

Boise Interagency Logistics Center

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Boise Interagency Coordination Center Annual Activity Report 2003

Introduction

Highlights of the Year 2003

Personnel

Boise Dispatch Center operated most of the 2003 season with minimal staff. Several positions were vacant during the fire season, primarily on the Forest Service side. The Forest Service Coordinator position was vacant during most of the year. Both long term seasonal and permanent Forest dispatch positions were vacant as well. These two positions were filled with detailers through the fire season. Bonnie Barcus retired as the BLM Logistics Coordinator in January, 2003, and the position was vacant until Lani Williams came on board in June 15. Carol Field, Mark Rich and Pat Shanafelt, were the BLM assistant dispatchers in 2003. The state dispatch position was again filled by Tina Helmick. Kevin Mason, former dispatcher and heli-rappeller, filled the night dispatcher position much to the relief of the day crew. The office began 24-hour coverage June 29th and maintained that coverage through September 14th.

Charlie Leonard detailed to the Intelligence desk at the National Interagency Coordination Center for three months (from October, 2003 to January, 2004). Christine Keavy covered the Intelligence desk at Boise Dispatch during this period.

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 (LSRD) 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.

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 the Initial Attack Dispatch courses were presented once again in the spring of 2003, producing good candidates for the summer expanded operation and future initial attack dispatchers. The success of these courses was made possible by a number of individuals. The staff at BDC being the principle contributors with help from Deena Weber (ISO), Rick Ochoa (NWS), Randy Eardley (BOD), Tim Blake (FCD),)and Dane Lee, Forest Aviation officer (BOF). Both of these courses will be presented during the spring of 2004 through the SWIFT program.

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 five times this season on two Idaho Department of Lands fires, and three Boise National Forest fires.

Local fire training through the Southwest Idaho Interagency Fire Training (SWIFT) partnership provided fire training to hundreds of federal, state and local firefighters during 2003. Numerous other agencies took part in the training including Eagle Fire, National Park Service, National Guard, NIFC, Fish and Wildlife, and 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, including the Boise State University Fire Academy, which filled 450 fire training slots. The annual Ada County Wildland Fire Steering Committee held a joint exercise which drew participation from local emergency response agencies, the 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 southwest Idaho this year despite an improvement in precipitation in 2003 (using the Natural Resources Conservation Service snow water equivalent data). Using April 19 as a benchmark date for measuring snow water levels, most SNOTEL sites on the Boise National Forest recorded slightly below average snowfall amounts, except for the Deadwood Summit site, which recorded slightly above average snow water content. SNOTEL measurements on the Lower Snake River District recorded significantly less than the annual average snow water equivalent. Mud Flat recorded three inches less than average annual snowpack, South Mountain recorded 18 inches less than average, and Pole Creek recorded 13 inches less than average snow water content in 2003. Drought conditions on the Boise Forest ranged from moderate to severe again this year, and the Lower Snake River District was moderate to extreme. South of the Owyhee Mountains remained the most moisture deficient in 2003. The amount of moisture needed to return southwest Idaho to normal water levels was

three to six inches in the mountains, and six to nine inches in the deserts. The Palmer Drought Index in September 2003 showed that all of southern Idaho remained under extreme drought conditions.

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 areas of southwest Idaho (the period from April 1 to October 1). The Boise manual weather station registered just 0.90 inches of precipitation during this period.

Temperatures in southwest Idaho averaged above normal through most of the summer. Lower Snake River District RAWS stations recorded five periods where temperatures reached historic maximums between late May and late September. The highest temperature recorded for a BLM RAWS in 2003 was 111 degrees on July 24, registered at the Mountain Home RAWS (located at Mountain Home Air Force Base). Boise recorded a high temperature of 103 degrees for three consecutive days on July 19 to 21. Horse Butte RAWS recorded 105 degrees on July 24. The Boise National Forest recorded seven periods where temperatures reached historic highs between late May and early October. The Forest recorded its highest temperature, 104 degrees on July 22 at Town Creek RAWS. Bearskin RAWS recorded 90 degrees on September 11, and Pine Creek RAWS recorded 100 degrees on July 23.

The continuing drought in southwest Idaho produced another year of below normal fuel moisture. Boise Forest RAWS recorded below normal 1000-hour fuel moisture from late May to late August. Bearskin RAWS, the most northerly and highest in elevation (6,700 feet), started the season at historic maximum 1000-hour fuel moisture levels (27%), but by late mid-June had dropped to around 12% (average). By mid-July 1000-hour fuel moisture levels dropped to near historic low levels (7-8%), but returned to near average by early September. Pine Creek RAWS began the season at near record high 1000-hour fuel moisture levels (26%) in May, but dropped to near record low levels (12%) by mid-June, and remained there until late July when levels moderated to near normal levels. Town Creek RAWS, the most southerly and lowest in elevation (4,500 feet) of the Forest RAWS, began the season near historic high levels (24% versus 19% for an average). Thousand-hour moisture levels dropped below average in late May and remained there through mid-August, where levels moderated to near normal.

