

# THE VIEW FROM THE FIELD - 2017

Rob Carlin – Flathead NF Staff Officer  
Resources, Planning, and Fire

2017 Fire Season:

SITL and PSC2(t) with

Northern Rockies IMT1 (Team 1/ Poncin)



## NIROPS SUPPORT TO NR TEAM 1 IN 2017

Frye Fire – Coronado NF

Lolo Peak Fire – Lolo and Bitterroot NFs, MT DNRC

Liberty Fire – Flathead Indian Reservation

Rice Ridge Fire – Lolo and Flathead NFs

FRYRE FIRE  
CORONADO NF  
JUNE 12 – JULY 12, 2017

43,443 acres

31 Flights Requested

3 UTFs: 2 Weather and 1 Mechanical

# Frye Fire IRIN Assignments:

## June 12 to July 12, 2017

Pete Martinez – 6/12 to 6/17

Melinda McGann – 6/17 to 6/20

Daniel LeVrier – 6/20 to 7/3

Melanie Rossi – 7/3 to 7/12

Three parallel white diagonal lines are located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

# Northern Rockies Team 1 - Greg Poncin

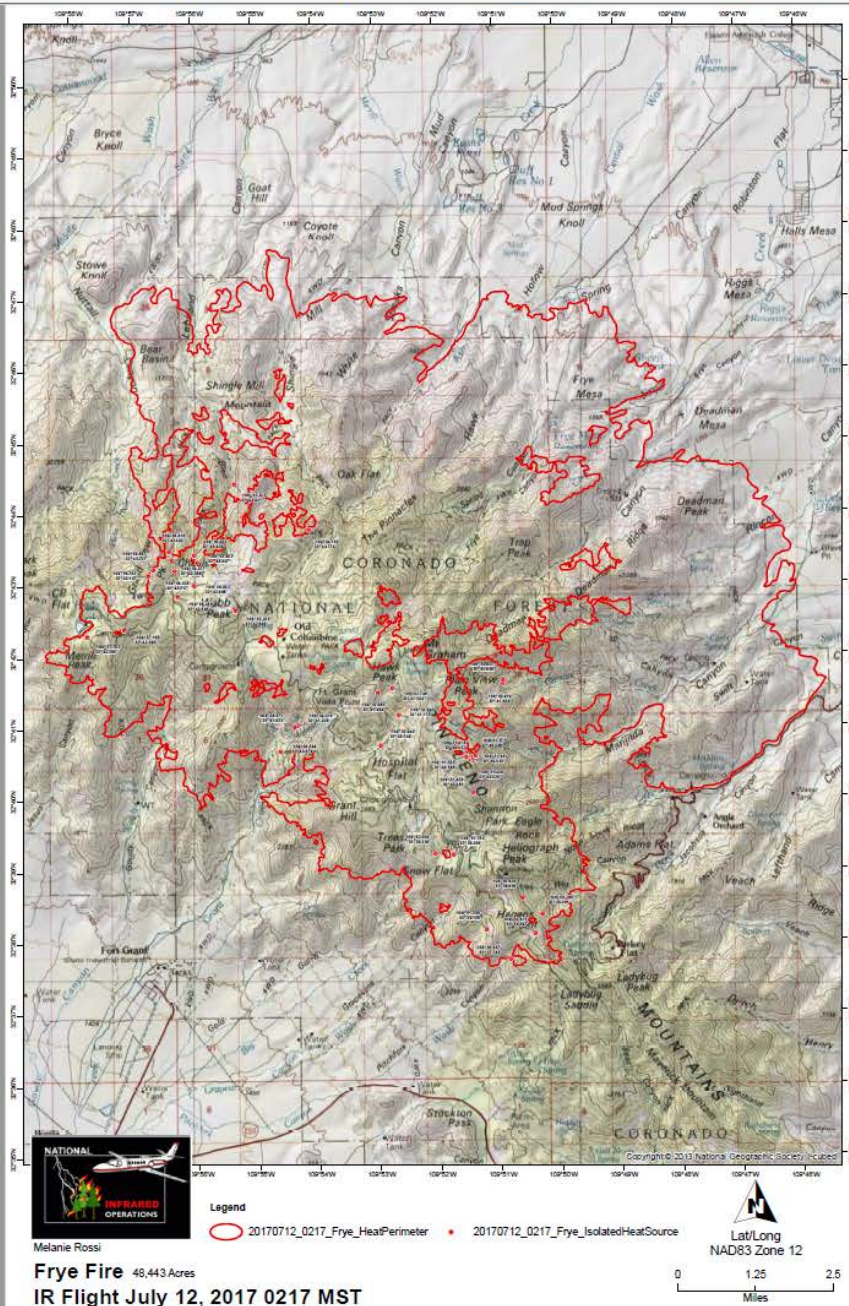
**Frye Fire Assignment – 6/23 to 7/8**

**Fire Growth: From 29,424 to 48,443 acres**

**16 NIROPS Flights Requested**

**UTFs: 1 Mechanical**















# Frye Fire – Coronado NF

## Successes:

- Great imagery and mission frequency  
