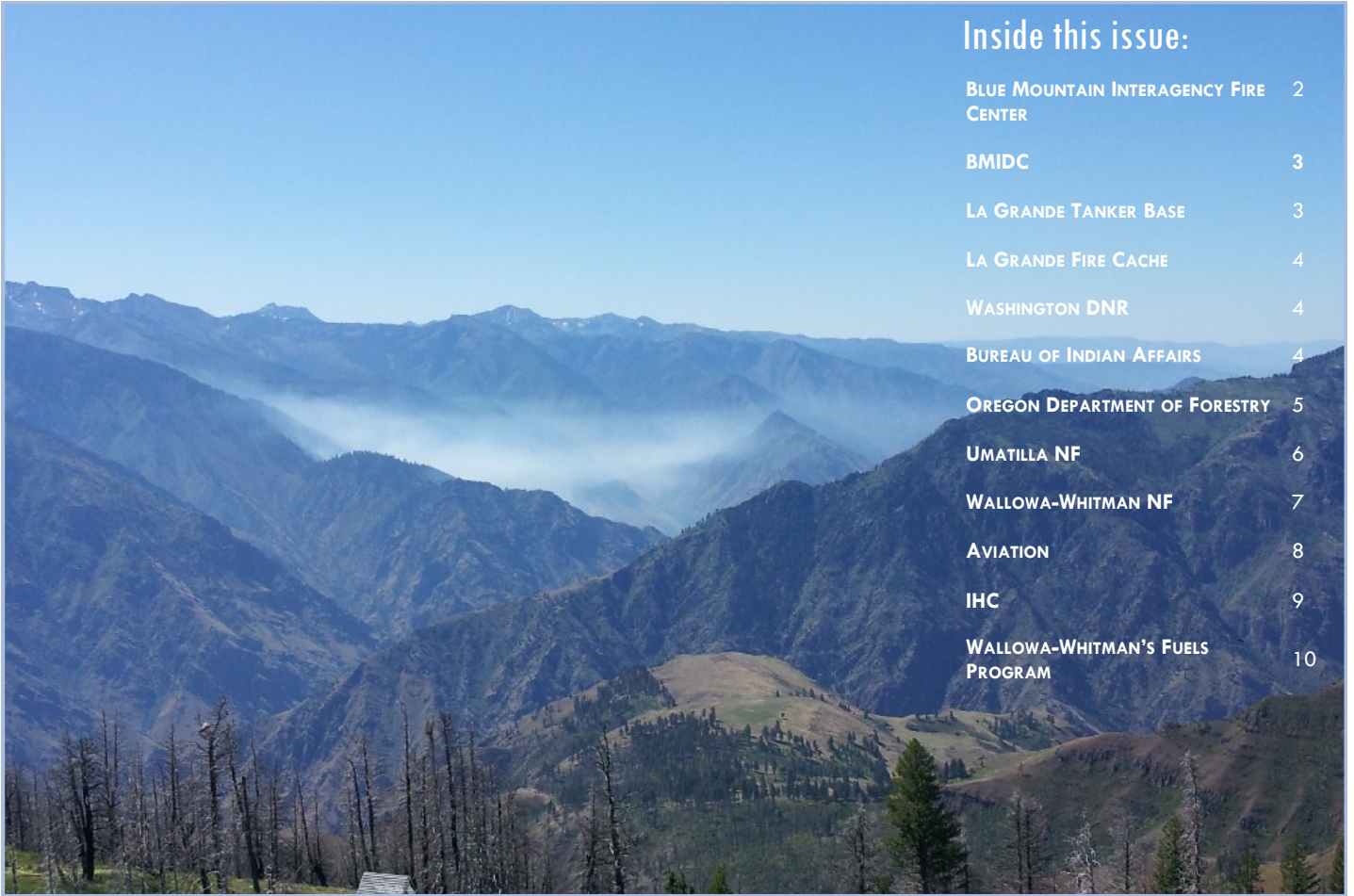


# 2013 BMIFC Annual Report



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**Cuba Incident**

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST  
WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST  
UMATILLA BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
SOUTHEAST REGION WASHINGTON DNR



### Blue Mountain Interagency Fire Center

The 2013 Fire Season was a season for abundant lightning. The Region experienced record breaking amounts of lightning strikes throughout the months of August and September.

