

Anne Cook

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Subject: Native American Firefighting



Native American Firefighting



The first Native American firefighting crews date back to the 1930s.

The newly created Indian Division of the Citizen Conservation Corps (ID-CCC), also known as the Indian Emergency Conservation Work (IECW) program, employed 10,000+ Native American & Alaska Native workers.

In 1982, The Fort Apache crew at the White Mountain Apache Reservation became the first fully certified Native American Interagency Hot Shot Crew (IHC).

Today 7 Interagency Hotshot Crews are supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

- Warm Springs IHC**
Warm Springs Indian Reservation Warm Springs, OR
- Chief Mountain IHC**
Blackfeet Indian Reservation Browning, MT
- Golden Eagles IHC**
Sycuan Indian Reservation El Cajon, CA
- Fort Apache IHC**
White Mountain Apache Reservation Whiteriver, AZ
- Geronimo IHC**
San Carlos Apache Reservation San Carlos, AZ
- Navajo IHC**
Navajo Indian Reservation Fort Defiance, AZ
- Zuni IHC**
Zuni Indian Reservation Zuni, NM

In 2023, 2,633 wildfires originated on BIA protected lands or on nearby private land, resulting in approx. 192,800 acres burned.

- 2,828** Firefighters
- 901** Hired as needed firefighters
- 9** Helicopters
- 6** Single-engine air tankers
- 2** Single-engine water scoopers
- 3** Air Attack Platforms
- 7** Interagency Hotshot Crews
- 4** Tribally managed
- 3** BIA crews
- 3** Fire Fleet Centers located in Eagle Butte, Jicarilla, and Missoula
- 249** Fire Prevention Vehicles
- 40** Wildfire prevention programs
- 22** Tribally managed programs