Live Fuel Moisture

The Boise National Forest and Idaho Department of Lands recorded the following live fuel moisture from various sample sites around the Forest.

<u>Sample Area</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>October</u>
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Idaho City	137% (conifer)	128% (conifer) 97% (ceanothus)	70% (brush) 95% (ponderosa) 79% (ceanothus)
Emmett	350% (deciduous) 89% (conifer)	139% (conifer)	

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	85%	70%	70%	65%	55%
Kuna	120%	50%	80%	80%	40%
Hammett	85%	78%	75%	90%	60%
Three Creek	127%	75%	97	100%	75%

Winter Snowpack Summary

The water year runs from October 1 to September 30. Snowpack water content levels for 2003 are compared to the historic annual average (1971-2000).

<u>SNOTEL Site</u>	<u>2003 Water Year</u>	<u>% of Average</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>
Atlanta	14.1"	105%	13.4"
Deadwood Summit	19.4"	105%	18.5"
Bogus Basin	12.8"	--	--
Mores Creek	13.1"	95%	13.7"
Mud Flat	3.1"	97%	3.2"
Pole Creek	6.6"	73%	9.0"
South Mountain	6.9"	90%	7.7"

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.

BOF SIG: FDR1	BOF SIG: FDR2
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 2003:

Energy release component (ERC):

	<u>90 percentile</u>	<u>97 percentile</u>
Bearskin RAWS:	17 days	5 days
Pine Creek RAWS:	19 days	2 days
Town Creek RAWS:	19 days	2 days

Burn indices (BI):

	<u>90 percentile</u>	<u>97 percentile</u>
Bearskin RAWS:	20 days	3 days
Pine Creek RAWS:	20 days	6 days
Town Creek RAWS:	19 days	6 days

The table below shows the number of days the Lower Snake River District burn indices exceeded critical breakpoints (80 and 95 percent) in 2003:

	<u>80 percentile</u>	<u>95 percentile</u>
Boise South Manual Station:	47 days	17 days
Dead Indian Ridge RAWS:	42 days	8 days
Brace Flat RAWS:	39 days	9 days
Horse Butte RAWS:	45 days	14 days
Mountain Home RAWS:	57 days	19 days
Triangle RAWS:	41 days	14 days
Pole Creel RAWS:	72 days	5 days
Twin Butte RAWS:	57 days	20 days

Fuel Loading

Fuel loading on the Lower Snake River District was below the seven year annual average for cheatgrass, litter and forbs by 724 pounds per acre. The total measured weight in 2003 was 3,436 pounds per acre (based on a single sample site). The average measured weight (based on the previous seven year average) is 4,160 pounds per acre.

Fire Activity

Overview

Overall southwest Idaho experienced below average number of fire starts in 2003. The Lower Snake River District experienced 79 fire starts, or 71% of its ten-year average. The Boise Forest experienced 145 starts, or 89% of its ten-year average. Idaho Department of Lands experienced 28 starts, or 120% of a seven-year average. The Lower Snake River District had 10,594 acres burned, which is just 12% of its annual average burned acres (10-year average). The Boise Forest had 39,956 acres burned, which is 155% of its annual average (10-year average). Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area, had 25 fires for 111 acres burned, which is 21% of its annual average (seven-year average).

A breakdown of first and last fires in 2003 for each agency:

- Lower Snake River District (BOD) experienced its first fire of the season on May 13 (one acre), and its last fire on October 30 (0.1 acre).
- Boise National Forest (BOF) experienced its first fire of the season on May 30 (0.1 acre), and its last fire on October 23 (0.1 acre).
- Idaho Department of Lands experienced its first fire on May 24 (0.4 acres), and its last fire on October 8 (1.0 acres).

Boise National Forest (fires over 10 acres)

Fire Number	Fire Name	Cause	Start Date	Acres	Comments
88	Hot Creek	Lightning	7/19/03	26,560	Sexton's Type 1 Team
159	Upper Deep	Lightning	8/5/03	20	SITPA suppressed on BOF
125	South Fork	Person	8/10/03	6,970	Saleen's Type 2 Team
127	Canyon Creek	Person	8/11/03	5,400	Martin's Type 1 Team
147	Fat Creek	Lightning	8/20/03	10	
177	Lorenzo	Lightning	10/2/03	89	
206	Rock Creek	Person	10/22/03	800 (est)	

The Boise Forest had 17 smoke reports on October 2, 2003, the most reports in one day for the year. The Forest experienced three significant fires during the year, all of which required Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams.

Idaho Department of Lands (fires over 10 acres)

Fire Number	Fire Name	Cause	Start Date	Acres	Comments
4009	North Dry Buck	Person	7/7/03	58	
4023	Deer Creek	Lightning	8/16/03	10	
4033	Coyote Rock	Person	9/28/03	28	

The Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office, experienced its busiest fire day (acres burned) on August 16, with five fires for a combined total of 19 acres burned.

