




# 2015 NIROPS National Summary

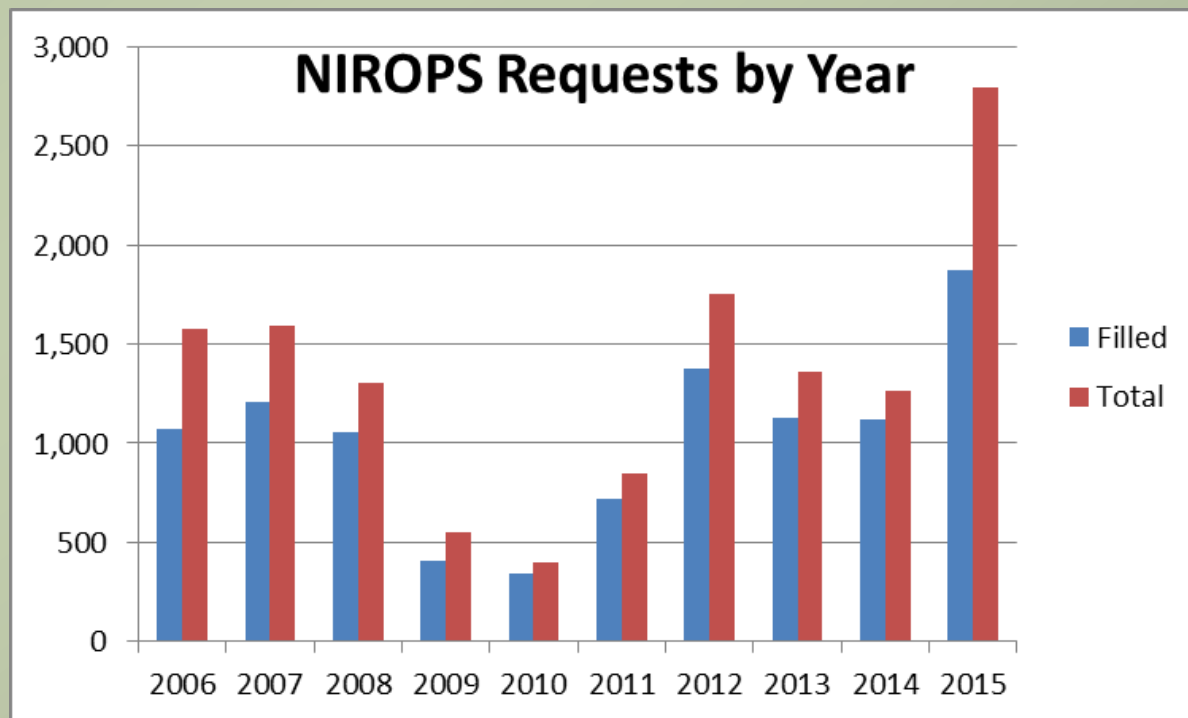
Tom Mellin,  
National Infrared Program Manager  
October 28, 2015  
NIROPS Closeout, NIFC, Boise

