

Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident  
Management Team



# CHIPPY CREEK FIRE

August 3-13, 2007 MT.NWS.00431

## CLOSE-OUT AGENDA

Welcome/Introduction

Objectives

Team Assignments:

Operations

Air Operations

Liaison

Finance

Logistics

Planning

Safety

Information

Support of IMT:

Missoula Dispatch

Buying Team

Northern Rockies Coordination Center

Agency Administrators:

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Lolo National Forest

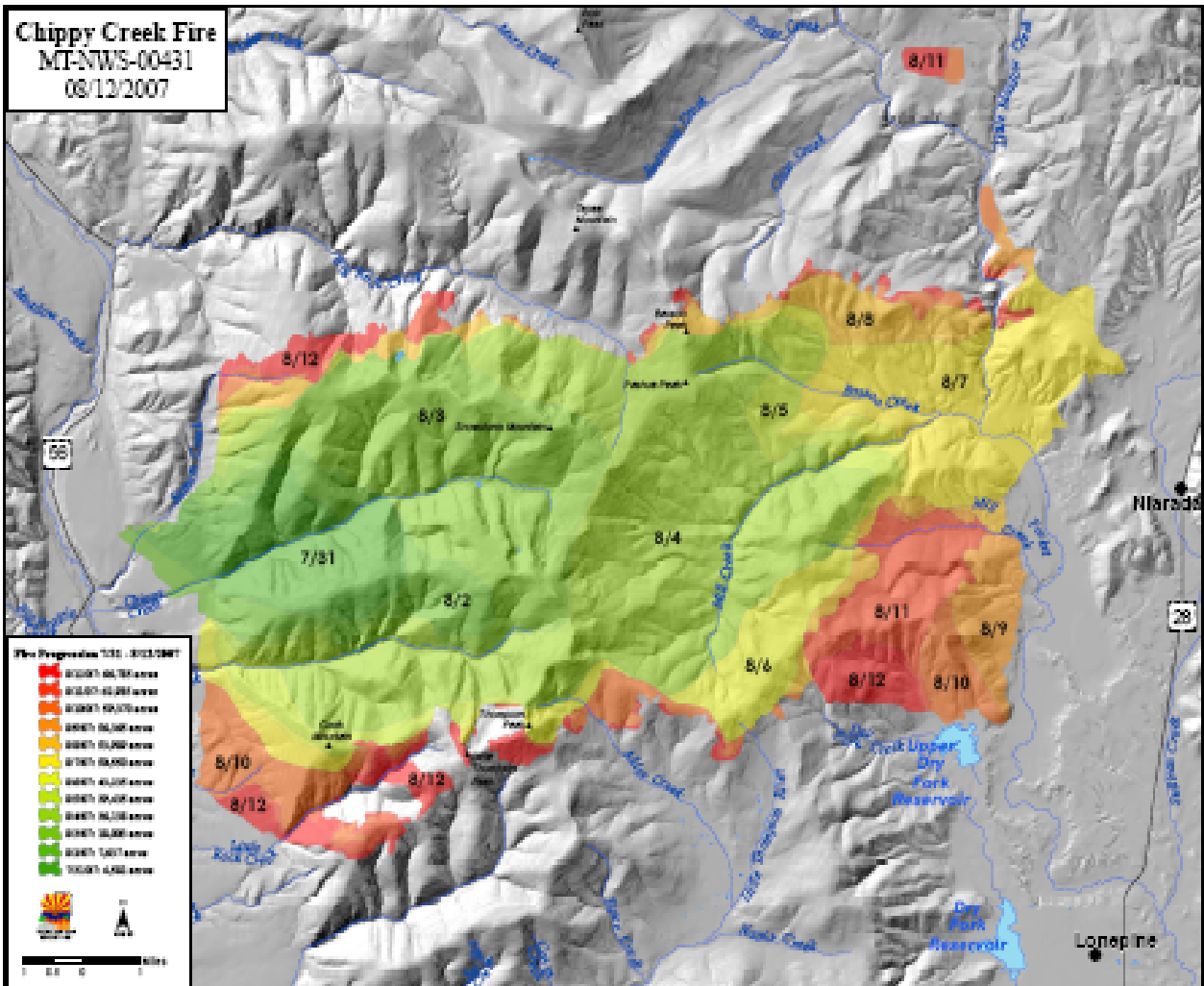
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Closing Remarks:

