



2020 NIROPS National Summary

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NIROPS Closeout





2020 – A Long Season

- 8.73 million acres burned, 2% acres in AK
- 126% of the ten-year US average (2010-2019)
- 150% of the ten-year CONUS average
- PL4 on 8/4, PL5 8/19-10/2, PL4 thru 10/13
- First missions – June 1st in AZ
- Last mission – Nov 12th?

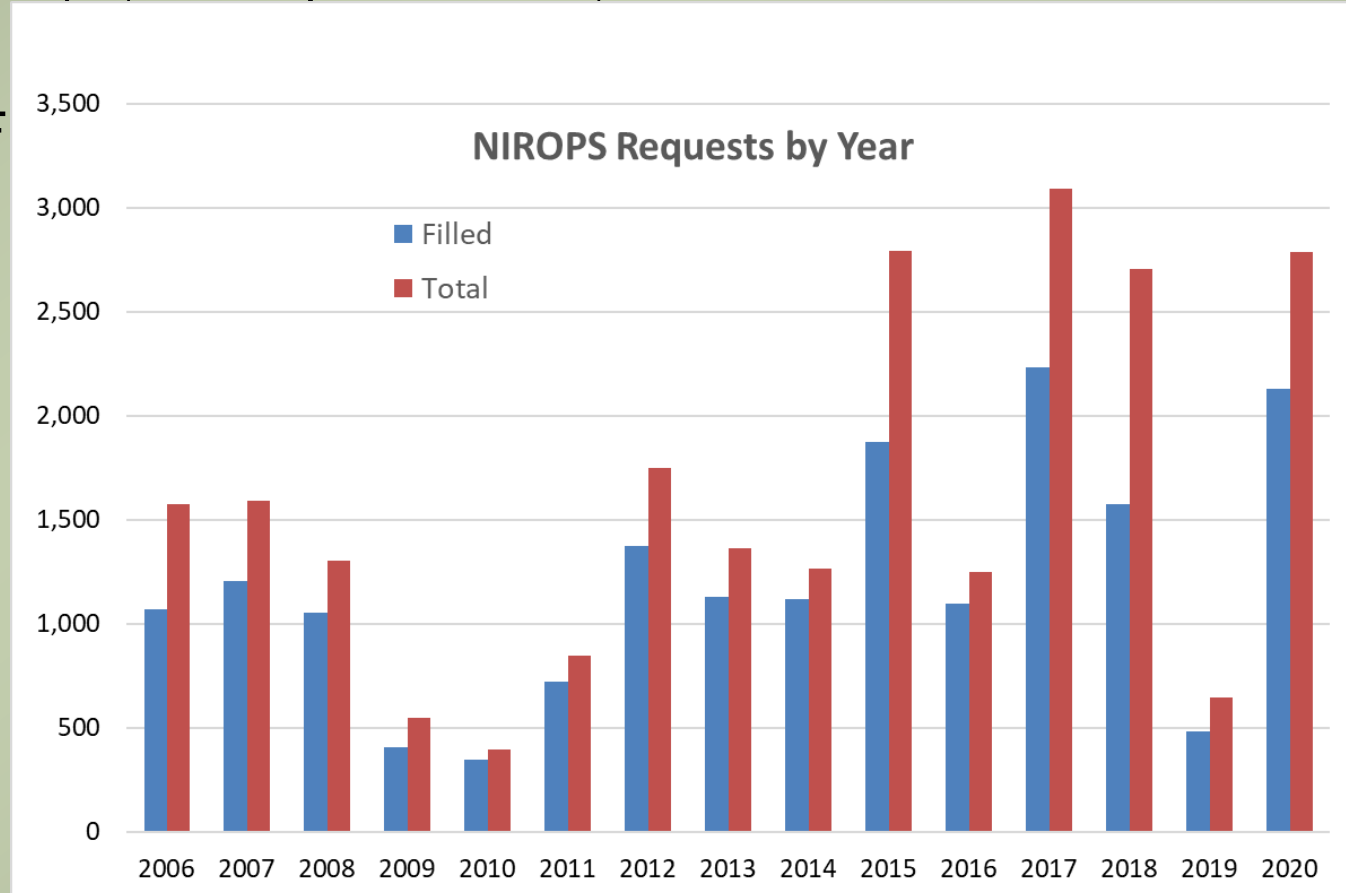
Acres from IMSR 11/12/20

*PL = Preparedness Level (1 thru 5)

