

2008 Season Report

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Fire Season Overview

The UFRA Wildland Internship crew's 2008 fire season was a successful learning experience. Improvements were made from 2007. Through hard work UFRA was able to accomplish much throughout the year.

The changes made to the program in 2008 included the addition of a permanent full time squad boss and the elevation of the crews' status from type 2 to type 2 I.A. These adjustments added valuable depth and a more marketable, versatile fire force.

5/1/08 – 8/25/08

In 2008 the Eastern Great Basin experienced a slower fire season than previously observed. The UFRA Internship crew responded to 9 incidents in the region. The majority of the crews' time was spent in the Northwest assisting Northern California on two large fires and Washington State on three small fires.



The season started with an extended attack assignment on the Dixie National Forest. This assignment allowed the crew to strengthen procedures and introduced the rookie firefighters to the fire environment. Upon completion of that assignment the UFRA crew was re-assigned to Northern California. The crew did 2 14 day assignments in California, one on the Lassen National Forest and another for the CDF in Butte County. These assignments were followed with an assignment to Washington. Here the crew traveled between three districts on the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest providing

initial attack support on three fires. This assignment was characterized by most as the highlight of the season and a fitting end for some of the student interns.



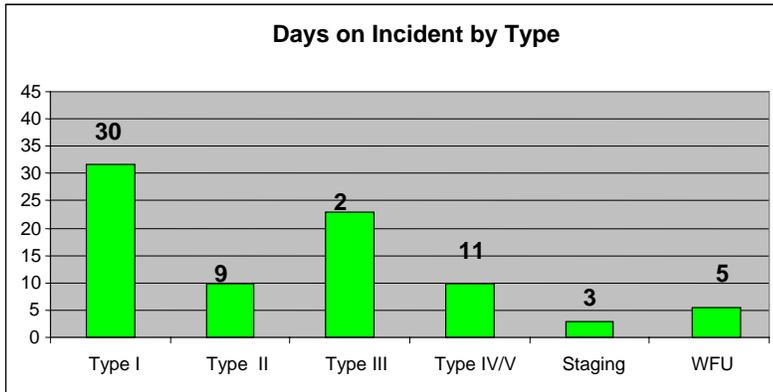
8/26/08 – 11/2/08

Following the students return to school UFRA received five crew members from the Dromedary Peaks Initial Attack Module. This transition allowed UFRA to finish out the season with six fires in the region including one Wild Fire Use fire.



UFRA was tasked with a variety of assignments throughout the season. The students gained practical experience in multiple areas including; firing out, plumbing hose lays, constructing hot line, directing aircraft and tree falling. The fire season had it's ups and downs as all do, but all of the employees performed at the high level the UFRA crew has come to demand. In the end 2008 was a safe and efficient fire season.

Fire Assignment Summary



The 2008 season provided excellent experiences for the students on the UFRA crew. The tables on this page illustrate the number of fires in which UFRA engaged and the multiple complexity levels and fuel types involved.

Students now have the ability to take this gained knowledge to other areas of interest or continue to build an exciting career in wildland firefighting.

Incident Dates	State	Risk Type	Fuel Type	Fire Size	Incident Name
3/24	UT	RX3	2,6	B	Galena Property rx
6/17 – 6/21	UT	II	2,5,9	F	Corn Creek
6/22 – 7/2	CA	III/I	9	G	Peterson Complex
7/12 – 7/28	CA	I	3,4,5,10	G	Butte Lightning
8/1	UT	III	1,5	E	Little Bald Mtn
8/12 – 8/14	WA	III	2,10	B	Rock Lakes
8/15 - 8/16	WA	III	10,11	B	Darby Fire
8/17 – 8/25	WA	III	8,9	B	Mill Creek
8/29 – 9/1	UT	II	2,6	F	Porcupine Ranch
9/16 – 9/17	UT	IV	2,6	C	Slate Rock
9/18	UT	V	2,6	B	Henry Fire
9/30 – 10/1	ID	III	2,5	G	Shoshone Basin
10/2 – 10/3	ID	IV	2,6,8	C	Greys Creek
10/21 – 10/26	UT	IV	2,5,6,9	E	Chippean
10/28 – 11/1	UT	III/IV	1,5,8,10	D	Boiler

Project Assignment Summary



When not on fires the UFRA crew stays hard at work throughout the state of Utah. The work varies but the majority consists of fuel mitigation project in various fuel types.

