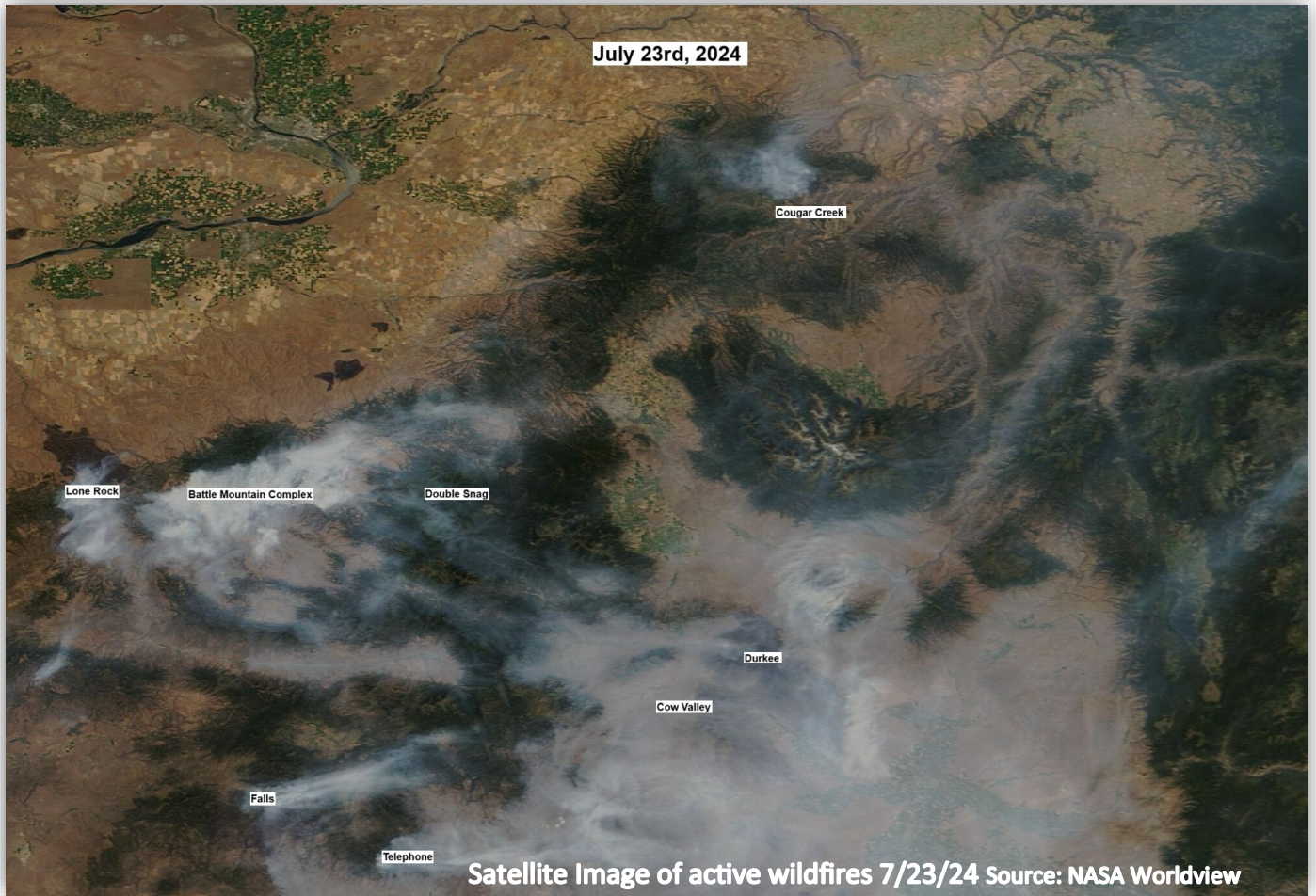


# 2024 BMIFC Annual Report



## Blue Mountain Interagency Fire Center

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Umatilla National Forest

● Oregon Department of Forestry

● Umatilla Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs

● Southeast Region Washington DNR

## Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center

Prior to Fire Season 2024 BMIDC's long time Center Manager, Renae Crippen, took a detail as the Regional CISM Coordinator, leaving an opening in the position. BMIDC's own Hunter Petrucci detailed as the Center Manager for the fire season to great success.