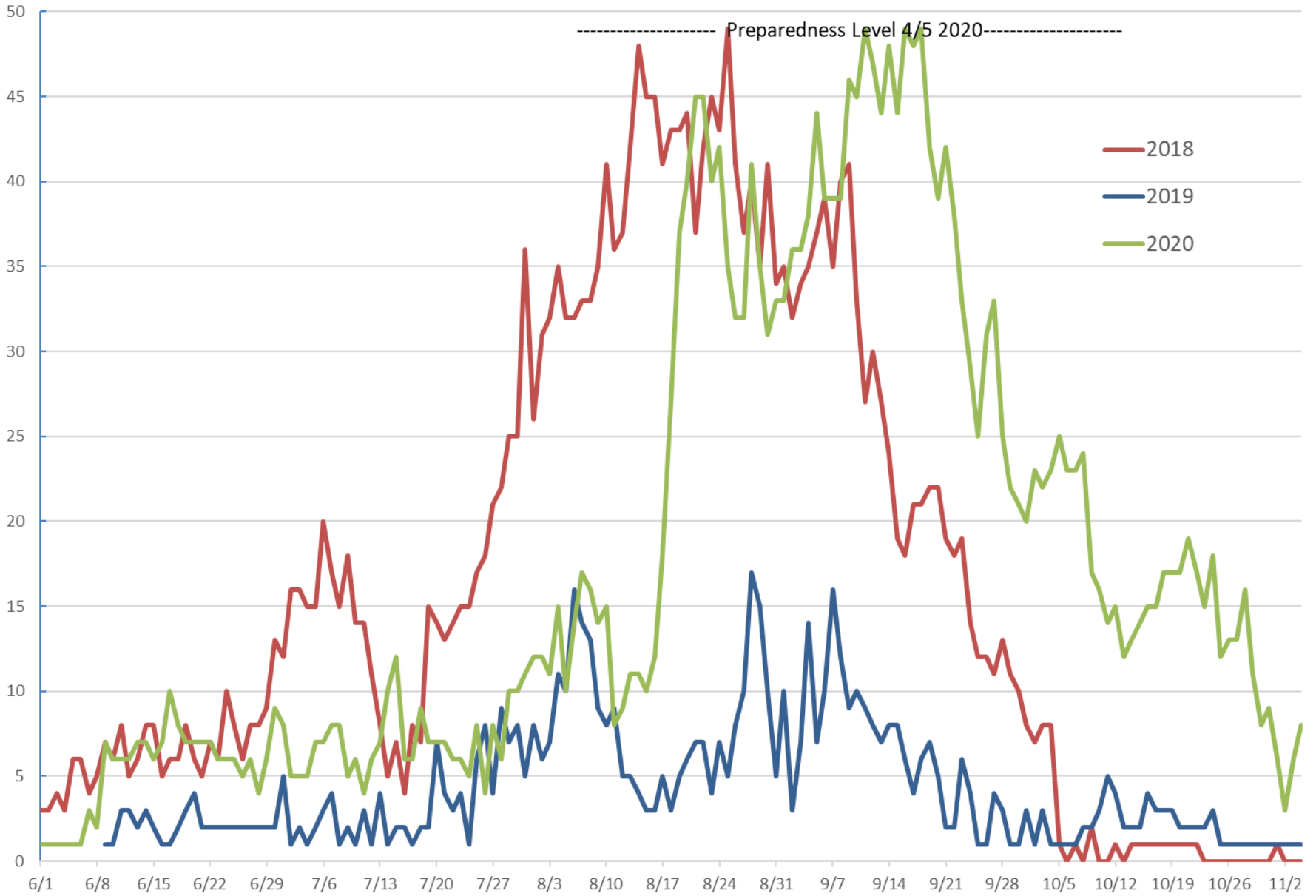


2020 NIROPS Requests

- 2,790 total requests with 2,128 filled
- 10 yr avg (2010-2019) 1,610 requests and 1,195 filled
- 5 yr avg (2015-2019) 2,096 requests and 1,452 filled
- 24% UTF rate,
20% non-Wx UTF
- Aircraft 3 filled
2% of missions



