

**2002 ANNUAL FIRE REPORT
RICHFIELD INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
1660 S. Industrial Park Road, Richfield, UT 84701**



Indian Knoll Fire- July, 2002

Brandon Hoffman

**FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, RICHFIELD & FILLMORE FIELD OFFICES
UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTY, FIRE, AND STATE LANDS
CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK
FISH SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, SOUTHERN PAIUTE FIELD STATION**

RICHFIELD INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Richfield Interagency Fire Center (RIFC) is located in central Utah. The response area of RIFC consists of over twelve million acres including U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, BIA Tribal, State Division of Wildlife, and Utah State lands. Seven counties are included within the jurisdiction boundaries: Juab, Millard, Sevier, Sanpete, Piute, Wayne, and Beaver. Interstate highways I-15 and I-70 transect through the area as well as major highways. The terrain includes the Great Basin Desert, the Colorado Plateau, fertile valleys, and high mountain ecosystems. Elevations range from approximately 4,000 to over 12,000 feet.

HIGHLIGHTS

The RIFC 2002 fire season began during a continuing drought that has gripped the area for several years. With below average snowfall during the 2001/2002 winter, it was anticipated that RIFC could have a heavy fire season. By the end of the water year (October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002) the area received about three inches below average.

Although the conditions were present for a heavy fire season, we experienced a below average year. The first fire was reported on March 28th and the last fire was November 7th. During this time, there were 183 confirmed fires that burned a total of 4,429 acres. The five-year average is 263 fires for 33,511 acres. The ten-year average is 242 fires for 54,770 acres.

There may be several reasons for lower numbers. The lack of fine fuels due to the drought contributed to lower and smaller fire numbers. The additional trained fire fighting personnel have provided quick and effective response to fires. There are two Fire Prevention technicians who have done an excellent outreach program and increased public awareness. The aviation program continues to improve and has increased the effectiveness of fire suppression.

The Type 3 Helicopter is in its third year of a three-year contract. The helicopter responded to 43% of all confirmed fires (79) and 18 resource missions. The helicopter flew a total of 262 hours and dropped 115,990 gallons of water. The incidents ranged from 5,178 feet to 11,500 feet in elevation. The fixed-wing air attack platform, supported by an ATGS, flew 20 recon flights, 34 A/A missions, and 3 ferries for a total of 189.44 hours. A SEAT ordered in on severity experienced an accident early in the season that destroyed the plane. The pilot was not injured. A replacement SEAT was in place after a short delay. Overall, the SEATs flew 26.78 hours for 16 missions and dropped 14,925 gallons.

The Fire Center processed a total of 1,139 resource orders for fires within our jurisdiction and in support of activities out-of-area. There were 694 overhead orders of which 298 positions were for local fires filled by local personnel. We brought in 149 overhead to support local fires, and we sent 247 overhead to fires out-of-area. 127 local personnel, including 12 A.D.s filled these orders. We processed 292 equipment resource orders, which include buses, engines, water tenders, dozers, and miscellaneous (4x4 pickups, SUVs, lowboys, etc). We also processed 153 crew resource orders. 61 crew resource orders were for local crews going out-of-area, including 27 camp crews that went to fires in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.

SEASONAL WEATHER AND SEVERITY

The drought continued this season. From June through September the area was in very high to extreme fire danger for 57% of the season. In June there were very hot and dry and there were very high to extreme fire danger for 75% of the month. Temperatures for June, July, and August were consistently above average with temperatures reaching over 100 F. Winds were also higher with one wind storm reaching over 60 mph in Richfield.