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

Fire Number	Fire Name	Cause	Start Date	Acres	Comments
F121	Pilgrim	Person	7/3/03	1,623	
F152	Wilkins	Lightning	7/28/03	4,847	
F154	Andy	Lightning	7/28/03	1,031	Payette NF suppressed

The BLM experienced its busiest fire day (in acres burned) on July 28, with two fires that burned more than 1,000 acres.

Fire Cause Statistics

Of the 79 fires suppressed by the Lower Snake River District BLM, 58 were person caused and 21 were lightning caused. A total of 4,175 acres burned on person-caused fires, and 6,419 acres

on lightning-caused fires. Of the 10,594 acres, 6,826 acres were on BLM managed land. The LSRD responded to 14 false alarms during 2003.

Of the 145 fires Boise National Forest had, 41 were person-caused, and 104 were lightning-caused. A total of 13,182 acres burned on person-caused fires, and 26,709 on lightning-caused fires. Idaho City District had 39 fires for 26,564 acres burned. Lowman District had 38 fires for 5,501 acres burned. Emmett District had 26 fires for three acres burned. Mountain home District had 18 fires for nine acres burned. The Forest received 18 false alarm fire reports and unable-to-locate fire reports in which fire crews took some responsive action. Forest personnel located and put out 49 campfires.

The Idaho Department of Lands had a total of 25 fires for a total of 117 acres burned. Lightning caused 14 fires for 19 acres burned. Human caused fires numbered 11 for 98 acres burned. Department of Lands suppressed 36 acres on Boise forest land.

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
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
2002	101	42,875	260	1,756	45	57
2003	79	10,594	145	39,956	28	111
<i>10 Yr. Averages</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>84,658</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>25,669</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>521</i>
<i>(1993-2003)</i>					<i>(IDL 7 year average)</i>	<i>(IDL 7 year average)</i>

Fire Assist Information

Assists among Boise Dispatch’s supporting agencies:

- LSRD provided fire suppression assistance to the Boise Forest on 19 incidents. LSRD also provided assistance to rural and city fire departments on 17 incidents, Department of Lands on 8 incident.
- BOF assisted IDL on 11 incidents, and LSRD on 1.
- IDL provided one assist to Southern Idaho Timber Protection Association.

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

Vale District BLM (VAD):

- 6 airtankers
- 3 lead planes
- 1 Air Attack
- 3 agency engines
- 2 contract engines

Salmon/Challis National Forest (SCF):

- 5 airtankers
- 1 Type 1 helicopter
- 1 type 3 helicopter
- 1 Type 1 crew
- 2 Type 2 crews
- 11 agency engines
- 3 contract engines
- 42 overhead personnel
- 1 Bus

Payette National Forest (PAF):

- 8 airtankers
- 4 lead planes
- 1 Type 1 helicopters
- 2 Type 3 helicopters
- 3 Type 2 crews
- 21 overhead personnel
- 4 buses
- 4 agency engines
- 14 contract engines

National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC):

- Thirty overhead personnel

Southern Idaho Dispatch (SID):

- 3 airtankers
- 1 lead plane
- 1 Air Attack
- 2 agency engines

East Idaho Dispatch Center (EIDC):

- 4 airtankers
- 1 lead plane
- 1 Air Attack
- 1 Type 1 crew
- 1 Type 2 crews
- 8 contract engines
- 10 overhead personnel

Prescribed Burning and Smoke Management

For the fourth 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. 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.

2003 Prescribed Burn Statistics

Agency	Numbers of Burns	Acres Accomplished	Type
Lower Snake River District	2	2,418	Prescribed Fires
Lower Snake River District	0	0	WFURB
Boise National Forest	25	3,521	Prescribed Fires
Boise National Forest	0	0	WFURB
Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office	7	1,274	Prescribed Fires
Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Area Office	0	0	WFURB

Logistical Activity Statistics

BILC Resources

BILC represents the Boise National Forest, Lower Snake River District BLM and the Southwest Area of the Idaho Department of Lands for dispatch services involving aviation, fire, administrative and disaster services. The three agencies include about 12 million acres of land with fire suppression responsibilities for 9 million acres. We average 250 fire annually that burns around 200,00 acres.

- BILC mobilizes 982 redcarded personnel from the representing the following agencies:
 - BOF (419 includes AD's)
 - LSRD (188)
 - Idaho State BLM Office (47)
 - IDL (44)
 - NIFC (216)
 - BLM/FS (157)
 - BIA (54)
 - NPS (28)
 - OAS (8)
 - NWS (1)
 - FWS (13)
 - 48 City/Rural fire departments
 - Other personnel
 - Idaho National Guard
 - AD's (23 LSRD)
 - 65 Contractors (NCR/EERA's)
- Fire Suppression Resources
 - LSRD
 - 1 Air Attack aircraft
 - Boise BLM Smoke Jumpers
 - 1 Type III Helicopter
 - 12 Helitack
 - 24 Type IV Engines
 - 1 Type VI Engine
 - 3 Water Tenders
 - 3 Dozers
 - 1 Fuel Truck
 - LSRD Fire Warehouse
 - 1 Mobile Communications Trailer
 - 1 Mobile Command Trailer
 - BOF
 - 2 National Contract Air Tankers