Once again the season started early for the La Grande Regional Fire Cache. It started in May with annual updates and preparation for fire support. We enjoyed the returners and welcomed the new staff. Along with Cheri and Mick the crew issued \$2,888,372.77 of supplies to incidents this season. Almost 28,000 miles were driven this year, accident free.

The La Grande Air Tanker Base opened for fire support on June 10<sup>th</sup>. ODF contracted two SEATs (T-882 and T-883) this season. They were the first two tankers out the door on July 17<sup>th</sup> to support an incident on the Wallowa Whitman. One hundred and sixty-five (127 SEATs and 38 heavy air tanker loads) missions were flown from the Tanker Base supporting incidents with 181,368 gallons of retardant. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> season without an accident.

The dispatch office provided dispatch services for over 6 million acres, serving the Wallowa Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District, Washington Department of Natural Resources- Snake River Region, Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Umatilla.

The 2013 fire season was above average with the number of incidents and below average on acres. The Wallow Whitman hosted the East Type III team twice this year. Once on the Wallowa Fire Zone with Big Sheep 2 (IC-Tyler and IC(T)-McCraw) and then on the Ridge incident (IC-Williams), located on the Burnt Powder Fire Zone. The Umatilla was busy with the Vinegar Incident. This type II incident started on the North Fork John Day Wilderness area and burnt about 1,350 acres. NEO ODF responded to an above average of STAT fires but were able to keep the acres burnt to

third lowest in a decade. Along with Type II Limited Helicopter 1PT, ODF also added two SEATs, T-882 and T-883, as available resources. This was a huge success for all the agencies within the BMIDC footprint. BMIDC assisted WDNR/BLM with Grande Ronde and Mail Trail this season. Both were large multiagency incidents. BIA-Umatilla responded to many mutual aid incidents. BIA had 4 fires with only one being caused by lightning.

The success of our center is due to the staff. BMIDC received two small dispatchers last season. Congratulations to Darcy and Kyle Johnson on their new little boy named Ryker and to Amanda and Brett Johnson with their new addition, Emmett. Jerry Garrett and Josh Hewitt as Floor Leaders for Initial Attack had a great crew of dispatchers; Amanda Johnson, Darci Johnson, Chris Wagner and Kenrick Neustel. Justin Armstrong and Hunter Petrucci came to us from the La Grande Ranger District. They worked the radios on the La Grande and Baker consoles. Wendy Hancock from Pendleton dispatched the Northern Blues. Second generation Quinn, Charlie Quinn, dispatched for La Grande. Intel Dispatcher, Bethany Micka, was busy keeping everyone up to date with incident information and current conditions. Noel Conlee was our back-up Intel dispatcher for the season. Bethany expertise will be missed. She resigned in October to continue working on her own business full time. Our Logistics section consisted of Cinda Fratzke as Floor Leader, Nancy Johnson, Emily Kausler and Becky Jones as dispatchers. Amber Fiorito assisted in Logistics. After 25 years of service Becky Jones retired in December. Congratulations to her!!!! Billie Hopkins our Assistant Center Manager continued passing her knowledge to all of us and had great success supervising expanded

dispatch. Expanded supported Big Sheep 2, Ridge, Grande Ronde and Vinegar. I wanted to say thank you to all the new dispatchers and also to our core group for a successful season.

The 2013 fire season provided us the opportunity to continue building relationships with our fire managers, ground forces and neighboring dispatches offices. Once again we owe a special Thank You to Grangeville and McCall for all the aviation support throughout the season! As the tracking of all personnel becomes a priority and technology provides us new ways of doing business BMIDC is committed to ensuring everyone makes it home.

We are appreciative of the support from the BMIDC Ops group, Board of Directors, Line Officers and the radio group. Thank you for supporting our mission and being there when we needed you!