RAWS STATIONS AND PRECIPITATION BY MONTH						
STATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	RAWS TOTAL
Sevier Res.	0.26	0.34	0.26	0.04	1.35	2.25
Mud Springs	0.14	0.21	0.42	0	1.24	2.01
Black Cedar	0.26	0.06	0.4	0.07	2.56	3.35
Tule Valley	0	0.24	0.69	0.18	0.65	1.76
Horse Hollow	0.36	0.13	0.68	0.13	1.49	2.79
Signal Peak	0.09	0	1.12	0.11	1.92	3.24
Lost Creek	0.5	0.21	1.21	0.12	2.17	4.21
Average						
For area	0.23	0.17	0.68	0.09	1.63	2.8

PERCENT OF TIME AT EACH FIRE DANGER RATING BY RAWS STATION JUNE - SEPTEMBER					
STATION	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	V. HIGH	EXTREME
Sevier Res.	10	12	16	37	25
Mud Springs	10	13	17	23	37
Black Cedar	8	15	18	37	22
Tule Valley	6	21	27	31	15
Horse Hollow	7	10	11	40	32
Signal Peak	10	23	13	26	28
Lost Creek	7	19	16	37	21
TOTAL	8	16	17	33	26

PERCENT OF TIME AT EACH FIRE DANGER RATING BY MONTH JUNE - SEPTEMBER					
MONTH	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	V.HIGH	EXTREME
JUNE	3	9	15	27	46
JULY	3	14	28	41	14
AUGUST	0	7	14	46	33
SEPTEMBER	28	35	13	16	8
TOTAL	9	16	18	32	25

2002 FIRE SUMMARY

FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST						
District	Human Fires	Lightning Fires	Total Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Acres	Total Acres
Fillmore	4	25	29	0	20	20
Loa	1	6	6	0	1,752	1,752
Beaver	3	8	11	2	1,100	1,102
Richfield	3	14	17	2	129	131
Total	11	53	64	4	3,001	3,005

UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS						
County	Human Fires	Lightning Fires	Total Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Acres	Total Acres
Millard	12	6	18	28	1	29
Juab	10	13	23	363	19	382
Sanpete	11	8	19	6	20	26
Sevier	12	9	21	4	131	135
Piute	1	2	3	0	426	426
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beaver	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	47	38	85	401	597	998

MANTI - LASAL NATIONAL FOREST						
District	Human Fires	Lightning Fires	Total Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Acres	Total Acres
Sanpete	0	5	5	0	0	0

RICHFIELD DISTRICT BLM						
Field Office	Human Fires	Lightning Fires	Total Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Acres	Total Acres
TOTAL	1	28	29	0	426	426

RICHFIELD INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER						
RIFC	Human Fires	Lightning Fires	Total Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Acres	Total Acres
TOTAL	59	124	183	405	4,024	4,429

AS OF 11-07-02

2002 LARGE FIRE SUMMARY

All fires 100 acres or larger

Name	Org	Start Date	Control Date	Total Acres	BLM Acres	FS Acres	St/Pvt Acres	Remarks
Indian Knoll	SCS	07/07	07/11	161	136		25	Human-caused
Old Woman	FIF	07/08	07/14	100		100		
Late	SCS	08/14	08/17	354			354	Human-caused
Cottonwood	FIF	08/19	09/03	1,523		1,098	425	Van Bruggen' s Type 2 team
Cow Hollow	RID	08/22	08/27	220	218		2	
Johnson	FIF	08/28	09/18	1,844		1,751	93	Suwyn's Type 2 team
TOTAL				4,202	354	2,949	899	

FIF = Fishlake National Forest

RID = Richfield/Fillmore Field Offices – Bureau of Land Management

SCS = South Central State – Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

Overview of Large Fires

It was historically a slow year for BLM. This may be due to the lack of grasses because of drought conditions. There was also less lightning this summer since the monsoon season was not as intense as usual. However, 69% of the fires this year were lightning-caused, including the two largest ones, Cottonwood and Johnson.

The Cottonwood and Johnson fires were Type 2 fires with incident management teams. Both fires were in spruce/fir, aspen, mountain mahogany fuel types. Most of both fires were higher elevation. Our thousand-hour fuel moistures were consistently below 10%.

The second week of July saw several large fires and air resources were shared. Indian Knoll, Old Woman, Rex's Res (25 acres), and Hag (4.5 acres) fires were all in the same area and all shared aircraft resources which helped reduce fire costs and increase efficiency.