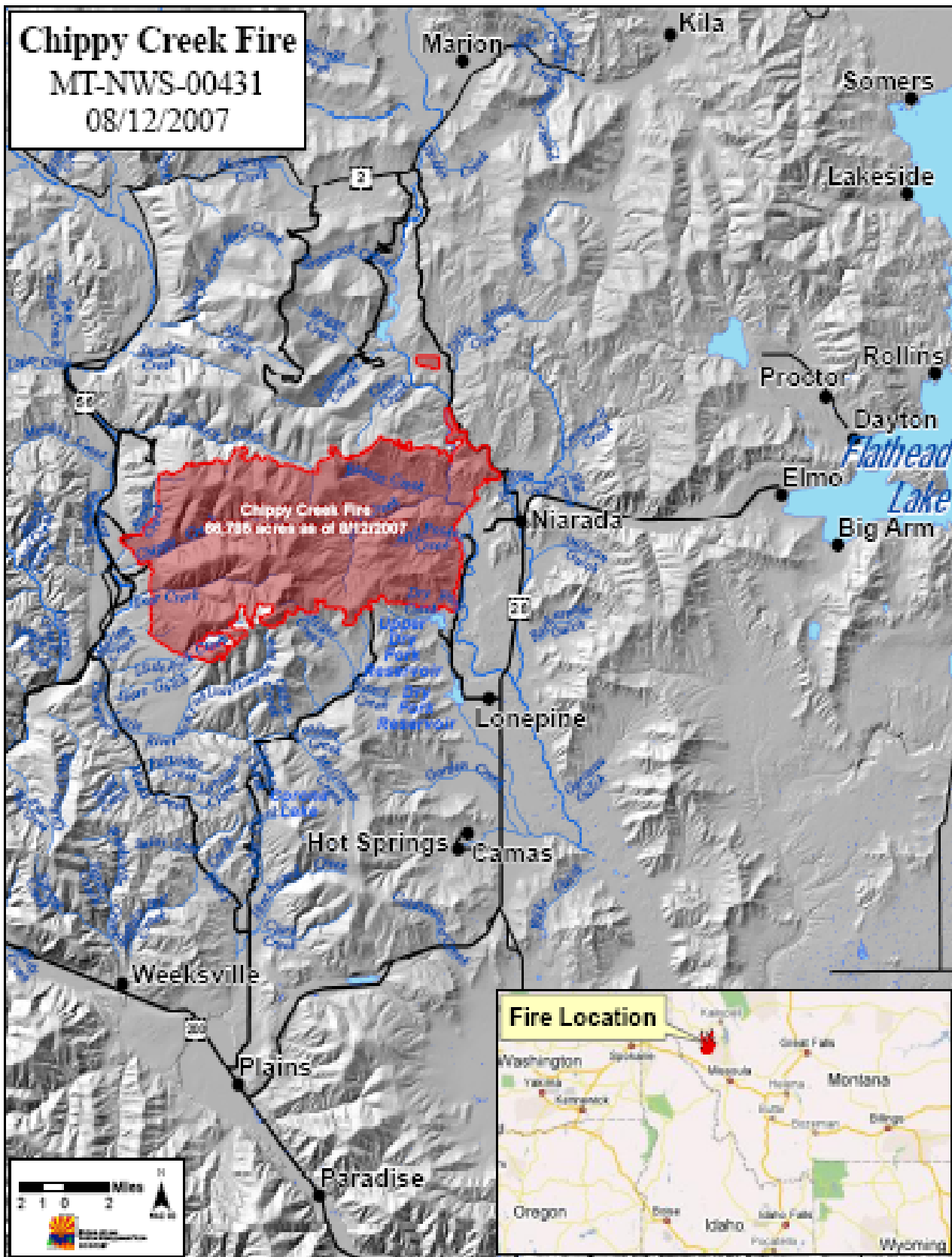
Incident Commander



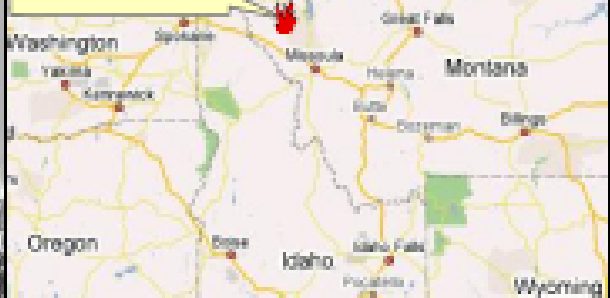
**Chippy Creek Fire**  
 MT-NWS-00431  
 08/12/2007