## 2015 – A slow start but....

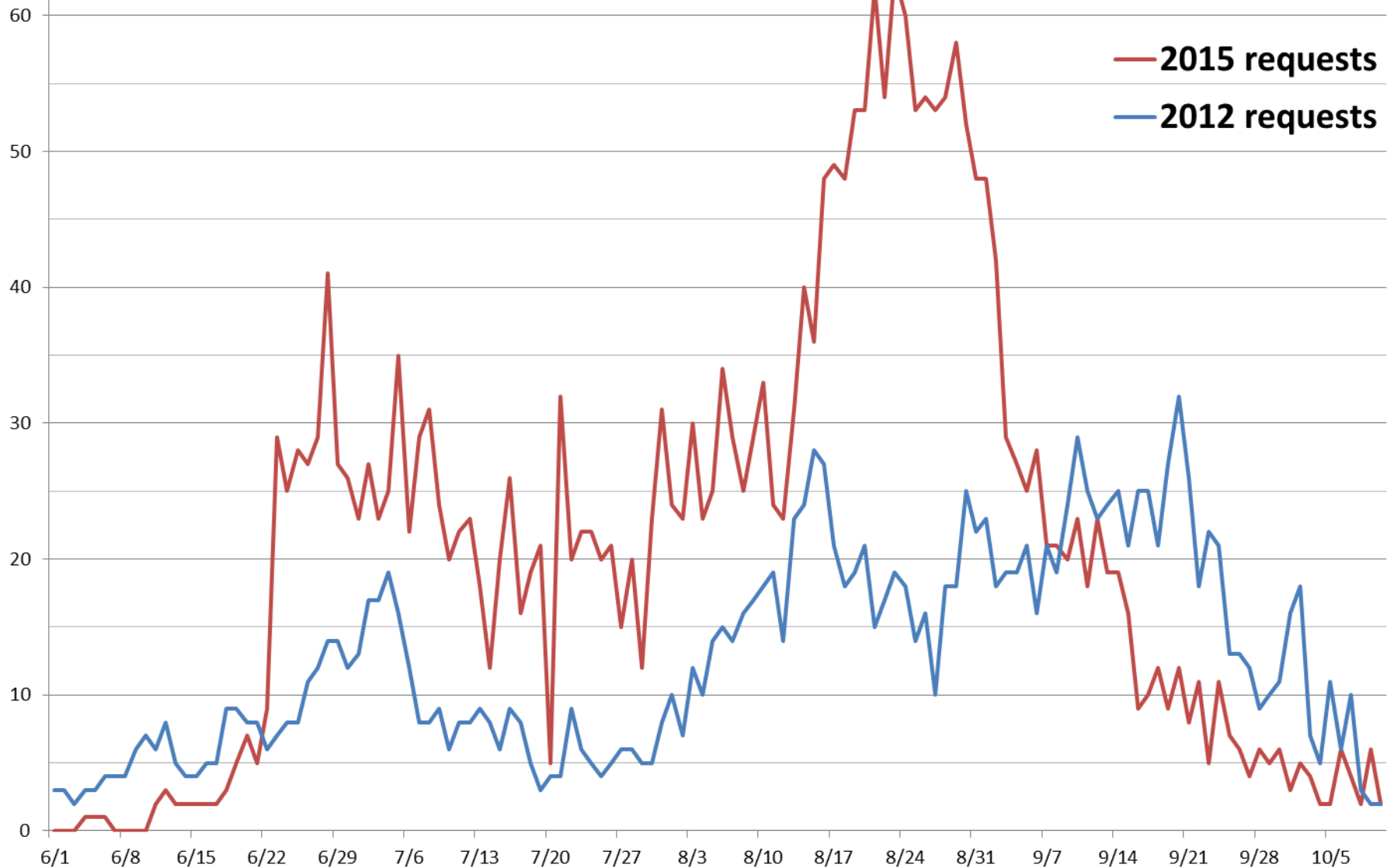
- 9.33 million acres burned, 147% of the ten year average
- 5.11 million acres in Alaska, 444% of ten year average for AK
- Bi-Modal – Alaska in June/July then Conus in August
- Unprecedented ordering of NIROPS
- Extensive use of Aircraft 3