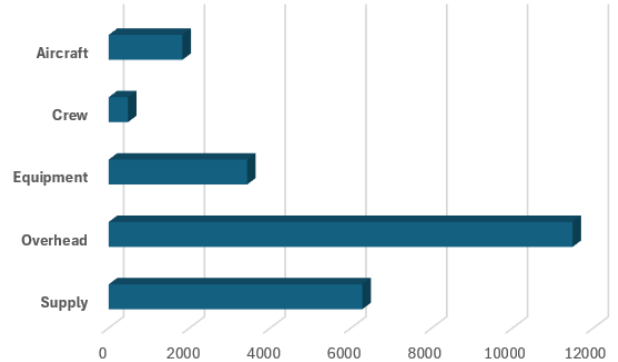


*"Our Mission is Your Safety"*

BMIDC Logistics got an early start to the season. Starting January 2024 and throughout the winter there were resources heading to FL, MO, LA, TN, NC, SC, MS, OK, IL and AR, for RX and Support. Then TX started to get busy in the Spring and resources were heading to TX and the SW. By July fire season was in full swing with temperatures much above normal and below normal precipitation. The first large fire of the season, Cougar Creek started on July 15<sup>th</sup>. BMIDC ended up supporting 15 teams over the 2024 season and kept an expanded dispatch open for a total of 71 days.

Despite the busy season, BMIDC was able to support both Region 6 and Alaska by sending out dispatchers on assignment. There were also 7 individuals that completed position task books this summer moving their careers forward in dispatch.

There were 21 medical incidents reported to BMIDC this season, including a medical on the Devil's Gulch Fire that received recognition from the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center for a timely and successful patient evacuation.



<b>Wildfire Incidents</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>Search &amp; Rescue</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Medical Aid</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Prescribed Fires</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Smoke Chases</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Admin Tracking Groups</b>	<b>3411</b>
<b>Night Shifts</b>	<b>65</b>

### Logistics

**Large Incidents Supported:** Cougar Creek, Wolf Fork, Battle Mountain Complex, Double Snag, Winding Waters, Town Gulch, Tiger Creek

**Total Teams Supported:** 15  
**Number of days expanded dispatch operated:** 71  
**Total Number of IROC orders processed:** 23,491

## La Grande Interagency Incident Support Cache

The 2024 season at the La Grande Fire Cache got its kick start in May. Annual kit updates and routine preparation for the 2024 season were the primary focus of the crew. The 2024 season proved to be a record-breaking season here at the Cache, providing support to a total 18 Incident Management teams and shipping over **\$15 million** in equipment and supplies.

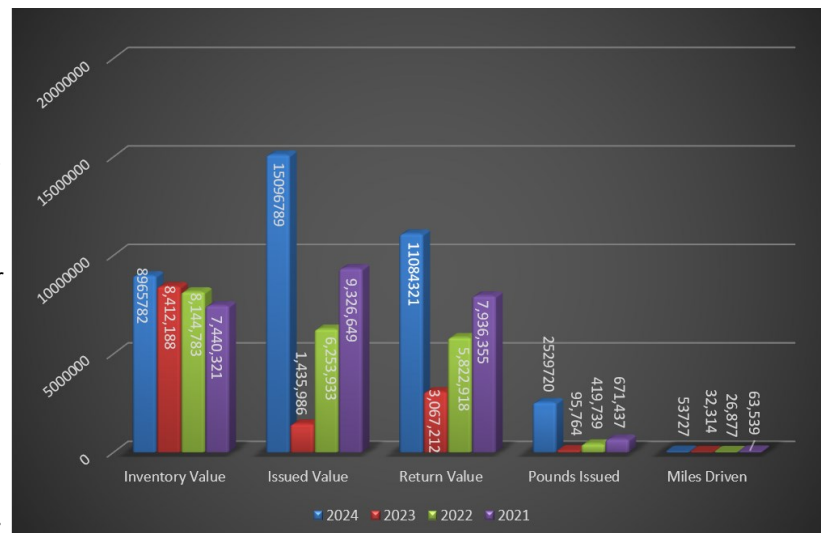
The Cache provided support to 8-Type I Incident Management teams, 7-CIMT's and 3-Type 3 Incident Management Teams to the Oregon Department of Forestry, Umatilla NF, Wallowa-Whitman NF, Washington DNR, and BLM.