We are looking forward to providing our customers excellent service in 2014 with your safety being our mission.

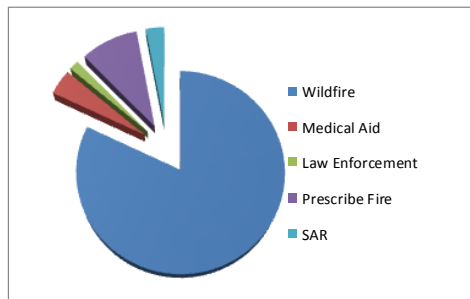


# 2013 BMIFC Annual Report

## Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center

### Initial Attack

Wildfire Incidents: 361  
 Search and Recue: 13  
 Medical Aid: 18  
 Law Enforcement: 10  
 Prescribe Fire: 41  
 Smoke Chases: 151



Admin Tracking: 41 Daily Average

### Logistics

#### Off Forest Assignments / BMIDC's Activity

Overhead: 245	Overhead: 1750
Equipment: 265	Equipment: 440
Aircraft: 60	Aircraft: 495
Crews: 32	Crews: 115
Total # of Incident Created in ROSS: 146	
Union IHC: 7 assignments	
La Grande IHC: 6 assignments	
Type II IA Crews: WWNF - 3 and UMF - 4	

### Expanded

Type III (East) Team: Big Sheep 2 and Ridge

Oregon Team 4 (Formerly Blue Mtn.): Crooked Creek, Sunnyside Turnoff, GC Complex & Vinegar

Incidents	08/15	08/18	08/22	08/24	08/30	09/01	09/04	09/19
Vinegar								
Big Sheep 2								
Ridge								
Grande Ronde								

## La Grande Air Tanker Base

This year the La Grande Air Tanker Base hosted two Oregon Department Forestry contract SEATs, T882 and T883 for a 75 day contract. La Grande Air Tanker base provided retardant services and support personnel for safe, fast and efficient loading. ODF funded the SEATs and provided a highly qualified SEMG from Arizona State Forestry. This was very successful partnership for all agencies with in the BMIDC foot print.

The base opened for fire support on June 10th. The first two loads of retardant left with T882 and T883 on July 17th to support the Translator Incident on the Wallowa Whitman. The most activity occurred on August 13th with eleven heavy air tanker and two SEATS loads delivering 31,882 gallons of retardant. The last load for the season came on September 16th, with T882 and T883 supporting the an incident on the Malheur NF. 165 missions were flown from La Grande Air Tanker Base. The base supported 45 fires with retardant, 127 SEATs loads and 38 heavy air tanker loads. The final cost to incidents \$1,091,311. The Tanker Base pumped a total of 181,368 gallons of retardant in 2013. This is a force-account base so there are no retardant contract costs. This is the 21st season without an accident or incident with Heavy Air Tankers, SEATS or Lead Planes.

This year's tanker base crew: Russell Hurst (Tanker Base Manager), Craig Droke (Assistant Tanker Base Manager), Gary Riedmiller (SEATs Manager), Carter Wells (Ramp Manager), Lisa Laufenburg Soward (Parking Tender), and BrieEnna Bunkers (Aircraft Timekeeper/Radio Operator).

Cost to Incident	
Retardant Cost	\$326,462
Flight Time Cost	\$759,637
Landing Fees	\$5,212
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$1,091,311</b>

Agency	Gallons
FS-R6	70,277
FS-Other	6,866
BLM	14,269
ODF	79,760
DNR	10,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,368</b>

