

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fire Activity Report



1996

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Annual Fire Activity Report

1996

*Prepared by
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Fire Management Branch
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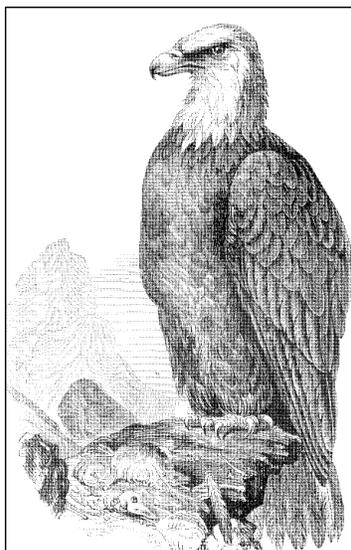
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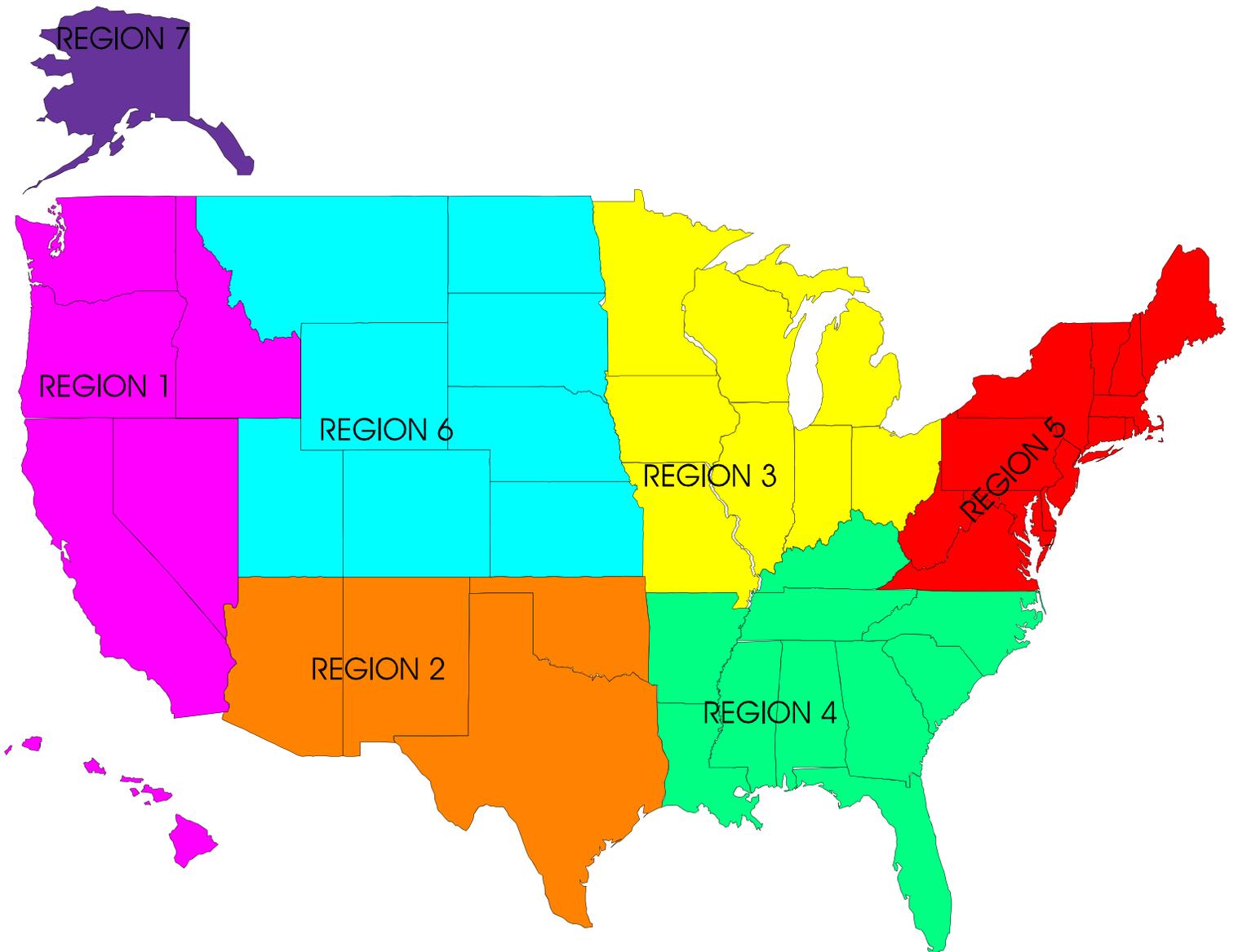
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U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE Regional Map



NATIONAL



The 1996 wildland fire season was a challenge for firefighters for many reasons. Major fire suppression activity occurred for almost 10 months, beginning in the Southern States as early as January and continuing in southern California in late October. This marathon season left geographic areas competing for national resources to battle blazes on their fronts. Although challenged by a long fire season, firefighters worked diligently and with a passion for safety. As a result, no Federal firefighters lost their lives on firelines while battling a blaze. Wildland urban interface problems continued to be a problem, with 800 structures destroyed in 14 States. A few national statistics:



6,065,998 acres were affected by wildland fires - the most since 1952, when 6,690,000 acres burned.

93,363 fires were reported to NIFC. The 10-year average is 72,869.

Federal agencies spent a combined \$721 million on fire suppression.

Miller's Reach fire in Anchorage, Alaska, claimed 344 structures after burning 37,336 acres during the first 2 weeks in June.

Two military battalions were mobilized to support suppression activities during the latter part of August.

The Service burned 261,268 acres, with 157,994 acres being the 5-year average. All Regions had higher numbers of personnel in the field - either on Service incidents or providing support to our cooperators, with a mobilization range from 12 to 114 personnel out at any one time. There were 111 non-fire funded personnel made available, with a number of these filling law enforcement/security assignments on major incidents. Regions also cooperated by exchanging engine crews and other personnel to support Service pre-positioning needs. Fire assignments and exchanges of personnel always benefit the receiving and sending units by allowing employees to learn new ways of doing business and refresh themselves from the routine of their normal work.

Prescribed fire activity suffered due to the weather and the national fire season. The Service burned 164,263 acres, with 189,290 acres being the 5-year average. As a new initiative within the Fire Management Program, several students from the Student Conservation Association were trained in prescribed burning operations, and worked in Regions 6 and 4. These students learned about two separate ecosystems while providing extra help to burn more acreage. We will use this approach again this year, with the hope of expanding the program.

REGION



Fire activity for 1996 was relatively light on Region 1 refuges in comparison to other agencies, especially in Oregon and California. The most significant activity was increased inter-refuge use of fire crews for prescribed burns. This occurred both Regionally and nationally again this year.

As usual, Regional fire staffing is in a state of flux. FMO Joette Borzik was hired at our new San Diego NWR to handle interagency coordination, planning and fire history for southern California. She will have an engine crew this coming season. San Luis NWR (California) had a new crew and worked closely with Bakersfield BLM (through Kern NWR) and the Sierra and Mendocino National Forests. About 50 percent of the crew's time was spent doing large fire support. Both career-seasonal engine bosses at Malheur NWR moved on to new positions (Jeff Casey to Texas coast refuges [AFMO] and Andy Renc to a maintenance position at Malheur NWR). These vacated positions are presently being advertised.

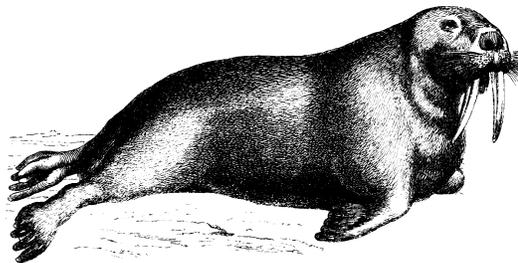
There were 62 wildfire starts on Region 1 refuges in 1996, with 65 additional threatening the refuges. The 62 wildfires burned 8,975.2 acres of FWS land.

Rehabilitation plans were completed and approved for two fires on the Minidoka and for five fires on Mid-Columbia River NWR.

Inter-regional sharing of fire crews continued in 1996. Region 1 crews saw action on St. Marks and Florida Panther NWRs in Region 4, and Bitter Lake and Buenos Aires NWRs in Region 2.

Additionally, refuge crews participated in 181 support action fires to other agencies, both in and out of the Region.

Prescribed fire continues to be strongly emphasized in the Region. Refuge personnel were able to complete 89 burns, for a total of 22,574.4 acres. This is a reduction from usual prescribed fire acreage due to intense wildfire activity in Oregon and California during the normal prescribed fire season and the fact that nationally, we were in Preparedness Level IV and V for an extended period of time.



REGION



As the R-2 fire season turned out this year, the hottest dispatch was supporting the interagency fire community in the Southwest, Northwest, and Northern area large fires. Resource mobilization from refuges consisted of engines and an array of interagency overhead assignments, to include air operations, dispatch, single resource, safety officer, and line operation positions. Approximately 650 staff days were devoted to interagency support. During Region 2's 360-day fire season, 135 fires burned approximately 30,500 acres with wildfires occurring in each month of the year. This was the second busiest fire season in terms of acres burned, and the highest number of incidents in the past 10 years. Human-caused and lightning-caused starts were split at 78/22 percent, respectively. Nearly half the acres burned were attributed to human-caused fires from 2 refuges in the Region (Wichita Mountains and Bosque Del Apache).

The 1996 wildland fire season in Region 2 began in January with a wind-driven 8,000-acre grass fire on Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The fire started 8 miles southwest of the refuge and consumed 10,000 acres of grassland off-refuge. Ongoing drought conditions, along with extreme weather conditions, would be the mainstay of fire behavior influence throughout the late winter in parts of Oklahoma and Texas

refuges. This jump-started the request and activation for emergency presuppression funds throughout the Region to preposition engine crews. As the Southwest fire season came to an end, support for the Northwest fire season began. At the height of the Northwest fire season, only two engine crews remained in Region 2 - one at Lower Rio Grande Valley and one at Buenos Aires.

With emergency presuppression engine crews in place and the Southwest area fire season off to a fast start, the prescribed fire burn program was left in a state of flux. State-wide burn bans and restrictions occurred in late winter in Oklahoma and Texas, continuing throughout Arizona and New Mexico in the late spring and early summer months. By



mid-August, with a national Preparedness Level of V, one-third of the targeted FY96 prescribed burn acres had been accomplished. Region 2 ended up with 49 prescribed burns, for a total of 19,220.8 acres burned. Aransas and Brazoria contributed to 37 of the prescribed burns, for a combined 15,223 acres. Several refuge fire stations with a fire management staff were able to assist in conducting prescribed burns in their designated intra- and interagency zone areas. The Region certified one Type 2 Burn Boss and three Type 3 Burn Boss positions this season.

One of the season's highlights in terms of rehabilitation needs was the San Pedro fire on Bosque Del Apache NWR,

which burned 4,100 acres between June 8 and June 12, 1996. DI-1202 fire report occurrence remarks were: "In terms of magnitude and behavior, this was the worst fire in the 57-year history of the refuge. In a matter of hours, some of the finest riparian forest in the middle Rio Grande Valley was destroyed. This native riparian community supports one of the most diverse wildlife assemblage of any habitat in the southwestern United States, and is invaluable to neotropical migrating songbirds and several endangered species."

Refuge fire management programs throughout the Region conducted wildland firefighting safety refresher courses, several 100 and 200 level suppression courses, and basic aviation safety. The Region was able to squeeze in an FMO meeting in late August at Austin, Texas. The 3-day fire management meeting provided the opportunity for national, Regional and refuge fire management staff, refuge project leaders, and Regional personnel

management staff to discuss and develop decisions in the areas of: FIREPRO budget submissions/requests, fire training issues, personnel hiring issues, prescribed burn crew developments, prescribed burn plan project submissions, emergency presuppression/severity funding requests, primary and secondary firefighter retirement coverage status, and equipment maintenance and acquisition. In November, the Region hosted the national Regional Fire Management Coordinators' meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Discussion highlights in this 2-day meeting included: review of the 1996 fire season by Region, fire engine training details, emergency presuppression detail guidelines, fire program manager's course, FY97-and-beyond budget update, SCA RX Burn Crew, Wildland Fire Policy implementation, and standardized PDs for fire positions.

*****ALL FIREFIGHTERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO A SAFE ASSIGNMENT*****

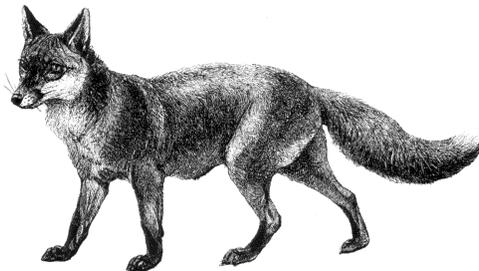


REGION



Fire activity in Region 3 was about average in intensity for 1996. As usual, suppression of uncontrolled fires was a minor part of the year, with only 32 fires reported. Of that number, only 18 required responses on Service lands. The rest were natural outs discovered at a later time.

Prescribed burning was about normal, with 186 burns treating a total of 18,278 acres. Sherburne again was the most aggressive, with three prescribed fires for 3,357 acres. Sherburne also had the greatest wildfire activity, with three fires burning over 1,299 acres. Agassiz NWR had the second highest prescribed burn activity, with nearly 3,000 acres treated.



Region 3 assisted Region 2 in emergency presuppression, sending “off-season” firefighters on two occasions to refuges in the Southwest. The opportunities were very helpful in rounding out the experience level of the individuals involved.

The Region actively supported the western fire emergency suppression efforts in 1996. There is considerable interest among both fire and non-fire funded personnel in participating in western fire assignments. Most of the assignments accepted were for crew member slots. The Service has been highly successful in sending squads out

as part of interagency crews, especially with Voyageurs National Park. We hope to increase this type of assignment by combining with more Forest Service and BIA crews as well.

Development of a standardized Fire Effects Monitoring Protocol (or decision process) for the Region has been given a high priority. A group of fire and biological personnel has been formed to pull together a protocol that will facilitate other types of monitoring as well. Region 3 has been working with the National Park Service to incorporate changes in the Fire Monitoring Handbook system developed by NPS Western Region. A

member of the group has been invited to attend the FMH Steering Committee meeting in January 1997 to share concerns and identify needed modifications to make the system better fit Service needs in the upper Midwest. The RX80 (Pre-burn Monitoring Techniques) course will be offered for the third time in Region 3 with assistance from the Service. It will be held at Itasca State Park in July 1997.

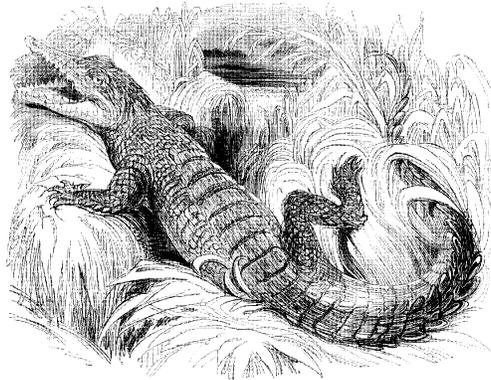
Implementation of RXB3 and ICT5 qualifications is being pursued. A second offering of the Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation course was held in January 1997. Full implementation for RXB3 is anticipated to be in place by spring of 1999.



REGION



Region 4 had 117 wildfires covering 5,612 acres in 1996; 4,335 (77 percent) acres were burned in 18 (15 percent) fires. The largest fire in the Region burned 660 acres at Swanquarter Refuge in North Carolina. Besides wildfires, there were 305 prescribed fires conducted involving 83,648 acres. This area is about 70 percent of the 1996 planned acreage. The primary reason for not getting more acreage completed was the length and severity of the '96 fire season. Hurricanes along the coast and wet weather in Florida also contributed to reduced burning. In reviewing numbers of acres prescribed burned since 1990, there appears to be a good correlation between acres burned and the amount of western mobilization.



During the summer we alternately briefed the Regional Director about the out-of-Region fire situation, Regional contributions, and hurricanes. The East Coast suffered the most, with problems from Florida to North Carolina. North Carolina was the recipient of several visits by named tropical storms. Bertha and Fran made their presence known with significant damage. Drought to flood was the name of the game in parts of the Region.

The new agreement with the State of North Carolina got a good workout with two project fires - Juniper Bay at Swanquarter NWR and the Pungo Lake

Fire at Pocosin Lakes. Cooperation was outstanding, and a significant improvement over previous years.

Support was provided to other agencies on 39 fires in various parts of the Region. A large part of the support was to south Florida, where conditions went from extremely dry to very wet on what seemed to be a monthly basis. Support was provided to fires in Oklahoma and Texas, beginning in mid-February. As soon as things started to settle down there, the Southwest became active, with the West Coast the last frontier.

By mid-July, the first assistance to FEMA was provided by members of the Southern Area Red Team for hurricane Bertha. In early September, the Red Team was called again by FEMA, this time for Hurricane Fran.

Following the warm-up in Texas and Oklahoma, our attention turned toward the Southwest. By the end of April, folks began to head for that territory. In mid-June the action shifted to the Rocky Mountain/Great Basin area and then to the West Coast. The last to return were home about October 8. A number of task books were completed during the season. It seems we are diversifying the types of positions filled. Twenty-nine different positions were filled, compared to fifteen in 1994. The mnemonics filled in 1996 are listed below:

AOBD	CORD
DECK	DIVS
DPRO	EDRC
EDSD	EDSP
ENOP	EQPM
FFT1	FFT2
FWPT	HECM
HEMG	INCM
IOF2	IOF3
MCAD	OSC1
OSC2	PILO
PTRC	RADO
SCKN	SEC1
STCR	STDZ
THSP	

For fires we supplied 78 individuals;
 Filled 190 assignment requests;
 Contributed 2,514 staff days (9.7 FTEs).

For FEMA we supplied 15 individuals;
 Filled 18 assignment requests;
 Contributed 149 staff days (.6 FTEs).

Tony Wilder (Mississippi Sandhill Crane) was assigned as a trainee OSC2 to a Prescribed Natural Fire Team with NPS. He is now carded as an OSC2 for PNF. He also has been selected as an alternate OSC2 on the Southern Area Blue Team. Five of our seven FMOs are now on Regional Type 1 or 2 Teams. We continued with cooperative assignments of resources for presuppression to refuges in Regions 1 and 2. This is a real benefit to those involved.

Three PFPI courses were held during the year giving us minimum necessary coverage for prescribed burning on most refuges. Another session in 1997 should provide adequate depth of skill to maximize use of fire for both hazard reduction and resource management.