In addition, resource requests for small initial attack incidents kept the crew busy. Cache personnel also assisted with the local Fire School as well local unit needs for the Oregon Department of Forestry, Washington DNR, local BIA and BLM units.

During the 2024 season the La Grande Cache also provided **\$3,153,307** in support to both Regional and National Caches by shipping and delivering equipment and supplies in support of ongoing incidents.

This year the La Grande Fire Cache employed a total of 13 Administratively Determined (AD) employees, to increase our workforce. AD salaries paid in support of the La Grande Fire Cache totaled approximately \$206,304 helping to boost the local economy. The La Grande Fire Cache was also able to provide support to other National Caches by sending a total of 4 of our folks out on fire assignment to the South Zone Fire Cache located in Ontario, CA. and to the Northwest Incident Support Cache in located in Redmond, OR.

Our overall inventory value for 2024 totaled **\$8,965,782**. The dollar amount issued directly out to incident support for the 2024 fire season was **\$15,096,789**. Total dollar amount returned from incidents was **\$11,084,321**. Total miles driven this year in support of incidents, accident free, was **53,727**.



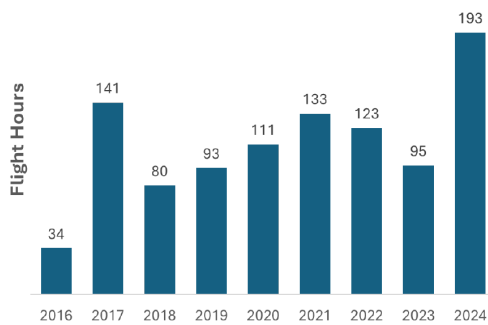


## Aviation—Fixed Wing

### Fixed Wing Recon 65N



Recon 65N began its season in La Grande, OR on July 15th on an Oregon Department of Forestry contract. The platform flew 193 hours for the 2024 season for 41 flight days. Recon 65N was responsible for 19 Primary Detections as well as 30 secondary Responses. The platform finished its season on September 27th.



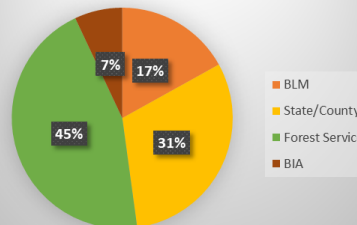
### La Grande Air Attack

AA-616 N690AR

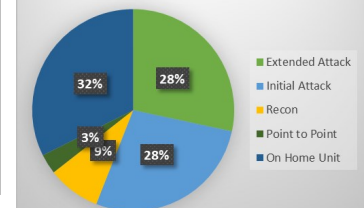


The La Grande Air Attack Platform began the 2024 fire season on a Forest Service Contract May 1st, and shortly thereafter was stationed in the Southwest Region 3 on May 7th. The platform relocated back to Region 6 on July 1st where it stayed on contract until September 27th. La Grande air attack flew a total of 101 missions for 294.6 hours, an increase of 44.6 hours over 2023. Over the 2024 season there was 2 trainees that flew with the platform for 28 missions and 72.63 hours of trainee flight time.