HISTORICAL LARGE FIRES (number/acres)

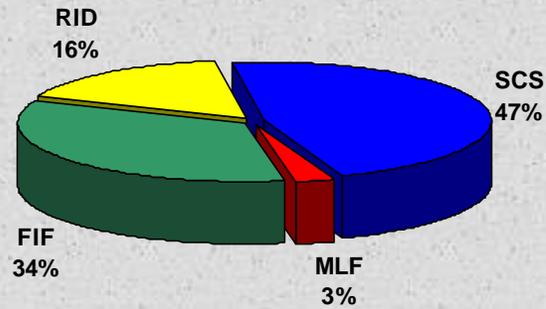
YEAR	FISHLAKE	MLF	BLM	STATE/PVT	TOTAL LARGE	GRAND TOTAL
1994	3/		5/	8/	16/	277 / 28,889
1995	2 / 320		9 / 21,316	10 / 12,332	21 / 33,968	244 / 37,143
1996	13 / 51,526	1 / 150	16 / 51,676	14 / 176,886	44 / 66,284	296 / 300,457
1997	0 / 112		5 / 5,926	2 / 945	7 / 6,983	160 / 8,017
1998	0 / 0		4 / 3,531	5 / 6,865	9 / 10,396	188 / 11,182
1999	0 / 0		/ 47,096	/ 19,269	/ 66,365	199 / 70,716
2000	4 / 16,562		6 / 34,570	3 / 14,047	13 / 65,179	302 / 65,986
2001	1 / 1,006		10 / 10,322	3 / 3,246	14 / 14,574	440 / 15,965
2002	3 / 2,949		1 / 354	2 / 899	6 / 4,202	183 / 4,429

2002 FIRE SUMMARY

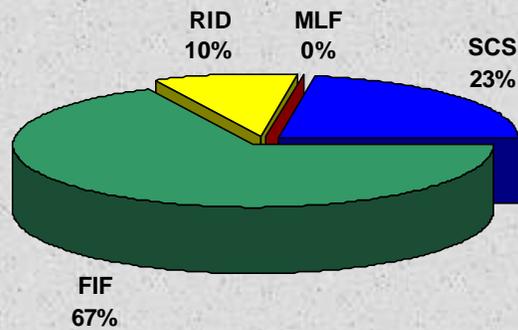
as of 11-08-02

AGENCY	LIGHTNING FIRES	LIGHTNING ACRES	HUMAN FIRES	HUMAN ACRES	TOTAL FIRES	TOTAL ACRES
FIF	53	3,001	11	4	64	3,005
RID	28	426	1	0	29	426
SCS	38	597	47	401	85	998
MLF	5	0	0	0	5	0
TOTAL	124	4,024	59	405	183	4,429