( 31 Flights Ordered / only 3 UTFs ).
- Excellent Interpretation.
- Timely response with products.
- Outstanding coordination / intel sharing.

# Frye Fire – Coronado NF

## Challenges:

- Early flight times – 20:21 hrs on 6/27  
20:48 hrs on 7/06
- Extreme heat / surface rock (116 deg. F @TUC).
- Noise in imagery due to retained heat.

LOLO PEAK FIRE  
LOLO AND BITTERROOT NF  
MONTANA DNRC  
JULY 18 – SEPT 26, 2017

37,844 acres

61 Total NIROPS Flights Requested

9 UTFs – 7 Weather and 2 Mechanical

3 MMA Flights Flown



# Lolo Peak Fire IRIN Assignments: July 18 to Sept 18, 2017

Tim Stauffer – 7/18 to 7/24 and 8/14 to 8/19

Howard Harrison – 7/24 to 7/25

Brian Monroe – 7/25 to 8/3 and 9/18

Buck Buchanen – 8/3 to 8/14

Bob Brantlinger – 8/19 to 9/03

Tammy Hocut – 9/03 to 9/17

# Northern Rockies Team 1 - Greg Poncin

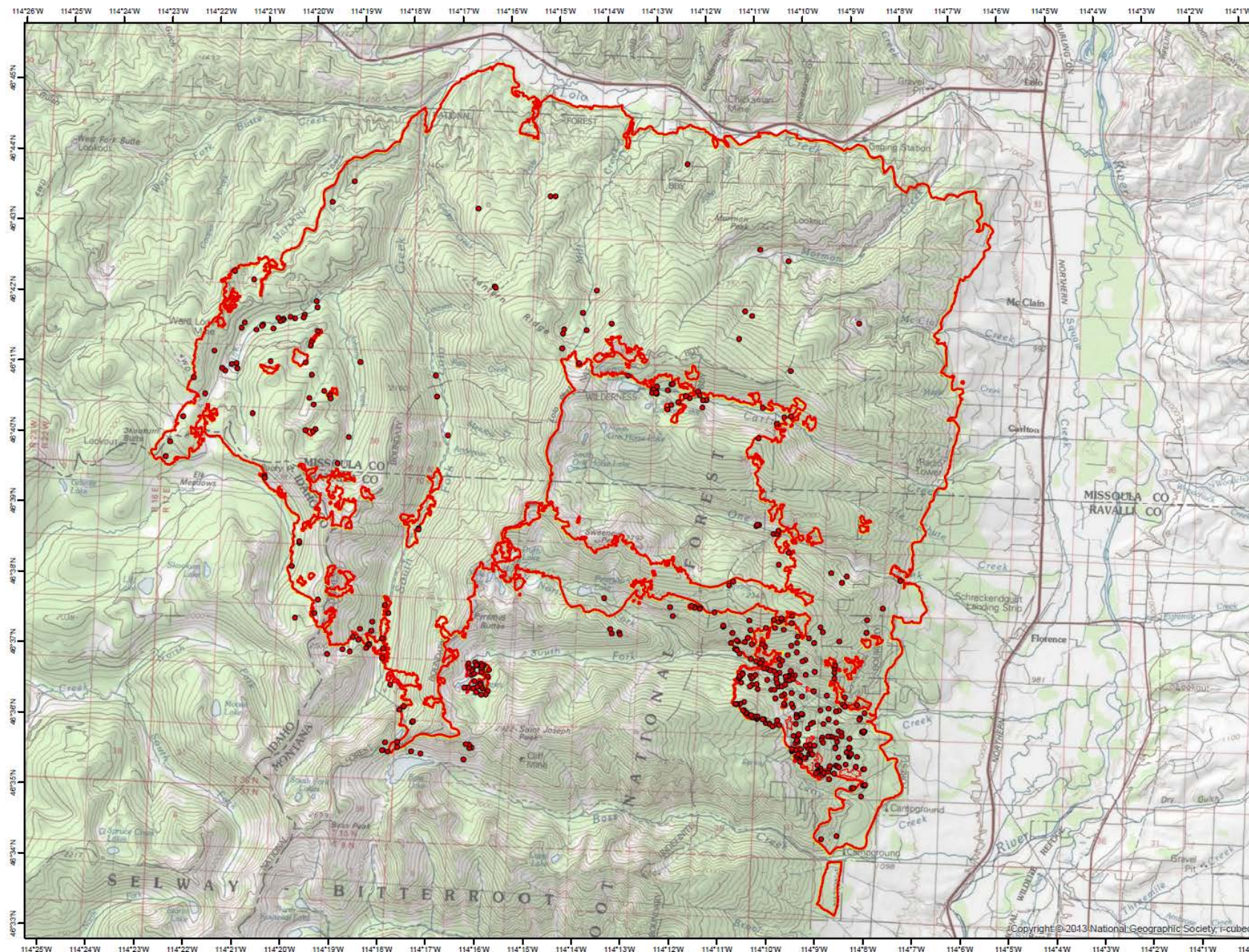
## Lolo Peak Fire Assignments:

