

**DROMEDARY PEAK FUELS CREW**

**2015 SEASON REPORT**



## **Dromedary Peak 2015**

The 2015 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 Peak crewmembers assisted with the suppression of 11 wildfires in 4 different states throughout the west.

The Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew officially began the 2015 season on May 4th with our annual 80 hours of critical training. During our critical training, rookie crewmembers attended the S-212 chainsaw training course while returning crewmembers attended a variety of classes including RT-130, RT-212, S-133, and S-131. Different instructional stations provided the crew with the basics of chipper operations, helicopter flight preparation, crew transportation, crew SOGs, and physical fitness training.

On day 3 of our critical training the crew traveled to Johnson's Pass in Tooele county to participate in a mock fire exercise. The field day was constructed to provide a realistic simulation of what the crew faces during the initial attack phase of a wildland fire. The exercise provided a good opportunity for the crew to begin learning their fireline roles and responsibilities, while building crew cohesion and increasing our fitness level. 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 crewmembers participated in gridding for spot fires, operating GPS units, programming radios, utilizing belt weather kits to collect weather observations, as well as identifying and cutting out a helispot. A medical situation was also built into the fire scenario with the intention of fostering our EMT's medical skills and introducing new crewmembers to the "Incident within an Incident" procedures and the Dutch Creek Protocol.

The final step of the 2015 critical training involved our annual base review at the Lone Peak Conservation Center. 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 Peak was made available for wildfire assignments through the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center on May 15th.

Dromedary's first two weeks of project work was completed in the Bear River Area. These projects offered Dromedary a chance to start building some good fundamental chainsaw skills with our new sawyers in small diameter Oak Brush and Russian Olive. New sawyers were also able to learn proper techniques by watching more experienced sawyers cut larger diameter, more complex Aspen and Russian Olive snags.

Our third week of project work found Dromedary near Blanding, Utah working in Pinyon Pine and Juniper. The mission was to finish a fuel break bordering Federal land and private property. On this project, we had the opportunity to work alongside the Lone Peak Hotshots. Lone Peak provided some additional oversight for us by plugging in each of our new sawyers with one of their more experienced sawyers. Working with Lone Peak IHC provided a great learning opportunity for Dromedary sawyers, fostering good body mechanics, techniques, and inter-crew cohesion.

The remainder of June found the crew on fuels reduction projects in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Santaquin, Mount Pleasant, Argyle Canyon, Scofield, and the Wolf Creek Pass area. These projects gradually increased in complexity, providing our sawyers with experience limbing, bucking, and falling larger diameter and more complex trees on the Mill Hollow project. The Mill Hollow project was located on the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest near Wolf creek pass. During the month of June, Dromedary Peak sent 2 crewmembers over to Twin Peaks IA to fill positions that opened up, and 1 crewmember to Alta IHC to fill a position that became available on their crew.

During the month of July, Dromedary worked on fuels reduction projects in Heber City, Argyle Canyon, Upper Weber Canyon, and in Old La Sal, Utah. Throughout the month, four Dromedary sawyers successfully passed their field chainsaw evaluations and were certified as Intermediate Sawyers (FAL2).



August began with the construction of a fuel break in Upper Weber Canyon along the south side of Weber Canyon Road. Our next project was in Fruitland, Utah cutting a fuel break

in Pinyon Pine and Juniper to help protect a group of homes. This project was a small piece of a large scale fuel break protecting a large number of homes in the area.

Early in the afternoon on August 12th, we received our first fire dispatch of the 2015 season. The crew mobilized to the Soda fire, 40 miles south west of Boise, Idaho in the Owyhee Mountains and Recreation Area. We departed the project in Fruitland and were able to travel as far as Twin Falls, Idaho where we spent the night on the 12th. After check-in at ICP on August 13th, Dromedary hit the line for the first time at 10:30.

The crew was immediately plugged in with Alta IHC to support their burnout operation protecting a ranching community and a set of high tension power lines. The burnout operation was conducted in grass, sage, and short brush; so things moved very fast. We continued assisting with the burnout until 01:00 on the 14th when both Dromedary and Alta handed the burn over to some incoming resources that had just arrived on the incident.

Over the course of our first 4 shifts on incident, the Soda Fire grew 164,250 acres despite our best efforts. Temperatures in the upper 90's, single digit RH's, sustained winds of 15-20mph with gusts of 35mph, light flashy fuels, and a general lack of available resources made suppression of the fire perimeter quite challenging. After 4 days of long strenuous shifts, the winds started to dissipate, and with the help of 4 dozers we were able to get around the head of the fire to stop its forward progress. The next two days involved miles and miles of gridding, cold trailing, and mop up to finish our assignment.



The Soda fire was a great learning experience for everyone on the crew, we experienced some incredible fire behavior. The crew chased spot fires and slop-overs, cut and dug hotline, worked in conjunction with dozers and multiple types of air resources, assisted in multiple burnout operations, and learned how to efficiently grid, cold trail, and mop up.