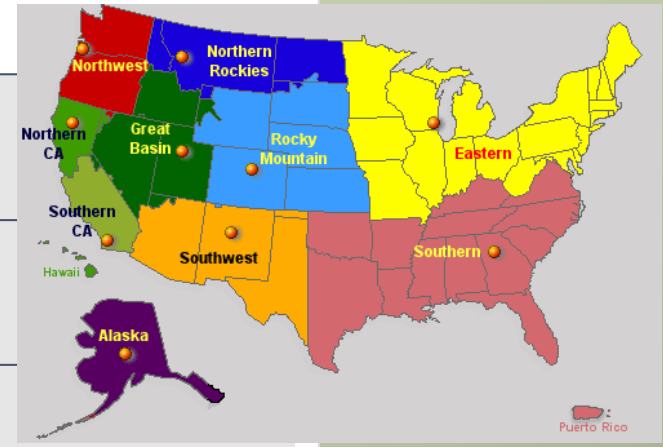
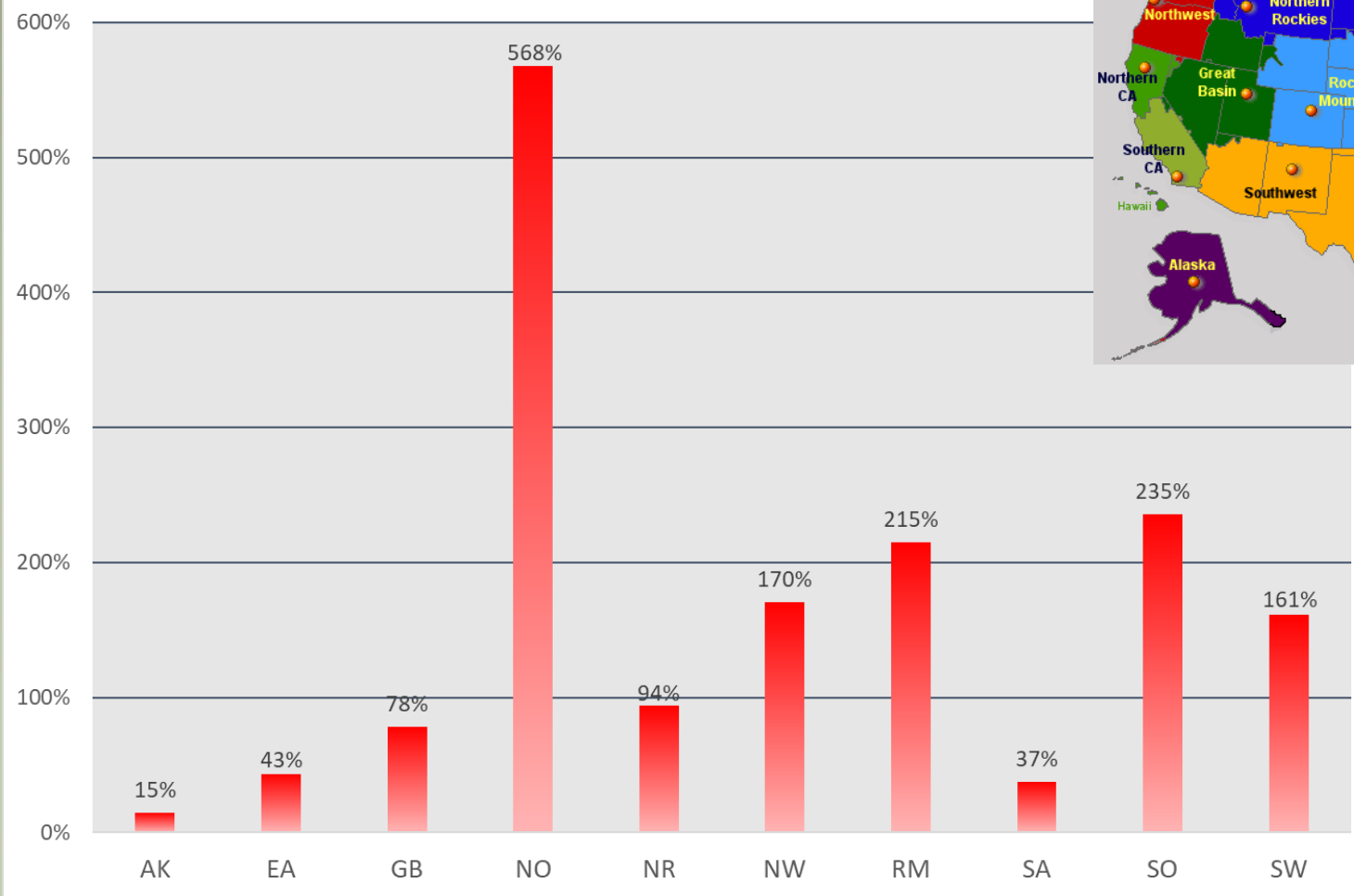
NIROPS requests 2018, 2019, 2020





