

Chapter 4. WIMS basics

This chapter gives you the information you will need to understand and start using the WIMS system. Topics include:

- WIMS system hierarchy
- FastPaths
- WIMS messages
- Getting help

Reviewing and understanding the basic concepts outlined in this chapter will give you a smoother journey through the WIMS system.

WIMS system hierarchy

The WIMS hierarchical menu is organized to help you perform your job. Based on your access level you can access three basic functions from the WIMS Main Menu:

- From the Data Entry & Manipulation menu, you can enter, edit, and display weather observations, station information, and NFDRS indices and components. You can also create, edit, and list Access Control Lists (ACLs), Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and forecast data.
- From the NWSPROD menu, users can access forecast and smoke management information.
- From the WIMS Utilities menu, users can access user lists and individual profile setup.

WIMS hierarchy of menus and forms

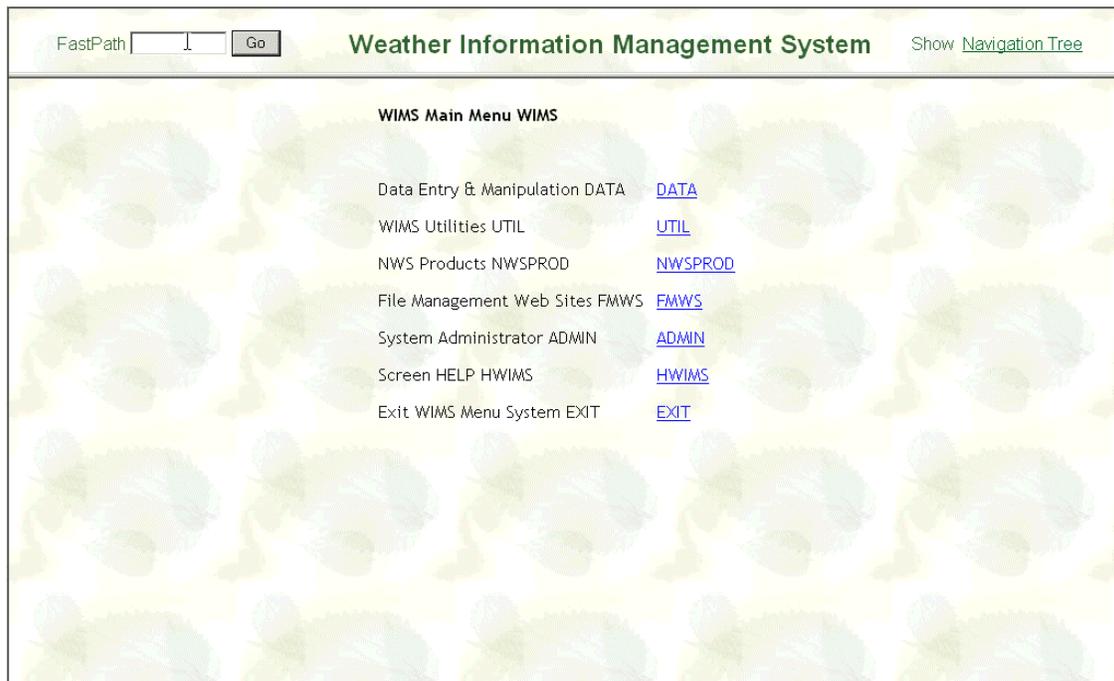
The following table illustrates the WIMS menu structure.