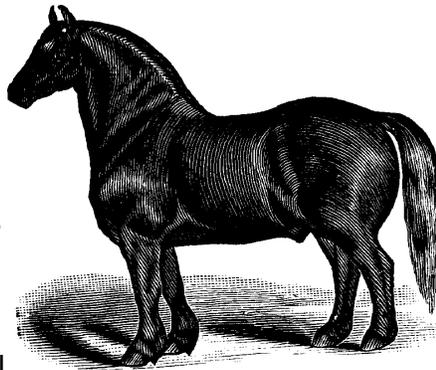


REGION



1996 was one of the wettest years on record in the Northeast, a fact reflected in the minimal amount of wildfire activity occurring, as well as prescribed burning which could be accomplished. A particularly severe winter was followed by frequent rain throughout the growing season. In the fall, Hurricane Fran and other frontal passages produced extremely high tides and some flooding along the coastal areas where many of our refuges are situated.

Region 5 hosted both S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior and S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in January. Refuge employees from Region 5 attended, as well as cooperators from the Maryland Forest Service, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service. Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation was presented at the same location in March, with participation from both Regions 5 and 6. The final step in bringing the Region up to speed with Burn Boss training was completion of the Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 3 (RXB3) task books. To handle this as efficiently as possible, we worked with the staffs of Erie NWR and Moosehorn NWR to use their planned burns as training exercises. Of 22 trainees who were led through this process, 19 managed to complete their task books and were certified as RXB3. This was all done during a 2-week period in late April - early May. The RFMC was supported by Fire



Management Officers Dave Brownlie and Rick Vollick throughout this spring training regimen. Dave and Rick provided invaluable assistance, both in classroom training and in field evaluation.

FMO Vollick received the instructor hand-off training for Fire Program Management at the NARTC facility in Marana, Arizona, in January. Following this, Vollick served on the instructor cadre for a June FPM session attended by both Eastern Area and Southern Area representatives. Dave Brownlie and new FMO Bill Giese of Blackwater NWR attended this session in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. Rick also served as lead instructor for S-211 Portable Pumps and S-390 Fire Behavior

Calculations hosted by the State of Maine at their Ranger Academy. RFMC Carter served on the interagency development cadre for S-244 Field Observer and RX-420 Prescribed Fire Management.

Our Region did not have large numbers of people available for out-of-area assignments, but those who were dispatched to western details received valuable experience and good performance evaluations. Three seasonal firefighters from Maine refuges were detailed to the Mountain Home Ranger District of Boise National Forest, where they saw plenty of initial attack action. Refuge Manager Walt Ford of Supawna Meadows NWR in New Jersey went to Columbia NWR in Washington as Engine Boss, and from there was

immediately dispatched to the Tower Fire in Oregon as part of an engine strike team. Three individuals from Great Dismal Swamp NWR and one from Chincoteague NWR were sent to several fires in Oregon as part of a Virginia interagency crew. One seasonal firefighter from Long Island NWR Complex and two from Moosehorn NWR traveled to various Oregon fires as part of an interagency crew. Another Long Island firefighter ended up in Tallahassee, Florida, where he tied in with a Region 4 FWS crew assigned to a series of California fires. Finally, FMO Dave Brownlie managed to get his Situation Unit Leader task book completed as a trainee on the Ackerson Complex at Yosemite National Park.

Under the terms of our Fire Management Cooperative Agreement with The Nature Conservancy, Region 5 refuges continued to provide prescribed burning assistance to TNC burn crews. Rachel Carson and Long Island Refuges assisted TNC with burns in maritime pitch pine/scrub oak habitat, as well as in grasslands. Great Dismal Swamp NWR assisted TNC with a longleaf pine savanna restoration burn in southeast Virginia.

After a painfully slow start, fire management planning finally began to take off in Region 5 in 1996. Draft fire management plans have been received from Montezuma NWR and Ninigret NWR, and should be approved early in 1997. Only a small amount of work remains to be done for the Great Dismal

Swamp NWR and Moosehorn NWR plans, and these should also be completed in 1997. The interdisciplinary Fire Panel for "Evaluation of Burning Programs on Blackwater NWR and Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Areas" submitted their recommendations for future fire management on the areas. Several meetings were held with Maryland DNR staff in preparing for fire use proposals and plan preparations.

Interagency fire planning and coordination continued to occupy a large amount of time and effort in 1996. Blackwater NWR continued to co-chair responsibility for the Delmarva Fire Management Group, a confederacy of Federal, State, and local fire organizations and volunteer fire departments, timber industry representatives, and local landowners on the Eastern Shore of Maryland who have joined together to pool resources for wildland fire management. RFMC Carter served as Chair of the Virginia Multi-agency Coordinating Group, and as FWS representative for Regions 3 and 5 on the Eastern Area Coordinating Group. A major item of business this year was the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review - especially the Implementation Report, which the RFMC had to address from the perspective of the Fire Management Branch, the Eastern Area Coordinating Group, and Region 5 FWS. The Eastern Area Implementation Plan was finally received in December and forwarded to Division of Refuges, along with the RFMC interpretation of how this needed to be stepped down to Refuges.



REGION



The two words that best describe the Region 6 fire program in 1996 are growth and change. In spite of a lengthy furlough that delayed hiring of personnel, caused cancellation of training, and affected many other preparedness aspects of our fire program, our accomplishments were many.

As a result of the Fish and Wildlife Service "FirePro Analysis," in addition to filling the Zone FMO position for Nebraska/Colorado/Kansas, we were able to add several key permanent positions to our fire management team. The Zone FMO position was filled by Jim Kelton, who transferred from Klamath Basin Complex in Region 1.

Jim has already proven to be a valuable addition to the Region 6 fire program. Thanks, Region 1!!! Two new Fire Management Officers were hired from other Federal agencies, and stationed as refuge FMOs at Des Lacs Complex in North Dakota and Quivira NWR in Kansas. Dave Walker from BIA and Morgan Beveridge from U.S. Forest Service reported for duty in mid-summer and hit the ground running full speed in response to an extremely busy western fire season. Last, but certainly not least, was the addition of Lee Blaschke as Fire Control Officer at Arrowwood Complex in North Dakota. It would be an understatement to say we have assembled an extremely talented group of fire managers in Region 6.



Wildfire activity for the Region exceeded the 5-year average with 71 wildfires, for just over 14,000 acres. The largest of these fires was the Alkali Creek Fire, occurring on Charles M. Russell NWR in September. This fast moving wildfire exceeded 10,000 acres over several burning periods, resisting the efforts of local forces. Shortly after bringing in a Type 2 Incident Management Team, weather conditions changed significantly and this stubborn wildfire was finally brought under control.

Firefighters from throughout the Region answered the call this summer when a strike team of engines was assembled and assigned

to assist with presuppression and suppression efforts in eastern Montana. Engines primarily from North Dakota and Montana were hosted by Charles M. Russell NWR for approximately 45 days. The strike team eventually became the primary first response resources for much of eastern Montana and were assigned to 12 fires during a 21-day period. In addition to staffing the interagency suppression effort, firefighters manned engines to provide presuppression and suppression forces for CMR. J. Clark Salyer NWR hosted the North Dakota Dispatch Center, dispatching forces from other Federal agencies as well as coordinating the Regional dispatch program.

Prescribed fire activity in Region 6 fell within the average range with a total of 117 fires, for just under 14,000 acres. The primary reason this statistic was not higher can be largely attributed to the delay in getting seasonal fire crews hired and in place due to the Federal furlough, the long active western wildfire season that included numerous fire bands and restrictions, and the extremely late and wet spring that occurred in the Dakotas (where the majority of this Region's prescribed fire activity historically occurs). In spite of these limiting factors, a respectable amount of prescribed fire activity took place. The field station with the highest number of prescribed burns accomplished was Tewaukan NWR in North Dakota. Lostwood NWR, also in North Dakota, took the honors for both largest single prescribed burn and total number of prescribed fire acres accomplished.

Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge hosted the SCA Prescribed Fire Burn Team during the burn season. The refuge provided a supervisor (Gary Summerfield) and other support, including housing. The crew was initially trained by personnel at NIFC, and received additional training after they reached the refuge. During the summer the four-person crew completed a great deal of prep work at several North Dakota refuges which will enable the refuges to burn additional acres under desired spring conditions. The crew accomplished several burns, and assisted the western wildland fire suppression effort by being available so other firefighters could be released to participate in wildland fire suppression efforts. After the crew was released from Des Lacs in the fall they traveled to Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR, where they helped Region 4 complete their fall burn program.



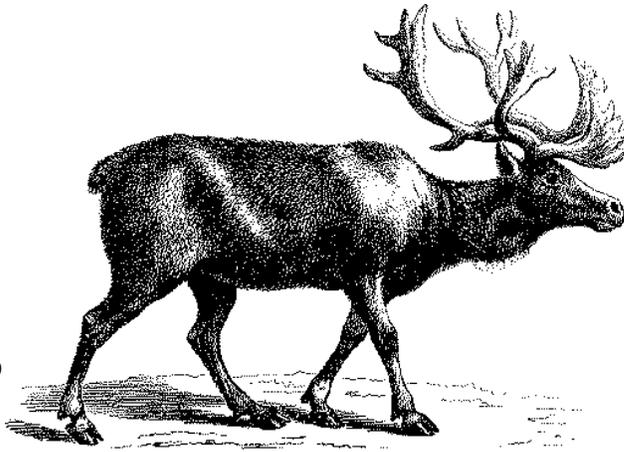
REGION



The 1996 fire season in Alaska was preceded by a lighter than normal snowfall during the winter, which melted quickly during the spring and was followed by warm dry weather. Consequently, fire activity started early and vigorously. Alaska was in Preparedness Level V for most of June. The majority of problem fires were human-caused. When lightning activity accelerated later in June with the potential to overrun Regional suppression capabilities, new starts were diminished due to moisture accompanying lightning storms. The fire season ended up being in the moderate category in Alaska with regard to acres burned. However, with respect to property, one human-caused fire (Miller's Reach Fire) in the urban-wildland interface near Anchorage destroyed more structures (344) than all other fires combined in recorded Alaskan history. A significant weather event accompanying the Miller's Reach Fire was single-digit minimum relative humidity for 2 consecutive days, accompanied by a brisk north wind. Also of note was an unprecedented 6-week Statewide open burn ban from early June through the middle of July that undoubtedly helped to reduce human-caused fire starts.

On FWS lands in Alaska in 1996, there were 39 suppressed fires that burned

189,001 acres on eight National Wildlife Refuges. The 10-year average for fire occurrence on FWS lands in Alaska is 51 fires for 397,097 acres. Of the 39 suppressed fires, 14 were extinguished during initial attack; one escaped initial attack and required suppression action by a Type 2 Incident Management Team; one was beyond initial attack when detected and also required suppression action by a Type 2 Incident Management Team; three were beyond initial attack when detected and required less intensive protection efforts, 17 were not initial attacked in accordance with preplanned response categories and received only surveillance as a response until declared out, and three were not initial attacked in accordance with preplanned response categories but did receive protection responses for cabins or private land at risk. Both fires that needed Type 2 Incident Management Teams occurred on Kenai NWR, and both were human-caused. One of those started on May 11, and was the first FWS fire reported for the season. The last FWS fire of the season occurred on Kodiak NWR when 1,750 acres burned on October 14, the same day that Anchorage received 27 inches of snow. Alaska refuges were pleased with suppression services provided by the Alaska Fire Service and State of Alaska in 1996 (particularly with regard to innovative and cost effective aerial ignition), and the quality of interaction and communication between



FMOs from those agencies and refuge fire management staff.

Approximately 35 situation-driven Multi-Agency Coordinating Group meetings and teleconferences were participated in by FWS representatives during the fire season.

Thirty-one FWS employees in Region 7 participated on suppression assignments within the Region in 1996. Those assignments included Strike Team Leader-Crews, Firefighter, Engine Operator, Security Specialist, Fire Information Officer, Fire Cause Investigator, Situation Unit Leader, and Helispot Manager.

Twelve FWS employees in Region 7 participated on suppression assignments outside the Region in 1996. Those assignments included Fire Behavior Analyst, Division Group Supervisor, Fire Information Officer, Type 2 Crewmember, Engine Crewmember, Helicopter Module Crewmember, Crew Liaison Representative, Military Crew Trainer, and Expanded Dispatch Office Dispatcher.

In large part due to the unusual weather patterns during the summer in Alaska and suppression demands, the only prescribed fire that was implemented in Region 7 was a 90-acre burn on Kenai NWR. Cooperative agreements were completed with the State of Alaska, U.S. Forest Service, and the Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response Team to help initiate that burn.

Cooperative fire management planning between FWS and native regional, village, and non-profit corporations in 1996 included prescribed burn planning,

village protection fuelbreak planning, and coordinated fire protection response planning. Coordinated fire protection response planning also occurred among FWS, Alaska Fire Service, and the State of Alaska.

Instructor support by Region 7 employees was provided for interagency courses on firefighter safety and fire effects held in Alaska in 1996. National lesson plan development work was provided by Region 7 employees for Field Observer/Display Processor and Fire Program Management Courses.

Region 7 employees provided agency representation on national working teams and task groups in 1996, including the NWCG Prevention, Education, and Communications Working Team and the FFALC Fire Terminology Task Group.

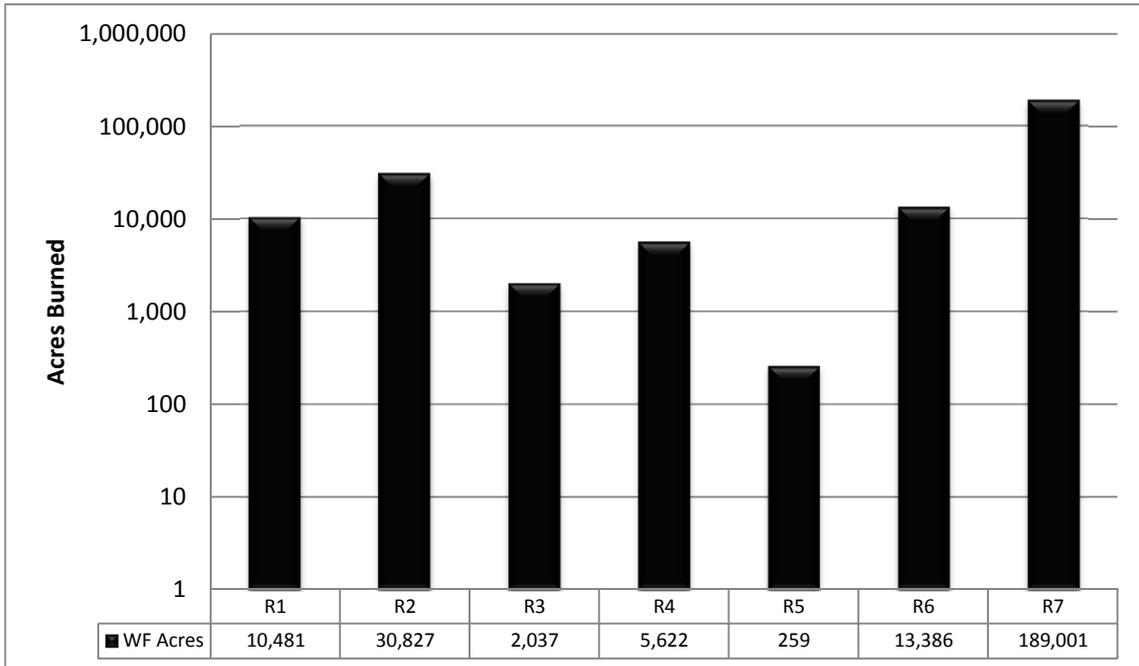
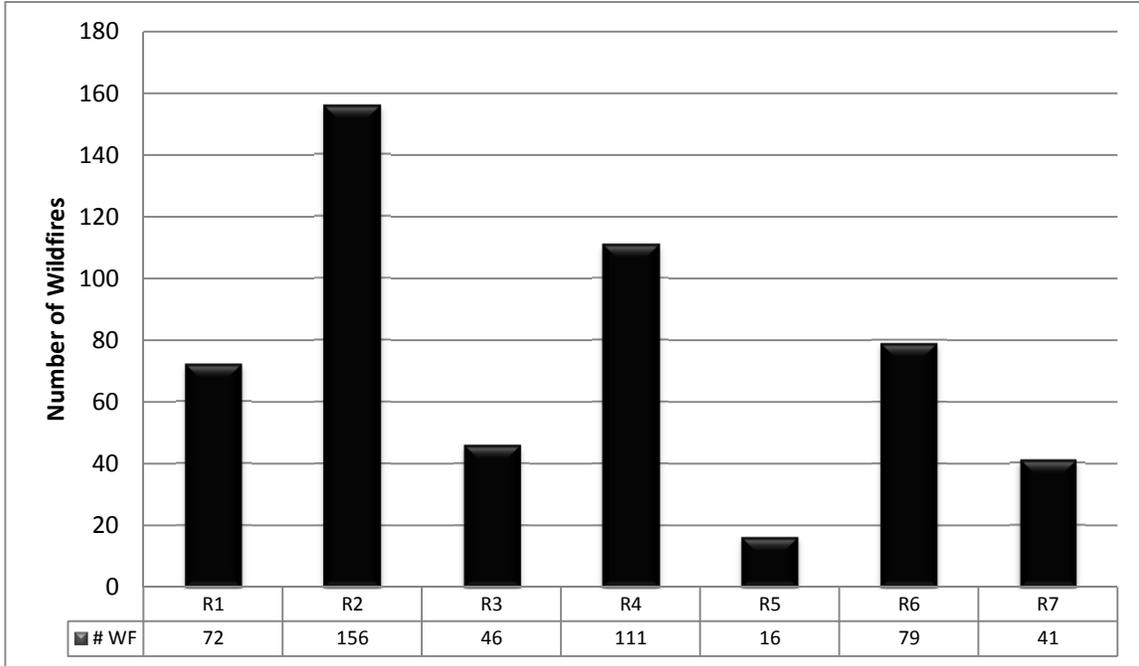
Region 7 employees participated in fire management research activities in 1996, including cooperation with the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station on a nationally funded natural fire fuels and fire behavior photo series.

Education and public outreach were a focus for activity in Region 7 in 1996. Funding support and involvement were provided for an interagency series of workshops and train-the-trainer course on Homeowner Protection from Wildfire. FWS employees made over 200 contacts with teachers through classroom visits, in-service presentations and conferences on the Role of Fire in Alaska curriculum. Student and other public contacts totaled over 5,000 in 1996. Activities included presentations on the fire management program during Refuge Week festivities at the Regional Office,

staffing a booth at the State Fair on the role of fire in the boreal forest, classroom and village presentations on the role of fire in the boreal forest and protecting one's home from fire, and science camps for children highlighting fire ecology at several refuges. The national FWS display on the role of fire was shown with FWS fire education materials at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage for a month during the busiest part of the fire season. Over 27,000 visitors viewed the display, which generated a lot of productive discussion.



