

Chapter 2. About WIMS

The Weather Information Management System (WIMS) is a comprehensive system that helps you manage weather information. WIMS replaced the Administrative Forest Fire Information Retrieval and Management System (AFFIRMS) as the host for the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), incorporating both the 1978 and 1988 fuel models.

The WIMS system consists of two servers – an IBM mainframe and an IBM RISC6000/AIX. The mainframe will host the Oracle database and the AIX machine will be the web/application server. TCP/IP communication protocol will be established between the two servers.

WIMS accesses the National Interagency Fire Management Integrated Database (NIFMID). NIFMID is an ORACLE® relational database that contains historic fire weather and historic fire record information. WIMS and NIFMID run on the IBM mainframe computer at the USDA National Information Technology Center (NITC) in Kansas City, and are available on a twenty-four hour basis.

WIMS allows you to retrieve weather information by providing:

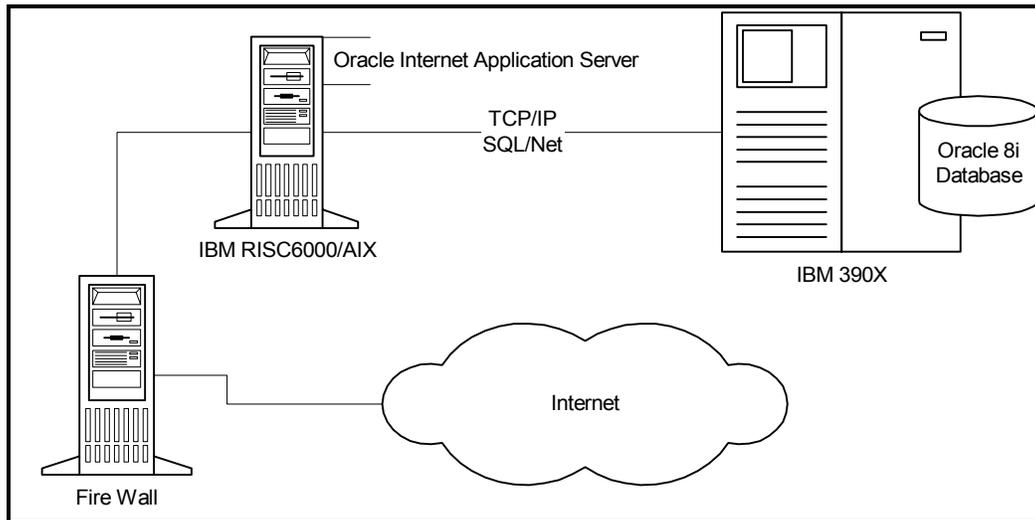
- Timely access to many weather information sources
- Efficient tools for managing data
- Data manipulation and display functions
- Interactive communications environment

For more complete information about NFDRS, see Chapter 9, "Working with NFDRS" and Appendix E, "NFDRS technical reference."

To obtain user support and system administration services

Contact your agency's system administrator. To locate this person, check with your supervisor and/ or computer specialist, or contact the F&AM Fire Applications Helpdesk in Boise at (800) 253-5559 or (208) 387-5290.

WIMS System components and information flow



WIMS receives weather data from four basic sources:

- National Weather Service Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG)
- Satellite -RAWS Gateway
- Non-satellite -RAWS Gateway
- Directly from manual observations at field locations.

NWS -Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG)

The NWSTG shares information with other NWS networks such as the AWIPS network.

Satellite RAWS Gateway

- The Satellite RAWS Gateway receives satellite Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) data from the BLM's Automated, Storage, Conversion, and Distribution System (ASCADS) using a preset schedule. RAWS stations identified in the annual BLM/ RAWS operating plan and appropriately cataloged, send RAWS data to WIMS as specified.

Non-satellite -RAWS Gateway

The non-satellite RAWS Gateway receives formatted non-satellite RAWS data from remote weather stations.

Non-satellite RAWS data is downloaded to the Western Regional Climate Center. WIMS began collecting this data on February 26, 1997.