Fire Activity by GACC

Acres Burned by GACC - 2020
(as a percent of each GACC's 10-year average)

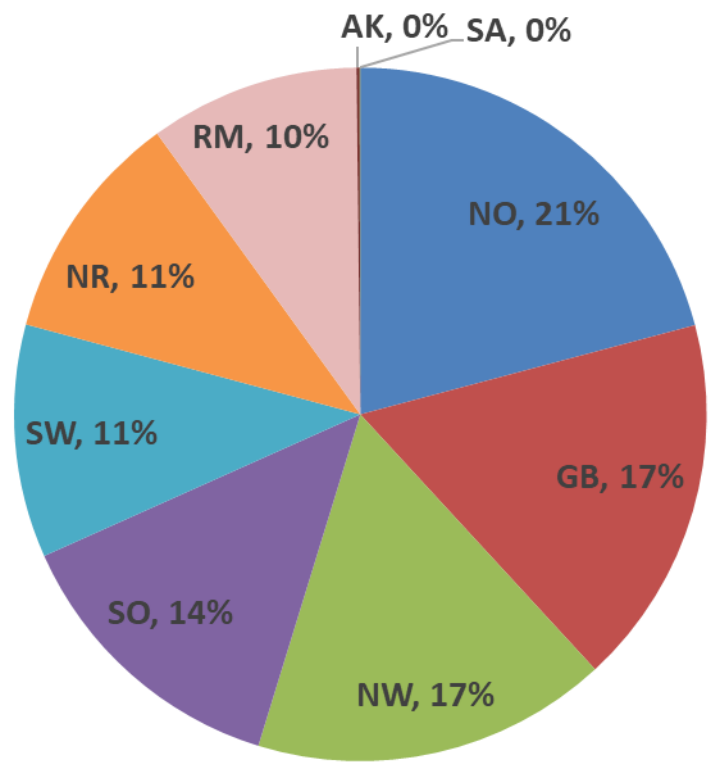


Acres from IMSR
11/12/20



2020 – Orders by GACC

Percent of NIROPS orders by GACC



“Busiest” Night – Sept 5th, 38 Fires

● N149Z (20 fires)

- Cameron Peak, Williams Fork (CO)
- East Fork, Phinney Lake, Center Creek Trail (UT)
- Double, Marion, Beaver, Buck, Shissler, Mocus Point, Porphyry, Warm Springs, Sponge (ID)
- State Creek, Bobcat, Bridger Foothills, Rice, Snider, Cinnabar (MT)

● Courtney (3 fires)

- SQF Cx, Creek, Slink (CA)

● Tenax (6 fires)

- LNU Cx, BTU/TGU Cx, MNF August Cx, North Cx, Sheep, Woodward (CA)

● Owyhee (5 fires)

- Hobo, Red Salmon, W-5 Cold Springs, CZU August Cx, Dolan (CA)