WILDFIRES 1996



WILDFIRES by Cause

Cause	# Fires	FWS Acres
Natural	130	174,984.9
Debris / Vegetation Burn	78	23,003.5
Equipment Use	34	402.2
Incendiary	115	17,959.5
Open or Outdoor Fire	37	7,545.1
Other Causes	14	185.3
Smoking	22	124.7
Undetermined	91	27,408.8
Total	521	251,614.0

WILDFIRES by Size Class

Size Class	# Fires	FWS Acres
A (0 - .2)	121	12.8
B (.3 - 9.9)	197	489.9
C (10 - 99.9)	119	3,960.9
D (100 - 299.9)	33	5,730.8
E (300 - 999.9)	27	13,402.8
F (1000 - 4999.9)	13	29,260.2
G (5000 +)	11	198,756.6
Total	521	251,614.0

WILDFIRES

by State

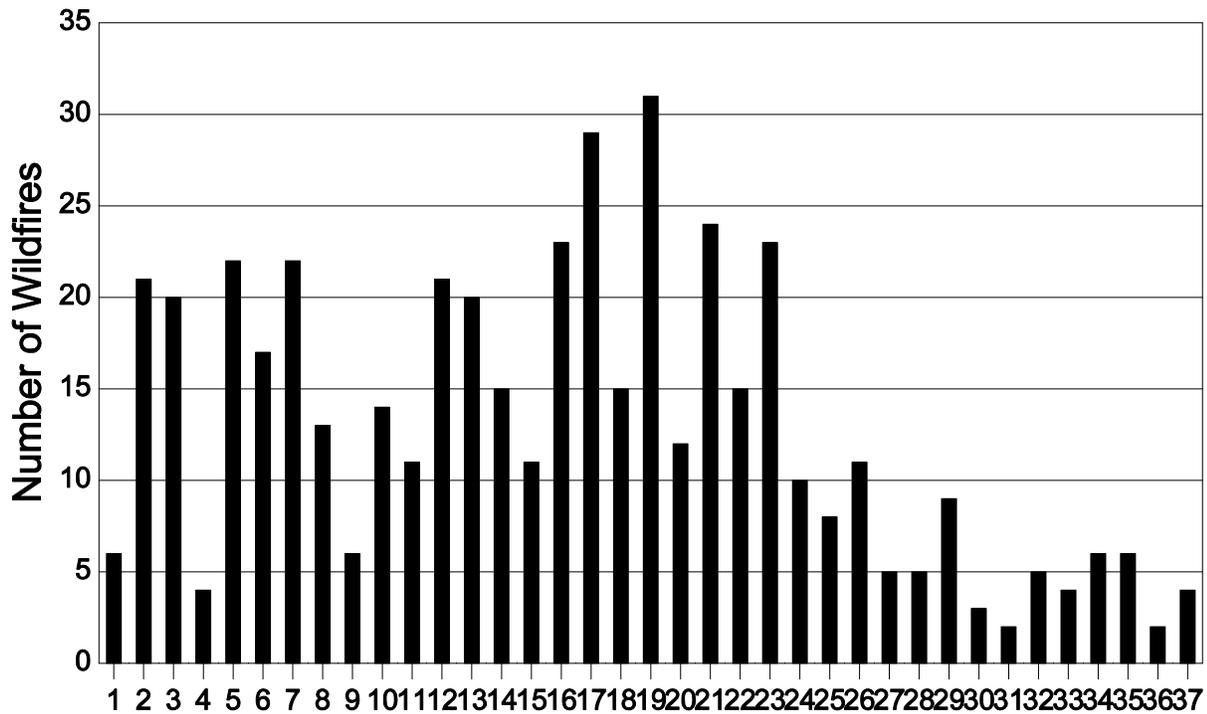
1996

<u>State</u>	<u># Fires</u>	<u>FWS Acres</u>
Alabama	16	1,289.5
Alaska	41	189,001.1
Arizona	13	632.5
Arkansas	3	12.8
California	30	570.8
Colorado	6	0.2
Florida	20	44.6
Georgia	9	420.8
Idaho	5	896.7
Illinois	10	88.4
Iowa	3	223.6
Kansas	10	41.7
Louisiana	33	1,429.6
Maine	1	0.1
Maryland	13	257.5
Michigan	1	1.0
Minnesota	21	1,601.6
Mississippi	12	927.5
Missouri	2	50.0
Montana	25	11,216.2
Nebraska	11	1,305.5
Nevada	7	7,043.4
New Mexico	5	4,117.5
New York	1	1.6
North Carolina	7	712.0
North Dakota	22	628.9
Oklahoma	40	8,743.0
Oregon	17	1,943.9
Pennsylvania	1	0.1

Puerto Rico	3	502.0
South Carolina	5	278.9
South Dakota	3	153.7
Tennessee	3	4.3
Texas	97	17,333.9
Washington	14	26.3
Wisconsin	9	72.6
Wyoming	2	40.2
Total	521	251,614.0

WILDFIRES - 1996

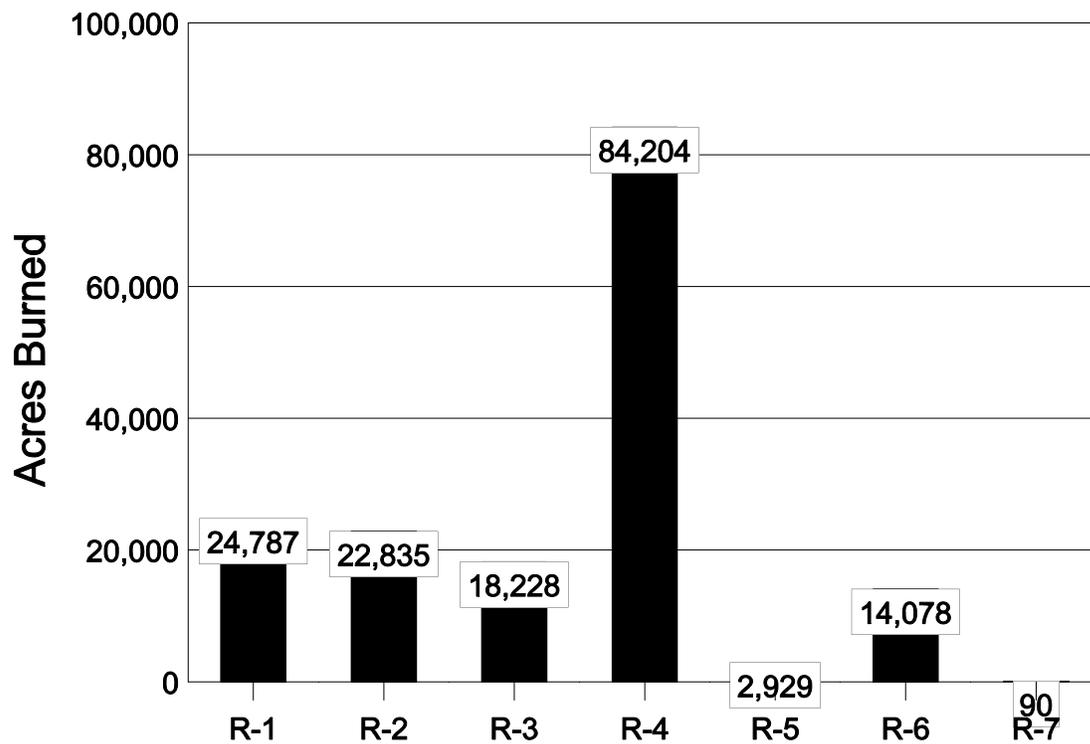
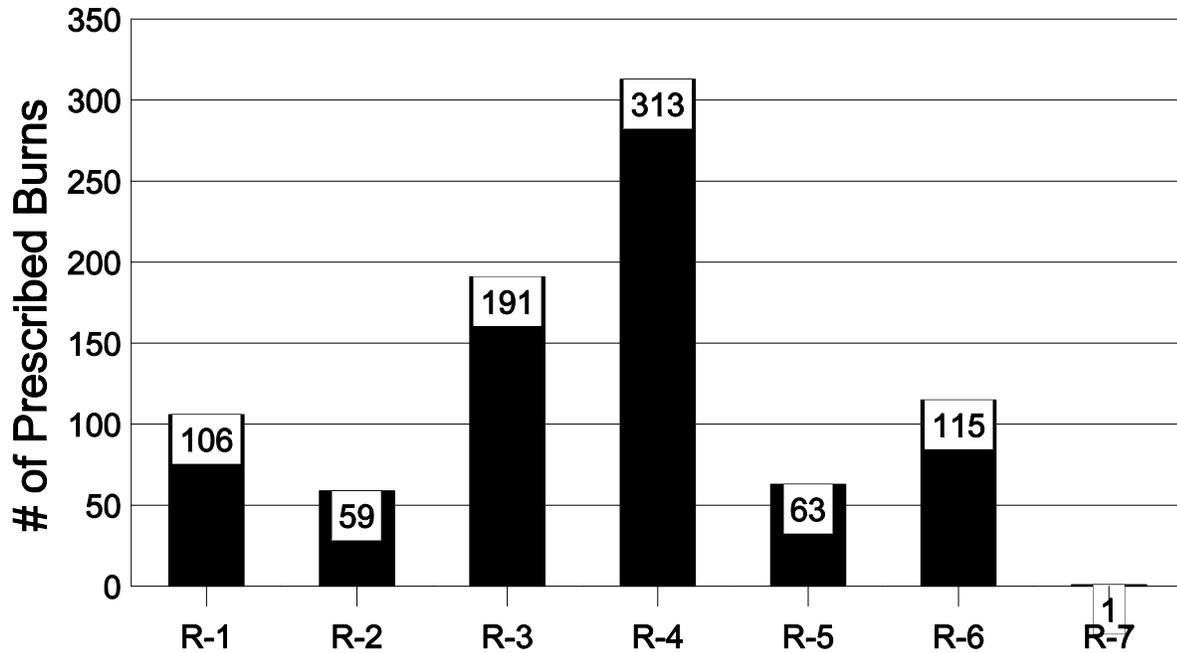
10 - Day Period



<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>DATES</u>
1	Jan 01 - Jan 10	21	July 20- July 29
2	Jan 11 - Jan 20	22	July 30 - Aug 08
3	Jan 21 - Jan 30	23	Aug 09 - Aug 18
4	Jan 31 - Feb 09	24	Aug 19 - Aug 28
5	Feb 10 - Feb 19	25	Aug 29 - Sep 07
6	Feb 20 - Mar 01	26	Sep 08 - Sep 17
7	Mar 02 - Mar 11	27	Sep 18 - Sep 27
8	Mar 12 - Mar 21	28	Sep 28 - Oct 07
9	Mar 22 - Mar 31	29	Oct 08 - Oct 17
10	Apr 01 - Apr 10	30	Oct 18 - Oct 27
11	Apr 11 - Apr 20	31	Oct 28 - Nov 06
12	Apr 21 - Apr 30	32	Nov 07 - Nov 16
13	May 01 - May 10	33	Nov 17 - Nov 26
14	May 11 - May 20	34	Nov 27 - Dec 06
15	May 21 - May 30	35	Dec 07 - Dec 16
16	May 31 - June 09	36	Dec 17 - Dec 27
17	June 10 - June 19	37	Dec 27 - Dec 31 (3 days)
18	June 20 - June 29		
19	June 30 - July 09		
20	July 10 - July 19		

FWS

PRESCRIBED BURNS - 1996

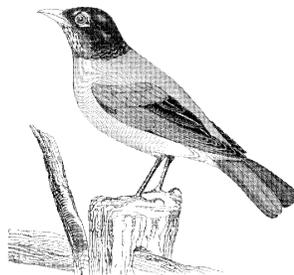


PRESCRIBED BURNS

Burn Plan Objective

1996

OBJECTIVE	# FIRES	# FWS ACRES
Natural Systems		
Exotic or Undesirable Species Control	45	6,881.6
Habitat Maintenance	468	87,933.6
Research	37	911.5
Hazard Reduction		
Fuel Reduction	236	66,880.6
Real Property Protection		
Maintenance		
Debris Removal	21	1,212.9
Vista Maintenance	1	1.0
Right-of-way Maintenance	1	110.0
Health (Insect Control)		
Not Identified	39	3,220.0
TOTAL	848	167,151.2



PRESCRIBED BURNS

by State

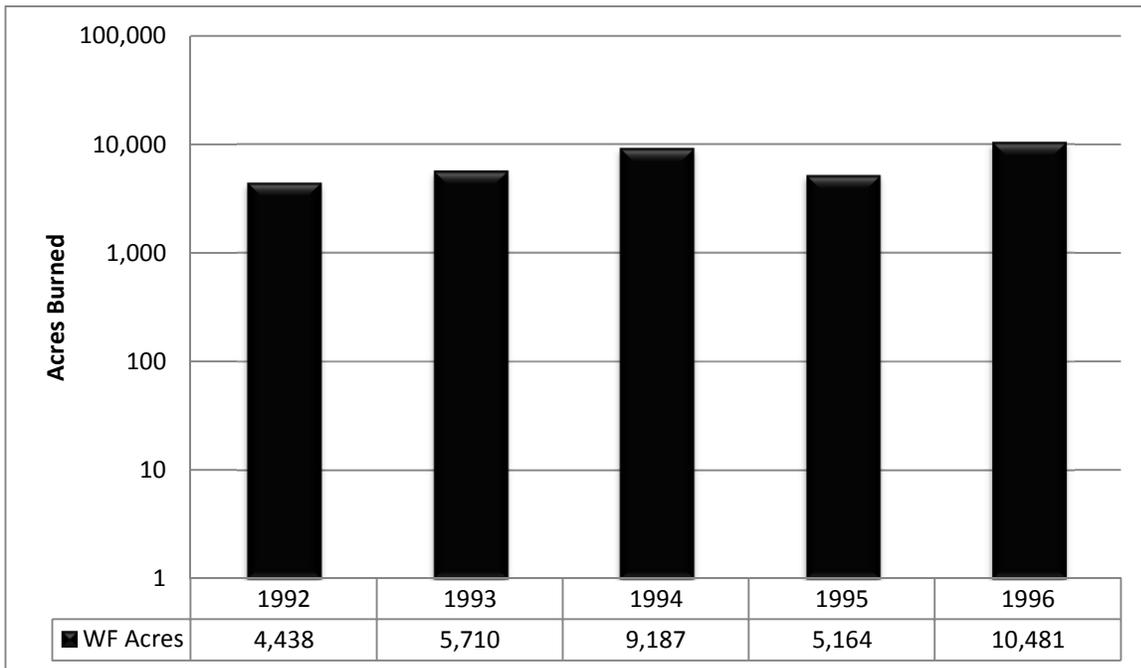
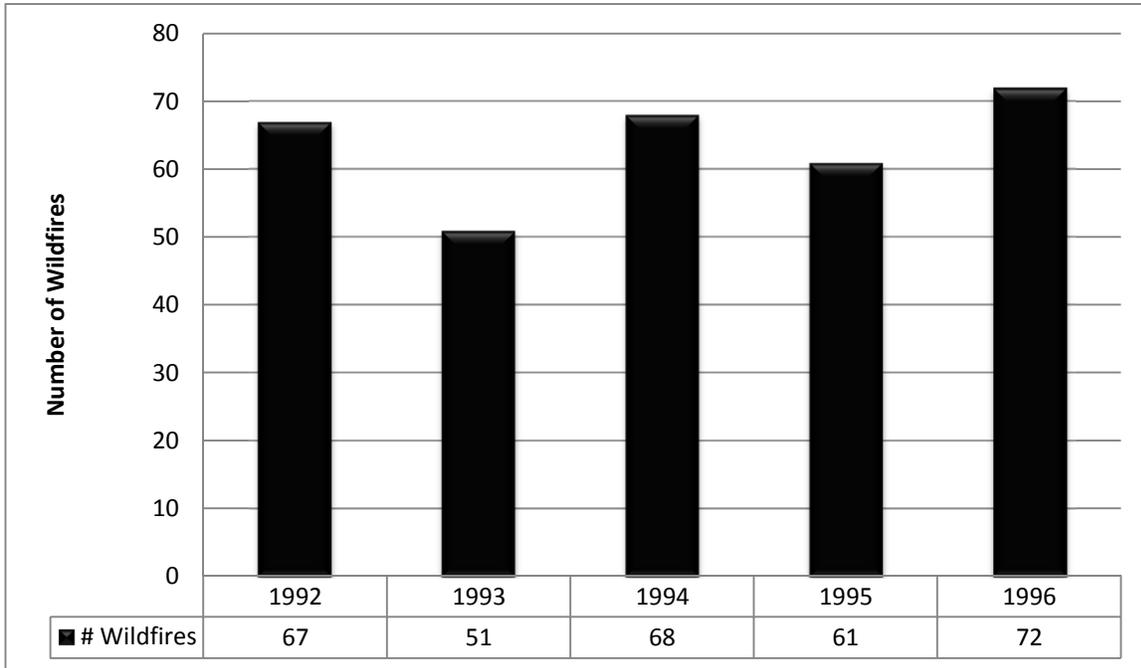
1996

<u>State</u>	<u># Fires</u>	<u>FWS Acres</u>
Alabama	13	461.2
Alaska	1	90.0
Arizona	4	2,328.0
Arkansas	8	2,710.0
California	34	7,926.0
Delaware	2	90.0
Florida	143	29,412.6
Georgia	45	9,739.0
Hawaii	1	10.0
Illinois	8	285.4
Indiana	2	75.0
Iowa	23	1,350.2
Kansas	12	895.0
Louisiana	11	11,942.0
Maine	10	88.3
Maryland	37	2,597.0
Michigan	5	273.0
Minnesota	110	13,653.4
Mississippi	36	8,056.0
Missouri	16	1,252.0
Montana	5	792.0
Nebraska	13	1,858.0
Nevada	12	7,452.0
New Mexico	1	300.0
New York	1	2.0
North Carolina	19	7,652.0
North Dakota	81	10,251.0
Oklahoma	3	262.0
Oregon	48	8,514.0

