



# 2008 Season Report

Prepared By: Scott Nielson

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**Twin Peaks Initial Attack**  
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands  
271 West Bitterbrush Lane Draper, UT 84020  
Phone: 801-571-0900 Fax: 801-571-2062

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# 2008 Season Summary

Twin Peaks went available for the 2008 fire season on May 5th. The season got off to a slow start, we didn't get our first fire until June 17<sup>th</sup> with the Corn Creek fire in Escalante, Utah. The slow early season provided the opportunity for Twin Peaks to practice cutting, piling and chipping on fuels reduction projects in southern Utah near Zion's National Park and in northern Utah on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains.



Our dispatch to Corn Creek was met with complete enthusiasm as we were starting our fourth fuels reduction assignment in Manor Lands. The Corn Creek was the first taste of fire for our rookie firefighters and for the 2008 Twin Peaks crew as a whole. The first couple of shifts were hot and we got some good experience fighting fire in Pinion-Juniper, Sage Brush and Gamble Oak. Mop-up provided a few more operational shifts and a micro-burst wind storm at the Incident Command Post offered the excitement of the full size meal tent blown down then propelled across the length of the football field finally stopped over 100 yards away by a chain link fence. We provided 1<sup>st</sup> aid to a couple people injured when the tent came down and assisted in tent recovery.



On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 4 days after returning to Draper from the Corn Creek, we received a dispatch to a local fire in Spanish Fork canyon but were diverted in order to initial attack the Molly II in the foothills of Payson. Again, we got some good experience constructing line in Gamble Oak on steep terrain. The Molly II was good for a couple days. We demobilized on the third, returned to Draper, and that afternoon received a call to the South Hansel fire in northern Utah. Upon arrival, we briefed, and then commenced firing out. The South Hansel proved to be a typical desert fire and was good for only a couple of shifts, again we demobilized on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.



Independence Day passed without incident, but on the 5<sup>th</sup>, we did pick up a brush fire that resulted from the previous day's celebration. The Kennecott fire near the Great Salt Lake kept us busy for one day.

The second week of July was completely quiet. While not as slow as May, we were nearing the mid point of the season, and had yet to be on a roll lasting more than a week. However, this would soon change.



Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and we were off to the Wagstaff fire in northeastern Utah. This fire was similar to the season's previous desert fires but with more challenging terrain. After two shifts on the Wagstaff, we were fortunate enough to be reassigned to the New Fork fire near Pinedale WY. We did good work and caught our part of the fire on a beautiful piece of ground adjacent to the New Fork Lake before the IMT decided to let that piece of ground go as part of the WFU strategy. Rain and WFU limited our New Fork work to 3 shifts; we were then heading toward Draper, hoping for reassignment.

July 12<sup>th</sup> brought a dispatch to Northern California and an assignment on the Butte Lightning Complex near Chico. Here we gained invaluable experience in many aspects of firefighting. The size, complexity, and duration of the assignment provided numerous opportunities for experience constructing handline, burning out, directing buckets, coordinating sling loads, working with engines and felling and snagging. We finished out the month of July in California and got our first and only 14 day roll.



After the New Fork, we spent the weekend On-Call and were dispatched to the China Complex on the Nez Peirce Forest in Central ID the morning of Monday, August 11th. This 35 acre fire in brush and sub-alpine fir kept us busy for 3 shifts, and again we were heading back to Draper, available for reassignment.



Our stay at home after the China Complex afforded only one day of On-Call before we were dispatched to southern Oregon. We left Draper on the evening of the August 18<sup>th</sup> and arrived at the Prospect ranger station Tuesday afternoon.



There were numerous initial attacks in progress on the forest and we were assigned to the Lonesome fire with our first shift to start the following morning. Things looked good for staying busy for quite some time, however, the following day brought significant rain and the associated decrease in fire behavior. Our stint on the Lonesome fire was comprised of one week of mop-up, gridding, rehab and the highpoint; snagging operations. Unable to obtain reassignment from Medford dispatch, we were again heading to Draper with a stop at Crater Lake for a crew photo.



The trip home from the Lonesome was similar to previous trips; again available for reassignment, but different in a couple respects. First, we had the good fortune of being reassigned, so the roll continued. We were to report to the Porcupine Ranch fire in Castle Valley near Moab, UT. Timing and good luck made it possible to remaining overnight in SLC and the associated opportunity for crewmembers to spend the night in their own beds, but not until each had taken a preemptive visit to a WCF provider to get debugged. One night in SLC and we were en-route to the Porcupine Ranch incident.

Porcupine Ranch kept us busy for two shifts before rain shut things down and we were released on day 12.

The rain that fell on Castle Valley was wide spread and slowed fire region wide. After one day of R&R, a couple days off, and a couple days On-Call with no dispatch, we geared up for a trail re-construction job near Enterprise, Utah, our first project in 12 weeks. After 5 days of trail work and a couple days of travel we received our second dispatch to Oregon.



Re-assignment to the Kitson fire on the Willamette Forest involved a lovely drive around Diamond Lake and Thielson Peak, a lunch stop in Chemult, and a half a shift of staging (our only staging assignment of the season). Our work on the Kitson didn't last as long as we had hoped. The hot dry weather forecasted didn't lead to the expected fire growth; we did however get five operational shifts on the Kitson which put us into October. We began travel to Draper on day 14.