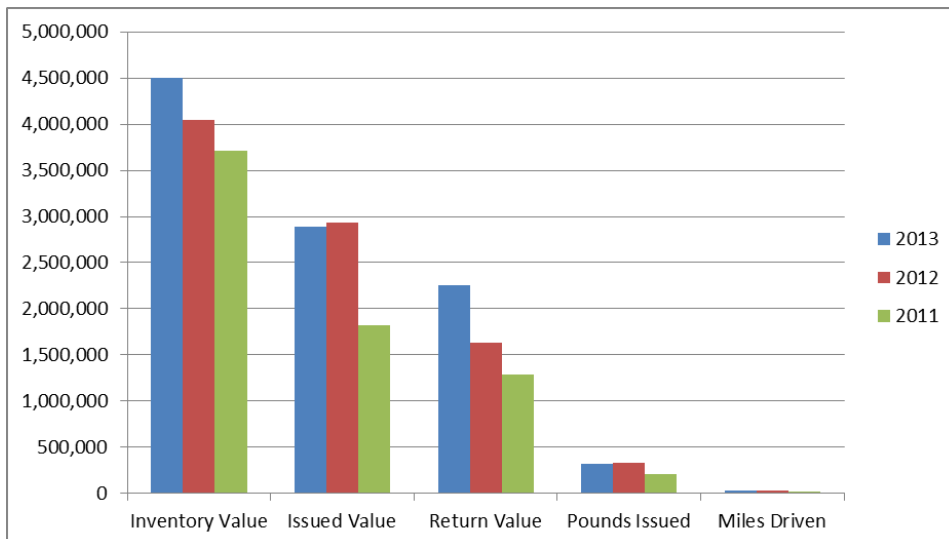
## La Grande Fire Cache

The 2013 season at the La Grande Fire Cache got its kick start in May. Annual kit updates and preparation to support Fire School were the primary focus of the crew.

We welcomed our returning ADs: David Reilly, Dayton Sibley, Mike Eckrich, Jake Evers and Kristina White; and our new AD hires: Sam Young and Vince Novotny. The La Grande Fire Cache also hosted 2 additional detailers from the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest: Retired Cache Manager Jim Trowbridge and Retired Cache Manager Gabe Jasso. The La Grande Fire Cache supported two type III incidents on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and, one type II and one type III on the Malheur National Forest, and one type II on the Umatilla National Forest.

We also provided support for a Washington DNR type III incident. In addition, resource requests for small initial attack incidents from the Wallowa Whitman, Malheur and Umatilla National Forests and the Oregon Department of Forestry kept the crew busy. Cache personnel also assisted with the Region 6 Rappel Academy, Fire School 2013, Oregon Department of Forestry, local BIA and BLM unit needs.

The dollar amount issued out to fires for this 2013 fire season was \$2,888,372.77. Total dollar amount returned from incidents was \$2,257,382. Total miles driven this year, accident free, in support of incidents were 27,818. The inventory value amount for 2013 totaled \$4,498,462.



## Washington Department of Natural Resources



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

### Southeast Region – Washington DNR

Incidents

Grande Ronde	Green Ridge
Mail Trail	Whiskey Creek
Rattlesnake	Biscuit Ridge
Cold Springs	Puffer Butte

2013 Fires	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
Lightning	3	1127.2
Human	5	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1139.2</b>

## Umatilla Bureau of Indian Affairs



2013 Fires	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
Lightning	1	20.0
Human	3	3.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23.3</b>

\*Josh Hunt accepted an assignment to Alaska as ICT4.

\*Darron Williams helped support the Ridge incident as DIVS.

# 2013 BMIFC Annual Report

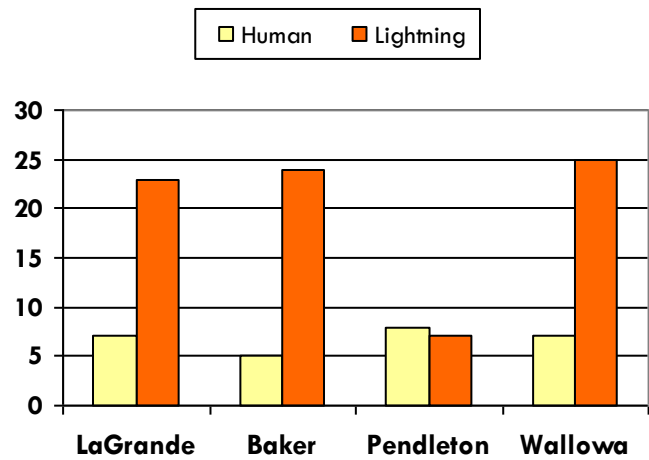


## Oregon Department of Forestry

- Two engines were assigned Off District; one to Crowley Creek and the other to the Owyhee incident both on Vale BLM .
- 19 Overhead Off District orders were processed. Resources were assigned to New Mexico, Colorado, Alaska and Oregon.
- Aircraft: 1PT supported 25 incidents, T-882 and T-883 flow on 32 incidents.