The projects started May 20th with a fuel mitigation project in Kane County. The project area was just east of Zion National Park. Fuels consisted of gamble oak, service berry and sage. This was an 8 day campout. The crew was able to receive logistical support from Zion Ponderosa Ranch, including use of the facilities. This helped morale and production was high. Approximately 14.5 acres were treated.

At this point the snow load in the northern part of the state had receded enough to begin work. Summit and Wasatch Counties were next on the list. Here the fuels were primarily beetle killed timber. The crew fell, bucked, limbed and chipped the dead timber. It was hit and miss with some early June snow storms but the objectives were accomplished and the experience gained was apparent once the crew hit the fire line.

During breaks in fire assignments UFRA continued work on the timber projects. In addition to fuel mitigation the crew was tasked with a large scale trail restoration project. This was a 7 day campout on the Dixie National Forest. Here the crew re established an equestrian trail through thick gamble oak. Using chainsaws and hand tools UFRA was able to clear nearly five miles of trail on the South Boundary trail, East of Cedar City.

Typically projects are not the preferred assignment but they are what enables the crew to guarantee 40 hours a week to it's employees. Through thick and thin the UFRA crew stuck together and was always regarded as a highly motivated and productive work force whether on project or fire.

2008 UFRA Crew

Name	Position	Duration
Wade Snyder	Crew Boss	Permanent
Lyle Jennings	Assistant Crew Boss	Permanent
James Pummel	Squad Boss	Permanent
Sheldon Baumgartner	Squad Boss	4/15/08 – 8/25/08
Geoff Whatcott	Squad Boss	4/30/08 – 11/2/08
Raymundo Gallardo	Lead Crewmember	4/16/08 – 8/25/08
Chris Koehler	Lead Crewmember	4/30/08 – 11/2/08
Aaron Gee	Lead Crewmember	4/30/08 – 11/2/08
Chad Roscher	Sawyer	4/30/08 – 11/2/08
Logan Towsey	Sawyer	4/30/08 – 11/2/08
Ted Sneed	Sawyer	4/30/08 – 10/22/08
Scott Swensen	Sawyer	5/1/08 – 11/2/08
Robert Reedy	Sawyer	4/30/08 – 11/2/08
Nick Flemmer	Sawyer	5/1/08 – 8/25/08
Andrew Thatcher	Crewmember	5/1/08 – 8/25/08
William Mathews	Crewmember	5/1/08 – 8/25/08
Adam Everett	Crewmember	5/1/08 – 11/2/08
Michael Cunniff	Crewmember	5/1/08 – 11/2/08
Robert Clayson	Crewmember	5/1/08 – 11/2/08
Austin Wilson	Crewmember	5/1/08 – 11/2/08
Mike Frank	Crewmember	4/30/08 – 11/2/08

2008 UFRA Detailers

A special thanks to all the Lone Peak personnel that helped fill open positions on UFRA and the other Lone Peak fire crews. These individuals allowed the UFRA crew to stay available into the early part of November.

UFRA	Lone Peak Hotshots	Lone Peak Engines	Twin Peaks I.A.
Josh Winkler Jonathon Arndt Shane Fowles Kyle McCann Greg Lavigne			

Season Data Summary

Number of days the crew was available:	162
Number of days committed to incidents:	76
Number of 14-day assignments:	3
Number of Extensions to 14-day incidents:	0
Number of days paid of R & R:	6
Number of days in staging:	4
Number of days on type I/II incidents:	39
Number of days on Type III/IV/V incidents:	31
Number of days on WFU incidents:	6
Number of vehicle accidents:	2
Number of times crew flew (Helicopter):	2
Number of career personnel:	3
Number of vacant career positions:	0
Number of days on project:	36
FFT1/ICT5 Task books completed:	1
CRWB Task books completed:	1
TFLD Task books completed:	1

2008 UFRA Crew Photograph



Back Row (Left to Right): Lyle Jennings, James Pummel, Logan Towsey, Aaron Gee, Geoff Whatcott, Sheldon Baumgartner, Mike Frank, Raymundo Gallardo, Chris Koehler, Robert Reedy and Wade Snyder. Front Row (Left to Right): Andrew Thatcher, Adam Everett, Michael Cunniff, Chad Roscher, Ted Sneed, Nick Flemmer, William Matthews, Scott Swensen, Robert Clayson, Austin Wilson.

Picture taken at the Hellspot on the Mill Creek Fire, Washington State.