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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Impacts Based Decision Support Services during the 2017 California Wildfires

The 2017 California wildfire season was the most destructive on record. Over 9000 fires burned more than 1.3 million acres according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Five of these fires in 2017 ranked among the 20 most destructive wildland-urban interface fires in the state's history.

California was experiencing widespread flooding which alleviated drought concerns early in 2017. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, the potential for large fires was "expected to remain near normal through the spring, but once fine fuels dry out, there will likely be a spike in grass fire activity."

More than 250 wildfires ignited across Northern California in October 2017, burning over 245,000 acres. Destruction left by the wildfires included more than 8900 structures, 44 fatalities and more than \$9.4 billion in insured property losses becoming the costliest group of wildfires on record. Strong Santa Ana winds across southern California in December 2017 triggered another round of wildfires including the Thomas Fire in Ventura County, which is now the largest wildfire in California history. These fires forced over 230,000 people to evacuate with more than 300,000 acres and more than 1,300 structures burned.

Impacts-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) were provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) Western Region Regional Operations Center (WR ROC) and

local Weather Forecast Offices to regional, state and local core partners throughout this long-lasting and historical event. Onsite and remote support to the various emergency operations centers, including the California State Operations Center will be highlighted.

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