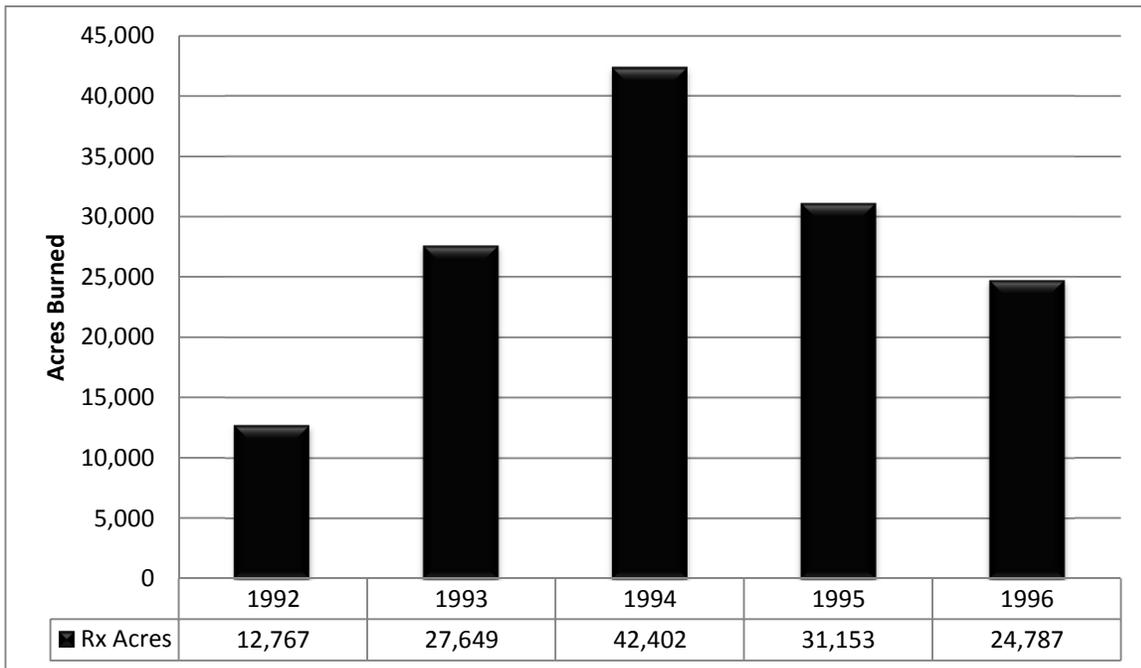
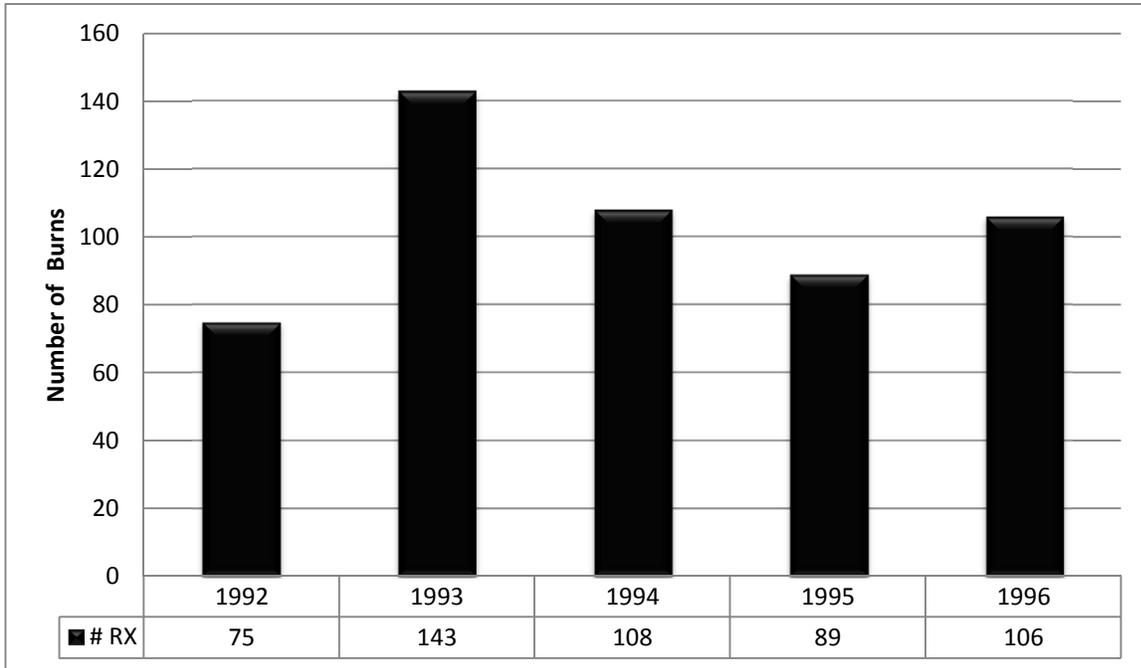
Pennsylvania	9	70.5
South Carolina	35	13,946.0
South Dakota	6	297.0
Tennessee	3	130.1
Texas	51	19,944.8
Utah	1	140.0
Vermont	1	11.6
Virginia	3	225.0
Washington	11	885.4
Wisconsin	24	1,183.7
Total	848	167,151.2

REGION 1

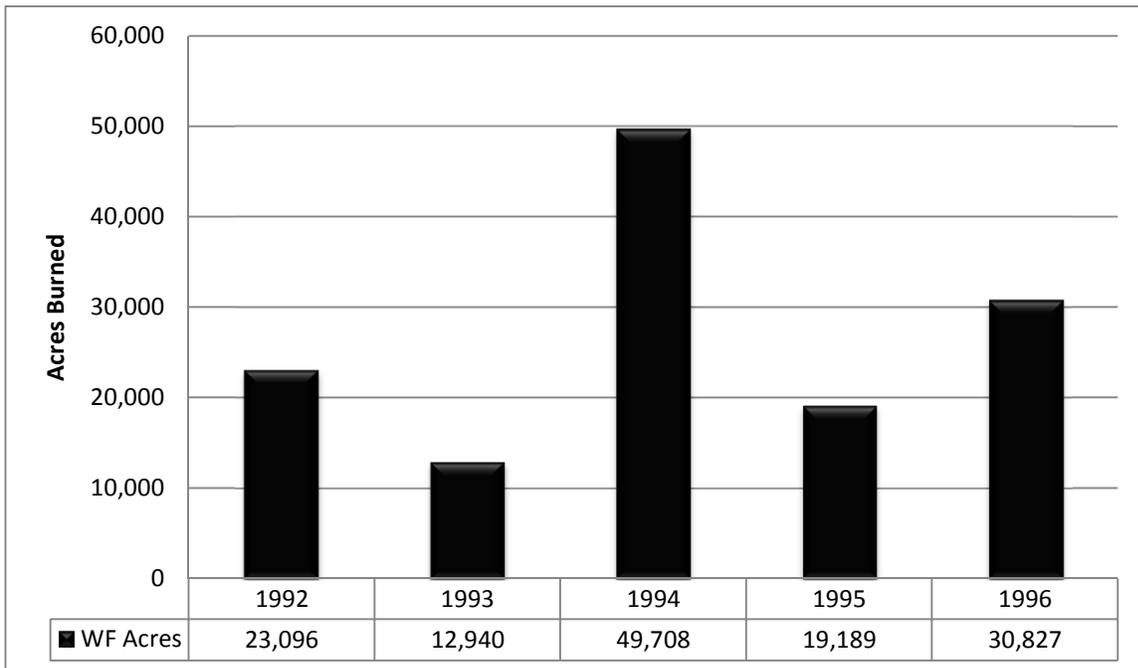
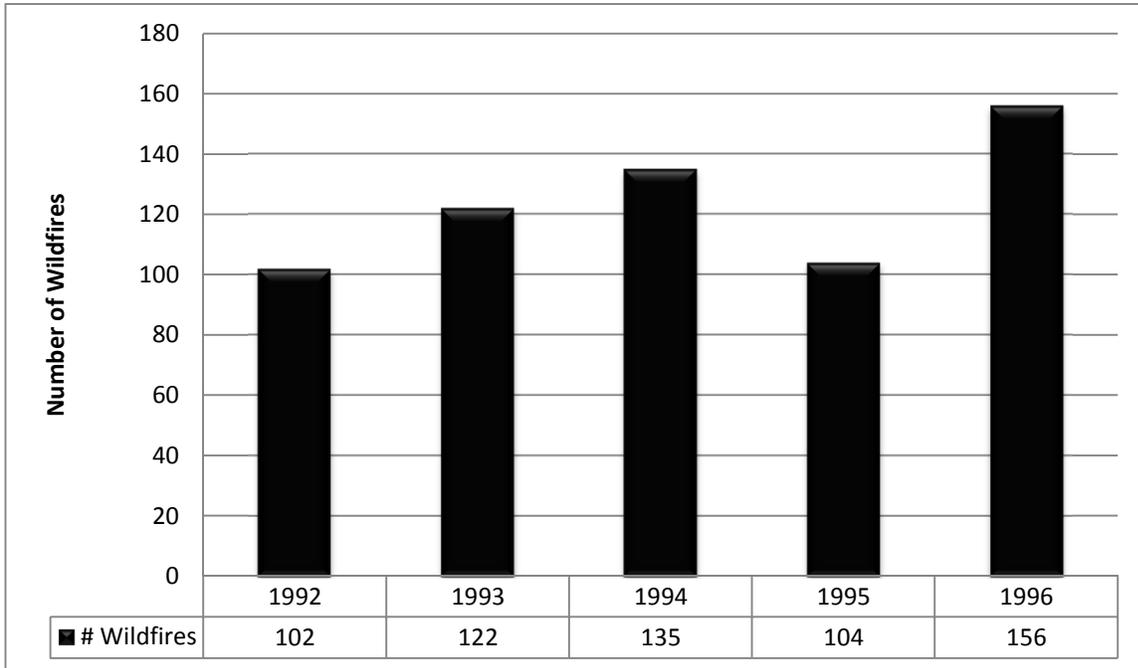
Wildfires 1992 - 1996



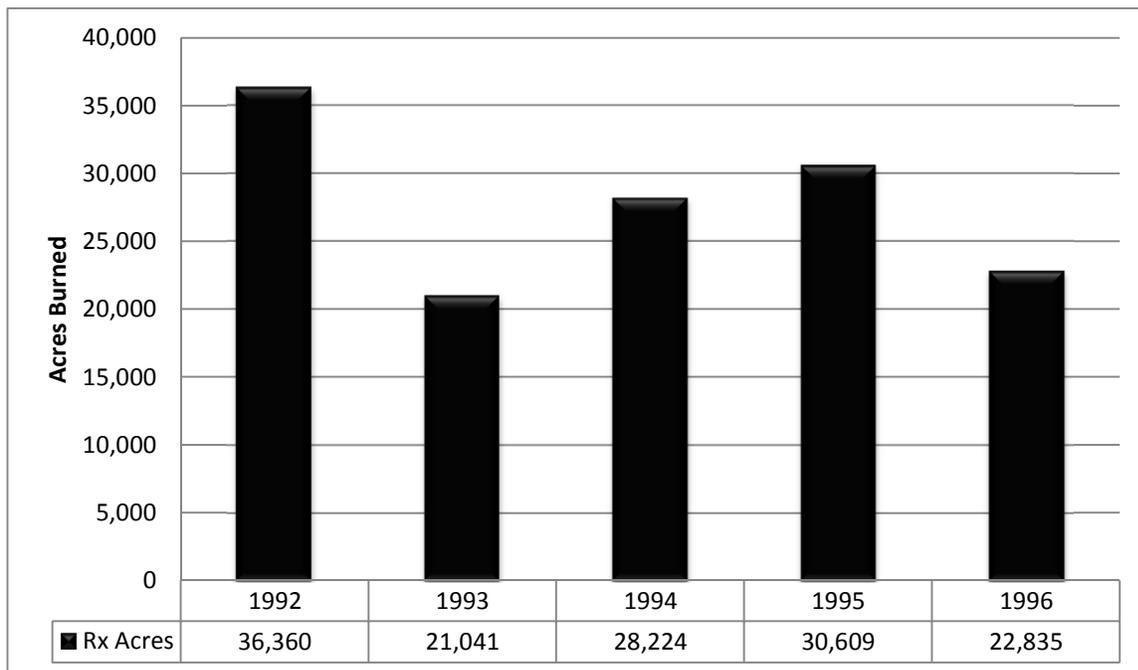
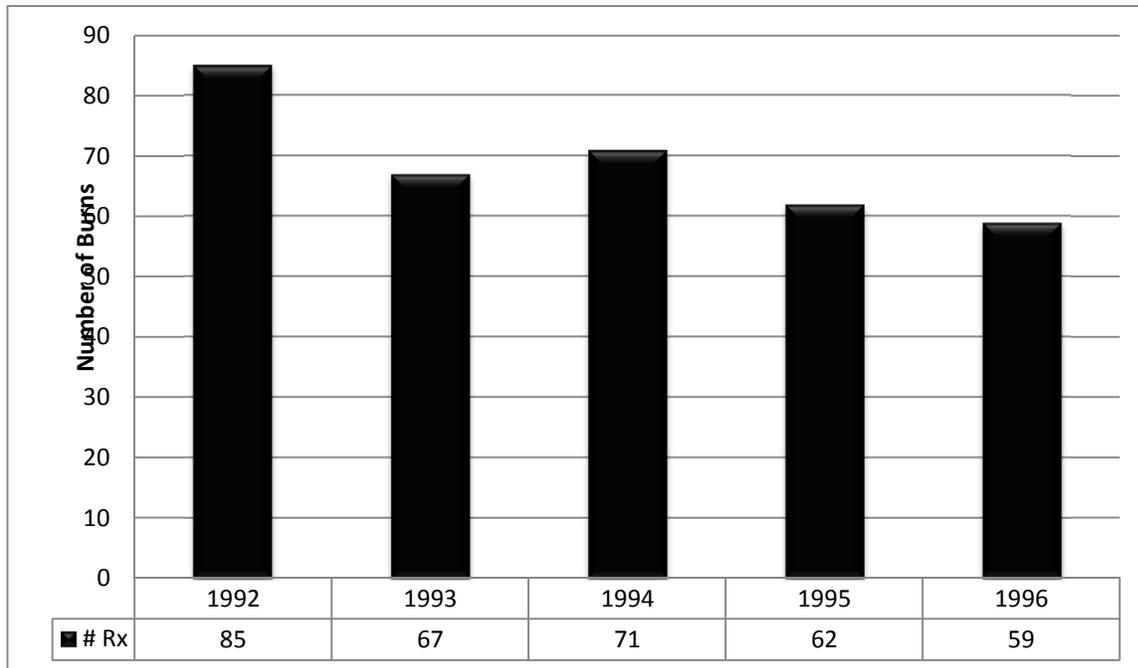
REGION 1 PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996



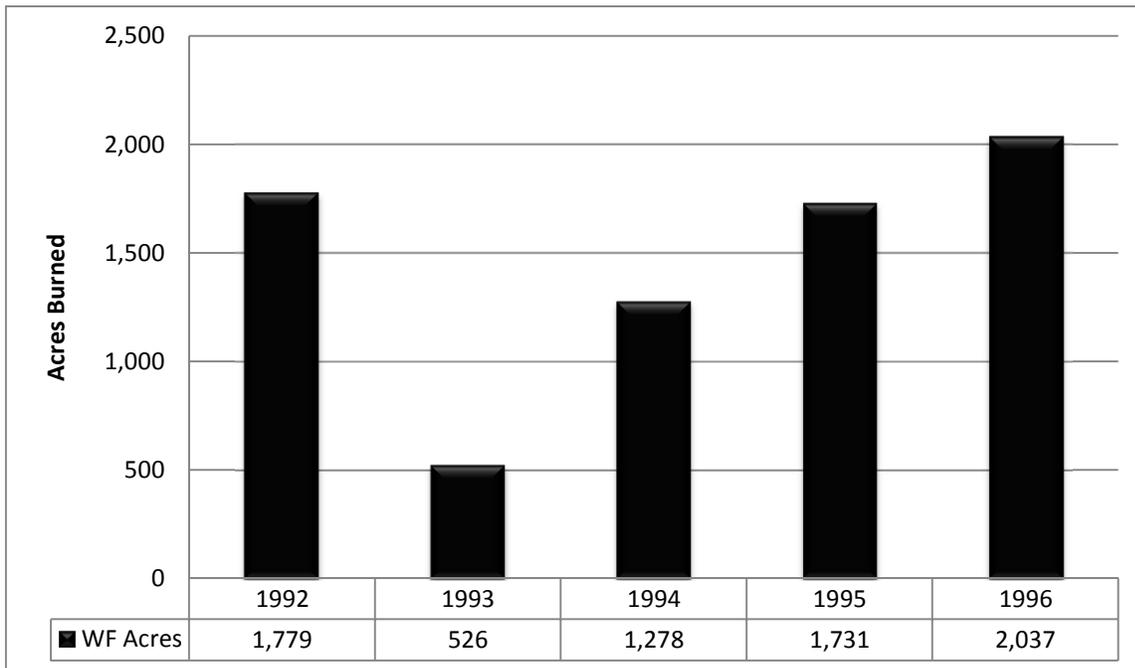
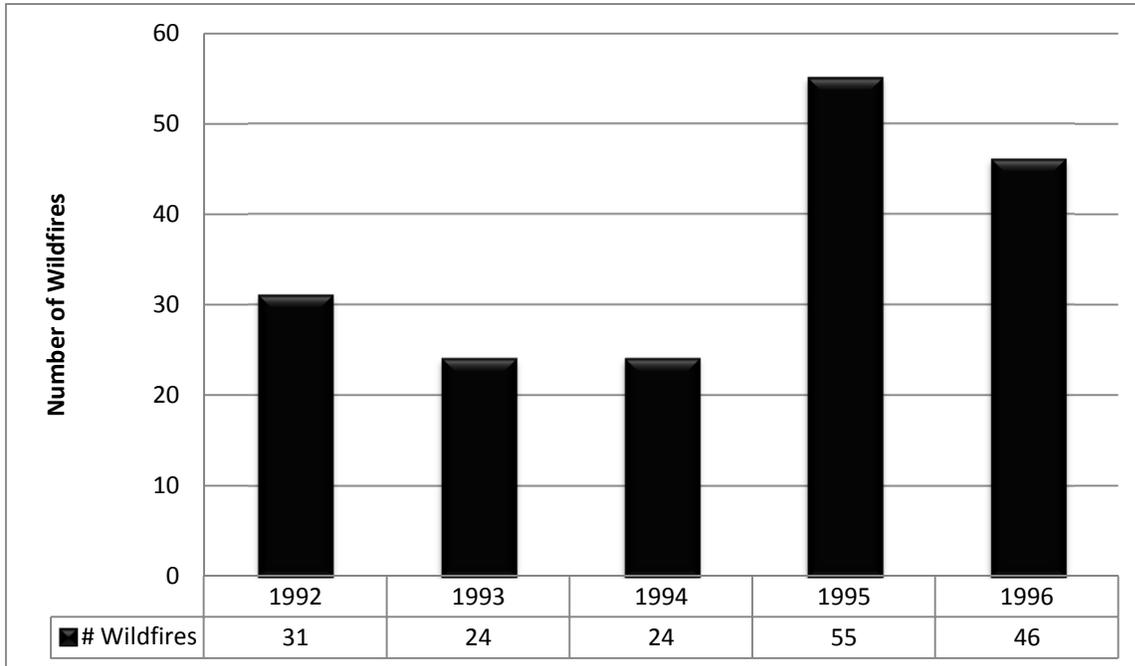
REGION 2 Wildfires 1992 - 1996