- 7/21 to 8/05    249 to 7084 acres
- 8/17 to 8/29    15,090 to 38,878 acres

29 NIROPS Flights Requested

UTFs: 1 Weather





# Lolo Peak MT-LNF-001288 Infrared Heat Sources 1:92,010

## Legend

- 9/16 Perimeter
  - Heat Perimeter
  - Intense Heat Areas
  - Scattered Heat Areas
  - Isolated Heat Sources
- NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

## Notes:

0 0.75 1.5 3  
Miles



IR Interpreter: Brian Monroe  
IR interpreted acres: 53,839  
Date: 09/18/2017  
Scan Date/Time: 09/17/17 2149 hrs





















# Lolo Peak Fire – Lolo/Bitterroot NFs

## Successes:

- Outstanding mission response rate  
(29 Flights Ordered / only 1 UTF/Weather).
- Excellent interpretation of heat signatures across control lines.
- Products received for timely distribution.
- Accurate perimeters based on field validation.
- Geo-referenced map products.

# Lolo Peak Fire – Lolo/Bitterroot NFs

## Challenges:

- Early flight times were fewer and alternated greater than 50 percent – 21:14 hrs on 8/25
- Noise in imagery due to intense heat of fire.
- IRINs were able to catch false trips and halos.

# Lolo Peak Fire – Lolo/Bitterroot NFs

## MMA Missions:

- Three missions requested by two other IMTs (pre- and post NR Team 1) on 8/13 and 14 and 9/09.
- Produced three videos clips on 8/14 and perimeter mapping on all three dates.



# Lolo Peak Fire – Lolo/Bitterroot NFs

## MMA Mission Success:

- Received valuable intel during daylight hours on relative location of the fire perimeter.
- Provided timely assessment and validation of fire progression toward Management Action Points (MAPs).



LIBERTY FIRE

FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION

MONTANA DNRC

LOLO NF

SEPT. 5 – SEPT. 15, 2017

28,694 acres

49 Total NIROPS Flights Requested.

- 6 UTFs: 3 Weather, 1 Mechanical, 1 Maintenance, and 1 Flight Time Restriction.