- ☐ [DATA](#) - Data Entry and Manipulation
 - ☐ [OBS](#) - Observations
 - [NOBS](#) - New Observations
 - [EOBS](#) - Edit Observations
 - [DOBS](#) - Display Observations
 - [DRAWS](#) - Display Remote Automatic Weather Stations
 - ☐ [FCST](#) - Forecasts
 - ☐ [DFCST](#) - Display Forecasts
 - [DPFCST](#) - Display Point Forecasts
 - [DTFCST](#) - Display Trend Forecasts
 - ☐ [NFCST](#) - New Forecasts
 - [NPFCST](#) - New Point Forecasts
 - [NTFCST](#) - New Trend Forecasts
 - ☐ [EFCST](#) - Edit Forecasts
 - [EPFCST](#) - Edit Point Forecasts
 - [ETFCST](#) - Edit Trend Forecasts
 - ☐ [STA](#) - Station Information
 - ☐ [MASTA](#) - Maintain Station
 - [NSTA](#) - New Station
 - [ESTA](#) - Edit Station
 - [LSTA](#) - List Stations
 - [DSTA](#) - Delete Stations
 - [ENFDR](#) - Display/Edit Default NFDRS Parameters
 - ☐ [MSIG](#) - Maintain Special Interest Groups
 - [NSIG](#) - New Special Interest Groups
 - [ESIG](#) - Edit Special Interest Groups
 - [DSIG](#) - Delete Special Interest Groups
 - [LSIG](#) - List Special Interest Group
 - [EAVG](#) - Display/Edit NFDRS Weight Assignments
 - ☐ [MAACL](#) - Maintain Access Control Lists
 - [NAACL](#) - New Access Control Lists
 - [EAACL](#) - Edit Access Control Lists
 - [DAACL](#) - Delete Access Control Lists
 - [LAACL](#) - List Access Control Lists
 - ☐ [DNFDR](#) - Display National Fire Danger Rating
 - [DIDX](#) - Display Index Format
 - [DIDM](#) - Display Index (Moist) Format
 - [DMGR](#) - Display Manager Format
 - [DSHR](#) - Display Short Format
 - [DAVG](#) - Display Weighted Average
 - [DABR](#) - Display Abbreviated Format
 - [PLST](#) - Data Capture for OBS/FCST/NFDR
 - ☐ [UTIL](#) - Utilities
 - [PROFILE](#) - Profile Setup
 - [LUSER](#) - WIMS User List
 - ☐ [NWSPROD](#) - NWS Products
 - [FWFCST](#) - Fire Weather Forecasts
 - [RED FLAG](#) - Red Flag Warnings
 - [SPOT](#) - Spot Forecasts
 - [SMOKE](#) - Smoke Management Forecasts
 - [ONARR](#) - Various Other Narratives
 - ☐ [FMWS](#) - Fire Management Web Sites
 - [NIFC](#) - National Interagency Fire Center
 - [FAMFAH](#) - F&AM Fire Application Helpdesk
 - [WFAS](#) - Wildland Fire Assessment System
 - [FWX](#) - Boise NWS FWX
 - [WRCC](#) - Western Regional Climate Center
 - [NWS](#) - National Weather Service
 - [USFSFTP](#) - U.S. Forest Service FTP Site
 - [RAWS](#) - Remote Automated Weather Station Homepage

Navigating the WIMS Web Application System

The WIMS Web Application System is a web-based application designed to provide the user with easy access to the WIMS system anywhere a user can access the web. There are essentially three methods for navigating the new WIMS Web Application system. The user can use FastPaths, which remain the same as those in place in the previous system, use the navigation tree, or the links on the menus to move between menus and forms.

The **WIMS Main Menu** displays upon logging in; by clicking the links the user can easily advance through the menus to access the appropriate menu.



Clicking the **Navigation Tree** link in the upper right corner of the browser window displays the navigation tree at any time. It displays available menus and/or forms and the FastPath for each.



The **FastPath** field is displayed in the upper left hand corner of the WIMS browser. Enter a FastPath and click Go to proceed directly to a particular form or menu.



WIMS forms also contain two basic elements:

The title of the WIMS form displays centered near the top of your browser window. Some WIMS title bars also display the FastPath of that form.

The query block contains a group of related fields that you complete to specify a particular WIMS record.

WIMS Web Interface Standard Buttons

WIMS uses several buttons on many forms. These buttons are defined in the table below:

Button	Meaning
	Selecting Find will perform a query based on the parameters you have specified in the form.
	Selecting Reset will reset all of the values you have entered on the current form.
	Selecting Save will save the values you have entered for the current form.
	Selecting Setup will setup the current form for data entry.

FastPath commands

FastPaths include specific prefixes that are common throughout the WIMS system:

N New
 E Edit
 D Display
 M Maintain
 H Help
 L List

FastPaths also include specific suffixes:

OBS Observations
 RAWS Remote Automatic Weather Station
 NFDR National Fire Danger Rating
 FCST Forecasts
 ACL Access Control List
 STA Station
 AVG NFDRS Weighted Averages
 SIG Special Interest Group

You can combine a FastPath prefix with a FastPath suffix to access a specific menu.

For example, from any WIMS menu you can type the FastPath OBS to go to the Observations menu. However, you can bypass the Observations menu and go directly to a specific observations form by typing:

- NOBS to go directly to New Observations
- EOBS to go directly to Edit Observations
- DOBS to go directly to Display Observations

To use a FastPath you must have sufficient access privilege for that menu or form. If you enter a FastPath and you are denied access, the following message displays:

Error: "FastPath" is not a valid module or you are not authorized!

For a list of menu names, FastPath commands, and access levels see Appendix A, "Menus, FastPaths, and Access Levels."

Getting Help

You can receive limited assistance using the current WIMS system help facility, including:

- General WIMS menu and form help

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.

You may also contact the F&AM Fire Applications Helpdesk in Boise, Idaho at 1-800-253-5559, or 208-387-5290. The helpdesk can also receive email at fire_help@dms.nwcg.gov. If customer support is unavailable, leave your name and WIMS logon ID, agency name, and a detailed message. If your problem is an emergency follow the voice-mail instructions to page a fire duty officer.