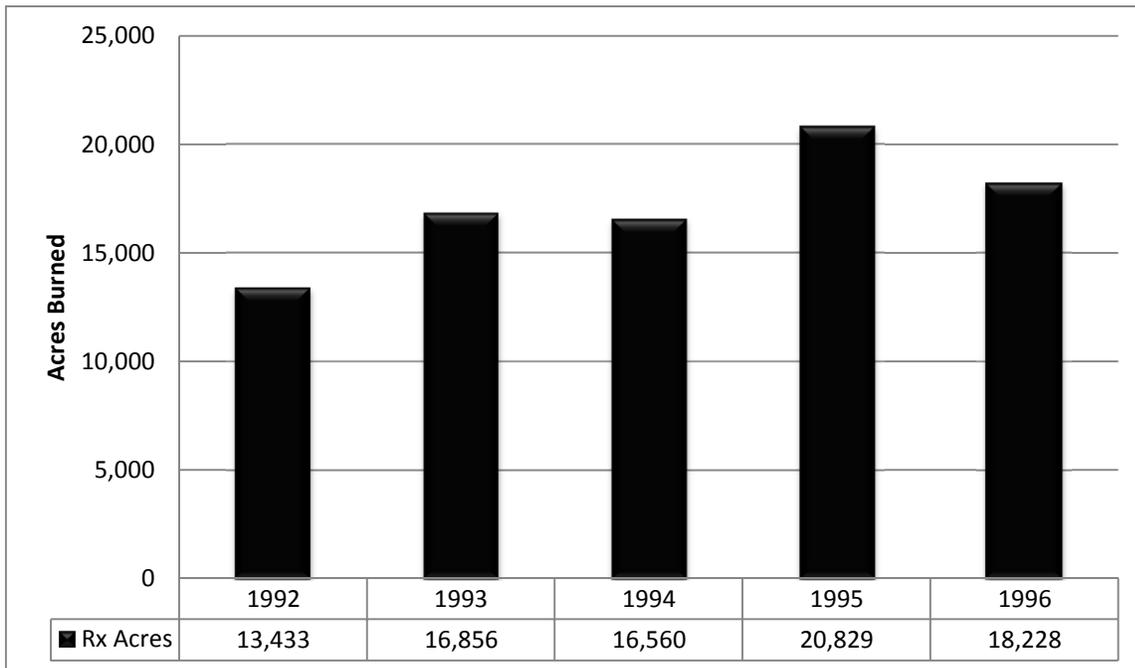
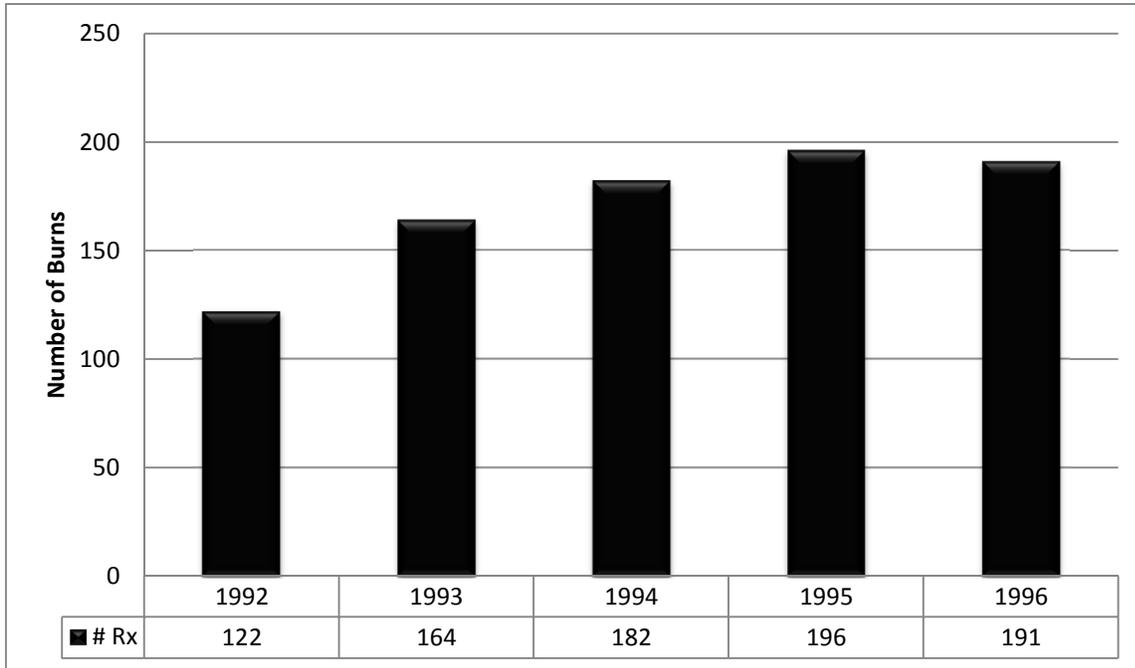
REGION 2 PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996



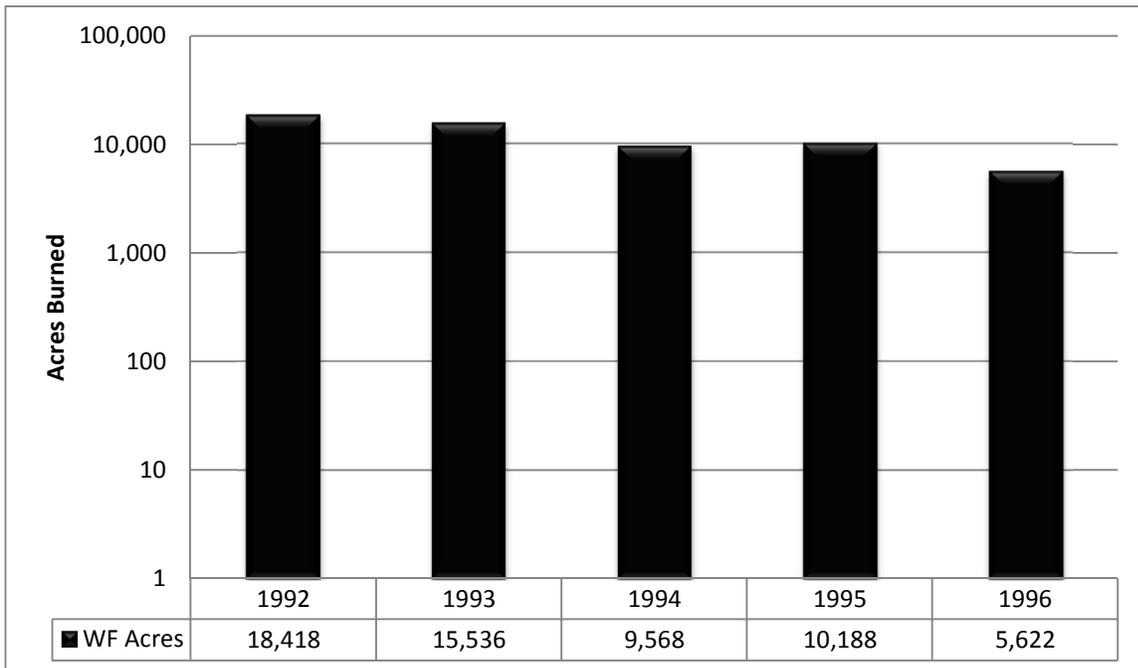
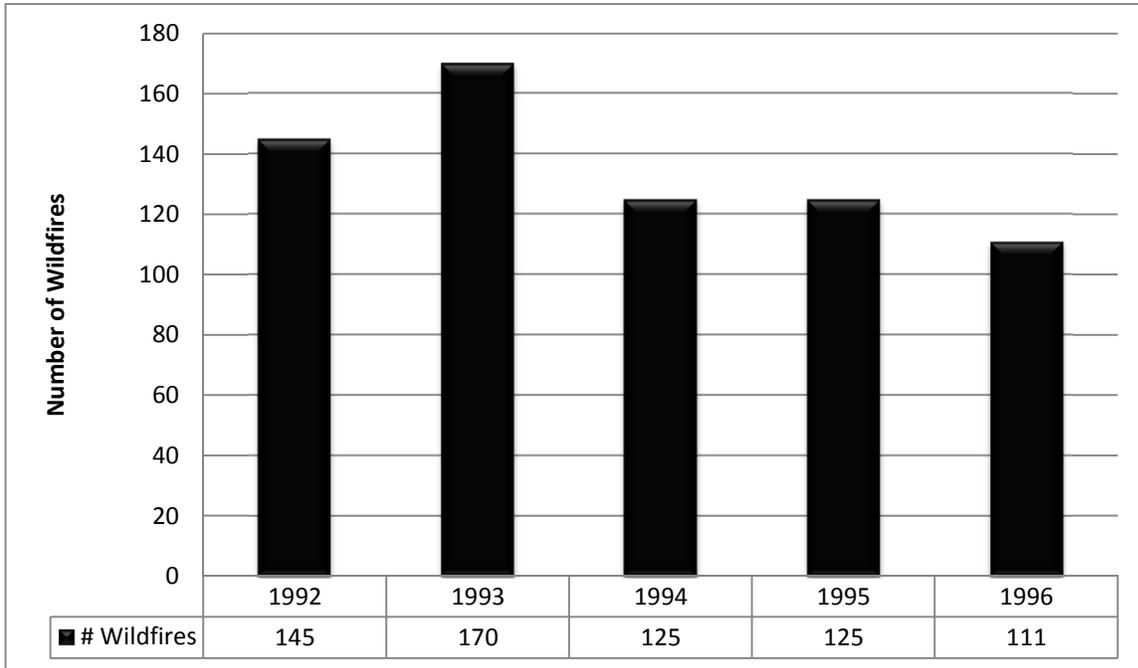
REGION 3 Wildfires 1992 - 1996



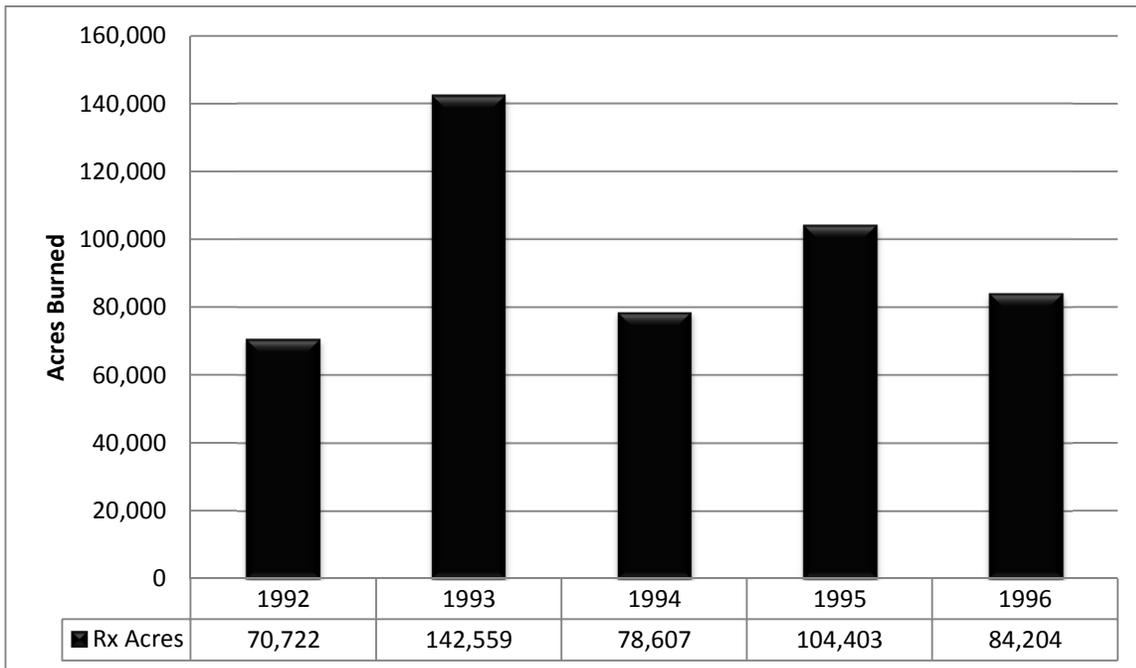
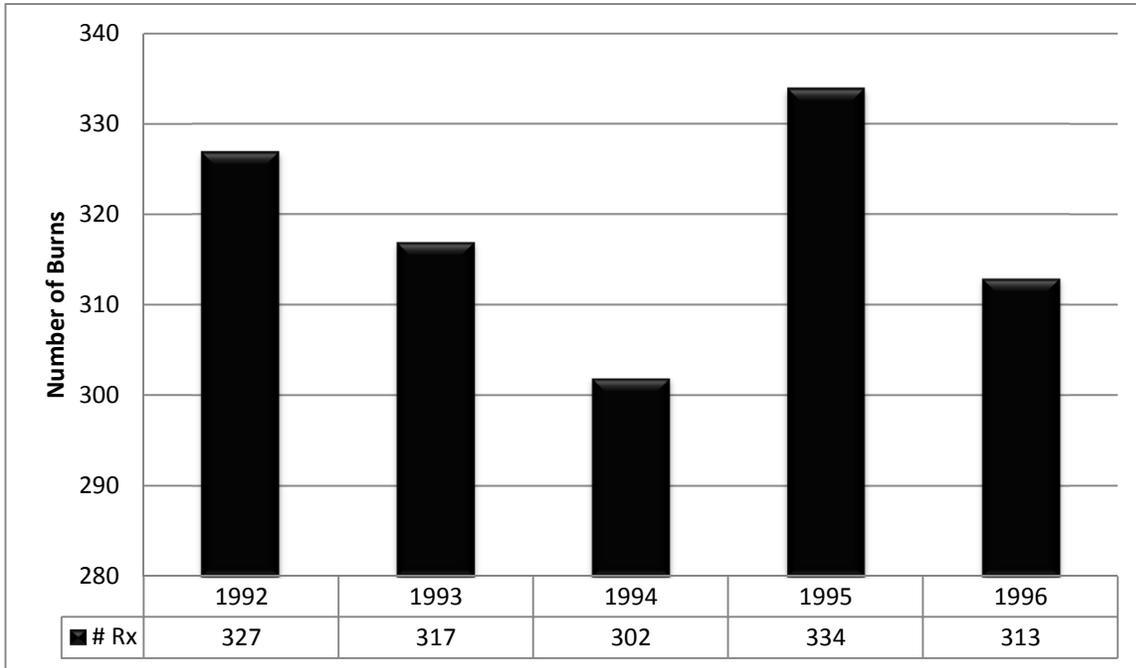
REGION 3 PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996