2 MMA Flights Flown: on 8/15 and 9/09.

- NIROPS UTF for Maintenance on 8/15

# Liberty Fire IRIN Assignments:

## July 31 to Sept. 17, 2017

Brian Monroe – 7/31

Cheron Ferland – 8/01 to 8/05, 9/02 to 9/07

Tami Hocut – 8/05 to 8/08, 8/10 to 8/19

Kyle Felker – 8/08 to 8/09

Billy Harris – 8/19 to 9/01

Elise Bowne – 9/8 to 9/10

Kurt Teuber – 9/10 to 9/12

Daniel LeVrier – 9/16 to 9/17



# Northern Rockies Team 1 - Greg Poncin

Liberty Fire Assignment:

– 9/05 to 9/20      22,360 to 28,694 acres

14 NIROPS Flights Requested

UTFs: 3 (2 Weather and 1 Flight Time)











# Liberty Fire –

Flthd. Indian Resv., MT DNRC, Lolo NF

## Successes:

- Continued high quality products late in season.
- Provided interp. of adjacent Black Fire on map
- Met deadlines for operational briefing at 0600.
- Validation indicated accurate interp.
- Overall later flight times provided improved heat signature interpretations.

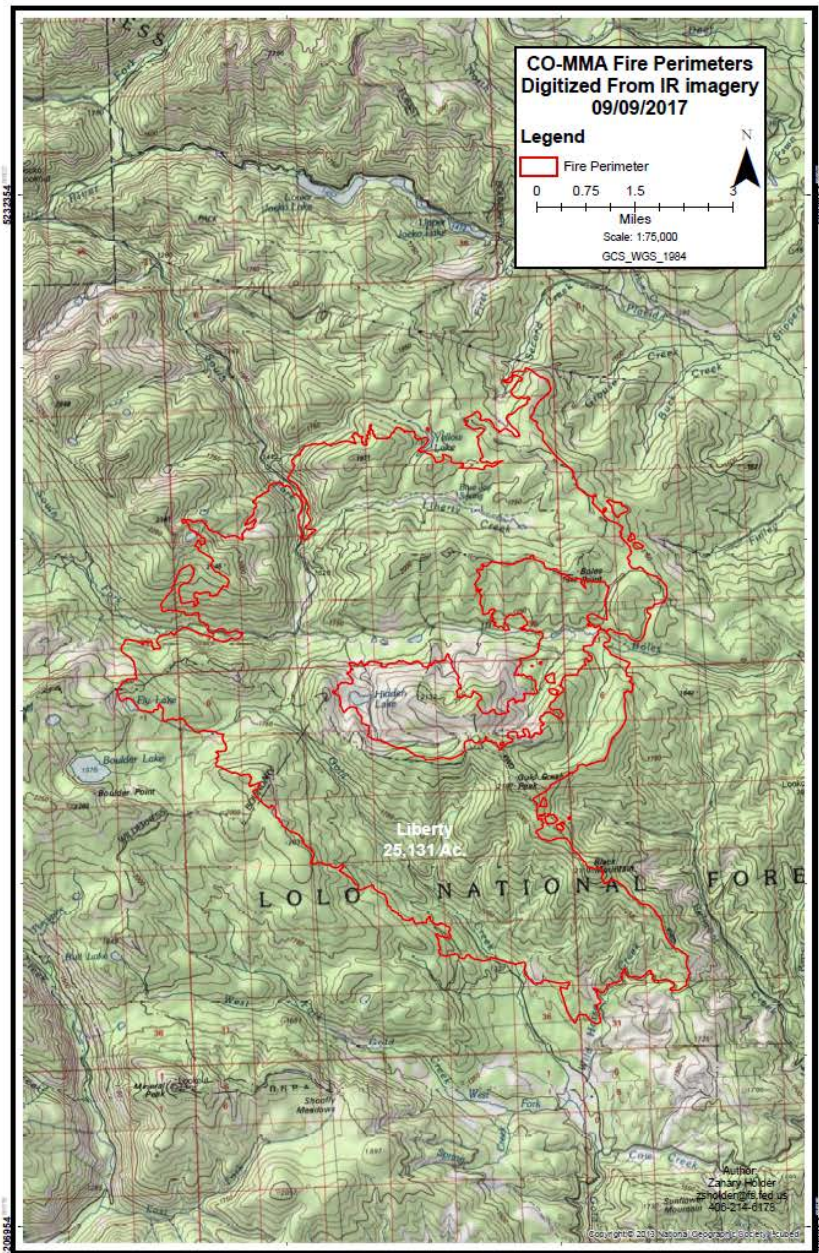
# Liberty Fire –

Flthd. Indian Resv., MT DNRC, Lolo NF

## MMA Successes:

- Provided IR intel during period of NIROPS maintenance.
- Validation indicated accurate interp.