The Soda Fire was the one wildfire assignment we had as a full crew in 2015. Upon return home Dromedary had 7 crewmembers go back to school, we sent 2 additional crewmembers over to Twin Peaks IA, 3 of the crew's overhead went on individual detail assignments, and 8 individuals continued working to make up an 8 person IA/project module. The Dromedary module was called on to help suppress the Santaquin Fire for the remainder of August. Over the next month and a half the Dromedary module was able to send 4 crewmembers on 4 different fire assignments in Utah and Washington, with 2 different DNR Engines. The module was also able to link up with the USFS Weber Basin Job Corps crew for 3 different fire assignments in Idaho and Utah, for a total of 15 operational shifts.

On October 12th the module was back in Heber City to continue a fuel break that was started earlier in the year. This project involved removing sage and oak brush from around a sub division, creating slash piles to be burned by the area at a later date. The module's last project of the season was down in the Moab area, removing oak brush from around a home to make it more defensible in the event of a wildfire. The module's last day of availability for

wildfire assignment was October 25th. We spent the week shutting things down and turning in and inspecting all of our gear. Dromedary's last day of the 2015 season was October 29th.

The 2015 season was a successful season for the Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew. We were able to help transform 23 people (14 of them being new to the crew, and 11 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 crewmembers but by the crew as a whole. Four individuals were successfully certified as Intermediate Sawyers (FAL2) and seven individuals participated in training assignments on wildfire incidents. The assistant crew supervisor participated in a 40 day detail assignment with the State of Utah Wasatch Front Area WUI Coordinator. His detail assignment helped Dromedary gain a better understanding of the administrative and political factors that go into setting up fuels reduction projects that the crew implements. For the Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew, the 2015 fire season was more dynamic than any season in the crew's history. We hope to continue this trend into the future, pursuing any and all opportunities for our crewmembers to get a wide range of experience. Thanks to all who helped Dromedary succeed and grow this season.



## 2015 LPCC CREW SEASON DATA

Crew Name: Dromedary Peak		
QUESTIONS		RESPONSE
<b>AVAILABILITY</b>		
1	Total days crew was assembled?	Crew=112, Mod=67
1a	Start Date	May 4th
1b	End Date	October 29th
2	Total number of days assigned to incidents? <i>(Includes travel)</i>	Crew=8, Mod=22
2a	How many days were in official travel status?	Crew=2, Mod=2
2b	How many 14 day assignments were completed during total number of days assigned?	Crew=0, Mod=0
2bb	<b>How many assignment extensions?</b>	0
2c	Number of days on project work while assigned? <i>(list specific type: e.g.. Trails, fuels etc.)</i>	0
2d	Number of days on project work while not assigned?	Crew=51, Mod=20
3	Total number of days off?	Crew=38, Mod=22
3a	Days off in pay status?	0
3b	Days off in non- pay status?	Crew=38, Mod=22
3c	Number of days in station or otherwise and not accounted for above?	Crew=0, Mod=3
<b>TRAINING</b>		
4	Number of days in training?	8
5	Number of days of non fire mandatory training?	0
6	<b>Number of instructor hours dedicated to non-crew training courses?</b>	8
6a	<b>Number of task books initiated?</b>	5
6b	<b>Number of task books completed?</b>	0
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		
7	Total miles driven? <i>(Total of all vehicles)</i>	34,617 miles
8	How many vehicles do you have?	began with 5, 4 now
9	Number of vehicle accidents? (Vehicle down for repair due to accident)	2
9a	Number of injury vehicle accidents?	0
9b	Vehicle accidents above where fault was Government Driver?	2
10	Number of days vehicle down for failure or repairs? <i>(Non-accident, total all vehicles)</i>	18 days
11	How many times did your crew fly? <i>(Count each leg as a flight)</i>	0
11a	Commercial	0
11b	Charter	0
<b>PERSONNEL</b>		
12	Total number of funded personnel on crew?	23
13	On average how many personnel did you have on incidents?	Crew=18, Mod=6
13a	<b>Number of days crew leadership fulfilled incident leadership positions?</b>	8

14	Total number of career appointments? (excluding apprentices)	2
15	Number of UFRA interns on crew?	7
16	Number of career positions that were vacant?	1
17	Number of career employee's on the crews that are eligible for retirement in the next 5 years?	0
<b>ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES</b>		
18	<b>Number of non-injury incidents? (bee stings, poison oak, etc)</b>	2
19	<b>Number of injury accidents?</b>	2
20	<b>Number of injury accidents that required medical attention? (no lost time)</b>	0
21	<b>Number of injury accidents that required medical attention? (lost time)</b>	2
<b>PROJECTS</b>		
22	Total Fuels Treatment Acres? (while assigned and unassigned)	42.01 acres
22a	Mechanical? (which includes RX prep work)	0
22b	Burned?	0