

National Wildfire Suppression Association



**Interagency Contract Crew Update
NWSA 16th Annual Meeting**

02/21/07

NWSA



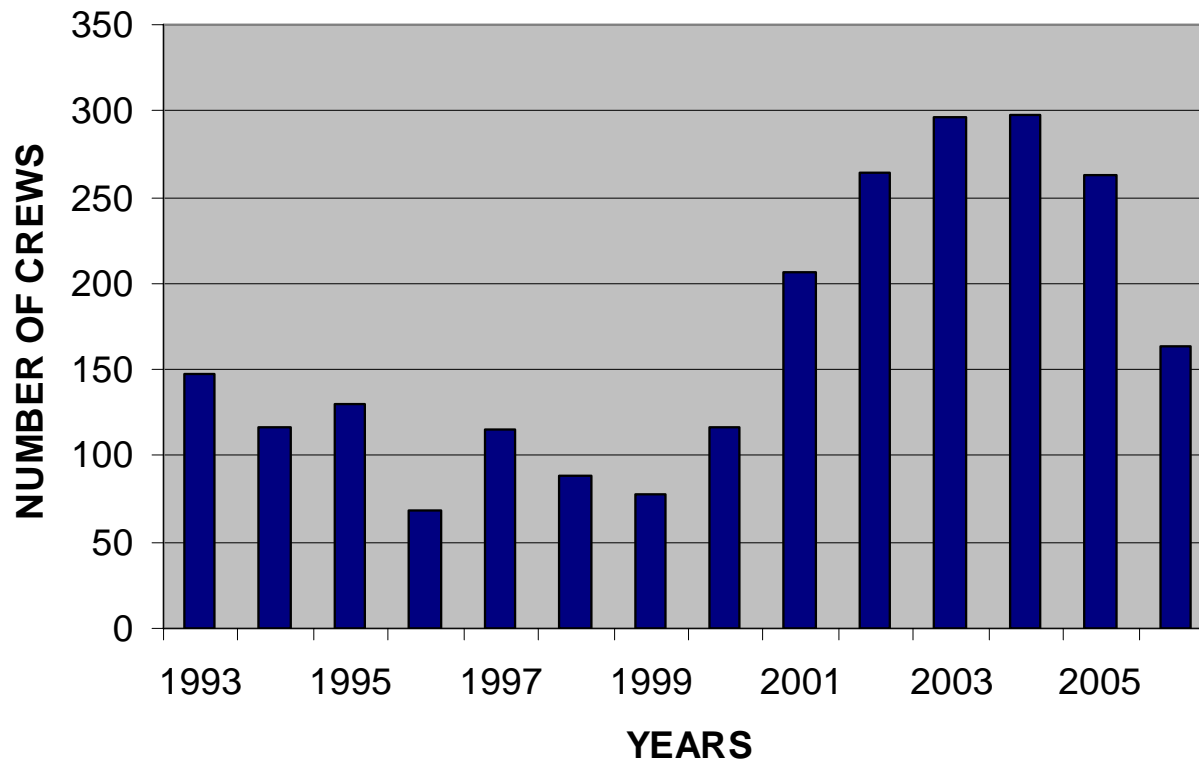
TOPICS

- **Numbers of Crews & Contractors**
- **Use by Agency**
- **Contract compliance and performance issues**
- **English Evaluation Process**
- **Best Value Contracting**
- **Changes 2007**