Fire	Acres
South Fork McKay	80
Vinegar	50
Rawhide 2	30
Burke Road	27.5
Murray Peak	25

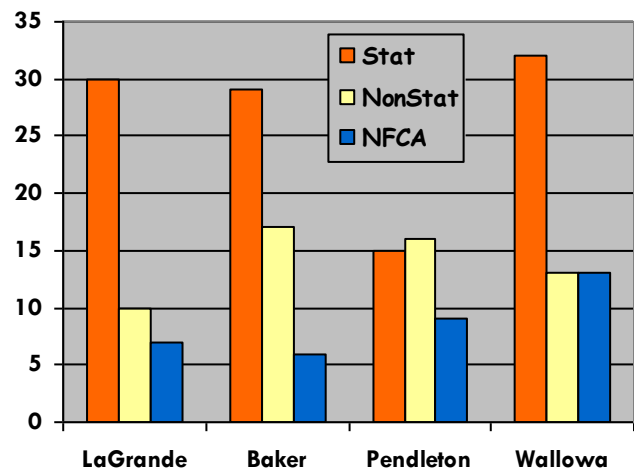
**Fires by Cause**



**Ten Year Average**

Year	# Of Fires	Acreage
2013	106	315
2012	46	4,076
2011	65	909
2010	67	145
2009	79	672
2008	69	683
2007	113	10,127
2006	85	3,311
2005	69	2,057
2004	80	39
<b>Average</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2,233</b>

**Category**



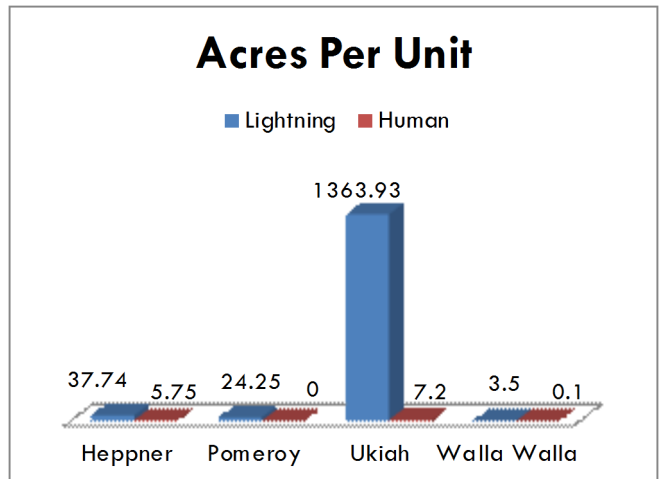
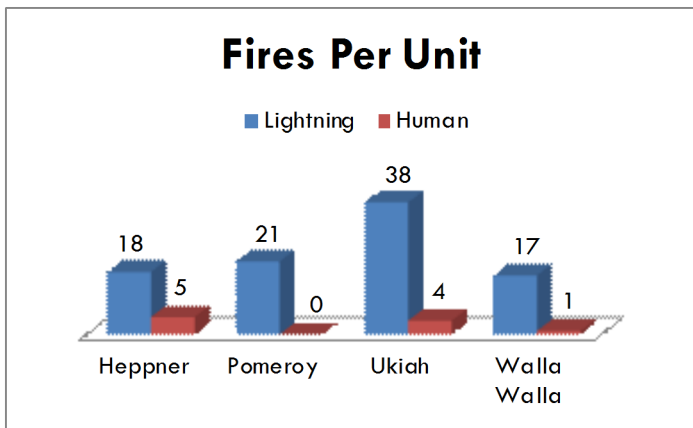


