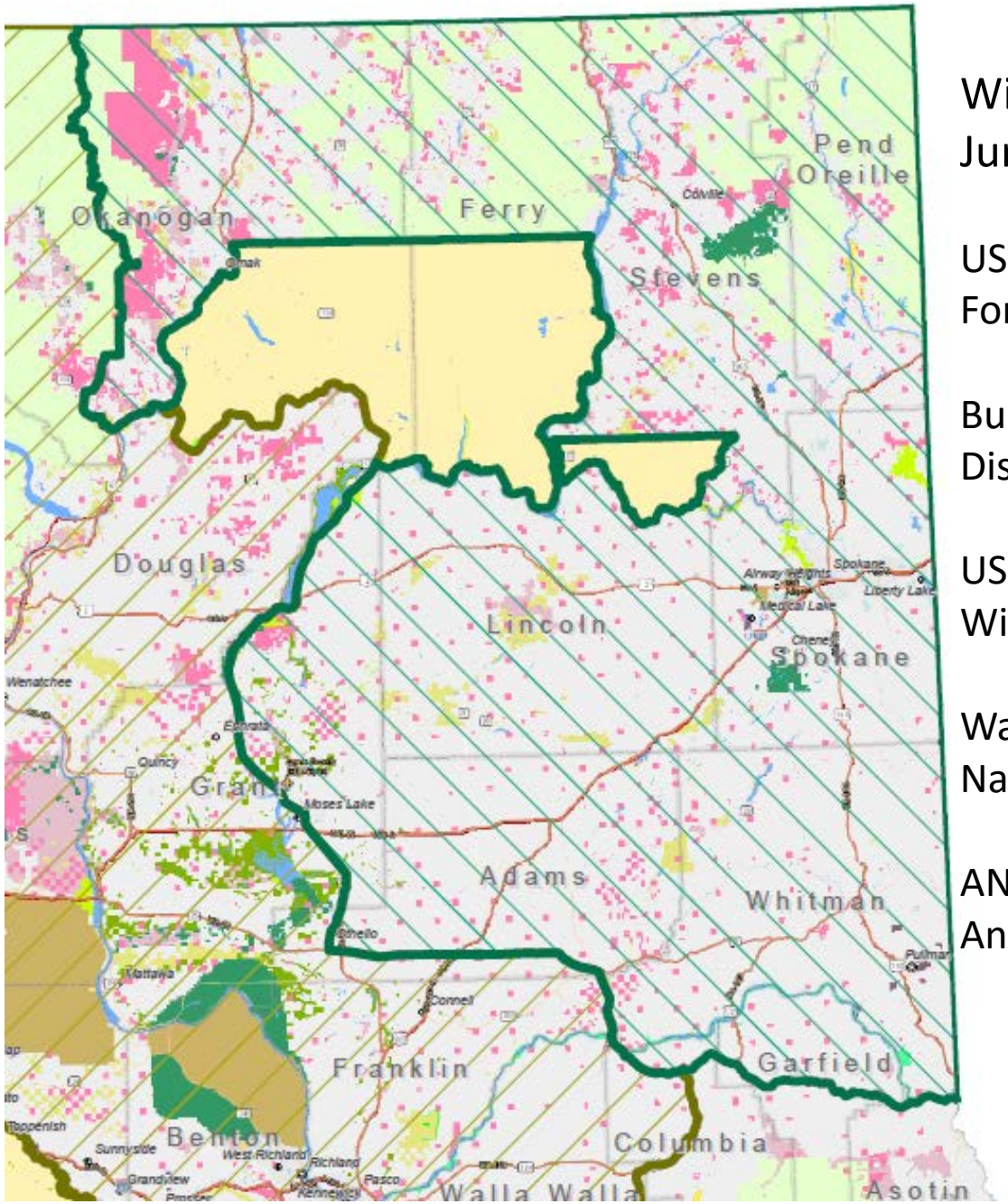
NE Washington Interagency Communications Center

Northeast Washington Interagency Communications Center
NEWICC
DISPATCH
USFWS DNR BLM USFS

NEWICC coverage area includes all or portions of 10 counties:

Okanogan
Ferry
Stevens
Pend Oreille
Spokane
Lincoln
Whitman
Adams
Grant
Garfield



Within these 10 counties for the Jurisdictions of the agencies listed:

US Forest Service – Colville National Forest and Okanogan/Wenatchee Forest

Bureau of Land Management – Spokane District

US Fish and Wildlife – Inland NW National Wildlife Complex

Washington State, Department of Natural Resources – Northeast Region

AND through agreement – Kalispel Tribe And National Park Service – Lake Roosevelt.