## 2015 NIROPS Requests

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

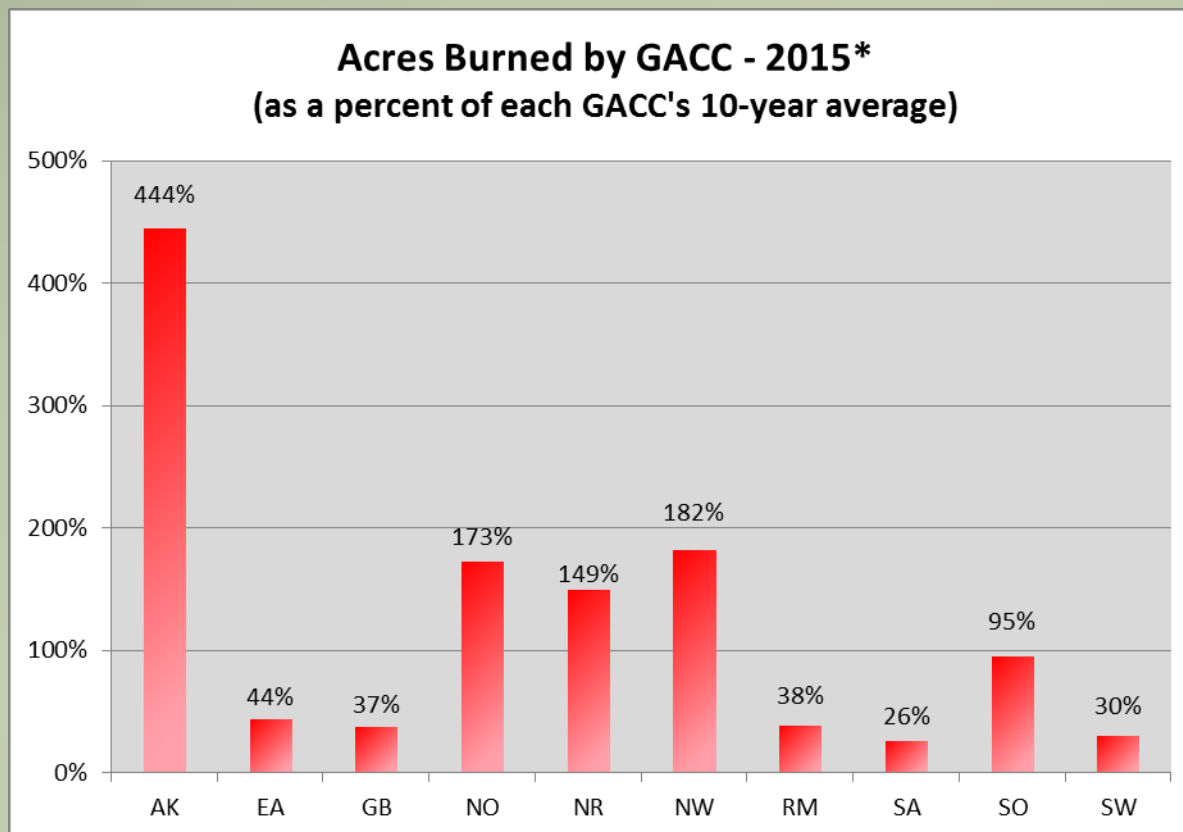


# NIROPS requests June 1 - Oct 10 2012 vs. 2015



## Fire Activity by GACC

● Acres as of 10/6/15

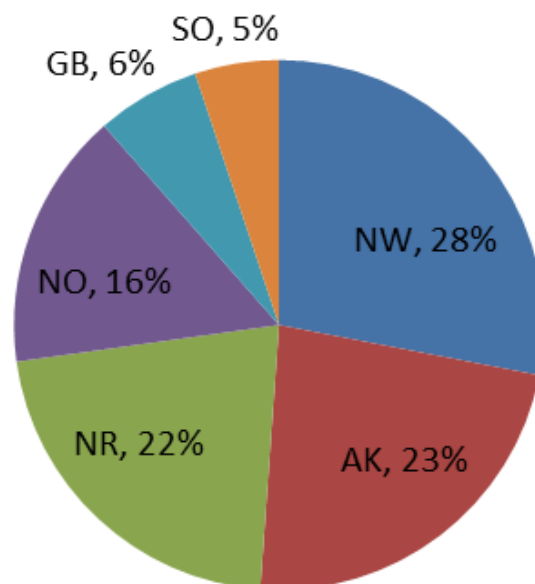