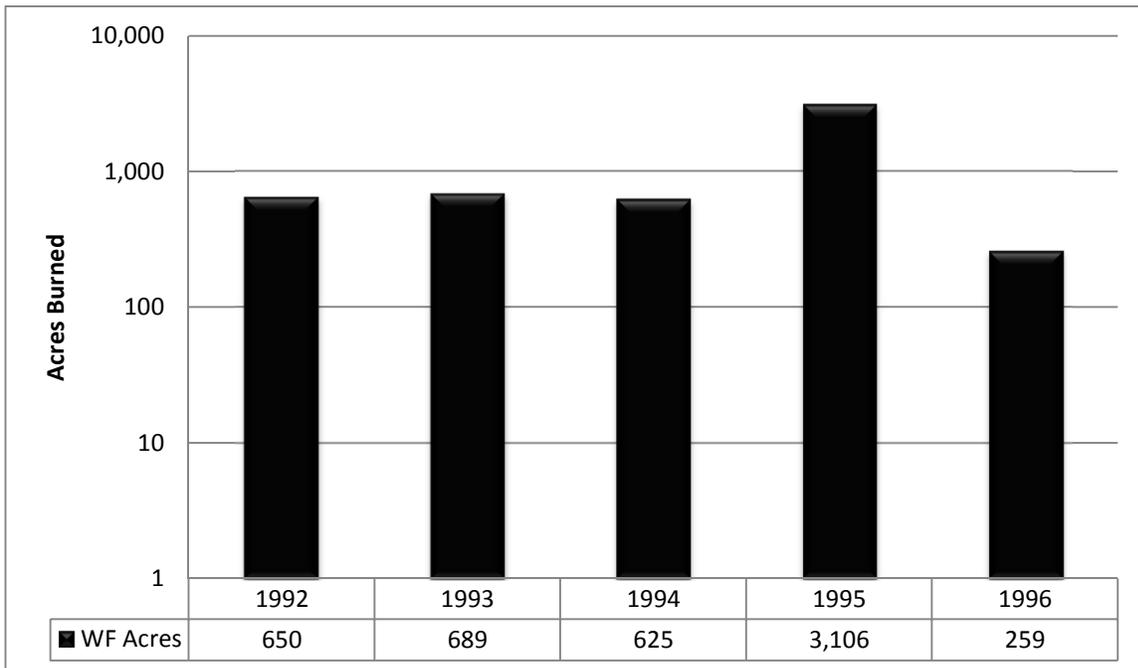
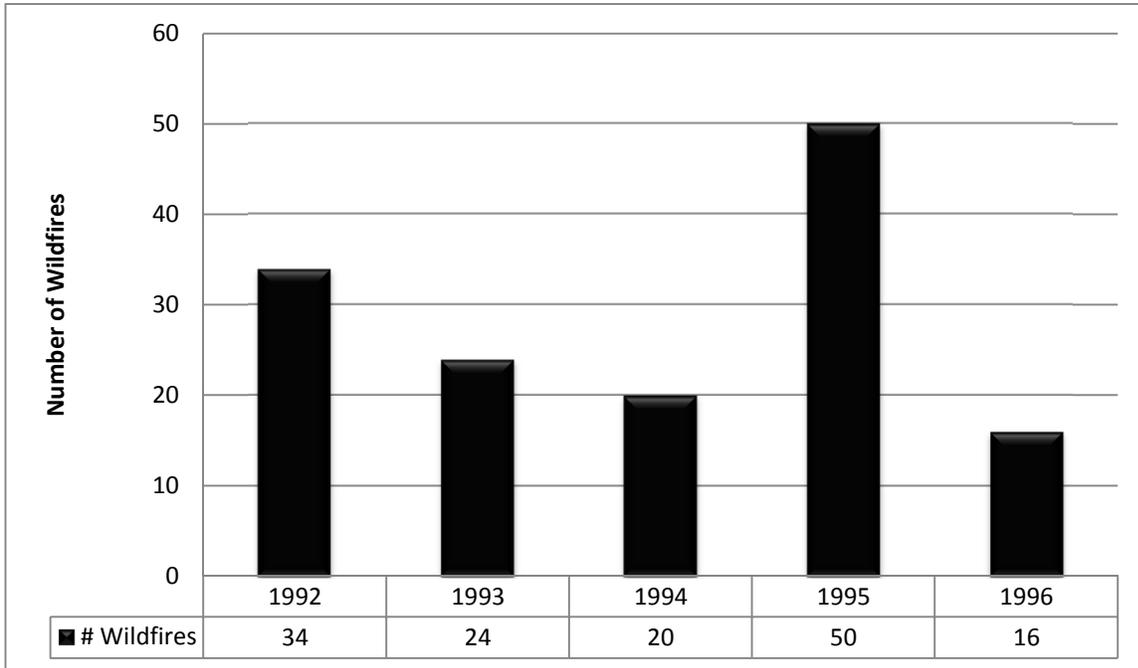
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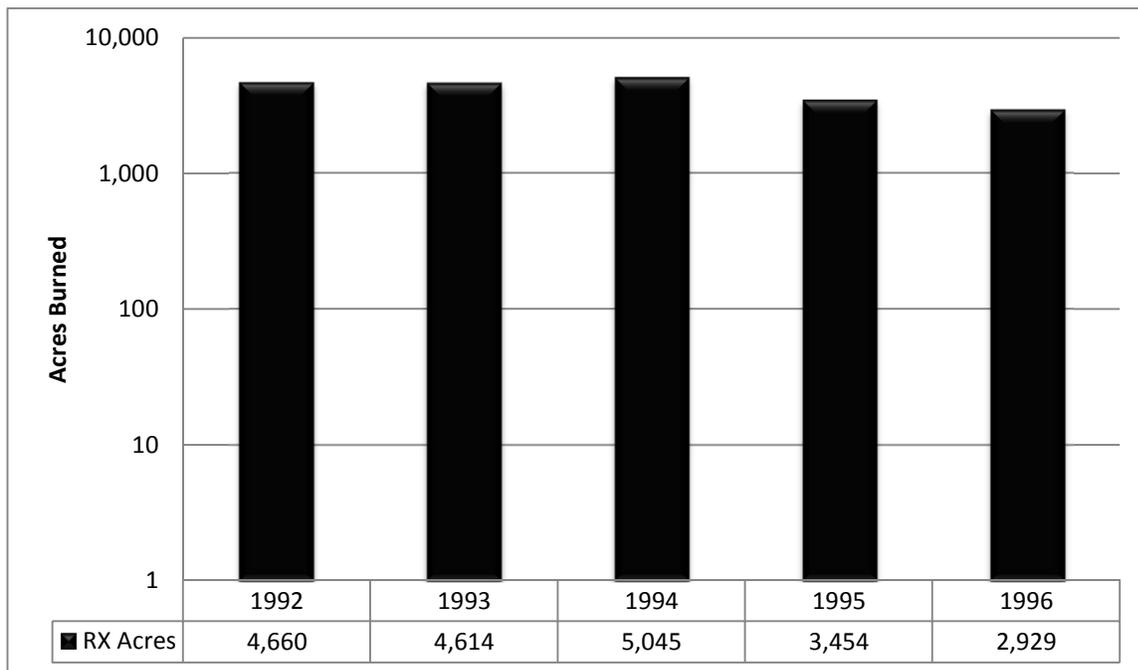
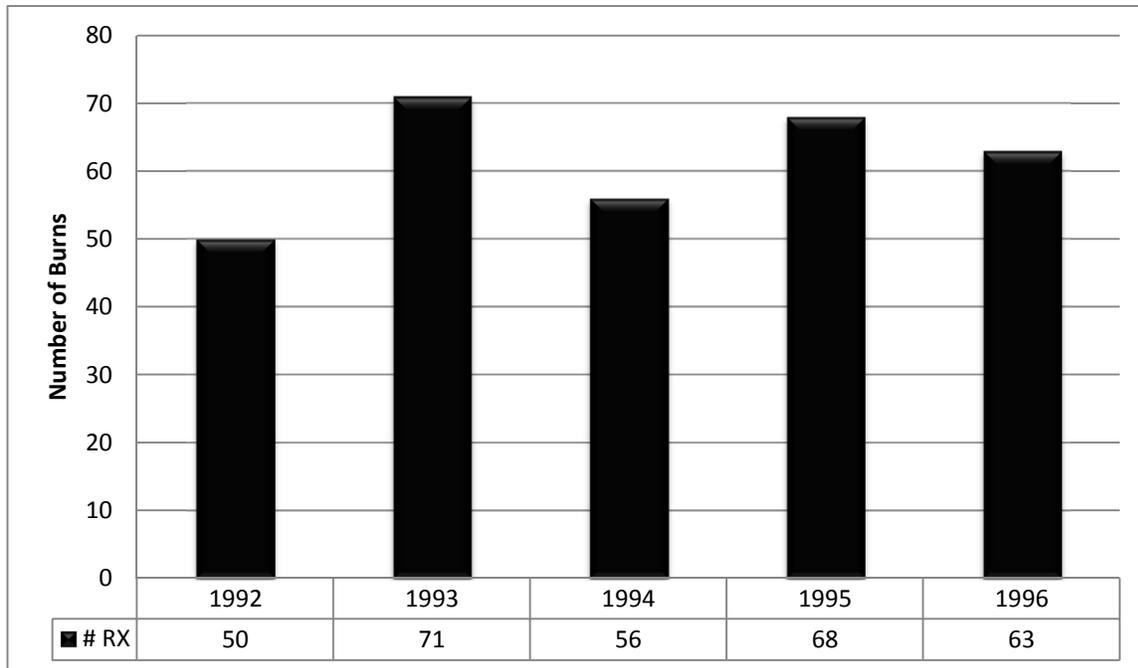
REGION 4 PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996



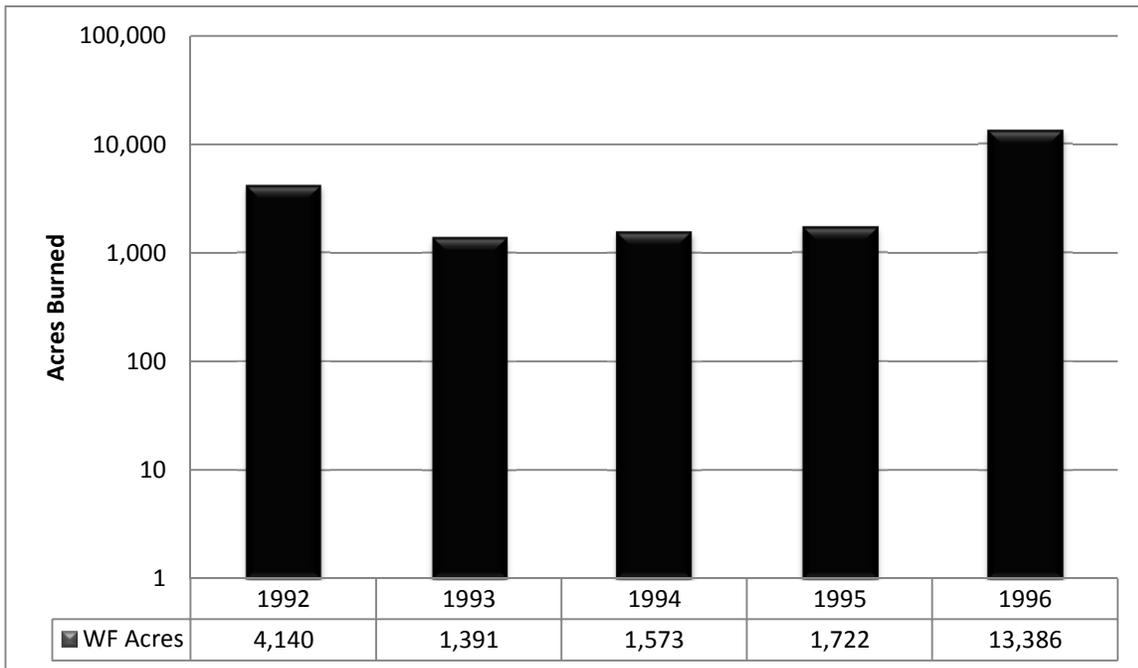
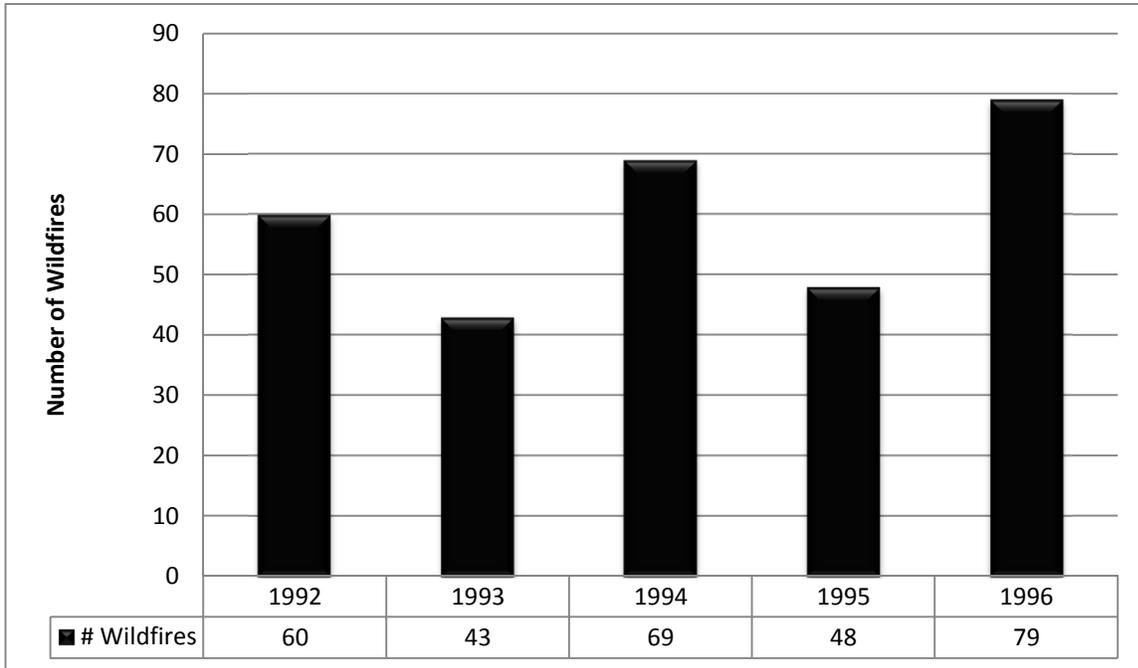
REGION 5 Wildfires 1992 - 1996



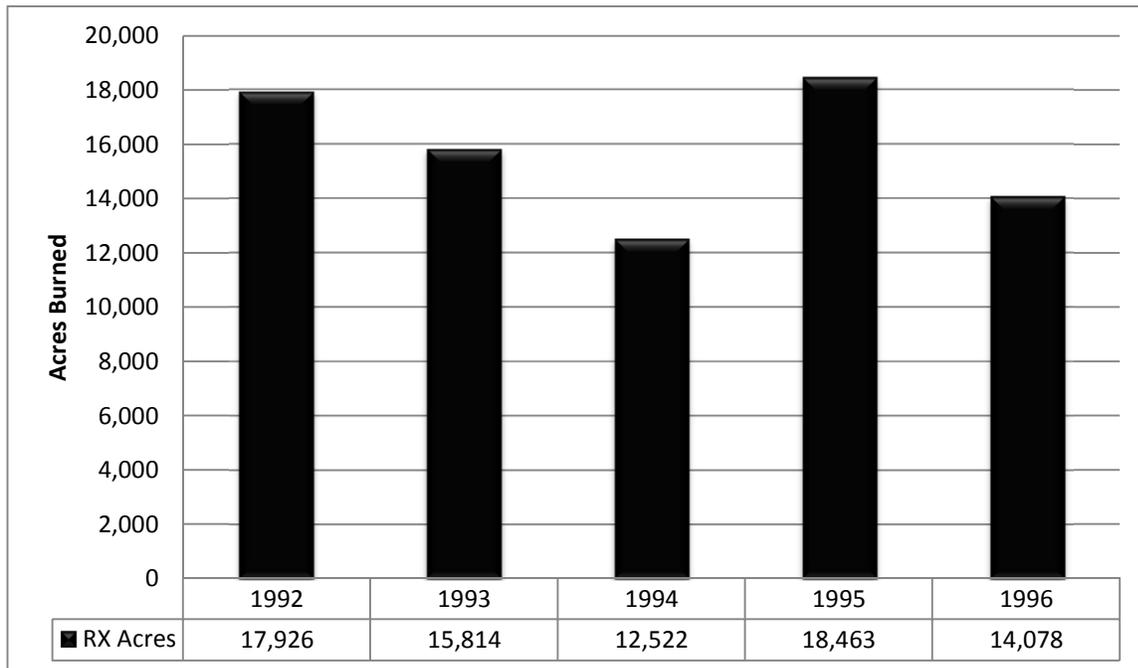
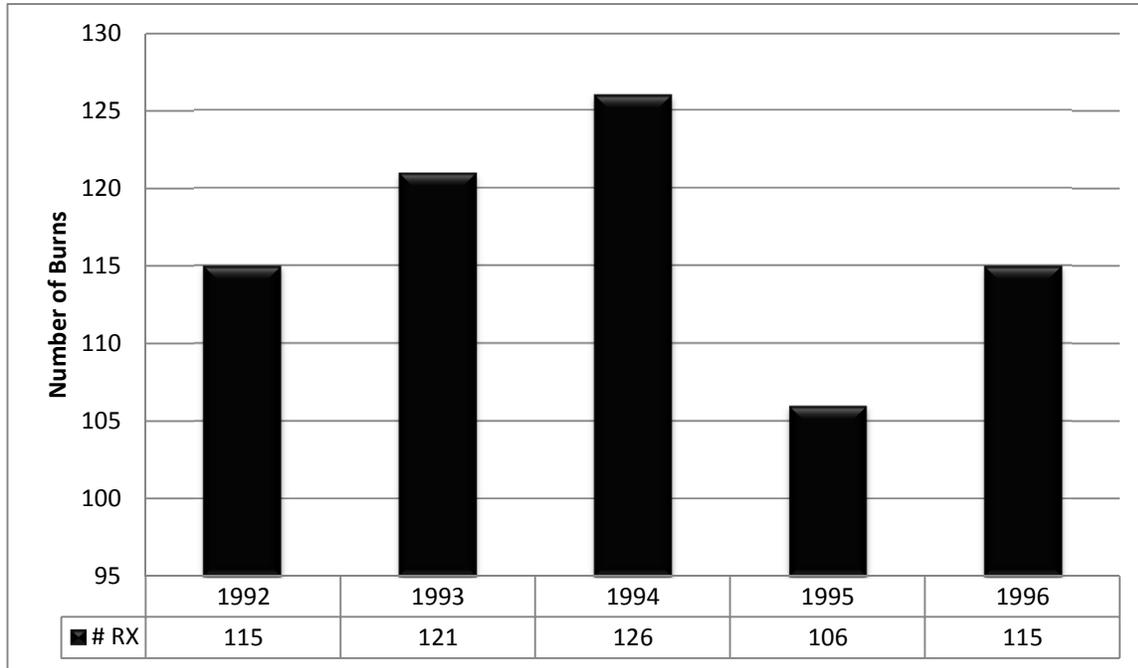
REGION 5 PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996



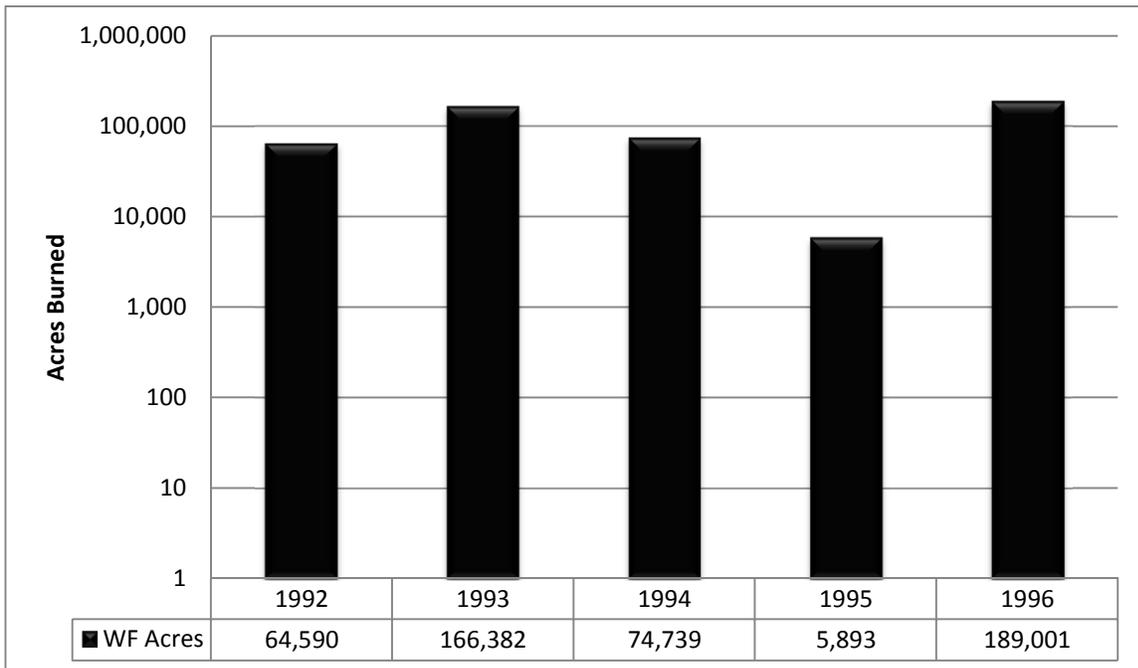
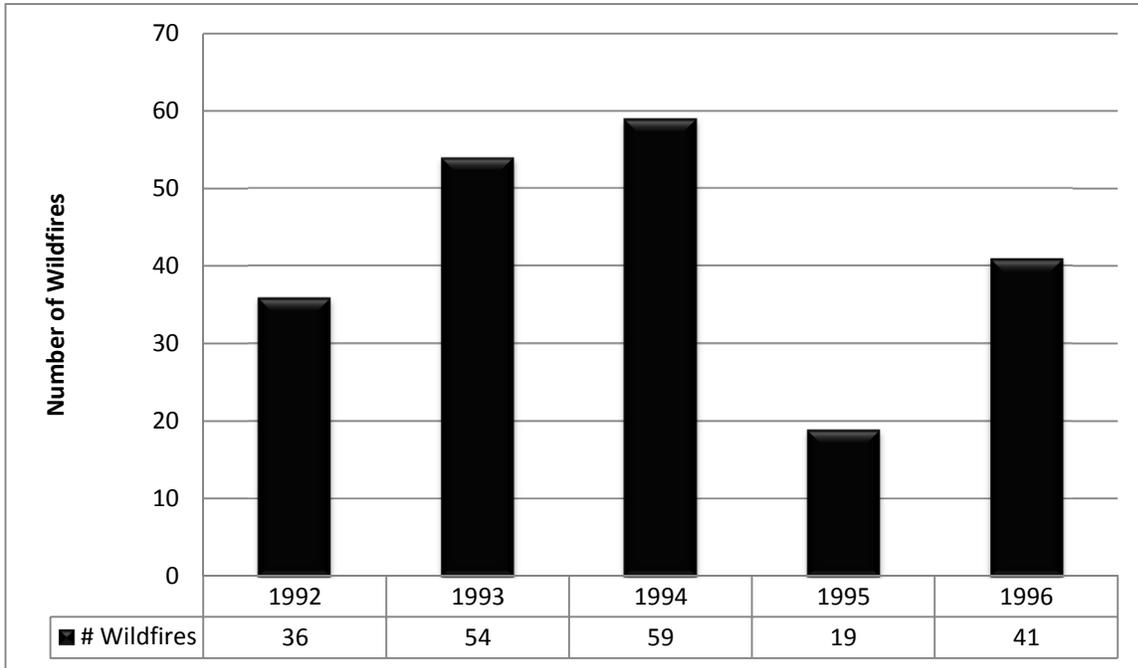
REGION 6 Wildfires 1992 - 1996



