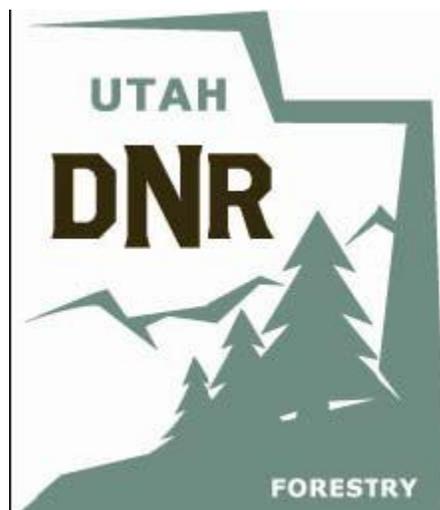
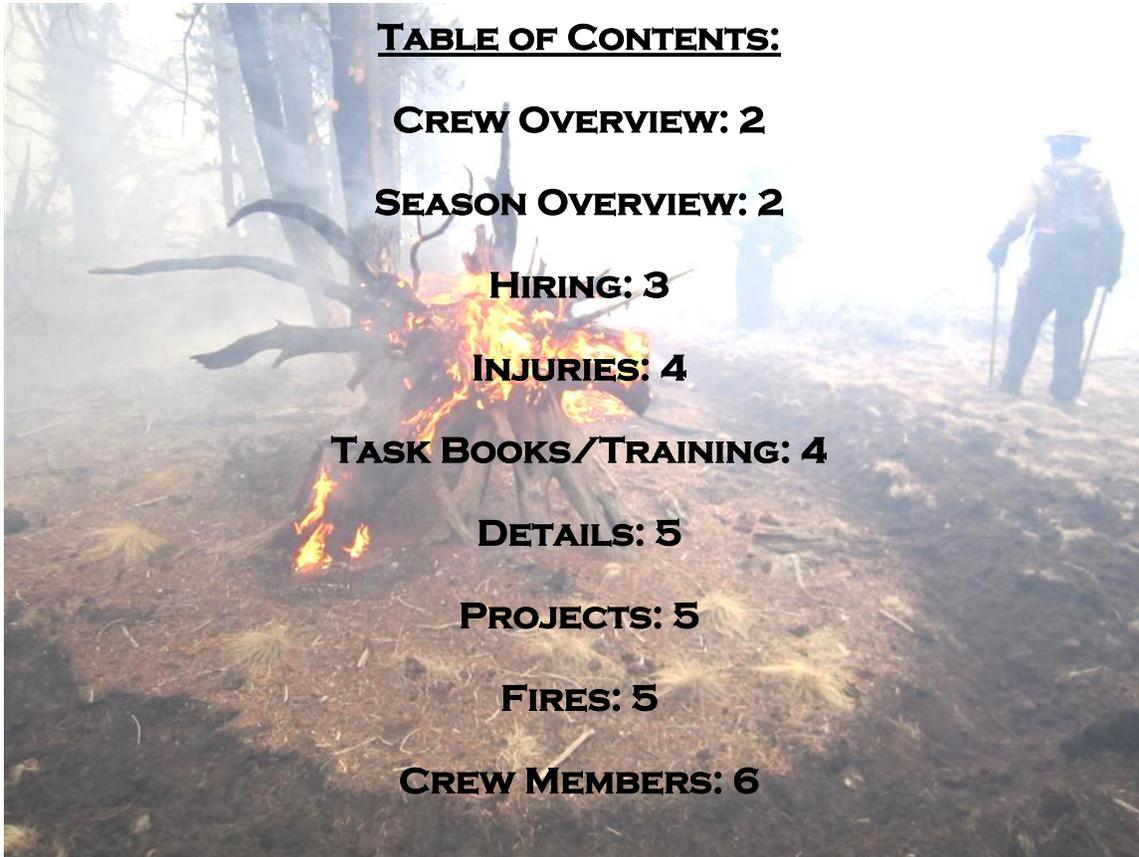




LONE PEAK HOTSHOTS 2011

END OF SEASON REPORT





CREW OVERVIEW:

The Lone Peak Hotshots are a nationally recognized Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC), based out of the Lone Peak Conservation Center, in Draper, Utah. Established in 2001 under a cooperative partnership between the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Lone Peak became the first state managed hotshot crew in the nation. Operating under this partnership, Lone Peak is held to all of the national IHC standards that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management hotshot crews must follow in addition to strict state standards. Two notable differences from other Interagency Hotshot Crews are: Lone Peak IHC must be available nationally for dispatch 180 days between (May 1 and Oct. 31) each year and seasonal employees are allowed the option to be call when needed during the winter months.