## 2015 – Orders by GACC

- All Alaska orders between June 23 and Aug 4

**Percent of NIROPS orders by GACC**





# 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)

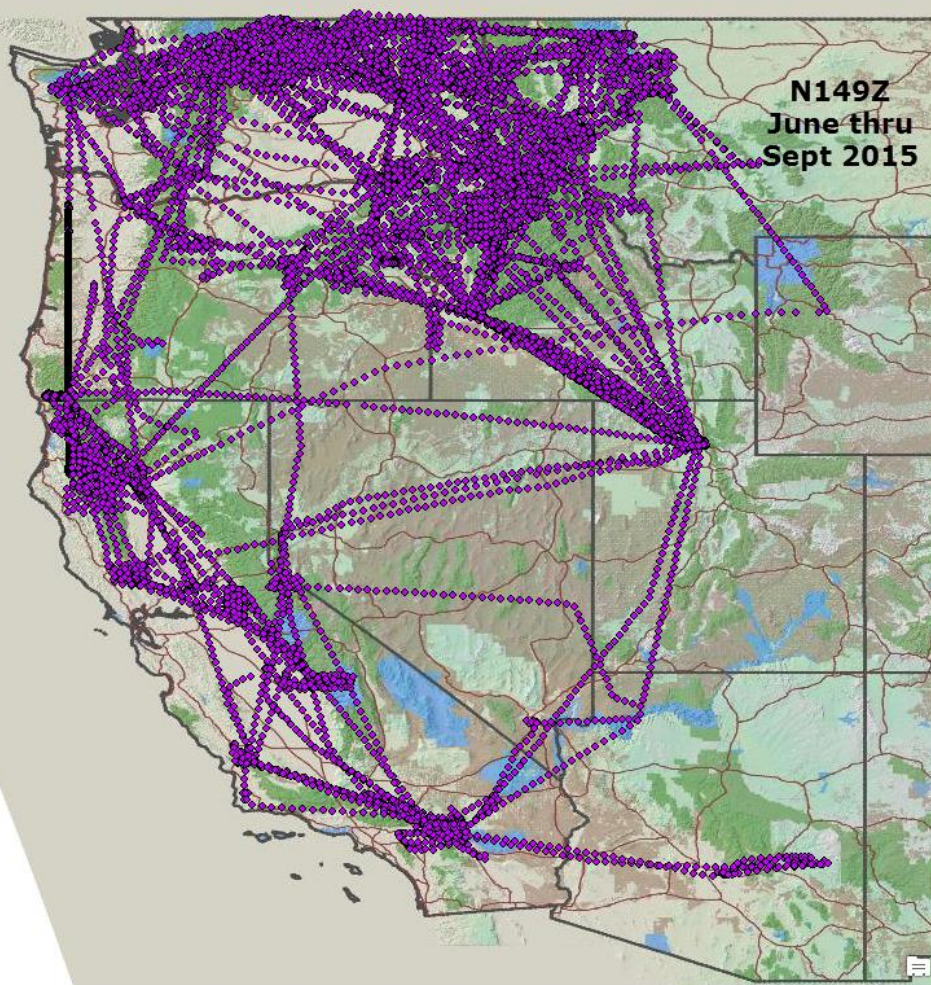
## ● N144Z (26 fires)