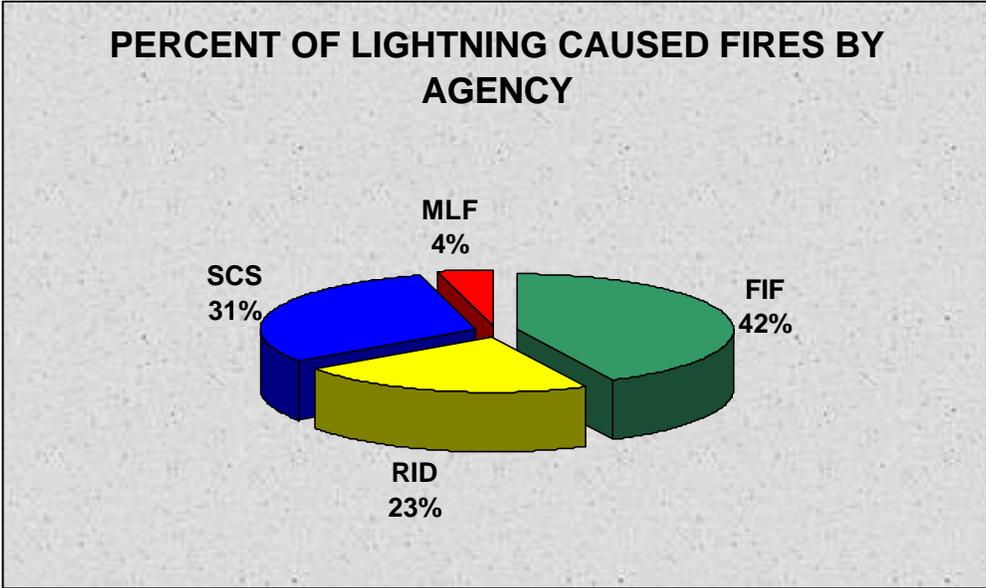
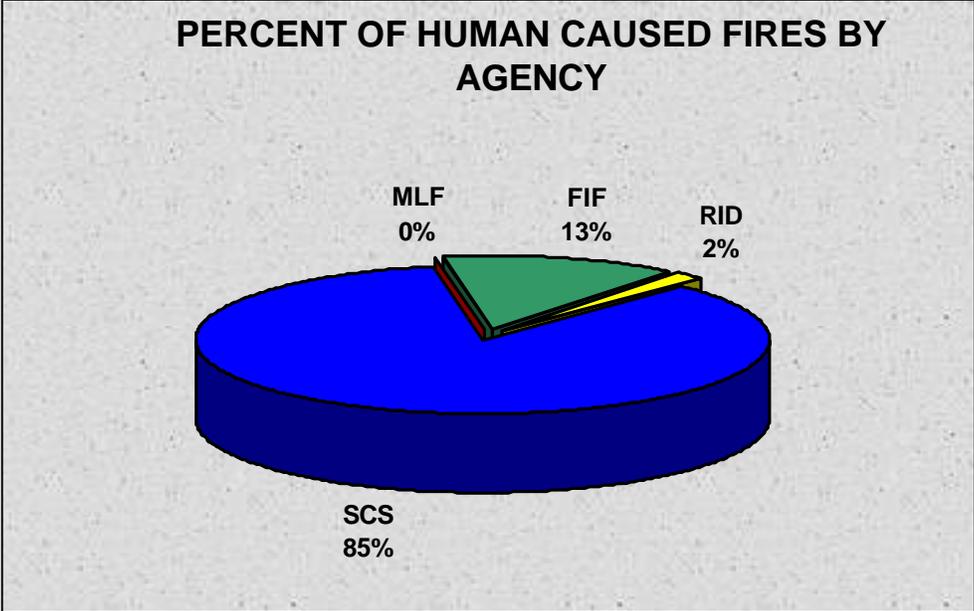
PERCENT OF TOTAL FIRES BY AGENCY



PERCENT OF TOTAL ACRES BY AGENCY



There was a total of 183 fires this year. Human-caused fires accounted for 59 or 32% of all fires. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands had the most human-caused fires with 47.



2002 RIFC 5 – YEAR AVERAGES BY MONTH

as of 11/08/02

	Jan - April		May		June		July		Aug		Sept		Oct - Dec	
BLM	fires	acres	fires	acres	fires	acres	fires	acres	fires	acres	fires	acres	fires	acres
1998	1	1	0	0	2	4	28	2,971	26	772	4	25	2	0
1999	1	80	3	1	16	1,759	18	44,702	21	3,386	13	46	0	0
2000	1	0	3	0	12	863	37	32,825	35	1,218	7	60	0	0
2001	2	0	1	5	10	1,177	51	5,879	47	3,710	9	4	4	4
2002	2	0	0	0	2	0	16	200	9	226	0	0		
Total	7	81	7	6	42	3,803	150	86,577	138	9,312	33	135	6	4
USFS														
1998	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	34	12	9	3	1	0	0
1999	1	0	9	2	18	98	6	1	2	0	8	1	0	0
2000	1	0	2	5	11	3	23	13,267	42	3,300	10	2	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	13	30	36	505	24	373	10	14	8	6
2002	3	2	0	0	9	16	29	133	17	2853	3	0	3	1
Total	5	2	11	7	52	147	105	13,940	97	6,535	34	18	11	7
STATE														
1998	0	0	3	4	9	300	35	6,174	33	563	9	220	2	100
1999	4	122	3	1	13	1,526	17	16,932	21	910	12	504	4	7
2000	2	65	0	0	11	625	36	9,868	33	3,684	17	55	0	0
2001	0	0	3	1	35	317	67	2,720	61	517	21	679	17	9
2002	5	6	5	3	20	5	30	44	16	935	6	4	3	1
Total	11	193	14	9	88	2,773	185	35,738	164	6,609	65	1,462	26	117
SANPETE														
1998	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	3	10	52	3	1	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	1	9	13	1	1	5	1
2002	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0		
Total	0	0	1	0	5	9	20	4	25	66	4	2	5	1
02 Total	10	8	5	3	32	21	77	377	44	4,014	9	4	6	2
02 Cum.Tot			15	11	47	32	124	409	168	4,423	177	4,427	183	4,429
5yr Total	23	276	33	22	187	6,732	460	136,259	424	22,522	136	1,617	48	129
5yr Avg	5	55	7	4	37	1,346	92	27,252	85	4,504	27	323	10	26
Cum.5yrAvg			12	60	49	1,406	141	28,658	226	33,162	253	33,486	263	33,511