- 1 Lead Plane
- 1 Air Attack A/C
- 1 Type III Helicopter
- 1 Type II Helicopter
- 24 Helitack/Rapellers
- 5 Type IV Engines
- 1 Type VI Engine
- 2 National Contract Type IV Engines
- 58 Regional EERA Engines (Type IV & VI)
- 14 Regional EERA Tactical Water Tenders
- 2 Type I Hotshot Crews
- 2 Type II Regular Crews
- 2 National Contract Type II IA Crews
- 1 Type II FWS Crew
- 2 Type II Inmate Crews
- 135 Regional EERA Crew Busses
- 46 Regional EERA Coach Busses

IDL

- 4 Type VI Engines
- 2 Type IV Engines
- 2 Type VI Per Diem Engines (CWN)
- 2 Dozers
- 1 Water Tender
- 1 Type II Inmate Crew

Overhead

Smokejumpers:

Smokejumpers from McCall and Boise were ordered by BDC on 18 occasions during the 2003 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 2003 BDC processed a total of 1, 532 overhead requests as compared to 2,022 requests for 2002. In 2003 the bulk of the requests were from within the Geographic Area 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.

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 2003 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 3 assignments outside the local area. Those assignments were to Eastern Idaho and the Payette National Forest.

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.

Aircraft Activity

Helicopter Use

The Lower Snake River District and Boise Forest had three exclusive use helicopters at their 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 9 to October 1, and was based at the Boise Airport. The ship flew a total of 165.2 hours, 153.8 on fires, and 11.4 hours non-fire missions. It flew 74.5 hours on Boise District missions, and 90.7 hours off District. The ship delivered 108,522 gallons of water for fire suppression, transported 730 personnel during active incidents, and carried 40,530 pounds of cargo (30,030 internal and 10,500 external). Total operational cost was \$321,271.00.

The Boise National Forest had two helicopters on contract for the fire season. The Type 2 helicopter (Bell 212) was stationed at the Lucky Peak Helibase north of Boise, and was on contract from June 11 to October 18. The ship flew a total of 450.7 hours, 324.9 for fire suppression, and 125.8 hours on non-fire missions. It flew 170.0 hours on the Boise Forest and 154.9 hours off Forest. The ship delivered 501,885 gallons of water/foam, transported 2,629 personnel, and carried 1,111,751 pounds of cargo (946,485 pounds externally) in support of fire suppression operations. It successfully completed 8 operational rappels. Total operational cost was \$925,472.30.

The Garden Valley Type 3 helicopter (Bell 407) was on contract from June 1 to November 4. The ship flew a total of 393.4 hours (392.1 hours for fire suppression, and 1.3 hours for non-fire missions). It flew 230.0 hours on the Boise Forest and 162.0 hours off Forest. The ship delivered 100,275 gallons of water/foam, transported 1,036 personnel, and carried 538,642 pounds of cargo (497,836 externally) in support of fire suppression operations. It successfully completed 38 operational rappels. Total operational cost was \$513,029.12.

Call When Needed Helicopters

Call when needed helicopters are routinely utilized by the Lower Snake River District and Boise National Forest not only for fire but also for resource use. These include wildlife surveys such as the Sage Grouse, Eagle, and Bull Trout surveys. Wild horse and burro round-ups, tree planting, aerial seeding, and radio work are among the other common uses. Local vendors were called on for additional support in 2003 to ABC Miscellaneous fires as well as to the larger fires such as Hot Creek, Canyon Creek, and South Fork.

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, 32N, contracted by the Lower Snake River District (a Shrike Commander 500) flew a total of 308.88 hours during the 2003 fire season. It was on contract from June 16 to September 24. Of this total, 35.28 hours was as an air attack platform, 23.25 hours for fire detection, 1.72 hours for prescribed fire recon, for the Lower Snake River District. The aircraft was utilized by Idaho Department of Lands as an air attack platform for 6.48 hours. It also supported Boise Forest fires for a total of 129.00 hours, Richfield District BLM for 50.43 hours, Upper Snake River District BLM for 19.95 hours, Vale District BLM for 3.00 hours, and other non-local incidents for a total of 28.45 hours.

The Boise National Forest air attack platform, 1GE (a Cessna 210), was on contract for 90 days, and flew a total of 336.33 hours for fire suppression and reconnaissance.

Single Engine Air Tankers

Both the Lower Snake River District and Boise National Forest utilized several single engine air tankers (SEAT) for fire suppression. These aircraft came from the Upper Snake River District and Vale District BLM. These aircraft were assigned to eight local fires (LSRD and BOF).

Airtanker Retardant Use

Two air tankers were assigned to the Boise Tanker Base during the 2003 fire season, a Neptune P2V (Tanker 48) and Neptune SP2H (Tanker 01). Combined, these two aircraft flew a total of 427.71 hours delivering retardant to local and non-local incidents. Total cost for both aircraft was \$1,876,507.

