



USFS PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION AIRTANKER BASES

2011 Accomplishments



“Dedicated to providing safe, efficient and effective operational and logistics support to aerial firefighting resources”.

THE PROGRAM

The USFS Pacific Northwest Airtanker Base Program consists of the six “large” airtanker bases in the region hosted by area forests.

- Moses Lake, WA Okanogan-Wenatchee NF
- Troutdale, OR Mt. Hood NF
- La Grande, OR Wallowa Whitman NF
- Redmond, OR Deschutes NF
- Medford, OR Rogue-Siskiyou NF
- Klamath Falls, OR Fremont-Winema NF



The airtanker program often provides assistance to the two FS operated SEAT bases in the region.

- Pendleton, OR Umatilla NF
- John Day, OR Malhuer NF

VERSATILITY

Maintaining versatility and providing support services to as many resources as possible, (“bang for the buck”), is a goal of the PNW bases.

With all bases providing support for large airtankers single engine airtankers, transports and tactical aircraft Some also support MAFFS and VLAT airtankers and other types of incident support aircraft including smoke jumping aircraft, helicopters and more.





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RETARDANT PROGRAM

In 2011 five of the large airtanker bases and both SEAT bases were utilizing Phoschek LC-95A fire retardant.

Medford started the season with Phoschek D-75R and converted mid-season to Phoschek P-100. Negotiations with the vendor are under way to convert Medford to LC-95A to be consistent throughout the region.



Full service contracts with personnel provided by the vendor are in place at Moses Lake, Redmond, Medford and Klamath Falls. Bulk contracts using agency personnel are in use at La Grande, Troutdale and the SEAT bases.

AIRTANKER CONTRACTS

Each of the nineteen large airtankers on the national contract require a COR to administer their contract.

In 2011 the PNW region provided **five** of those COR's.



SAFETY

Once again in 2011 there were no incidents of injury or damage occurring at PNW airtanker bases. All SAFECOMS submitted related to aircraft mechanical and jettisoned loads.

The program remains as always engaged in placing the well being of its personnel and the safe conduct of base operations ahead of the mission.





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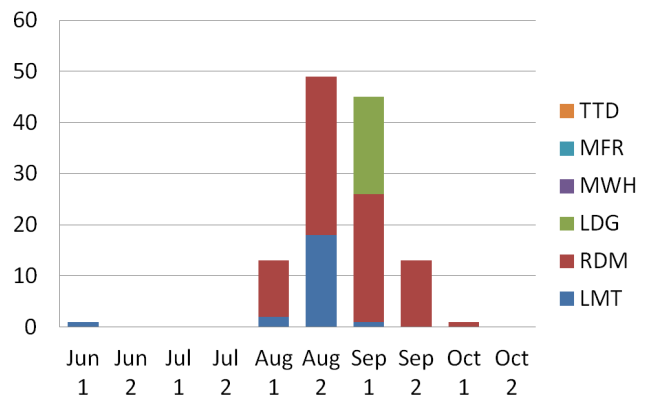
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2011 SEASON STATISTICS

In general the six large bases open for business about the first of June. La Grande was closed most of the season but opened up for two weeks in September.

	First Load	Last Load
Moses Lake		
Klamath Falls	06/08/2011	08/21/2011
Redmond	08/02/2011	10/04/2011
La Grande	09/04/2011	09/07/2011
Medford		
Troutdale		

2011 Loads by Month



Retardant use in 2011 spiked in August and September with virtually no activity until August.

RETARDANT USE BY AGENCY

In 2011 the six large bases flew 884,904 gallons of retardant to seven different agencies.



Heavy Airtankers											Total By
	FS-R6	FS-Other	BIA	BLM	NPS	ODF	DNR	CalFire	FWS	Other	BASE
Redmond	176,646	8,101	201,154	220,873	0	58,062	14,102	0	0	0	678,938
Moses Lake	0	0	668	0	0	0	15,954	0	13,749	0	30,371
Medford	62,968	0	0	0	0	36,613	0	0	0	0	99,581
LaGrande	25,679	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,679
K-Falls	0	976	0	34,859	0	0	0	0	0	500	36,335
Troutdale	14,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,000
Agency Use	279,293	9,077	201,822	255,732	0	94,675	30,056	0	13,749	500	884,904