**Chippy Creek Fire**  
MT-NWS-00431  
08/12/2007



**Fire Location**





# Raley's Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team



# CHIPPY CREEK FIRE

DNRC - MTLNF - CS&KT  
August 3 - August 13, 2007 MT.NWS.00431



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Chippy Creek Fire MT.NWS.00431

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Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team

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## Chippy Creek Fire

utilizing 2 type 1 & 2 type 2 helicopters, 3 seats and 1 heavy air tanker, we dropped 325,000 gallons of water, 49,000 gallons of foam and 25,000 gallons of retardant.

Ground Support drove almost 20,000 miles!



85.5 miles of line were constructed.



FYI



Over 90 weed washes were performed from 8/3 to 8/11

The events surrounding the Chippy Creek Fire required the joint efforts of over 700 Personnel, 9 Crews, 24 Engines, 9 Watertenders, 18 Skidders/Skidgines, 4 Excavators, 2 graders and 12 Feller Bunchers

The kitchen provided over 4,200 breakfasts, 6,200 lunches and 5,000 dinners!



At the time of transition, the Chippy Creek Fire burned 66,760 acres...

- OVERVIEW

- The Chippy Creek Fire started July 31, 2007 on the Montana DNRC State Trust Lands. The Eastern Arizona IMT was activated to respond to the Chippy Creek Fire on August 1, 2007. In-Briefing was held at the Montana DNRC in Plains on August 3, 2007, with actual transition of management at 1800 hours that evening. The cause of this fire is still under investigation. The Chippy Creek Fire burned 66,760 acres; 25,387 on USFS, 2,256 on MDNR, 28,182 on CS&KT, 7,742 on Plum Creek and 2,672 on other lands. Containment was estimated at 30% and the total cost was \$4,678,549.00, at the time of transition.

- INCIDENT OBJECTIVES

- Using input received from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Lolo National Forest and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the following incident objectives were developed:

1. Apply risk management process in all that we do; human life is our highest priority.
2. Using Appropriate Management Response, limit the fire spread north of Chippy Creek, south of Bear Creek and west of the Thompson River Road.
3. Protect the private property, structures and other valuable resources on the Flathead Indian Reservation.
4. Keep public and all agencies informed of fire status.
5. Be fiscally sound and financially accountable.