● Hood Tech (3 fires)

- Beachie Creek, Lionshead, White River (OR)

● Kolob (1 fire)

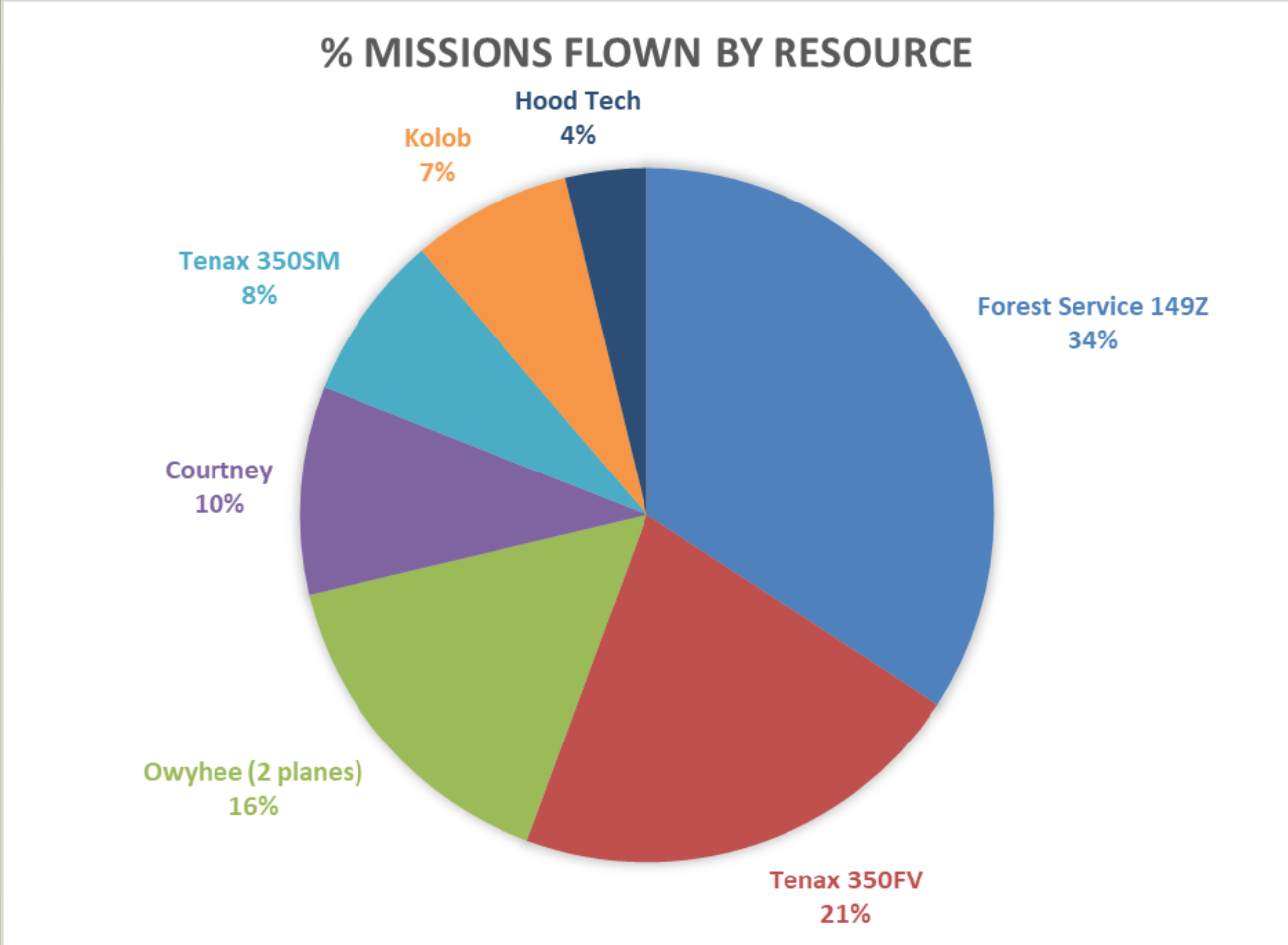
- Evans Canyon (WA)