#### Flight Time by Ownership



#### Flight Time by Mission



### La Grande Tanker Base

This was the La Grande Airtanker Base's 33rd fire season. Opening for fire support on June 1st, 2024, the base was active for a 136-day operational period. The first loads of the season left La Grande on the 14th of June in support of the DNR Incident, Nisqually John, in SW Washington State. The busiest stretch of the season was July 15th – 31st with 621,683 gallons being sent through 271 missions, supporting a multitude of separate incidents. The single busiest day was the 18th of July, with 5 LATs and 3 SEATS delivering 42 loads (93,154 gallons) to the Buck Mountain; Lone Rock; Cougar Creek; Durkee; Battle Mountain Complex; and Boneyard incidents. Last loads of the season were sent to the Fossil Complex in Oregon on September 8th, and the base closed for the season on October 15th. In total, 591 missions were flown from the La Grande Airtanker Base with visiting aircraft consisting of 21 Large Airtankers and 6 SEATS, and landing fees totaling \$79,588.90. The base pumped 1,525,688 total gallons of retardant, costing fire incidents \$7,000,808.60. The La Grande Airtanker Base is a bulk base, one of few left in the nation that is operated solely by FS employees, that doesn't require a retardant contracted tank farm. The La Grande Airtanker Base sits in a unique, strategic position with proximity to 3 GACC boundaries, providing support across multiple regions.

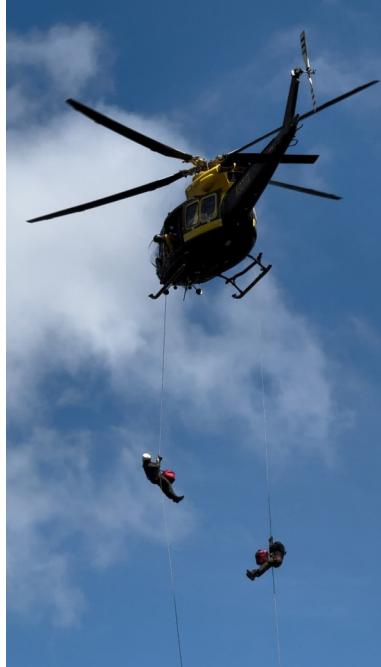
**1,525,688 gallons pumped for the 2024 Season**



## Aviation—Rotor Wing



**N90HX (Bell 412EPX)** was the first Bell 412EPX on contract for the USFS and started its contract on June 8<sup>th</sup> in La Grande. The crew responded to multiple IA in the local area as well as completing multiple trainings and projects on the Forest. In mid-May the aircraft was moved to Central Oregon for an IA preposition and stayed for two weeks before returning to the home unit for local IA. The aircraft and crew remained very busy the rest of the operational field season averaging several IA's per week. Eventually the aircraft was moved to the Malheur NF to support the Rail Ridge fire before getting assigned to the Tiger Creek incident outside Walla Walla on the Umatilla NF where it completed its 120 day contract on October 5<sup>th</sup>.



**N205TK (Bell 205A1++)** started its contract on 5/15/24 in La Grande. In early June it was then prepositioned to Wenatchee, WA for IA and Pioneer Fire support. While assigned for IA in Central Washington the crew responded to multiple fires on the Okanogan Wenatchee NF, Spokane District, Mt Hood NF, The Dalles ODF, and the Coeur D'Alene District in Idaho. In early September the aircraft and crew returned to the local area for IA on the Umatilla NF out of the Walla Walla airport. The crew was also utilized for IA on the Willamette NF before returning to La Grande and finishing the contract on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Stats	205TK	90HX
Total Flight Time	228	230
IA responses	34	42
Extended Attack Responses	28	24
Operational Rappels	69	85
Rappel Fires	15	18
Helitack Fires	9	12
Internal/ External pounds delivered	33,523	38,735
Gallons of water	90,300	125,978