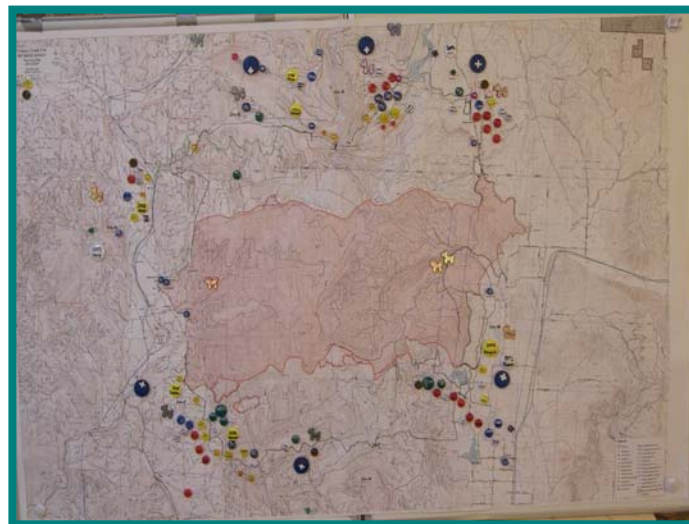
- EVENTS
- On the East side of the fire, Operations was able to have crews engage early by creating adequate dozer line, which allowed them to burn out from established features. This prevented a major fire run, saving numerous structures. Fire spread was stopped prior to reaching Hwy 28. A burn out was conducted using the 2100 Road which eliminated the need to fall back to the dozer line in Division N. This saved many additional acres of land from being burned. Division N was completed ahead of schedule allowing resources to be released to other parts of the fire.
- On the West side of the fire, feller bunchers, skidders, extra dozers and excavators were ordered, keeping in mind the mid-level overhead in place and expected for span of control. There is an abundance of this equipment in the area, but was slow in arriving due to a lack of having this equipment signed up on EERA's. All incoming equipment has been washed for noxious weed control prior to being send to the fire line.
- Fire lines were approved prior to construction, however, slight deviations did occur as these locations were ground truthed. Fire lines that were prepped followed the guidelines as stated in the Resource Advisory.
- Because of excellent working relationships with resource advisors, agency officials and local citizens, we had very valuable, on the ground intelligence, which greatly enhanced our ability to progress as we did.
- Upon taking command of the fire, Logistics established and provided support for two large spike camps (Big Prairie and Lone Pine). Additionally, Communications established a complex three repeater communication system which afforded full coverage of the fire area.
- As resources quickly ramped up, Logistics, Plans, Operations and Finance inspected, documented, located and obtained accurate E#'s for a significant number of vehicles, and equipment, providing an accurate picture of all resources assigned to the incident.
- The Medical Unit evaluated approximately 4 patients and treated over 200. Over 40 bee stings were documented as well as 4 hospital transports for minor injuries. There were no lost time injuries or illnesses reported on this incident.



- CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:
- The Finance Section was tasked with meeting “Best Value” criteria after the equipment was already on the line. This request should have been addressed when the order for equipment was placed by expanded.
- Information to the tribes and local residents on the east side was stifled when local information officers, provided by the tribe to staff an information booth in Lone Pine, gave inappropriate and nonfactual information to the community. This issue was resolved by the team staffing the information trailer.
- SITL had a challenge getting GIS data layers from state, USFS, Plum Creek Timber Company and tribal entities. This problem was mitigated by contacting each entity and hiring a tribal GIS person. Additional products were also obtained from the Flathead County GIS Department.
- Due to the large number of fires in the Missoula area, the availability of rental vehicles was a huge challenge that was never resolved. Furthermore, fire cache supplies were consistently restricted or not available. The availability of local supplies purchased by the Buying Team was very beneficial.
- Many orders for personnel remained unfilled throughout the incident due to a national shortage. Effective staffing of many Sections continued to be problematic throughout the incident.
- COST MANAGEMENT EFFORTS
- The Planning Section contracted with a local copy service to copy the IAP. Not ordering a mobile copy service saved \$2,000.00 a day for a total savings of over \$20,000.00.



- The Planning staff elected to produce the executive summary themselves instead of having a copy service complete the task, which saved \$1,200.00.
- Many Team Members carpoled together to the incident. The savings on mileage charges was well over \$6,000.00, excluding wear and tear on vehicles and reduced fuel consumption, helping the environment.
- The use of the Team's support trailers, which come with basic office support accommodations and a copy machine, saved approximately \$43,000.00 (after subtracting the cost of the six drivers).
- Coordination and sharing of all critical shortage aviation assets between the Chippy Creek Incident and the plains Dispatch Unit greatly enhanced the cost savings for both agencies. \$750,000.00.
- Utilized a contract helibase communication trailer instead of a FAA tower facility at twice the cost. \$10,000.00.
- Utilized Plains Rural Fire Department facility through a general agreement which saved cost and enhanced interagency cooperation. \$2,500.00.
- Utilized Plains Rural Fire Department Crash Rescue apparatus for helibase crash rescue versus high cost contract unit. \$25,000.00.
- Limited use of SEATS and no use of tankers for frontal attack saved thousands of dollars. Actual amount, unknown.
- The set up of Lone Pine spike with the Tribe cut costs and reduced travel time for personnel and equipment.
- Timely release of excess resources and staff was also noted.
- **Documented Cost Management: \$857,700.00**



# REMAINING RESOURCES

All resources, except The Eastern Arizona IMT and some miscellaneous overhead, will be retained on the Chippy Creek Fire, and managed by Bennett's Type 1 IMT