IR Mapping Contracts

- Exclusive Use – Tenax
- End Product
 - Courtney Aviation
 - Kolob Canyon
 - Hood Tech
- MAP – Owyhee Air



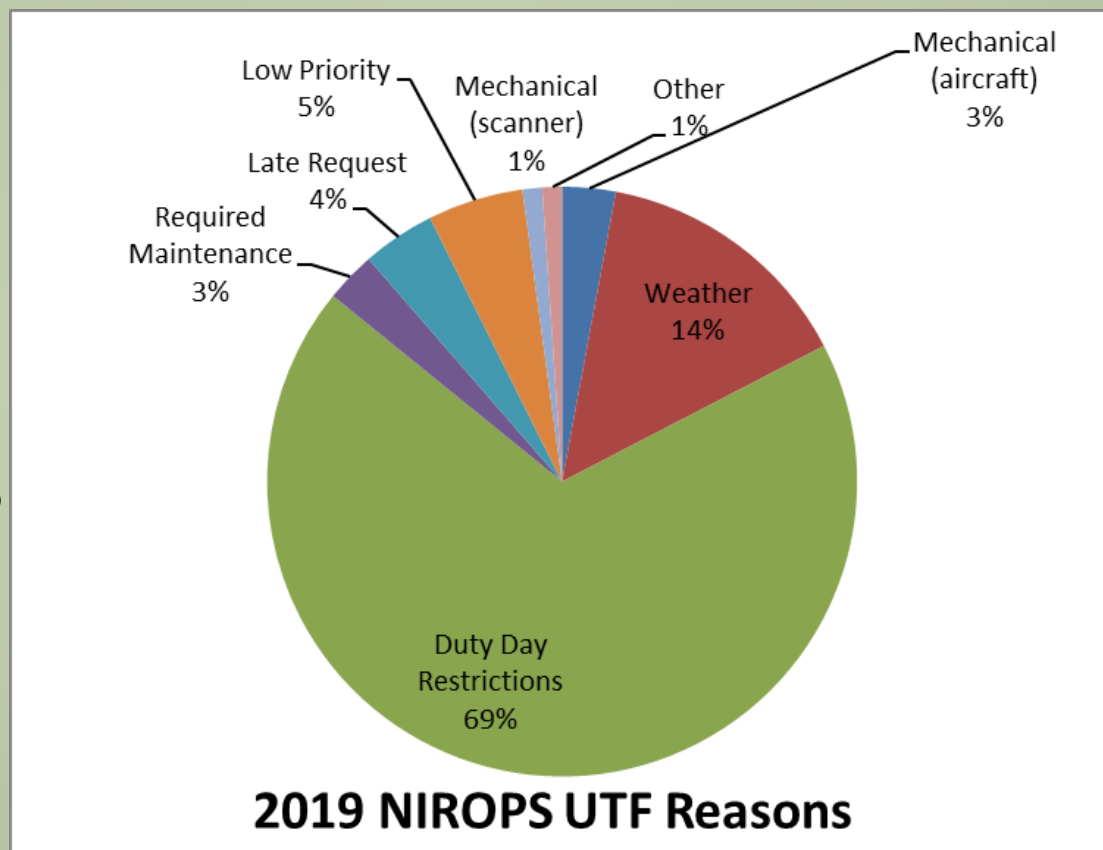
All Hands On Deck





UTFs (Unable to Fill)

- 650 total UTFs (NIROPS only)
- UTF rate drops from 24% to 20% when weather UTFs are not counted
- UTF for Aircraft 3 - 21%