# RICE RIDGE FIRE

## LOLO NF AND MT DNRC

### AUG. 1 – SEPT. 28, 2017

160,181 acres

49 Total NIROPS Flights Requested.

- 8 UTFs: 5 Weather, 1 Mechanical, 2 Unknown

8 MMA Flights Flown: on 8/14-16, 8/18, 9/02-04 and 9/09.

- NIROPS UTF on 8/ 14 -15 and 9/09

# Rice Ridge Fire IRIN Assignments: August 1 to Sept. 27, 2017

Cheron Ferland – 8/01 to 8/06

Tami Hocut – 8/06 to 8/09

Brian Mitchell – 8/11 to 8/16

Nate Yorgason – 8/17 and 9/27

Dale Gough – 8/18 – 9/07

Chad Horman – 9/07 to 9/08

Elsa Hucks – 9/10 – 9/26



# Northern Rockies Team 1 - Greg Poncin

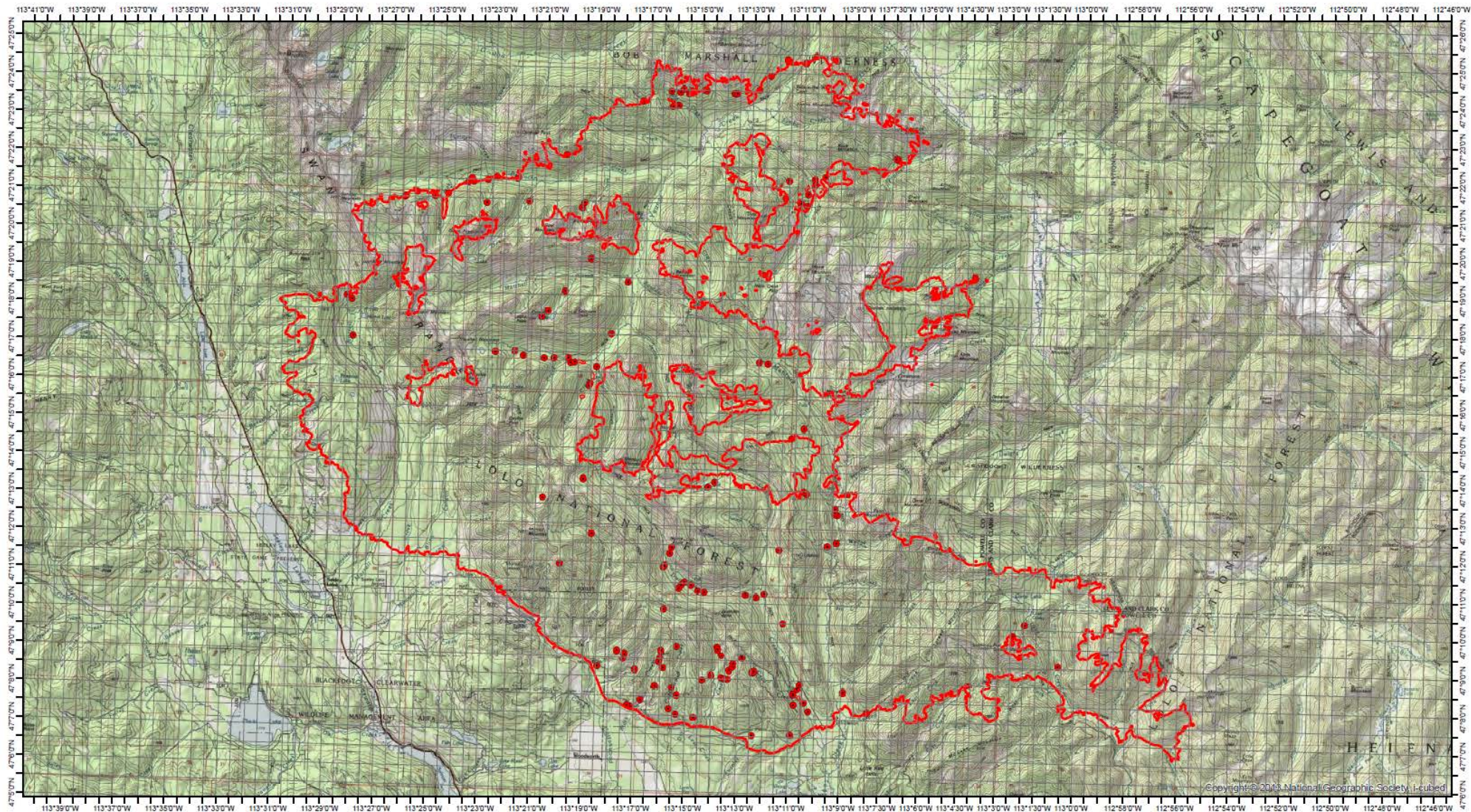
Rice Ridge Fire Assignment:

