

DROMEDARY PEAK FUELS CREW

2014 SEASON REPORT



Dromedary Peak 2014

The 2014 field season was a successful season for The Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew and its members. The majority of the Crew's time was spent supporting fuels reduction projects across the State of Utah. Throughout the summer Dromedary helped to suppress 7 wildfires here in Utah, and 3 in California.

The Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew officially began the season on April 28th with our annual 80 hours of critical training. During our training rookie crew members attended S-212 chainsaw training while returning crewmembers attended a variety of classes including the RT-130 and S-131. Different Instructional stations provided the crew with the basics of chipper operations, helicopter flight drills, crew transportation, crew SOGs, and physical fitness training.

The final day of critical training, before our base review, involved the crew traveling to Johnson's Pass in Tooele county to participate in a mock fire exercise with Engines 1667 and 1668. The field day was constructed to provide a realistic simulation of what the crew faces during a wildland fire initial attack. The exercise provided a good opportunity for the crew to begin learning their fire-line roles and building cohesion. Sawyers had the opportunity to construct saw line through thick juniper and sage while the rest of the crew followed constructing hand line. Throughout the exercise all crewmembers participated in gridding for spot fires, operating different GPS units, programming radios, and utilizing belt weather kits to spin weather. A medical scenario was also built into the field day with the intention of fostering our EMT's medical skills and introducing new crewmembers to the "Incident within an Incident" and Dutch Creek Protocol.

On the Friday following the Johnson's Pass exercise the crew prepared for their annual base review at Lone Peak Conservation Center with the center's overhead. LPCC overhead reviewed Dromedary's administrative preparedness, crew readiness, and equipment preparedness while crewmembers went through a series of instructional stations, including a sand table exercise. Dromedary was made available with the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center for wildland fire assignments May 9th.

Dromedary's first two weeks of project work was completed in the Northeast area of the state. These projects offered Dromedary a chance to start building some good fundamental chainsaw skills with our new sawyers in small diameter oak brush. New sawyers were also able to learn by watching more experienced sawyers cutting larger diameter, more complex aspen snags.

Our third week of project work found Dromedary Peak in Argyle Canyon. The mission in Argyle was to finish a fuel break along a ridge line road that bordered USFS property. On the

second day (May 28th) Dromedary was dispatched from Argyle Canyon to the Golden Stairs Fire which was east of Tabiona Utah. The crew spent three shifts suppressing the fire. Fire behavior was fairly minimal on the Golden Stairs fire so this provided some great training opportunities for the crew. In addition to introducing rookies to the wildland fire environment The Golden Stairs fire provided the opportunity for a crew boss training assignment, and also was the final ICT4 training assignment for Nate Barrons.

The month of June found the Camels on fuels reduction projects in Argyle Canyon, Weber Canyon, Pineview Estates, and Mount Pleasant. The Argyle Canyon project provided the opportunity for two returning Dromedary sawyers to successfully acquire their B Faller certifications.

Dromedary spent the first day of July on the Ballard fuels reduction project near Kolob Reservoir. This project was at 8,500 feet of elevation, in thick conifer and aspen. The Ballard fuels project offered the sawyers on Dromedary a large number of complex felling and bucking situations in a safe environment, it was a great learning experience for the crew. Dromedary was also able to certify an additional B-sawyer on this project.



The evening of July 1st brought a significant amount of lightning to the New Harmony and Cedar City Areas. The crew had a good view of the lightning show from the edge of Kolob Canyon that evening. By 2300 that night multiple new starts were reported and Color Country Dispatch had asked Dromedary to check in with them down in Cedar City first thing in the morning on July 2nd.

Upon check-in with dispatch, Dromedary was sent to the Honeycomb fire. The Honeycomb fire was reported as 2 lightning strike fires (in close proximity to each other) on a hillside above Enterprise Reservoir. Engine 1667 was also dispatched to the Honeycomb fire. After obtaining a briefing from the local fire warden, 1667 was tasked with taking action on the lower fire, and Dromedary the upper fire. We were also able to locate 2 previously un-detected

lightning strike fires on different aspects of the same mountain. Minimal fire behavior on these fires provided the opportunity for Dromedary to complete an ICT5 training assignment for one of our squad leaders on the new start lowest in elevation.