SEASON OVERVIEW:

The 2011 fire season officially started for LPIHC on Friday, April 29, when the crew received a resource order to the Sand Gulch fire in Southern Colorado. The early fire dispatch set the tone for the season as Lone Peak would spend 139 days committed to incidents in nine different states across the country. From Utah, Florida and Idaho to Minnesota the crew travelled, worked, and lived together for what amounted to the third busiest fire season in Lone Peak Hotshot's ten year history. The crew officially went unavailable on Friday, October 28 after being available nationally for 183 days.

The crew was hired on Wednesday, April 13 and immediately spent two weeks in a very comprehensive critical training that focused on going back to the basics of firefighting. Physical fitness and crew cohesion were stressed heavily everyday during critical training. Fire behavior, chain saw use, line construction, and emergency medical situations were common themes covered and reinforced throughout training. Being mid-April in Northern Utah, the weather was very uncooperative and only allowed two full days of field training. None the less, the crew was prepared for and passed the rigorous Interagency Hotshot Crew Review on April 27, 2011.

Fire dispatches steadily came in after Colorado. In mid-May the crew spent thirteen days in Arizona and New Mexico and immediately dispatched out again to the Apalachicola National Forest in North-Western Florida. Fighting fire during the month of June was a great test for the crew, as temperatures were consistently above 105 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidities in the 60% range. In these conditions, fighting off heat stress and fatigue was as much of a battle as fighting the fires themselves.



After Florida, the West Desert District of the Salt Lake BLM became the crew's home for the next month and a half. Twelve desert fires in and around the Salt Lake Valley rounded out July and most of August. On August 25, the desert finally released its grip when the crew reported to the Salmon Challis National Forest for the Salt Fire. When the crew arrived the fire was reported at 100 acres and growing. After a long fourteen days of spiking out, line construction, line prep., burn-outs and mop-up the fire was 22,000 acres and showed no sign of letting up.

After the Salt fire and a couple local initial attack fires, LPIHC was surprised with a late September dispatch to the 100,000 acre Pagami Creek Fire in Northern Minnesota. Beautiful fall like conditions greeted the crew upon arrival and so did the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Canoeing to the fireline was an everyday occurrence. The crew spent the entire 14 day roll on the same division and in the same spike camps.

The Pagami Creek Fire was the last fire LPIHC fought in 2011. Some late season project work and a six day road trip to Texas finished out October. After a final crew dinner and some 2011 crew awards were presented, the crew disbanded for the winter on November 2, 2011.

HIRING:

The overhead staff on Lone Peak experienced a large amount of movement during the winter of 2010-2011. Kris Bruington (previous Assist. Superintendent) accepted the Superintendent position in January and soon after hired Preston Ley (previous squad leader) as the Assistant Superintendent. To back fill behind Kris and Preston, two permanent squad leader positions were filled. One squad leader position was filled internally with Darren O'Loughlin and the other externally with Matt Schrier. Darren has been with LPIHC since 2009 and Matt came back to the crew after gaining a season with Salt Lake Helitack.

For the 2011 fire season, two lead crewmember positions were also filled internally. James Norvell and Ryan LaFontaine were both interviewed and promoted to be lead crew members. James and Ryan both moved up from being Sawyers in 2010.



Hiring for seasonal positions on Lone Peak was, once again, competitive for the 2011 fire season. Sixty-seven applications were processed and twenty-two interviews were conducted for a total of eight crew member positions. Two positions were filled internally; hired after detailing onto the crew last season from other Lone Peak Conservation Center resources. The other six positions were filled by experienced firefighters from various locations throughout the U.S. including three from the Rio Hondo Wildland Fire Academy in Southern California.

INJURIES:

Lone Peak Hotshots had one lost time injury in 2011. This injury was due to first and small second degree burns sustained while holding a dozer line during a burnout on the Salt Fire. Due to the nature of burns, the crewmember required multiple days off to facilitate healing in a clean, sanitary environment.

TRAINING/TASK BOOKS:

Training and self development are a large part of Lone Peak's daily crew operations. During the 2011 fire season, LPIHC focused on conducting more informal training for all crewmembers. This was different from years past, as training assignments took on a more informal, seniority based, and relied heavily on completion of open taskbooks. From the beginning of the fire season, overhead and crew members alike were pushed to seek out opportunities for self improvement and training. This new tactic allowed LPIHC to complete numerous training assignments for each of the crewmembers. In addition to the informal training, LPIHC was able to complete the following taskbooks: TFLD, ICT4, HECM, (2) FFT1.

