



2011 Season Report

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2011 Season Report:

Dromedary Peak's operational season began on Saturday April 30th, when rookie firefighters reported to the Lone Peak Conservation Center to receive their training with wildland power saws by taking the S-212. Over the course of the next three days each incoming crewmember received both classroom and field instruction on how to properly operate and maintain chainsaws.

On Monday May 2nd, returning personnel already qualified with chainsaw operations completed their required annual fire line refresher while others finished their S-212 field day by successfully demonstrating safe operating procedures to instructors in the field. The remainder of the week was spent preparing equipment for the delivery of three new 2011 Dodge chassis for the crew carriers. Unfortunately delivery of the new vehicles was delayed for several weeks and the crew was forced to adapt to a wide variety of borrowed crew transportation until final delivery of new chassis was made in early June.

The next three weeks of May found the crew completing a number of local commute projects around the greater Salt Lake area. Chipping projects were completed at the Uinta Highlands, Woodland Hills, and Cherry Canyon housing developments.

On May 26th the crew traveled to Johnson's Pass in Tooele County to complete a two day field training exercise aimed at preparing the crew for the annual base review that would allow the Initial Attack Module to go available for fire dispatch. Instructions on operations of belt weather kits, hand held radios, and GPS units were conducted. Following the field instruction a mock fire exercise was performed with the entire crew focused on building crew cohesion and improving skills in communications, line construction, gridding, etc.

The following week Dromedary's annual base review was conducted with the supervisory staff at Lone Peak. Meant to ensure compliance with LPCC SOP's as well as national guidelines, Dromedary's IA Module equipped with the newly delivered buggies, were inspected and drilled to ensure readiness for dispatch. Upon successful completion, Dromedary's IA Module went available for fire dispatch the following week.

On June 6th, the crew mobilized for its first campout project. Sent to the southwest area to work for the state's Cedar City office, the crew completed one fuel break project and began another before returning home.



June 14th found the crew returned to the SW area once again to begin an 8 day campout project on a demonstration fuel break on Southern

Utah University property outside Cedar City. The fuels in the area consisted of mainly black spruce and lodge pole pine, giving the crew ample opportunity to practice their timber falling skills. The crew returned the following week to complete the unit.

The first fire dispatch of the season occurred on Sunday afternoon, July 3rd. Dromedary's IA Module was mobilized to respond to the Red Butte fire in Salt Lake County. The crew responded to the ICP at approximately 18:00 hours and worked until midnight helping to construct direct fire line. After bedding down to comply with the work to rest ratio, the crew spent a full shift on July 4th finishing line construction, mopping up, and patrolling fire lines. The fire was contained at 80 acres. Following demob the crew finished the week with a three day campout project at Woods Ranch in which five acres of county park land were cleared of hazard trees.



After a quick day of rest the IA module was mobilized to support the Cold Springs Rx burn. Located on the Tavaputs Plateau, the goal of the prescription was to restore primary aspen habitat in the area with the implementation of prescribed fire. Unfortunately, due to heavy rainfall the prescription window was not met and on Monday July 11th, the burn was canceled and the crew released. For the remainder of the week the crew performed a hazard tree falling assignment around properties in Argyle Canyon, north of Price.

On July 17th, the IA module received a dispatch to the Lakeside Fire in western Tooele County. The module spent four operational shifts mopping up, patrolling lines, and monitoring fire behavior. The fire was contained at 12,000 acres. Simultaneously, the fuels module began a fuel break assignment in the Central Area, continuing a fuel break around the Mt. Pleasant Boy Scouts camp, a project that the crew had begun during the 2010 season.



During the last week of July the crew was sent to begin work on the West Government Creek habitat restoration project, southeast of Dugway. Aimed at restoring habitat for both mule deer and sage grouse, the project entailed hand thinning stands of juniper over a total of 1700 acres. After the second operational shift of the week the IA Module received a dispatch to the Rudd Canyon fire located on the Wasatch front just east of Farmington.



Arriving at the ICP for the Rudd Canyon fire just before 22:00 the crew was immediately put to work constructing direct hand line on the south side of the fire. Working through the night the crew bedded down after sunrise and upon obtaining the proper rest ratio returned to the fire to complete another operational shift. Helping to complete mop up, patrol line, and pull hose.

The beginning of August began with the crew assigned to a falling and chipping project at the Moose Hollow development in Summit

County. It was the crew's first commute project since May. The next week saw a return to the West Govt. Creek project and the following week a return to the Central Area to complete another fuel break.



Following the seasonal shut down of the crew on August 18th, seasonal personnel that did not return to school were placed with other LPCC modules for the remainder of the season. Additionally, a short squad of five dromedary personnel continued for an additional four weeks completing projects for the state's northeast area. During that time the module also responded to a fire on BIA land, spending three shifts on the fire patrolling and mopping up. By the end of the second week of September the remaining Dromedary personnel were placed with other modules to complete the season.

The 2011 season provided Dromedary Peak personnel with ample opportunity to gain valuable field experience. The crew worked thirteen projects for a total of 487 hours between May and the middle of August. The IA module was assigned to four separate fires for a total of 135 hours during the same period. Each assignment offered experiential opportunities for all Dromedary Peak personnel in operation of forestry equipment and implementation of suppression tactics. Two Dromedary

personnel were able to complete position task books while on assignments with other LPCC resources. All project and suppression hours were completed without significant injury to any personnel. With the experience gained in 2011 Dromedary Peak is poised for another great year in 2012!