– 9/05 to 9/21 108,126 to 163,800 acres

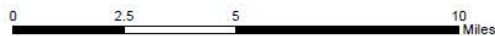
14 NIROPS Flights Requested

UTFs: 4 (Weather)





**INFRARED MAP**  
Rice Ridge (MT-LNF-001464)  
Flight: September 27, 2017 @ 2321 MDT  
Acres - 163,800  
Change in Acres from last IR Perimeter - 6 Acres  
IRIN - Nate Yorgason



#### Legend

- 09/27/2017 2321 Rice Ridge IR Heat Perimeter
- Scattered Heat
- Isolated Heat Sources



















# Rice Ridge Fire –

## Lolo NF and MT DNRC

### Successes:

- Excellent products for assessment and location of fast moving fire during wind events.
- Superior staffing during long duration incident.
- Met deadlines for operational briefings at 0600.
- Very large geographic interp was accomplished.
- Accurate perimeters and acreages daily.

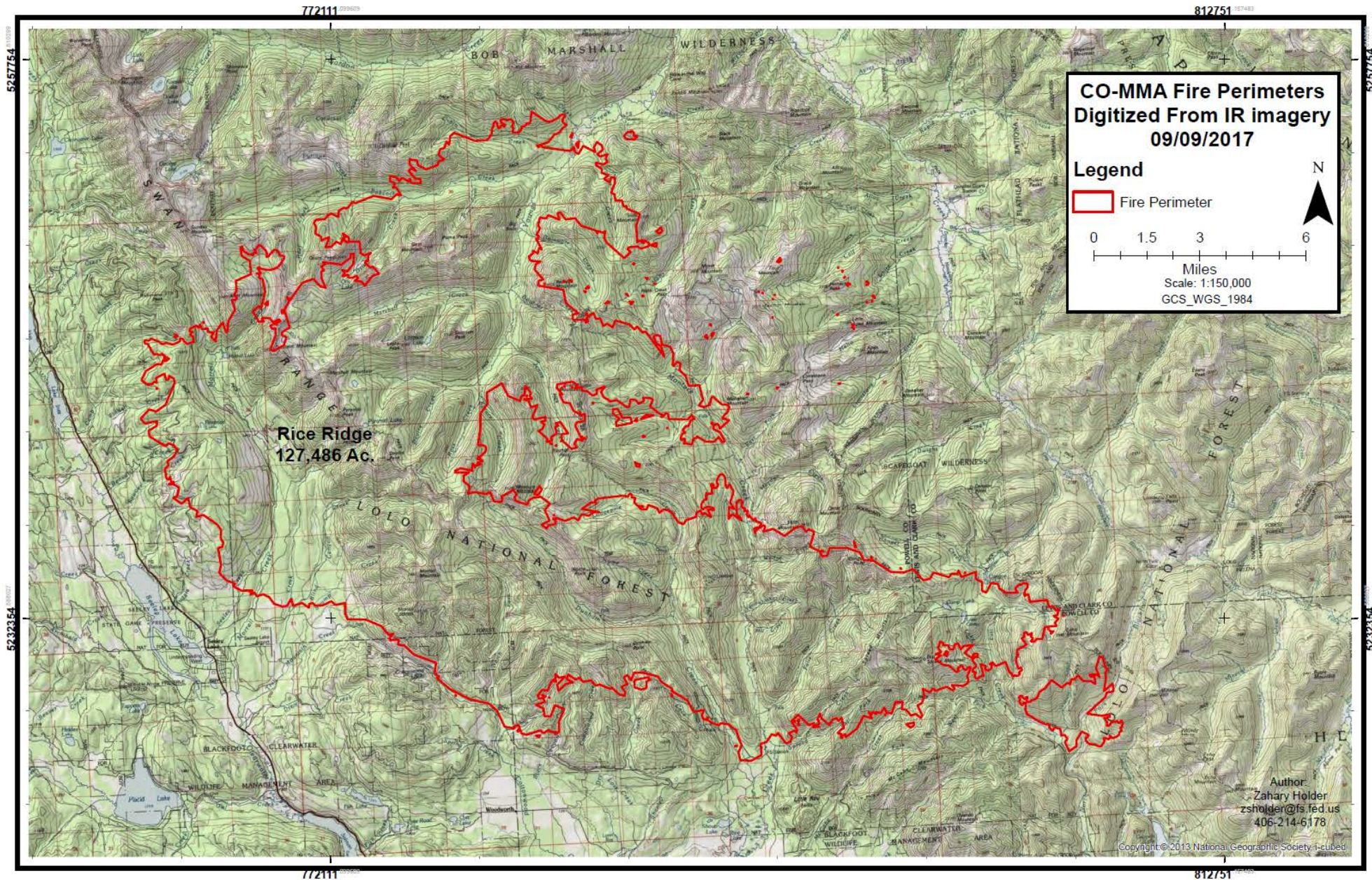
# Rice Ridge Fire –

## Lolo NF and MT DNRC

### MMA Successes:

- Provided IR intel during periods of NIROPS maintenance and UTFs for weather (4 days).
- 
- Validation indicated accurate interp.







## Suggestions for Further Consideration:

### 1) Set up a Feature Service to store all NIROPS data.

This would include the flight polygon request from SITL (you would be able see everyone else's request, too), as well as the NIROPS data output (the data that is currently stored in the FTP via shapefiles). A feature service centric system would create numerous efficiencies and is the future.