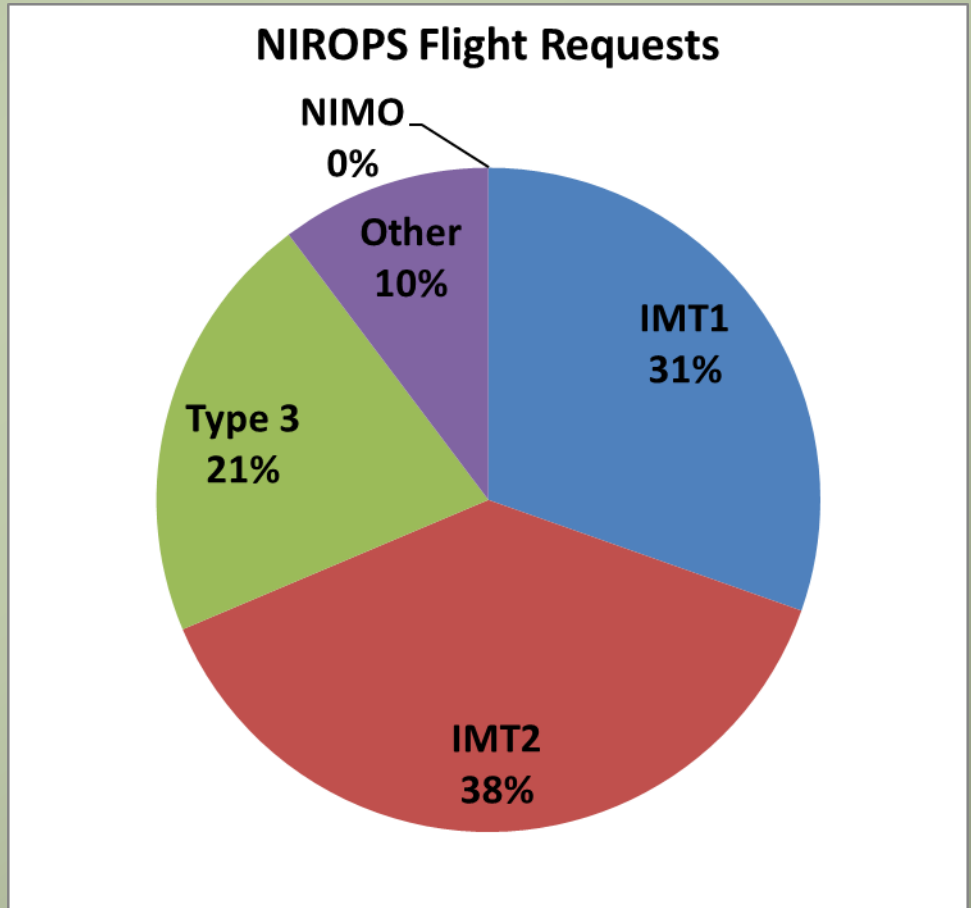




Who is Requesting?

● Prioritization is key

Team Type	non-weather UTF rate
Other	37%
Type 3	31%
Type 2	25%
Type 1	18%



Prioritization of Fires for IR

- 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 previous NIROPS flights
- Expected weather over incident
- Feedback from IRINs

Extended Support to Incidents

- Red Salmon Cx (CA) – 81 flights
- SQF Cx (CA) – 66 flights
- MNF August Cx (CA) – 60 flights
- Creek (CA) – 51 flights
- Cameron Peak (CO) – 48 flights
- East Fork (UT) – 44 flights
- Lionshead (OR) – 42 flights
- Slater (CA) – 40 flights
- Williams Fork (CO) – 38 flights
- Bighorn (AZ) – 29 flights

It Takes a Team!

- IR Techs - 5 person rotation
- Pilots – 3 FS fulltime
- 33 different IRINs, 4 trainees got qualified
- Vendors
 - Exclusive Use – Tenax
 - End Product – Courtney, Kolob, Hood Tech, Owyhee
- Virtual National IR desk activated ABQ and SLC
- Aircraft 3 (Firehawk) - AC3 liaison at GTAC and NGA analysts
- R4 Aviation maintenance crew
- Fire Imaging Program Manager key for interacting with vendors and briefing GACCs and IMTs on IR options

