



National Infrared Operations

Tom Mellin
National Infrared Program Manager
February 10, 2016
Intermediate GISS

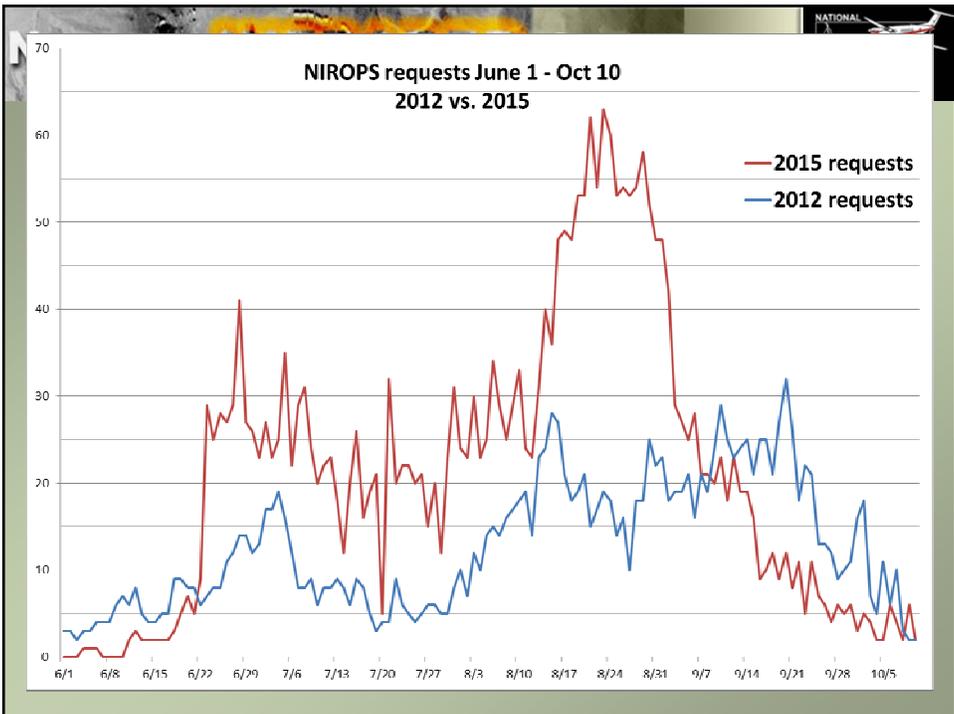
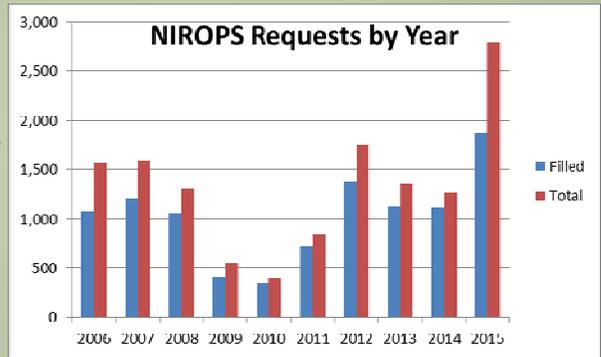


2015 –

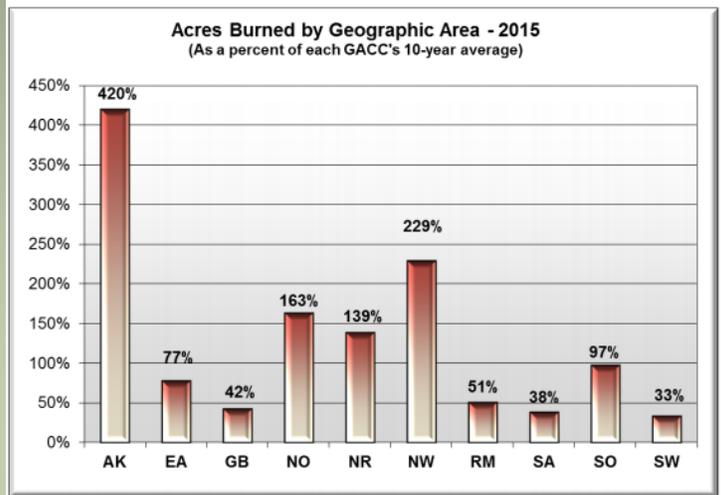
- 10.1 million acres burned, 153% of the ten year average
- 5.1 million acres in Alaska, 444% of ten year average for AK
- Bi-Modal – Alaska in June/July then Conus in August
- Unprecedented ordering of NIROPS
- Extensive use of Aircraft 3