# 2013 BMIDC Annual Report

## Umatilla National Forest

Unit	Fires	Acres
Heppner	23	43.49
Pomeroy	21	24.25
Ukiah	42	1371.13
Walla Walla	18	3.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1,442</b>

- The forest assembled 4 Type II IA crews.  
Type II IA crew assignments:  
**Colorado** (Staging and West Fork Complex),  
**Idaho** (Bradley and Lodgepole)  
**Oregon** (Skookum, GC Complex, Ridge and Indian Creek)
- The Vinegar fire was a Type II incident at 1,350 acres located in the North Fork John Day Wilderness.
- The forest accepted 7 off forest engine assignments.
- 82 overhead off forest assignment were accepted.



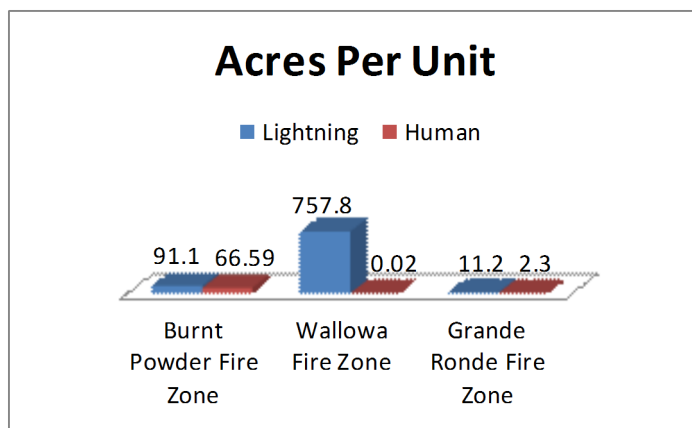
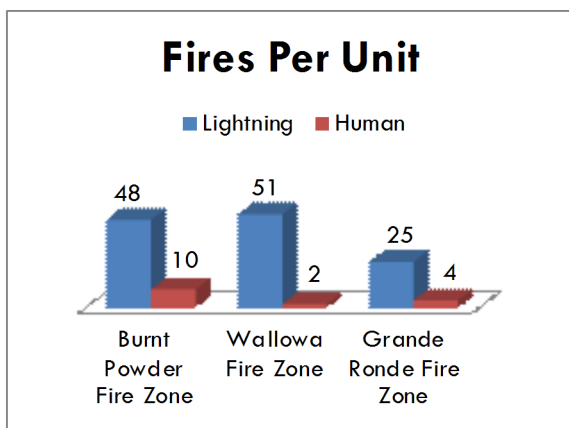
Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number Of Acres
2004	75	52	10	10	85	62
2005	16	102	24	29,036	40	29,138
2006	121	53,214	19	7	140	53,221
2007	100	27,594	26	926	126	28,520
2008	77	154	20	104	97	258
2009	51	14,024	12	10	63	14,034
2010	32	19	12	8	44	27
2011	61	114	8	73	69	187
2012	36	8	11	8	47	16
2013	94	1,429	10	13	104	1,442
<b>10 yr. avg.</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>9,671</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>12,691</b>

# 2013 BMIFC Annual Report

## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Unit	Fires	Acres
Whitman Unit	58	157.69
Wallowa Fire Zone	53	758
Grande Ronde Zone	29	13.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>929.19</b>

- The Forest assembled 3 Type II IA Crews.
- The Forest had two Type III Incidents: Big Sheep 2 at 128 acres (Wallowa Valley Ranger District) and Ridge at 19 acres (Whitman Unit). Other Incidents: Cuba at 530 acres (Hells Canyon National Recreation area), High Hat Complex at 32 acres (Eagle Cap Wilderness) and Nebo at 10 acres (Wallowa Fire Zone).
- 117 off Forest overhead orders accepted.
- 7 off Forest engine assignments were accepted.



Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number Of Acres
2004	90	944	12	2	102	946
2005	88	81,871	13	2,411	101	84,283
2006	127	37,496	20	110	147	37,606
2007	100	137,274	16	29	116	137,303
2008	48	465	33	29	81	493
2009	53	3,743	32	16	85	3,759
2010	92	257	19	4	111	261
2011	61	836	20	8397	81	9233
2012	42	70,678	40	60	82	70,738
2013	124	860	16	69	140	929
<b>10 yr. avg.</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>33,442</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>34,555</b>

## Aviation

### La Grande Exclusive Use ATGS



La Grande Air Attack had an active season supporting BMIDC's footprint and neighbors. Larry Aragon in his

7th year successfully lead Nan Floyd and Dan Eddy on air attack training assignments. 4TS supervised, 457 hours of Helicopters and 486 hours of Retardant Planes.



Total Hours Flown: 251 / Total Mission Legs: 89

### Exclusive Use Helicopter CFHFB



On May 1st CFHFB (The National Type 1 Exclusive-Use helicopter hosted by the WWF) and managed by Sled Spring's personnel started at the La Grande Base. May 2nd brought the helicopter's first fire response of the season with the Gainor Fire in California. CFHFB worked incidents and staged in California most of the month. All of June and half of July the helicopter worked fires in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. Mid July 8CH moved back to the La Grande Base and supported incidents within the Pacific NW for the rest of the summer. 8CH finished the season with project work in Southern Oregon and Washington.

Number of Large Fires: 3	Number of Initial Attack for season: 4
Total Flight Hours: 304.5	Total Gallons of Water Dropped: 2,664,471
Total Contract Cost: \$6,311,600	Total Pounds of External Cargo: 789,300

### Sled Springs Rappel Base

Sled Springs hosted helicopter N689H (Bell 205 A1++) again for the 2013 season on a 120-day contract and was not extended. The 16 person rappel crew were the primary response force to all wilderness fires on the Wallowa-



Whitman NF; initial and extended attack were also provided for the Umatilla NF and NEO ODF. Off Forest assignments included a preposition in Colorado and also in Central Oregon.

Total number of Initial Attacks: 73  
 Number of Operational Rappels: 39  
 Number of 2 Person Fire Rappels: 11  
 Number of 3-4 Person Fire Rappels: 4  
 Number of 5+ Person Fire Rappels: 1  
 Number of Cargo Letdowns: 33  
 Total Pounds of Internal/External Cargo: 20,330 / 35,000  
 Total Flight Hours: 223.7  
 Total Gallons of water dropped: 216,228  
 Total Contract Cost: \$1,042,040.60  
 Total Number of Passengers Transported: 492  
 Number of Rappel Boosters Provided to other Bases: 9  
 Number of Rappel Boosters Received from other Bases: 22

### Blue Mountain Rappel Base

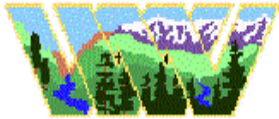
Blue Mountain hosted N669H (a Bell 205 A1++) on a 120 day contract and post-season extension of 14 days. Assignments included Crowley Creek on Vale BLM and a preposition to Alaska. Blue Mountain supported both the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NFs with initial and extended attack. The crew consisted of 15 personnel.



Total Number of Initial Attacks: 30  
 Number of Operational Rappels: 26  
 Number of 2 Person Fire Rappels: 9  
 Number of 3-4 Person Fire Rappels: 12  
 Number of 5+ Person Fire Rappels: 2  
 Number of Cargo Letdowns: 27  
 Total Pounds of Internal/External Cargo: 66,190 / 28,090  
 Total Flight Hours: 226.2  
 Total Gallons of Water Dropped: 126,480  
 Total Contract Cost: \$1,246,902.90  
 Total Number of Passengers Transported: 883  
 Number of Rappel Boosters Provided to other Bases: 12  
 Number of Rappel Boosters Received from other Bases: 10



## Interagency Hotshot Crews



# LA GRANDE HOTSHOTS



La Grande Hotshots started the season in Central Oregon on Gordon Butte. Then the crew was off to Nevada and Colorado. In July they supported incidents within Region 6; Owyhee, 25 Mile, Sun Mountain, Sunnyside Turnoff and Whiskey Complex. By the middle of August the crew was back on forest supporting Big Sheep 2 and Ridge. By the end of August the crew had assisted the Nez Perce NF, WDNR and the Payette NF on fires. They ended the season helping the Wallowa Whitman with the Cornet incident.