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.

Intelligence Activity

The intelligence position in 2003 primarily deals 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 (WIMS) 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.

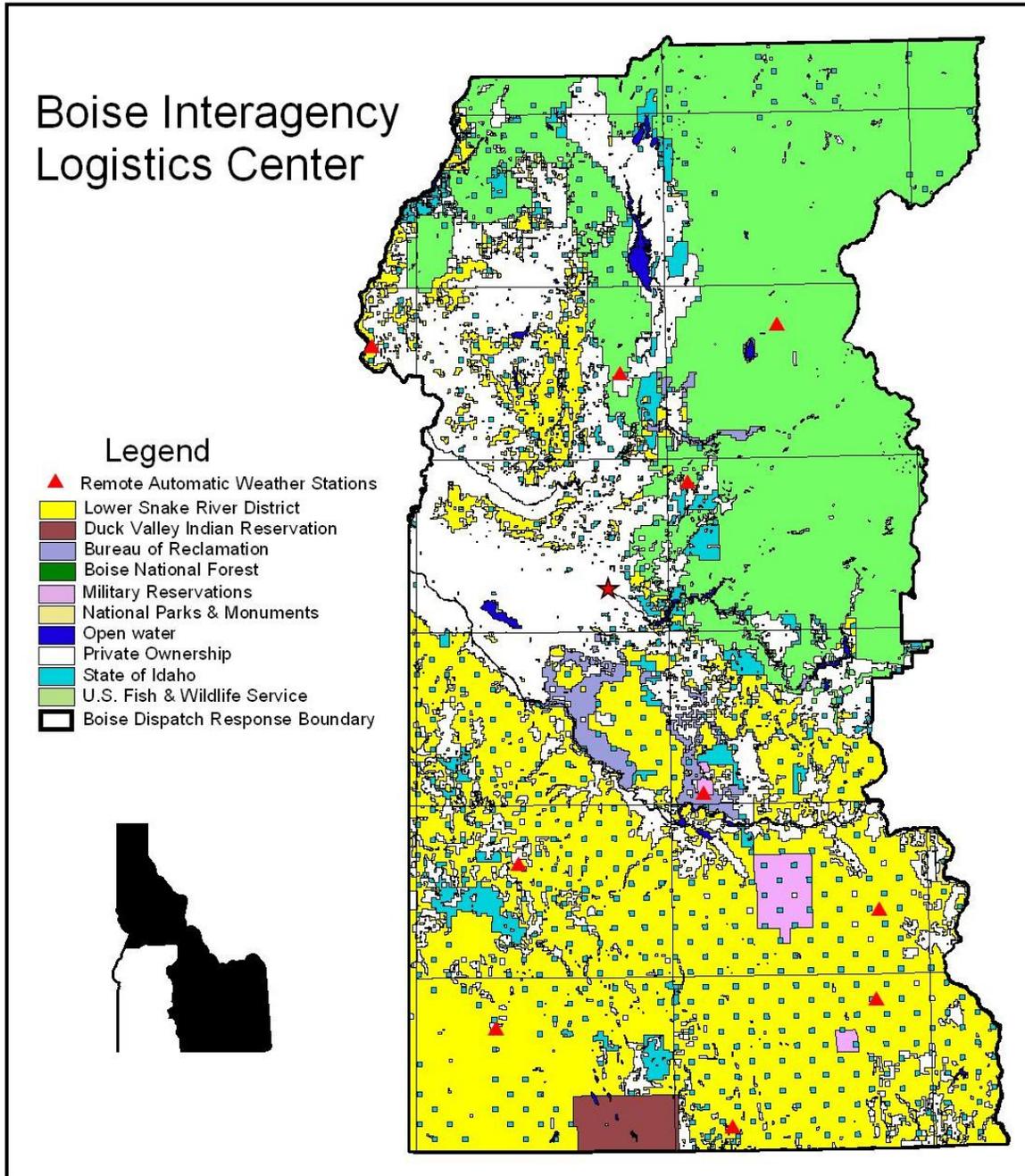
The Boise Dispatch web site, published to the Internet is updated daily by the Intelligence Officer during the fire season. The site provides useful information to the public, media and fire organizations on wildfire and prescribed fire activity, fire danger ratings, burn indices, press releases, fire restrictions and closures, photo gallery, hiring, frequently asked questions, contact information, GIS fire maps, and information about Boise Dispatch.