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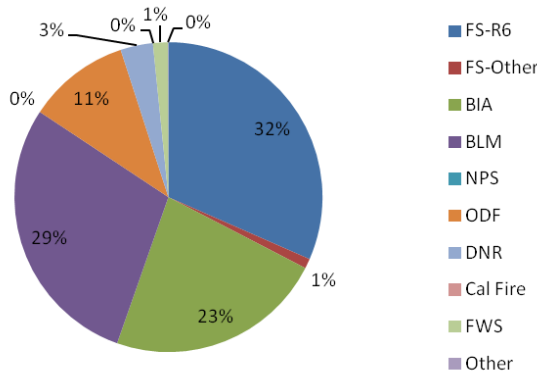
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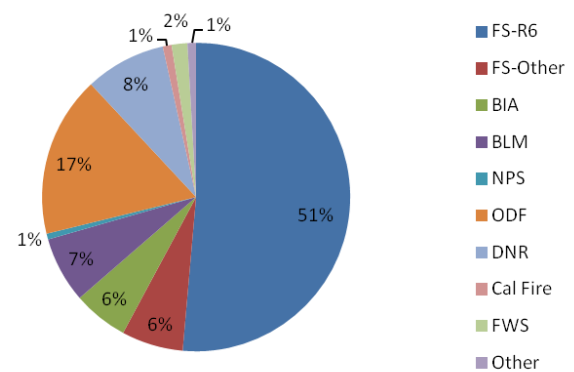
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2011 AGENCY RETARDANT USE VS 20 YEAR AVERAGE

2011 PNW Retardant Use by Agency



20 year Avg. PNW Retardant Use by Agency

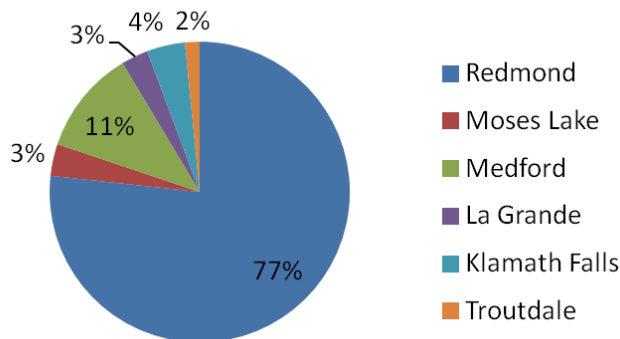


Retardant use by Interior agencies was significantly higher than average in 2011

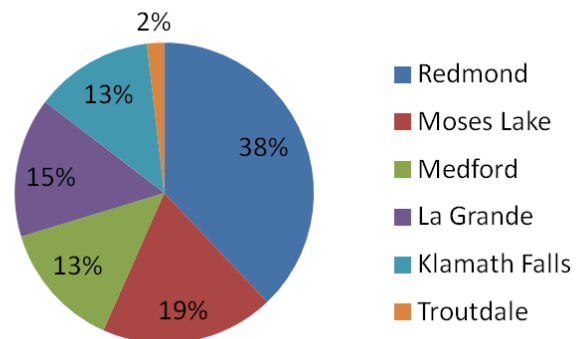


RETARDANT USE BY BASE

2011 PNW Base Activity



10 Year Avg. PNW Base Activity



Redmond historically delivers the greatest percentage of retardant to fires annually. Redmond completely dominated in 2011 with only Medford approaching anywhere near a normal average.



