

**DROMEDARY PEAK FUELS CREW**

**2013 SEASON REPORT**



## **Dromedary Peak 2013**

The Dromedary Peak fuels crew achieved many successes during the 2013 field season. While supporting division and cooperator fuels projects across the State of Utah remained the focus, the crew also completed the programs first out of state national fire suppression dispatch.

As always the crew's season began with the arrival of crew members on April 29th. The standard 80 hours of critical training followed, with rookie crew members attending three days of S-212 chainsaw training, and returning members attending a variety of refresher courses including the RT-130 and S-131. Instruction modules also provided the crew with introductions to brush chipper operations, helicopter flight drills, crew transportation, and on/ off fireline conduct.

The final day of critical training involved the crew traveling to Johnson's Pass in Tooele county to participate in a mock fire exercise. Constructed to provide a realistic simulation of what the crew faces during a wildland fire initial attack, the exercise is an opportunity for the crew to begin learning their roles and building cohesion. Crewmembers had the opportunity to construct handline with chainsaws and handtools, grid for spot fires, operate GPS, program radios, and utilize belt weather kits.

Following the fire exercise the crew prepared for their annual base review with LPCC overhead. Conducted at the Lone Peak Conservation Center, the base review involved LPCC overhead reviewing Dromedary's administrative preparations, crew readiness, and equipment preparedness. Once completed and passed the Dromedary Peak crew was made available with the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center for wildland fire assignments within the State of Utah on May 11th.

The first forestry project of the season began on May 14th when the crew traveled to the Southwest Area to complete a fuel break outside of Beaver, Utah. The next five weeks found the crew completing projects in the Central Area, the Northeast Area, and along the Wasatch Front.



The crew removes brush from the Grassy Trail in East Carbon, Utah

On June 30th the crew received its first fire suppression dispatch of the season when a dispatch came to the Wildflower fire in the southern Skull Valley of Tooele County. One of the first two handcrews to respond, the crew worked directly with McCall Smoke Jumpers and local BLM resources to contain the fire which ended up burning 3,000 acres and involve ten handcrews at the height of operations. After a week on the fireline battling temperatures greater than 100 degrees F and powerful desert thunderstorms the crew was demobilized and returned to station to prepare for another fuels reduction project assignment.



Wildflower Fire, Utah

The next adventure found the Camels once again traveling south to support the Central area. Over the course of two weeks the crew completed a hazard tree falling project along the Sevier River as well as multiple fuel breaks and defensible space for property owners in Sevier county. After returning home on the night of July 17th, Dromedary Peak received the program's first national fire dispatch.

On the morning of July 18th the crew mobilized to respond to the Ridge fire on the Boise National Forest in central Idaho. Upon arrival at ICP outside of Lowman, Idaho the crew was tasked with immediately preparing for helicopter transport to the fireline. The time spent conducting flight drills in May paid dividends with a fast and efficient crew impressing the local IC. That evening the crew was flown to a remote helispot and spent the next 14 days spiked out with three hotshot crews, performing a wide range of suppression operations, including direct and indirect handline construction, hazard tree falling, helicopter long line and bucket operations, sling site construction and helispot improvement. Crewmembers got a taste (or

distaste) for MRE's and general life in spike camp during the two weeks in Idaho as well as an opportunity to work directly with high performing wildland personnel from a number of IHC's and the Boise Smokejumper base.



Dromedary saw team on the Ridge Fire, Idaho



Back haul from spike camp, Idaho

Following demobilization from the Ridge incident on August 1st, the crew paid a visit to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation while traveling home through Boise, Idaho. With the tragedy of the Yarnell fire fresh on our minds the entire crew made the decision to make a "52 Club" donation, thus placing the Dromedary Peak Crew on the foundations gold list for the 2013 season.



The Crew Outside The WFF

The month of August began with two days of R & R following return from the Ridge fire. When operations resumed the crew found themselves assigned to a hazard tree removal project in cooperation with the US Forest Service and the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest. The project site was located along the scenic Mirror Lake Highway and well traveled 058 forest road. Mountain pine beetles have devastated the conifer stands along each roadway and steps needed to be taken to protect the public from the possibility of falling snags. Over the course



of five operational days the Dromedary crew fell 444 dead standing trees along nearly three miles of the 058 road.



[Dromedary Sawyers on the North Slope Project](#)

August 15th brought an end to Dromedary's full crew operations for the 2013 season. Over the span of two days the crew refurbished and winterized chainsaws, vehicles, and camp equipment. Student interns prepared to return to school and eight crew members were placed with other Lone Peak resources to backfill manifests for the remainder of the season. The Dromedary crew assistant continued to run a five person module for an additional two weeks in order to support division fuels projects as well as aiding in the suppression of the Barbbera Hollow fire from August 19th thru the 21st.

All told the Dromedary Peak crew spent 37 days and 415 hours on 9 individual projects during 2013. The crew was available for fire dispatch for 76 days, spending a total of 21 days assigned to two wildfires in both Utah and Idaho. Additionally, the 5 person module responded to one wildfire spending 3 days on suppression duty and one 40hr work week completing a fuels project.

The 2013 season was a success due to the hard work and commitment of everyone associated with the crew. New opportunities were identified and pursued by not only individual crew members but by the organization as a whole. Never before in the history of the program had the crew been authorized to accept an out of State dispatch to respond to a wildfire. Taking that challenge and completing it with such a high degree of success is a

testament to all involved. Dromedary Peak personnel now hope to build upon that success and move forward toward the 2014 season.

Dromedary Peak 2013