NEWICC dispatches and tracks: 54 Engines, 12 Hand Crews and over 150 fire personnel.

In 2016 Dispatched, processed orders, flight followed, and calculated air costs for aircraft for 1057.8 flight hours costing 4,033,917.

2017 NEWICC will dispatch the SEAT Bases at Omak and Deer Park – each with 2 firebosses, 1 air attack, and 1 helicopter.

Statistics

2014

517 Fires

160,411.0 Acres

2015

632 Fires

355,408.0 Acres

2016

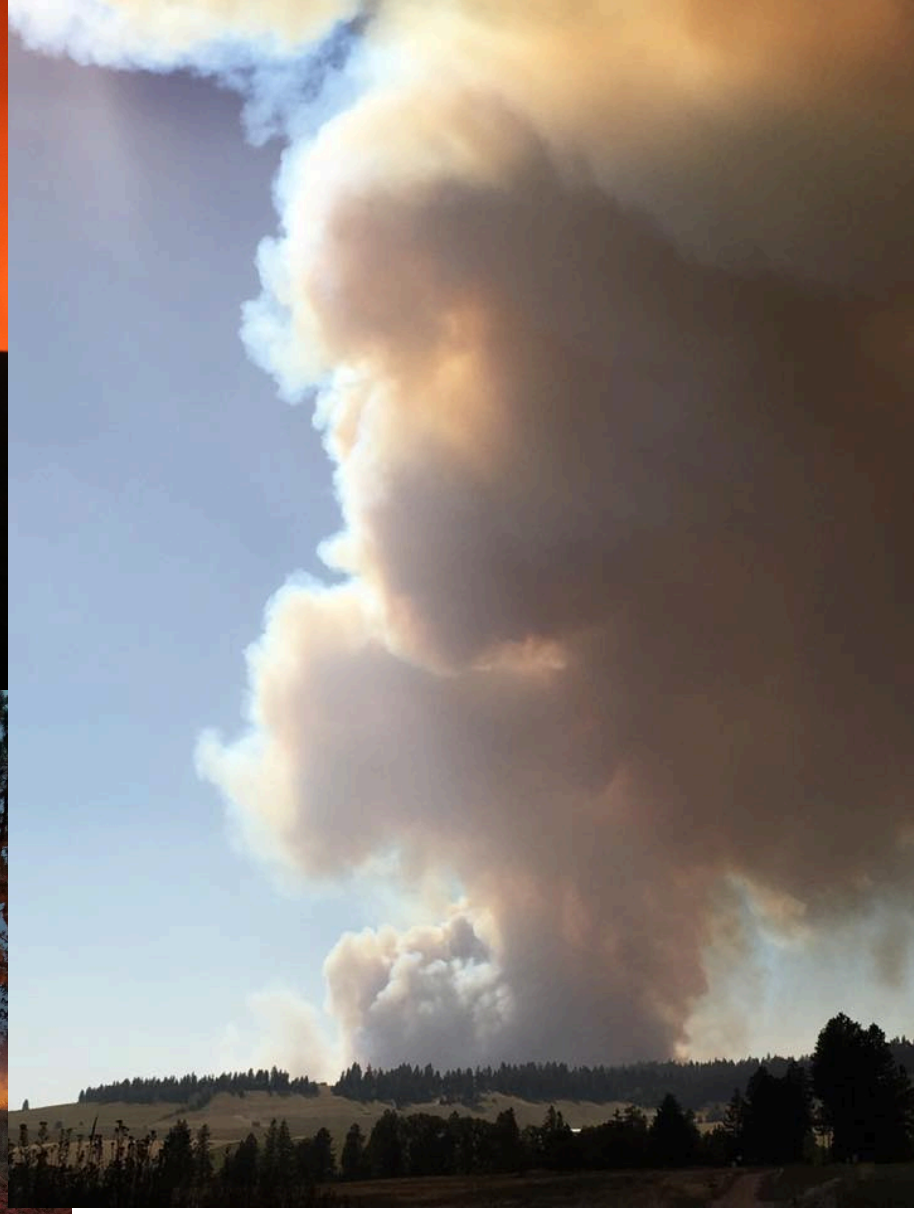
397 Fires

14,737.0 Acres

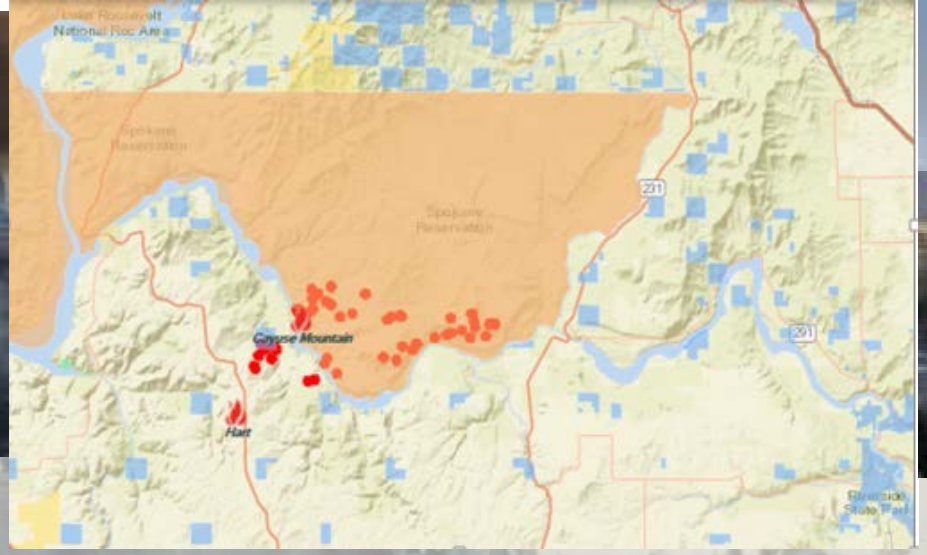
“DEEP NORTH”
WA-NES-802
8/21/16 @ 1356
Burned 596 acres

“HART”
WA-NES-807
8/21/16 @ 1442
Burned 4,983 Acres

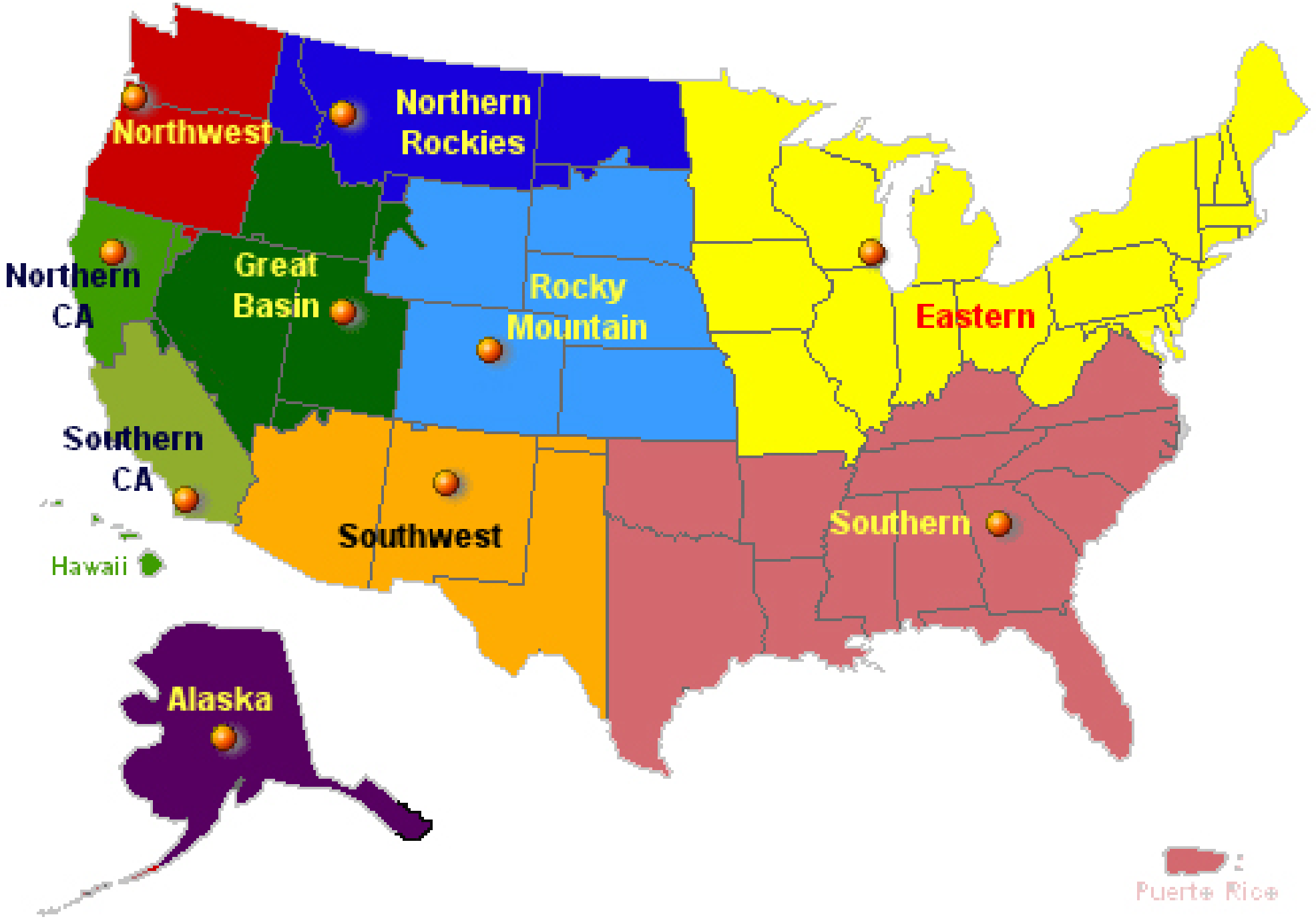
Wellesley Fire WA-NES-809
8/21/16 @ 1450
Burned 312 Acres