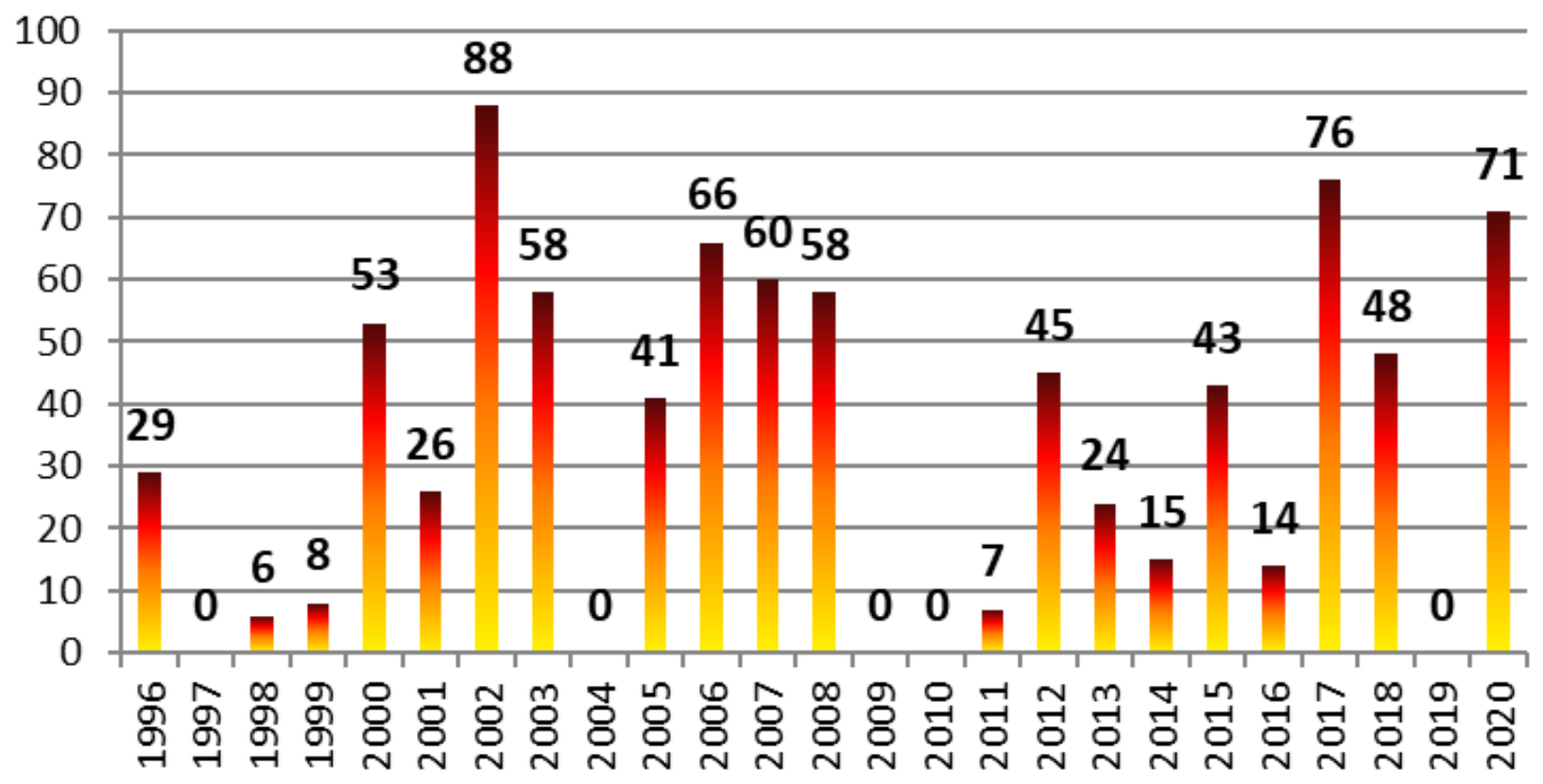
Takeaways from 2020

- Vendor support essential esp. with only one FS plane
- Plane is getting older every year!
 - 149Z – 36 years old (1985)
- Coordination with other IR resources is key
 - DRTI, MMA, Owyhee Air, AA51, FS Cobras
 - Can sometimes reduce NIROPS requests



Next Year?.....

Days at National PL 4 or 5



Looking ahead to 2021

- La Niña
- XXX.

NATIONAL INFRARED OPERATIONS



Get ready for next year!