### Type 1 Helicopter

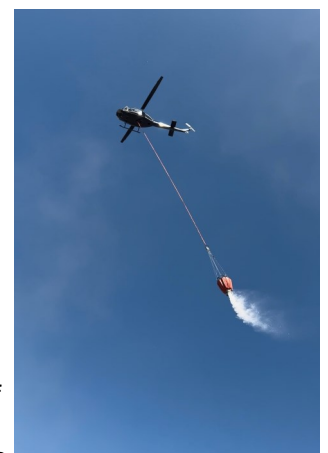
The Grande Ronde Rappelers were assigned management of N161KA a Type 1 K-MAX helicopter this past summer. 1KA came on contract on June 10<sup>th</sup> in La Grande and was assigned to the Pioneer Fire in Washington on its first day. 161KA spent the next 94 days assigned to Pioneer before moving to Central Oregon in mid September. After working the Rail Ridge Fire in John Day for a few weeks, 161KA was swapped out for N171PL another K-Max due to mechanical issues with 161KA. N171PL stayed assigned to Rail Ridge until October 20<sup>th</sup> before being released for the season. In total the crew managed the K-Max helicopters for 133 days on a CWN contract. Cumulative totals for both aircraft was 403 total flight hours and over 2 million gallons of water delivered.

In addition to assigned aircraft the crew also managed several Type 1 Blackhawk helicopters that were assigned locally from July through September.



### ODF Helicopter 703NP

Helicopter 3NP started its season with Oregon Department of Forestry on July 15<sup>th</sup>, coming on contract early to support the large fires in the State. The Helicopter supported both State and Federal incidents, delivering 488 buckets to ODF Fires, 406 to Federal Fires, and an additional 47 buckets to other protection fires for a total of 105 flight hours. The Helicopter ended its contract on October 30<sup>th</sup>.





## Washington Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region - Washington DNR Snake River Unit

2024 Largest Fires by Acreage

Stat Fire	Total Acres
Cougar Creek	24,091
Gooseneck	1,583
Wolf Fork	130
Hanson Ridge	19.6
Devils Canyon	1.2
Biscuit Ridge	0.5

2024 Fires	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
Lightning	6	151.2
Human	10	8,350.3
Totals	16	8,501.5

## Umatilla Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs

2024 Largest Fires by Acreage

Stat Fire	Total Acres
Tutuilla Church Road	192
Johnely Road	30
Light Ridge	2.5
Mile Post 223	2.9
Homly	2.5
Iskuulpa	2.2
INC 275	2
Tubbs Ranch	1.5
Eagle Creek	1
Kusi Road	1



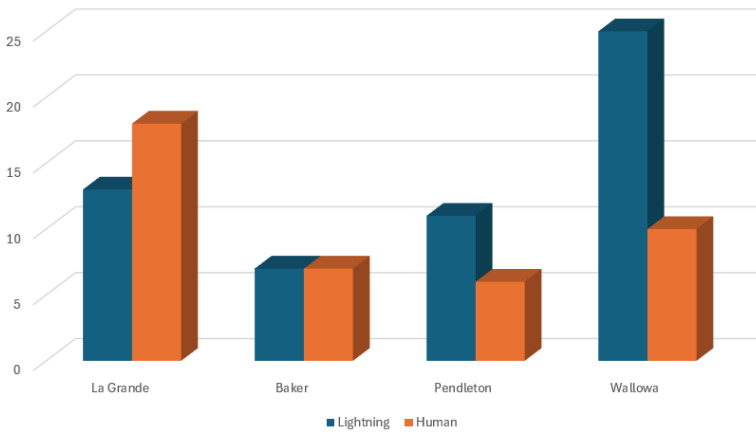
2024 Fires	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
Lightning	4	33.1
Human	19	207.3
Totals	23	240.4