NWSA



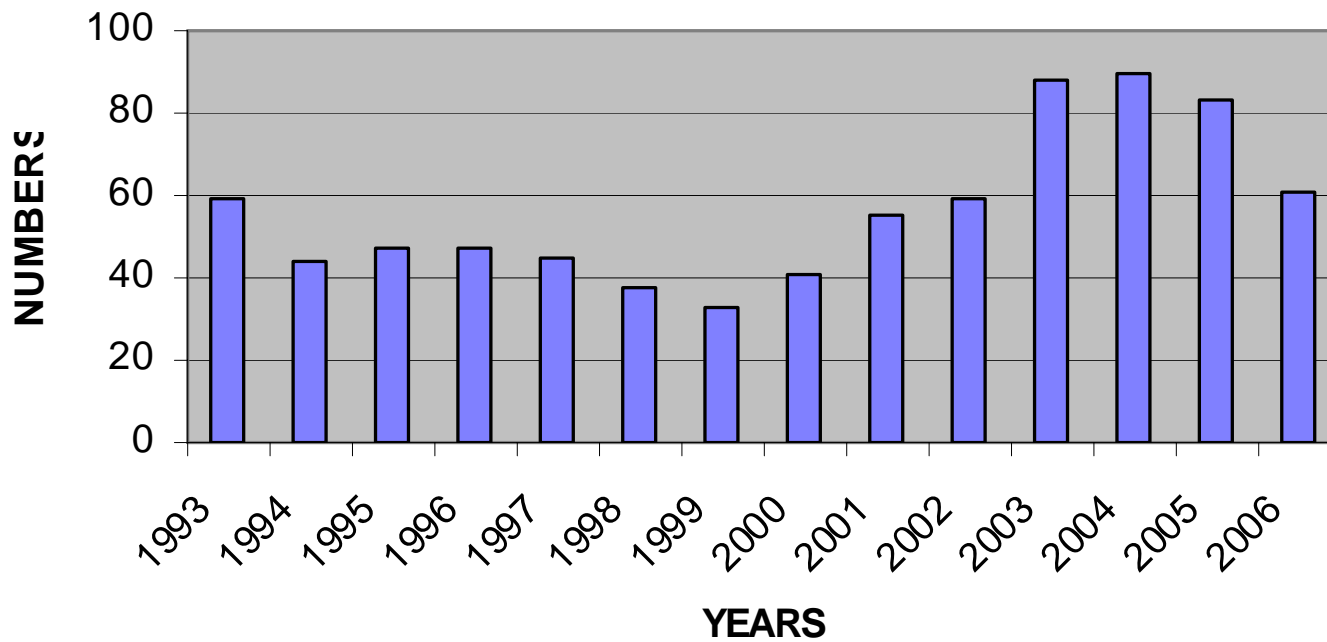
CONTRACT CREW NUMBERS



Number of Contractors



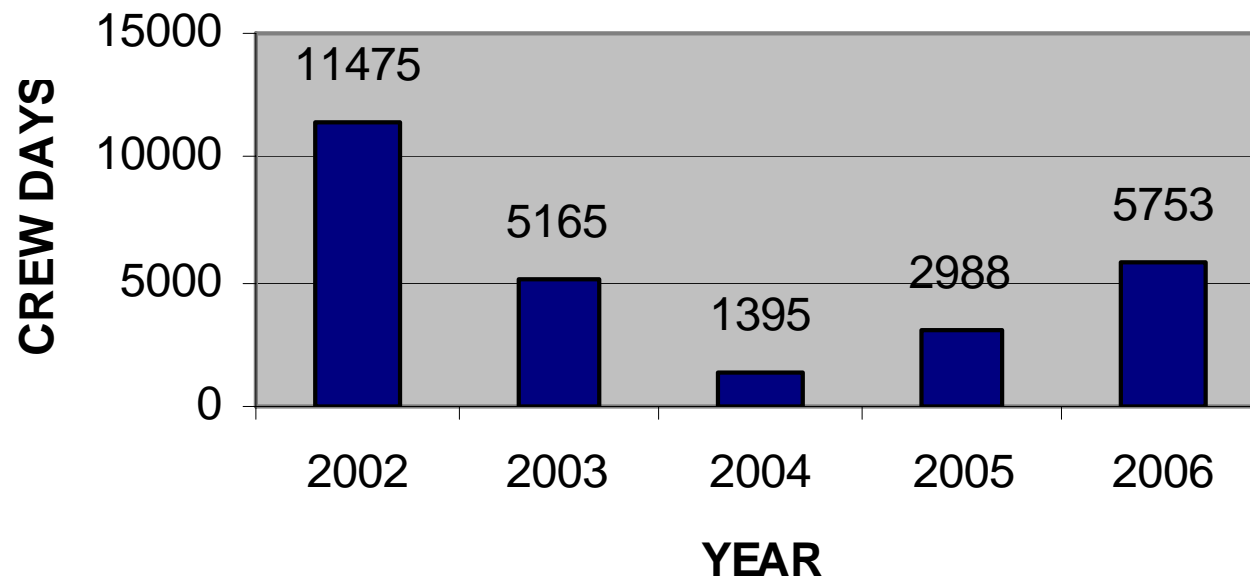
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS