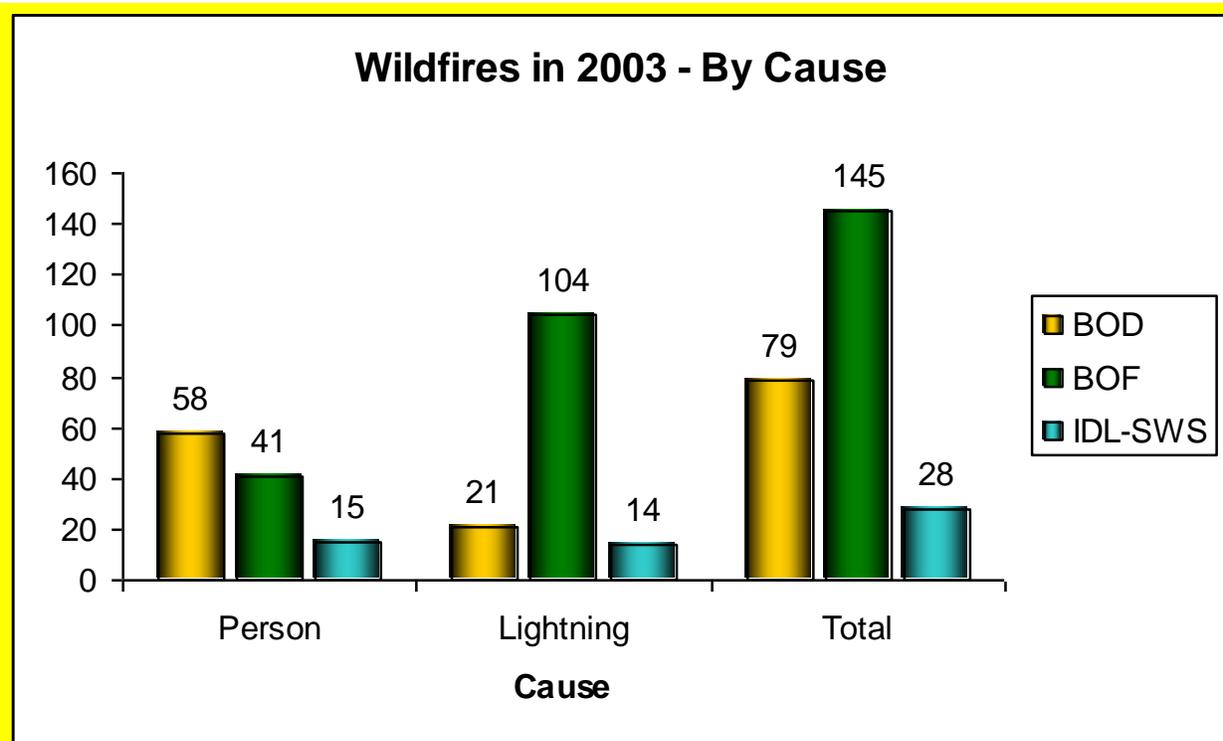
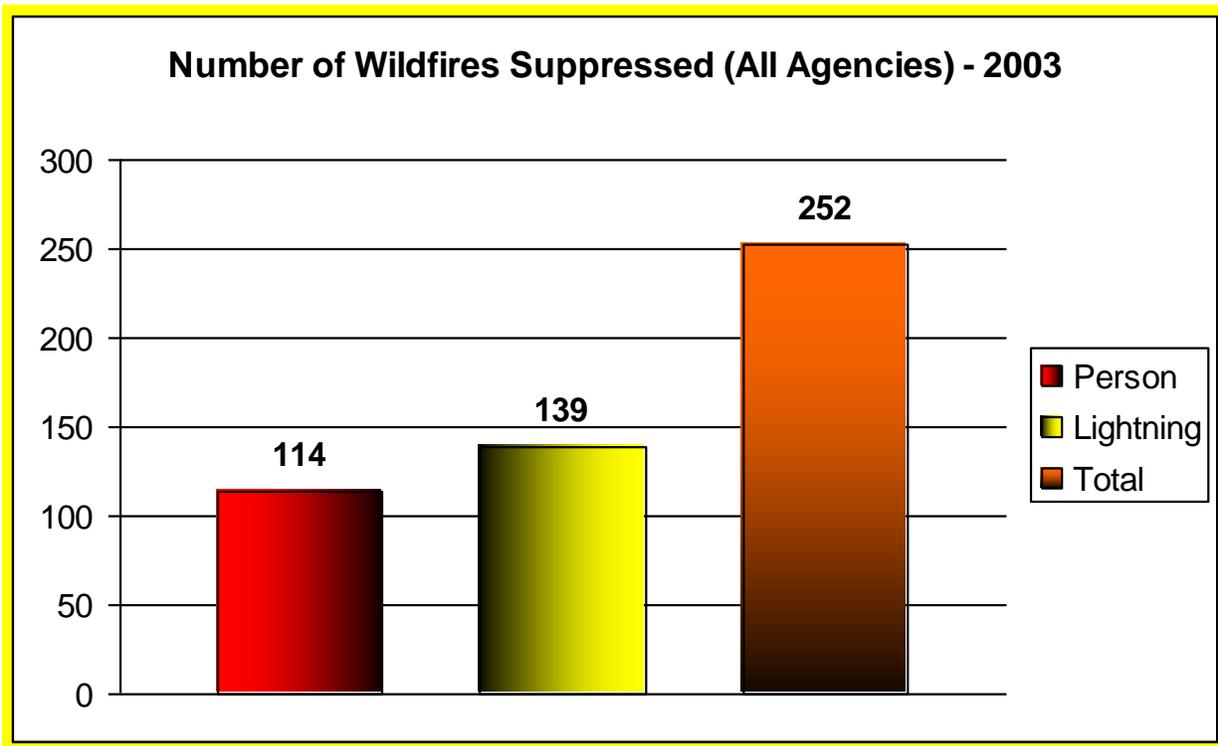
The Intelligence Officer is the primary intermediary between local burners and the Montana-Idaho States Airshed Coordinating Group, and assists burners with questions and problems associated with smoke management. The Intelligence Officer is the primary subject matter expert for solving website problems and instructing burners in reporting procedures. He is also 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.