While working the Salt Fire on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, LPIHC had the opportunity to have Kris Bruington and Ryan LaFontaine evaluated as C-Fallers. Kris and Ryan spent the better part of a day working with C-Certifiers from Palomar Hotshots cutting large hazard trees along a ridgeline being prepared for burnout. After showing proficiency cutting multiple trees, both Kris and Ryan were signed off as C-Fallers; bringing the crew total up to three.



DETAILS:

Due largely to a rebuilding season, opportunities for details were very limited in 2011. In August, LPIHC secured a one month detail for a lead crewmember to Mountain Green Helitack on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The detail was created to help train on and finish an open HECM taskbook, as well as provide Mountain Green with additional personnel to staff their helitack module. Additionally, the crew worked on inter-agency partnerships and brought on a Uintah Wasatch Cache Crew Boss Trainee for a three week assignment period. This individual was able to gain the necessary training needed to complete her final evaluation period to sign off the CRWB taskbook.

2011 PROJECTS:

Project	Total Man Hours Committed	Type of Project
Hwy 143	231	Right-Of-Way Enhancement Cut/Chip
West Government Creek	840	Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Lop/Scatter

2011 FIRES:

Mgmt. Level (e.g. I, II, III, IV, or IA)	Risk Type (WF, RX)	Date	Incident Name	Incident Number	Operation Periods (# of Periods)	Fire Size Class	Fuel Type
III	WF	4/29-5/8	Sand Gulch	CO-PSF-000498	7	E	2,9
III	WF	5/8-5/13	Snyder Creek	CO-PSF-000561	3	D	1,2,9
	WF	5/17-5/20	R3 Large Fire Prepo	NM-R03-000006	4		
III	WF	5/21-5/26	Wallow	NM-GNF-000407	6	C	2,6,9
II	WF	5/26-6/2	Miller	NM-GNF-000337	4	G	1,2,6,9
IV	WF	6/8-6/11	4A	FL-FNF-011022	4	E	7
III	WF	6/12-6/26	Apalachicola ABCD Misc	FL-FNF-011011	10		7
III	WF	7/3-7/4	Red Butte	UT-NWS-000160	2	C	1,6
V	WF	7/7	Olympus	UT-NWS-000161	1	B	1
III	WF	7/16-7/18	Lakeside	UT-SLD-000213	3	G	1
III	WF	7/19-7/20	Goosenest	UT-SLD-000225	2	E	1
IV	WF	7/20-7/22	Topliff	UT-SLD-000226	3	D	1
III	WF	7/22	Dyno	UT-NWS-110240	1	E	1
IV	WF	8/1-8/3	Wood Canyon	NV-BMD-000217	1	D	1
IV	WF	8/4-8/5	White Rock North	UT-NWS-000296	1	E	1
IV	WF	8/5-8/6	Soldier	UT-SLD-000303	1	B	6
III	WF	8/7-8/10	Chaparral	UT-SLD-000309	4	F	1,6
III	WF	8/13-8/14	Bell Canyon	UT-NWS-000344	2	C	1,6
III	WF	8/15-8/17	Drive Inn	ID-EIX-011010	2	E	1,6
IV	WF	8/20	Elderberry	UT-SLD-000383	1	C	1
III	WF	8/21-8/24	2.5 Mile	ID-IFD-011014	3	E	1,6
I	WF	8/25-9/13	Salt	ID-SCF-011202	14	G	6,9
IV	WF	9/17	Parrish	UT-WCF-000612	1	C	1,6
IV	WF	9/17-9/18	Lookout Mtn.	UT-WCF-000614	2	B	1,6
I	WF	9/19-10/9	Pagami Creek	MN-SUF-110519	14	G	8,9,10
II	WF	10/22-10-27	SE Texas Fire Complex	TX-TXS-012009	0		

2011 CREW:

SUPERINTENDENT: KRIS BRUINGTON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT: PRESTON LEY

ALPHA SQUAD

SQUAD LEADER:
BRENT MORRISON
LEAD CREWMEMBER:
RYAN LAFONTAINE
CREWMEMBERS:
ANDREW GIUNTA
STEVE MICHEALIS
MATT MORTENSEN
TIM CASPERSON

BRAVO SQUAD

SQUAD LEADER:
DARREN O'LOUGHLIN
LEAD CREWMEMBER:
NATE MOELLER
CREWMEMBERS:
BRENDAN COCKRUM
KADELL DEASON
MIKE ANTHONY
SERGIO LARA

CHARLIE SQUAD

SQUAD LEADER:
MATT SCHRIER
LEAD CREWMEMBER:
JAMES NORVELL
CREWMEMBERS:
DAN LANG
ADAM EVERETT
RYAN HOPKINS
ALEX HICKS
ZACH BEERMAN



2011 DETAILERS:
NATE BARRONS, KEVIN FRANK, SETH SPAIN, MONICA WALLIN