

## NIMO's Successes in FY 2007

During FY 2007, the two NIMO teams (Atlanta and Boise) served 1,576 person days on wildfires and core Fire and Aviation Management Programmatic and support assignments. This figure represents over 4.3 person years of work-time made available for key Forest Service interdisciplinary staff to continue core work on home units, enabling the Agency to better maintain commitment to its land management and public service mission.

The NIMO teams have shown significant progress with cost effectiveness, innovation and leadership.

Efforts are underway and considerable change and improvements have already been seen within the areas of building capability, streamlining training, managing complex fire and vegetation management.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the first year of NIMO is the capacity of the two teams to be agents of change within fire and aviation management. Whether developing new ways to use the Stratified Cost Index (SCI) on the Zaca fire, proving the savings of a well-planned and executed point protection on the East Zone Complex, and serving as support groups for NMAC and the Chief's Principle Representatives, all represent the intrinsic positive change of NIMO. The NIMO teams have demonstrated their ability and empowerment to be needed agents of change within wildland fire in FY 2007.



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## Working With NIMO



### Who We Are ... and What We Do



Photo By Jen Kolb

Looking towards the Future  
of  
Fire & Aviation Management

# THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (NIMO)

## *The Fire Environment*

The Fire Environment has significantly changed and the pace of this change continues to accelerate. There are more fires over 100,000 acres threatening homes and natural resources while increasing cost of fire suppression in an almost exponential fashion.

The current model of managing incidents with collateral duty, volunteer incident management organization and teams is not sustainable. The

national scope, the socio-political realities and high cost of managing wildfires has added a layer of complexity and need for accountability that is unrealistic to expect from a volunteer fire force. There are more fires of national significance each year, requiring management with a national perspective.

This change of the fire environment demanded a change in how the agency plans and responds to large, complex fires. The National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) is one of the solutions to managing these fires while capitalizing on the existing successes of the agency by preserving initial attack and extended attack successes.



*The 2006 Day Fire on the Los Padres National Forest*

## *Who We Are ...*

The 1999 Jacobs Report called for a new era in large fire management within the US Forest Service. The era began in FY 2007 with the hiring of the first two (2) NIMO teams. These seven member Type 1 teams mark the first time the agency has dedicated full-time positions to management of large, complex wildfires.

The NIMO implementation plan called for hiring two (2) teams per year until the full complement of seven (7) teams were hired.

The configuration of the teams being command and general staff positions allows the teams to function the way the Incident Command System (ICS) was originally intended to function by expanding or contracting the size of the team by using "call when needed" resources as well as trainees.

The NIMO teams are on a separate dispatch rotation than the national collateral duty incident management teams.

## *What We Do ...*

The NIMO Implementation Task Group chartered by the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) developed nine (9) key recommendations to be achieved during and while off assignments that will support progressive changes being made throughout the wildfire agencies. These recommendations set the tone for the overall concept of the NIMO program which is to accel-

erate and increase fuels treatment, increase capability and capacity, streamline training and develop a more effective fire management model for complex fires.

The NIMO program fills a different niche which provides options for line officers ordering teams. NIMO Teams may be ordered for:

- Managing wildland fire and/or fire use incidents. This is not limited to Type 1 or 2 wildfires but may also be appropriate for multiple Type 3 fires for capacity development as mentors/trainers.
- International Assignments
- National / Regional Operations Cell
- Fire of National Significance - A NIMO Team would be appropriately assigned to fires that are expected to last for several weeks as the "second" team in to bring the incident to its conclusion while saving on conducting costly transitions.
- All Hazard assignments.
- Fuels Management - Assignments to accomplish vegetation management and community assistance goals at the local level would be considered appropriate when not assigned to emergency .