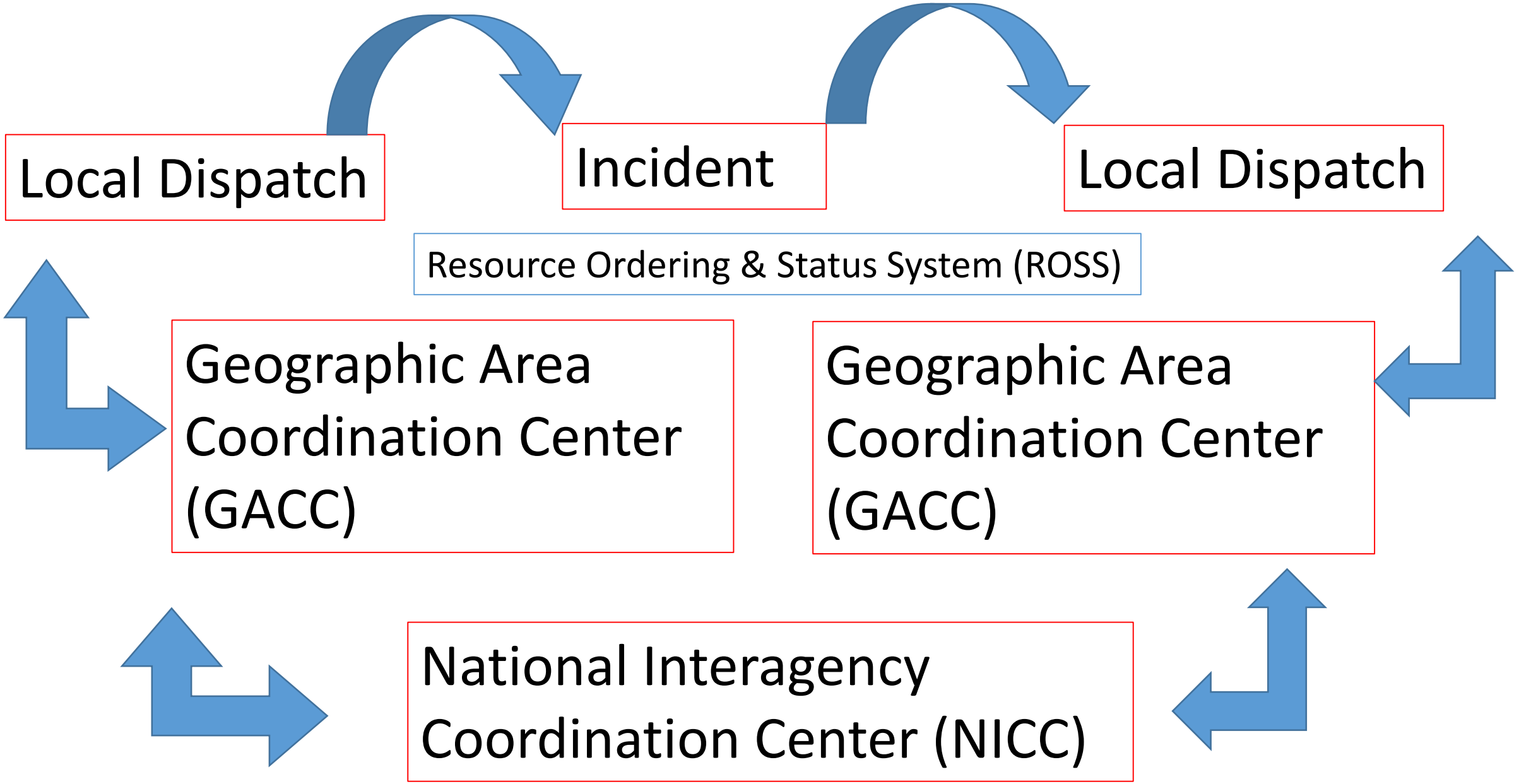


“YALE” WA-NES-808
8/21/16 @ 1501
Burned 6,017 Acres



“CAYUSE MOUNTAIN”
WA-SPA-0024
8/21/16 @1937
Burned 18,400 Acres


Northwest
Northern Rockies
Northern CA
Great Basin
Rocky Mountain
Eastern
Southern CA
Southwest
Southern
Hawaii
Alaska
Puerto Rico


Local Dispatch
Incident
Local Dispatch
Resource Ordering & Status System (ROSS)
Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC)
Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC)
National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)

NEWICC “out of area” Resource Orders

2014

262

2015

286

2016

155

2017

17 to date

Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Communications

What are the requirements to be an NWCG Qualified Communications Unit Leader

- You must first be NWCG qualified as
  - Radio Operator – RADO
  - Incident Communications Manager – INCM
  - Incident Communications Technician – COMT
- NWCG – National Wildfire Coordination Group is the certifying body behind the Interagency Fire Qualifications Rating System

What’s in a Starter Kit

- VHF Command Repeater with UHF Link capability (1 ea)
- VHF Command/Tactical Portable Radio Kit containing 16 handhelds (3 ea)
- VHF/AM Ground Aircraft Radio/UHF Link Kit (1 ea)
- VHF or UHF Remote Radio Kit (2 ea)
- UHF Logistics Repeater Kit (1 ea)
- UHF Logistics Portable Radio Kit containing 16 handhelds (1 ea)

Establish Contact with NIFC – National Interagency Fire Center

- Call the Communications Duty Officer – CDO
- Exchange Information with the Communications Coordinator – COMC
  - Incident name
  - Location – Lat/Long
  - Equipment Assignments
  - Frequency Assignments (repeaters, links, aircraft, tactical and tones)