2015 NIROPS Requests

- 2,792 total requests with 1,876 filled
- 2015 acres burned was 107% of 2012
- 2015 requests  by 59%, missions by 36% vs 2012
- 33% UTF rate
- Aircraft 3 filled
28% of missions

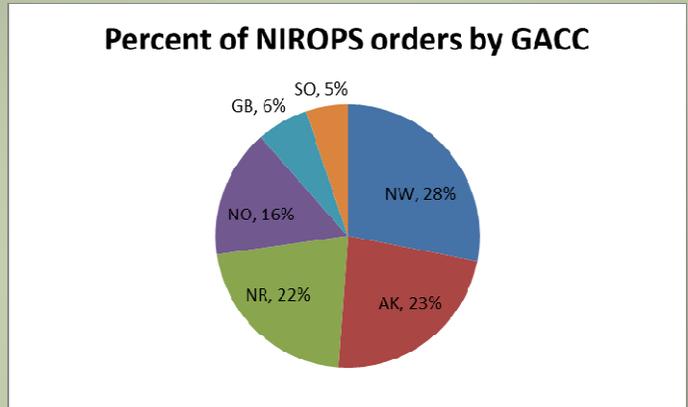


Fire Activity by GACC



2015 – Orders by GACC

☛ All Alaska orders between June 23 and Aug 4

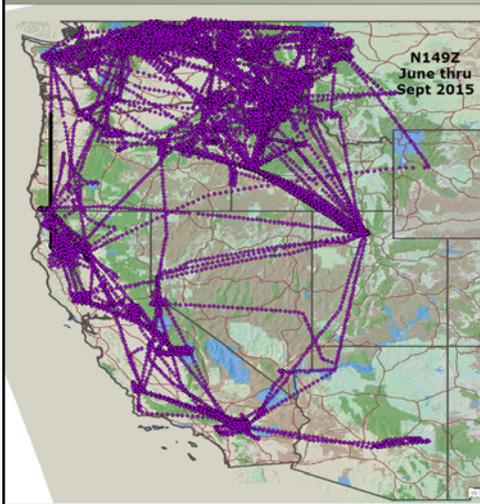


Busiest Night – August 19, 47 Fires

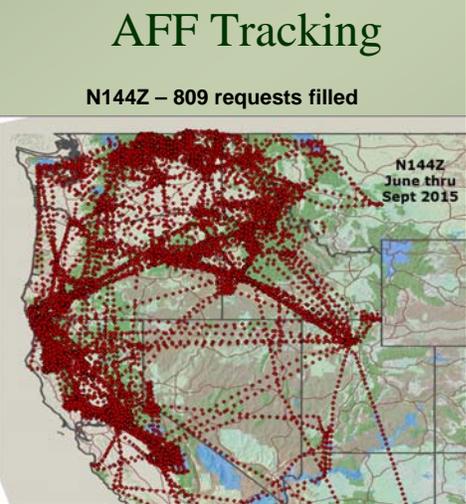
- ✦ **N149Z (16 fires)**
 - Okanogan, Marble Valley, Stickpin, Graves Mtn, Gold Hill, Tower, Wolverine, Tower Road, North Star, Reach, Goode, Black Canyon, Renner, Cougar Creek (WA)
 - Family Peak, Morrell (MT)
- ✦ **Aircraft 3 (5 fires)**
 - Rough, Cuesta, Walker (CA)
 - NE Kootenai, Thompson Divide (MT)
- ✦ **N144Z (26 fires)**
 - River, Gasquet, Fork, Sawtooth, Nickowitz, South, Mad River, Route (CA)
 - Collier Butte, Stouts Creek, Grizzly Bear, Eagle, Cornet/Windy Ridge, Canyon Creek, National Creek, El Dorado (OR)
 - Motorway, Campbells, Cougar, Teepee Springs, Clearwater, West Scriver, Rapid, Middle Fork, Slide (ID)