Summary of Crew Use



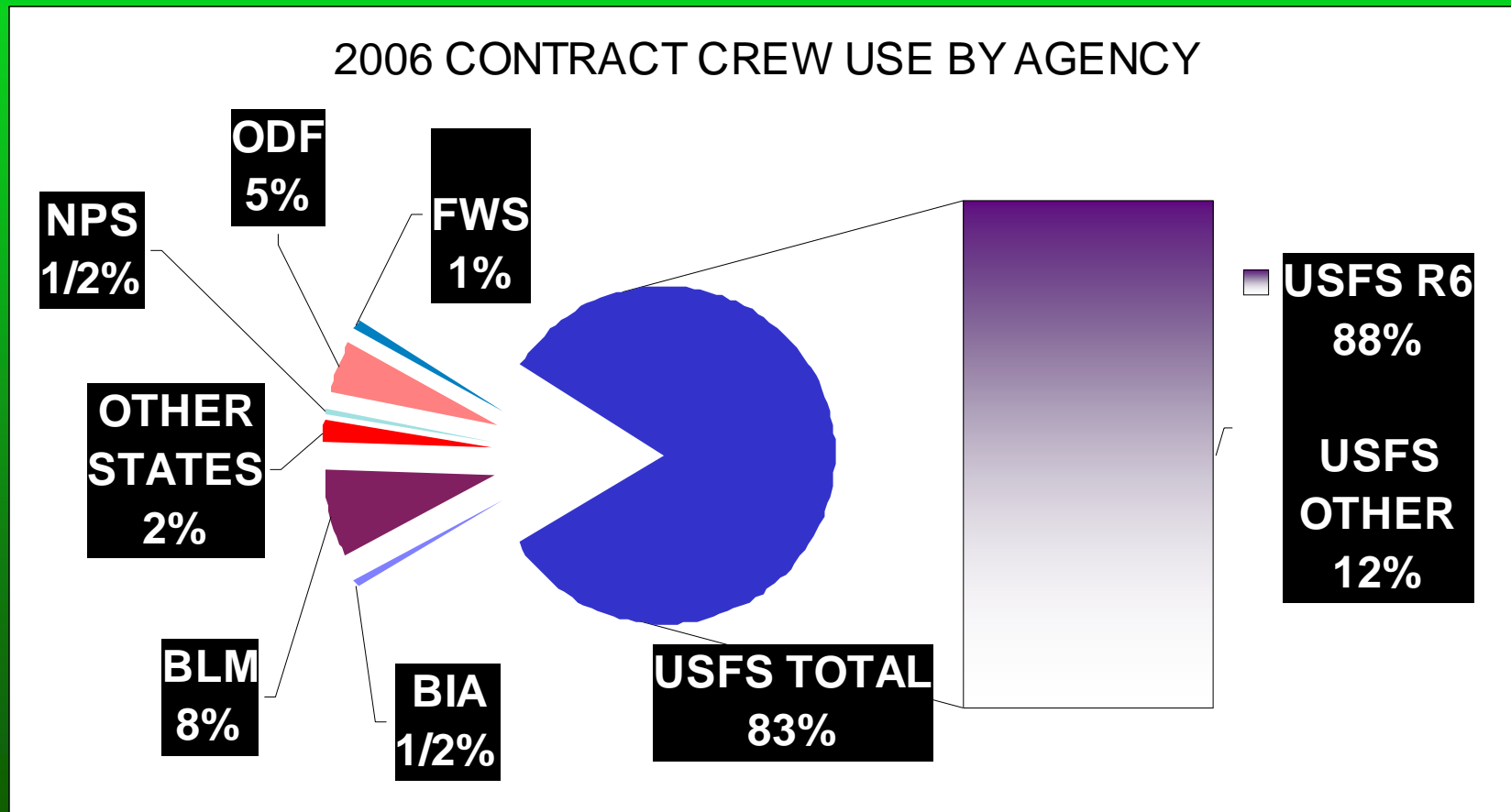
SUMMARY OF CREW USE



2006 Use by Agency



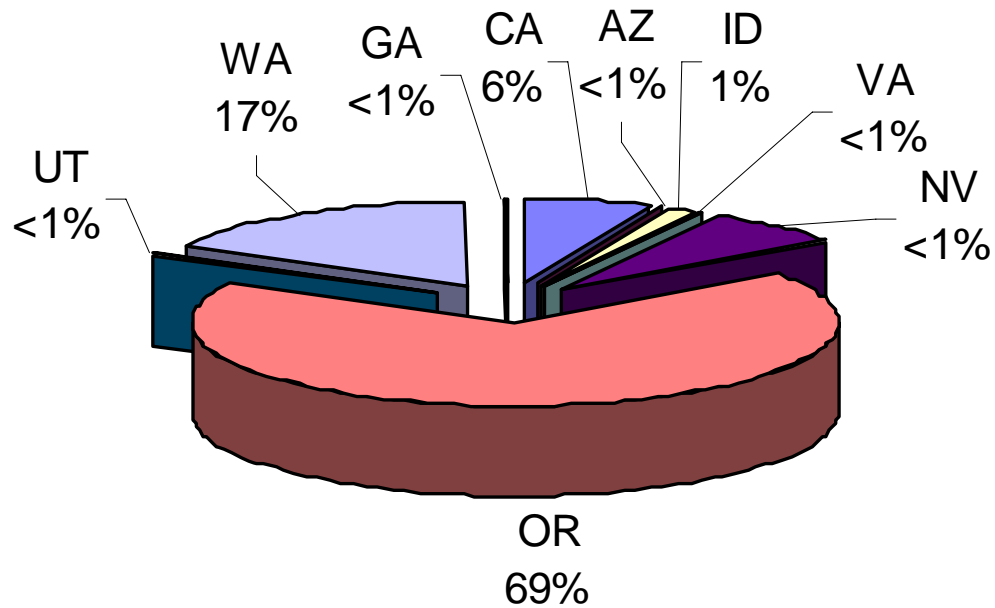
2006 CONTRACT CREW USE BY AGENCY



2006 Use by State



2006 CREW USE BY STATE



Actions in 2006



- **Best Value Agreements developed and released.**
- **PNWCG Training Working Team implemented pilot English speaking evaluation testing program.**
- **ODF continued administrative actions.**
 - **Administrative actions dramatically decreased due to Best Value Implementation.**
- **Emphasis on monitoring training providers and performance compliance.**
- **PNWCG, on ODF's recommendation, terminated two association MOUs**
 - **Multiple courses in 2004 thru 2006 conducted by these associations were declared non-certified.**

2005 Crew Contract Actions



- **138 Violations reported to ODF contracting officers resulting in:**
 - **24 Actions taken by incidents.**
 - **86 Suspensions by ODF Contracting Officers.**
 - **31 Letters of Concern.**
 - **8 Terminations (8 crews) Dispatch Location violations.**
 - **20 Terminations (20 crews) no permit or license.**
 - **8 Terminations (10 crews) crew size or other issues.**
 - **15 Closures by contractors (19 crews) crew size or permits.**
 - **2 Contractors (11 crews) terminated for falsified records.**

2006 Crew Contract Actions



- **39 Violations reported to ODF contracting officers resulting in:**
 - **21 Actions taken by incidents.**
 - **11 Suspensions by ODF Contracting Officers.**
 - **13 Letters of Concern.**
 - **1 Closure by contractor for crew strength.**
 - **8 Cases closed no action taken.**
 - **7 Cases still under investigation. (10-06-06)**

English Language Skills Assessment Program



- **PNWCG Task Order : Develop and implement a standardized tool to objectively measure contractor personnel language skills.**
 - **Assess skills of FFT1 / Squad Boss / Crew Boss according to 2006 Interagency Crew and Engine/Tender Agreements**
 - **English proficiency component**
 - **Verbal and written comprehension**
 - **Address conveyance of operational and safety instruction by student in the language of the crew**

English Language Skills Assessment Program



- **ODF and Clackamas Community College – Wildland Fire Science Department partnership included:**
