1,105:13	144:50	157:18
Mapping	33:18	51:22	66:13	15:36
Prescribed Fire	73:25	00:00	37:27	29:07
Photography	11:56	00:00	18:24	24:05
Proficiency	103:31	34:40	27:13	8:19
Training	401:04	257:38	34:05	75:17
Other	17:22	13:22	5:59	20:04

The categories of aircraft radio traffic are:

- § Courtesy: Flight following for aircraft that are flying into or out of our area on missions for other offices that BDC is not responsible for; 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 for reconnaissance of the BDC response area (fixed and rotor wing).
- § Prescribed Fire: Aircraft utilized to complete prescribed fire operations.
- § Proficiency: Proficiency and training operations that are affiliated with 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 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 are no additional funds provided for the services that are rendered and the added workload on dispatchers.

## Intelligence Activity

The intelligence position in 2002 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 are: 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, prescribed fire data, geographic information systems generated maps 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 and prescribed fire statistics, and airshed data.

The Boise Dispatch web site, published to the Internet in 2000 was updated daily by the Intelligence Officer. The site provided useful information to the public, media, and fire organizations on wildfire and prescribed fire activity, fire danger ratings, 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 receives thousands of hits during each fire season.

The Intelligence desk is the primary intermediary between local burners and the Montana-Idaho States Airshed Coordinating Group, and assists burners with questions and problems associated with smoke management. Intelligence is the primary subject matter expert for solving website problems and instructing burners in reporting procedures. It also is the primary contact between the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) air quality office and local burners for issuances of burning restrictions issued by the DEQ.

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

### **Receptionist Activity**

The receptionist position remains a valuable asset to the overall daily operations of Dispatch. This position relieves the workload on the dispatchers by answering routine questions from the public and agency individuals. The position is still under the SECEP program sponsored by the Forest Service and has restrictions placed on the number of hours that can be worked in a year. Due to these restrictions the receptionist remains only a part time position.

#### Telephone Load

Dispatch continues to receive a large volume of telephone calls, both dispatch related and non-dispatch related. A total of 16,160 calls were handled by the receptionist alone from January to December, 2002. Of those, 12,772 calls were dispatch related and 3,388 were non-dispatch

related. The peak months for telephone traffic were May through September, peaking in July with 4,662 calls received by the receptionist that month. These figures do not include calls taken by dispatchers during the year (those figures are not maintained).

### Customer Service

In addition to answering the telephone, the receptionist position is responsible for typing, filing, data input, recording burn permits, and for updating Forest Service manuals as materials are 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 are all a part of the receptionist's duties.

## **Center Personnel Projects**

### Center Manager

#### *Steve Waters:*

- § Smoke Management Coordinator for the Montana Airshed Group.
- § MAC Group Coordinator for local incidents.
- § COR for National Contract Crews and Engines.
- § Coordinator assignment at NICC.
- § D-110 Dispatch Recorder instructor for 2002.
- § FEMA assignment at Salt Lake City Olympics.
- § Participated in Ada County Interagency Wildfire Simulation exercise.

### Coordinator Projects

#### *Bonnie Barcus:*

- § BOD Redcard committee member and program input
- § ROSS Partner team member
- § Attended ROSS system administrator training session
- § Lead for WildCad Implementation
- § Arcview mapping for Fire Reports and WildCad
- § D-110 course coordinator and instructor.

#### *Tammy Wodarczak*

- § Boise National Forest Red Card Committee Member
- § Detailed to Oregon for a fire assignment on the Biscuit Fire.

§ D-110 course Instructor.

Dispatcher Projects

*Charlie Leonard:*

- § Maintained the Boise Dispatch Center website containing fire and dispatch related information.
- § Assisted in the installation and integration of the new Mountain Home Remote Automatic Weather Station into the LSRD RAWs system.
- § Taught two first aid classes to LSRD personnel and fire fighters.
- § Was a course developer and instructor in the 36-hour GPS for ICS national course. Developed student pre-work package and exercise. Coordinated student nominations and selections for both the North Carolina and California classes. Developed and coordinated course field exercises.
- § Taught at the 2002 Fire Academy held in April at Boise State University.
- § Maintained statistical spreadsheets and documents for tracking year 2002 wildfires, prescribed fires, weather and smoke/airshed data.
- § Continued work on a detailed instruction manual for the BDC Intelligence position.
- § Completed six month detail on Intelligence desk at National Interagency Coordination Center (April - October). Shared coordinator responsibilities on that desk.
- § Assignment to Boise Forest for GPS aerial fire mapping.
- § Acted as principle contact and subject matter expert for prescribed fire burners and the Smoke/Airshed Coordinating Group. Assisted burners with reporting problems on the reporting website.
- § Completed National Large Fires Map for 2002 using GIS for a National Academy of Public Administration publication on wildfire management.

*Carol Field:*

- § D-110 course instructor.
- § IADP course instructor and coach.
- § Detailed to NICC as supervisory dispatcher for the overhead desk during planning level 5.
- § Assisted with on-the-job training of detailers and new personnel.
- § Assisted the Radio Shop in repair and maintenance of repeater sites.

*Stacy Lensing:*

- § D-110 course coach.

- \$ BOF Red Card Manager
- \$ ROSS Partner.
- \$ ROSS System Administration Instructor.
- \$ ROSS Dispatch Instructor.
- \$ Detail to ROSS as a subject matter expert (SME) and assisting with the development of training materials for ROSS.

*Hope Spriggs:*

- \$ Assisted with Redcard data entry for BOF.
- \$ Assisted with FireStat entry for BOF.
- \$ D-110 course instructor and coach.
- \$ IADP course instructor and coach.
- \$ Wildcad System Administrator.
- \$ Set up Wildcad for the FS and trained dispatchers on its use.
- \$ Maintained and updated the Resource Manager dispatch database.
- \$ Created and maintained Team Rosters.
- \$ Performed as fire data steward for the BOF fire GIS library.

*Mark Rich:*

- \$ Updated and renovated the fire boards in dispatch.
- \$ Acted as the BLM Coordinator trainee on several occasions.
- \$ Coached Initial Attack Dispatcher trainees.

*Pat Shanafelt:*

- \$ Updated and renovated fire boards in Dispatch.
- \$ Coached Initial attack dispatcher trainees.
- \$ Aircraft dispatcher during the heaviest activity.
- \$ D-110 instructor and coach
- \$ IADP instructor and coach

*Jack Brinkerhoff*

- \$ Designated night shift dispatcher for the summer. This was the second season Jack worked the night shift
- \$ Handled BLM, State and FS initial attack fires, as well as ongoing incidents for the three agencies.

Receptionist

*Ann Rutledge:*

- \$ Updated the BDC Receptionist Handbook and Detailer guide.
- \$ Assisted with Resource Orders in Dispatch when short handed.
- \$ Put together the AD hire packets.
- \$ Coached detailers on local processes including how to use the Resource Manager Database.
- \$ Maintained supply levels for BDC.
- \$ Translated all radio logs for BDC to spreadsheets for statistical purposes (BILC annual report).
- \$ Tracked phone calls to BDC.
- \$ Attended IADP training

# Appendices

# Boise Interagency Logistics Center

## Legend

- ▲ Remote Automatic Weather Stations
- Lower Snake River District
- Duck Valley Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Boise National Forest
- Military Reservations
- National Parks & Monuments
- Open water
- Private Ownership
- State of Idaho
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Boise Dispatch Response Boundary