## Suggestions for Further Consideration:

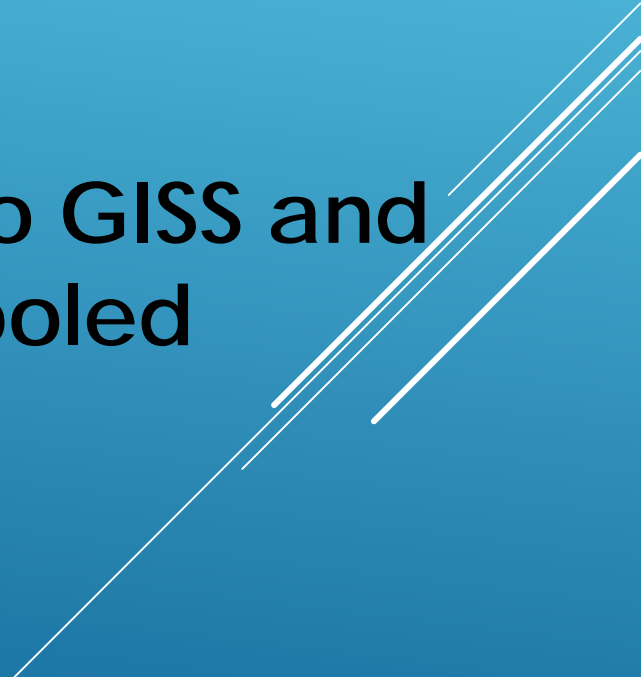
2) This Feature Service could restrict public and media access to IR products presently delivered on an open FTP site.

There were instances this season of media access and release of IR interpreted acreages before IMT and GISS validation and official release.

## Suggestions for Further Consideration:

**3) Utilize IMT provided previous perimeters on all map products.**

**Use of previous perimeters is very helpful to GLSS and captures areas of fine fuels burned and cooled during previous shifts.**

Three parallel white lines of varying lengths are positioned diagonally in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.



## Suggestions for Further Consideration:

**4) Assure immediate notification of GISS by IRIN when a UTF occurs.**

**Set up a protocol for immediate notification by text or email at night when a UTF occurs. GISS can modify their early start time to obtain additional rest.**

## Suggestions for Further Consideration:

5) Discuss advantages and disadvantages of IRIN submitting recurring flight requests rather than the SITL.

SITLs appreciate that assistance yet want to ensure that orders are placed in times of transition to replacement IRINs.

Questions??