 - **Development of language skills assessment curriculum for testing contractor employees**
 - **College level language instructor, PNWCG qualified wildland course instructors, subject matter experts;**
 - **Developed pilot program as voluntary participation for Interagency Crew Agreement contractors for 2006 fire season;**
 - **Delivered four days of 4-2 hour evaluation sessions**
 - **Certificates of passing issued - accepted at incident as proof of evaluation, meeting Provision of the Interagency Crew Agreement**

English Language Skills Assessment Program



- 18 Companies Participating
- 149 Students Enrolled (this includes 46 registered no shows)
- 74 Students Passed
- 29 Students Didn't Pass

English Language Skills Assessment Program



- **Successful evaluation provided benefit to Government and Contractors**
- **Cost remains low compared to “loss of income” by Contractor while waiting during incident check in for language skill assessment**
- **Students received certificate of successful evaluation to show at an incident**
- **Relieved CRNW or other incident overhead from responsibility of making assessment of language skills – able to reduce check in procedure time for Contractors by 40-60 minutes on average**

English Language Skills Assessment Program



- **Program Expansion Plans:**
- **Clackamas Community College has developed plan to share curriculum with other community colleges**
- **Strategic locations will be selected for program delivery**
- **Language Skills Assessment will be mandatory requirement for the Region 6 Interagency Agreements**

Proposed Changes For 2007 Interagency Crew Agreement



- Continue best value performance based Agreement with multiple year award.
- Optional Strike Team Leaders
- Optional 10 person IA crews
- Standardized Qualifications Cards
- Establish updated MOU w/ Contractor Associations. Adds certification responsibilities
- Strengthen performance evaluation system.

Proposed Changes For The 2007 Interagency Crew Agreement



- **Improve dispatch process and procedures.**
- **Identify types and numbers of contract resources needed.**
- **Strengthen program management and contract administration.**
- **Provide interagency guidance to encourage effective use of contract resources.**

Questions