# Oregon Department of Forestry

## Northeast Oregon District



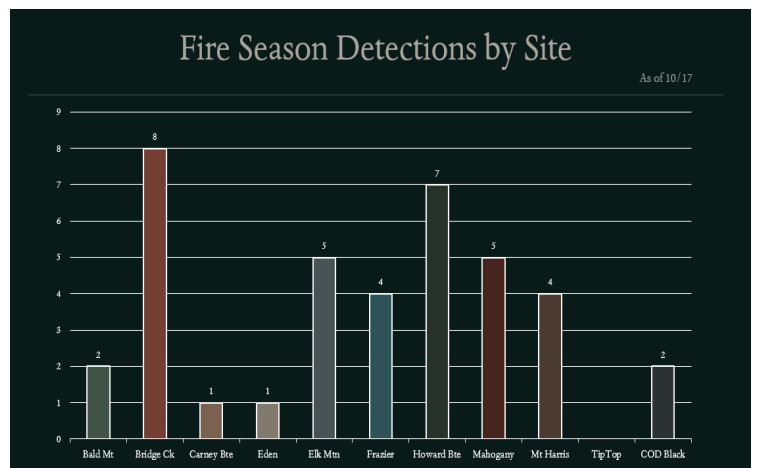
ODF Fires by Unit and Cause



- 2024 was above average in the number of fires and over quadruple the average of acres burned.
- Helicopter 3NP delivered 488 buckets of water on ODF incidents flying for 105 hours total for the 2024 season.
- Fixed-wing Recon 65N flew a total of 193 hours, more than doubling the reconnaissance hours flown from the 2023 Season.
- Single Engine Airtankers T-885 and T-852 flew a total of 242 flight hours delivering 151,000 Gallons of retardant for the 2024 season.
- NEO BMIDC Detection had 39 total fire detections for the 2024 season, being the initial detection on 14 incidents all while operating with 50+ days of poor visibility.

### NEO 10 Year Average

Year	# of Fires	Acreage
2024	95	67,635
2023	59	513
2022	56	11,190
2021	68	18,170
2020	76	337
2019	75	486
2018	78	1,466
2017	59	636
2016	44	874
2015	85	53,780
<b>Average</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>15,509</b>



### Largest Fires by ODF Acreage Burned

Fire	Ignition Date	State Acreage	Unit	Cause
Durkee	7-17-24	34,678	Baker	L
Snake	7-17-24	8,431	Pendleton	L
NF Owens	7-17-24	4,445	Pendleton	L
Monkey Creek	7-18-24	7,562	Pendleton	L
Goose Creek	7-24-24	9.4	Baker	L
Charlie Brown	7-25-24	69	Wallowa	L
Courtney Creek	7-25-24	59	Wallowa	L
Big Canyon	7-26-24	293	Wallowa	L
Mountain View	7-26-24	289	Wallowa	L
Water	7-26-24	18.85	Wallowa	L
Wilsey	7-28-24	10	Wallowa	L
Pumpkin Ridge	10-26-24	58.4	La Grande	H
Shaw Creek	10-26-24	15.8	La Grande	H





# Umatilla National Forest

Unit	Fires	Acres
Pomeroy	19	17,314
North Fork John Day	33	10,400
Heppner	7	5
Walla Walla	19	565
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>28,284</b>

## Type 2 Crews

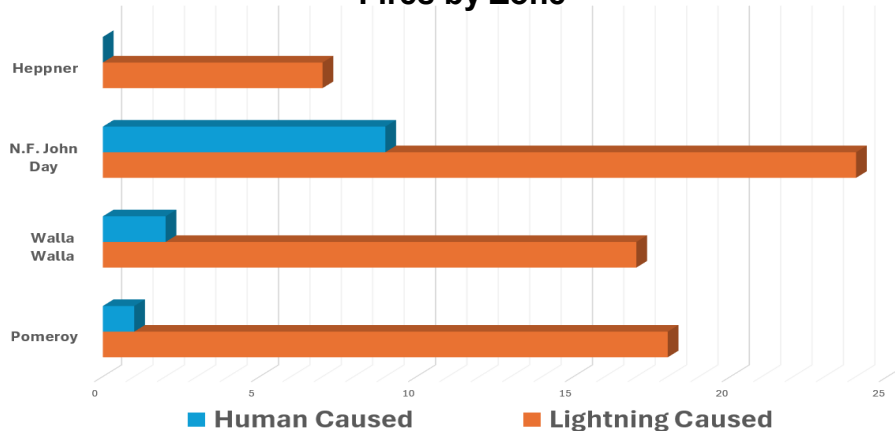
- The Umatilla Type 2 IA Crew was assembled twice: Cougar Creek on 8/3/24 and Diamond Complex on 8/25/24.
- The Umatilla Vet Crew completed 6 14-day assignments.