- 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

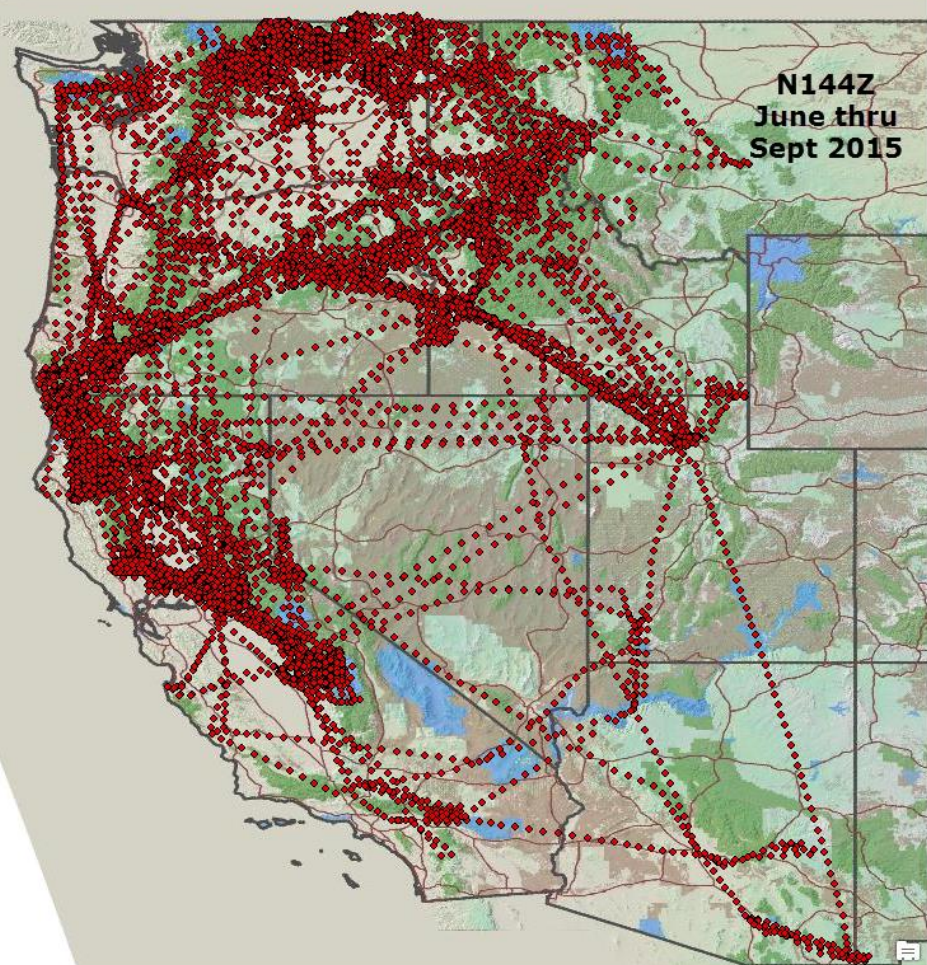


# NATIONAL INFRARED OPERATIONS



N149Z – 534 requests filled

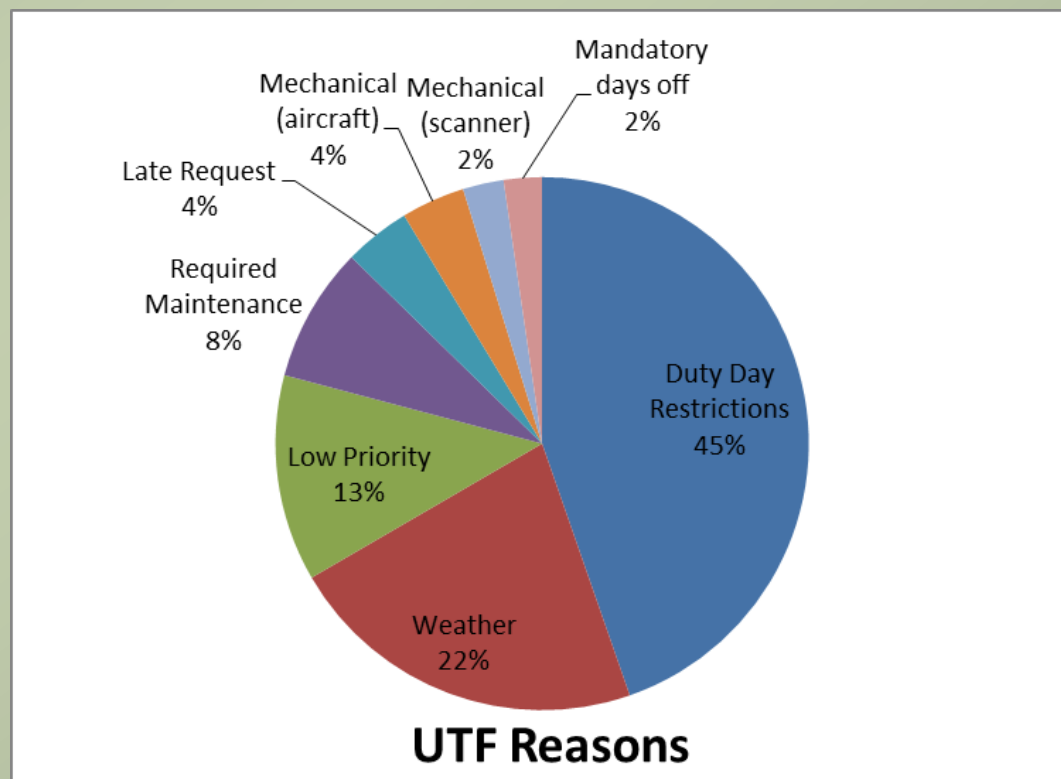
N144Z – 809 requests filled





## UTFs (Unable to Fill)

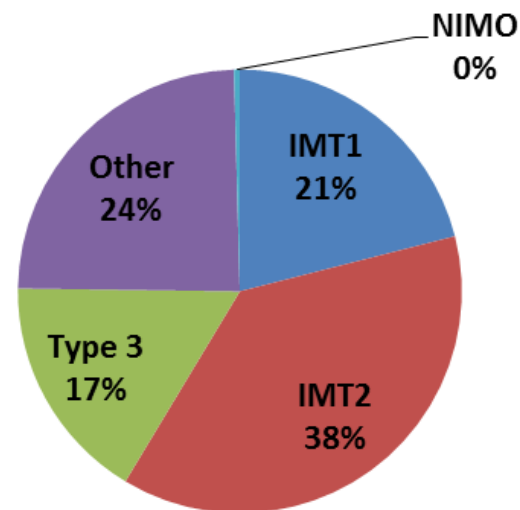
- 651 total UTFs (NIROPS only)
- UTF rate drops from 33% to 26% when weather UTFs are not counted
- UTF for Aircraft 3 similar - 33% (18% non-weather)