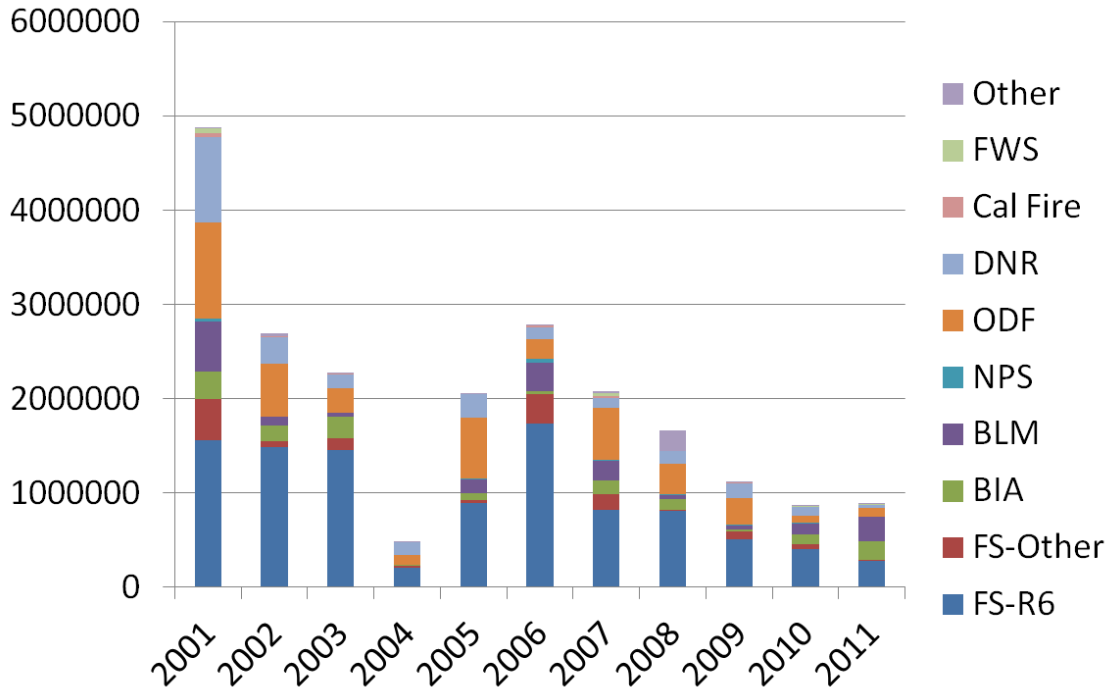
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PNW REGION RETARDANT USE BY YEAR



Although the 2011 retardant use total was just slightly greater than 2010 the overall use of retardant in the region has been declining steadily.

PROGRAM EVENTS 2011

La Grande Ramp

In 2011 the La Grande base was closed for most of the season due to the condition of the ramp and then opened briefly for a two week period in September after temporary repairs were made. Construction began on the ramp in late September and should be finished in the Spring of 2012.

In addition La Grande will be getting new retardant storage tanks to be installed this Spring through the full service retardant contract.





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Medford Storage Tank

The Medford base started the season with an additional 10,000 gallon retardant tank provided through the contract. The additional storage capacity helped mitigate the possibility of running low on retardant.

REVIEWS and REVIEWS

MAFFS II Base Reviews

In 2011 the military reviewed five of the PNW Region bases for suitability to reload MAFFS II airtankers. Klamath Falls and Moses Lake received certification to both reload and act as an activation hub for MAFFS II.

Redmond and Medford might have been suitable for reload locations except for issues regarding access taxi-way specifications.



Regional Base Reviews

The Region Six base reviews were conducted in June. The program remains well standardized with few issues. Some staffing concerns and infrastructure items mostly regarding waste water management systems were identified.

Washington Office Reviews

In 2011 WO Aviation conducted reviews at all six PNW large airtanker bases. Final reports are pending but draft reports indicate that the Region Six program continues to be a model for the nation. Kudos to everyone for a great job.



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NEW TOYS

Convair 580

The mid season termination of Aero Unions airtanker contract left the program without the eight P3 Orions it started with.

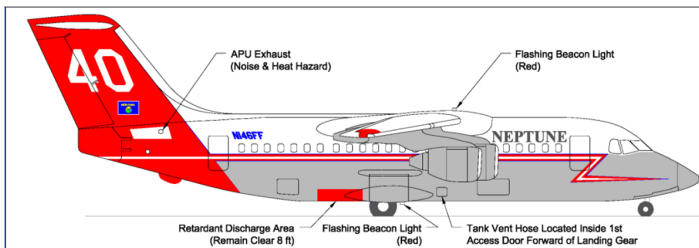
The gap was temporarily filled by bringing down six Convair 580 airtankers operated by the Canadian company Conair. The aircraft were operating under an Alaska State contract.



The bases responded by adapting to a few operational and administrative differences but all in all the Convairs fit easily into the mix.

BAE 146

The BAE 146 airtanker T40 made its debut on the national contract fighting fire in Texas. Unfortunately it was late in the season and the aircraft never made its way to region six.



PNW bases are preparing for this pure jet evolution of the large airtanker fleet.

AHEAD

2012 is poised to be an exciting year for the program as we head into so many new events and challenges.

2012 Regional Workshop

This Spring the Region Six Airtanker Base Managers Workshop will take place in Portland at the Regional Office on April 17-19, 2012. It's anticipated to be enlightening workshop with plenty of information to share.