**RICHFIELD INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
10-year Fire Average**

YEAR	RID	FIF	SCS	SANPETE	TOTAL
1993	37	62	44	7	150
1994	81	70	93	25	269
1995	75	62	93	14	244
1996	120	75	94	8	297
1997	60	48	46	6	160
1998	63	27	91	6	187
1999	72	44	74	5	195
2000	95	89	99	19	302
2001	124	89	202	25	440
2002	29	64	85	5	183
TOTAL	756	630	921	120	2427
AVERAGE	75.6	63.0	92.1	12.0	242.7

**RICHFIELD INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
ACRES BURNED OVER 10 YEARS**

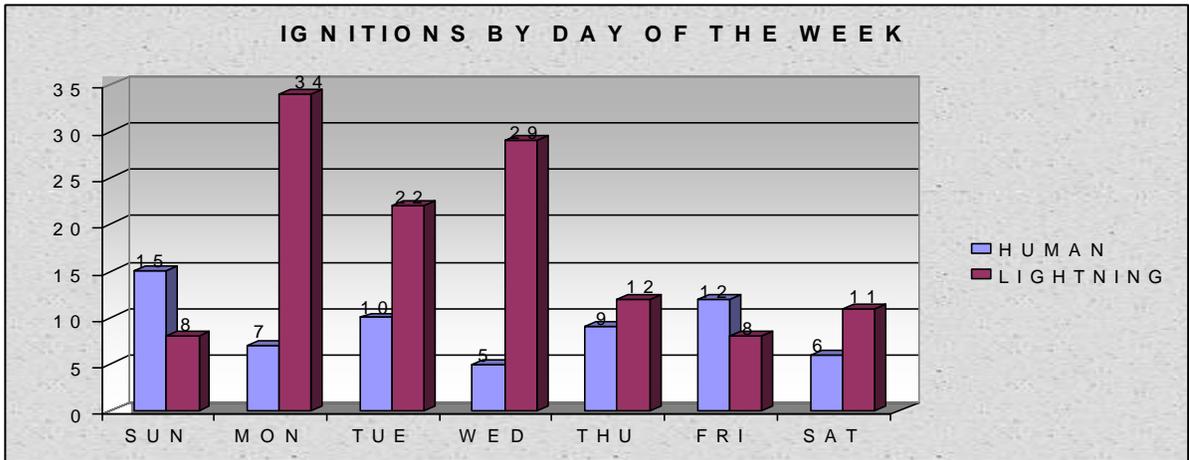
YEAR	RID	FIF	SCS	SANPETE	TOTAL
1993	2,071	229	2,302	0	4,602
1994	12,907	10,139	5,685	8	28,739
1995	21,683	1,701	13,753	6	37,143
1996	181,391	51,717	67,181	168	300,457
1997	6,145	233	1,639	1	8,018
1998	3,773	44	7,361	1	11,179
1999	49,974	102	20,002	9	70,087
2000	34,966	16,577	14,387	56	65,986
2001	10,779	927	4,243	16	15,965
2002	426	3,005	998	0	4,429
TOTAL	324,115	84,674	137,551	265	546,605
AVERAGE	32,411	8,467	13,755	26	54,660

RID = BLM, Richfield and Fillmore Field Offices

FIF = Fishlake National Forest

SCS= South Central State - Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

SANPETE= Sanpete Ranger District, Manti-LaSal National Forest



PRESCRIBED FIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Due to the high fire danger during the season, prescribed burn accomplishments were minimal.

