

2006 Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Contracts

[SEAT foam drop video](#) (courtesy of Idaho Dept. of Lands)



Colorado Governor Bill Owens made funding available through [executive order](#) providing for state fire suppression aircraft and other initial attack resources for the 2006 wildfire season. These resources include 10 fully staffed wildland-urban (WUI) fire engines; single engine air tankers (SEAT); and call-as-needed firefighting helicopters.

In addition, funding is available to implement the Wildland Emergency Response Fund (WERF) for initial attack aircraft which respond at the request of Colorado Sheriffs and fire departments. The Colorado State Forest Service is contracting with several SEAT contract ships for the 2006 wildfire season. [**Tanker-181, N5035K**], [**Tanker-182, N91092**], and [**Tanker-184, N9135F**] are currently on contract. Additional SEAT aircraft such as [**Tanker-183, N9002K**], or others could be brought on-contract if conditions warrant.



The primary SEAT bases are [Montrose Regional Airport \[MTJ\]](#), [Durango/La Plata County Airport \[DRO\]](#), [Cortez Municipal Airport \[CEZ\]](#), [Grand Junction/Walker Field \[GJT\]](#), [Garfield County Regional Airport \[RIL\]](#), [Fort Collins-Loveland Regional Airport \[FNL\]](#), [Jeffco Airport \[BJC\]](#), [Fremont County Airport \[1V6\]](#) and [Pueblo Memorial Airport \[PUB\]](#). The SEAT ships also operate from other public airports, air strips or portable locations in western Colorado, or [throughout the state](#).

The SEAT concept is to relocate and pre-position the aircraft to appropriate locations around the state as fire danger and available resource status warrants. SEAT availability is significant due to the [cancellation of 33 multi-engine air tanker contracts](#) by the Department of Interior and U.S. Forest Service on May 10, 2004. Over one dozen large airtankers are expected to be available nation wide in 2006. Authorized agency representatives may contact their [local dispatch center](#) for location updates and SEAT availability.



The contractor, [Queen Bee Air Specialties, Inc.](#) of Rigby, Idaho operates [Air Tractor model AT-802F](#), an 800 gallon Type III air tanker with loaded cruise speed of 196 mph. The normal drop speed on a fire is 120 to 125 mph.

These resources join other state firefighting resources such as 150 state wildland fire engines on loan to Colorado Sheriffs and fire departments, the three State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams ["SWIFT"](#) (type 2 hand crews); and the [high altitude helicopters](#) and [other aviation resources](#) of the Colorado Army National Guard.