The Honeycomb incident was deemed "contained" by 1500. At that time dispatch sent Dromedary to the Basin fire. The Basin Fire was about 15 miles to the Northwest and reporting structures threatened with active fire behavior. The crew spent the next 5 days on the Basin Fire, ultimately turning it back over to the local BLM district. The Honeycomb and Basin fire assignments were eye openers for many and subsequently great conditioning assignments for the crew. This was the first time many crewmembers had ever worked in 100 degree heat all day, multiple days in a row.



The second and third weeks of July found Dromedary working for a cooperator on two different fuels reduction projects in Sanpete County. The crew's goal on these projects was to create a fuel break below two different groups of houses in the urban interface by removing gambel oak and pinyon juniper trees. Cut debris was stacked into burn piles to be burned in a controlled manner over the winter.

On the morning of July 20th the crew mobilized to respond to the Indian Fire at the mouth of Ogden Canyon. The Indian fire was very typical of a Wasatch front fire, steep, hot, lots of resources, and short lived. The crew worked in conjunction with Wasatch Helitack to construct direct line, from an anchor point, around the head of the fire while engines and other crews filled in behind us.

After completing two shifts on the Indian Fire, Dromedary was sent to the Anaconda Fire in Tooele County on the morning of July 22nd. Upon arrival at the incident Dromedary was given the eastern flank of the fire. We had about 1.5 miles of open line through mature gambel oak, bitter brush, and grass. With westerly winds affecting the fire spread the crew had their hands full securing our section of line. The crew was able to implement many different types of tactics to suppress the fire. While the majority of the crew constructed direct line progressively from our anchor, a short squad went hot-spotting ahead of the crew, also utilizing retardant drops to help minimize additional spread. Dromedary was able to complete the objective of securing the eastern flank by the end of the first shift.

In the evening of July 25th Dromedary was sent from the Anaconda Fire to a new start near Rockport Reservoir in Summit County. The Rockport Fire was a very "high profile" wind driven fire with one structure lost and multiple structures threatened. Dromedary spent one shift securing the edge and another mopping up interior heat before the incident was turned back over to the local fire department for monitoring.

Dromedary spent the last week of July working on two fuels reduction projects for the Bear River Area Office. During the first half of the week the crew was able to finalize the last section of a unit, completing the fuels reduction work for the Pineview Estates community. The second fuels reduction project of the week found the crew at Powder Mountain Resort removing hazard trees and reducing fuel loading below their resort infrastructure.

Shortly after the crew started work at the Powder Mountain project on the morning of July 31st, Dromedary was dispatched to the El Portal Fire in Yosemite National Park. This dispatch to California was Dromedary Peak's first out of region dispatch in the crew's history. Dromedary worked two night shifts on the El Portal Fire before being sent to the H1-Bald Fire near McArthur, California. The H1-Bald Fire, along with the Eiler Fire, was being managed as part of a complex under unified command between CalFire and the USFS. After spending a

total of two days on the Eiler Fire and two on the H-1 Bald constructing direct line and mopping up, precipitation over the incident forced mass-demob of resources. Dromedary was back at home in Utah on August 8th and the annual crew shut down commenced the following week.

The 2014 season was a successful season for the Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew. There were no serious injuries throughout the year. We were able to help transform 28 people, 16 of them being rookies, into a cohesive unit with solid wildland firefighting fundamentals and sawyer skills. New opportunities for improvement were identified and pursued not only by individual crew members but by the organization as a whole. Four position task books were completed and submitted for agency approval. The Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew was able to provide the other resources at Lone Peak Conservation Center with 7 knowledgeable and physically fit crewmembers to fill openings on their manifests throughout the fire season. The challenge now for Dromedary Peak personnel is to take everything that has been learned during the 2014 fire season and improve on it, and strive to do better during the 2015 season.



Dromedary 2014 Season Data

Overtime Hours: 220 hours

Hazard Hours: 281.5 hours

Days Committed: 22

Days in Travel Status: 4

Total Miles Driven: 29,447 miles

14 Day tours: 0

Total # of Fires: 10

Career Personnel: 2

Availability Period: May 9-August 14

In State/Out of State Assignments: 7 In State, 3 California Assignments

Days on Projects: 35