UNIT	SUB-UNIT	BURNS	ACRES
Fishlake N.F.	Beaver R.D.	2	1,055
	Richfield R.D.	1	401
BLM	Richfield & Fillmore F.O.s	1	64
UDFF&SL	South Central	1	100
Fish Springs NW		1	425
TOTAL		6	2,031

COST EFFECTIVENESS AND COOPERATION

The Richfield Interagency Fire organization continues to promote cooperation between the different agencies. Most responses to our fires include personnel from several organizations requiring constant communication. Richfield Interagency fire suppression resources have continued to improve response and suppression capabilities and this may also be a factor in keeping fires small.

With all agencies working together, more can be accomplished with reduced funding and equipment. The U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State Division of Forest, Fire and Land Management are all working with local communities to develop local fire plans. In addition to fire activities, the Richfield Interagency Fire Crew and the Tazlina Hot Shot crew from Alaska assisted the town of Manti with cleanup activities from the tornado that occurred in September.

USDA-Forest Service PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON WILDFIRE PRESUPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES	UNIT
	0408
	CALENDAR YEAR
2002	

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Data for items 1a, 1b, and 2b should be taken from planning and budget records in the Supervisor's Office.
 2. Items 1c, 1d, 2b, and 2c may be obtained from actual records in the S.O. or from the Ranger District. If obtained from the Ranger having intimate knowledge on use of his personnel, these items may be estimated. Complete accuracy is not required.
 3. Item 3 may be estimated where large numbers of casuals are employed. Since each reemployment counts as a new employment, sufficient accuracy can be obtained by sample counts and measurement of time slips.

ITEM NO.	ITEM	NUMBER	
		SUB-TOTAL	TOTAL
1.	Regular appointed personnel		
	a. Full-time fire management (<i>20 pay periods or more</i>)	7	
	b. Part-time fire management	15	
	c. Others used on presuppression sometime during year	10	
	d. Others used on suppression (<i>exclude those reported under a, b, or c</i>)	44	
	e. Total (<i>a + b + c + d</i>)		76
2.	Seasonal or short-term personnel		
	a. Regular fire control (<i>crews, firefighters, patrol, lookouts, etc.</i>)	21	
	b. Others (<i>BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.</i>) who spent time on fire control work	33	
	c. Emergency firefighters (<i>exclude those reported under a or b</i>)		
	d. Total (<i>a + b + c</i>)		54
3.	Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression (<i>Each reemployment counts as an employment</i>)		35
4.	Number of casuals (<i>included in Item 3</i>) employed for first time (<i>Ranger's estimate is adequate</i>)	7	
5.	GRAND TOTAL (<i>1e + 2d + 3</i>)		165

REMARKS (*if necessary*)

Number of casuals does not include camp crew members.

SUBMITTED BY (<i>Signature</i>) <i>Kevin Greenhalgh / Karen Feary</i>	TITLE Fire Planner/Logistics Coordinator
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Previous edition is obsolete.

FS-5100-8 (10/85)

Microsoft Word 2000

INPUTS FOR FORM 5100-9

STATE:

<u>UTAH</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Fishlake National Forest	2,020,742
BLM, Richfield District	6,531,260
Utah State Lands	909,701
Indian Tribal Lands	32,934
Private Lands	1,826,158
Military Reservation, DOD	862
National Parks, Monuments	294,063
Utah State Parks and Recreation	56,300
Utah State Wildlife Reserve	72,222
National Recreation Area	317,670
National Wildlife Refuge	16,170
Forest Service & BLM wilderness and wilderness study areas	<u>20,628</u>
TOTALS	12,098,710