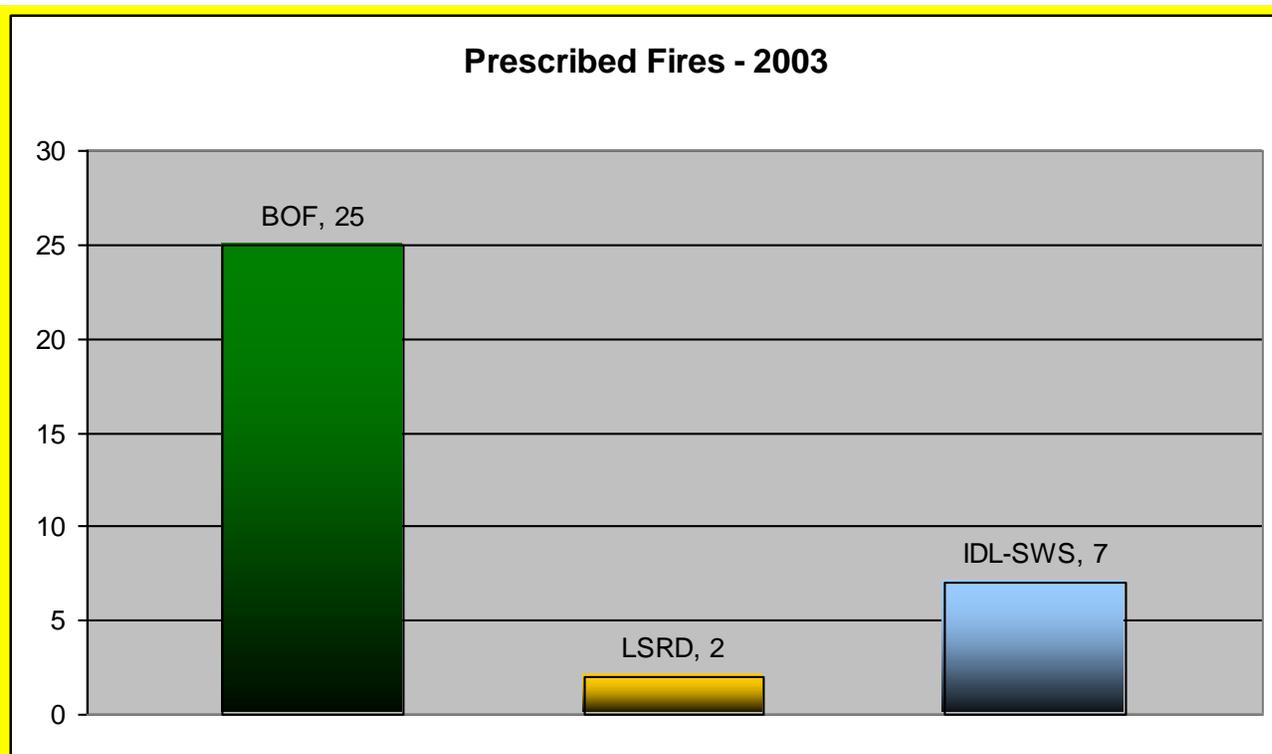
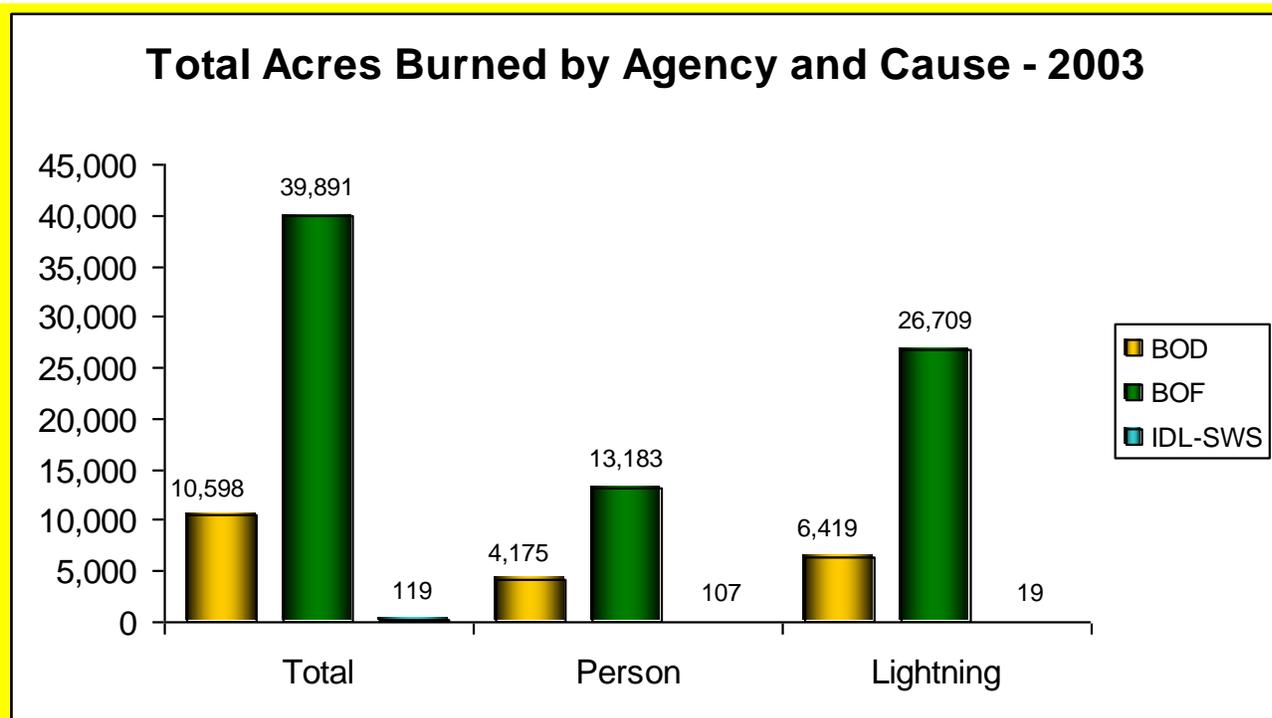
Receptionist Activity