43 fires flown on Aug 18

AFF Tracking



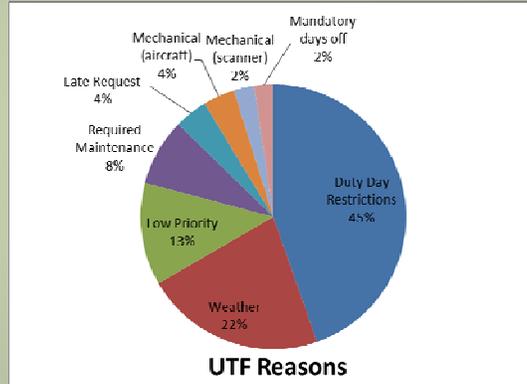
N149Z – 534 requests filled



N144Z – 809 requests filled

UTFs (Unable to Fill)

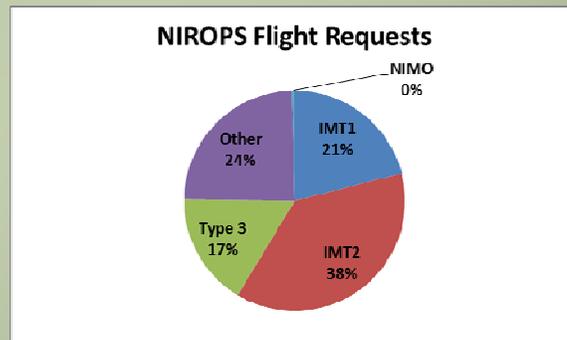
- 651 total UTFs (NIROPS only)
- UTF rate drops from 33% to 26% when weather UTFs are not counted
- UTF for Aircraft 3 similar - 33% (18% non-weather)



Who is Requesting?

- Large number of requests (222) did not fill out (mostly AK)

| Team Type | UTF rate |
|-----------|----------|
| Other | 45% |
| Type 3 | 33% |
| Type 2 | 28% |
| Type 1 | 23% |
| NIMO | 27% |



Prioritization of fires for IR (not in any order)

- ✦ Type of team assigned – Type 1, 2, 3, etc.
- ✦ Values at risk, WUI, evacuations
- ✦ Priority listings in National IMSR
- ✦ GACC priority listings
- ✦ Geographic location and grouping of fires
- ✦ Activity during the day
 - Satellite fire detections – MODIS, VIIRS
 - Plume activity – visible satellite
- ✦ Consultation with NICC
- ✦ Heat detected from NIROPS flights
- ✦ Expected weather over incident
- ✦ Feedback from IRINs

Extended Support to numerous incidents

- ✦ River Complex (CA) – 44 flights
- ✦ Wolverine (WA) – 44 flights
- ✦ Rough (CA) – 38 flights
- ✦ Fork Complex (CA) – 38 flights
- ✦ South Complex (CA) – 36 flights
- ✦ Gasquet Complex (CA) – 33 flights
- ✦ Teepee Springs (ID) – 30 flights
- ✦ North Star (WA) – 28 flights
- ✦ Nickowitz (CA) – 27 flights
- ✦ Rapid (ID) – 27 flights



It Takes a Team!

- ✦ IR Techs - 5 person rotation
- ✦ Pilots – 4 FS fulltime, 2 FS additional
- ✦ 46 different IRINs, 12 trainees got assignments and 9 got signed off
- ✦ Alaska regional IR desk staffed from 6/23 to 7/30 by 3 different IRCRs
- ✦ National IR desk staffed from 8/2 to 9/20 by 3 different IRCNs
- ✦ Aircraft 3 (Firehawk) coverage key for Alaska requests and during maintenance on NIROPS aircraft- AC3 liaison at RSAC and NGA analysts - 6/24 thru 9/20
- ✦ R4 Aviation maintenance crew



IRINs – A Closer Look

- ✦ 86 individual assignments
 - 69 assignments working 2+ fires
- ✦ 46 different IRINs
 - 17 had 2 or more assignments
- ✦ Trainee assignments
 - Maximize efficiency
 - S443 not offered for 2016
- ✦ 961 shifts*

*Does not include Aircraft 3

NIFC FTP site

- ❖ IRIN group is only for IRINs and IR flight crew
- ❖ No special group approval or username/password needed to access and download interpreted IR products
- ❖ In the incident folder, IR folder should be at same level as GIS folder, not inside it

nirops.fs.fed.us

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National IR Program Manager

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Contacts

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GACC IR Liaisons:

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- 8 SE: Scott Wilkinson, (work) 501-984-5313 ext. 117, (cell) 501-538-5827, scottwilkinson@fs.fed.us
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Questions?