  - Adjacent incident information (interoperability issues, frequency assignments, locations, COML)
  - Equipment availability (pre-position, cache locations, shortages)

Meet with Operations Section and Determine Their Needs

- How many divisions for tactical channels
- Area of operations – determines communications system coverage
- Is the team responsible for Initial Attack if there are any new starts
- Interoperability issues – are local resources communicating in the same frequency band, or operating with digital channels

Meet with Air Operations and Determine Their Needs

- How many Air-to-Air AM frequencies will be required
- Will fixed wing and rotor wing be on separate frequencies
- Has a Heli-base been established
- How many Air-to-Ground VHF FM frequencies are needed
- Will an Aircraft Link be needed for Flight Following

Design the Communications System

- Experience in radio propagation is a bonus
- Check maps for possible repeater locations
- Coordinate with COMC or CDO
- If needed order additional radio equipment
- Order communications personnel (RADO’s, COMT’s and INCM)

Install Radio System

- Test (voice check) equipment in camp before deployment
- Determine method of transportation and make proper arrangements (drive, hike, atv, helicopter)
- Install and voice test
- Voice check completed system
- Document locations (Lat/Long)
- Build Communications Plan – ICS205
- Clone radios the next working shift

Other IMT Communications Needs

- Establish a Logistics communications net
  - Spike camp
  - Split Base Camp and ICP
- Telecom/Data communications
  - Local phone provider
  - DSL
  - Cellular coverage

IMT Transition or Closeout

- Determine what communications equipment will remain to support any ongoing operations.