



Chapter 2

ABOUT WIMS

The Weather Information Management System (WIMS) is a comprehensive system that helps you manage weather information. WIMS serves as the host for the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), incorporating both the 1978 and 1988 fuel models.

WIMS, a web-based application, resides on a suite of servers known as FAMWEB. FAMWEB hosts all of the National Fire Applications at the USDA National Information Technology Center (NITC) in Kansas City. WIMS is available on a twenty-four hour basis.

WIMS allows you to retrieve weather information by providing:

- Timely access to many weather information sources
- Efficient tools for managing data
- Data manipulation and display functions
- Interactive communications environment

For more complete information about NFDRS, see Chapter 9, “Working with NFDRS” and Appendix E, “NFDRS technical reference”.

To obtain user support and system administration services contact your agency's system administrator. To locate this person, check with your supervisor and/or computer specialist, or contact the F&AM Fire Applications Helpdesk in Boise at (800) 253-5559 or (208) 387-5290.

WIMS receives weather data from three basic sources:

- National Weather Service Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG)
- Satellite -RAWS Gateway
- Directly from manual observations at field locations

NWS -TELECOMMUNICATIONS GATEWAY (NWSTG)

The NWSTG shares information with other NWS networks such as the AWIPS network.

SATELLITE RAWS GATEWAY

The Satellite RAWS Gateway receives satellite Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) data from the BLM's Automated, Storage, Conversion, and Distribution System (ASCADS) using a preset schedule. RAWS stations identified in the annual BLM/ RAWS operating plan and appropriately cataloged, send RAWS data to WIMS as specified.