

2012 Season Report:

The 2012 operational season began for Dromedary Peak on April 30th when all seasonal employees reported for duty at the Lone Peak Conservation Center. The first two weeks of the season involved crew members completing a variety of training courses, drills, and training exercises. For Rookie crew members, the S-212 was their first challenge. For many the course was their first introduction to chainsaws and included two days of class work followed by a field day, in which each individual was required to show competence in safely operating the equipment, as well as demonstrating techniques to the instructors. For returning employees each crew member attended the RT-130 annual fire line refresher and the S-131, advanced firefighter course. Returning employees also assisted LPCC staff in chainsaw instruction during the S-212 field day.

Dromedary Peak's primary mission is the completion of pre-suppression fuels mitigation projects for the State of Utah. This requires that each member be competent in chainsaw operations as well as other power equipment. One primary tool the crew utilizes during project assignments are Vermeer brush chippers. During the first week each crew member attended a training session associated with the equipment's use, safety, and maintenance. These opportunities help to ensure the safe and efficient work flow for the crew during the duration of the season.

While fuels mitigation is Dromedary's primary mission, the crew is also a fire suppression resource for the State of Utah. Thus the crew is required to be a competent fire fighting resource as well. At the start of the second week the crew traveled to Johnson's Pass in Tooele County to complete a two day mock

fire training exercise. During the two day drill the crew worked together to dig fire line, work on communication skills, grid, and improve overall cohesion among crew members. Following the Johnson's Pass drills the crew prepped for their annual base review with LPCC supervisory staff. The base review ensures that all crew equipment, personnel, and personnel certifications are up to NWCG standards. With the base review completed successfully, the crew was ready to start the season.

Uncharacteristically for Dromedary, the field season began with a fire dispatch during the crew's very first week of availability. On Tuesday May 15th, the crew received a resource order for the West Neola fire in Duchesne County.



Ten firefighters were dispatched to the fire location while the ten remaining crew members proceeded to a fuels project site. On the W. Neola fire only one operational shift was required to assist the local resources in containing the fire and the IA module quickly tied in with the rest of the crew to complete the week working on a fuels project removing hazard trees in Argyle Canyon. Over the course of the next five weeks Dromedary Peak traveled around the state, working on fuels projects in Duchesne, Beaver, and Weber counties. Additionally the crew helped to complete a wildlife habitat restoration project in Tooele county that LPCC resources had begun during the 2011 season.

On Monday June 25th, Dromedary Peak was ordered to respond as a full twenty person handcrew to the newly started Church Camp fire in Duchesne county. Due to wind, extremely dry conditions, and heavy fuel loading, the initial attack of the Church Camp fire proved unsuccessful. Over the next fourteen days the Dromedary Peak crew assisted in suppressing the fire. Dromedary became one of many resources involved in an all out effort to extinguish the blaze, an effort that involved numerous Hotshot crews, helicopters, engines, and a type 2 incident management team. During the assignment Dromedary personnel were able to participate in a full range of suppression operations, ranging from direct line construction, to mop up, and burn outs. Near the end of the assignment the crew even had the opportunity to experience helicopter transport when the crew was flown in to a section of line on an inaccessible portion of the fire. The Church Camp fire marked the first time in the programs history that Dromedary Peak completed an entire fourteen day tour.



Two days of mandatory rest followed the crew's assignment on the Church Camp fire. On July 12th the crew reported to LPCC expecting a day of training and refurb, but was instead dispatched to the Flood Canyon fire in Tooele county. As one of the initial attack resources Dromedary Peak was tasked once again with a variety of assignments during the four days the crew spent assigned to the incident. Crew members were challenged with

temperatures above 100 degrees and extremely steep and inaccessible terrain.

Following release from the Flood Canyon incident the crew returned to project work after a day of rest. The crew completed a fuels project in Argyle Canyon before being sent to the Boy Scout camp in San Pete county. The crew worked tirelessly for over a week straight in order to help complete a fuel break around the camp in time for the next batch of campers to occupy the facility.

The second week of August began with the crew being assigned to a project in the state's southwest area. The HOA around Quichapa Lake, west of Cedar City, requested the cooperation of the state in the construction of shaded fuel breaks to protect the community in the event of a wildfire. The crew endured temperatures of 104 degrees and blazing sunshine for four days while implementing the planned fuel break. Late on the afternoon of August 10th, while still completing the fuel break, the crew received a dispatch to the Little Pine fire west of Enterprise, Utah.

State officials requested that the Dromedary Peak crew accept four detailers from the state's Cedar City office to accompany the crew on the dispatch to Little Pine. This helped bring Dromedary's personnel numbers back to the minimum required of a hand crew and provided training opportunities for the Cedar City personnel. Due to requests from other crews at LPCC some Dromedary personnel had recently been placed with other crews to backfill their manifests. Upon arrival at the incident Dromedary Peak was once again tasked with a wide variety of assignments. One squad was tasked with flying by helicopter to a remote section of the fire while the remaining squads constructed saw line in front of two BIA handcrews that were constructing direct handline. Over the course of the four day

assignment the crew gained more experience in handline construction, mop up, and patrol.

The Little Pine fire turned out to be Dromedary's final assignment as a crew for the season. Upon release from the incident on August 14th, the crew returned to Lone Peak to begin the shut down process for the crew's season. After crew vehicles and equipment were accounted for, selected Dromedary personnel that were not returning to school were placed with other LPCC resources to fill gaps on their manifests. Three individuals were placed with the Twin Peaks IA crew, two with the Lone Peak Hotshots, and one with Engine 1668. Altogether six Dromedary members were immediately placed with other resources at LPCC following the crew's shut down, in addition to one individual previously placed with the Alta Handcrew. Three other non student crew members agreed to remain on call without pay in the event the additional project work or fire assignments became available.

Following the yearly dissolution of the crew Dromedary Peak overhead became available for other assignments. The crew assistant supervisor successfully completed two fourteen day assignments with the USFS's Wasatch Helitack. During this time, the assistant completed several training assignments, as well as provided training opportunities for personnel working for the helitack module. The crew supervisor completed a two week detail with a county fire warden, completed an ICT4 training assignment, and participated as a squad boss with the USFS's Weber Basin Job Corps handcrew for a fourteen day assignment on the Halstead fire in central Idaho. By late September an additional two Dromedary crew members had been placed with the Twin Peaks crew and one with Engine 1668.

All told Dromedary Peak was available for fire assignments for a total of 96 days and

spent 23 days assigned to fires. The crew worked 35 days on projects for a total of 395 hours.