We departed the morning of Sept.18 and arrived at the Rattle ICP on the Tokotee airstrip that afternoon. The Rattle's contain and confine strategy dictated road prep for the first shift, followed by five shifts of lining slops, plumbing and mop-up, and more snagging operations.



October brought an outlook that called for cold, wet weather. The season's end was shaping up like the start with fires few and far between. We finished the season with a fire rehab project near Draper and final fuels reduction project near Brian Head Ski resort.

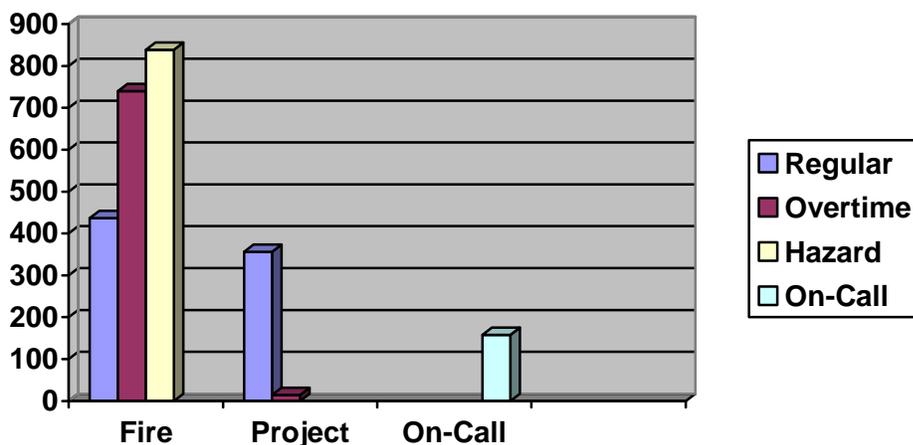
## Dates of Availability for Twin Peaks Personnel

Name	Position	Duration
Scott Nielson	Crew Boss	5 May to 17 October
Sean Murray	Captain	5 May to 17 October
Brian Childs	Captain	5 May to 17 October
Craig Gehling	Squad Leader	5 May to 17 October
Eric Evans	Squad Leader	5 May to 17 October
Josh Quinn	Lead Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Rob Boren	Lead Saw	5 May to 17 October
Kevin Frank	Lead Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Corey Stone	Sawyer	5 May to 17 October
Ryan LaFontaine	Sawyer	5 May to 17 October
Christian Berninger	Sawyer	5 May to 17 October
Kenny Cain	Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Darren O'Loughlin	Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Kevin Walters	Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Sean Mathis	Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Mike Thomas	Rookie Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
AdamThorson	Rookie Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Casey McFarlane	Rookie Crew Member	5 May to 17 October
Steven Taggart	Rookie Crew Member	28 July to 17 October
Cole DeJong	Rookie Crew Member	August 11 to 17 October
Kevin Schaum	Rookie Crew Member	August 11 to 17 October
James Norvell	Crew Member	June 10 to 10 July
Alex Easton	Rookie Crew Member	5 May to 8 August
Sean Reay	Crew Member	5 May to 5 July

## Twin Peaks 2008 Incident Information

Incident Dates	State	Mgnt Type	Fuel Type	Fire Size	Incident Name
6/17 – 6/24	UT	II	1,4,8	F	Corn Creek
6/29-7/1	UT	IV	1,4,6	C	Molly II
7/1-7/3	UT	III	1,4,6,8	E	South Hansel
7/5	UT	IV	1,2,6	C	Kennecott
7/12-7/31	CA	I	2,4,9,10	G	BTU Lightning Complex
8/2-8/4	UT	III	1,4,6,8	E	Wagstaff
8/4-8/8	WY	II	1,4,6,10	G	New Fork
8/11-8/16	ID	III	2,4,9	C	China Complex
8/18-8/28	OR	IV	2,4,9,10	E	Lonesome Complex
8/29-9/1	UT	II	1,4,6,8	F	Porcupine Ranch
9/18-9/26	OR	I	2,4,9,10	G	Rattle
9/26-10/3	OR	II	2,4,9,10	E	Kitson

## Twin Peaks 2008 Hours



Twin Peaks finished the 2008 season with 740 hours of overtime, 835 Hazard Pay hours and 415 regular hours on fire. Project work provided 356 regular hours and 14 overtime hours. We earned the equivalent of 150 hours for On-Call pay.

## **Twin Peaks 2008 Season Data summary**

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Start Date: 5 May  
End Date: 17 October

Number of Fires: 12  
Fire Days in State: 21  
Fire Days in Out of State: 58  
Fire Days Total: 79  
Fire Base Hours: 415  
Fire Overtime Hours: 740  
Total Fire Hours: 1155  
Hazard Pay Hours: 835

Projects: 9  
Number of Days on Projects: 35  
Total Project Hours: 370  
On Call Hours: 153  
Number of Career Personnel: 2  
CRWB Task Book Certified: 1  
FFT1/ICT5 Task Book Certified: 4