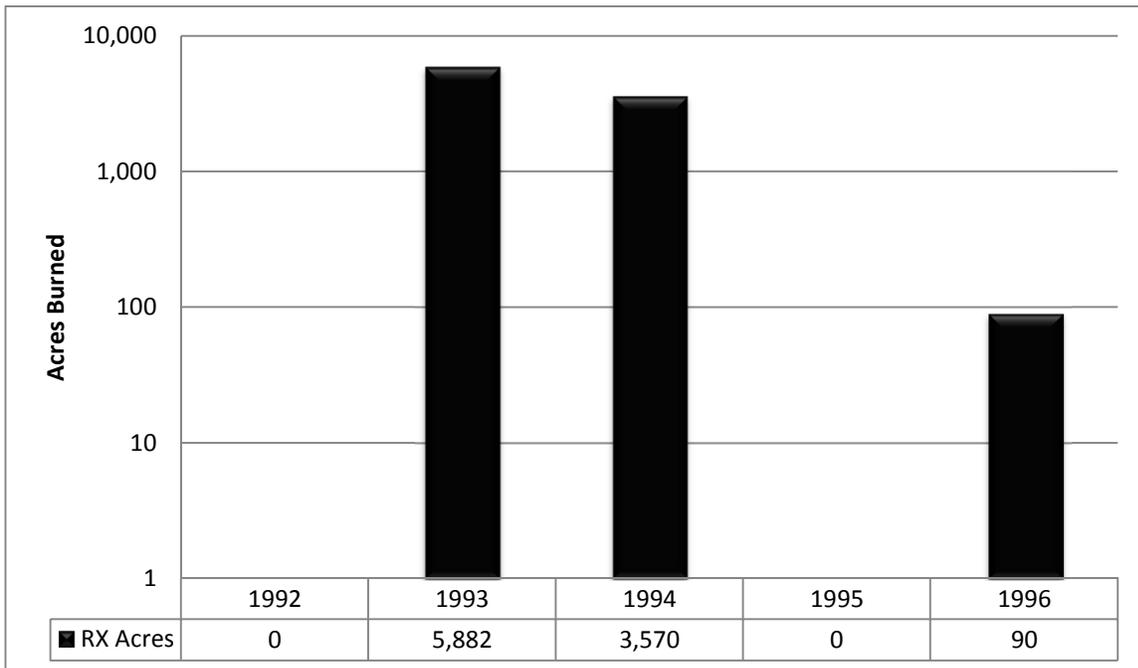
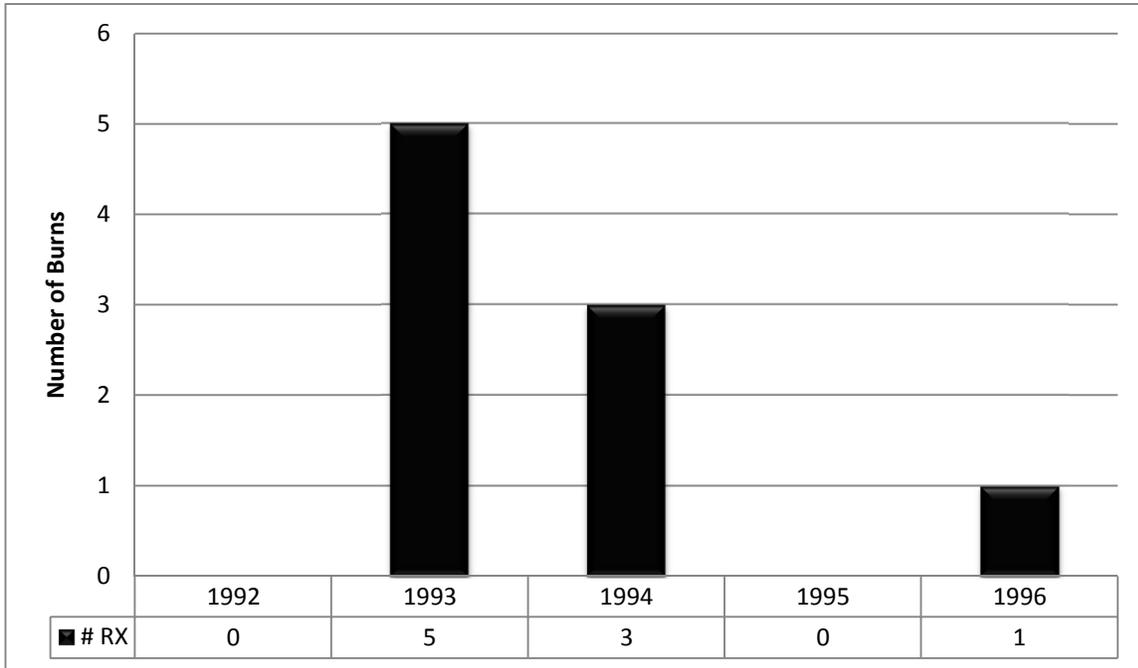
REGION 6 PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996



REGION 7 Wildfires 1992 - 1996

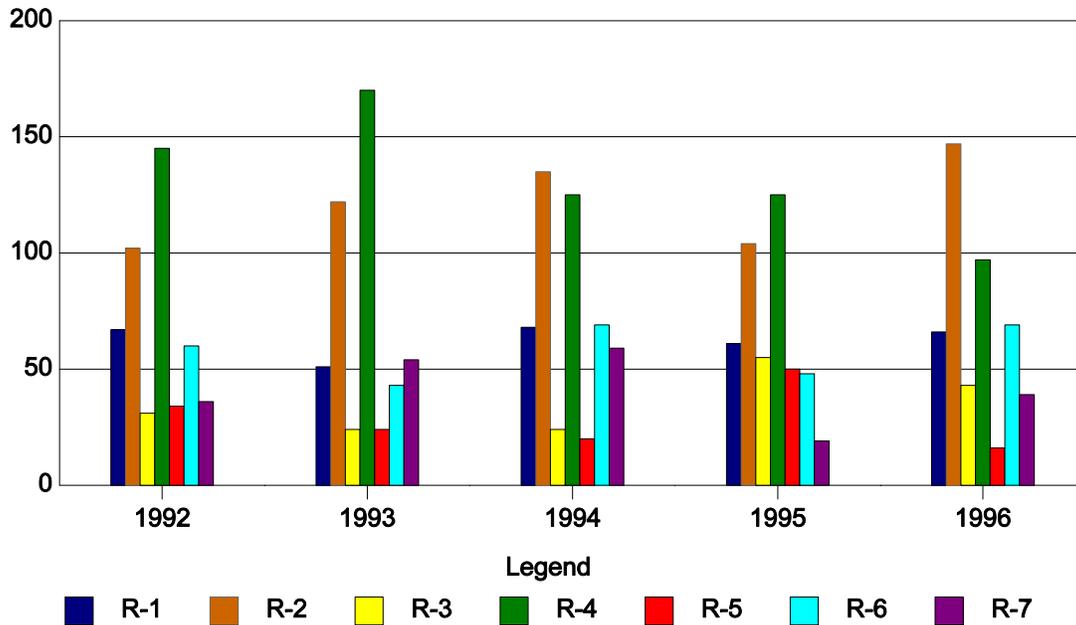


REGION 7 PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996

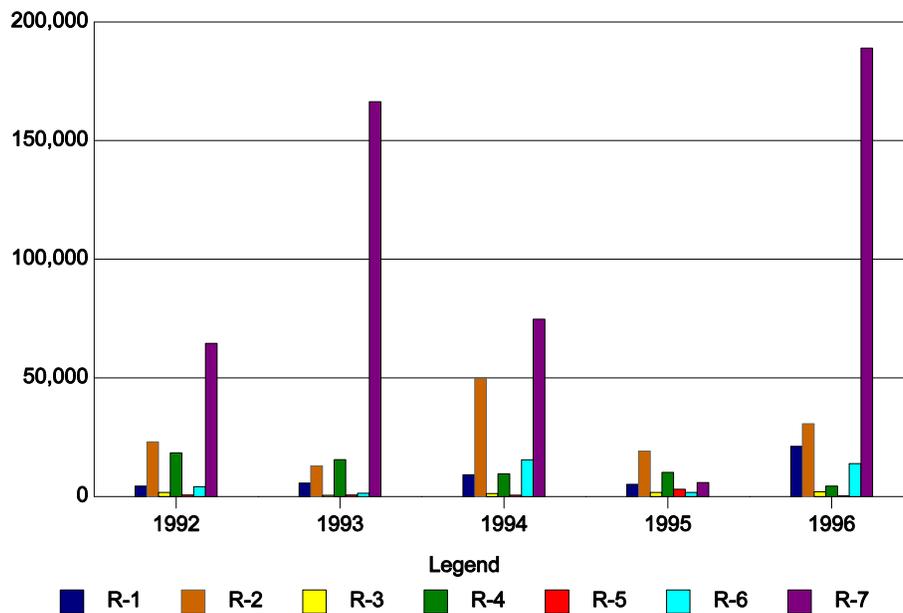


WILDFIRES 1992 - 1996

Number of Wildfires

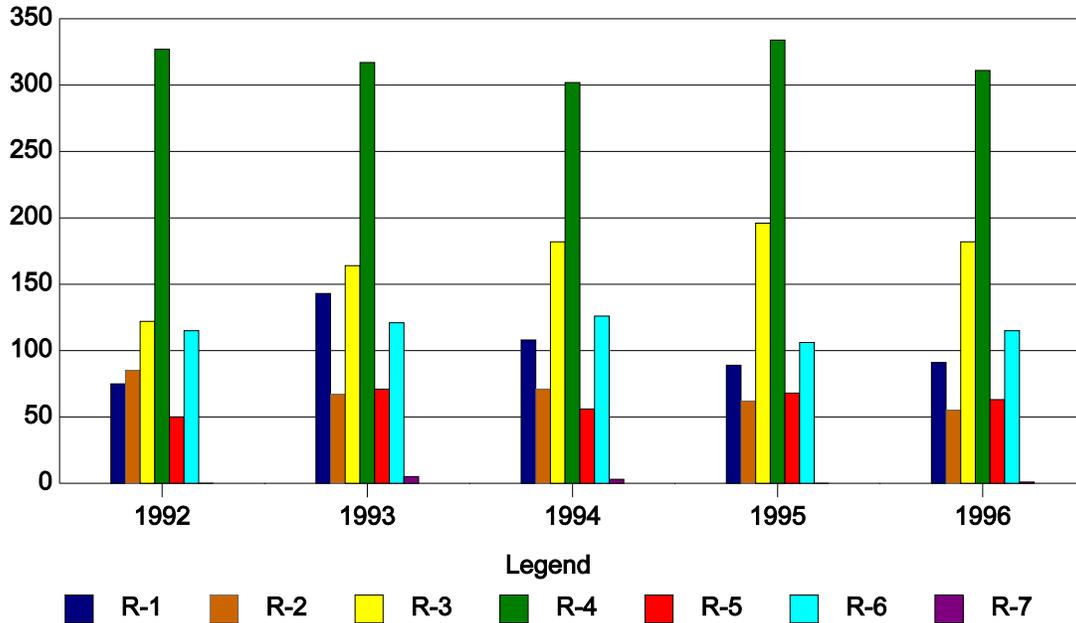


Number of Acres Burned

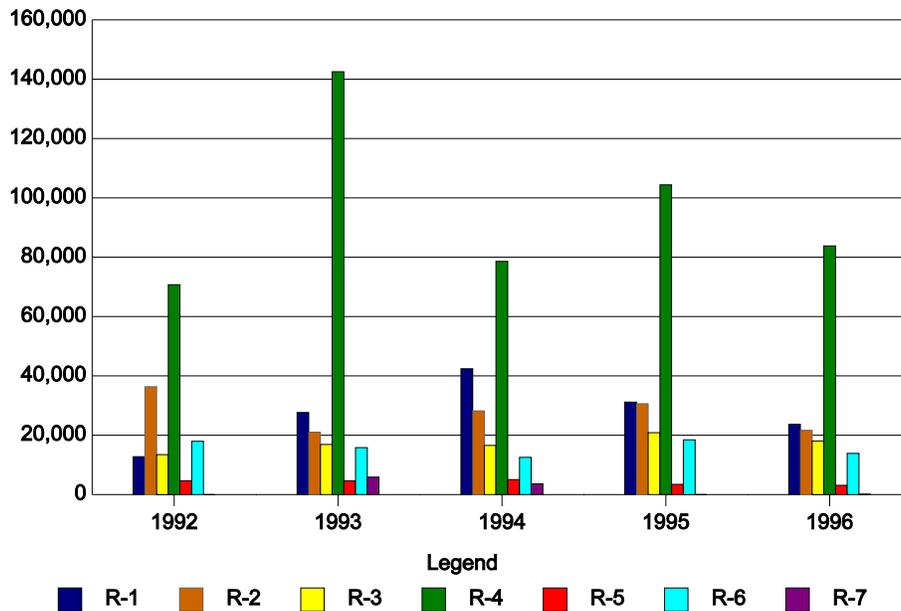


PRESCRIBED BURNS 1992 - 1996

Number of Burns

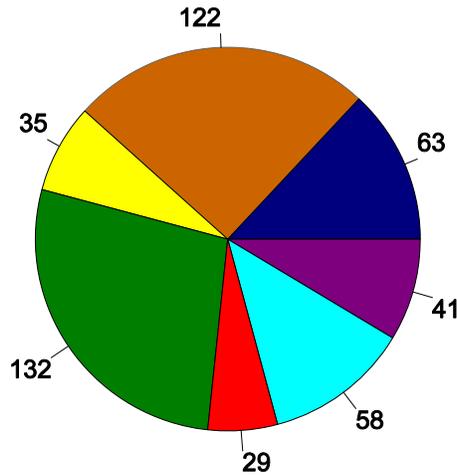


Number of Acres Burned

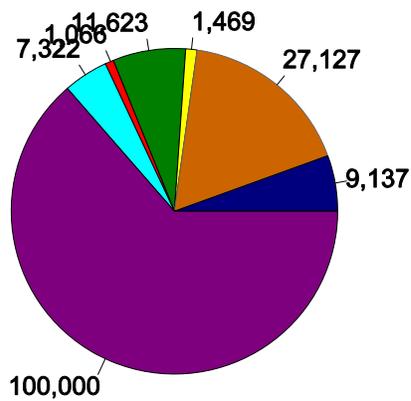


WILDFIRES

1992 - 1996 (Average)



Number of Fires

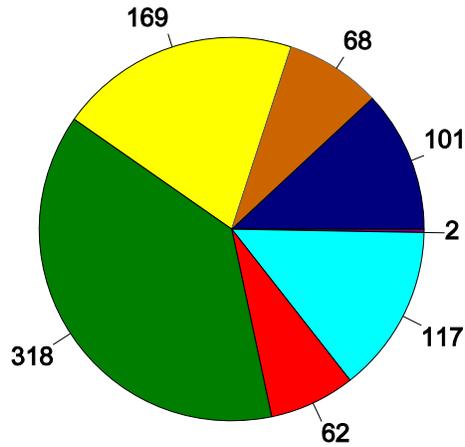


Acres Burned

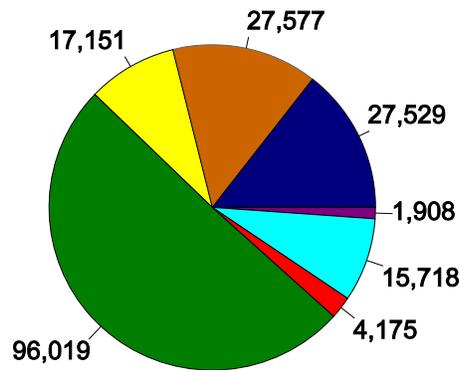


PRESCRIBED BURNS

1992 - 1996 (Average)



