CHAPTER 3

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. "

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 Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) application using a preset schedule. RAWS stations identified in the annual BLM/ RAWS operating plan and appropriately cataloged, send RAWS data to WIMS as specified.