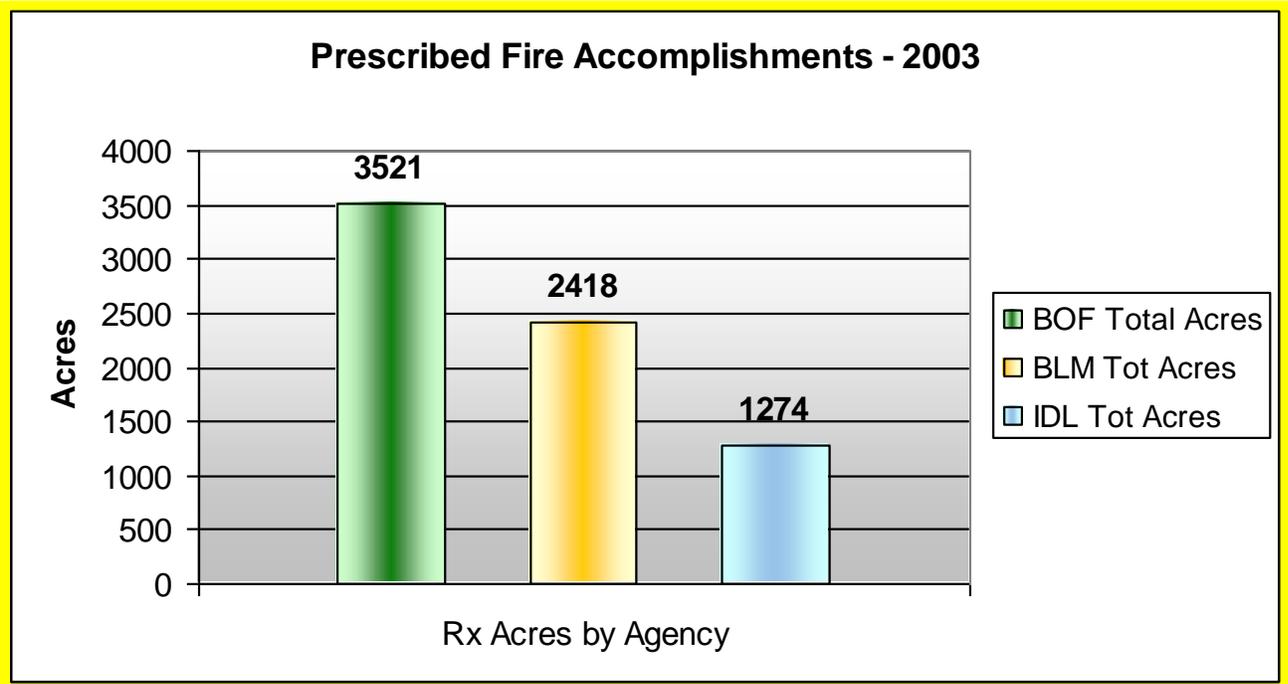
The receptionist position remains a valuable asset to the overall daily operations of Dispatch. This position relieves the workload on the dispatchers by answering routine questions from the public and agency individuals. The position is still under the SECEP program sponsored by the Forest Service and 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.

Appendices









(END)