Fuels Program	
Acres Treated	1,718
Number of Units Burned	26

## Significant or Large Incidents

Cougar Creek	7/15/24	17,304 ac.
Monkey Creek	7/18/24	8,068 ac.
Snake	7/17/24	2,065 ac.
Tiger Creek	10/1/24	495 ac.
Double Snag	7/18/24	131 ac.
Skull	7/4/24	64 ac.
Whitman Springs	9/4/24	55 ac.

## Fires by Zone



Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number of Acres
2015	83	71,623	16	2,265	99	73,888
2016	12	205	10	48	22	253
2017	49	134	16	185	65	319
2018	29	1,056	13	414	42	1,470
2019	68	6,190	17	164	85	6,354
2020	79	1,039	7	39	75	1,078
2021	47	98,202	11	58	58	104,401
2022	45	766	10	1	55	767
2023	23	65	12	2	35	67
2024	59	10,395	12	17,884	78	28,279
<b>10 yr. avg.</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>18,968</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>21,688</b>



# Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

## Type 2 Crews

Unit	Fires	Acres
BPFZ	36	9,295
GRFZ	41	107
WFZ	52	1,639
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>11,041</b>

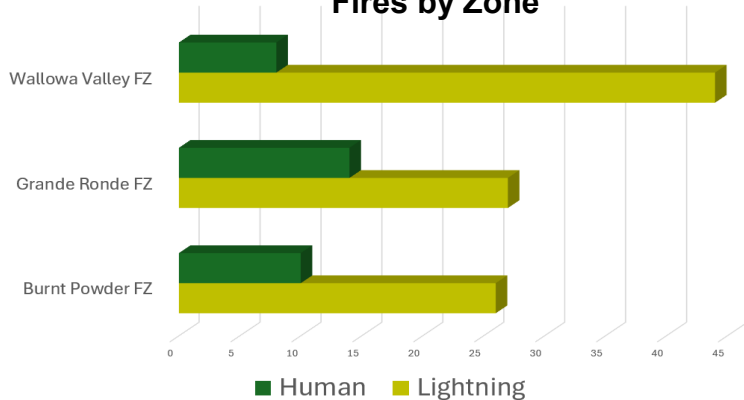
- The Wallowa-Whitman Type 2 IA Crew was assembled 3 times: Pioneer Fire 7/5, Crazy Creek Fire 8/4, Constitution Fire 8/24.
- The Eagle Cap Fire Module completed 5 14 day assignments.

Fuels Program	
Acres Treated	7,530
Number of Units Burned	43

## Significant or Large Incidents

Town Gulch	8/5/24	9,249 ac.
Cliff Mountain	7/25/24	1,108 ac.
Lone Pine	7/25/24	200 ac.
Boulder Creek	8/18/24	116 ac.
Corral Creek	9/4/24	60 ac.
Devils Gulch	7/25/24	48 ac.
Mahogany	7/26/24	30 ac.