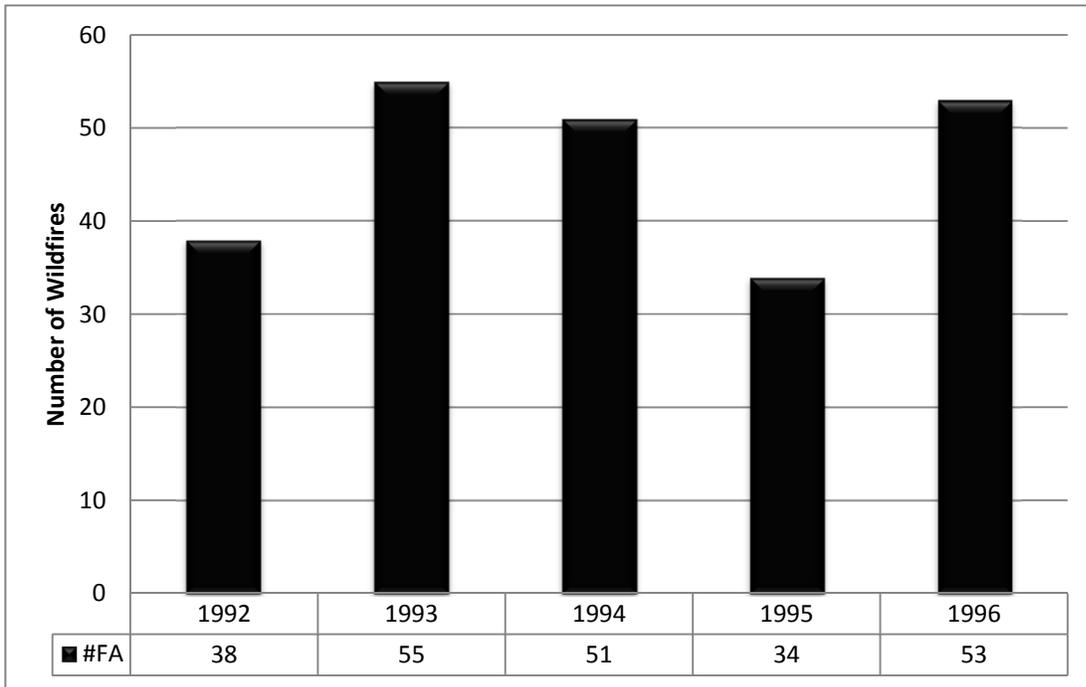
Number of Burns



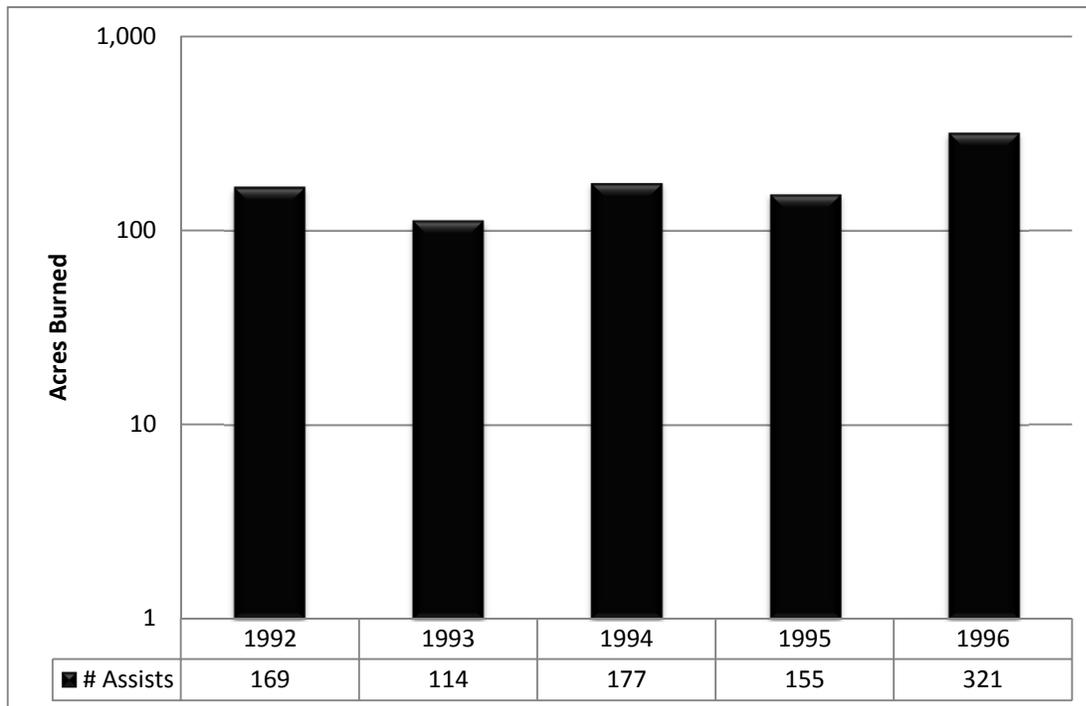
Acres Burned



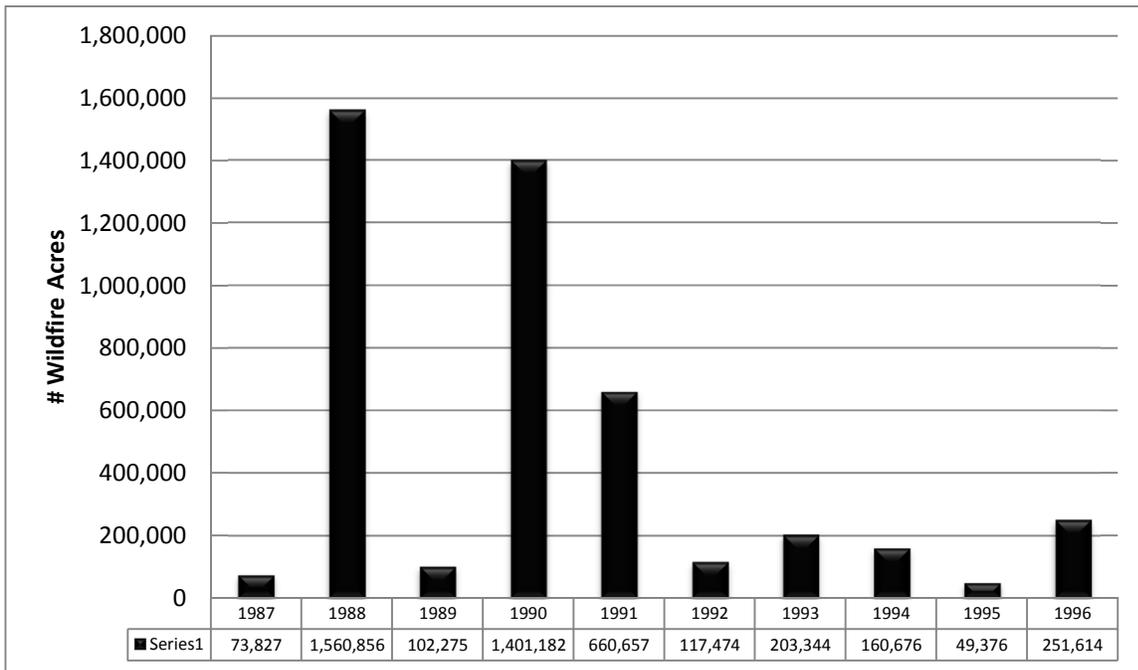
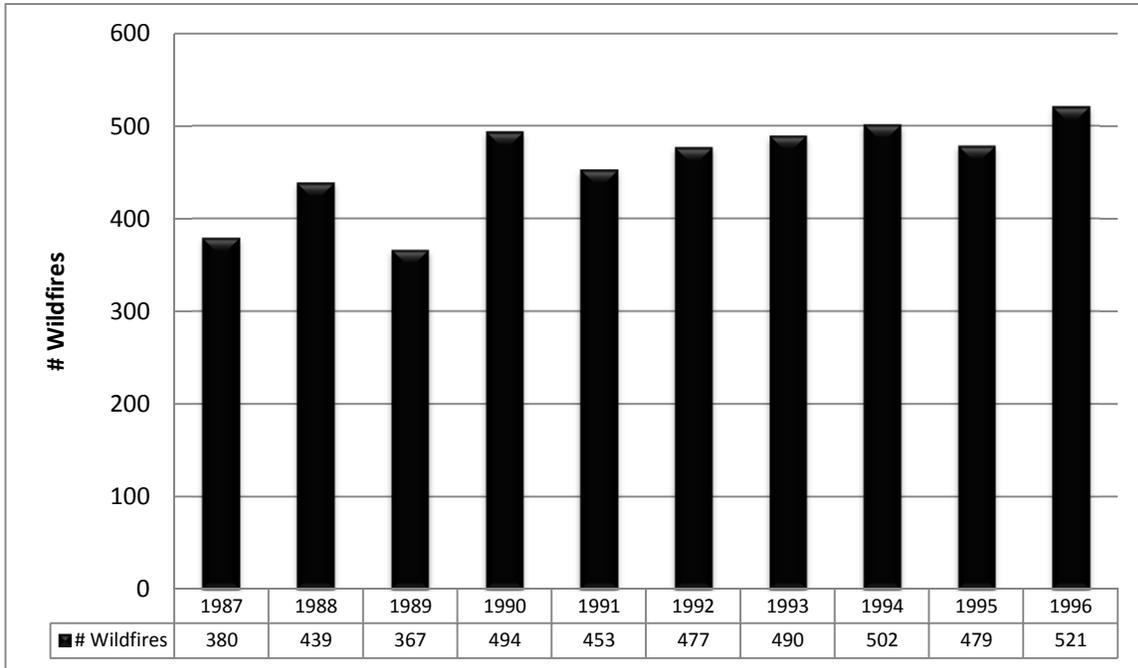
REGION 1 - 7 FALSE ALARMS 1992 - 1996



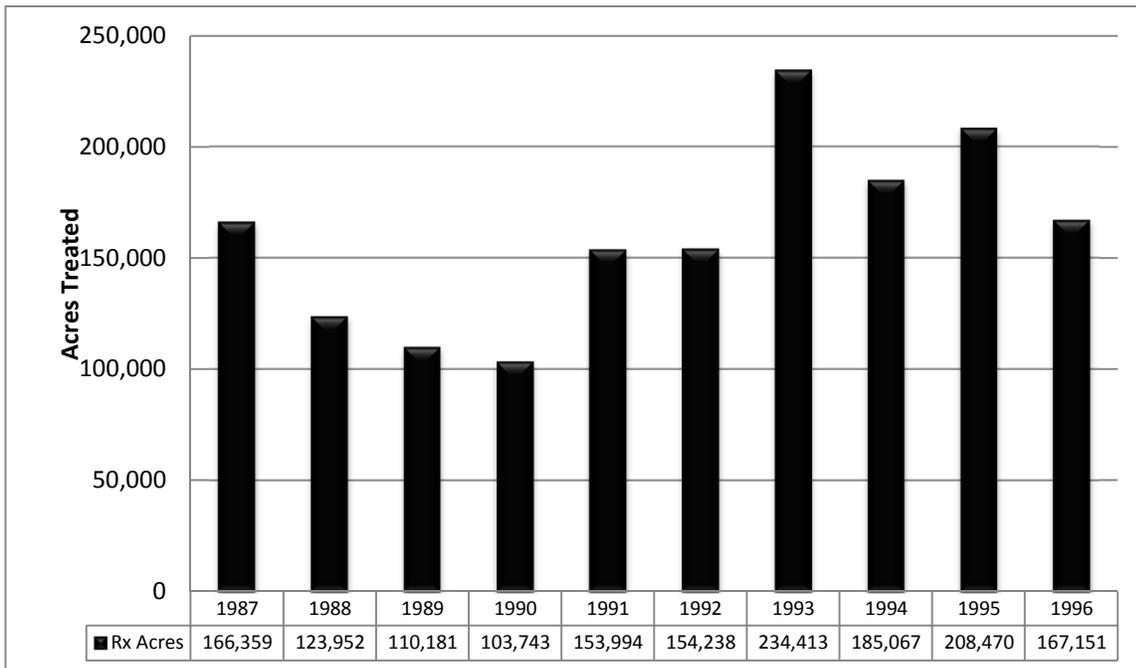
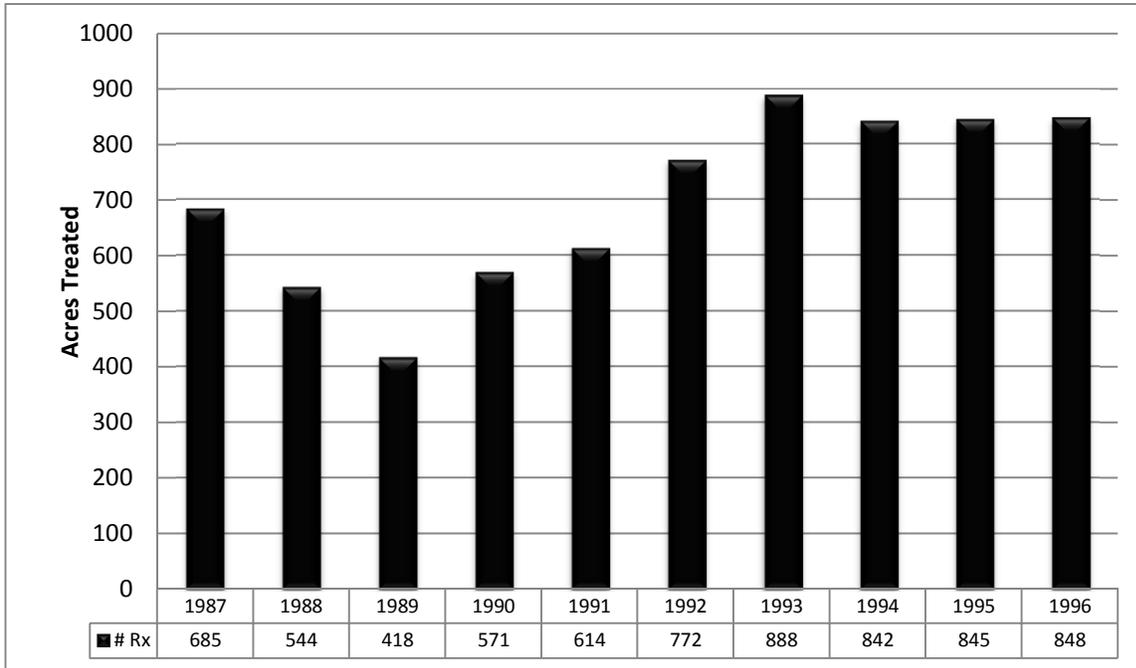
SUPPORT ACTIONS 1992 - 1996



WILDFIRES 1987-1996

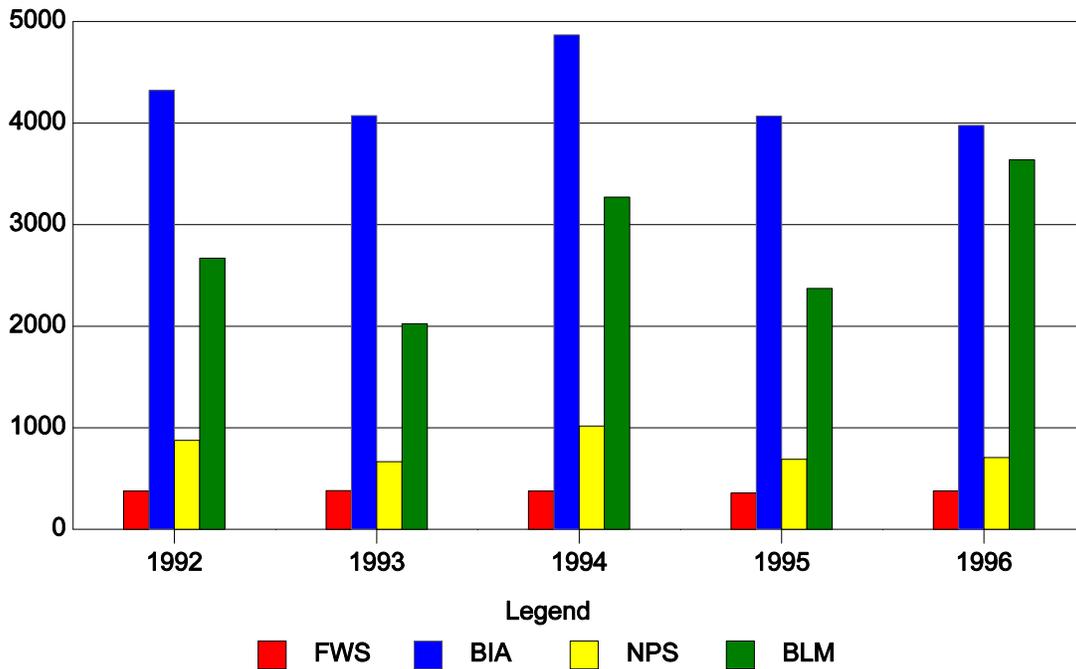


TREATMENTS 1987-1996

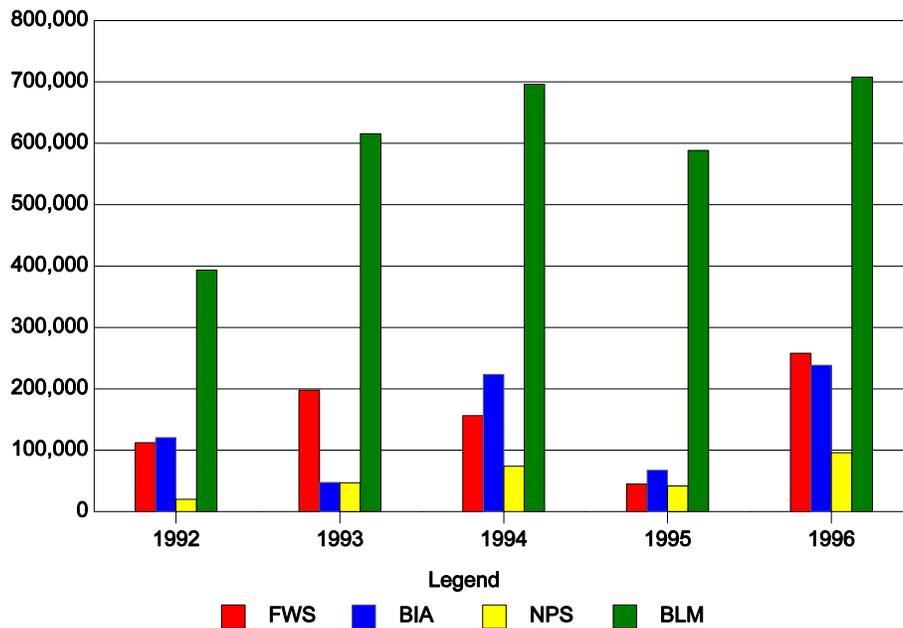


DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR 1992 - 1996

Number of Wildfires

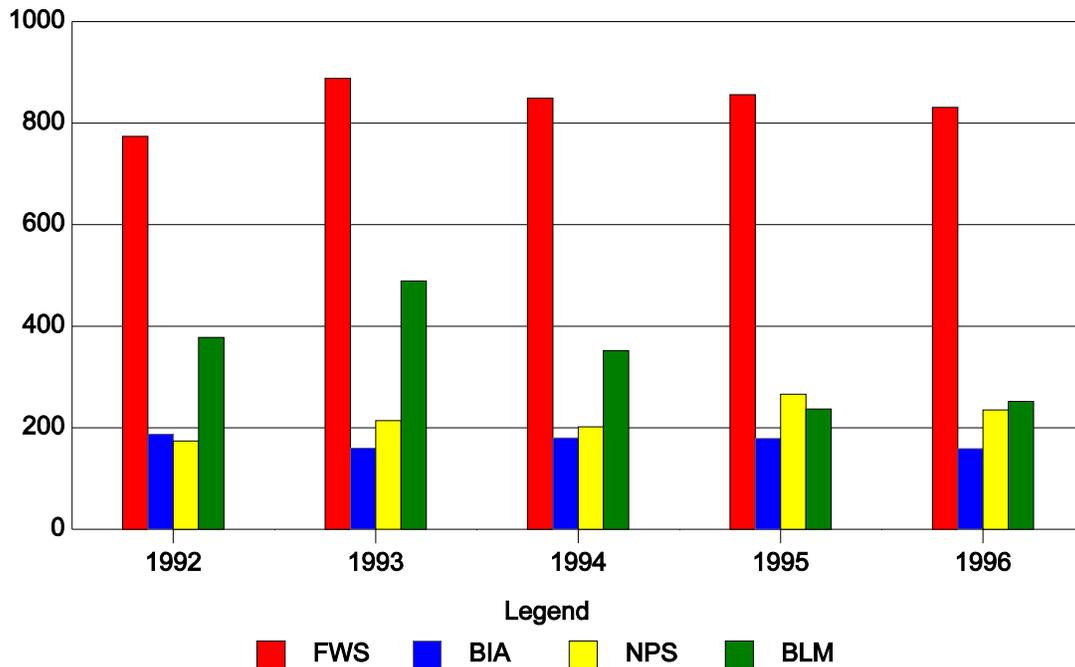


Number of Acres Burned



DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR 1992 - 1996

Number of Prescribed Burns



Number of Acres Burned