Total days crew was assembled?	135
Start Date	5/19/13
End Date	9/30/13
Total number of days assigned to incidents? (Includes travel)	88
How many days were in official travel status?	13
How many 14 day tours were completed during total number of days assigned?	4
Number of days on project work while assigned? (list specific type: e.g.. Trails, fuels etc.)	3
Total number of days off?	27
Days off in pay status?	12
Days off in non- pay status?	15
Number of days in training?	15
Total miles driven? (Total of all vehicles)	47,000



# Union Hotshots



Union Hotshots began the season after training with an assignment to New Mexico for the Tres Lagunas incident and Large Fire support then to Arizona to the Four Mile incident. Then in July the crew headed to Vale then over to Idaho and Montana. Late July and August the crew worked incidents within the Pacific NW; Mile Marker 28, Colockum Tarps, Douglas Complex, Big Windy, Government Flat Complex and Manastash Ridge. They finished the season with a short assignment to California on the Forks Complex.

Total days crew was assembled?	134
Start Date	4/20/13
End Date	9/30/13
Total number of days assigned to incidents? (Includes travel)	85
How many days were in official travel status?	15
How many 14 day tours were completed during total number of days assigned?	4
Number of days on project work while assigned? (list specific type: e.g.. Trails, fuels etc.)	2
Total number of days off?	14
Days off in pay status?	6
Days off in non- pay status?	8
Number of days in training?	15
Total miles driven? (Total of all vehicles)	46,601

## Wallowa Whitman NF Fuels

### Integrated Fuels Program

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest accomplished 69,887 acres of hazardous fuels treatments in fiscal year 2013. The forest continues to work closely with neighboring forests, state, federal and private agencies using a variety of tools to accomplish fuels reduction targets. Fuels treatments included: prescribed burning, hand and grapple piling, mastication, biomass removal, commercial and pre-commercial thinning.

Priorities for 2013 included implementation of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy, integrated veg. /fuels restoration projects, and biomass removal. In cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry the forest implemented treats on one of two national Cohesive Wildfire Strategy pilot projects.

The fall 2012 burn window was extremely limited due to early and continuous precipitation, however, the spring 2013 prescribed burn window allowed good burning conditions. The forest was able to capitalize on the spring window to conduct three separate aerial ignition burns. A large portion of RX burning accomplishment was pile burning.

Crews continue to work well with neighboring forests and cooperating agencies to accomplish prescribed burning as windows of opportunity exist. The forest utilized 2 cooperative agreements with the BLM and ODF in accomplishment of forest target. The fuels program continues to be a leader in integration and cooperation with neighboring districts on the forest in accomplishment of forest targets.



Smith TS Pre-treatment



Smith TS Grapple Piling

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest continued to implement stewardship contracts across the forest. Stewardship contracts for commercial thinning, biomass removal, mechanical piling, and fuels mastication included the Blue Fly, Sundry, and Cove II projects.

Wildfires which moved acres toward desired conditions added to the integrated target 48,029 acres. These fires which were declared out in the fall of 2013 included the Cache Creek, High Hat, and Big Sheep II fires.

In addition to the fuels target accomplishment the forest fuels program contributed to planning on eight separate restoration NEPA projects.

The forest also treated 2,658 acres of activity slash on harvest units using BD funding. These treatments included pile burning, jackpot burning, and handline construction.

Treatment	Wildland Urban Interface	Non-WUI	Total Acres
RX Fire	2144	6826	<b>8970</b>
Mechanical Treatments	4124	6298	<b>10,422</b>
Stewardship Fuels Reduction	2054	412	<b>2466</b>
Fire with Resource Benefit	128	47,901	<b>48,029</b>
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>8450</b>	<b>61,437</b>	<b>69,887</b>