Fires by Zone



Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number of Acres
2015	63	42,687	23	7,561	86	50,248
2016	33	30	29	28,584	62	28,614
2017	91	4,317	20	182	111	4,498
2018	26	17	13	5	39	22
2019	67	5,706	26	27	93	5,733
2020	60	21	23	12	83	33
2021	44	1,780	25	83	69	1,863
2022	60	197,933	11	1,868	71	199,802
2023	20	481	29	13	49	494
2024	97	10,934	32	107	129	11,041
<b>10 yr. avg.</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>26,391</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>30,235</b>



# UNION HOTSHOTS



Union IHC started their season on April 22nd with mandatory training. The first assignment was to Southern Oregon for the Little Yamsey Fire. Next assignment was Central Idaho for an RX Assignment. We then spent the next month and a half on fires throughout Washington. Last half of August the crew was on the Willamette fires to finish Dirty August out. We started September chasing desert fires throughout Oregon. The crew finished September and in October went to R2 spending time doing project work in Colorado, before getting a fire Assignment in Wyoming to the Elk Fire. The crew finished up the season on 10/18 after being assembled for 168 days.

Total days crew was assembled	168
Start Date	4/22
End Date	10/18
Total number of days assigned to incidents	160
How many days were in official travel status	12
How many 14 day assignments	8
Number of days on project work	20
Total number of days off	31
Days off in pay status	7
Number of days in training	9

# LA GRANDE HOTSHOTS



La Grande IHC started the 2024 season April 8<sup>th</sup> with 10 days of training. The Crews first assignment was to WA for some prescribed burning on the Colville NF. After that, the crew headed down to southern Oregon for an ASR on the Fremont-Winema NF, supporting the local district's mission of using wildfire to reduce fuels on the landscape. LGIHC'S only out of region assignment followed next where the crew landed in Lowman, Idaho on the Boise NF for continued fuels treatment and RX. LGIHC didn't see their first wildfire until the beginning of June, where the crew would spend two full rolls staffing and suppressing the Pioneer fire on lake Chelan. The remainder of the fire season the crew stayed in the PNW supporting wildfires finishing their season October 4<sup>th</sup>, having been together for 182 days.

Total days crew was assembled	182
Start Date	4/7
End Date	10/5
Total number of days assigned to incidents	131
How many days were in official travel status	17
How many 14 day assignments	7
Number of days on project work	21
Total number of days off	18
Days off in pay status	11
Number of days in training	10



## Eagle Cap Wildland Fire Module



The Wildland Fire Module started out the season supporting R8 RX. We sent 2 mods in March through April, Tenn and Mo. Critical Training was completed with the core group and 1039's that were available May 20. The modules first wildland fire assignment was to the Pioneer Fire in WA in early June, Skull Fire (UMF), Cougar Creek x2 (UMF/DNR), Town Gulch, Boulder Creek and finished the season managing the Pioneer Fire in WA as a Type 3 Team. The module went on 5 large fire assignments and responded to 9 local incidents where they spent 30 days fighting fire.

Total days crew was assembled	210
Start Date	5/8
End Date	12/15
Total number of days assigned to incidents	110
How many days were in official travel status	16
How many 14 day assignments	5
Number of days on project work	54
Total number of days off	46
Days off in pay status	8
Days off in non- pay status	38
Number of days in training	20



## UMATILLA VETERAN CREW



The Umatilla Veteran Crew started the season on April 21st, 2024. The crew spent May helping with broadcast burning within the BMIFC footprint. After a couple of small local fires, the crew went on the first 14 day assignment to Burns, OR for the Falls fire on July 8th, 2024. The rest of July, all of August, and the first part of September was spent on the Battle Mountain Complex. The crew spent 14 days attached to a Military Mobilization to assist the Boise N.F. with three different CIMTs (Lava/Boulder, Middle Fork Complex, West Mountain Complex) working on a total of 7 fires between the three teams.

Total days crew was assembled	208
Start Date	4/22
End Date	11/15
Total number of days assigned to incidents	83
How many days were in official travel status	4
How many 14 day assignments	6
Number of days on project	50
Total number of days off	53
Days off in pay status	6
Days off in non- pay status	47
Number of days in training	21