## Who is Requesting?

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

**NIROPS Flight Requests**



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
- 961 shifts\*

\*Does not include Aircraft 3



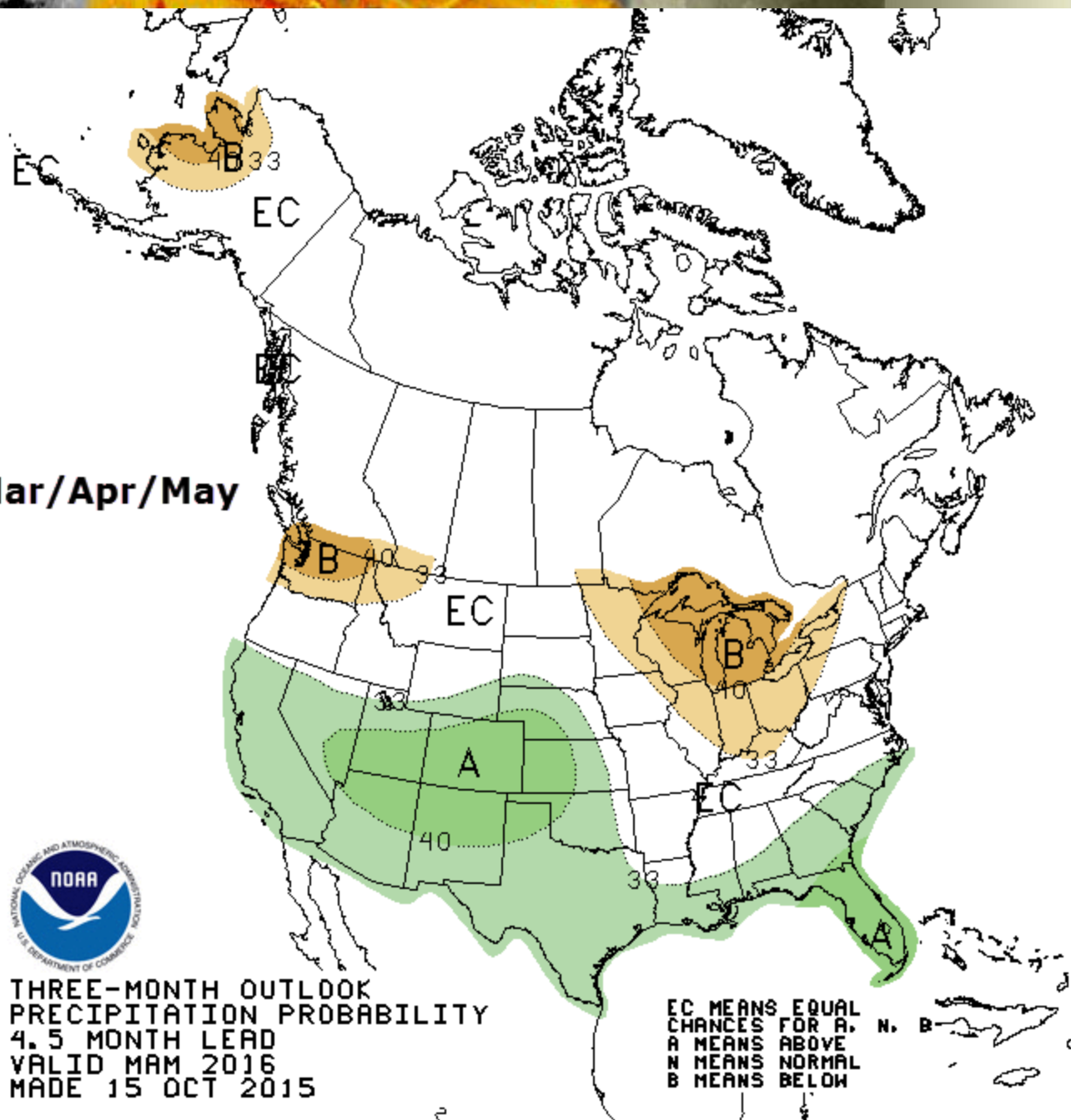
Mar/Apr/May



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY  
4.5 MONTH LEAD  
VALID MAM 2016  
MADE 15 OCT 2015

EC MEANS EQUAL  
CHANCES FOR A.  
A MEANS ABOVE  
N MEANS NORMAL  
B MEANS BELOW

N. B.



Get ready for next year!



Photo: Initial Attack Fire Media